

# Popular TV Star Cliff McKay To Open Speyside Riding School

By Roy Downs  
Cliff McKay, popular star of television's country style music show "Holiday Ranch," has a new "Holiday Ranch" near here. Cliff has purchased a farm at Speyside and plans to open a riding school there next year.

A veteran entertainer since the early days of the "Happy Gang" radio show, Cliff has spent the last eight and a half years on television. You can catch his show Fridays at 9 o'clock, and see him lead a parade of country music stars through a half hour of fine music and square dancing. Or you might catch him at the Speyside ranch ("up on the Milton Mountain," he calls it) watching with fatherly pride as his 16-year-old daughter Patti rides a \$10,000 horse, Black Ace, through the fields and over the jumps.

**Shows Promise**  
"All my kids grew up with horses," Cliff said, "but when they got into their teens they found other interests. Patti, however, showed a lot of promise as a fine horsewoman."

If trophies, silver trays, pewter cups, shields, or first, second and third place ribbons mean Patti's a promising horsewoman, she is indeed that. Her room is crammed with close to 200 awards from horse shows and jumping competitions from Baltimore, Buffalo, Syracuse, Royal

Winter Fair, C.N.E. and others all over Ontario.

She attends gymnastics throughout the Province, and often by invitation rather than for competition against other youngsters she could easily "out-class." But she has been named "junior champion" so many times she can't remember how many.

**More Time For Riding**  
The family formerly lived in Islington, but with the country farm Patti has more time to devote to riding. She rises at 5.30 a.m. every day and goes out to work with her horse Blackie for a while before she catches the bus for Acton High School. Right after school is out in the afternoon she heads home, dons a pair of jeans and takes Blackie out again until dark.

This week Blackie goes to the Royal at Toronto and Patti expects to begin the competitions there Friday. Blackie is the best of the four horses in the McKay stables, and last year Cliff turned down an offer of \$10,000 for him. He has a promising mare but she won't be ready for gymnastics until next year and can't start any real competition until 1963.

Cliff's idea of a riding school is a place where youngsters from the area can benefit from capable instruction and compete in small shows that are judged by veterans of the hunter horse breed.

His property is large and well suited for riding and jumping training, and he realizes there are a lot of young people in the immediate area interested enough to attend the school.

**Fieldstone House**  
The farm Cliff purchased is a 26-acre site, part of the Alcock farm north of 15 Sideroad just west of Speyside corner. He also has an option on an additional 25 acres. Adjoining the beautiful 30-year-old fieldstone house are two barns Cliff is converting into 11 modern stables.

The builder was Dr. Beattie, a humane society official who had built two barns to house dog kennels — heat, ventilators, windows and all. Cliff converted the one barn to stables with sliding doors and special walls.

This farm has come in handy for another facet of Cliff's versatility — TV commercials. Recently Cliff set up his own recording and sound outfit to write and film sequences for radio and TV advertisements. He had used up some film by taking a few shots around his farm and was amazed when the print was done to get offers from two other ad firms to use the location as a setting for their films.

The fieldstone house, lovely open fields and rows of evergreens make a pretty setting, whether you're selling menthol cigarettes or ski boots.



CLIFF MCKAY OF HOLIDAY RANCH fame has a new "Holiday Ranch" at Speyside and plans to turn his 26-acre farm into a riding school for juniors next year. Above, the veteran entertainer poses beside his "Gypsy" wagon with Gord Collins and his daughters Joan Coyle and Patti McKay on three of the ranch's four hunter horses. Patti is an expert horsewoman and has won ribbons and trophies in competition around the country.

## Response Good During Canvass

Canvassers were met with open arms Tuesday evening when a house to house blitz was made to seek blood donors. To date over 200 citizens have volunteered and additional names are expected to be added.

Tonight (Thursday) the Y's Mens Club will canvass ward three and chairman Vic Patrick is hopeful of reaching the 300 mark. Anyone not home when canvassers called can still donate blood by attending the clinic Thursday November 16, at the Legion auditorium.

## Six End Men Acquire Draws

Ruth Musselle has somehow been able to plumb the depths of the End men's personalities in practices for "Acton Lions' big Minstrel Show." In their first appearance before other members of the cast on Monday evening, Rastus, Sambo, Bones, Tambo, Snowball and Amos were sporting southern platitudes like they were raised on the bottom side of the Mason-Dixon line.

They've acquired southern accents and draws to go along with the precise speech of Mr. Interlocutor and the contrast is amazing.

Meanwhile, director George Musselle added another piece of equipment to the chorus on Monday. He utilized a tape recorder on the four-part harmony songs, playing it back to the astonished chorus after they had polished the numbers off.

