## A Decade of Development

Truly the fabulous fifties have means tremendous growth and expansion for the town of Acton. At no comparable period in the history of the town has growth, development and expansion equalled that of the 1950's. Indeed the Town of Acton had its birth in 1950, 120 years after its origin as a sottler's cabin. Until January 1, 1950 the municipality was officially a village. Through progressive action of earlier councils the municipality sought town status. In the 10 succeeding years this confidence has been more than justified because Acton has continued to grow and prosper in its vital position on the fringe of the golden horseshoe.

Progress is a vague term. Through this week's supplement to the Acton Free Press we are attempting to outline in concrete terms the visible, and real forms that progress has taken in this municipality.

Modern municipal services, paved

streets, scores of new homes, several new industries, a new high school, completely new public school facilities, expanded churches and increased commental section are but a few of the marks of progress that are evident in the town of Action today . Truly the fabulous fifties have been good

to Acton. None of the progress has been" accomplished along an easy road. The town's finances have been heavily charged in meeting the needs of this glowing centre. The price of progress has not been cheap. It does, however, seem fitting that as the old decade becomes history, we take one final glance, at the 10 year period that has seen the greatest growth, development and progress experienced by-this municipality in its 88 years of formal existence.

The editors of the Free Press hope the material compiled may be of some help in presenting the picture of progress as it has been recorded each week. -

## "Room for Small Investors

You've heard it and so have we, all the hue and cry about the great quantities of American capital that are being used to develop and thus to control the country of Canada.

But before we complain too bitterly perhaps it's wise to consider our own approach and often our own quite evident lack of confidence in our country. Somebody summed it all up in another regard when he penned the lines about a poet being without honor in his own country.

Many look warily at the "big business interests" and quite longingly at multi-figure profits. In fact the very word "profit" has been given an unfavorable connotation even though it is an essential of our system and available to those who risk their capital.

The point of all this is that there is a great deal of capital available in a multitude of small amounts. This had led one forecaster to predict an increase of activity on the part of the small investor. This makes sense in two ways. It provides more capital for Canadian expansion from Canadian sources and it ties in with advice from James Coyne of the Bank of Canada, that we should prepare to live more within our means.

In 1954 25% of Canadians earning under \$5,000, reported some dividends and 18% of Canadians earning between \$5,000 and \$9,999 reported dividends. This indicates there is some interest in common stocks as a form of saving at all levels of income.

Saving by investing small amounts of capital is not difficult. It has been made quite simple through trust companies for instance with quite remunerative interest returns.

It does, too, do something about getting more Canadian capital in Canadian enterprise and development. There must be more thought too to saving on our own behalf rather than the continued expectation that government can continue to support increasing numbers at an increasing standard of living.

Probably this, coupled with a statement

by Stelco president V. W. Scully, impressed

## A Compound Problem

Ontario Weekly Newspaper editors had a convention-look at Hamilton last weekend When the association met for its annual con-

vention. We, like everyone else, have heard a lot about the Steel Company of Canada. To see the magnitude of the operation in Hamilton alone, however, is to more fully appreciate

the industrial giant that is so close to us. While statistics can be monotonous we found it interesting to learn the Hamilton works cover over 500 acres, employ about 10,000 and have some of the most modern

equipment on the continent. Crossing track after track we learned there are 80 miles of railway track on the company grounds and the firm operates emore diesel locomotives than the T.H. & B. Railway.

It's a fantastic operation too to see a rline ton glowing red ingot rolled from its dube shape to a sheet of steel perhaps four inches thick, and 30 feet long, by a machine that is fully a block long and controlled by two men

Our guide pointed to the site of more construction. He explained that a new buildmg to house some new process was being built at a cost of 28 million dollars.

St. Valentine's Day has long challenged historians to explain how a Christian saint became identified with a pagan custom of exchanging tokens of love.

The answer may be simply that somebody got his ABC's mixed up.

The research department of an encyclopdia points out that at one time the letters "" and "g" frequently were interchangeable ih popular speech.

