

# Keates Organ Company Largest in Province, Ships 75th Unit This Week

Faced with the realization of having to return to "Clivie Street" after serving a five-year stint with the Air Force, a young sergeant-instructor decided to go into his own business. In 1945, a three-man operation began manufacturing pipe organs at London. Today, Bert Keates, owner of Keates Pipe Organ Company located in Acton, employs 17 skilled craftsmen and heads the largest pipe organ company in Ontario.

Pipe organs are not sold like hotcakes, but nevertheless, Keates Organ Company have sufficient orders to keep them going steady until late 1963. This month, the

third pipe organ manufactured in Acton since the company established here less than a year ago, will be shipped out. This is also the 75th organ made by the Keates company since it began operation in 1945.

**Superior Workmanship**  
Sitting in church listening to the organist play the organ, one has little conception of the work and detail that goes into making an organ. At Keates only superior workmanship and the best of materials are used. From the time production begins until the organ is ready for shipment three months have elapsed.

Anyone in the market for a pipe

organ can purchase one quite easily. Keates make them in price ranges from \$7,000 to \$50,000. The average organ made by Keates and sold in Ontario is in the \$25,000 price range.

**Pipes From Europe**  
The Keates company, located in a 10,000 square foot area of the former Wool Combing building, does everything but manufacture the pipes. Even some of these are made at the Acton plant. Generally, most of the pipes made from alloy (tin and lead) are imported from Europe and before they can be used are "voiced" here by an expert. Some of the pipes used are made of

wood, depending on the type of tone desired.  
Like a tailor, the Keates craftsmen provide a "made to measure" organ for every church. Either from blueprints of the church or by careful measurements taken by Keates, workmen design for an organ are the first step in the manufacture of a pipe organ. From the time an order is received until the finished product has been packed and shipped, Keates plant is a beehive of industry. Every worker knows his job and does it. Consoles are built from raw lumber to highly polished mahogany, white oak, redwood or yellow poplar. Thou-

sands of pipes are voiced, checked and re-checked, minute wires are soldered, checked and tested, as men and machinery operate at a steady pace.  
**Wall of Pipes**  
Pipes ranging in size from three inches to 16 feet in height must be properly tuned or "voiced" as experts say. This chore rests on the shoulders of a young German immigrant, Dieter Geissler, who has been with the company five years. Mr. Geissler is right at home in the voicing room and to the ordinary laymen, hearing the pipes being voiced is like listening to the wail of the bagpipes being tuned by a beginner. The

German expert began his trade when 14 and came from a family with a musical background as his grandfather and great-grandfather were both quite musical. This week a massive pipe organ is set up in one section of the plant and as soon as repeated tests and checks are completed it will be dismantled, carefully packed and shipped out to St. James' Anglican church, Dundas, Ontario. The other two produced in the Acton plant went to St. Luke's Anglican church, Peterborough, and All Saints' Anglican church, King City.

Scheduled as the next job and partially started is another organ

slated for St. John's Presbyterian church, Toronto.

When an organ arrives at its destination, four experts are on hand ready to assemble the component parts under the supervision of Mr. Geissler, who remains after the installation to make final checks and voicing. All this takes three weeks.

**Organist Salesmen**  
Sales in the organ business are not as rapid as a used car business but two salesmen employed by the Acton company keep quite busy. Both are excellent organists and find their musical ability an asset in closing a deal.

Mr. Keates, who first began in London and then moved to Lucan, Ontario, in 1950 and then to Acton last year, is confident his company has finally settled in a more central location, in a building of adequate size with allowances for further expansion.

The former sergeant-instructor from the Air Force, accustomed to barking orders to new recruits 22 years ago, today quietly moves about his plant, selecting individual components for a massive organ and making certain everything is in top-notch shape.

(See Additional Pictures on Page 6)

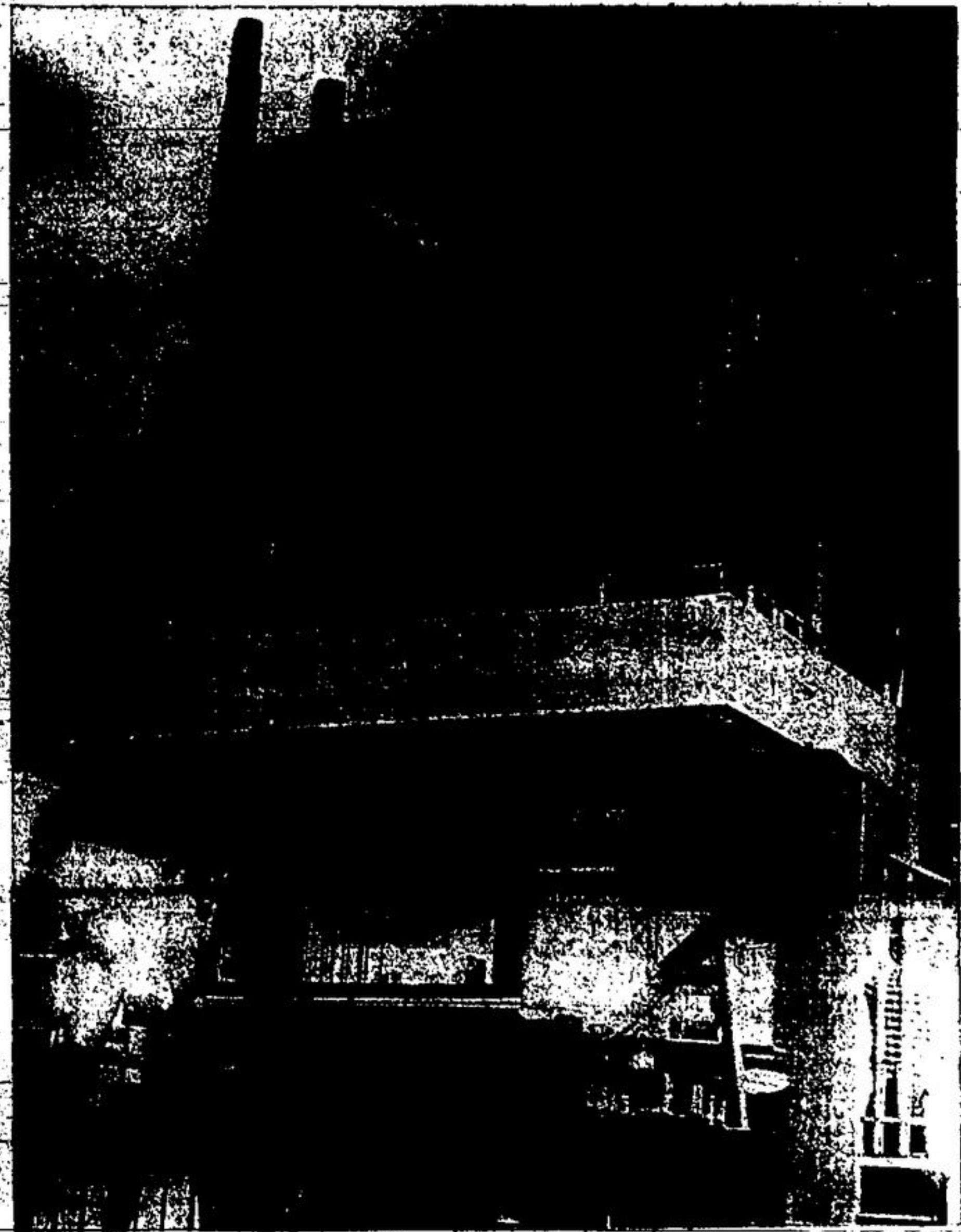
## The Acton Free Press.

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PIPE ORGAN number 75 manufactured by the Keates Organ Company Ltd. is pictured above as workmen assemble the unit for final tests. The organ is scheduled for shipment to St. James' Anglican church, Dundas. Pictured adjusting pipes is Dieter Geissler, expert tuner and craftsman. The Keates company has been located in Acton less than a year and have produced their third organ since their arrival.

### Long Range Planning Evident As Board Reviews Town Plan

Planning Board members met Wednesday evening with an eye to the future, as they set their sights on long range planning in the hope of acquiring more industrial land, relieving congested parking areas and improving the present commercial business section.

During the two and a half hour meeting, members reviewed a submission from planning consultant P. Alan Deacon and studied his recommendation closely. Mr. Deacon had been asked by last year's board to prepare a planning outline for the town and members were given copies at the last meeting for their perusal.

Aldo Braida recommended that council be asked to consider taking an option on a piece of property presently zoned industrial which could be used for future industrial developments. After a lengthy discussion, a resolution to this effect was approved, with board member Bert Hinton, opposing.

During the study of the consultant's recommendation, the members discussed a suggested change in zoning on properties bordering on Main Street South from Mill Street to the corner of Church Street, to allow a possible commercial expansion. Also discussed was a proposed change in zoning on properties on Church Street West from Main Street which is presently zoned commercial.

Also reviewed during the evening were areas on Young Street bordering on the C.N.R. tracks, Main Street South at the southern limits to the town.

Board members agreed to make application for an amendment to the official plan to change zoning on the property east of Bill Toth's Shell service station to Churchill Road. Presently, this area is zoned C-2 and the board recommend it be changed to C-1. A public meeting of all ratepayers living in this area within a 200 foot radius will be held during the next meeting on March 7.

### Pipe Band Drops "Junior" Bob Foyers New President

A new committee was named at the annual meeting of the pipe band which now has a new name — Sunday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A. The group is no longer Acton Junior Pipe Band but simply Acton Pipe Band. Members may now stay in the band when they reach the age of 20. A former by-law limited age of band members.

Replacing Phil Caddick as president is Bob Foyers, who is also band manager. Pipe Major Caddick no longer teaches in town.

Honorary president is again Fred Wright; vice - president, George Holmes; secretary, Joyce Rennie; treasurer, David Peal; committee members, Bert Rennie, Mrs. Herb Cook, Jack McGeachie, Bill Wilson and Ham Peal.

**Five Years Treasurer**  
Mr. Foyers chaired the business meeting when the minutes of the last annual meeting were read by Miss Rennie and the treasurer's report given by Mr. Foyers. The band is financially

sound, he explained. Mr. Foyers has been treasurer for the past five years.

### Judge George Elliott Hears Three Appeals

Judgments were handed down in two of three cases of assessment appeals heard Wednesday by Judge George Elliott in Acton. Out of the total of 21 appeals listed, only three were heard and the balance will be dealt with February 21-22.

Force Electric received a total building and business assessment while Blow Press received a reduction amounting to \$12,800, building and business assessment reduction of \$9,000. The third appeal from Sid Eisen reached no decision until further evidence is heard during the next sitting.

—Temperatures dipped well below zero several nights this week, but Monday was mild and much of the snow melted away.

### Study 26 Tenders Tuesday For Reservoir, New Mains

Tenders called by the Ontario Water Resources Commission for the construction of a water reservoir and supply mains for the town of Acton were opened Tuesday afternoon in Toronto by the O.W.R.C. Tenders were called in two parts — one for the construction of the reservoir and one for the supply mains.

Stipulations of the tender for the reservoir called for the supplying of materials for and the supplying of two 500,000 imperial gallon circular concrete reservoirs complete with valve house, necessary piping, valves and control equipment.

Tenders for the installation of supply mains called for approximately 8,000 lineal feet of 12-inch diameter watermain and 250 lineal feet of 8-inch diameter watermain, complete with valves and other equipment.

Present during the opening of the tenders Tuesday were Mayor John H. Goy, councillor J. Bert Wood and clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie.

When the contract is finally let, construction on this phase of the program will not begin until April 1.

The following is a list of the contractors who bid on the reservoir, indicating the amount submitted and the time limit stated for completion of the project.

Matthews Co. Ltd., \$148,092, 26 weeks; Jas. Kemp Co. Ltd., Hamilton, \$98,676 — 25 weeks; Canadian Granite Co. Ltd., Quebec, \$121,272 — 16 weeks; Dunlop Construction, Toronto, \$109,879 — 24 weeks; J. L. Pearce Construction Co. Ltd., Hagersville, \$116,832.07 — 26 weeks; R. Grass Construction Co. Ltd., Thornhill, \$138,217 — 26 weeks; Trosky Construction Co. Ltd., Galt, \$117,714 — 25 weeks; Dundas Construction, Toronto, \$119,870 — 12

weeks; Carver, Bales Construction Ltd., Guelph, \$111,538.50 — 20 weeks; Tru-Line Construction Co., Scarborough, \$108,290.50 — 18 weeks; Morgan-Gothage Construction Ltd., Burlington, \$103,378.75 — 18 weeks; Schwinger Construction, Burlington, \$115,294 — 26 weeks.

### Hour's Battle At Rural Fire

Acton firefighters' Monday night meeting was disrupted when an alarm was sounded at the hall to report a chimney blaze at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. William Frank, Nassagaweya.

After an icy drive over country roads, firemen arrived to see flames belching high over the steel roof of the house and sparks endangering nearby buildings.

A ladder was extended high over the roof and firemen equipped with fire extinguisher and a fog nozzle from the booster line climbed up to begin over an hour's battle with the stubborn blaze. Chains suspended on ropes were dropped down the chimney time and time again before the plugged chimney could be cleared. During the chain swinging episode two ropes were burned through before the job was completed.

Deputy Fire Chief Bill Williams received an injury to his arm when the cement cap on the chimney fell from the roof and struck him a heavy blow. Fortunately no bones were broken and deputy-chief Williams was able to remain and direct the firefighters.

Before returning home the weary and cold firemen were treated to hot coffee, sandwiches and pie by Mr. and Mrs. Frank.

When the tender for the supply mains is finally let, construction is expected to begin immediately. Companies tendering on this phase of the work were asked to quote on two types of pipe, cast iron and concrete-asbestos. The following is a list of companies tendering for the supply mains with the amount for cast iron pipe listed first and concrete-asbestos listed second as well as the expected time the job will be completed: Tripp Construction, Port Perry, \$80,173.50, \$71,243 — 10 weeks; Halton Paving, Oakville, \$73,448.75, \$69,446.25 — eight weeks; E. E. Siegmüller, Kitchener, \$96,671, \$91,148.50 — 16 weeks; McCoy Construction, Hamilton, \$66,486.50, \$56,430.30 — 10 weeks; Dundas Construction, Toronto, \$77,131, \$67,822.25 — eight weeks; Carver, Bales, Guelph, \$100,134.25, \$88,995.50 — 20 weeks; James Holiday, Oakville, \$65,024.85, \$60,139.35 — six weeks; Hagerty Construction, Ingersoll, \$70,781.90, \$60,452.10 — 12 weeks; Cornell Construction, Brantford, \$82,241.70, \$75,167 — 16 weeks; Matthews Construction, London, \$96,048, \$84,601 — 18 weeks.

Tenders have been turned over to R. V. Anderson, consulting engineers for the town, who will check out all specifications. The engineers will report to council Feb. 20 with their recommendations after which council is expected to decide which tender to accept as well as material for use in the supply mains.

### Board Studies Exam Summary Learns Science Average Good

High school board trustees Monday evening learned during a study of a summary of the Christmas examinations that grade nine students with a pass rate in science of 58.3 per cent were higher than the provincial average rated at 53 per cent.

Principal E. A. Hansen informed the board that according to Murray Laing, co-author of the grade nine science text, that both teachers and students are experiencing great difficulty in adjusting

to the new science program. During the study of the December examinations, board members learned that in grade nine out of 1435 examinations written, students received 935 passes; in grade 10 students wrote a total of 916 exams and were successful in passing 704; grade 11 students wrote 512 exams and were successful in passing 363; grade 12 students wrote 309 exams and passed 226 while grade 13 students wrote a total of 185 examinations and were successful in passing 134.

Following review of examinations, chairman E. S. Force told the board he was not too inspired with the English results and suggested perhaps additional reading and book reviews might be one way of overcoming the problem.

Teacher Michael Bevan was appointed vice-principal and will assume this position immediately.

Principal Hansen informed the board that inspector B. Johnson had indicated that Mr. Bevan could act in the capacity of acting vice-principal until such time as he completed two summer courses to become qualified.

**Contact Grade 8**  
The principal outlined his plans to contact parents of all-grade eight students in the district in order to acquaint them with the school program. He was authorized to contact public school principals in the district to ask their help in arranging a suitable time for parents to assemble.

The property committee was instructed to review a proposed list of equipment required for classes in the old stone school.

**Silent Observers**  
Going into the game with a 179 average, the young bowler was not considered a contender for the honors but after she threw six straight strikes, all other players stopped and silent

is gathered around to watch as she steadied herself to complete the perfect game.

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### Housewife Rolls Perfect Game Bowls 12 Consecutive Strikes

Showing signs of nervous strain after bowling seven straight strikes, a 21-year-old Acton housewife and mother of one child, Mrs. Dennis Crooks, Church Street, came through like a veteran Monday evening and rolled a perfect game at Acton Bowling Lanes when she racked up a 450 score. She rolled 12 strikes in a row.

Bowling on the Beardsmore League for the "Primroses" the young bowler scored a 197 in her first game, rolled a perfect game in the second and dropped out with a 173 in the third to notch an 820 triple. A former Huntsville resident, Mrs. Crooks has only been bowling in the league for the past four weeks and prior to that bowled a portion of the 1959 season in Huntsville.

**First Here**  
Mrs. Crooks is the first person in the history of the Acton Bowling Lanes to record a perfect game. Former owner and operator of the Lanes Ed Jennings reported Tuesday morning that no one had bowled a perfect game while he was in charge.

The only bowler coming close in Mr. Jennings' recollection were Jack Royston, former owner of the Dominion Hotel and Johnnie Turkosz, who were foiled in their efforts by a corner pin to spoil a perfect game.

lam broke loose as everyone began to shout and showered the bowler with congratulations.

**Money, Too**

For her achievement, Mrs. Crooks will receive a \$50 cheque from Ken and Ruth Hulford, proprietors of Acton Bowling Lanes as well as a bowling shirt. Both are standing offers from the proprietor for any taker. In view of past policies, Brunswick of Canada, suppliers of bowling equipment, will no doubt recognize the Acton bowler's achievement. Little doubt remains that Mrs. Crooks will also cup Ledgers I-GA groceries for the weekly high single and her perfect score as well as her weekly high triple of 820 will put her in line for Streetsville Cleaners' award.

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A PERFECT GAME was bowled Monday evening by Mrs. Dennis Crooks, Acton housewife, when she rolled 450. Mrs. Crooks proudly holds a five pin marked with 450 while she glances at the score sheet being checked over by league president Phil LeSueur. The 21-year-old married woman has only been bowling four weeks in the league. She will receive a cheque for \$50 and a bowling shirt from Acton Bowling Lane proprietors Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hulford.