Comments were wide and varied, but most were surprised they blended so well. With over 30 voices in the chorus, it is difficult to ascertain how it would sound to the audience.

George is far from satisfied, however. He keeps an eye cocked to the calendar, which shows only three weeks remain to the three big nights, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 30, December 1-2.

## Car Hits Pole Both Damaged

A single car accident Saturday night caused damage to a hydro pole as well as an estimated \$130 front end damage to a car driven by Ken McKinnon, Acton.

The driver was proceeding south on Main Street South, when his car left the road and struck the hydro pole. Constable Bruce Kressler investigated.



SURROUNDED BY PRIZES she won at various horse shows in Ontario and south of the border is Patti McKay, 16-year-old daughter of Cliff McKay of Speyside. When she's not at high school in Acton, Patti's at home working out her hunter on the jumps at the farm. She's the proud holder of close to 200 horse show prizes and awards.

# Knox 116th Anniversary With Speakers, Dinner

Two guest ministers, special music by the Campbellville Male Quartette and Young People from Armour Heights Presbyterian Church marked the 116th anniversary services at Knox Presbyterian Church, Sunday.

Special speaker in the morning was Rev. John F. Nute, B.A., Th.B., minister of Tweedsmuir Presbyterian Church, Orangeville. Guest minister for the evening service was Rev. William Scott Duncan, B.A., from Armour Heights Presbyterian Church in North Toronto.

During the morning service, Rev. Nute took as his subject "The Standard for Our Church" and reviewed the church's foundation from its inception. Special music for the morning was supplied by the choir, under the direction of organist E. A. Hansen.

**Gospel Singing**  
Prior to the evening service,

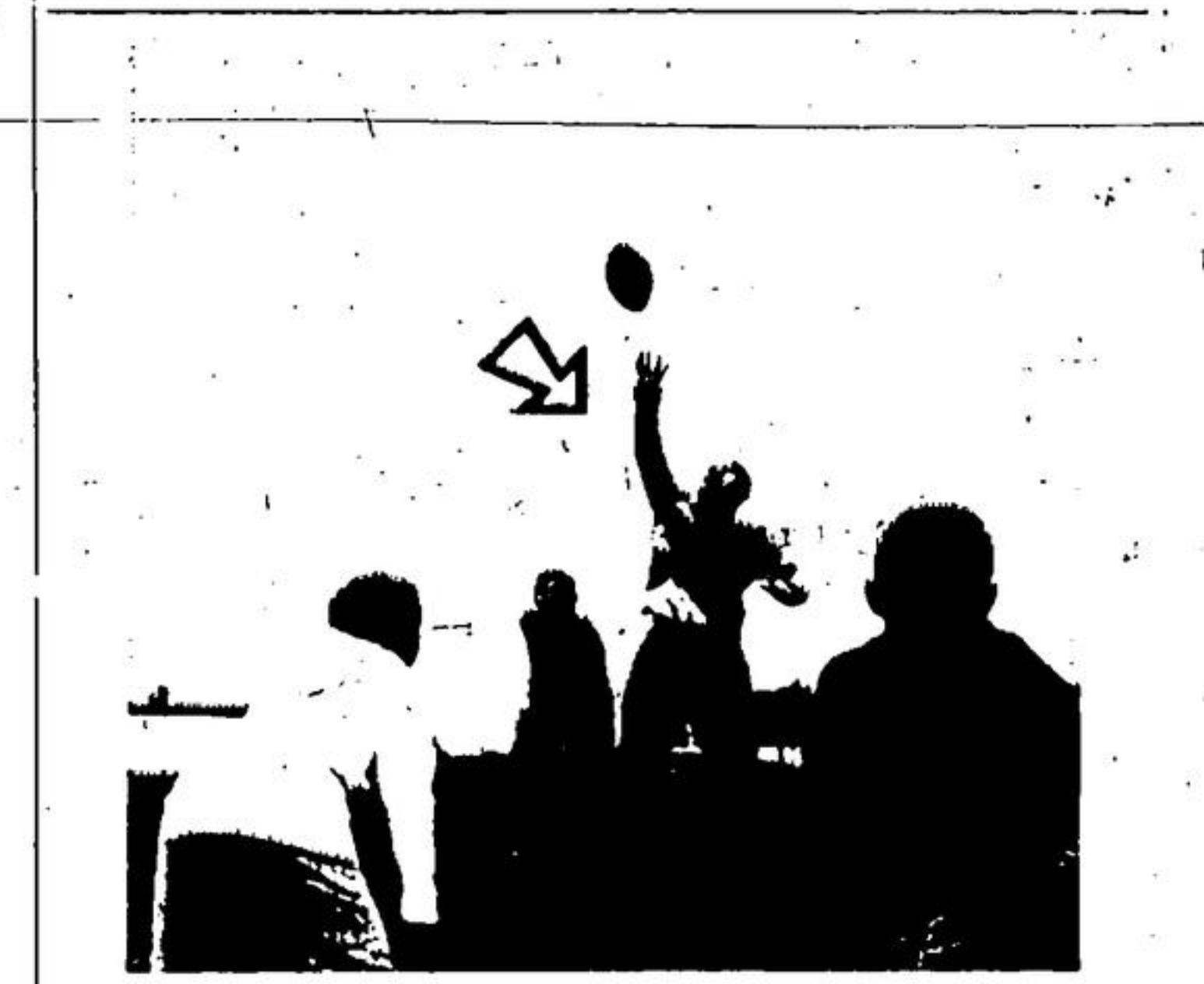
Rev. Duncan and a number of young people from his church led the congregation in a gospel song service. During the service, the Campbellville quartette from St. David's Presbyterian Church sang selections.

