

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief
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James A. Dills, Managing Editor
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 1957

County to Shrink

This hundred year old county seems in for some pretty drastic changes in these rapidly developing times. Presently listed as the second smallest county in the province it would seem it might be shrunk still further if activity keeps up at the south.

The Ontario Municipal Board handed down a decision recently that will extend Burlington from the lake to the top of Nelson township when the order becomes effective in January, 1958. No form of administration has been submitted so the plan for operating such an area is not clear.

Initial reports immediately suggested a city status for the newly created municipality. But then even the O.M.B. seemed a little unsettled on just what type of administration set-up might be necessary and so they called a meeting in April with the heads of the affected municipalities to work out the problems. Until something concrete is prepared citizens can't tell what they might be voting for next December.

One other thing that we hear constant harping on in the eastern section of the county is the constantly increasing population of Oakville and their continuing quest for city status. According to one Oakville paper, "The Post Office Department has advised us that Oakville's population is now at the 10,058 mark. When we get to be 15,000 we may apply to the Municipal Board to become a city."

One has only to read the headlines in any of the city dailies to wonder just why anyone would want to become a city but then the term "progress" has been used to cover a multitude of dreams.

Firmly Established

Today is February 14. For many years this festival has meant many things to many people. According to our encyclopedia it all started during the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia celebrated in memory of Juno.

Apparently it was customary for Roman youths to draw tablets from an urn. On each tablet was inscribed the name of a maiden to whom he was supposed to devote himself for a year. This festival was held near the anniversary of St. Valentine's death and was finally merged with it to the extent that the practice of choosing sweethearts for the ensuing 12 months became a common one on St. Valentine's day.

Of course, there are many other stories about the origin of the festival that see the mails being crowded with the lady missives. The variety of taste that prevails in choosing the Valentine runs from the sweetly sentimental to the many variations of Rose-Garden red.

There were several saints by the name of Valentine. A pretty story connected with one of them runs to the effect that he was a charitable man visiting the sick and the needy. When bedridden with old age he continued to send kindly messages to those he could no longer go to see.

There is no survey to indicate the success of Valentines in getting two bashful lovers together just as there are no results to show which type of Valentine is best.

In any case Valentine's Day seems to be a rather firmly established event in the "culture" of Canada and we can't see any harm in it.

Brief Comment

Mid-February finds most of the inaugural meetings held in municipal bodies and settling down for 1957. It's sort of relaxing to get back again into routine after the changes are ironed out.

Booster Night

Friday night should be a big time in Acton arena. They call it Booster Night for minor hockey and if half the parents who have boys in that minor hockey loop are there to watch the action there'll be a crowd to start with.

On top of the kids' attractions, however, there's a return of the old timers opposing a Georgetown team and, of course, that means some old jinks will be out there playing and recalling memories of hundreds of fans who cheered them through some red hot games.

The Booster night has two purposes. First, of course, it does help finance the sweaters, equipment, trophies and any year-end banquet for the young players. But, second, it gives about 14 teams of eager-beaver young hockey players a grand and glorious chance to play in front of a crowd as well as giving the crowd a chance to see them in action.

And don't think these kids aren't keen. They'll be out there playing for all they're worth to put up a good game and score a win.

Booster Night in Acton should see plenty of action and if the crowd doesn't get excited about it, it won't be the kids' fault.

T.V. Threat

With all the warnings that have accompanied the wide scale use of television it's hard to understand why viewers keep increasing. The new medium has been called a lot of things and now we note that television head-ache is the latest ailment of British school children.

Of course we always want things we shouldn't have and abuse the things by over-indulging. This, of course, is not applicable to television alone but to dating and drinking as well.

But at any rate according to the British report, doctors are concerned by the effects of bad television viewing habits on the eyes of youngsters. The headaches are present in those children who have been sitting on the floor looking at the television from an angle and sitting much too near the screen.

Doctors claim that there seems to be increasing evidence that the onset of myopia (nearsightedness) may be hastened by indiscriminate television viewing.

We've seen programs where interference could give anybody a headache but the strange hypnosis of that picture box seems to glue the watchers to their chair after a host has made his initial efforts to clear it, followed by remarks on the difficulty of interference.

It's hard to imagine any charges that have not already been laid at the door of television but probably there will be more as additional surveys are compiled and further reports revealed. But we doubt if they'll have any effect toward decreasing the viewers of this new medium.

Poll Tax

We were interested in a recent article explaining that poll tax can be profitable. Every year about this time when municipal budgets get preliminary consideration there is a certain amount of discussion on the value of collecting poll tax.

The poll tax is collected under the Statute Labor Act. It is a relic of the last century when farmers' sons were required to put in a day or two's work on township roads, or pay a poll or head tax in lieu of the labor.

