

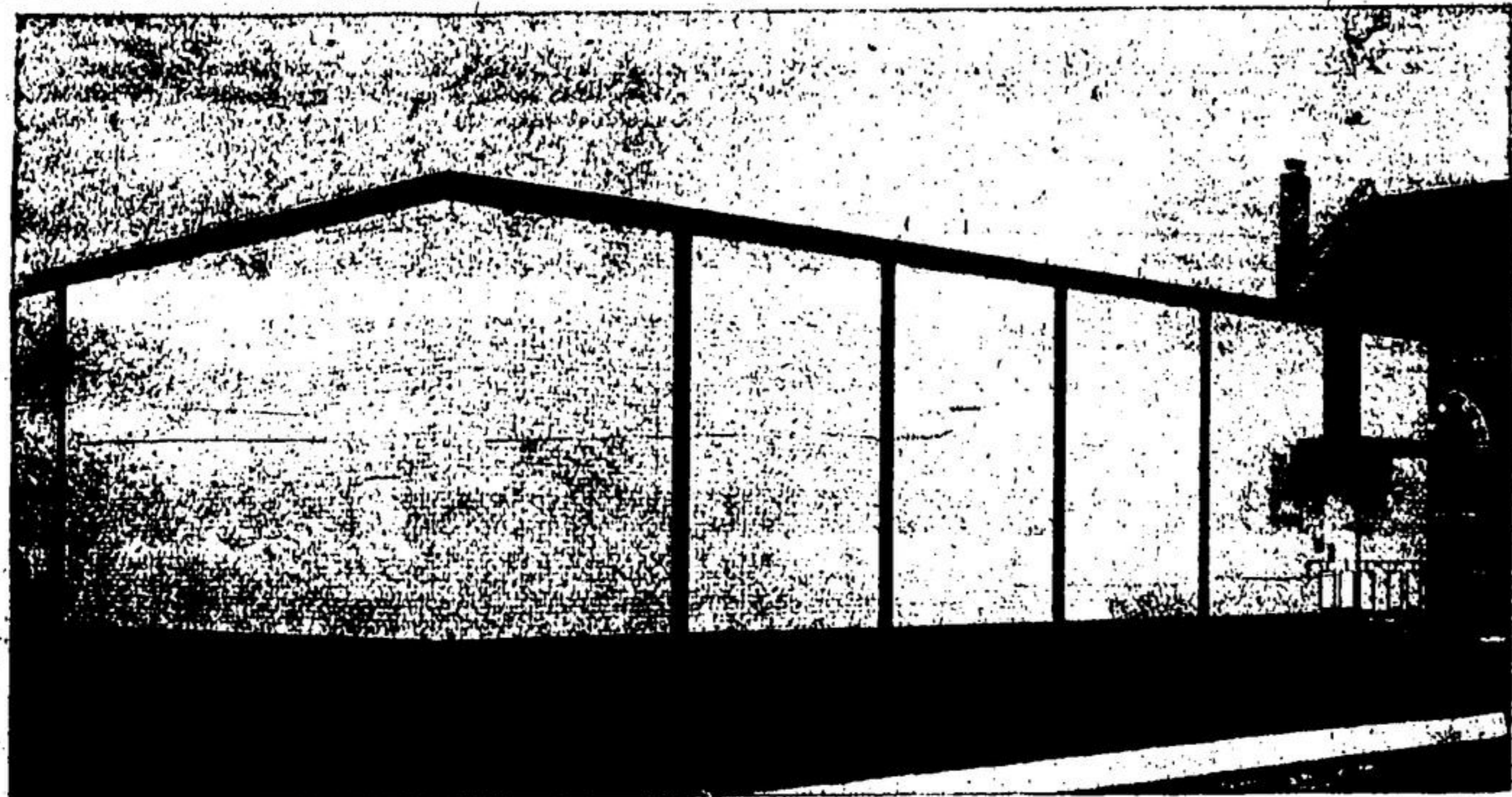
# The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-Seventh Year—No. 25.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 1961

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**BELL DIAL BUILDING** on Church Street is completely equipped and the dial cutover will take place on Sunday. Northern Electric workers have been setting a steady pace of installing and erecting the equipment and the past month has been devoted to checking and rechecking the system. The new building of white brick with black trim is located east of St. Joseph's Ro-

man Catholic Church. Mayor John Goy made the first phone call this afternoon (Thursday) when special arrangements were made to allow this, prior to the changeover Sunday. Acton's dial exchange will be the most modern in Canada. It's the first "cross bar system" to go into operation. This unit is very compact yet allows greater capacity than any former units.

