

The Free Press

the only paper ever published by Acton



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THURSDAY, JUNE 5th, 1958

Losing or Gaining?

The need of the establishment of a historical museum for Acton and district or even the County was brought home last week by the sale of antiques advertised by the Fair Board.

After the fair was over the articles were stored in a barn on the property of Nelson Moore. Since his death the problem of storing the collection has been an increasing one.

We have quite a collection at the Free Press building which we would be glad to contribute to a museum either in the town or county. But it is with regret that we see these relics of early days scattered far and wide and the collection broken up.

Many Actonians are not aware that the dwelling on Main Street facing River Street was Acton's first Public School and also the first place of worship for the Presbyterian congregation.

There seems to be much more desire to get into orbit or explore the moon in these days and in the meantime maybe we are losing more than we gain.

Praise Not Amiss

A word of praise is not out of place to those organizations who undertook this year, as in other years, the planning and fulfillment of Decoration Day arrangements in Acton.

These are days when it is well to look back as well as to the future. These are busy times when there is oft times difficulty in finding time to do the things we know we should do.

Decorations Day such as was carried out Sunday in Acton requires the co-ordination of many folks to be a success. And participation is encouraging to those busy folks who find time to plan and work such events as Decorations Day.

Preserving Our Freedom

It is time to reassert the principles of our freedom. We need to stop thinking of it as a political condition achieved once, and for ever ours.

The long history of the struggle for our freedom, from the freedom of debate in Ottawa's parliament back to the chivalrous impulses of King Canute, is one of fine thoughts translated into deeds by courage and energy.

Democratic freedom has failed in some countries because their people slept. It is commonplace for people who were fighting against us in recent wars to excuse themselves on two grounds: they didn't realize what was happening to their government, and there was nothing they could do but obey orders.

ed, thus turning it into a negative thing; we may have been silent in the face of some injustice, thus denying our free men's responsibility; we may have fallen in love with security, which is the opposite of freedom.

These are the beginnings of the loss of freedom, and they come upon a nation secretly. The danger of their coming gives point to the maxim that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

To say that it can't happen in North America is to talk in a fool's paradise. All we need do is look around the world to see nations that fought for their freedom even more vehemently than we did who have lost it by decay, theft or violence.

Age and Experience

In some ways the older people have become the forgotten citizens of the last few decades.

One reason has been the movement of population from farm to city. On farms there seems more room for old people and more work for them to do.

Another reason is the change in city dwellings. Families once lived in roomy houses with a yard and garden plot, but no central heating. Many chores were needed to be performed.

In such a home there is often just no place for the old relative who is moved to an institution or suffers a worse fate, described thus in the commission's report.

"In spite of social security measures and the efforts of charity there are still old people slowly dying in back bedrooms on which the rent is long overdue."

The problem has been increased by the tendency, since the Second World War, for retirement of workers at a stated age.

Nevertheless, there are indications that they may be restored to the place of dignity and importance merited by their age, wisdom and skills.

Church and welfare groups are forming senior citizens' clubs where older people can get together. Some groups are building low-rent housing units where husband and wife can spend their last years together.

A Montreal heart specialist, Dr. Harold N. Segall, said in a recent speech that with more complex technology, more experienced workers will be needed.

Brief Comment

INDIVIDUAL EFFORT The emphasis should perhaps be more on encouraging individuals and enterprises to improve their specific economic positions rather than on trying to do the same for them by out-planning and out-spending the advocates of super-government.

SPRING PROBLEM All is not brightness and warmth when that spring sun warms the earth (and the water) especially if you happen to be a fisherman.

WALKERTON is another one of the Ontario towns which has seen fit to pass on to its customers the recent savings given by the Ontario Hydro.

Of definite interest to Canadians in all parts of the country will be a conference to be held in Ottawa at the end of the month, and in the first part of May.



Driftwood Cannon

G.A.D. About...

Recollections on a Golden Event

For thirty-seven of the fifty years of the married life of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Mason, which was quietly marked last Sunday, it has been the personal pleasure of Mrs. Dill and myself to have their friendship...

It was back in 1921 that Amos negotiated with Council here to purchase the power house building and establish a knitting goods business.

I recall that the night "talkies" opened in Acton, Council and local officials were guests for dinner at the hospitable Mason home.

Looking back in the Free Press files, I note that at the inaugural session of Council in 1925, the keynote of Reeve Mason's address was an urge for co-operation in Acton's affairs.

It was in 1931 that he was chosen Warden of Halton County. After serving as Reeve, he later went back to serve as Councillor and help younger men in office by his wide experience.

All the while, the Mason Knitting Company continued to grow and its products found favor in Canadian markets. The original building was inadequate and the company moved to its present commodious quarters.

other industry found it favorable to locate in Acton. Gradually over the years he has found relief from his conducting of a growing manufacturing business by his own George, but he still enjoys the thrill of solving mechanical problems which might baffle those with lesser practical experience.