Among the Normans, the word "galant---" referred to a lover of the fair sex . . probably a wolf, according to present-day terminology. But the word often was written and pronounced "valentin."

By a natural confusion of names, the Christian martyr was established as the pat-

us-most. He noted in his address to Ontario editors later, that Stelco was not and is not controlled by foreign interests. Tremendous expansion is taking place and has taken place in the company's 50 years and yet Canadians have met the growing demands for capital to keep the company Canadian controlled. Like any industry large or small there are

undoubtedly problems. Indeed one of those problems was outlined by the president when he said that "in Western Canada today Canadian-made steel products are being displaced by products of Japanese plants operated by workers whose wages are about onesixth of ours. This sounds bad enough, but it is not all. Our Government is subsidizing the export to Japan of Canadian coal to make the steel to make the products to be sold in British Columbia and Alberta to pay for

This is one of the compound problems that we must all face if our economy is to be maintained in the face of imports that can compete quite effectively with our homemade products. For an immediate object lesson we have only to look at our own town for examples in the textile industry.

## St. Valentine's Day

Some historians argue, however, that there is another explanation for giving the name St. Valentine's Day to the Roman holi-

ficulty wiping out pagan festivals. Sometimes they-simply appropriated the festivals . . and gave them a Christian meaning.

The Church fathers may have taken over the Roman holiday, which was celebrated on Feb. 15, and named it after three saints named Valentine, whose feast day fell on Feb.

ron saint of sweethearts, and his name given to the Roman festival at which young men and women chose partners for the coming

The early Christian fathers often had dif-

# The Acton Free Press



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G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief

David R. Dills, Managing Editor

INESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 600, ACTON



"Bleak Outlook"

## Sugar and Spice...

Read in one of the gossip columns the other day that Carv Grant, the movie actor, made a special trip by jet 6,000 miles to Hongkong, to see his dulor. The item went on: "Cary Thinks this particular Oriental suitmaker is the best in the world, and is anybody going to argue with Cary?"

Not me, Madame. Considering that item calmly, I could only come to the conclusion that Cary and I have a lot difterent things on our minds. And I don't say that in envy. I have a perfectly good suit. As far as I'm concerned, it's just as good as the day I got it, four years ago.

Every year about this time there's a newspaper convention, and every year it takes me about three weeks to talk my wife into going. She can't go because she hasn't anything to wear. "So buy voneself a dress," I say. Turns out she has a dress, but she doesn't have a fur coat. That brings that conversation to an abrupt halt.

Then she tries to make me feel like a heel with the old reverse psychology. "I possibly ask Mother to keep the children again. And know how worn out we are after a convention. I haven't a stitch to wear except that old black thing. My ironing is three weeks behind. I simply can't go. In fact, I don't even want to go. Why don't you go alone? You'd enjoy getting away from us all for a couple of days."

This I get at lunch hour, for example. I am supposed to reply: "Now come on sweetle. Your mother won't mind having the kids. It does us good taget away. That black dress looks terrific. Dan't worky about your froning. You know I wouldn't go without you." What I say is: "O.K." When I get home at six, she has a dress ripped apart, her mother lined up, and is desperately ironing clothes for the whole family for the weekend.

This year, she tried a new gimmick. Instead of that times worn antic about having nothing to wear, she assured me, with some coldness, that I was so shabby she wouldn't be seen with me at a ragpickers' rally, let alone a convention of urbane, well groomed newspaper

This was unfair and she knew it I have that good gray suit. have a genuine Harris tweed jacket, made in Montreal, that got at the same time, the year we went to that convention down east, about '56 And a good stout pair of black shoes, resoled a couple of times, but taking a nice shine, that I bought for the same trip.

My topcoat is a bit shabby, but after all, it was second hand when I bought it three buttoned. And the lining is ed church in Stratford. like new. It's detachable, and I Besides her husband she for the cold weather.

All in all, I'm not ashamed to be seen in any company, and haven't been turned away from any place since the time the waiter in the pub asked me if I was 18 and I said sure. I'm 19, and he said well get the hell out of here, sonny, you gotta be 21.

