The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton

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ABC

THURSDAY, MAY 22nd, 1958

It Answers Your Questions

[illegible]

Three Cheers for Dept

[illegible]

A Town Manager

In these days of [illegible] problems [illegible] measure of efficiency [illegible] of a town manager. [illegible] municipalities in Canada and the United States have achieved more efficient government at lower cost [illegible] out.

The article explains that depending on the size of the community a city manager can expect a salary of from $5,000 to an average of $22,350 a year. But he will usually save the community more than his annual salary in the first few months on the job.

We would find that hard to believe in this community but as the area expands and develops the thought might be worth mentally storing for the opportune time.

At least 38 Canadian cities have adopted the plan so far and in the United States, more than half the cities between 25,000 and 100,000 population have it.

[illegible] public funds lost idle for months and needed for payrolls or contracts. By wise investment of such funds our city in the last two years earned $250,000 in interest.

With such money-saving one manager has eight free acre downtown parking lots for the city. By securing concealed city property and with a slight tax increase he built two new fire stations. These brought lower fire insurance rates [illegible] attracting the fire [illegible].

[illegible] can be compared to the general manager of a business, the city council is elected by the board of directors [illegible] which in turn is answerable to the stockholders, the voters. [illegible] and concentrating [illegible] he can produce results [illegible] make a politician scream but gave [illegible] taxpayer a break.

Water and Thought

We're always had a pretty healthy respect for Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. Recently, according to a news story, he extolled the virtues of water at the right and said that in his opinion western statesmen would be better off if they were to be commended to a little more.

In a press conference in the deputy commander of NATO said the big job of the moment is to stop war breaking out and it was up to people in power to bring this about.

[illegible] and hasty [illegible] Stay away from [illegible] many people living on [illegible] he commented.

Our respect for the Field Marshal hasn't diminished because of his comments. In fact we tend to think he may have come pretty close to hitting the nail on the head.

The speed at which we travel can [illegible] faster than any other [illegible]. Our decisions are rushed, our appointments are closely scheduled, our conferences are crowded with social and business events. Our time is so efficiently used up that there is no day left for some [illegible].

And where it comes to clear thinking [illegible] may can cloud issues quite [illegible]. Obviously there are [illegible] are moderate ones but [illegible] already busy schedules [illegible] other clutter to the [illegible] in post plan [illegible].

We [illegible] few western diplomats [illegible] in the business world [illegible] agree with Montgomery in his suggestion that [illegible] parties and hasty decisions aren't the answer to business operations or the [illegible].

Pinning Our Hopes

[illegible] a form of optimism [illegible] dreaming because [illegible] that today is the basis for [illegible] a comfortable procrastination [illegible] problems which shoves [illegible] generations.

A recent poll conducted by the French [illegible] Opinion reveals that pessimism, [illegible] has taken hold of young people in France. According to the survey, [illegible] the young people are dissatisfied with their country's political set-up, 90% are [illegible] with their government, 87% with the economic situation and 86% with their living [illegible]. Yet they feel powerless to change their situation.

Seeking the reason for this disinterested attitude a commentator suggests that it is the result of the direct past. He points out the [illegible] of wartime occupation, the disruptions of family life and the post war turmoil that has caused many young Frenchmen to develop their earning rather than social standards in making a living.

Having found a reasonable and acceptable [illegible] for the unhealthy citizenship of these young people the commentator strikes [illegible] familiar in this country as well as Europe. He writes them off as helpless at the moment that. The [illegible] probably not with them [illegible] those who will be coming of age in the next 10 years.

There is nothing to be gained and much to be lost by such a summary dismissal of hope for any generation. It may look like a lesser problem to ignore and inspire those who have not yet reached maturity but we make even that task more difficult if we fail to tackle the immediate problem.

The young people of today will exert a great influence on the young people of tomorrow and any disillusionment, lethargy or hopelessness that may be present now will be reflected in human living for many years to come.

