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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 1957

The People's Choice

Acton's electors have chosen their municipal representatives for 1958. There are a number of changes in the 1958 council with the Public Utilities Commissioners and Public School trustees remaining unchanged.

Two of this year's councillors have been returned with a former mayor, two former councillors and one newcomer elected to municipal life.

The interest and action of this election have been good and no doubt welcome on the part of those who seek positions since election by acclamation never seems quite like election by popular vote.

A 62 per cent vote is still no credit to the citizens who place so little value in the marking of ballots.

As in any election there must be losers and this is one of the unfortunate circumstances. Many good citizens, some with past experience and a deep interest in the welfare of the town, offered their services to the ratepayers.

Our congratulations to the winners, our best wishes to the losers. On to 1958.

Keynote Co-operation

Santa's arrival on Wednesday of this week certainly attracted considerable interest. He was visited in his temporary High School quarters by a good many youngsters to whom the cheery smile meant so much.

We can't help but commend Jim Ledger and his staff for their work, plans and effort in providing Acton with a note of the festive season through Santa's visit.

It provides the nucleus of an idea that with the co-operation of every merchant carried on in neighboring towns for years, but with some new twists and the co-operation of the entire business section, industry and service clubs, the event could make Acton as a community and Acton as a shopping centre more familiar to those at home and in the district.

The idea isn't new, indeed it has been carried on in neighboring towns for years, but with some new twists and the co-operation of the entire business section, industry and service clubs, the event could make Acton as a community and Acton as a shopping centre more familiar to those at home and in the district.

Another welcome bit of evidence that the festive season is approaching is the colored light decorations. The Chamber of Commerce and the co-operating groups are to be commended for this activity.

A Plan for the Future

Zoning by-laws in most municipalities are contentious pieces of legislation. Apparently not so in Acton. A public meeting called for last week by the planning-board was to have given some indication of those parts of the by-law which the public found particular disfavor.

Attendance at the meeting, if it was indicative of the interest in the by-law, certainly uncovered no significant protests. Copies of the proposed by-law mailed to citizens no doubt frightened some from its reading, by the length of the text and the legal phraseology. In simple terms though the by-law has far reaching arms that establish the position on a lot in which you may build a house or garage, the size of a house you must build, the kind of sign you may erect in the business section and innumerable other points.

No by-law is perfect and the Planning Board has spent hours on the review and understanding of the sections of the by-law. It has not been finally approved yet since that approval comes only from the Ontario Municipal Board after public hearing. Amendments to by-law are possible but usually involve a lot of red tape.

Those who have not yet read the proposed zoning by-law for Acton are urged to do so in their own interests and the interests of the town. It is a plan for the future to protect the value of existing properties and raise the standards of the town.

No Greater Work

"There'll be no greater work than that designed to save lives, prevent injury and reduce damage to property," claims Prime Minister Diefenbaker in expressing his support of Canada's national Safe-Driving Week.

It has become common knowledge that the motorist and the pedestrian by his own actions, by doing what he knows is right, by doing them so often that they become normal reactions, can wipe traffic accidents from the highways of the nation.

Everyone knows this, but because everyone is human they must be reminded of it again and again.

The perils of carelessness, thoughtlessness, deliberate chance taking and false pride in our roads and streets are being pinpointed so we will not, even for a day, take the risks they entail.

In abstaining for a week, may we all see for ourselves the nonsense of such driving and walking and abstain for the years to come.

"Since traffic is rated only below cancer and heart disease as a killer of Canadians, every action that might reduce this hazard to our national life and economy must be strongly encouraged," Mr. Diefenbaker said.

Dime's Worth of Hope

Canada's share of the cost of keeping up the United Nations works out at about 10 cents per person, points out The Financial Post, which comments: It's true that Canada, like the other 81 members, does not always get precisely the results she would like to have from her support of the UN.

Nevertheless, it's most unlikely that Canada would get better results from any other form of international activity. As a small nation with great friends, Canada can operate more effectively in a UN setting than she could in a non-organized world.

What we buy with our assessment is not a guarantee of peace and prosperity on terms favorable to us, we buy a dime's worth of opportunity, or perhaps a dime's worth of hope. Any way you look at it, it's a bargain.

Eight New Stamps

With an abundance of designations for the weeks and months of the year it now appears the post office is getting caught in the race for publicity and to keep up is this year issuing eight new stamps.

Actually though the stamps to be issued are to mark milestones in the history of the country while the week and month designations are strictly commercial efforts to achieve more publicity.

