

Editorial Page

Bridging the Gap

The story is going the rounds about the New Yorker who was asked by his wife to bring home two loaves of French bread. So he went to Idlewild Airport, boarded a jet plane for Paris and was back in the space of a few hours with truly French bread.

The story may be exaggerated but it points up the progress being made in travel facilities. The latest development in travel, however, is the plans for either an English Channel tunnel or a bridge.

The ancient desire to connect Britain and the European continent with some kind of a Dover-Calais roadway is being stirred by four plans suggested to a Channel Tunnel Study Group. Three of the plans propose tunnels under the English Channel, 41 to 53 feet wide and costing from 200 million dollars to 268 million. The fourth plan, the one which stirs the imagination, is the brain-child of American, English and French construction engineers. They have in mind a 21-mile bridge over the Channel.

This bridge, 110 feet wide, would handle railroad, auto, motorcycle and bicycle traffic and would be 200 feet high at certain spans so that even the Queen Mary could pass beneath with ease. Spans would be, generally, 740 feet apart and mass-produced piers would be floated into position. At least 800,000 tons of structural steel would be used; 5,000 workers would be employed for five years; total cost would be 560 million dollars.

Whether or not the Study Group will buy the engineers' enthusiastic proposal is conjecture. For centuries, men have dreamed of hopping the big moat which is the channel. Some men have had only trade and peace in mind. Others, Napoleon and Hitler to name two, had different thoughts. The Channel has been both a wonderful protection and an annoyance.

To bridge the Channel would leave unconquered only one challenge in that territory. As every swimmer knows, that would be to swim the Channel — lengthwise.

Let Trilliums Grow

In Ontario the white carpets of trilliums are not quite as plentiful as they once were.

Indiscriminate picking and the cultivation of more and more land leaves the beautiful white flower less plentiful.

On Sunday we saw, along a back road that rare sight; a carpet of beautiful white trilliums. The quantity of the flowers stopped us because we had doubted such numbers of the plants still existed in one place.

The trillium of course is our provincial floral emblem. Officially adopted in 1937 the trillium was recommended by a special committee of botanists to the Ontario Horticultural Association which canvassed the views

of other horticultural societies in the province.

In a British botanical work published in 1760 there is a reference to the trillium as "the herb True Love of Canada".

The white trilliums that dot our woodlands and carpet some, are as typically Canadian as is the maple leaf or beaver.

We can only hope that the indiscriminate trillium picking has been slowed by the repeated and annual warnings against destroying the flowers. They were never meant to decorate a table, they are far more attractive and for a greater length of time in their natural habitat, the woodlands of Ontario. Let the trilliums grow.

Fireworks are for Fun

Can playing with fireworks be considered "fun" when it results in headlines like these: "FIRECRACKER 'JOKE' KILLS TWO FRIENDS"; "12-YEAR-OLD MAY BE BLINDED AFTER FIRECRACKER EXPLOSION"; "BOY, HURLS FIRECRACKER INTO BABY'S STROLLER".

There is no greater irony than a practical joke that results in death or injury. True, deaths and injuries due to fireworks are not many in proportion to the total accident rate in Canada. But the trouble with those that do occur is that they begin as fun, and end in disaster. Far more frequent than deaths from fireworks are the ugly, permanent injuries they cause. Because a friend played a "joke" on him, a child can go through life with impaired eyesight or unsightly scars.

Fire authorities tell us that the most frequent cause of mishap with fireworks is the somewhat impish urge amongst youngsters to play tricks with them. Unfortunately these "tricks" get out of hand rather rapidly. Often children throw lighted fireworks between screen and inner doors, into mailboxes, garages, and even vacant cars. This can cause a raging blaze or explosion.

"Obviously most of the children don't realize until too late the serious consequences of their pranks", commented F. H. Ellis, General Manager of the Ontario Safety League. "If they did, probably far fewer such incidents would occur."

Let's treat fireworks with the respect explosives deserve this holiday weekend.

We're Confused

We are confused! We know Monday is a holiday but what is the correct official name? There is as most everyone is aware of a great surge of nationalism throughout the country. Let us get things straight.