The answer is not for the future. The future is built on the foundations we are laying today, and if we neglect the foundation in the hope of better material forthcoming, we are doomed to disappointment.

—The Times, Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

—Photo by Esther Taylor

"Seasonable Projects"

G.A.D. About...

The 24th of May

The mail each morning brings back many recollections especially when many firms do not keep their mailing lists up-to-date. For instance in this morning's offering was an item from a band instrument firm giving their new address. I haven't been connected with the band actively in the last 20 years.

Another letter gave information regarding protection against black flies and mosquitoes. It's fully 15 years since I came home from a fishing excursion with a ridge at the back of my neck brought on by attacks of bush insects and displayed a few pounds of fresh fish for the ordeal.

Seems to me every firm should at least realize that after 20 years their mailing lists should be revised and new prospects should be added and older ones removed.

I recall that for years after I became editor of the Free Press, mail from many institutions came to come addressed to H. P. Moore. One of the things which many large firms fail to realize is the fact that individuals pass away and new faces take over.

★ ★

A few weeks ago, someone interested in Acton Band asked me how long it was since the band was first organized and a slogan that used to be used came immediately to mind. "Blowing for Acton since 1872."

Let's see that was two years before Acton was incorporated and three years before the Free Press was established. The band might easily be said to be the town's oldest organization.

Don't suppose many of our present citizens recall John Hill who for many years was connected with everything musical in Acton. He was leader of the band back in 1872 and played the cornet. He sang in the Methodist choir and played violin in the Sunday school orchestra.

The band was under Mr. Hill's leadership when I was first initiated and got an alto horn and my instruction on how to play it. Matter of fact, John Hill in those days was the whole official executive in the band. He made arrangements for engagements, supplied the coal oil for the lamps, hired the vehicles for travelling to and fro, was the treasurer, wrote extra copies for march feet and made repairs to instruments. For years the band met in his hall for practice and I don't believe paid anything for rent, heat or light.

Besides his musical activities he ran a general store which in my time stocked groceries and some candy. He also owned and operated the public weigh scales and a coal yard. The only assistant he had was Peter McNab, an elderly gentleman who looked after the store when Mr. Hill was at the scales weighing coal or a load of turnips or hay or live stock or some other commodity.

It was before my time that he also sold cook stoves and ran a bicycle rental establishment in the store next door. Everyone thought kindly of John Hill and his activities. No one in my recollection ever questioned his honesty and integrity. I don't believe he ever aspired for public office.

★ ★

I've been wondering myself why I got off on this theme this week. It must be on account of the approach of May 24th. The band usually was rather dormant during the winter but each spring it came back into full activity, like fishing and picnics and other outdoor functions.

There have been other bandmasters down through the years, such as Amos and Charlie Mason, who played under Mr. Hill. I cannot say under his baton because I don't believe John Hill ever used a leader's baton in his life. I can see him yet, starting off the band with his cornet in his hand, ready to play with the first beat.

Just for old times' sake, I got out an engraving of the late John C. Hill. I hope you old-timers enjoy looking at it just as I have. John Hill was a local character who made an impression for good on Acton people of his day and generation. It's over 20 years since he left us but his memory lives in many a heart.

THE LATE JOHN C. HILL

Rockwood Resident Builds Church Font

One of Rockwood's older residents, Richard Harris, who has lived in the village all his life, recently celebrated a birthday. He admits to being in the seventies.

Always a busy man, Mr. Harris found time recently to make a baptismal font for the Rockwood Presbyterian church. It took him about six weeks in his spare time. He undertook the job on his own feeling that one was needed. He copied one in the Eden Mills church.

About two weeks ago, Mr. Harris was filmed standing on the temporary bridge over the Eramosa River in Rockwood by a local TV station and many saw him that same evening on their sets.

Photography is one of Mr. Harris' hobbies and he is a member of the Guelph Camera Club, exhibiting his share of very good photos. He attends each monthly meeting.

