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Frank Petch Heads Liberals in County

Frank Petch, Georgetown was elected president of the Halton Liberal Association when Jack Kehoe, of Burlington, retired at the annual meeting of the Halton Liberal Association, held in Milton on Friday, January 28.

Miss Julia Lamarch, a Niagara Falls lawyer, and executive vice-president of the National Young Liberal Federation of Canada, made a scathing attack on the legislation of the Frost government, emphasizing the highways scandal and the operation of the Liquor Control Board.

The new president urged an early convention to select a candidate for the anticipated election. The matter was left in the hands of the executive and a special committee to choose a date before the end of February.

Other officers elected were: Gordon Lever, Burlington, first vice-president; P. Watters, Oakville, second vice-president; K. Y. Dick, Milton, secretary; Victor Hall, Sr., Milton, treasurer; delegates to annual convention, Mrs. Percy Leslie, Georgetown; Main Johnson, Oakville; Grant Campbell, Moffatt; Frank Petch; Lorne Bird, Esqueping; Mrs. Frank McEwen, Milton; alternates, Mrs. M. E. Gowland, Milton; William Anderson, Oakville; John Kehoe, Burlington; and Mrs. Frank Petch.

Cause of \$7,000 Hydro Shop Fire Still Unknown After Investigation

Cause of a blaze which blackened a year-old building, five new transformers, 30 meters, a test board and estimated \$7,000 damage is still unknown this week following an investigation Saturday by a representative of the Ontario Fire Marshall's office.

Firemen were called shortly after 5 p.m. last Thursday afternoon to fight the smoke-billowing blaze in near-zero weather. The hydro department's new utility truck, put into service only last summer, was towed from the burning garage at the height of the fire. The truck's red finish, scarred and blackened by the heat, was the only part of the vehicle damaged.

This week loss estimates of nearly \$5,000 were made on the equipment and supplies inside the two-

Year-old building. Five new transformers, 30 meters, a test board and estimated \$7,000 damage is still unknown this week following an investigation Saturday by a representative of the Ontario Fire Marshall's office.

Damage to the office, office equipment, books and records is estimated separately. To the building itself, it was figured an expense of at least \$2,000 will be necessary to replace and repair burned timbers, wallboard, roofing and other interior structures. Building wiring damage is also estimated separately.

Truck repainting, in addition to minor wiring replacements, will cost about \$250.

The fire alarm was rung when Tom Jones, who lives across from the work shop, noticed smoke belching from the garage and notified central. About the same time the town siren blew, the siren at the Beardmore Co. plant started up. A fire had started in a dust hopper at the factory—this blaze was quickly confined and controlled by Beardmore employees.

Although the Fire Marshall's representative made no statement as to the cause of the workshop fire, it was established the blaze originated around the cluster of crated water heaters.

A story circulated by a local 12 year-old boy that he saw other boys coming out of the workshop with matches shortly before the alarm was rung, proved to be spun on imagination after the lad was questioned by the Fire Marshall's investigator.

Name Not Revealed

New Industry in Old Factory

Last March it was announced that the plant of the Storey Glove Co. in Acton was being closed. Established in 1867 it was one of Acton's oldest industries and townfolk felt the loss of this industry very keenly. A "For Sale" sign went up on the building shortly after and R. R. Arnold started to dispose of the stock and equipment.

In the months that have followed, most of the stock and much of the machinery and equipment has been cleared. There have been several negotiations started for the sale of the fine brick factory building which has three floors and a basement. It's a good solid brick building in the central part of town and lighted from two sides.

In the past week or so the "For Sale" sign has come down. Workmen are making alterations and repairs while the final items of equipment are being sold. For reasons that are quite justifiable, the name of the company purchasing the factory building is not being divulged. The manufacturer is presently well-established and has over a hundred persons now employed making items which are in growing demand.

Preparations are underway for bringing in new equipment and getting the plant in operation in Acton. There is every likelihood that when in full operation 200 persons will find gainful employment in this new industry in Acton.

Sorry, but that's all we can offer at present. Every town in the province of Ontario is searching for industries today. We have been aware of the negotiations for some weeks and in the best interests of Acton as a town, we think nothing would be gained by more particulars of the transaction at this time.