Victoria Day, the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth, was declared a holiday by the legislature of the united Canadas in 1845. It has been observed annually since then, having been declared a holiday in 1901 by the Canadian Parliament in commemoration of the Queen.

Until 1952 it was observed on the Queen's birthday, May 24. It was then provided that the day of observance would be the first Monday preceding May 25. The birthdays of other reigning sovereigns since Victoria have been observed. Observance of the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II has been combined with Victoria Day. This year it falls upon May 23.

Empire Day, new Commonwealth Day, is closely associated with Victoria Day. Canadian Citizenship Day is also observed on Commonwealth Day which falls on the last school day before Victoria Day. This year it is Friday, May 20.

Schools in most provinces hold patriotic services on this day.

To the Canadian citizen and more so to the immigrant intending to become a citizen these many names of so few holidays tend to be confusing.

The federal government would be wise to limit official names for holidays to for example one name for each holiday. This should be done at least before Canada's 93rd birthday on July 1, Dominion Day or Canada Day.

Unify Farm Forces

(Kitchener-Waterloo Record) Ontario's farm population is dwindling but the same cannot be said about agricultural organizations. Once under-organized now it appears to be getting over-organized with somewhat chaotic results.

Agriculture Minister Goodfellow told the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities at its recent convention that 100 organizations now represent 80,000 farmers in the Province.

"Mr. Goodfellow was promoting farmers' interests when he urged agriculture to unify its forces. Progress is retarded when some shout 'gee' and others yell 'haw'."

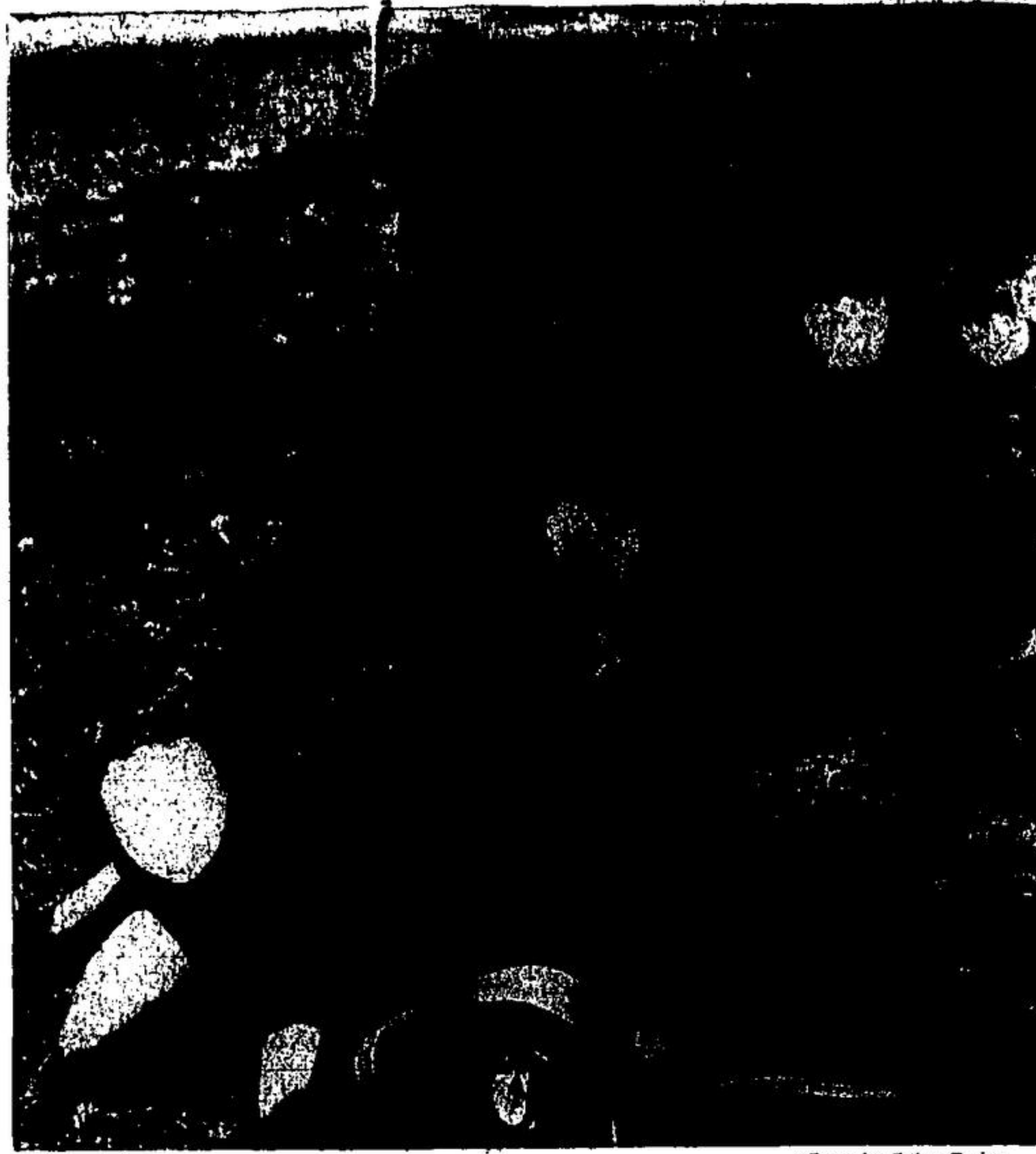
The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59 Willow St. Acton. Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations the C.W.S.A. and the Ontario-Quebec Division of the C.W.S.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance \$3.00 in Canada, \$4.00 in the United States; six months \$17.50, single copies 7c. Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The only paper ever published in Acton

