

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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A Welcome Visit

It's been a good many years since anyone bothered to arrange a pre-Christmas visit to Acton from old Santa Claus. No doubt this time table has been pretty well crowded with the visits to many neighboring towns that businessmen have been arranging.

But with his jolly red face, dignified white whiskers and infectious laughter he will no doubt be made quite welcome here following an absence of years.

His planned arrival supported by one local businessman may be a boon to the business section as a whole and introduce the Christmas shopping spirit.

It seems that reindeer are scarce this year and the modernized conveyance is to be a helicopter. We hope the event is a success and that it may be continued in the years following so Acton will not be without its pre-Christmas visit from Santa.

A Year of Fulfillment

With municipal affairs all settled for another year, citizens can give all their attention to the Christmastide season and the many and varied pleasures it involves. Before we move from the municipal scene perhaps we might look back on 1956 as a year of fulfillment for Acton. There were many plans that have been on council agendas for years that saw completion the past year.

To such as Mayor Ted Tyler and Reeve Jack Hargrave who have worked for fulfillment of these aims that have extended over many sessions must come a great measure of relief and a renewal of faith in their ideals. We mention these men because they are the only ones left on the 1957 Council who were also on Council back in days when the editor attended all sessions and shared in burning the midnight oil. There's been plenty of it burned with good results in the years that have followed and that must also bring satisfaction to those who have served.

To focus attention on these problems that have loomed large and are now completed, there's that fine Maria Street bridge that has been a contentious problem for nearly 40 years.

The all-inclusive paving program on Acton streets and the indication of bringing in a water supply adequate for foreseeable needs of the district are two of the major problems that have come into being most recently. We almost neglected to mention the piping of natural gas to Acton.

Going back past the present year have been the development of four new subdivisions and their many problems, the annexation proceedings which probe today that the original proposals out to the fourth line were reasonable and sound. The past and present extensions of Acton's educational facilities are keeping pace with Acton's growth and the services of hydro, water and sewers are meeting the needs.

In a community that is growing the fulfillment of plans and the need for new planning never ceases. Looking back, we see many plans completed. We have only touched on a few from our memory. Many citizens will recall others we have omitted. The future holds a multitude of opportunities some of which we all can see and many that are obscure. Looking back, citizens have cause for gratitude to those who have served and accomplished much.

1956, has been a good year. The years ahead can well be equal and progressive for this community if the thinking of our citizens is constructive and inclusive of all parts of the town. It's no time to stop but we can pause to express gratitude.

There is a friendliness in our town so different from the cold unconcern of the big city people. In the metropolis one's friends are relatively few and certainly far between. Here everyone's a potential friend.—Virden (Man.) Empire-Advance.

Just The Same

In a magazine loaded with liquor advertising we recently perused an article that attempted to point out that bootlegging in Canada is big business. We were amused because it was a great point in the arguments that were used to defeat the Ontario Temperance Act. They said in those days that a supply readily available through government control would wipe out the bootlegger. Well, it didn't.

Newspapers and magazines are full of stories of bootlegging activities. A great many of the murders, suicides and crimes of today can be traced to liquor — not always bootleg liquor but cases of intoxicants which have been procured in a perfectly legal manner are often found where the crimes are committed.

The real purpose back of many of these stories which belittle our present liquor laws is to get wider sale of intoxicants. The purpose of liquor advertising is to get more customers; to attempt to make more popular the drinking habit. You never see colored pictures of the down-and-outs, the end product of the habit forming drinking of intoxicating beverages, the broken homes.

They treat the subject with great social respect and glamorize its use. They like to emphasize that 70 per cent. of the public drink alcoholic beverages. They like to point out that the remaining 30 per cent. are fanatics. They don't tell of the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous — of people who have learned by bitter experience.

It is the same old story of wanting wider sale of a product that has been found useless, but very profitable for those who make it and those who sell it. Yes, we have bootlegging today but who are the bootleggers? What stimulates the crop of fresh subjects?

A Good Foundation

The Awards Night held by Halton's 4H Clubs, continues each year to grow in size and in quantity of awards.

Being, as it is, a culmination of a year's activity it provides a fitting climax that packs the auditorium in which it is held.

Each year we attend we can't help but feel agriculture runs little risk of extinction in this country. Besides the regular awards for the individual club achievements there always seems to be some special awards for outstanding achievement.

This year the county fittingly honored two Halton teams that won provincial honors in livestock judging and in debating. The presentation of gold engraved watches serves as a well-deserved remembrance of a very special achievement.

