

AJAX ENGINEERS CHANGES OWNERSHIP

Churches Hold Special Services On Christmas Sunday in Acton

Concert Proceeds For Campaigns

On Monday, December 20, the pupils of Lorn School presented their Christmas program, which was said to be one of the best ever seen. The school was decorated with appropriate streamers and ornaments. Each blackboard contained a colorful Christmas picture drawn by the pupils.

Mrs. Muriel Simpson was in charge of the program; Crawford Douglas assisted with the musical numbers and Barbara Davidson acted as M.C.

The over-capacity crowd enjoyed the varied program which included three comedy plays, guitar solos, piano solos, recitations, vocal solos, toy shop drill and tableau of the manger scene; three dances, 18th century gance, Virginia Reel and Mambo, showed three stages in the musical trend. The Rhythm Band played its version of Jingle Bells and the pupils sang three Christmas songs.

Santa made his appearance and handed out gifts and candy bags to all children present.

The pupils had decided previously to divide the proceeds between the Christmas Seal Fund and the Muscular Dystrophy campaign.

Second Cub Pack Begins Activities

Increasing interest in Cubbing activities in Acton has brought about the formation of a second Wolf Cub Pack. The formation of this second group will mark the first time in more than 10 years that a second Cub Pack has been active, the cub leader, Murray Scovone, notes.

This pack, which will commence meetings next week at the Scout Hall, will comprise only those boys who have been placed on the waiting list of the present group. Enrollment for this second pack will be limited to 18, all of whom will be between the ages of eight and 10 years of age and are of the 21st now waiting.

The present pack, which was formed last spring, will continue activities as the "First Acton A Pack" and the newly formed group will be known as "First Acton B Pack". Each group will carry on meetings on two different nights of the week and operate independently of one another.

According to Mr. Scovone the limitation of 18 boys in the new pack will be temporary, until such time as assistant leadership will permit enrollment to be increased to possibly the same size as A Pack which is at present 36.

There were special services as well as regular Sunday services in Acton's churches during the Christmas week-end.

On Christmas Eve, extra chairs had to be brought into St. Alban's church to accommodate the large congregation at the festival choral communion. On Christmas Day there was Holy Communion in Acton at 9.30 and festival choral communion in St. John's Anglican church, Rockwood, at 11 a.m.

On Sunday there was a morning service in Acton and afternoon service in Rockwood.

St. Joseph's church was filled for midnight mass on Christmas Eve when Father McDougall of Guelph celebrated the mass. There were two masses on Christmas morning, with Father V. Morgan the celebrant.

On Sunday, both Father Morgan and Father McDougall took part in the service.

The Christmas message given by Pastor Ray Costerus at Acton Baptist church dealt with the name "Jesus Emmanuel." Four girls from the Sunday school, Susan Cohen, Margaret Sunter, Ruth Landsborough and Brenda Cripps, sang during the service.

The worship centre in the Sunday school room of the United church contained a new illuminated globe last Sunday. One of the young people had brought it as a gift. The Sunday school saw a Christmas film.

The decorations were still in the church proper for the service, which included two anthems. In the evening, Rev. Curry showed pictures taken by RCMP Constable Clayton Fryer of the north.