Citizens can be assured that another industry will soon be active in this building and Mr. Arnold's efforts in this connection will be appreciated by all. The industry is of a type not now operating in Acton.

Accidents Costly As Cars Skid Over Ice

Five accidents, two of them in town, were reported by local and district police over the week-end. All the mishaps were directly or indirectly the result of icy road conditions.

Late Thursday afternoon two cars were caused total damages estimated at \$400 when a vehicle driven by A. H. Denning, Wexford, skidded into another car driven by E. Wood, Guelph, at the corner of Young and Mill Streets.

Sunday two cars collided near the corner of Queen and Young Streets. Damage estimated at about \$800 resulted. Drivers of the cars involved were Wm. Vonessen, Toronto and Jennie Sobel, Guelph.

Saturday evening, Robert Coates, Milton, parked his car on No. 25 Highway near Glenspey Farms to attend to some traps in the bush. A car driving south from Acton, controlled by John McLeod, Toronto, failed to stop in time as it approached the parked Coates car and skidded into the vehicle. Estimated damage was about \$500.

Early Sunday morning, Carl Hensbergen, Toronto, ran his foreign model car off the road and into fencing on the property of John Fox, east of here on No. 7 Highway near the Red Line of Esqueping. The car bounced down into a five foot ditch and tore up 30 feet of fence wire, causing a total of about \$200 damage.

Sunday noon, a car travelling west along the first sideroad south of here, just past the Esqueping-Nassagaweya dividing line, went into a skid on the icy road, ran over a ditch and into a telephone pole, which broke under the impact.



HYDRO GARAGE BLAZES inside, and outside smoke billows in clouds as this staff photograph catches the town's two-year-old hydro shop and its contents. Firemen at left are strapping a Scott air pack on one of their members as hurried efforts are made to pull out the new utility truck, still inside when this picture was taken. Cause of the fire is still unknown this week.

Parked Unoccupied Car Starts on Fire

Interior of a car owned by Fred Tolton, R.R. 2, Guelph, was completely gutted last week when fire, believed caused by a short circuit, broke out as the vehicle was sitting parked and unoccupied.

Mr. Tolton parked his car near the farm lane and went into the house. When his mother looked out the window an hour and a half later the automobile was blazing. Damage was estimated at about \$400. He lives near Eden Mills.

Choir, Trio Guests At Sunday Concert

Guest artists with Acton Citizens Band at their concert in the public school auditorium on Sunday evening were the St. Alban's Men's chorus and the Rhythm Rambler Trio. A good crowd thoroughly appreciated the program by local artists. R. R. Parker was master of ceremonies.

St. Alban's Men's chorus sang four numbers, conducted by George Muscille, and accompanied by George Hall on the piano. In the first group they sang "Cornfield Melodies" and "Kentucky Babe," and in their second appearance "Softly Falls the Shades" and, to conclude the program, "God Save the Queen."

Playing in the Rhythm Rambler Trio were Les Ruby, Reno Bratton and Garnet Rose.

The band opened the program with O Canada. Their selections included two hymns, "The Garden of Eden" overture, a waltz, a special number "Boastin' the Basses," a medley of Irish songs, and "The Thunder march. Assistant band master, R. Spielvogel conducted the band for Show Boy march. In the ballad "A Perfect Day" Jim Greer played a euphonium solo.

The concert is one in a series of the last Sunday of each month conducted by bandmaster A. Perrott.

Local Prizewinners In Jingle Contest

Winner today of a 1955 RCA Estate range was Mrs. R. E. Arbie, Queen St., who came up with the right answer in a contest sponsored by a Canadian food company.

Mrs. Arbie's grocer, E. T. Marks, won an RCA mantel radio for his part in the contest known as Lip-ton's Three-a-Day. A jingle contest, it runs for 12 weeks with 15 winners per week.

S.S. Membership Reported Over 200

The supper meeting of the United Church Sunday School staff was held Tuesday at the home of Mrs. A. Long. At the business session, B. Veldhuis presided in the absence of Rev. E. A. Currey. Mrs. Mowat, superintendent, was presented with a bouquet of chrysanthemums.