What started the Old Girl my long underwear and its recent unfortunate betraval. This winter, I've given up my youthful vanity, with great on this jump, I do believe, was and gone back to that delight of my childhood, long underwear. No more shivering in shorts for me. No more creaking hips, treacherous kidneys and paralyzed kneecaps.

Only trouble is that I have just the one suit, which I got for Christmas. So, when it's in the wash, I have to wear pyjama bottoms or risk a cold. Couple of weeks ago, we were at the opening of the Legislature, and attended the Lieutenant-Governor's reception afterwards. There was a big line-up to shake hands with the host and his wife, and the Premier and his wife.

The Premier was really red-striped flannclette.

Described the state of the second sec

## OBITUARY

## Survivors Include District Relatives

The death of Marjorie Higgs occurred suddenly at her home in Chaffey township on Sunday, January 17.

The late Mrs. Higgs resided in Chaffey township and was a daughter of the late William and Mary McFadden. Born on March 19, 1895, she received her education at Bracobridge. She was married on November 11. 1924 at Bracebridge to Wesley Herbert Higgs, son of the late Nelson Higgs and Martha Higgs

of Barrie, Ont.

Brother Here Left to mourn her passing are three sons, Ralph, Carl and Le-(Vern) of Huntsville. One son Lloyd predeceased her. One brother, Gartield McFadden, of Acton and one sister, Ethel Daymond of Hamilton, also survive. In addition there are four grand-

children. The tunegal service, held in Tripity United church, Huntsille, was conducted by Rev. Dr. Gordon Barkwell and interment followed in Hutcheson Memorial

Palfbearers were Don Hanes, Rupert Lawrence, George Rowl ing, Frank Woodard, Virgillio Grosso and Eddy Connon.

## OBITUARY

## Funeral Services At Strattord, Acton

The death of Mrs. Lawrence Willet Hewitt, of 37 Cambria St., Stratford, occurred at the Stratford General hospital on January

The late Mrs. Hewitt was the former Eva Leishman, daughter years ago from an old air force of the late Mr. and Mrs. William sidekick who'd gone a bit al- Leishman. In 1914 she married coholic. The two top button- Lawrence Hewitt in Acton and holes are sloppy as a sow's moved to Stratford in 1925. She ear, but the bottom one stave was a member of St John's Unit-

never seem to get it zipped in survived by one daughter, Mrs. --- - R. W. (Elizabeth Mae) Appel, view cemetery.

friendly, "So glad you could come", he beamed, and shook hands warmly, "Well, it sure

was hard to get away in the

started to tell him and my wife

hit me a kidney punch from

middle of the week . . ." I

behind that almost downed me." When we got to the Lieutenant-Governor, I watched the guy ahead of me in line, to see what he'd do. He bowed slightly as he shook hands with the L.G. So I did. And when my head went down my eye was caught by something. A big, fat flap of redstriped Hannelette pyjama pants,

There followed 20 minutes of acute anguish, in that huge reception room full of beauty and gallantry, before I could find a place to crouch and restult them. And it took me three days to induce my wife to recognize my presence on earth.

draped over my shoe. It had slip-

ped out of my sock, where I stuff

them so they won't show.

She would agree to go to the convention this year only when I promised to wear my pale gray pyjama bottoms instead of the

## New Members For Association

Three new members joined the Scout and Guide Mothers, Association at their meeting in the Scout Hall January 26, with 15 members present. The president, Beryl Newton, opened with the Lord's Prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read, and aidopted and the treasurer's report

Three new members joined. They are Elaine Robertson, Lil Williams and Marion Jerome.