In most provinces the tax remains quite unrelated to the increased taxation on property and in Ontario where the maximum levy is \$10 it is generally rated as only of nuisance value not worth the trouble involved in collecting it.

Apparently there have been echoes of dissatisfaction from Nova Scotia where the maximum has been raised to \$50 and from New Brunswick where a poll tax may be levied on homes which have a value of more than \$1000. In Ontario, however, the provincial act, levies the \$10 Ontario maximum but wants it raised to \$28 applying to men and women and carrying with it the right to vote.

Ontario already has legislation which permits the municipality to collect the tax from an employer and when a tax is overdue, after liberal warnings, application can be made to the court for a garnishee on the defaulter's wages.

While municipalities will probably continue to wonder about the value of poll tax at the \$10 level it might be more beneficial at the higher rate presently permissible under Ontario legislation. The first requirement will be a strong decision to enforce the tax. If it is to apply only to those who are unfortunate enough to receive an initial bill then obviously the levy would be unfair.

Acton collects a \$5 fee as poll tax. With the metro areas seeking new fields of taxation and considering gasoline tax and several other avenues, perhaps it's time for the smaller municipalities to review some of their existing forms of revenue.



Happy Valentine's Day to You, Too

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Wide Choice Makes Hard Decision

By Geraldine P. Clarke

Well, I left the farm last week to spend a day and a half in Toronto. Of course, I didn't do nearly as much as I had planned. However, I was able to stay overnight with Daughter and her family. As usual I spent very little time in the stores but I was there long enough to notice an interesting new very lovely picture in a special sale of art.

Many of the pictures were beautiful so perhaps it was just as well that when I saw them I had only a little time to spare before my train left. It had taken me so long to get my glasses fixed to see with I mean.

As you know glasses like eyeglasses also have gone modern. A few years ago you had only a choice of ransome gold-filled nickel or horn rimmed spectacles. Now you have literally dozens of frames to choose from all colors, styles and sizes. Some of them engraved, some even set with brilliant stones. They come in black, blue, yellow, white, brown or a combination of colors. They are supposed to add to rather than detract from one's appearance. Hot when they're hot and cold when they're cold, that's the question.

The salesman was very anxious to sell me black frames over white gold. Very smart, he said. Smart? They reminded me of black and nickel bathroom fixtures. I thought I would take my time. So he got out light green, blue, grey and gunmetal. They all made my hair look a rusty white.

I finally settled for very conservative light brown frames. I am sure the salesman was greatly relieved that I chose anything at all. He had already suggested that if I came back next day he would have another assortment sent in from their branch store.

That would have been too much. After all I only wanted one inconspicuous frame to hold the lens's together. My difficulty in making a decision was only because the selection was so large. I was sure for the coming folk but surely, options must have many customers that are not in that category and would therefore appreciate a more suitable selection from which to choose.

When I got to Daughter's place that night I found her planning a little house-hunting party. They want to make a move to get away from the busy street they are on. That is always a consideration for people with a young family growing up. We would like to see three bedrooms to the outside, but I can't face the idea of commuting back and forth. And I can't say I blame him. Many people who have tried living in suburbia are now moving back to the city. Others, who are not so happy, are leaving the suburbs, determined to get away from it all, which makes it very nice for the real estate boys.

Living anywhere this weekend is a problem. After a week of lovely weather we are now experiencing a freezing drizzle. The feeling is so cheerless that going from the house to the barn isn't any fun. However, Partner doesn't have to make many trips these days. There are plenty of odd jobs to do since we've settled weather but nothing that can't wait. No young chickens to feed, no milk to do. And from what we hear there will be less chores to do on a few other farms too. Some farmers are thinking that to raise turkeys is an unprofitable sideline. I have spoken to several who are going out of the business because they say the game's not worth it.

So, come next Christmas housewives may have to put more for their turkeys. However, Christmas is a long way off yet. They'll have to get a lot of other things to look forward to first.

Yes, a lot of things. When the weather is depressingly drab it's good to look outside and visualize the change that will take place in a few short months. Look at those bare trees and the flicking birds, could anything appear more completely dead than this? Does it seem possible that from about every twig green shoots will eventually appear?

As the day goes on life is a marvel. Love and love inspiring pride to the morose of spring I can never understand how athletes can say and really believe there is no fatigue. They tell you that the spring is due to the natural forces of nature. We know it but who controls the forces of nature? Doesn't every thing point conclusively to the presence of a Divine Power? Man with all his ingenuity could never change the seasons. The farmer knows it by instinct. I have seen a farmer who is an expert. No one can work with nature and deny the existence of a higher power guiding and controlling the destiny of the world.

