

The Acton Free Press

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SHOWBOAT TIME was the theme for the Acton Lions Club float entered in the fair day parade. Members gaudily dressed as minstrels with their faces blackened won first prize. The float was advance publicity for the Minstrel Show scheduled for November. Many hours of work and planning went into preparing the high float with a paddle wheel at the rear turning constantly. All the time the minstrels were singing southern songs.

Record Crowd Hits 7,000, Perfect Weather for Fair

Just one year before its golden anniversary, Acton fair set the stage for its celebrations next September with a production Friday and Saturday that was successful in every way. On two brisk, sunny days crowds strolled among the exhibits and thronged the midway. Attendance estimate was up to 7,000, gate receipts were up from last year but still a little shy of record 1958 and 1959 figures.

There were 172 field and hall

exhibitors, and with the school children and 411 club entries, there must have been 250 vying for the highest prize money ever offered.

"Come to the Fair"
Saturday afternoon a lively parade drew people to the fair like a medieval Pied Piper. First came the Citizens' Band, scarlet coated, playing their gayest marches; then 12 floats, horses, marchers, convertibles and the perambulating decorated luggies, bikes and trikes.

Harvester Caught In Corn Cutter
Harold Ferguson, Nassagaweya custom harvester, was instantly killed Wednesday shortly before one o'clock in the afternoon when he was trapped in a corn cutting machine. He was harvesting at the time at the farm of Willard Britton, Acton.

Working alone in the field with the cutting machine at the time of the accident, the dead man is presumed to have attempted to free corn husks caught in the machine when his arm became caught in the mechanism, dragging his body into the cutters.

Belt Smoking

He was first found by Jim Morrison of Acton who was assisting in filling the silos. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Britton were working near the barn and had gone to the field to see how the last load before dinner was coming along. When Mr. Morrison saw the man trapped in the machine and smoke swirling from the drive belts, he immediately shut down the tractor operating the cutter.

Dr. W. G. C. Kenney was called to the scene and at once called corner Dr. George Syver, Milton and North Halton O.P.P. Detachment.

The machine operator had one arm torn off and a badly mangled head and face.

He was the son of Lindsay Ferguson, R.R. 2, Rockwood, and the late Mrs. Ferguson. His mother passed away August 27. Also surviving are brothers and sisters, Donald and Gordon, Richvale, Eugene and Mrs. Edward Maule (Marion) of Rockwood, Jack at home, Mrs. Pat O'Brien (Doreen) of Windsor and Mrs. Donald Bird (Grace) of Guelph. He was unmarried. His father and brother Jack were called to the scene of the fatal accident.

County Building Opens Nov. 17

Haltom's new \$1,225,000 Court House, Registry Office and Administration Building at Milton is to be officially opened on Saturday, November 17.

Tuesday county councillors agreed on the date. Following the official opening on the Saturday, the building will be open for public inspection on the Sunday, and school class tours are being planned for the following Monday.

Councillors hopes staffs will be using the building for at least a week prior to the opening.

Painting of County Building Memorial to Warden Wilf Bird

Reports of progress on the construction of the new county administration building occupied a big part of the committee reports at Tuesday's September meeting of Halton County Council.

As a memorial to the late Warden Wilf Bird, council has commissioned artist Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkes Hisey to make a painting of the present 1085-4-60 Court House, on Brown St., Milton, and the painting will be hung in the new building on the Base Line as a memorial to his memory.

Warden Bird served Esquimaux Township 15 years as a councillor and was chosen for the county's top seat in January, a post he held until his sudden death last month. Mrs. Hisey is also designing and making the drapes for the county building incorporating pictures of the former building and the county seal.

Hire Staff
Mrs. Dorothy Wright of Milton has been employed as switchboard operator for the new building, and Lloyd Young of Camp-

swamped with customers. While the children were delighted, fair officials were privately disappointed since more rides had been promised. But midway employees were upset, too. They explained the truck with the Ferris wheel had been in an accident during a storm coming from Windsor and the driver was in hospital. They telephoned Friday evening and again Saturday morning to obtain the rides specified in the contract but were unable to.

For the first time in years the band played a concert from its old spot, the bandstand at the park gates. It was recently repaired but there was a brief crisis involving how to get players and instruments up there. A staircase was hastily built Thursday.

Lions Win First
At one o'clock Saturday the parade came rolling down Mill St. behind the band.

Judges conferring on the Y steps were Colin Lettich, Glenn Banks and Keith Black, and after tallying impressions they awarded first prize of \$10 to the Lions' club for their startling and perilous-looking two-decker float "The Fairy Queen". The river boat with music and minstrels was publicizing their Minstrel Show in November. Pulled by a tractor

driven by Ray Arbie, the float concluded with a monster paddle wheel constantly turning at the back.

Second prize float for \$8 was Acton 4-H club's with two calves in playpens and sheaves of grain. In third place came the costumed members of Dublin W.I. who received \$6 Honorable mention went to the Scout and Guide Mothers' float seeking leaders.

Lionettes on Fire Truck
The Bannockburn and Ospringe W.I. also entered gay floats. The Y.M.C.A. had one stressing physical fitness. Girls wearing purple and gold Lions club colors made the fire engine even brighter than usual; they were tossing candies. Benson's shoe store showed a giant shoe and Masales Dairy had a model wagon and team.

Cubs and their leaders marched, an easier way to travel was taken by several horses entered by Mrs. John Lightle. Another rider in the parade was Leslie Harding who rode a horse owned by Bruno Scattizzi of Stylve Acres Ranch.