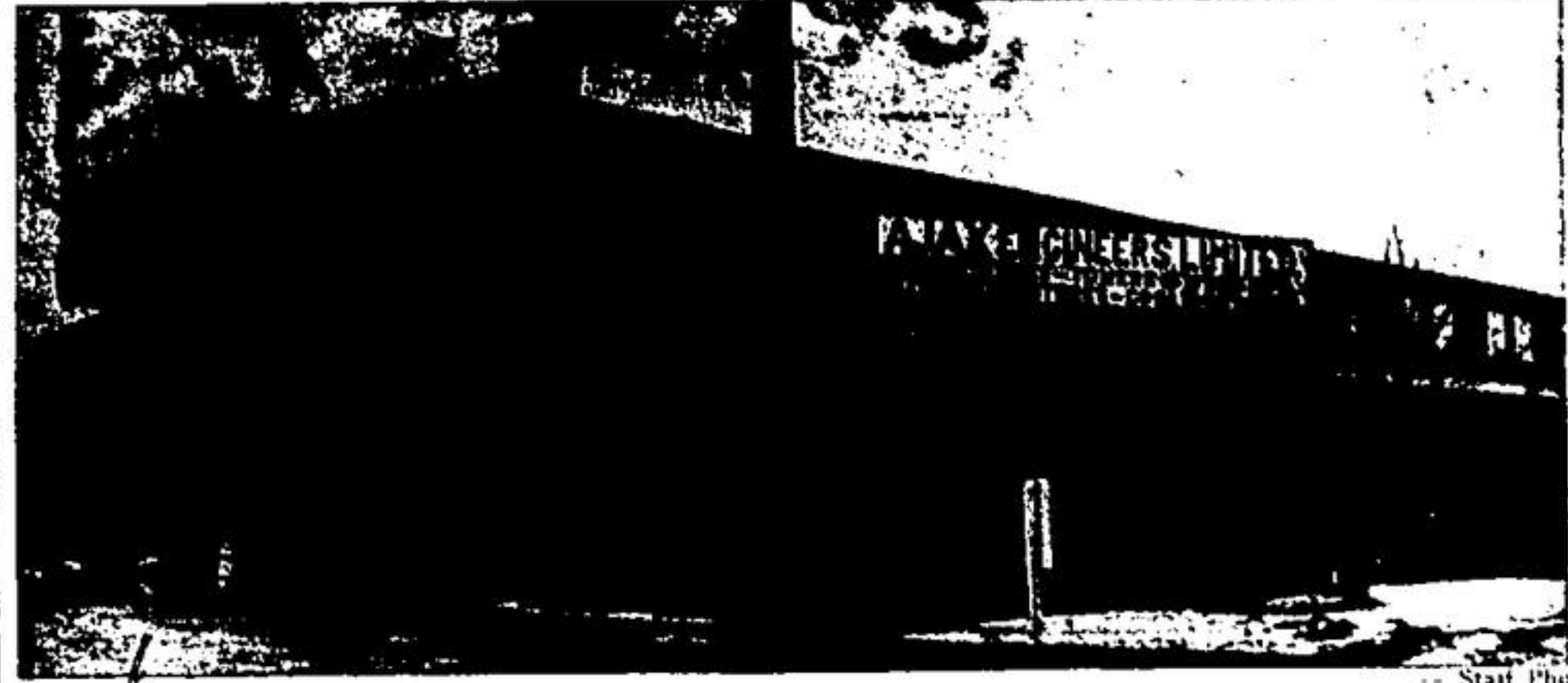
Christmas hymns and an anthem were again included in the Sunday morning service at Knox church. Decorations were still up in the church and Sunday school room for the day.

After the evening service, the Bible Society Fireside was held in the church with a good attendance.

Dutch Canadians Observe Christmas

The Christian Reformed church had a full program on Christmas afternoon in the Y.M.C.A. building. Both the choir and the Sunday school took active part in the program. The choir, which is known for its fine singing abilities, sang carols and a solo was sung by Mrs. A. Schenk and Tom Schenk.

This was followed by the Sunday school concert, when the children sang and presented some short plays. Miss The Ten Klooster read the Christmas story. The story "A Jesus Christmas" was told by Mrs. Agnes H. Straat. Each child received a book and a bag of candy at the end of the program.



PRESENT PLANT STRUCTURE of Ajax Engineers Ltd., shown in the above photo, was built for a monument works before it was taken over by Ajax in 1935. In the years that followed equipment was steadily enlarged to facilitate production of the towers and water cooling units the firm now sells across Canada. The Marley Company of Kansas City assumes ownership this week.

After the Christmas Rush . . .

Two Lost Letters to Santa Remain

The post office staff doesn't need a calendar to know when Christmas is over! Everything is quiet in the office this week, where last week there were line-ups of people, buging bags of mail ready to leave the office and high stacks of envelopes waiting to be sorted.