G. A. Dills, Editor in Chief
David R. Dills, Managing Editor

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 600, ACTON



—Photo by Esther Taylor

"Jubilee Gold"

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

We've just staggered through again. Each year at this time, when most folks are thoroughly enjoying the burgeoning of spring, some of us are going through the harrowing, destroying experience of the Music Festival.

Each year it puts another splash of silver in my wig. Each year it carves another line in my already-turrowed forehead. And each year, I am positive the Old Lady won't get through it without a complete nervous collapse.

But the human constitution seems to be made of a composite of old rubber boots and scrap iron. I have already recovered to the point where my head is no longer thudding like a bongo drum. And Mum has once again tottered back from the brink of insanity and is her usual brisk, bustling self.

This year, our kids played in seven different piano classes. That meant seven trips to the festival centre, and about 300 miles on the old '54 Buick, which gives us some 13 miles to the gallon.

However, I don't mind the expense. It's the bedlam that gets me down. Just trying to keep those kids in clean clothes for a week is enough to drive a saint straight up the wall. And somebody was always late, or had lost his shoes, or had got mad on his dress. We snarled and hurled recriminations on every trip until we were five miles out of town.

The festival hall is always the same. Beneath its apparent quiet and orderliness seethes a tangled current of commotion, hope and fear. Women sit quietly about, nothing except their latty hair, wild eyes and

chewed lipstick to mark them as festival mothers.

Kids giggle and squirm with nerves as the big moment nears. The girls are all lussed up in their best dresses, with fancy bows and sparkling eyes and shining hair. The boys are quieter, stiffer, pale and tense. Their hands are sweating and they rub them on their pants.

Scattered here and there are the teachers, outwardly calm, inwardly churning. This is the culmination of months of hard work for them and can bring elation or dejection, depending on how their charges come through.

Then the adjudicator rings his bell. Dead quiet reigns. The first contestant, feeling as awkward as an elephant, mounts the stage and the tension rises. One of those distraught mothers, is holding her breath, her heart pounding painfully.

Sometimes one of the kids will get stuck. She'll hit a wrong chord, pause, try it again, play a discord, and panic. She sits there looking at the keyboard as though it was a document in Chinese. She pokes at a couple of notes, looks desperately at the adjudicator and tries again. Her despair and agony are almost matched by those of the audience.

This year our adjudicator, David Ouchterlony of the conservatory, told a story about this sort of thing. It happened at a festival, in a five-and-under class. This little guy started off well, then got stuck. He tumbled around for a minute, then got going again.

