

Rinks and Skating

As the fund raising for \$60,000 for the Acton Community Centre gets underway, I recall the rinks of the past 50 or 60 years. The first one I can recall was on Fairy Lake, where some young men of that day put a row of boards along the ice to keep the snow back and keep the puck-in bounds. There were some back boards a little higher to stop the end shots. In the spring, the boards just floated down to the dam.

The next rink I can recall was known as the King Edward. It was built on the site where Ledger's I.G.A. store now stands. It was surrounded by a ten foot board fence and there were a couple of enclosures for changing skates. There was an enclosure along the two sides and ends for spectators at hockey games and the skating carnivals that were held from time to time as the weather conditions permitted. For flooding the first ice, the fire engine was brought out and water was pumped from the underground tank at the town hall. After the first flood, the ice was flooded with a barrel sprinker mounted on a sleigh.

The next rink I remember was the one on Frederick Street, on the Beardmore property and built by the Beardmore Co. It had quite an elaborate club house with a fireplace. There was a large covered enclosure at one end and a spectators' section along one side. From the bridge to the Crescent, a good view of the carnivals could be had for what were termed the cheap-skates of the day. There were steam heating pipes under a section of the seating until the first heavy freeze-up of the first season and then it was found that the idea was not practical for Canadian winters. There was a shelter for the band heated by a stove to keep the horns from freezing up. The rink served for a number of years.

Prior to this Frederick Street rink, there was a rink on Willow Street just at the north of the present building of the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. In fact, it was on part of the site of the present building and adjoining the powerhouse plant. It was flooded from a pipe in Hen-

derson's Pond and had the usual high boards. I am a bit confused on the order of these last two rinks, but they were the last two outdoor skating enclosures to be built in Acton.

It was in 1928 that agitation started for a closed arena and do not think for a moment that it had the approval of all the citizens of the town. There were plenty of impediments in the path. However, in February, 1929, a private bill was passed in the Legislature that finally cleared the legal path for providing the issue of debentures for \$15,000 for the proposed arena.

The first meeting of council and the rink committee was held in March of that year. An advisory committee was appointed to act with council in the erection of the rink and it was the unanimous decision of this meeting that the building be erected in the park.

The present site was later chosen and plans were approved and accepted and the contract was awarded to Eastern Steel Products at a cost of \$14,537 with Beardmore and Co. to do the cartage and wiring at cost. Steel arrived and erection started in September of that year. The rink went into use that December.

For over thirty years, the arena has been in service. It is all paid for now and ready for this second expansion. I will have to leave further comments for another week or so.

Sugar and Spice

(Continued from Previous Page) bothers me is her complete absorption with money. How would you like to go to bed with a cross between Scrooge and the Chancellor of the Exchequer? It's humiliating for a former Good-Time Charlie, who could buy a round with the best of them, or plunge for a raffle ticket with a flourish, to have to ask for his lunch money. But what cuts deeper than that is the fact that she knows where every nickel she gives me is spent. I'm supposed to be at the dangerous age. How do I finance it if I want to support a mistress or buy a one-way ticket for Bali?



ART FERRIS, truck driver for Consolidated Transport, climbed out of his overturned truck after it lopped over on its side on McDonald Boulevard near the H. K. Porter plant Friday morning of last week. Proceeding east on the road after making a delivery, the driver reached for his sunglasses as they slipped from his grasp. When he made a lunge for them, the truck lurched onto the soft shoulder and sank slowly until it turned over. The driver stayed in the cab until the vehicle settled and then climbed out. The contents in the back were undamaged as was the truck. A large tow truck from Guelph hauled the vehicle onto the road and the driver drove it away.

Pictures of Mission in Congo Shown at United Thankoffering

The United Church Women's Missionary Society held their Easter thank-offering service in the church Sanctuary Tuesday evening, April 11 with 75 present. The president, Mrs. H. R. Force, gave a warm welcome to all the guests and members.

The service opened with the responsive reading of the Litany. All joined in the singing of Crown Him With Many Crowns. Mrs. H. R. Force and Mrs. E. Lidkea read the meditations. The theme of this service was, Crown Him the Lord of Life.

Mrs. Force led in prayer. The Lord is My Shepherd was sung by Miss D. Simmons, Miss L. Phillips, Mrs. B. Veldhuis and Mrs. R. Hart.

Congo Missionaries
Mrs. E. Lidkea introduced the guest speakers, Rev. and Mrs. L. Dolby of Streetsville, missionaries of the W.M.S. of the Regular Baptists of Canada who had spent 25 years in the Congo. Mrs. Dolby spoke on the theme, Go Ye into all the World and Preach the Gospel.

Mrs. Dolby showed slides of the Congo and their work, accompanied by a very interesting narrative.

After the singing of another hymn, Mrs. R. Agar and Mrs. C. Matthews took up the offering which Mrs. G. Johnston dedicated. How Great Thou Art was sung by Miss Simmons and Mrs. Veldhuis.

Mrs. A. Long played the organ for the service, accompanying all numbers. Miss Bennett thanked the guest speakers and invited every one down stairs for lunch.

The closing hymn was Rejoice the Lord is King. All repeated the benediction.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fine Example Set By Club's Pledge

The Editor, Free Press,
Dear Sir,
A small headline in last week's Free Press has prompted me to write this letter. It read "Pledge Arena \$500".
This is one local organization's pledge to the Community Centre Fund — a fine example for all of us in town and district.
Now \$500 isn't "peanuts", nor is \$60,000, but with a united effort, the objective can be realized.
Let's be generous when called upon to support the fund. As the slogan says, "It's Now or Never."
Rural Actonian.

Q.E. Way Accident

Injures Oshawa Pair
An accident Saturday evening on the Queen Elizabeth Way caused extensive injury to Mr. and Mrs. H. Armour Hanna of Oshawa. Mr. Hanna is the brother of Mrs. Alf Long and son of Mrs. Hanna, now of Milton. They are in Queenway General Hospital, Port Credit, recuperating and will be hospitalized some weeks.

Grapefruit Basket Pies Demonstrated

The fourth meeting of 4-H Dublin Fruits-a-Rama Homemaking Club was held on Monday, April 5, at the home of Mrs. Barbara Wilson.
The home economist, Miss Frances Lampran, was present. She demonstrated how to make a fruit salad. She made a grapefruit basket and many other fresh fruit desserts.
She also briefed the girls on what would take place on Achievement Day, which is being held at Milton on May 27.
The fifth meeting of the Homemaking Club was held at the home of a club member, Sherrill Murray, on Saturday, April 8. The project of the meeting was

the making of a fruit pie. Jean Moffat and Judy Britton made the pies.
The meetings were ended with lunch and the Queen was sung.

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Mrs. Lawr Hostess Ballinad W.M.S.

Mrs. A. Lawr was hostess for the April meeting of the Ballinad W.M.S. Evening Auxiliary with 11 members in attendance. A letter from the stewardship secretary, Mrs. MacKenzie, was read by Mrs. A. Lawr followed by a citizenship reading by Mrs. M. Norton.

During the business discussion it was decided that a community clothing sale be collected for overseas distribution. The good used clothing will be stored at the home of Mrs. L. Jamieson and is to be ready for delivery in June.

Mrs. E. McEnery and Mrs. J. McEnery prepared a most interesting and thought-provoking devotional and topic based on the Christian Home.

The meeting closed with a prayer followed by a social hour. Lunch was served by Mrs. R. Shortill and Mrs. M. Norton assisted by the hostess.

Temperance Film

United church Young People saw a film on Temperance Sunday evening.

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LIBBYS 15 OZ. TINS DICED BEETS 2 : 19c		