

The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-Second Year.—No. 13.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 1956

Eight Pages—Seven Cents.



WORST OF TUESDAY'S ACTON SCHOOL FIRE is recorded in this staff photograph as firemen start high pressure hoses on the blazing rear wing of the public school. The nine hour fire damaged five classrooms, two storage rooms and the home economics room.

Co-Operation in Fire's Aftermath Quickly Sets Up Five Classrooms

Co-operation has been the key-note. Today, five classrooms of public school pupils have been completely transferred, right down to blackboards, desks and books. Teaching is back to near normal.

At first, as the school blazed Tuesday at noon hour, the children were delighted as the word spread—"The school's on fire!" Later, when they ran back to school and discovered that what they had heard was true, many of them burst into tears.

Teachers, too, immediately wondered what would be done. After the fire was under control, and the principal, school board members and inspector L. L. Skuce were conferring, they waited anxiously.

Rough Time

Black hardtopping will blanket the dusty, broken streets of Acton within days, as pre-paving work here nears completion this week.

For the past several days, Rayner Construction crews have been breaking up the town roads with toothed blades on graders to bring the streets to proper levels and slopes before the hardtop is put on.

A rash of work by town waterworks and sewage crews has also been hurried in recent days with service lines being renewed or extended on several streets prior to the paving work.

Injuries Serious In Car Accident

Two men were hospitalized with serious injuries Friday night following an early evening accident on No. 7 Highway, near the Fourth Line.

A car driven by Edward Fought, 18, of Acton, was moving west toward Acton when another car, driven by Robert House, 28, Rockwood, collided with the rear of the Fought car. The House car, owned by Trevor Rice, Guelph, who was a passenger, was also travelling toward Acton.

The Fought car crashed into the south ditch while the other vehicle went into the north ditch, but hydro pole and railed over.

Rice suffered cuts to the head and possible fractured ribs. Elgin Crispin, 27, also of Rockwood and another passenger in the House car, received a fractured neck and dislocated shoulder. He is still in Guelph hospital.

The second car was a total wreck while damage was estimated by Milton detachment police at \$75 to the Fought car.

Eden Mills Store Owner Struck in Night Robbery

For the second time in two years, intruders attempted to rob the small general store operated by Mrs. Anna Coulson at Eden Mills. Where the first attempt failed when the would-be robber was scared off by Mrs. Coulson's son-in-law, the latest attempt Saturday night netted the two young thieves about \$25 before they fled.

Mrs. Coulson, operator of the store for 18 years, was alone when two jacket-clad youths entered the store late Saturday night. One of them reportedly jumped over the counter and the other struck her on the head with a bottle.

Mrs. Coulson managed to touch off an alarm which brought her daughter, Mrs. Jack Chamberlain. At the alarm, the assailants fled, after one had lifted about \$25 in change from the cash register.

A larger sum of money was hidden by Mrs. Coulson when the two entered and appeared suspicious.

Police called from the Guelph O.P.P. detachment investigated the incident and searched the area after they were called by a neighbor. Mrs. Coulson was treated for shock, head bruises and cuts received in the scuffle.

Acton Health Unit Office Opens Two Nurses Share Area Duties

Two new branch offices of the Halton County Health Unit have been opened this fall. By opening offices at Acton and Georgetown, the Health Unit will be better able to serve the northern communities of the county.

All this has been achieved by concerted community effort. Inspector Skuce arrived in time to help salvage school furniture and assist the gang in heaving it through the back windows.

Words fail me in trying to express my admiration and regard for my fellow citizens.

For the firemen for their devotion to duty, Council support, our town foreman and his crew for their tireless efforts, electrician for immediately assuring power out-off, our teaching staff for joining the Black Gang to rescue school records, etc., our industry, unsolicited, sent trucks and crews to help, our devoted caretakers, the Home and School for scrubbing and cleaning the salvaged desks, the fine executive work of Principal McKenzie and the solid support of my Board of Trustees.

I am humbly proud that I am permitted to belong to Acton.

On behalf of the Board, may I express to all who helped and offered aid, most grateful thanks.

Thank you for the valued space.

J. W. WOLFE, Chairman, Acton Public School Board

Boys' Pipe Band In Town Proposed

A boys' pipe band may be formed in town.

Three members of the Guelph Pipe Band want any boys who are interested in learning piping or drumming to get in touch with them.

Chanters and drum sticks will be purchased and the group will begin practices just as soon as possible. (Those kids and caps come later.) The town has given its consent for a meeting in the town hall on Thursday, October 11 at seven o'clock.

Boys who would like to make music with pipes and drums are asked to come to the meeting or use phone Bob Ridsdale at 225, Phil Cadzick at 6531 or Bob McVey at Georgetown TR 7-3768.

Fire Postpones Nursery School

The nursery school at the Y.M.C.A. is cancelled until further notice. As soon as officers of the Y Ladies' Auxiliary learned regular school classes are to be held in the Y following the fire at the school, they put their heads together and decided the best thing to do was cancel their popular nursery classes for the time being. Registration was to have been this Friday.

The ladies know that, even if there is room in the Y for one school room and the nursery school, the little tots would make considerable noise that would disturb the scholars.

Overheated Stove Causes House Fire

Acton firemen were called late Saturday night to the farm home of H. Bessem, 4th the town line north-east of Crewson's Corners, when an oil stove became overheated and set fire to the wall and ceiling near the unit.