But the second time, his right hand had started one note too high, and the whole

piece went like that. He knew what order to play the notes in and he was living along in great style, but after a minute realized it sounded like a cat on a tin roof. He stopped dead, put his hands on his hips and stared at the piano in silence. Then he piped, "Hey, what's the matter with this piano?" in a clear treble.

When a class has finished playing, everyone sits looking as calm as a canary at a cat's convention. The adjudicator scribbles notes. Then he walks to the front and the aficionados lean forward slightly, strong like wires, and the moment of truth arrives. When it's all over you hate the man bitterly, or think him an exceptionally discerning type, depending on how he has treated your offspring.

Tears lurk near the surface for the youngsters who have worked hard for months, then made a mess of the piece because of festival nerves. Mature women led like screaming. The odd father present slumps as though he'd had a heart attack.

Oh, it's a grand business, the Music Festival. But matters, unlike cats, have only one life. Next year at festival time, I shall enter a monastery for a week and let the chips and the tears fall where they may.

Tipson Touring

By Carol Lane Women's Travel Authority

A \$1 scratch on the fender can increase in importance until it hits a simple car accident. In most cases it depends upon you. If you have an accident, no matter how serious or minor, do these things:

1. Remain at the scene. Leaving for any reason, immediate or otherwise, is illegal.
2. Check occupants of each car for possible injuries. If any one is injured, the law requires that you get the most minor one to the nearest hospital or doctor.
3. Exchange license numbers, names and addresses, with the other driver. Get the names of a witness or two if possible.
4. Inspect both cars and, if damage, note exactly where the accident took place, the time the weather.
5. Report by phone or letter to the nearest office of your insurance company.

Find Trouble
A final word of warning about your car. If you are looking for trouble, you'll find it. But nine out of 10 minor accident cases can be settled simply and easily with a cool head and a sense of fair play.

NOISY SHOW
Why does driving a car around a corner so fast the tires squeal make a young fool feel so important?

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1940

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 23, 1940.

Council Tuesday evening heard a letter read from Beardmore and Company requesting a supply of water from the municipal system. This water would be used from June 1 to September 15. It was estimated that 30,000 to 40,000 gallons would be used every 24 hours. The company did not expect to pay the usual domestic rate.

The superintendent also reported regarding an additional supply of water and council agreed to make a tour of the area before any action was taken to locate an additional supply.

The ceramic plant in Acton next to the Blue Press shop is the only one of its kind in Canada and an article published recently gives quite an explicit picture of the details of the industry and mentions the Acton plant. Many improvements in production have been made since the plant was first opened and full scale production is keeping the employees busy daily.

Lady members of Acton Bowling and Tennis Club met on Monday evening for organization and arrangements for the present season at the home of Mrs. W. Chisholm, Bower Ave. Officers for the year were chosen as follows: president, Mrs. J. M. McDonald; first vice-president, Mrs. W. D. Talbot; second vice-president, Mrs. R. H. Elliott; bowling committee, Mrs. W. Chisholm, convener, Miss M. Garvin, Miss P. Smith and Mrs. W. D. Talbot; social committee, Mrs. S. Rushmere; convener, Mrs. J. Inglis, Mrs. H. Helwig, Miss H. Wallace and Mrs. R. H. Elliott.

Evidence of keen interest was shown on Monday night when Acton Murray Memorial Y.M.C.A. held its annual meeting. There was a splendid attendance of members present for the meeting and excellent reports were heard. The financial situation up to the present time showed a good balance and superintendent Bill Benson presented an encouraging report of the interest taken by both junior and senior members in Y classes.

BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 19, 1910.

Messrs. Beardmore and Company are negotiating with the G.T.R. to run a spur line down from the G.T.R. yards to their works. This will save the heavy traffic on Church St.

After floating the Union Jack at half mast over the school for a week, caretaker Coleman, fearing the two-year-old rope would not stand the strain for another week, proceeded on Saturday to change it for a new one. The old one got out of the pulley at the top of the pole and efforts to twitch it into the pulley caused it to break at the pulley.