Next year the new stamps to be issued will cover the following: In January, a salute to the newspaper and printing industries.

In March, honoring Canada's role in the International Geophysical Year. In May, commemoration of B.C.'s centennial.

In June, the Canadian Nurses' Association 50th Anniversary, and attention to the increasing role of womanhood in public and industrial affairs.

In July, the 350th Anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's founding of Quebec City. In August, another in the Explorer Series - La Verandrye.

In September, the significance of the oil industry.

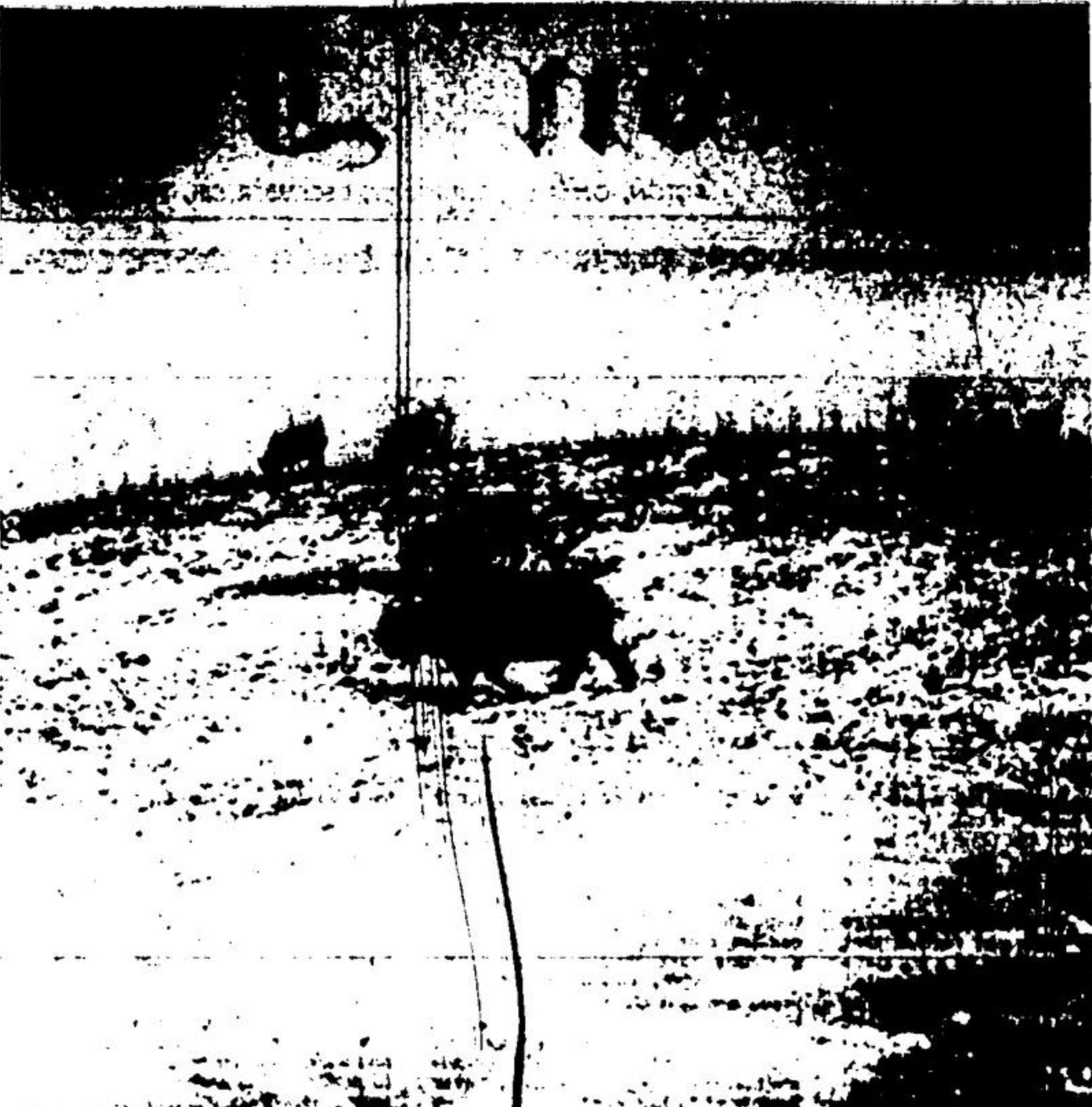
In October, the bi-centennial of the convening in Halifax of Canada's first elected assembly.