## First Dial Call Today

Lifting the receiver of a beige telephone, Mayor Johnny Goy this afternoon (Thursday) dialed 853-1000 to place the very first call on Acton's new dial system. And the man who answered the call was C. S. Keith, Bell superintendent for this area, who was waiting for it in the gleaming new dial exchange building on Church St.

Although the system won't go into effect until the hour of 2 a.m. Sunday morning (when no phone system is very busy), special arrangements were made to make the call from the platform of the high school gymnasium and for all the children to hear an address, so they might all, years from now, recall the moment which will make Acton history.

### To Include Children

When Mr. Goy was asked to make the first call, he thought all the public and high school students should somehow be included in the exciting moment. Bell officials agreed and made the special arrangements. His address had been taped in advance and it was played over the public-address system at the two public schools while he gave it personally at the high school.

"Early next Sunday, Acton will enter a new era in communications," he said. "I am very happy as the elected representative of our town, to be able to participate in this historic event by placing the first call to be connected through our new dial exchange."

"Because the advent of dial service in Acton represents such an important event in our history, your teachers and I thought it would be fitting to assemble the students and discuss the significance of the event with you. I'm sure you're already aware that Canada has played an important part in the development of telephone service. The telephone was invented at Brantford, not many miles from here, and Canadians make great use of the telephone. Year after year, Canadians emerge as the world's champion telephone talkers—we Canadians place more telephone calls per capita than the people of any other country."

**Descendant of Beacon Fire**  
"Man has always felt the need to communicate. That, of course, is why languages developed. But people are not always within earshot of one another and so have had to develop artificial means of carrying their messages. The history of communications is part of the story of man's ever-increasing ability to master the forces of nature and make them work for him. Today, we have this modern dial telephone, and we have our radios, and we have television receivers. These instruments are direct descendants of the beacon fire—which early man used to signal from one high point of ground to another—the jungle drums and crude drawings on the walls of cave dwellers' homes. We've come a long way, but the point we reach this weekend is just another step—another era—and there will be other steps into other eras."



**MAYOR JOHN GOY MAKES FIRST DIAL PHONE CALL**

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**\$900 Each!**  
"This telephone instrument which I am using today to participate in Acton's first dial telephone conversation is only a small part of all the equipment necessary to make a telephone call possible. There is much more to it. In fact, it costs close to \$900 for the equipment needed to place EACH telephone in service. First, there is a wire—actually it's a pair of wires—running from your telephone into a cable, which in turn leads into the central office building over on Church St. Inside that building, there is equipment to make it possible to connect your telephone with any other telephone anywhere on earth."

"Up till now, the job of connecting calls has been handled by human telephone operators. However, in future, the job will be done by machinery. This electrical equipment is very complex. It is made up of many parts, each quite simple, but so precisely designed and so ingeniously arranged to work together that they quickly and accurately follow the instructions which you send to them when you dial."

"The equipment in the central office building goes to work as soon as you lift the receiver. The first thing it must do is find your telephone line, picking it out from the thousands which end in the office. As soon as it does, it tells you so. Just as the operator says "Number Please" when she is ready to handle your call, the dial equipment sends you a message—a steady humming sound known as the dial tone. Then, since the machinery would not be able to understand if you spoke, the number, you must dial it. "The dial itself does its work on the way back to its starting point."

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## OK Stone School Classes

Despite disruption in class hours and travelling between two schools, members of the high school staff here, made a decision to attempt setting up classes in the old stone school next fall in order to save off a proposed \$60,000 high school building addition for at least another year.

Although final details have not been completed, principal E. A. Hansen believes that classrooms can be set up in the former continuation school beside the Robert Little School and a makeshift science room can be planned in order to comply with school board's wishes.

During the high school board's meeting last week it was learned that the stone school had been offered by the public school board in order to postpone a building program in accord with council's austerity program.

High school board members agreed to accept the proposal providing the teachers agreed. During a subsequent meeting of the staff members everyone was in accord to set up classes in the stone school in hopes a building program expense can be postponed. Likely the teachers will move from one school to the other with the senior grades in the old stone school.

## More Inside

For more information on the Bell switchover, interesting articles and fascinating old pictures, see page 9.

## Union, Commission at Loggerheads Grievance to Go to Arbitration

Palling to change a decision regarding an alleged breach of contract following the lay off of a hydro worker, a three-man delegation from local 1766 of the Intermediate Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union proposed arbitration over two other technical points. Viewpoints were aired during a special meeting of Acton hydro commission, Thursday evening, December 7.