The ladies of the fair board displayed their draw prizes on a long wagon with Mrs. R. L. Davidson at the wheel of the tractor. All sported their new turquoise smocks.

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Council Sets Sights on Post Office For Future New Municipal Building

"The facilities of the town office are now overcrowded" remarked Deputy Reeve Bill Denny as he polled councillors' opinions on the purchase of the old post office as a municipal building.

Reeve Hargrave said, "We advised them a year and a half ago we were interested and I think we should advise them now if we are still interested in the building."

Clerk McGeachie reported, "We have a space problem now." The Mayor explained the building would go to Crown Assets Corporation for disposal and the town would have the opportunity to meet the highest bid.

opinion. "These buildings are a drug on the market. The Bracebridge post office sat idle for three years before anyone took it over."

A motion was presented and passed indicating the town's interest in purchasing the building.

Program Moves into High Gear As Recreation Director Arrives

A full time recreation program for Acton began to move into high gear this week when the newly engaged recreation director, Jim Casburn, arrived in town to begin his duties.

First job for the new director and Parks Board (who are handling the reins pending appointment of a recreation committee) was to designate an office as the new man's headquarters. With winter peering around the corner, what better place could be found than the Community Centre?

The main office has been cleaned, a couple of desks acquired and other items necessary to operate a recreation office are being added. Mr. Casburn is anxious to get started on a winter program and has already checked over hockey, skating and curling schedules from last year in order to get acquainted with the demand for ice time.

Arena Face Lifting
Boards around the arena ice surface have received a facelift and will be painted white

to begin his duties.

Wednesday evening three board members and the Recreation Director held a buzz session which included a tour of the arena. Former reserved seat section on the south side will be painted red and players' benches, penalty and press box will be a matching color. The balance of the seating area will be grey.

Applications are being accepted for a reliable man to assist the director with work duties at the Community Centre, and plans are being made to design a recreation program to include both children and adults. Anyone interested in the formation of a Skating Club can contact the Recreation Director Jim Casburn by phoning 853-0015. He is expected to be installed next month. Cold weather is on the way and soon Acton Community Centre will be a buzzing beehive of activity.

Assessment chairman Jack Hargrave reported, "Things are going along very nicely. They will be finished by the end of the month." (Continued on Page Two)



INDUCTION SERVICE for the Rev. Stanley Gammon was held Tuesday evening in Acton Baptist church. Officiating for the service was the Rev. Charles Tarry, Galt, moderator of the Guelph Association of Baptist churches. Pictured above front row, left to right are George Harrap, moderator of Acton, Mrs. Gammon, back row Mr. Tarry and church deacon Lyle McCutcheon.

Three Generations Show Horses Robert Kerr Began Back in '06

The oldest consistent exhibitor at Acton Fair was spy Robert Kerr, 88 this October, who had two of his high stepping carriage horses entered. Mr. Kerr first showed horses at Guelph in 1906, went to the popular 24th of May fair, annually in Hillsburgh, entered the extinct Esquimaux fair, and has been to almost all of Acton's 49 fairs.

Robert Kerr and son, Sunny Slope Farm, is a well known name on entry lists all over the county. After Acton Fair Saturday they took in Mount Forest on Tuesday (most of the horses classes were rained out) and Aberfoyle on Wednesday.

Mr. Kerr's only son, Archie, exhibited at his first fair when he was 11. He won first prize at Rockwood over 40 years ago.

There's a third generation showing now. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr's two daughters, Betty Ann (Mrs. J. L. who lives in Arizona) and Marie (Mrs. Donald Anderson, who lives at the farm) and their son Bob have all driven horses in competition. They started riding as little tots and rode ponies to school. Next to come is red-headed Donald Anderson, the fourth generation at the fair. He is just nearing a year old but already rides on ponies with the unconcerned air of an expert with a little help, of course!

When Mr. Kerr first went to his first show, at Guelph in 1906, it rained and he had to sleep there all night in the box. He recalls with a laugh hiding his money in his boot for fear of thieves.

They started showing at the Royal Winter Fair in its third year, and have only missed a few years. Hard work there is offset by the pleasure of talking to others from all over the country interested in raising and training horses.

The light and graceful carriages that ride behind the little horses are expensive. The Kerrs have

even made one themselves. As well as carriage horses the Kerrs raise general purpose and saddle horses, and ponies. They are widely shown and sold. And where do they go? Some go high in horse hierarchy — they're used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Others get less romantic jobs such as pulling bread wagons. Some have been sold to the States to pull old Tally-Ho wagons in historic ceremonies.

There are more awards in their comfortable homes than anyone has ever tried to count. There are engraved cups, trophies, silver plates and trays, tea services, ribbons and medals. For a string of years they received an unusual engraved and mounted gold piece which stands on their mantel.

Horses must be fed, trained and exercised properly to keep them in best condition.

Actually, Archie Kerr is the only one who can do up the manes for show. It's an "art" in itself. His strong fingers can lace the bright green braided wool into the manes expertly and no one else at the fair can do it. His time is about an hour per mane; there's plenty of work before every fair.

But it's obvious the tradition of raising and showing fine horses will continue at Kerr's.



FOUR GENERATIONS are shown with "Golden Lady Arrow", a carriage horse which is taking prizes at fairs this year. The Kerr family, R.R. 2, Acton, are well-known at fairs and shows. Shown left to right are Archie Kerr, his daughter Marie Anderson, grandson Donald Robert Anderson, son Bob Jr., and father Robert Kerr. Mr. Kerr Sr. has been showing horses and winning prizes since 1906 and will be 88 next month. He drove at Acton Fair Saturday, was at Mount Forest Tuesday, and Aberfoyle Wednesday.