He is probably best known for the energetic way he gathers the Rockwood local news. Very little goes unnoticed by him. Few men are as active as he is at his age. Whatever he does, he makes a good job of it, putting his whole heart into it.

CLOSE TO HOME

CACHE BAY, Ont. (CP) — Volunteer firemen answered a call here to find a blaze on the roof of the fire hall, started by sparks from a nearby steam boiler. They soon doused it with their vintage truck. Cache Bay is 25 miles northwest of North Bay.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.

SUNDAY, MAY 25th, 1958
WHITSUNDAY

8.30 a.m.—Holy Communion
9.45 a.m.—Church School
11.00 a.m.—Beginners' Class
11.00 a.m.—Mattins

BAPTIST CHURCH
ACTON

Interim Pastor, Rev. Harold Slater
Guelph, Ont.

SUNDAY, MAY 25th, 1958
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.

SUNDAY, MAY 25th, 1958
9.45 a.m.—Church School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship.
Mr. Jack Birtch preaching at both services.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Acton, Ontario

Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D.
Minister
Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue
Phone 60
Mr. George Elliott
Organist and Choir Leader
76 Bower Ave., Acton, phone 6

SUNDAY, MAY 25th, 1958
9.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer
10.00 a.m. Junior Church and Church School.
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship.

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Churchill Road
P.A.O.C.
Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor
75 Cook St., phone 649-W

Services for
SUNDAY, MAY 25th, 1958
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.30 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer and Bible Study.
Friday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
A Friendly Welcome to All

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 26, 1938.

Three hundred and fifty-two Scouts registered in Acton for the Boy Scout Jamboree held in the park. It was the largest held to date in Halton County and the scouts toured the various industries in both groups. The Acton troop won the athletic shield during the week's competition.

Acton school chums who won of the Halton County Music Festival have been invited to sing over radio station CFRB in Toronto. The date has not been set yet but it is anticipated the broadcast will be on Saturday of that week or next.

Elders of Knox church honored Mr. and Mrs. Henry Aaron last week on the occasion of their [illegible] wedding anniversary. A [illegible] silver basket with 25 [illegible] presented to them.

There was rather a heavy frost on Tuesday evening and ice formed on the small pools of water that were out of doors.

Born: Tyler—In Acton on Friday, May 20, 1938, to Mr. and Mrs. M. Tyler, the gift of a [illegible] Barrie.

A full house greeted Dave Gargrave on Monday night at the YMCA when he came [illegible] address sponsored by the Acton Women's Institute. [illegible] very capably acted as chairman.

The chairman introduced Dave who had very interesting and [illegible] slides to illustrate his address shown by W. Van Sickle of Guelph [illegible].

Four door prizes were given [illegible] to the winners with Mrs. Jack [illegible] receiving an English [illegible] Mrs. F. Andison chair of King plant food, Mrs. N. Lawrence [illegible] of pure green and Mr. [illegible] ton of King Lear fuller.

A meeting of the Acton Girls' YPU was held in Knox School on Thursday evening, May 19, with the president, Harry Smith, in charge of business discussion.

Leonard Tolmie was in charge while the following program was being presented: [illegible] Jack Cocks, a recitation by H. [illegible] and violin duets by Helen McGowan and Helen Morton, humorous monologue by [illegible] Church, tap dance by Wm. M. Irvine accompanied on the piano by Loretta Locker and a humorous recitation by Arthur McKee.

Back in 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 21, 1908.

Acton footballers travelled to Guelph last Friday afternoon and played their first game with the Guelph O.A.C. in the Guelph City league series, [illegible] the game being a hard [illegible]. Acton had to forfeit [illegible] they played very well [illegible] the O.A.C. [illegible].

Guelph O.A.C. [illegible] to Acton [illegible] Acton [illegible] [illegible] Mr. [illegible] the 20th [illegible] May [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr.