

## Pounding the Sports Beat . . .



A bunch of the boys were having a ball session the other day about the emergence of Frank Mahovich as a top scorer in the N.H.L. when he couldn't seem to get untracked in his first three seasons with Toronto. Some of them scoffed at the idea of him equaling the record set by Max Baer of 50 goals in as many games, while others were inclined to think the big "M" had a good chance of surpassing it.

The interesting thing about the whole discussion was, however, the reasons they gave for the lead star's sudden flowering into what the Toronto dailies call a "super star". What makes a fellow who's been playing only mediocre hockey, all of a sudden display an aptitude for the game which the sports scribes prophetically announced when he was with St. Michael's of the Junior "A" O.H.A.?

Again, the opinions were divided. Some thought the mantle of responsibility should rest on the shoulder of Len "Red" Kelly, who's been setting the plays up for Mahovich and getting a few goals himself, thank you. Others commented on the way the big "M" barrels down the centre now, instead of wasting his efforts trying to sweep around the defense.

A few of the fiberts figured Mahovich was now playing as a member of the team instead of trying for individual honors and they went on to say the goals were coming by way of reward. Mentioned also was the big improvement in his shooting. His shots were "on" goal now unlike previous years when he often deflected the defense having only the netminder to beat and he'd shoot wide.

The city prints sum it all up in columns of type and barrels of ink by announcing Mahovich has "come of age". He's grown up from a mere stripling to a MAN.

Well, we can go along with all these utterances and we've got one of our own to add. It's been mentioned before. Listen closely or you'll miss. It's confidence. The big "M" has now developed self-confidence and when a fellow has that, doesn't matter whether he's digging ditches, peddling pills or plying pucks, he's going to be a top tradesman in his own line with plenty of poise.

Stafford Smythe, scion of the wealthy Connie Smythe clan, might have stuck his foot in his mouth the other day when he levelled a blast at education for developing "eggheads" instead of

"Rocket" Richards. Smythe claims the men who guide the Toronto education system try only to develop the mind and leave the body, which is equally important, to develop itself.

The man has a point. Development of the body is important. Who hasn't heard the old saw, "healthy body, strong mind." The two go hand in hand. However, I think he's pointing the finger at the wrong party.

The job of the educators is to develop the mind. Development of the body through sport is hardly a function of the schools. Sure school hockey, basketball, baseball, etc. are to be encouraged but they are purely a side product of the educational system. Who sends the kids to school to learn hockey?

A well rounded person will develop his body through sport after school is out. Maybe Stafford should have aimed his barbs at those educators who load their students with so much homework they have no time for extra-curricular activities.

**BEAT BITS** . . . Acton Midgets officially usher in the 1960-61 season in Acton arena on Friday night when they play host to Preston. Game time is 8:45. Remember Lloyd "Apple" Finkbeiner? He played baseball here back in '49 when the local ball team was classed as Intermediate "A". His specialty was hitting home runs and he hit one every game for 10 consecutive contests. Now Finkbeiner is the head cheese of the Strathroy Rockets of the Senior "A" O.H.A. How are you fixed for blades, ma. Skating at the arena should draw the ice artists out. Frank Bathgate, one of the touring Chatham Maroons says Canada will have to send N.H.L. teams to beat Russia in five years. Claims the senior "A" O.H.A. is a slipping circuit and that the younger players who don't make pro are heading south to the United States where the money is. Bathgate has this to say about Russia: "I guess Russia is okay if you like potatoes for breakfast, dinner and supper. The steaks were real good but the rest of the food they can keep. I prefer Sweden. Moscow is dull and drab and not very lively. I think this had a bad effect on the team for the little surroundings made everyone a little homesick." Acton fans will remember Frank, a brother to Andy of the New York Rangers, when he played for Guelph Biltmores in Junior Company.

**CHURCHILL**

**Concert, Anniversaries Car Theft in Area News**

Churchill Sunday school concert was held on Sunday afternoon after church services. Smith Griffin Jr. was master of ceremonies for the following program: solo, Sandy Cameron; duet, Ray Denny and Gary Dobbie, The Night Before Christmas. Primary class, Away in the Manger; solo, Silent Night by Ray Swackhammer; two piano duets by June and Kathy Swackhammer. Little Town of Bethlehem and Hark the Herald Angels sing. Carol Swackhammer read the Christmas story. Two numbers on a piano accordion were given by Vern Denny.

A white gift service was held. A film on Africa was shown and Santa Claus arrived to give out the gifts.

**Celebrate Anniversary**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burgess were guests of honor at a family dinner held at the home of their daughter Mrs. Mary McEachern on Saturday evening to celebrate the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

**Car Theft**

Mrs. Norman Turner had the misfortune to have her car stolen on Monday night in Acton while she was attending a concert at the Robert Little school, presented by the M. Z. Bennett students. Her car was later found in Orangeville where it had run out of gas. It is believed the thieves took another car from there which was stolen.

**Local News**

Friends in the community extend their sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. William McDonald in the death of his brother, Willard McDonald, at Streetsville.

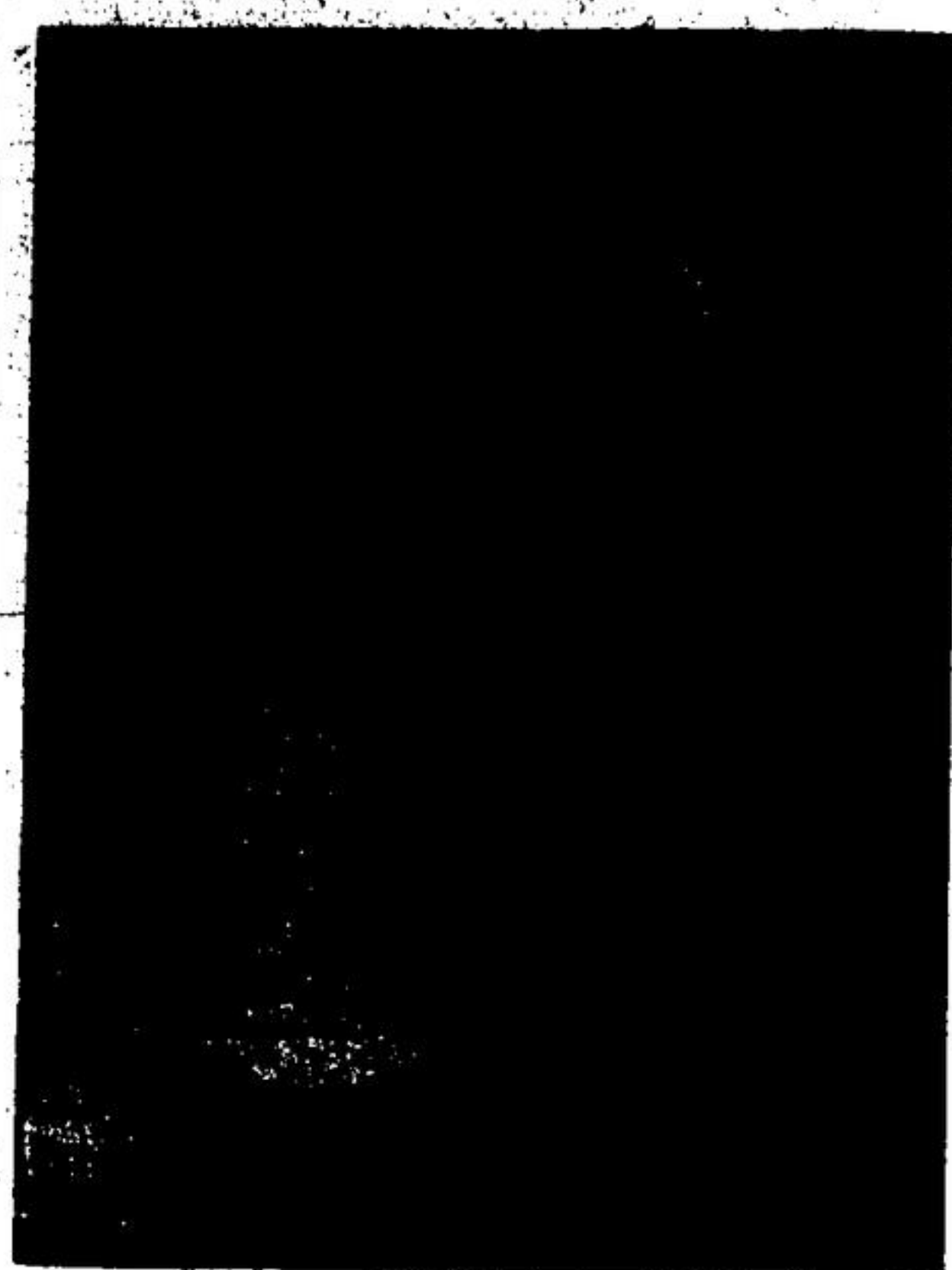
Church services will be held on Sunday at Churchill at 10 o'clock in the morning instead of 2:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Vanatter at Fenelon Falls.