The fire was partly under control by the time firemen arrived but damage was estimated at about \$1,000.

Rebuilding of Fire-Damaged P.S. School Wing Is Unlikely

School Board Tribute to Firemen And All Who Helped After Fire

Editor, Acton Free Press, Dear Sir:

Disaster struck our school today. Five classrooms, the Home Economics room and two supply rooms are out of service. Only the prompt, efficient efforts of Acton Firefighters, assisted by Georgetown Fire Brigade, saved our old school from total loss.

Our prayer of Thanksgiving is that all of the children are safe. The four front rooms are undamaged and will be used. Because of the splendid community co-operation, it will be "business as usual" at our school tomorrow, Wednesday.

Alphabetically designated, classrooms will be held in the Legion Hall, Scout Hall, St. Alban's Parish Hall, Town Hall and the Y.M.C.A. Classroom furniture is already in place at the Legion, Scout Hall and Town Hall and we have been assured by our supplier, Mr. Fred Gjelhrst, Thornbury, that new classroom furniture will be delivered for St. Alban's Parish Hall and the Y in time for school tomorrow, Wednesday.

During this last "holiday" week-end of the summer and fall season, the paper also endorses Ontario Highways and Provincial Police urging to drive carefully—and with consideration for the other driver.

Thanksgiving Last Holiday Week-end Heed Traffic Pleas

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Acton Woman Hurt as Cars Hit

Mrs. Margaret Wallis of Acton was hospitalized Monday evening following a two-car accident about two miles north of Milton on Highway 25, suffering a suspected chest injury, fractured ribs and head and hand lacerations. Her car had been in collision with another car driven by Robert Kerr of Main St., Milton.

According to investigating officer George Moore, the incident occurred when both south-bound cars pulled into the passing lane at about the same time. After the collision, the Wallis car entered the west ditch and rolled onto the left side, while the Kerr vehicle entered the east ditch, went through two fences and came to rest in a field.

Cons. Moore estimated damage to the Kerr vehicle at \$400, the other car was damaged to the extent of \$500.

Play Wedding March To Surprise Couple At Anniversary Party

A surprise family gathering in honor of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. MacPherson of Acton on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary was held last Sunday at the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Gordon of Rockwood.

For the get-together, 42 relatives met early in the afternoon and completely surprised the couple on their visit. The playing of the wedding march greeted them as they entered the house. During the afternoon, Mrs. MacPherson was presented with a lovely corsage and both were recipients of other anniversary gifts.

A wedding anniversary cake and home decorations recalled the happy day of 40 years ago. Guests were present from Toronto, Acton and Rockwood.

Tip Wins \$100 On Film at Roxy

A cheque for \$100 will be presented to J. H. Buckland next week at the Roxy theatre by manager Bill Leshe. Mr. Buckland sent in an idea for the latest short advertising film, Tips, and learned last week that he was selected as the \$100 winner.

The film is being shown at the Roxy next week and, as well as seeing Mr. Buckland's tip on film, patrons will see him receive his cheque in person.

Draw Winners

A five per cent. coupon in Saturday's Appreciation Day drew amount \$17.25 for J. Locker. Mrs. Orwell Johnson took the \$3 award. Just two names were called, and both were right there. Next week's chest is \$390.

Acton Host Yesterday to Over 100 Grand Valley Metermen Assoc.

Over 100 representatives from 30 centres met in Acton yesterday for the annual Convention of the Grand Valley Metermen's Association. The delegates, most of them members of municipal hydro systems, registered at 10 am in the Legion Auditorium and through the day heard speakers, saw films and conducted regular business.

In the afternoon L. V. Hunt, of Acton P.U.C. represented by all Commissioners at the noon luncheon, provided the entertainment for the occasion following the noon dinner, which was served by the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary.

Mayor E. Tyler welcomed the visiting metermen to Acton. A brief session of reports and to the entertainment, led by Vince Mountford of Brampton, local hydro superintendent D. Mason introduced the popular comedian. Following morning registration, films on atomic energy were shown by Canadian General Electric Co. A discussion on "Induction Type Watt Hour Meters" was later led by J. G. Steiss of the Kitchener Public Utilities.

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Weekly Newspapers Week

This is National Weekly Newspapers Week, a week set aside once a year to reflect on the role of the weekly press in countless communities across Canada. Here, your local paper assumes some pride in the growing influence of Canadian weeklies, as one of them; but at the same time we accept humbly the faster growing responsibilities and tasks that companion community influence.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, in a statement from Ottawa to Canada's news journals, says in part:

"A free, vigorous press is essential to the working of our Canadian democracy. It is not mere coincidence that the development of responsible government in Canada has closely paralleled the growth of a daily and weekly press in which the issues of the day have been debated and recorded."

I am convinced that true freedom of the press, together with the practice of responsible journalism, are among the best forms of insurance against international hatreds and all their evil consequences.

"I send my best wishes to the press of Canada and particularly to the weeklies who work so faithfully to keep the residents of the smaller centres and of the countryside informed of matters of public interest."



FIRE DAMAGED CLASSROOMS greeted local volunteers who started clean-up of salvageable equipment as soon as the fire was out. Here is one of the five classrooms messed and damaged by the heat and water. Paint peeled and papers, flags and books charred or burned on the walls from the heat.