

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

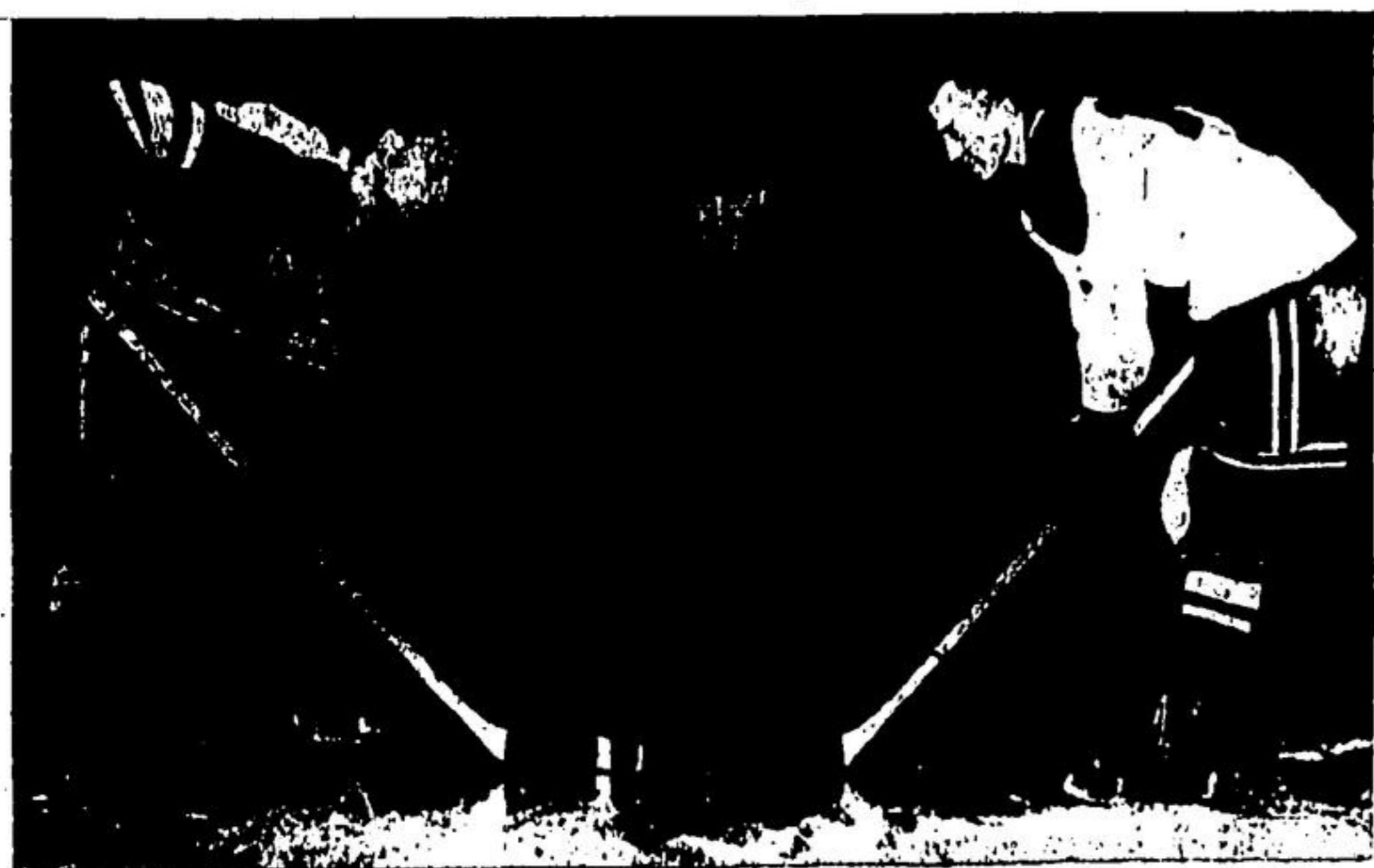
## The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-Seventh Year.—No. 26.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1961

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Twenty-Eight Pages—Seven Cents.