When Donald Anderson, class "C" linesman, was laid off by the commission November 23, he made an appeal to the union pointing out his seniority over other hydro workers. When an explanation from hydro superintendent Doug Mason failed to satisfy the union grievance committee this special meeting was called to review the problem.

Employees on the hydro department prior to the layoff included superintendent Mason, Don Frizzell, class journeyman; Ken Hodgson, class "A" linesman; and Don Anderson, class "C" linesman.

**Three Union Men**  
During the meeting three union representatives, Tony Green, president of the union grievance committee, Clarence Green and Jack Gilbert were accompanied by Mr. Anderson as they reviewed the layoff.

When an argument posed by the union members regarding the legality of the layoff was refuted on grounds of a clause in the workers' agreement, the union threatened arbitration on the grounds the superintendent was doing line work and office worker Newton Hurst was reading meters. The delegation claimed both men should be members of the union if they were handling these jobs.

During the discussion regarding the layoff of linesman Anderson, T. Green stated the last man hired should be the one to go in the event of a layoff. Chairman Gord Beatty explained

ed the layoff had occurred after a careful study of a proposed work program drawn up by the superintendent and that the layoff had already been postponed for a period of two months in the hope that more work could be found and Mr. Anderson kept.

**Argues Seniority**  
In support of Mr. Anderson, the union representative argued seniority and stated Mr. Anderson was in the employ of the hydro longer than another workman, Ken Hodgson.

"The chairman requested that the decision to lay off the class "C" linesman had taken place after consulting the superintendent and a careful review of the hydro department."

Mr. Beatty told the representatives of the union the commission didn't think it feasible to lay off a class "A" linesman and maintain a class "C" workman. In support of his argument, the chairman referred to article 6, section B, of the union agreement, which states, "Providing one's work is satisfactory, seniority in classification and service shall be the governing factors in the promotion, reduction and rehiring of staff. In the event of a layoff, the last man hired will be the first laid off."

**Only One in Category**  
Mr. Beatty explained it was the desire of the commission to lay off a class "C" linesman and the employee in question was the only one in this category. He stated the commission's regret at having to lose a man, but laid off union representatives, "It took us two months to conclude we couldn't logically keep this man working and justify his salary. We had no alternative. We were elected by the people to administer to the best of our knowledge."

Clarence Green said the union wanted to get the job back for Mr. Anderson and stated, "I un-

derstand you have an office man reading meters and a superintendent doing work. This is not permitted." In support of the class "C" linesman, the delegates insisted his seniority should be considered.

Spokesman T. Green told the commission, "We didn't come here with a chip on our shoulder. Let's get down to reason. We don't want to go to arbitration."

**Doesn't Make Sense**  
Commissioner E. G. Tyler told the delegates to go ahead and explained it wasn't reasonable to lay off a journeyman and keep on a groundsman. "It just doesn't make sense in a small utility," he exclaimed.

Chairman Beatty told the group that Mr. Hurst, the office worker, has many chores and one of them is reading meters. T. Green warned the union would have to get into classification for Mr. Hurst and if he was reading meters, he should be in the union. He also stated that if superintendent Mason was doing line work and on standby time, he should also be a union member.

C. Green told members it wasn't reasonable to couple two top linesmen and have a superintendent on standby, either from a safety angle or, as an economic measure. He explained the safety factor by stating if the two top linesmen were working on a pole, there would not be a groundsman in the event of an emergency.

### Don't Need Man

Tony Green enquired if the commission intended to rehire Mr. Anderson or anyone else in the near future and was told by the chairman, "Things will have to change radically before we hire anyone." Mr. Beatty also explained that the layoff had not occurred on account of personalities but strictly as an economic measure.

Commissioner Ray Arbie asked the spokesman for the delegation to clarify his statement regarding laying off the last man hired and was told the clause in the bargaining agreement was contradictory in that the first part was opposite to the second part.

Mr. Arbie told the group the clause was a common phrase in bargaining where an employee gets into a disagreement. "It exemplifies the employer's position," he stated. Mr. Arbie continued, "No one has anything against Mr. Anderson and certainly during the discussion, there has been great concern shown for him."

The commissioner told the delegates it was his opinion the clause in question should be adhered to, but if they could point

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## Eliminate Rockwood, Georgetown Toll Charge With Switchover to Bell Dial System Sunday

Long distance charges will be eliminated Sunday for calls between Acton telephones and those in both Georgetown and Rockwood.

The change will coincide with the introduction of dial service in Acton. As a result of the

change, calls between Acton and the two neighboring exchanges will be local ones, dialed direct by telephone users.