Brief Comment

Anyone who fires a gun at a movement in the bush without definite evidence it is a wild animal, is guilty of criminal carelessness, whether or not the law so regards it. -Rimby (Alta.) Record.

It is quite evident that more and more drivers are drinking and driving and that is the matter that is causing the appropriate public authorities grave concern. -Trenton (Ont.) Courier-Advocate.

Several things are becoming increasingly clear in connection with the two Russian satellites. The first of these is how much loose talk there has been about how stupid the Russians are. The second is how seriously the United States has handicapped satellite and presumably intercontinental ballistic missile development by refusing to share scientific knowledge with other Western nations. -Red Deer (Alta.) Advocate.



"Slim Pickings"

G. A. D. About

Mostly Skating in Acton

The other night at the nomination meeting here I was rather astonished to learn that the windows in the arena were broken and not to be replaced until screening could be procured to guard them. I want to assure one and all that it wasn't my age group that perpetrated this damage of public property.

I am in the age group who, 28 years ago, was enthusiastic about Acton providing an indoor arena of course. Like every other dreamer on spending public money, there were two sides to the question. There were those who opposed the spending of public money and those who favored providing an arena for the young people. In those days it was the usual thing to hold a vote on a question of spending \$15,000 in the town.

To make the expenditure look like a good investment, the group for the arena went among their supporters and got 150 people to pledge up to \$100 a year for every year for 20 years if the debt were not sufficient to provide a banquet at the Town Hall and the hockey club, from their share, set aside about \$600 from that first year for maintenance and future repairs for the then new arena. If memory serves me right, the arena for the next four years provided sufficient funds to meet all costs, but it gradually declined over the 15 years, and now there is a gap over at the end of the season to fix the windows. Of course none of us have ever been called upon to meet the \$100 guarantee and it is doubtful if many could be reached from the list of enthusiasts who were so firm back in 1929-30.

The arena is paid for now and there is a lean desire by another young group for artificial ice. The arena has served well. In those earlier days it provided programs that the whole town and country-side enjoyed. It's been worth the expenditure in the community spirit it has provided. I am sorry it has gone into disrepair. I regret that in the present day there are so many other attractions in which the young people do not participate in like they did in 1930.

I drove around town the other day and went down to Fairy Lake that had its first coating of ice. It was thin and dangerous for skating but it recalled days before radio, television and the picture show and what winter fun they gave us.

Some of you may recall the old spring skating which fastened onto the shoes without screws. You had to carry keys and straps to secure and adjust them and they had a bad habit of falling off. Don't suppose many of you remember Will Speight, who was the champion speed skater in this district 60 years or so ago. Last time I saw him on skates, he was wearing spring skates and writing his name in big letters on the ice.

Skating before the arena came, provided fun and a thrill that was different. That is, the skaters or the five acres of Henderson's Pond was an exercise that was different from going round and round the arena. Of course it wasn't as comfortable. You had to sit on the bank to change your skates or over on the old club house steps. There was always the chance of dropping through an open spot into the water and the season was limited according to the amount and frequency of snowfalls.

Any of you recall the winter when the pond was high and the beaver pond back of the cemetery provided the most sheltered spot with the best ice? That winter you could start at the dam and skate right out to the beaver meadow. In fact all over the pond. Rail fences provided the fuel for a bonfire and a few logs could be drawn up for taking a breather. The young folks didn't seem to require so many smokes in those days. The out-of-door exercise and skating was stimulating and of course none of the girls ever smoked. If just wasn't done.

There weren't any restaurants in town in those days so after skating you went to some of the gangs home and had a snack and a hot drink. You went home because you were exhausted from the out-of-door exercise and even if your home was not heated all night, you slept and planned for another similar outing if the weather held and there was moonlight.

There were several outdoor rinks before the closed arena came and there were exciting hockey games. Maybe some of you can remember the game between Acton and Georgetown played on a rink at Glen Williams. We drove to that game in a bob-sleigh and Acton lost the game. Remember the King Edward rink located where Jim Ledger's store now stands. Of course you don't have to be very old to recall the rink at the foot of Frederick St. It had a tank dressing rooms, steam heat and a snack bar and social hours with a lounge. It too met its fate and was torn down.

In between times, when outdoor rinks were not available, there were spots of ice placed on Henderson's pond where a single electric light provided the illumination for the skaters, or down on Fairy Lake where Hilmy Landsborough kept a fast float and there was a bonfire at night. You paid what you could to provide this but the revenue didn't even provide wages of those days when the pond scale was \$1.10 a day.