Perhaps the greatest evidence of accomplishment apparent to the onlooker, was the ability of the members of the clubs who were called on to express themselves. To many of them speaking seemed almost to be second nature to them. They spoke without any indication of fear and trembling and this in itself is one of the great achievements of one of the small phases of their club work.

As a reporter it is necessary to cover a great many talks and in many cases were sure a training similar to that offered in club work would have put many a speaker at greater ease.

It is to be hoped the parents, leaders and agricultural representative can continue to encourage and assist in 4H Club work. Whether the member chooses a career on the farm or in other work, the ground work laid cannot help but be beneficial.

Two Way Benefit

Canadians are eating a lot more fish now than before the war. But they are still consuming less than one-quarter of Canada's annual catch of some 2,000,000,000 pounds. The other 75 per cent has to be exported.

That is why federal fisheries officials would be happier if they could get Canadians to eat still more fish. There is a continuous campaign to make the housewife fish-conscious when she is considering the family menu.

Aside from the fact that fish is good for you as a highly nutritious protein food, there is the future of one of Canada's biggest basic industries to consider.

Federal authorities say that with the help of better packaging, the marketing of quick frozen fish and wider use of the home deep freezer, they are making progress. Canadians who ate about 11 pounds of fish per capita before the war now are consuming about 14 pounds a head per year.

The Japanese consume about 90 pounds of fish per capita a year and with 90,000,000 people that is a lot of fish. The Scandinavians eat about 60 pounds each a year and in Britain the consumption is around 40 pounds a head.

When even the meteorological services can hardly tell us what is coming for sure from one day to the next, why do we always take such faith in other forecasters (Indians, old settlers, etc.) Humboldt (Sask.) Journal.



Winter Wonderland

—Photo by Esther Taylor

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Only Cows Fully Contented

By Gwendoline P. Clarke

All last week the telephone repair men were busy stringing extra cable from pole to pole along the cable No. 200 wasn't it nice of the Bell Telephone Company to adopt our suggestions so quickly? Of course we don't know exactly what is being done, or why. We can only hope it is one more step towards keeping the telephones in good working order. Years ago, the telephone was more or less a luxury; now it is a necessity for one reason, because we depend on this one necessity to keep our luxuries in order.

Or do we have luxuries any more? We have all our luxuries become necessities? I wonder. Hydro, for instance. In the populated areas of Ontario, the percentage of homes without hydro must be very small. Even with hydro, there have been many changes. At first farm folk were well satisfied if all they had was electric lighting in the home. But eventually, with power easily available, there came a gradual increase in conveniences both at the house and the barn. Now you can go into many farm homes and besides the usual electrical appliances and gadgets, you find home freezers, automatic washers, oil burning furnaces and air conditioning.

At the barn, of course, there is a motor for this and a motor for that. For churning, milking and separating. Yes, it is a far cry from the days when hydro was first installed.

Which brings us back to the telephone. The more electrical appliances we have, the more

chances there are of something going out of order and the more we are likely to need the telephone. Perhaps the milking machine refuses to function, the television blacks out, the controls on the electric stove stop controlling or maybe a bad storm hits a transformer. Whatever the trouble, we run to the telephone. If the line is out of order, we feel completely lost.

And there may be other emergencies. We need a doctor in a hurry, or a vet, or the fire reel. It could be a matter of life or death. So isn't it only reasonable to want — and expect that our rural lines shall be maintained with maximum efficiency. Of course, we realize that every effort is even now being made to keep them that way. There is also a tremendous expansion program in progress. I am merely referring to the importance of the telephone as a reason for emphasizing that efficient service is an absolute must.

Well, there hasn't been any drastic change in the weather for over a week. Driving conditions on the highways have been good but on the side roads very bad. Sometimes I wonder whether it is really an advantage to live close to a main highway. It makes you forget that all roads are not equally good — and thus you get caught napping.

Last week I had to make a call about 20 miles away. To cut down on the mileage, I drove across country. It was a grim drive. Where it wasn't slippery, it was slushy. At one point I met a truck. It was going so fast that it passed me. I couldn't see a yard ahead of me. Why I didn't go into the ditch, I'll never know.

Just one more instance of how easily an accident could have happened through the carelessness of a thoughtless driver. Believe me, I didn't take any more chances on cross country roads that day. I came back by the highway.

The country is looking dreary and bleak these days and yet here and there we still see farms where young cattle and horses are out in the fields. They don't seem to mind it at all. I suppose they are conditioned to all kinds of weather. With the milking cows it is a different story. They are the farmers' babies.

For the cows, winter time is a lazy time and don't they make the most of it. They have no worries whatsoever. No flies to bother them, no hot sun to drive them from the soothing pastures. All they can eat and drink is placed right in front of them. They take their fill and then contentedly chew their cud or go to sleep. They are disturbed only at milking time and when the stables are cleaned. Under normal conditions, cows respond by being the most contented creatures on this earth.