Miss Marianne McEachern and Miss Doreen Shortt of Arthur returned home Sunday after spending two weeks holidaying in Miami, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Saunders attended the funeral of Mrs. H. Pearce at Toronto on Tuesday.

Congratulations to Lance Corporal Lang and Mrs. Lang (nee Marjorie Allan) who were married on Saturday at Acton.



**HOCKEY TIME** means a busy schedule for members of the Acton Legion Minor Sports section. Last Saturday and Sunday boys wishing to play in the league enrolled at the Legion. Jack Bullough of the Legion is shown registering Bill Smith, who came all the way from Ballinafad to enroll.

## Candles Circle Church During Symbolic Service

C.G.I.T. girls circled the United Church with lighted candles, symbolically bringing the light throughout the world, during their annual vesper service Sunday evening. About 20 girls took part while over 100 attended.

The girls sat in the choir loft together and under the direction of organist George Elliott sang All My Heart This Night Rejoices. Hark the Herald Angels Sing and In the Black Midwinter. One of the leaders, Fern Small, directed the service, another leader, Mrs. Dwight Engel, read a story, Sandra's Christmas Miracle. Readers were Vivian Smith, Ruthann Leathland, Gwen Lauder and Donna Shortall.

The church lights were dimmed as four members of the executive Susan Radford, Lorraine Lashy, Mary Beth Elliott and Diane Ang.

**Wrong Date**

Last week the Free Press published an early baseball picture and listed the team as having played in 1905. It has been brought to our attention the players listed played on the team in 1914.

Too soon we grow too old, too late we grow too smart. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

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ACTON
MILL ST. W.

## 22-Hour Day In P.O. Rush

Although total figures are not available, clerks at the post office are handling around 16,000 pieces of mail daily during the Christmas rush.

Postmaster Gord McKenzie reported Wednesday the sale of two cent stamps has exceeded last year's sale by nearly 10,000 stamps. He reported the drums played in the lobby have served a useful purpose and have been a great assistance to the staff.

The postmaster stated that this year Christmas mailing is easier to handle as it has been spread over two weeks. Other years the entire program of processing mail has been done in eight to 10 days.

With extra help engaged the staff has been working 22 hours a day in shifts in order to keep up with the rush. Some clerks work all through each night.

## Seek Nearly 100 To Play Hockey

With an estimated 100 boys eligible to sign up for hockey this winter in the Acton Legion Minor Sports League, only 42 have registered to date.

Officials are holding another registration day on Tuesday, December 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Legion. Schools are expected to make this announcement before closing date and boys are asked to be sure and enroll in order to be assured of a spot on one of the teams.

## MILTON ARENA

**Thursday, Dec. 22**  
**FIGURE SKATING**  
 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.  
**INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE HOCKEY**  
 Starting 8 p.m.  
 Queenston vs Burlington  
 Glen Williams vs Gerys

**Friday, Dec. 23**  
**INT. "A" HOCKEY OAKVILLE**  
 vs  
**MILTON MERCHANTS**  
 8.45 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 24**  
**PUBLIC SKATING**  
 2 to 4 p.m.  
 8 to 10 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 26**  
**PUBLIC SKATING**  
 2 to 4 p.m.  
**MINOR HOCKEY**  
 At Night

**Tuesday, Dec. 27**  
**PUBLIC SKATING**  
 2 to 4 p.m.  
**FIGURE SKATING**  
 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.  
**JUNIOR FARMER HOCKEY**  
 2 Games starting at 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 28**  
**PUBLIC SKATING**  
 2 to 4 p.m.  
 8 to 10 p.m.

**PUBLIC SKATING**  
 EVERY AFTERNOON  
 of school holidays  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.**

## STATIONERY GIFTS

Come on in and explore our wide world of wonderful gifts for practically every one! Boxed writing paper, pen and pencil sets, desk sets . . . many other bright ideas for Christmas!

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It's time to remember . . .

**Other Worthwhile Suggestions**

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- Book Caddy—a stand to keep your books neat
- Desk Blotter Pads . . . \$1.89 to \$4.25
- Ring Binders and Memo Covers
- Pencil Sharpeners and Pencils
- Magic Markers—Selection of Colors
- BATES LIST FINDERS
- Several styles and colors
- Baby Books
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Desk Calendars—Several Styles

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