I look back with fond recollections of those early days of sport and not with any regret. They wouldn't suit the present day and generation. But good recreation is not necessarily acquired by the amount of money you spend but largely by what everyone contributes and puts into community enterprise.

Just a word from experience of the past. I note that drawing rooms are planned for the park next summer. Would it not be wise to eliminate all windows from the building and construct it in such a manner that it can be readily cleaned and securely locked when not in use.

LONG WATT LONDON, Ont. (CP) - Angus Murray turned up a five of spades to complete his third perfect cribbage hand but the other two occurred more than 20 years ago.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR. BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON. Rev. Ray H. Costerus, Pastor. Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave. Phone 206-W. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 1957. 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship. Speaker, Mr. E. F. West, Kitchener. Past Moderator of the Gospel Association. 7:00 p.m. - Bible Society Service and Prayers, Knox Church. Wednesday, 8 o'clock - Mid-week service.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 5, 1907.

Acton Free Library is one of our helpful and satisfactory local institutions. The number of readers is constantly growing, all readers have their wants looked after by Mrs. H. D. Graham, the librarian, whose courtesy and attention are much appreciated.

The re-opening services on Sunday and Monday at St. Alban's church were eminently enthusiastic and successful. The number of communicants at the morning service were very gratifying, and the attendance in the evening was too crowded for capacity of the enlarged church.

The improvements to the driving sheds at Knox church are now about completed. The iron rods supporting the walls are in position, the drains have been laid down the length of the sheds, and fifty or seventy-five loads of gravel have been tramped in.

The damtiest greeting calendar we have seen this season has been issued by A. T. Brown, druggist and stationer. It has a beautiful view in colors of Fairy Lake, Acton and is in all respects an artistic souvenir.

The annual meeting of the Methodist Ladies Aid on Tuesday, officers for the year were elected as follows: President, Mrs. John Stephenson. Vice Pres. Mrs. A. T. Brown. Secretary, Mrs. H. P. Moore. Treasurer, Mrs. Lottie E. Spight.

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 5, 1937.

Saturday's snow that put a good bottom on roads for sleighing, made traveling the highways treacherous for automobiles. Occupants escaped injury, but bumpers and fenders received many bends and dents.

Wouldn't be surprised to see skating there any night. The new time clock arrived yesterday and is being installed to-day, complete installation and maintenance is being looked after by the Imperial Tobacco Co. fans appreciate the interest of the Imperial Tobacco Co. in the local arena.

The age old story of the Serpent and the Forbidden Fruit was the theme for an excellent play, part of St. Alban's Young People's program on Tuesday night. The characters were Adam, George Footitt, Rev. Leona Waller, the Serpent, Fred Turner. The balance of the program was as follows: Double Duet "Good Night and Good Morning," Anne Holmes, Esther Taylor, Ade Elliott, Helen Taylor, solo "In the Garden," Bob Holmes, trio "Holy Night," Billie Weaver, Lily Fields and Odessa Weaver.

One of the largest crowds to assemble at any function in the Town Hall in Acton attended the Bingo, sponsored by the Acton Fire Brigade. Eighteen prizes were awarded.

Rev. E. E. Brillinger will leave Acton at the end of the year for the new parish of St. John's church at Winona. Mr. Brillinger has been here for four years and he has been active in Boy Scout work and several other committees, he has formed many warm friendships.

The annual High School at Home will be held on Thursday, Dec. 16th.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Professional Directory listing various services: MEDICAL: DR. W. G. C. KENNEY, Physician and Surgeon, Office in Symon Block 434 Mill St., Acton, Ontario. DR. D. A. GARRETT, Physician and Surgeon, Corner of Willow and River Sts. DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER, Physician and Surgeon, 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE: F. L. WRIGHT, 20 Wilbur St. WM. R. BRACKEN, INSURANCE AGENCY, Phone 26, 8 Mill Street. J. BERT WOOD, INSURANCE AGENCY, Life and General Insurance, Phone 585, After hours TA 4-3950, Guelph.

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE. GRAY COACH LINES. COACHES LEAVE ACTON. Standard Time Eastbound. 6:31 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.), 8:58 a.m., 11:25 a.m., 2:06 p.m., 5:08 p.m., 8:33 p.m., 10:31 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.). Westbound. 10:27 a.m., 12:27 p.m., 2:57 p.m., 5:27 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:12 p.m., 11:22 p.m., 1:25 a.m., Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.