Poultry, too, must surely prefer the winter weather. Most birds can stand cold better than heat. Any way unfortunately, hens can be killed with kindness. Left to their own devices, they soon become fat and lazy. So young birds are encouraged to be active. To get up early and go to bed late. Older birds, if they are held over, are allowed a little more leeway to get over the moult.

But if there is no sign of them joining the production line, it's the stew-pot for them. We killed one such hen the other day. I got a pound and a half of tender fat from it. The fat made excellent cakes and cookies which, incidentally, disappeared in a hurry yesterday as we had all the family here. David was looking a little white and tired — too much Santa Claus and too many parades. Edward contented as ever. Never a whimper from Brian's share in the year.

The island, first called "Cape" and later McNabs, was first fortified in 1814. Later Fort McNab was built around a cemetery at the top of one of the little island's hills. One historian called it "probably one of the world's best-guarded cemeteries."

The fort, with a commanding view of the harbor approaches, took five years to build. During the two world wars, the long-vacated fortress was again put to use, when submarine nets and minefields were laid off the island's shores to protect Halifax harbor.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1936

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 10, 1936

King Edward VIII abdicates! The crisis in the British Empire, which rested on King Edward VIII's decision, came at 11 o'clock when, in the British Parliament, a bill of abdication was read. The abdication is without precedent in history. The king renounces all rights to the throne for himself and his heirs. At one o'clock today, Prime Minister Mackenzie King addressed the Canadian people over the radio and outlined the position Canada will take. It has been arranged that effect of the bill to provide for abdication will come into effect in Canada at the same time as in the United Kingdom. Action to approve of this will be taken into consideration at the session of Parliament in January.

The curlers are getting brooms and Scotch caps all ready for the season.

Legionnaires and several other guests enjoyed a venison dinner at the Legion Hall as the guests of Zone Commander J. M. McDonald. Santa Claus has very carefully read over all the letters in the Santa Claus Letters contest, and Mrs. Santa had to help decide the winners. We finally decided Eleanor Allen should win that big doll. Other winners will all receive boxes of chocolates.

For the boys the first prize and the three cell focussing flashlight goes to Howard Frank of R.R. 2, Rockwood. Five other boys will get chocolates.

Between 90 and 100 Halton Juniors participated in the Royal Winter Fair on opening day. The Halton judging team which placed ninth was composed of Walter Latham, Claude McLaughlin, Arthur McKeown and Melvin Storey.

At the Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph, Ontario was represented in the inter-club judging competition by Craig and Bruce Reid, Hugh Hearty and Joe Pelletier.

Groupings for hockey have been announced. The Intermediates are in a group which comprises Acton, Guelph, Georgetown and Milton. In the Junior grouping are Acton, Guelph, Georgetown and Orangeville.

The arena has had over a week's steady operation and is well patronized.

BACK IN 1906

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 6, 1906

Since their organization last week, the Young Men's Association has busily engaged in getting their hall on Elgin St. in order for the opening on Monday night. About 40 young men were in attendance on the first evening and enjoyed themselves very manifestly in reading, writing, recreation, etc. At nine o'clock, a genuine surprise was sprung upon the young men by the young ladies of the Epworth League, to the number of 36, under the leadership of Miss Bertie Speight and Miss Bertie Smith, conveners of the Literary and Social Committee. They marched in with baskets of dainties, refreshments, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Delightful responses were made on behalf of the ladies by Mrs. A. T. Brown and Miss Clara Moore.

St. Alban's Men's Institute meet for the present in Matthews' Hall, and there are between 40 and 60 members. An orchestra has been formed at the church to assist in providing musical evenings.

It has just leaked out that Ralph Connor's new story, "The Doctor," has been secured for publication by the Family Herald and Weekly Star.

C. F. Goodlove and Co. advertise meat. Before deciding on Christmas presents, you should examine our immense stock of fancy china. The cushion top bed is still on one of the latest novelties to send to a friend is one of the "Auto-graph Old Acquaintance" Tops. Spaces are left for your friends' names which are then outlined. A handsome decoration for the lounge. See it 25 cents.

Advertisement. Why not start work at \$25 to \$30 a month. After a shorthand or bookkeeping diploma course with British Canadian Business College, Toronto. You can do it with Pitman shorthand.

Rev. G. W. Barker preached the anniversary sermon at the Methodist anniversary services at the Methodist church was first opened for divine worship on the last Sunday in February, 1852. There was a liberal fire will offering.

The rink committee is getting the rink at the power house in shape.

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