## Welcome to Join

A special invitation to join the Scout and Guide Mothers' Assocation is given to all mothers with children in the cubs, brownies, scouts and guides. Meetings are held in the scout hall on the ast Tuesday of the month. It was decided to buy a new mop for the hall. It was agreed to

have covers printed for the program for the scout and guide Save Box Tops A reminder was given to save

has tops The meeting was closed with he Mizpah benediction

lunch was served

To get your prospect lukewarm you have to get yourself red hot

two grandsons and two brothers. Cameron and Allan Leishman. both of Acton. She was predeceased by three sisters and two

### brothers Acton Service

The funeral service conducted by her minister, the Rev Stuart MacLeud was held from the Hembuck tuneral home in Stratford, after which the body was taken to the Rumley-Shoemaker tuneral home in Acton where the service was conducted by the Res Andrew McKenzie of Knox Presbyterian church of which the deceased was a former member. Interment was made in Fair-

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

## **BACK IN 1940**

Taken from the Issue of the Free

Press, Thursday, Feb. 15, 1940. Thomas Storey, well known farmer who resides about four miles from Acton, was beaten by a lone robber on Wednesday night of last-week and bound and left in his home in Nassagaweya township. His plight was not discovered until Thursday afternoon when a neighbor, Edward Watt, found the man bound.

The assailant, who is described as a comparatively young man, apparently knew that Mr. Storey had received some money lately. However, the larger part of the amount received had been paid out and Mr. Storey had only \$17 left, which was taken.

Representatives of both the Kitchener and Toronto West End Y.M.C.A. wrestling clubs visited the Acton Y last Thursday evening and entertained a large crowd with their mat prowess. Wes Wolfe of the local Y grappled with E. Miles of A.O.A. with Miles gaining a decision over the local man. Acton Tanners continued to

click on Friday night when they

met the Waterloo Tigers and sent

the boys back home with a 10-3 trimming. The Tanners were the best all the way and led the visitors from the very start of the It was not until the third period that the Waterloo team registered on the scoreboard after the Tanners were leading 9-0. They outskated and outplayed the Waterloo team all the way

and only Dunbrook in goal saved

the visitors from a worse defeat.

Woods in goal for the Acton

team turned in a stellar perform-On Wednesday night the Tanners downed the Preston team 7.4 and cinched top berth in the playoffs. Preston needed the game badly and now will play with Elora to decide which of the two teams is eliminated and

which one meets Acton in the

The Acton Junior Farmers held their regular meeting in Lorne school and highlighting the evening was a spelling bee. Following the business session, the following program took place: Mansell Nellis, a violin solo; humorous readings by Mrs. J. Stewart; a club paper by Jack van Goozen; cornet solos by Ted Anderson and a reading by Dirk

## BACK IN 1910 .

Taken from the Issue of the Free

Press, Thursday, Feb. 17, 1910. Last Saturday as Mr. J. S. Matthews was assisting to adjust some steam pipes overhead in. the machine shop at the works of the Acton Tanning Company, he became overbalanced on the scaffold and fell heavily to the cement floor seven or eight fect below. In falling, he struck his head, shoulder and hip, causing painful contusions. .

Owing to the bad weather on Tuesday evening, there was a rather slim attendance at the hockey match between Brampton and Acton on the new rink here. The most part of the game was not fast or clean 'but at times. became exciting for the few spectators on hand. Two of the Acton players were accidentally struck with the puck and required spedical attention. When the game concluded, Brampton had a score of seven while Acton tallied

The carpenters have completed the restoration of the skating rink on the power house lot and the young people are loud in their praise of Mr. Walter Beardmore in his good offices of restoring to them the winter pasttime they enjoy so fully. In the re-erection, the waiting rooms were made more commodious and comfortable and the premises are altogether better than when the demolition took place.

The roads in the Crewson's Corners' area are only in a passable condition now and the great tall of snow and high winds have filled them in badly. The depth of snow in the bush is from 26 to

During a special meeting of the town council on Monday evening, the council met for the specific purpose of passing a by-law appointing a new municipal officer. Appointed to the position at an annual salary of \$600 was John Harvey of the town. Three other applications were received for the position.

Charges were laid against A. J. Lehman, proprietor at the Dominion Hotel, for selling liquor to a person on the "Indian list" and when he appeared in court he was fined \$25 and costs, Mr. Lehman claims he will file an ap-

Distriction of the party and desired reserve a division of the property of the second section of the second section of

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