Mayor JOHN GOY dropped the first puck to officially open intermediate hockey in Acton arena this year. He is pictured prior to the start of the Elora-Acton game Friday evening as centres "Beaver" Baxter of Acton and Carl Schaefer from Elora wait the drop of the puck. Elora defeated Acton 3-1 with Acton's flashy centre man pictured above scoring the lone counter.

### Post Office Rush Now On

The rush is on but the regular and four casual post office employees are coping with the Christmas mail and by Saturday evening will have sorted an expected 130,000 pieces of Christmas mail.

Postmaster Gordon McKeown reported on Wednesday that mailing didn't begin as early as last year. Christmas cards began pouring in Friday this year and usually the rush begins four days earlier. In spite of the late rush the Post Office staff didn't "press the panic button" and kept abreast of the mail.

**130 Bags A Day**

Mr. McKeown reported that approximately 130 bags of mail are received and shipped daily since the start of the rush and by Wednesday evening 118,000 two-cent stamps had been sold. Since the start of the Christmas mailing an extra truck has been transporting mail from Toronto to Acton and return.

Employees are on duty almost around the clock with the exception of the hours between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. at night.

## Takes Two Minutes to Switch to Dial Last Eight Operators, Officials Watch

In less than two minutes, Acton subscribers had their telephones converted to dial. At 2 a.m. Sunday morning, the old manual system was discontinued and the new dial system put into operation.

The conversion was preceded by excitement and activity at both the old office on Main Street and the new dial exchange building at the corner of Church and Elgin Streets. On hand to witness the conversion from the battery system to dial were the last eight operators and officials from the Bell Telephone Company and Northern Electric Company.

Until "D" hour arrived, chief operator, Mrs. Margaret Ford and night operator Mrs. Mervin Harness remained on duty at the old switchboard to place calls. Other operators present to witness the historic event at the old office were Mrs. Beatrice Chew, Mrs. E. P. Miller, Mrs. Phil McCristall, Mrs. J. P. Skippen, Miss Sylvia Mages and Mrs. Martha Turkosz. With them were the caretaker for over 10 years, Will

McEachern and Mrs. McEachern. He's now caretaker of the new building.

**Thousands of Calls**

Jack Bendig, Bell Telephone installer-repairman, when the signal was given, ripped out thousands of heat coils (fuses protecting the subscriber's line from high voltage) at the old office. Meanwhile, Northern Electric engineers, stationed at the dial exchange on Church Street, pulled cords which were attached to small plugs preventing the dial switches from operating.

The conversion to dial was made 87 years following the invention of the telephone and 77 years after the installation of the first switchboard in Acton. The cutover marked months of planning and installation of a maze of wires and equipment and testing routines carried out by Northern Electric engineers.

On hand to see the conversion was a former Actonite, Chas. Wood, who is division manager for the Northern Electric Co. Clare S. Keith, district manager for the Bell Telephone, witnessed the changeover at the Main Street office.

Teams of engineers and workmen from both the Bell Telephone Co. and Northern Electric Co. were present to make certain everything went smoothly.

Soon after the conversion took place, dial equipment in the new office was working frequently as subscribers placed their first calls in spite of the early hour.



OPERATION DIAL went into effect at 2 a.m. Sunday morning and one of the Northern Electric servicemen is pictured above as he pulled the cords to throw the dial system into effect. Many dignitaries from Northern Electric and the Bell Telephone Company were present to see the switchover. At the moment new equipment in the dial building was put into service the old system at the former Bell Telephone building was discontinued.

## Celebrate Dial Arrival At Pre-Conversion Party

Verbal bouquets in appreciation of the service extended by the Bell Telephone Company were expressed by dignitaries among 50 guests attending a pre-conversion buffet dinner hosted by district manager Clare S. Keith, Thursday evening, December 14, in the Legion auditorium.

Voicing praise for the Bell service first instituted in this area 77 years ago were Stan Hall, M.P.P. for Halton, Mayor John Goy of Acton, Reeve Cam Sinclair of Easington Township and Reeve Jack Milne of Nassagaweya Township.