The guest minister took as his subject for the evening service, "Thy Kingdom Come," as he emphasized the importance of Christianity.

Monday evening a bowl supper concluded the celebration of the anniversary when the Ladies' Aid, assisted by the ladies of the congregation, catered for the dinner and served a large gathering.

## WATER RENTALS

Ontario Hydro paid more than \$6.8 million to federal and provincial governments in 1960 for the privilege of using water from rivers to generate power at its hydroelectric plants.



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# Speyside Pupils Now Ready For "Open House" at School

**Room 1**—The pupils made a mural entitled "Watch us Go" on the bulletin board, with each child contributing their share. It is well done and quite colorful. Everybody is ready for "Open House" at the school and have their best work and displays completed. Pupils who were on the sick list last week were greeted by everyone when they returned to school.

**Room 2**—A radio program is one of the main features each Thursday and last week's program was about the electrician. Another program was heard regarding the plumber. We have covered both these trades in classes.

**Room 3**—Everyone is ready for "Open House," Thursday, November 9. We are proud to report that during the month of October, 28 pupils had a perfect attendance record in grade three. Recent tests taken during class were arithmetic, spelling and literature.

**Room 4**—Prior to our spelling dictation this week, grade seven claimed they could beat grade six. When this was denied, the battle was on. Which class do you think won? As it turned out, grade six defeated grade seven by one word. It is the opinion of the grade six pupils that the grade seven class should feel a little ashamed of themselves.

**Room 5**—Our room has picked all-star teams to represent Speyside school in volleyball and football games. The student council has purchased a Sea Breeze record player and a number of records to be used for physical education classes. The purchase was made possible by means of the sale of cards.

Poppies were distributed to each pupil in the school this week. Grade seven pupils are taking history lessons about the 13 colonies and everyone is finding it most interesting. Grade eight are taking about the homes and farms of the pioneer settlers.

## Honor Students

(Continued from Page One)  
The guest speaker was introduced by Robert Little public school principal G.W. McKenzie. Thanks was expressed by Mary Beth Elliott, president of the student council.

The newly-formed Glee Club at the high school, under the direction of music supervisor Glen Banks, entertained the audience during the program. Lunch was served by the Y Ladies' Auxiliary at the end of the commencement exercises.

At the conclusion of the commencement exercises, students, parents and friends enjoyed a dance in the gymnasium.

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# District Teachers' Meeting At Dominion Hotel Thursday

Teachers, representing the schools of Acton, Milton, Erin and Georgetown, attended their annual O.S.S.T.F. dinner meeting last Thursday evening at the Dominion Hotel. The meeting was conducted and a welcome extended to all in attendance by Mrs. J. Galloway, president of the local O.S.S.T.F.

Reports of business carried on during the year were heard. Mrs. Galloway reported changes in the boundaries of District 12 of which the local groups are members. Changes in the boundaries were necessary because of the rapid growth within some of the areas. Richmond Hill, Aurora, Oakville, Woodbridge and Thornhill had been transferred to other districts. These changes relieved the pressure of numbers being felt by District 12

and also made the district more compact geographically.

**Discuss New Program**  
The new program for Ontario secondary schools was presented for discussion. Many aspects of the new program were considered. This program will again be studied in the early part of 1962.

A committee was elected to organize a subject study program. A member from each school was elected. This committee will offer a varied program to help the teachers of the local area teaching the many different subjects on the curriculum.

In attendance from Acton District High School were E. A. Hansen, M. Bevan, G. Jaegers, W. Coyle, R. Alan, Miss J. Lee, Miss J. Conway, O. Van Binsbergen, I. Carter, Mrs. H. Orr, Miss J. Barber, W. Coates and Mrs. J. Galloway.