On Monday night, John Walker climbed the 36 foot pole from the top of the tower, where at about an altitude of 122 feet nearer Haley's comet than ordinary mortals, he quickly jerked out the old rope, slipped in a new one and slid down the pole to the roof.

The first baseball match of the season will be played in the park Saturday afternoon between the team which plays at Georgetown on the 24th and a picked team, captained by Ed Ryder. This will be a nine inning game and promises to be exciting as the picked team have boasted to defeat the regulars.

Since the foundations of the new Beardmore warehouses have been laid, crossings have been put in at Church St. and citizens of the south section of the town now have free access to the G.T.R. grounds by that street.

A new post office has been opened at the upper brick works near Milton, to be known as Milton Heights, with Mr. John Appleyard as postmaster.

The new woollen mills of the Svkos Co. at Georgetown were destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. It is thought a nail got into the picker and struck fire. The section of the plant where the picker was situated was ablaze in no time. The operator had his arms badly burned.

The Peel-Halton House of Refuge will be completed by June 1. It will be officially opened on the following day by councils of Peel and Halton with appropriate ceremonies.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
Physician and Surgeon
Office in Symon Block
43A Mill St., E. Acton
Office Phone 78
Residence 115 Church St. E.
Phone 150

DR. D. A. GARRETT
Physician and Surgeon
Corner of Willow and River Sts.
Entrance River St.
Acton, Ont.
Phone 238

DR. ROBERT U. BUCKNER
Physician and Surgeon
39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont.
Office Hours 9-6 p.m.
Afternoons by Appointment

F. L. WRIGHT
20 W. War St.
Acton, Ontario
Phone 81
Appraiser, Real Estate and Insurance

DENTAL

DR. H. LEIB
Dental Surgeon
Office, Corner Mill and Frederick St.
Office Hours by Appointment
TELEPHONE 19

DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
Dental Surgeon
Office 5A Mill Street
Office Hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Wednesday afternoons
Telephone 148

LEGAL

C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C.
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
Office Hours 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays by appointment only
Office 22 Phone - Rm. 151
ACTON

A. BRAIDA, B.A.
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public
153 Main St. S. Acton, Ont.
Phone 378
Office Hours 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
1 p.m. - 9 p.m. Saturdays
15 Carl St. E. Guelph
TA 4-2242
Office Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 12 a.m.

HASTINGS & PAYNE
Barristers and Solicitors
Notary Public
1A Mill St. Acton
For appointment call 991.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bumley Shoemaker
FUNERAL HOME
Phone 699 night or day
Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.

CHIROPRACTOR
A. D. MOORE, D.C.
Palmer Specific Chiropractor
17 Mill Street
Phone 40 or 66
Office Hours:
Wed 2-7 Sat 2-5

OPTICAL AND HEARING AIDS
E. L. BUCHNER, R.O.
Ophthalmist and Hearing Aids
48 Mill St. E. Phone 115
Office Hours:
Wednesdays only 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Evenings by appointment
Closed Saturdays
For appointments please phone:
TR 7-2011

ROBERT R. HAMILTON
Optometrist
Eyes Examined
Glasses Fitted
60 Main St. S. Georgetown, Ont.
Office Hours:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Evenings by appointment
Closed Saturdays
For appointments please phone:
TR 7-2011

AUDITING - ACCOUNTING
LEVER & HOSKIN
Chartered Accountants
51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W.
Toronto
Phone GL 1-4824 EM 4-8131

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
(Daylight Saving Time)
Eastbound
8:33 a.m. Daily except Sun. and
Holi.; 8:58 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.;
5:06 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:06
p.m. (Sun. and Holi.)
Westbound
10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.;
5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:32
p.m.; 11:2 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and
Holi.)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily except Sunday 5:44 a.m.;
Daily except Sundays 9:12 a.m.;
(flagstop) 7:14 p.m.; Sunday only
8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer
at Georgetown 6:27 p.m.; Daily
Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily 12:29 a.m.; Daily except
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.; 6:44 p.m.;
Saturday only 1:22 p.m.; Sunday
only 9:00 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday
only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 p.m.;
Daily except Sat. and Sun. 5:3
p.m.