One of the clerks, Mrs. Sonny Joque, was busy with a dismal job—sending lost mail to the dead letter office. Some of the unclaimed cards will be sent to Acton and some to Orton to try again to find an owner. Many have already been there before being claimed here.

Among the pile of mail to be sent away are two lost letters, from Santa Claus. The gay letters, addressed to two boys, will be returned to Eaton's in Toronto.

Postmaster Frank Terry had time this week to look through his large books to compute some "Christmas rush" figures.

The total of one of his columns showed that 84,000 two-cent stamps were sold in Acton during December before the holiday. (During a normal month, about 4500 two-cent stamps are sold.) There was more first class mail, too, during the past three weeks. A total of 17,000 first class stamps were sold. A check of the revenue total reaffirmed Mr. Terry's guess that the Christmas mail was just about the same as last year.

He explained that although there are plenty of parcels mailed overseas, many of these are gone before December. There aren't nearly as many sent now as when there was rationing in the United Kingdom.

Just 20 years ago, the Free Press reported a very heavy Christmas mail of a bag and a half. For the past three weeks, Christmas days were eight bags of mail each day, not including the parcels! Monday before Christmas was the worst day in the post office here when the staff might be deluged with mail from Toronto. Staff here has to handle this mail in a day.

At the end of the year, the staff is busy with the closing up of the books and the preparation of the annual report.

News in Pictures

Two full pages of pictures appear in this week's issue of the Free Press. The pictures represent an illustrated review of many of the year's news highlights reported week by week through 1954.

One page deals chiefly with events and happenings in the town and district; the other emphasizes the importance of names and personalities as news material. The pictorial review will be found on Pages Six and Seven.

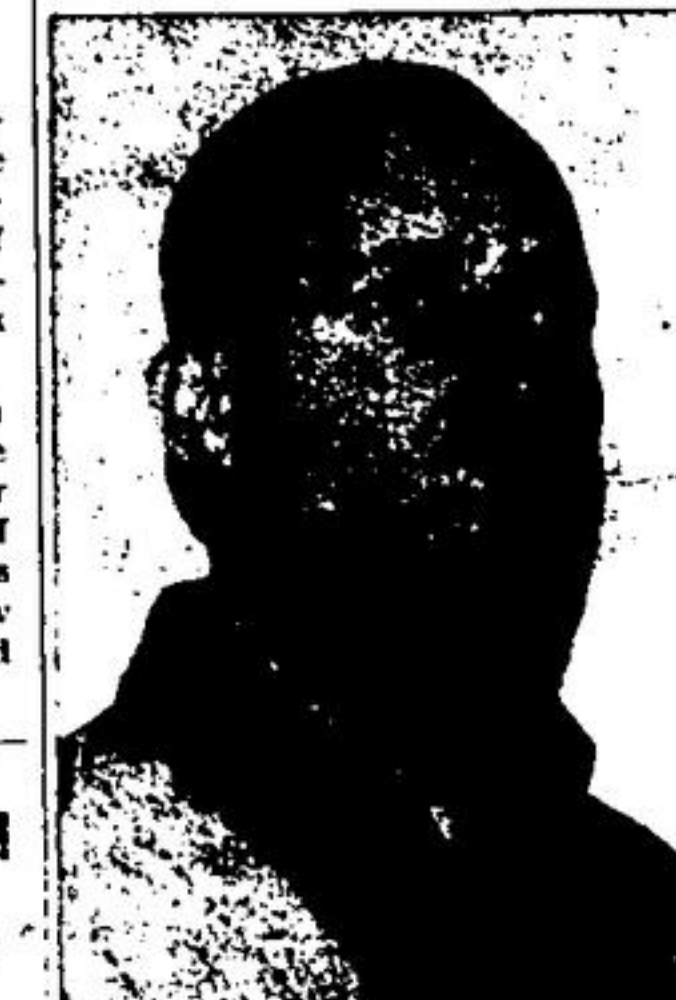
Christmas Cantata Meeting Highlight

A Christmas Cantata was the highlight when the Friendly Circle held its Christmas meeting on Wednesday, December 15, in the school room of the church. The president, Mrs. Stella Adkinson, was in charge. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary. Following the short business period the remainder of the meeting was turned over to group four.

While the setting for the Cantata were being arranged, two carols were sung by the circle. The cantata was the portrayal of the Christmas story with the members taking parts as the shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph, and the angels. Mrs. Hazel Orr read the story and carols were sung by six choir members to help bring out the meaning as the players acted the parts. The story as it is found in the Bible was read and music played on the piano by Mrs. Edna Hufnagel.

A special reading was given by Mrs. Edna Hufnagel. Following a number of carols, a buffet lunch consisting of salads, sandwiches, fruit and beverages was served. The members enjoyed the social hour very much.

The Christmas story was read by the choir and the carols were sung by the choir. The Christmas story was read by the choir and the carols were sung by the choir.



PLANT SUPERINTENDENT W. J. Coon, veteran employee of Ajax Engineers Ltd., will continue in his position under the Marley Co.

Present Program At Halton Manor

Tuesday evening, members of Acton Women's Institute, with Rev. E. A. Curry and Rev. Robert Armstrong, presented a program at Halton Centennial Manor. Members of the band accompanied the group and played carols.

Mr. Curry read the Scripture and prayer, and Mr. Armstrong read the meditation. Mr. Curry showed slides of carols and Miss Anderson accompanied the singing on the piano.

Worship songs and songs by Les Day, George R. and Rev. Robert Armstrong were sung. The Christmas story was read by Mrs. Wilkerson and the carols were sung by the choir.

Expansion Is Indicated as Large American Firm Assumes Control

One of Acton's busiest industries, Ajax Engineers Limited, will enter 1955 on the threshold of major expansion, it was learned this week when official announcement was made that tomorrow ownership of the company, here since 1935, will be transferred to the Marley Company of Kansas City, Mo.

Nature and extent of expansion at the local plant has not yet been revealed. However, it was indicated by the present plant superintendent, W. J. Coon, that the program under the new ownership will be substantial.

Established Here in 1935 Supporting this in the official announcement from the Toronto office of Ajax' vice-president and general manager, R. A. Wilbur, is the statement: "It is logical that Marley, in their program of expansion should wish to take a more active part in marketing their products in Canada, and that they would prefer to acquire the company which had been their representative."

Ajax Engineers Limited established in Acton in 1935 and became Canadian representative for the Marley Company in 1936. Plant superintendent Coon has been with Ajax since 1925.

Full text of the news release given the Free Press this week follows: "On December 31st ownership of Ajax Engineers Limited, and its affiliate, Acton Structures Limited, will be transferred to the Marley Company of Kansas City, Mo.

Largest in North America "This company is the largest in North America, dealing exclusively with the design and manufacture of water cooling equipment.

"As Ajax Engineers have been their Canadian representative since 1936, and have been building Marley cooling towers there many years, it was logical that Marley, in their program of expansion, should wish to take a more active part in marketing their products in Canada, and that they would prefer to acquire the company which had been their representative. The present owners realized that the sale would be best for all parties concerned, and so accepted their offer.

The Marley Company have large manufacturing plants in Kansas City, Kansas, Louisville, Kentucky; Houston, Texas and Stockton, California. In England and Australia industrial manufacturers have been licensed to build and sell Marley cooling towers and plants are presently in progress for South American outlets.

Change Affiliate's Name "Mr. Robert A. Wilbur, one of the original owners, who has been vice-president and general manager of Ajax Engineers since it was founded, will become president and general manager under the new ownership.

Mr. William J. Coon, who has also been with the company since it was founded, will continue as plant superintendent.

"Ajax Engineers will continue to operate under the same name, but the name of the affiliated company, Acton Structures Limited, will be changed to Marley Canada Limited.

St. John's Anglican church, Rockwood, at 11 a.m.

Watches Presented At Baxter's Party

Engraved gold watches for 10 years' service with Baxter Laboratories were presented to Mrs. A. Hufnagel and Lloyd Robinson when the plant held its annual Christmas party on Wednesday evening of last week. The Y Ladies' Auxiliary catered to the dinner for plant employees in the Y.M.C.A.