To reach a Rockwood telephone, an Acton telephone user will dial the full seven-figure Rockwood numbers.

To reach a Georgetown number, the Acton subscriber will dial the first two letters of the exchange name, plus all five figures.

**No Charges**  
Removal of long distance charges for calls between these

pairs of neighboring exchanges is part of the Bell Telephone Company's "Extended Area Service" (EAS) plan, according to C. S. Keith, Bell Telephone manager for this territory. He explained that studies are maintained of the long

distance calls between such pairs of exchanges, and when the studies indicate that the majority of customers would be better served by replacing the long distance calls with local calls, steps are taken to make the change.

## Hire Assessor for Appeals Two Weeks' Salary, \$300

John Ladouceur was offered \$300 for two weeks' work with the Acton assessing department from December 15 to December 30, at the regular Acton Council meeting this week. Mr. Ladouceur had resigned in November and his resignation takes effect December 15. He has accepted a position with the Department of Finance at Ottawa. Under his new two-week contract he will appear and defend his assessments at the Court of Appeal scheduled for December 20-21-22-23-24-25.

In a letter to council Mr. Ladouceur had requested payment to him of the town's contribution towards his pension plan, approximately \$225, plus his salary for the two weeks. Mr. Ladouceur felt that the town's portion should be paid to him because the contribution to the pension plan had been in lieu of an increase in salary in 1962. He felt the amount of work accomplished in 1961 and the results justified an increase.

Council discussed the proposal with Mr. Ladouceur at some length. Mr. Ladouceur pointed out there were 85 appeals against

the assessment, five of them industrial, which after the court of Revision could go to the O.M.B. **Impossible of Grant Payment**  
Council decided it would be impossible to grant Mr. Ladouceur payment of the town's portion of the pension plan in view of the precedent it would set and because four other employees had left the town earlier this year and no adjustment had been made.

Mr. Ladouceur was asked in view of this what he would require to stay with the town until the end of the year. After consideration Mr. Ladouceur suggested he would accept \$174 normal salary for the two weeks, \$200 increase for 1961; \$25 for the difference in pay between his Acton salary and his Ottawa salary; and \$17.50 for the January 1 statutory holiday.

Council again discussed the suggestion at some length and agreed by resolution to offer Mr. Ladouceur \$300 for the two weeks. Mr. Ladouceur accepted this final offer and will appear at the Court of Revision on behalf of the town.

A by-law to regulate and license the vendors of fluid milk products in the town of Acton was given two readings. Under this by-law which replaces three by-laws passed in 1935 and 1941, no person may sell or distribute milk in Acton without a license. The vendors must have a certificate from the Department of Health. No milk may be sold in Acton unless it is processed and pasteurized in or within three miles of the Town of Acton. The fees in the by-law are \$200 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. The by-law has to be read again before becoming effective January 1, 1962.

**Salary By-laws**  
The council and mayor salary by-laws were read twice. Under this by-law councillors will receive \$10 per meeting for up to 60 meetings a year for attending regular council, special council, committee of the whole and committee meetings. A deduction will be made for each meeting not attended. The salary will be paid semi-annually and \$50 per

## Pleasant Voices Soon "Cut Off"

The pleasant voices of Acton's eight phone operators are cut off Sunday morning when intricate equipment takes over their job. Supervisor Mrs. Margaret Ford will be the last on duty until 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Also missed will be the helpfulness of Mrs. Beatrice Chew, Miss Sylvia Mason, Mrs. Merv Harness, Mrs. Phil MacCristall, Mrs. F. P. Miller, Mrs. J. P. Skippen and Miss Martha Turkov.

Monday morning the office will still be busy although the switchboard will be "dead." Northern Electric workers will dismantle the old switchboard which has relayed so many thousands of phone calls. Mrs. Ford will be back with Mrs. Grace Baird, district instructor from Kitchener, to clear out the office files.



**MISSING TARTS** was the title of the play enacted by grade six pupils during the Robert Little school Christmas concert last night (Wednesday). The auditorium was packed as parents and friends attended. All pupils from kindergarten to grade eight participated. Pictured above kneeling in front is Brian Wilkinson who performed as the Kneave. Second row left to right, Peter Masales, servant; Mary Lou Rogers, Queen; Bob Bonnette, King and Paul Youngblut, servant. Back row, left to right, Randy Ridley, servant; Cathy Krul, guard; Gordon Read, sergeant of the guard; Bob Cripps, captain of the guard; Eddie Massey, guard; Gail Dunne, guard; Elaine Hughes, maid and Christine Preston, director.