Well, well, how did I get on? I started with spectacles and ended up with the fog. But then why not? Doesn't it prove that all things we may be involved with through details we are still subservient to something within ourselves which we may or may not recognize as a power that motivates our thoughts and actions?

Two days later. The first part of this column is out of date. Now the weather is fine and bright. But before this gets into print we may be snowed in. Who knows?

LIMEHOUSE

Officers Re-Instated By Limehouse W.A.

The regular monthly meeting and annual election of officers of Limehouse Presbyterian Church Women's Association was held at the home of Mrs. W. Mitchell on Tuesday afternoon. Former officers were re-instated as follows: president, Mrs. J. Crichton, vice president, Mrs. K. Patrick, treasurer, Mrs. Patterson, secretary, Miss Evans.

Plans were made for a sale of home made baking and a euchre to be held in Limehouse Memorial Hall in February. We regret the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sanders and family from the village. They have purchased a home near Terra Cotta.

The Albert Leferinks visited Mr. and Mrs. Klosser at Osprey. Mrs. W. Wiley spent a few days with the A. C. Patterson's and Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith of Weston were there.

The Patterson's drove to Orillia, where they spent a day with the G. K. Turner's. Mrs. Wiley staying there with her daughter, Mrs. Andrew Mino accompanied them. Mr. and Mrs. E. T. C. Brown spent a couple of days in Hamilton. We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hamilton, and wee daughter to the village. They have moved into their new home.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 14, 1907.

The rink management has arranged the first fancy dress carnival of this season for tonight at the arena.

Miss Laura Gray was in Toronto this week attending the great symphony concert in Massey Hall.

Acton Fire Brigade has arranged with the Fifth Company to give the high class opera, The Beggar Student, in the town hall Friday and Saturday evening.

In evidence in the Bell Telephone examination in Toronto on Friday, evidence was given by a lady operator that she had been given instruction to listen in on the Boardman private line from Acton by ascertain whether calls were business or personal. The company did not want Acton people using it to prevent paying bills.

The annual meeting of the Hamilton Bazaar Association was held last Friday in the Royal Templary Hall Milton. Judging from the report that preceded their present past evening, they do not intend to dampen their ardor for the Liberal cause, but on the contrary have resolved to strengthen their determination not to leave the fight until Hamilton has been restored to the Federal column.

The Acton Evening Co. may have their electric running power on the works, an aggregate of 20 horse power.

The demand for home-made keeps has been noticeable during many christenings the past year. 1200 quantities of baby clothes have been brought into the saw-mills this year.

Mr. Wm. H. Smith is the new chief of the fire brigade. A man was fined \$100 for riding and abetting a prize fight in a barn at Acton.

The Shalh has yielded to popular demands and has formally recognized his country's constitutional government.

An informal machine was discovered in the chimney of the home of a count at St. Petersburg.

Mr. J. A. Murray returned this week from his trip to Manitoba and the North-west, representing W. H. Storey and Sons. He tells some interesting tales of the life of being there the winter due to the cold and lack of fuel.

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 14, 1937.

King Clancy will be the guest speaker at the Y's Men's supper meeting tonight.

The first literary program of the term was held at the high school on Friday. The president, Sylvia Morrow, turned the meeting over to the form representative, Dorothy Phillips. A reading by Frances Dills was followed by a duet by Myra Lawson and Donald McPhail. Jean Bence and Kay Chapman presented an amusing dialogue. The first part of the school paper, The Free Operator, was read by Jack Duns. The face of the program was a skit entitled 1907. It showed what various members of the class would be doing 30 years from now.

A vocal trio composed of Hazel Wilson, Doris Wilson and Pat Hamilton, accompanied by William Brown, soloists were presented by John Drake and Jack Hollinger. The poem, "Lushan", was presented with a vocal solo by Donald McPhail. Margaret Arnold, Fred Atkinson and Bill Brown took part in the dramatic. Appearing before the group in Buckingham Palace, George W. Robinson, Captain Hamilton, John G. Brown and a group of young men in front of the group. The scene was set in the past. The scene was set in the past. The scene was set in the past.

Britain will likely finance over \$2,000,000,000 over a five year period to build up her defence armament.

The kidnapping of the Dr. name quadruplets was considered a threat last week but only a hoax this week.

Most folks agree that this winter has been very moderate. The crop is being harvested and some in good quality lots.

Many cards are being received from friends in Florida.

Last Friday two more had a shopping racket at Pallant's clothing store and got as far as George Street before they were captured. The stolen goods were recovered.

Acton Junior had to Georgetown 2-2 and 1-2 to end the year and make Georgetown group champion.

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