It has been the great privilege of our lives to be closely associated with the Masons down through the years. In my desk the other day, I came across a little black book which recalled some of the effort he put into establishment of another industry in Acton.

Personal memories crowd in on this golden wedding anniversary. There was the year that the ladies were invited to the Warden's Dinner in Milton. Road conditions were such that Mr. Mason could not get back to Acton after council meeting.

These were golden memories recalled last Sunday that will live down through the years. Perhaps I have dealt with them a bit personally in my column because I was touched personally in my life in the community. Much more could be written and still be incomplete.

But never was I more grateful in extending golden congratulations than on the occasion of the anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Mason and I know all citizens of Acton join with me on this occasion.

PIPE PLANT DARTMOUTH, N.S. (CP)—A plant headed by G. D. (Pete) Stoddard, brother of Nova Scotia's premier, expects to turn out 200 miles of plastic pipe here this year.

CORNWALL, Ont. (CP)—A visitor to the St. Lawrence seaway construction area found two crows of the last century. One is a recording secretary's cash and order book of the Independent Order of Foresters.

ACTON football club played an exhibition game with Glen Williams last Saturday. They gave a very fine exhibition of the sport and outclassed the visitors all through the game, winning by a score of 5-0.

A serious accident was narrowly averted at an open drain on Willow Street last afternoon. Mr. A. A. Sprawl was driving along when his horse became frightened at the pile of earth at the side of the road.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 4, 1908.

A couple of the young men of the town were trespassing in the grove at Fairview Place the other day and violating the law by shooting robins and other insectivorous birds.

ACTON football club played an exhibition game with Glen Williams last Saturday. They gave a very fine exhibition of the sport and outclassed the visitors all through the game.

A serious accident was narrowly averted at an open drain on Willow Street last afternoon. Mr. A. A. Sprawl was driving along when his horse became frightened at the pile of earth at the side of the road.

He shied and backed into the ditch but Mr. Sprawl's prompt control of the animal saved serious damage. The tide has since been placed and the ditch filled in.

Last Saturday evening, Rev. G. W. Barker had the misfortune to slip on a rusty nail which penetrated his shoe and ran into the ball of his right foot causing somewhat of a painful wound.

It was promptly dressed and is healing nicely. Rev. Mr. Barker pluckily occupied the pulpit at both morning and evening services with his knee resting upon a chair.

Inspector Tracy drove quietly into town on Sunday morning last and called at the Station Hotel. Mr. Gibbons met him and the inspector asked for the keys for the bar.

The bar was entered and the inspector reports he found the bartender and four other men there. Their presence there was a violation of the liquor licence law.

"Beaver Hill" Altou, the pretty residence of Mr. William Algier, was the scene of two pretty but quiet weddings on Monday afternoon when Constance, the second daughter, was united in marriage to Mr. George D. McIntyre of Toronto and their daughter, Cordelia, to Mr. Amos Mason of Alton. The Rev. Mr. Nurse of Alton officiated.

BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 4, 1938.

The first exhibition game of the season was played at the Acton Park last night when Acton and Guelph Juniors battled to a 11-7 decision. Jim Kaine's youngsters showed lots of pep in the ball game, but the pitching staff was a little weak.

Guelph used three pitchers and they succeeded in picking Acton until the sixth, when Acton collected no less than six runs to win the game. A feature of the game was the home run by Matt Tyler in the fifth with two men on base.

The hail storm on Saturday evening was quite heavy, with strong gusts of wind. Although foliage was severely beaten, no extensive damage was reported. Saturday shoppers were sent scurrying for shelter.

The conduct of the children at the band concert on Sunday was certainly objectionable. Parents would do well in accompanying them and failing that the municipal officer will have to take the matter in hand.

At the meeting of Acton I.O.O.F. on Wednesday evening, W. Bro. James H. Chalmers was presented with a Past Master's Jewel. The presentation was made by W. Bro. C. K. Browne.

Acton and Guelph tennis clubs played in Acton last Thursday evening and after the final scores were tallied up it was found the games were tied at six apiece.

At the regular meeting of the School Board on Tuesday evening, letters were received from the teachers of the High School and Public School, and all had accepted re-engagement for the year at the salaries offered.

The governor of the Milton jail, Mr. Frank McQueen, has been temporarily suspended following the escape of one of the prisoners. The prisoner made his escape when he jumped the back on the cell door. Up to time of going to press, the prisoner had not been caught.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Table with 3 columns: Medical, Real Estate and Insurance, Dental, and Travellers' Guide. Lists various professionals and their contact information in Acton and surrounding areas.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Table listing church services for Sunday, June 8th, 1958. Includes services at The Anglican Church of Canada, United Church of Canada, Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church, and Acton Pentecostal Tabernacle.