The following officers were elected for 1955: superintendent, Mrs. B. Mowat; first assistant superintendent, Mrs. A. R. Long; second assistant superintendent, R. McKeown; treasurer, J. McGeachie; musical director, F. Bean; pianist, M. Force; secretary, Mansell Nellis.

During the year the Sunday school offering amounted to over \$1,000 with systematic envelope giving and the Acton United church came within the highest 12 Sunday schools in the Dominion for the duplex system.

The missionary and maintenance gifts—tripled during the past year and the Sunday school membership is well over 200 with a staff of over 20 teachers.

Mrs. Bean accorded a vote of thanks to the hostess for the use of her home.

Effect of Farming On Industry Told

J. E. Whitelock, Halton county's agricultural representative, was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Acton Y. Men's Club last Thursday in the Y. He spoke on the effects of agriculture on the industry of Canada and the industry's effect on agriculture. Jack Creighton expressed the thanks of the group to Mr. Whitelock.

Plans were made for Ladies' Night to be held soon, an inter-club meeting in Guelph in March and the district conference in Kitchener in April, which the entire club is scheduled to attend with the district governor, G. W. McKenzie of Acton. The sale of license tags, being promoted by the club, was discussed.

Another Reverse by Schools to South Take Honors Municipal Board

Last week Johnny Goy, who had applied for a Class A License to take package freight between Acton and Toronto, received the blunt information after waiting some weeks that his case was dismissed.

The P.C.V. division of the Ontario Municipal Board made this disposal of the case in just two words.

The decision is a keen disappointment to a number of Acton industries who have backed Mr. Goy's application and eight witnesses had gone to Toronto to testify at the hearing in January in support of the application. Every manufacturer who ships between Acton and Toronto is handicapped under the present inadequate truck delivery of present transports on package shipments. Surely a town which produces annually \$10,000,000 in manufactured goods deserves more consideration in getting its goods to the market centres.

There are a lot of manufacturers in Acton who are highly displeased over this second decision of the Municipal Board which adversely affects this town.

Wolves have been spotted in the district. We haven't heard of any being shot near town lately, though.

Another Reverse by Schools to South Take Honors In Public Speaking Competition

Alan Shugg, Linbrook school, and Brenda Reading, J. A. Lockhart school, captured top honours in the Halton County public speaking contest sponsored by the Halton Principals' Association when the finals were staged in Milton High School on Friday evening of last week.

A total of 16 entrants represented the eight regions, delivered prepared speeches and impromptu speeches for judges Mrs. A. Dobson, Mrs. L. Skuce and Casey Wood.

Alan Shugg was presented with the Halton Women's Institute trophy for his school and a miniature trophy for himself. The presentation was made at the conclusion of the program by Mrs. Service, convener of the Education and Citizenship committee of the county Women's Institute and Mrs. Max Featherstone, president.

Brenda Reading, second place winner, received a dictionary from the Principals' Association.

The contest was open to students from grades six, seven and eight and the eight preliminary contests were viewed by more than 600 parents. From the 78 preliminary contest participants, two representatives from each district were chosen to speak in the final county-wide event.

The following contestants spoke in competition Friday evening: Burlington, Brenda Reading; J. A. Lockhart, Rodney Dadds; E. Burlington, Esqueping, Penny Norton; Glen Williams; Donald Murray (Norval); Georgetown, Acton, Milton, Carol Biehn (Georgetown); Ella Jany (Acton); Nassagaweya, Lois Inglis; John Kennedy; Nelson Graded, Wendy Urquhart; Denis Brannan, Oakville; Pamela Caine; Jennifer Weatherstone; Trafalgar Graded, Gail Cooper and Alan Shugg (Linbrook); Trafalgar Rural, Joy May.

United Victorious In League Opener

Saturday was opening day for the Church Athletic League's administrative schedule and the small crowd on hand was given many thrills as games were won and lost on one and two points.

In the opening game the boys' doubles team of Charlie Sunter and Ralph Tripp took a 15-11 decision from Doug Ruddick and Bill Shannon of the Uniteds.

The girls' doubles were a reversal of the first game and the Baptist team of Marg Sunter and Ruth Landsborough bowed graciously to a stronger team of Anne Deforest and Blair Hotchen. The final score in this game indicates the close play which marked the entire day. The Uniteds took a 15-13 victory and were grateful to win even by this narrowest of margins.

The mixed doubles followed the same pattern and the United team of Paul McGeachie and Blair Hotchen managed to come up with a 15-13 win over the Baptists' John Tripp and Marg Sunter. This gave the United's a 2-1 game lead for the day's play but the singles were still to come and there was no let up in the pace set in the doubles.

John Tripp showed some fast play when he defeated Bill Shannon in the boys' singles by a score of 15-13 and brought the Baptists on an even footing with the United team.

Anne DeForest was left with the honor of the team to uphold and came through with a decisive win of 15-1 over Marg Sunter to end the day's play and give the United's their 3-2 win for the first match of the season.

Spring Not Here

What groundhog wouldn't have the sense enough to turn around and go back into his hole yesterday? The temperature was below zero when the animal of tradition was scheduled to make his annual trip which, magically, is supposed to tell us whether spring is near or not.

Everyone in the district knew spring couldn't be just around the corner with weather like this. A credit to both our own intelligence and to the wizard-like peregrinary powers of the groundhog: Wednesday was sunny all day. The animal saw his shadow. Spring is NOT just around the corner.

Farmers' Mutual Shows Decline In Losses at Annual Held Here

There was a fine attendance and a keen interest shown at the annual meeting in Acton on Monday of the Halton Union Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. The annual report showed a successful year of operations with a year-end surplus of \$138,582.11. Losses this year were \$50,504.20 which was below the previous year.

There were 2618 policies in force with insurance in an amount of \$23,407.94. Net insurance in force at the end of the year was \$21,508,632. There was a gain in surplus of \$44,904.44 over that of the previous year shown in the annual report.

James Fisher of Esqueping Township becomes a director of the company succeeding M. T. Mc-Nabb, who has retired this year. Officers for 1955 are: Cameron Kitching, president; James Fisher, vice-president; A. T. Moore, secretary-treasurer.

Members of the board of directors are T. G. Brownridge, Cameron Kitching, Daniel Gray, Leslie Kerns, E. F. Ford, J. E. Pearen, Victor Hall and Charles Readhead.



PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONS were presented with their awards in Milton high school following the county-wide competition sponsored by the Halton Principals' Association for students in grades six, seven and eight—From the left are F. Hughes, principal of Linbrook public school, receiving the Halton Women's Institute trophy; Brenda Reading, second place winner in the contest, holding the dictionary awarded her; Alan Shugg, winner of the contest, holding his miniature trophy of the Women's Institute cup; Mrs. Service, convener of the Education and Citizenship committee and Mrs. Max Featherstone, president of the Halton Women's Institute.

Retiring Organist Honored by Friends

Miss Olive Lampard concluded six years as organist and choir leader of Acton United church last Sunday morning when Rev. Currey expressed the regret of the choir and congregation.

Acton friends gathered for tea at Miss Fern Brown's home Sunday afternoon when the organist and her sister, Miss Grace Lampard, were guests of honor. A corsage and a book on Albert Schweitzer, the famed organist and humanitarian, were presented to Miss Lampard. Miss Brown and Mrs. R. Arnold were joint hostesses for the occasion.

The United Church choir, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. B. Veldhuis for a social time last Thursday evening. Contests were conducted by Jean MacLean and Dorothy Simmons.

Symphony Subject Of Year's Study

A plan of study for the coming year was discussed by the members of the Acton Music Study group when they met at the home of the president, Mrs. R. Arnold, on Monday evening. It was decided that the symphony will be the subject for future consideration.

Reports were given and various items of business discussed.

Mrs. B. Veldhuis showed slides of her trip to the west coast last summer and the meeting concluded with the serving of refreshments.

Yearly pay and allowances of a member of the House of Commons is \$10,000, of a cabinet minister \$27,000, of the Prime Minister \$37,000.