**Buffet Dinner**

The informal get-together, arranged to celebrate the official conversion of the Bell telephone system in Acton to dial on Sunday, December 17, included a buffet style dinner served by the Acton Legion Ladies' Auxiliary and was enjoyed by Acton and district civic and press representatives.

Prior to the dinner, guests had an opportunity of chatting with host C. S. Keith and other Bell officials and workers responsible for the modernization of the Bell system.

During an informal speech, the manager mentioned the installation of the first switchboard in Acton in 1884 in J. E. McGavin's drug store. This event took place 10 years after the invention of the telephone and

four years prior to the Bell Telephone Company being incorporated.

**First Call**

Mr. Keith noted that Mayor Goy had made the first official dial call that afternoon during an assembly at Acton and District High School (when a special set-up of equipment had made this possible) and pointed out the mayor had addressed the students. At the same time he was delivering the address, the mayor's speech was heard through out the Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett Public School by means of tape recordings made previously.

"This informal gathering is coupled with the events of the afternoon to recognize an important step of progress in the life of the town of Acton and the entire exchange," said the Bell manager. "Early Sunday morning, Acton will join the great network of dial communication on the North American continent and enjoy an interchange of service with Georgetown and Rockwood without any long distance charges."

**Best Service and Value**

In conclusion the host remarked, "I would like to think that with the dial conversion Sunday, this sums up the all out effort by the company, through its employees, to give Acton and district the best possible service and value. We trust it will serve you well and give every customer satisfaction. We hope that Acton and its people will continue to prosper in the future as they have done in the past."

Bell officials present at the dinner included Mr. Keith; Fred Reid, traffic superintendent; Kitchener; Art Langhorn, supervising engineer; Kitchener; Hugh Waldorf, supervising installation foreman; Guelph; William Higgins, plant wire chief; Guelph; Jack Ferris, Joseph Pultford and Ron Watson, traffic managers; Guelph; Jim Tavan, public relations officer; and chief operator Mrs. Margaret Ford of the local office.

**Municipal Guests**

Easington and Nassagaweya Townships were represented by their Reeves, Cam Sinclair and Jack Milne. Members of Acton council present were Mayor John Goy, Reeve Jack Hargrave, Deputy Reeve H. H. Hinton, Councillors William Denik, Les Duly and Frank Toth and clerk-admistrator Jack McGeachie. Commissioners E. G. Tyler Sr. and G. W. McCutcheon were present from Acton Hydro Electric Commission and press representatives included Bob Hamill, Joe Collings and Miss Esther Taylor from the Guelph Mercury and David Dills and Don Rydler from the Acton Free Press.

### Damage \$850 Trucks Collide

Damage was estimated around \$850 when a bread truck, driven by Peter Aikuz, Guelph, and a fruit truck, driven by Raymond Spence, Hamilton, were in collision at the corner of Lakeview Ave. and No. 7 Highway Monday afternoon.

Corporal Ray Mason of the Acton O.P.P. Detachment investigated and reported the bread truck proceeding west on No. 7 highway was attempting a left hand turn onto Lakeview Ave. at the same time the fruit truck was attempting to pass.

The corporal reported the bread truck was sidestepped and received damage estimated around \$700 while the other vehicle ended up in the south ditch and received an approximate \$150 damage. Neither driver was injured.

### Fast Talker Nets \$850 Bilks Acton Resident

An Acton man is poorer by \$850 as the result of a fast, smooth talking stranger, who promised to recover \$1,700, the amount paid for aluminum storm windows.

The stranger arrived at the local man's door and enquired if the resident was satisfied with the installation of the new aluminum windows recently installed. When told by the Acton man he had paid \$1,700 for the windows and believed he had paid too much, the stranger stated he had been taken in by the same company.

During the conversation, the stranger stated he had engaged a lawyer to investigate and promised the local man restitution of the full amount of \$1,700 upon payment of the \$850.

**Demand Cash**

When offered a cheque for this amount the stranger refused it on the pretence it would have to be changed against his own personal income tax and as it was a favor to the local man, cash would be necessary.