A program prepared by the committee in charge followed the dinner, with a skit and carol singing. Old time music was played by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Hufnagel and Ed Hufnagel on the piano, violin and banjo, and a trio of Joanne Stuckey, Georgina Plester and Reg. Hoare sang several numbers, accompanied by Mrs. J. Bradshaw.

Santa Claus arrived at the end of the program to distribute gifts.

Pageant, Singing, Plays on Program

The public school closed for the Christmas vacation on Wednesday afternoon last week after the senior assembly in the auditorium. The different classes contributed to the program with a pageant one of the highlights of the afternoon. Bill Heeley was master of ceremonies while Miss Potter played the piano.

Miss Foster's room opened the program with a drill, followed by a duet, Christmas, by Brenda Cripps and Margaret Sunter. Mrs. Wilkerson's room presented a drill, O' D Grinbo.

Doing Without Christmas was the name of a two-act play given by pupils of Mr. Davidson's room. Joy to the World and Worship the King were sung by Mr. McKeown's class and Mrs. Wilkerson's pupils gave another short play, A Christmas Composition.

A different touch to the program was provided by Walter Ham, who sang Silent Night in Dutch.

The pageant, presented by pupils of grade eight, followed. It included a narration by several students and the singing of carols. It was called the Garden of Christmas Happiness.

A film strip with sound, Christmas Around the World, was shown. On behalf of the students, Peter Lawson presented a gift to Mr. Prier.

After God Save the Queen, the senior students returned to their classrooms for exchange of presents.

Cream and Butter Spills on Highway

Cream and butter and other dairy products spilled over Highway 10 at a place where a truck from Newburg, Ontario, had overturned. The spill was a collection with a total value of \$500. The products of the truck consisted of \$500 worth of cream and butter, and the spill was estimated to be about \$300.



ENGRAVED GOLD WATCHES marking 10 years at Baxter Laboratories were presented during the plant Christmas party to Lloyd Robinson and Mrs. Edna Hufnagel. Bill Benson is seen making the presentations. The Christmas dinner and program for Baxter employees was held Wednesday of last week in the Y.M.C.A.

Quiet Christmas in Town, Police Report; But Not so in the Area

It was a quiet Christmas in Acton as far as misdemeanors or mishaps were concerned.

Police here reported no calls or incidents to the Yu. et al. week-end and no automobile accidents, minor or major occurred in the community.

Not far out of town it was a different story, however, and district province of police officers stationed at Milton reported three minor mishaps. Fred A. and Christmas Day.

Fred morning, a car driven by a woman, a car driven by Austen Fletcher ran off the road while travelling on the Guelph line, and

Early Christmas morning Walter Starny driving with his wife on Newmarket road, a car driven by Reginald Fernall, Owen Sound was sideswiped by an unidentified vehicle and driver on No. 25 about a mile south of town. The second car did not stop.

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Looking Back Over 1954 . . .

Acton's Year Marked by Tremors of Growth

Tomorrow winds up 1954. It was a notable year, internationally, in that for the first year in over 25 years there was a period with no shooting war anywhere in the world. Closer to home, in the national scene our growing country again rode on a buoyant economy, although Canada's unemployed line grew a little longer.

And right around home, in the county of Halton and in our own town of Acton, expansion paced that in other areas and centres in Southern Ontario the rich hub of our land. New housing, new schools, industrial growth and boundary enlargement—this and more meant a good year for Acton. Here's a clipped resume of that year, month by month.

January: Council is finally complete after third nomination meeting. Acton Free Press announces change in ownership under a limited company. Dr. F. G. Oakes named Public Utilities Commission chairman. Acton Fair Board names John M. as president. Acton Free Press announces change in ownership under a limited company. Dr. F. G. Oakes named Public Utilities Commission chairman. Acton Fair Board names John M. as president. Acton Free Press announces change in ownership under a limited company. Dr. F. G. Oakes named Public Utilities Commission chairman. Acton Fair Board names John M. as president.

February: Council reports possibility of employing a full-time engineer. Town planning board and council's industrial committee study plans for zone classifications in proposed annexation area. Father and two sisters of an Acton woman perish in blazing home near Hornby. P.U.C. runs into meter troubles. Warren Grove home owners air drainage problems before council. At the annexation hearing the town cuts its bid to 566 Esquimaux acres, hearing postponed because of this surprise move.

March: Council advances North Halton H.S. Board \$10,000 drawing account. Local merchants vote in favor of proposal to change town hours. Tax rate for 1954 is set by council at 39 mills. Two more area homes levelled by fire leaving 14 homeless. Heavy business spread. Council asked for pipe line rights. P.U.C. gets gloomy 13th power bill.

April: Sixth district fire in as many weeks cuts farm home north of town. Acton's Storey-Grove Co. closed here in 1954. Council's down. Council's inventory starts in town and area. Municipal Board sets P.U.C.'s \$3,500 debt. Acton's share in county taxes is \$13,374. Final approval given by

law to extend sewers into Warren Grove. Town has team entered in Southern Ontario Soccer League. May: Halton's Children's Aid Society marks 40th year of service. Acton Millon-Georgetown alliance formed. Acton's municipal engineer First local Decoration Day, sponsored by local organizations, planned. Soccer club was opened. First minor softball league formed. Council warns up to town engineer idea. K. R. Simmons hired, Plans ready for Warren Grove sewers.

June: P.U.C. orders new hydro track new oil burners and chimneys for buildings. Micro Plastics Ltd. in third plant enlargement starts for 5,000 square feet addition. Tax plans presented to council for subdivision of Jany property. North Halton Urban Board officially formed. Tackles area industrial promotion. Council and P.U.C. made into kindly wage adjustment problems. Warren Grove sewer contract awarded to George Schultz, bid at \$9,500 below the cost estimate.

July: City's kitchen mill building at Glen. W. area burned to black and walls. Micro Plastics Ltd. buys 14 acres on north-west edge of town. New four-lane expressway to cut between Acton and Milton

New high school construction continues slowly. Urban Board committee need for extended area telephone service in tri-town region. Natural gas strike near Crewson's Corners causes flurry of excitement. Warren Grove job starts again.

August: Sale completed for 200-lot subdivision on Braida property. Cobble Hill subdivision—14 lots has service costs reckoned. Two freighters crash at Georgetown, services delayed here. Urban Board sinks deeper into industrial promotion plans. Milton firm proposes to develop Wood. Combining nine acres subdivision fever spreads. Warren Grove job stops.

September: New high school completed. 166 students overflow into public school records highest enrollment—580. Townships urged by Urban Board to back extended area phone service idea. Acton fall fair success despite two-day threat of heavy rain. Council tries for more water on third line well site, fails. Resumed annexation hearings—completed after two days of hearings with 39 witnesses. Warren Grove job starts, then stops again.

October: Nassagaweya opens new township garage. Crowded North Halton district high schools—particularly at Acton—hurry enlargement plans. Another natural gas

strike in district rumored largest in Ontario. Work on Cobble Hill subdivision starts. Chamber of Commerce formed in town. Acton and district rallies to send aid after fall of Hurricane Hazel passes here. Exasperating Warren Grove job starts again.

November: Council approves services for 240-lot subdivision in western corner of town to be developed by a Hamilton firm. P.U.C. calls to the public and local tradesmen. Hydro crews move in, 60-cycle changeover starts. Council agrees on services for 40-lot Queen St. (Wool Combing) subdivision. Annexation hearings finally completed, case goes to argument before decision. Minister of Education officially opens Acton High School. Week on Glenlea (Braida) subdivision starts with building on 10 houses.

December: Tyler acclaimed mayor for 1955, election held for council posts. P.U.C. PS Board announced. Last tie laid on Warren Grove job. Post-conversion problems many for P.U.C. with weird power readings biggest headache. Boards, councils, clubs move to end year on happy note. Ajax Engineers Ltd announce change in ownership, expansion indicated.