Leaving the stranger at his home the local man walked to the bank, withdrew the \$850 and handed it to the stranger. The Acton resident was assured that payment of the \$850 would be made to the company who installed the windows and a certified cheque for the full amount of \$1,700 would be returned to him.

The local man had been informed he had paid half as much for the original installation of the windows and restitution would be made.

**Notifies Police**

Police were notified after the resident realized he had not received a receipt and began to wonder if he had been gyped. Police are investigating in hopes

### Lions Dance

The Lions club dance in the Legion Friday evening was again well attended. The club chaperones were Bert Halladay, Morley Allen, Sidney K. Lamb, Alec Johnson, Hartley Coles and Jack Doberty.

### Beardmore Party

## Santa Claus Gives Out 375 Parcels After Variety Show on Wednesday

Santa Claus handed out 375 parcels to children and greeted a crowded auditorium at the Robert Little public school Wednesday afternoon when he made his annual visit for the Beardmore and Company party.

Never since did Santa tire of seeing children swarm on stage to say "Ahe!" and receive a parcel wrapped in attractive Christmas paper. His assistants included Beardmore officials and names were called out by plant manager R. R. Parker.

Prior to Santa's arrival 35 children and half as many parents enjoyed a variety program staged by professional talent from Toronto. One of the highlights of the program was "Susie", a trained chimpanzee who performed various tricks with her trainer Beverly. The almost human chimp drew a hearty applause from both children and parents.

"Marcell and Janice" a man and wife team of jugglers and unicycle riders performed breath taking acts as they whirled around and around the stage on the single-wheeled vehicle.

A man and wife team named "The Cottontails" performed many magic acts and sleight-of-hand tricks much to the pleasure of their interested audience.

Last to appear on the stage was the "Pied Piper", a musician who played the accordion. Prior to Santa's arrival the musician led the audience in a carol singing.

R. R. Parker acted as master

## Find Definite Rabies; Warn of Dead Animals

Definite cases of rabies have been found in northern Halton County and in neighboring areas of Peel County. Police and health officials are issuing warning to district residents.

To date known cases are these: A fox was seen snapping at the tires of passing cars between Noyah and Georgetown.

A steer owned by Bert Bennett of Limehouse was found rabid, believed bitten by a wild animal while in pasture.

A rabid dog was shot near Stewarttown last week.

An Inglewood family of five taking painful rabies, died following the death of their pet dog. One fox ran right up Inglewood's main street, and a man shot one in his barn.

An R.R. 2 Caledon man shot his beagle pup after it was attacked by a fox in the middle of the

of ceremonies for the entertainment and introduced the various acts. Beardmore employees assisted in keeping Santa supplied with parcels and lining up the children to march on the stage for their presents.

He failed to shoot the fox.

Dogs owned by two R.R. 3 Caledon men were destroyed after they came in contact with a fox which health officials confirmed as rabid.

Alerted officials, posting the disease is prevalent among foxes, coons, skunks and even pigeons and farm animals, issue the following warning:

Pets should be inoculated against the disease yearly, especially hunting dogs which could come into contact with wild disease carriers easier than home pets.

Dead animals should not be touched, as the fur can carry the disease.

Children should be instructed to keep away from animals, and to stay away from household pets if they act peculiarly.

## Award Liquor Store Contract

R. Kramer Construction Company, Georgetown, has been awarded the contract to build a \$50,000 liquor store in Acton. The building will be erected on a portion of three lots on Queen Street east, just east of Grants Motors.

The completion and opening of the new store was originally scheduled for October of this year but an application to the planning board for rezoning the property in question delayed these plans.

Originally the property owned by J. Stewart was under option to Tasty Freeze for a soft ice cream outlet and at that time a portion of the property was rezoned from residential to commercial. When plans for the Tasty Freeze failed to materialize, the property was sold to W. J. Beatty, who in turn resold it to



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS were given the opportunity last Friday afternoon of seeing Mayor John H. Goy make the first official call to Bell district manager Clare S. Keith. Following the call Mr. Goy addressed the students. Pupils in the Robert Little and M.L. morning. Special arrangements were made in the system to allow Z. Bennett public schools were able to hear the speech by means of a pre-recorded message.