

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL HANLEY

20 YEARS AGO 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Nov. 5, 1942.

In spite of bad weather, Acton Fair will pay prize money in full and meet obligations, it was revealed when directors met last Thursday. Although a surplus will not be likely, the fair will not need to touch the Victory Loan investment made last year, to clear the books this year.

The Parents' Night feature, which proved so popular last year, will again be observed in Acton school Tuesday evening. Pupils will be at their desks and parents and friends are invited to visit and witness an ordinary day in school life.

Acton stands third in count rating at the end of the first 12 days of the Third Victory Loan Campaign. \$30,000 is needed to complete the objective and officials are confident this figure will be met.

Splendid congregations enjoyed the 18th anniversary services of Acton United Church on Sunday and a return to the pulpit of Rev. C. L. and Mrs. Poole in the charge they served so loyally and capably.

Remember that next Tuesday is the deadline for mailing parcels to the boys overseas for Christmas — and they will cheer them away from home.

Pupils of Acton Public School put on a two-way drive last week to collect scrap metal. As a result a pile that weighed 2,540 pounds was rounded up and brought returns of \$17.70. This is the second successful salvage drive the pupils have conducted. In the other drive, rubber was salvaged. It goes to show the children can make a real contribution to the war effort.

Sidney Fields has joined the Queen's Own Rifles and is stationed at Stanley Barracks, Toronto.

In keeping with the trend to curtail mid-week observances of days, Remembrance Day services will be held on Sunday morning next. After the parade the memorial service will be held in the United Church.

Winners of the Limerick contest in connection with the Victory Loan drive are Evelyn Braida, Ralph McKeown, Fred Crewson, Lorraine Pallant, for the high school and John Mickie, Gladys Hyvstad, Ronald Salt, Norman Dredge and Elwin Kentner from Acton public and Esquew schools.

The Acton and District Community Sale was a grand success and raised considerable funds to carry on the work of the Acton and vicinity War Service League for some time. Miss Emma Cole won a five pound roast of pork and Mrs. Neil McNab won a Christmas cake.

Mrs. Harry Norton and David have arrived in Villavieco, Columbia, South America. (The Nortons and their daughter are now in Bengali, Libya, with David working in Toronto.)

Aircraftman Tom Watson is home on furlough from Newfoundland.

A splendid Remembrance Day window has been arranged in the Johnstone and Rumley store and Elliott Bros. have a fine window devoted to the Victory Loan.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 31, 1912.

The tender of Mr. Nelson Lambert, Acton, as mail carrier for the new rural delivery No. 2 from Acton has been accepted by the Post Office Department. The salary will be \$640 per annum. The new rural boxes are here and the work on the route will commence as soon as the boxes have been placed by the persons on the line of the route.

Early on Thanksgiving morning "Sceptle Jack" Murphy of Montreal commenced the work of repairing and painting the cross on the spire of St. Joseph's Church. He is an experienced man in this perilous work and ascends to the most lofty positions with ease and clear-headedness. He is head of his firm and has personally repaired and painted over 300 church steeples in Canada, the United States and Australia.

The holdup of the construction work on the Canadian Northern Electric Railway is likely to be terminated in a few days. The objections of the G.T.R. to the new road crossing the Beardmore sidings will be heard before the Railway Commission this week. In the meantime, a new line has been run by the engineers south of the tannery, crossing Main St. in front of Mrs. D. McDonald's, running through Matthews' garden and along the side of Mount Campbell to the mill. This will be the passenger route if the G.T.R. succeeds in its contention. The station will be near the mill and the first route surveyed will be utilized as a spur to run into the tanneries.

Every shotgun in town must have been in requisition on Monday. The firing of the rimfires in all the woods in the neighborhood was as incessant as during the sham fight of the 3,000 soldiers at Milton.

Dr. James L. Hughes, chief inspector of the public school system of Toronto, ridiculed the idea of homework at the meeting of the East Huron Teachers' Association and would drive it from the whole school system. He is emphatic, moreover, in his denunciation of the entrance examination. Dwelling at some length on the possibilities of the child, he declared that it was not knowledge that made the man, but rather the powers that lay latent in him. The whole aim of teaching, he said, was to kindle the powers in question and discover the bent of the child's nature.

The military manoeuvres at Milton and vicinity had a disastrous termination. One of the troop trains crowded with soldiers returning to Toronto had a head-on collision with the C.P.R. Chicago flyer at Streetsville at six o'clock. Two Toronto men were killed and 31 injured. Cause of the accident has not been determined.

It is curious that Halloween, the eve of All Saints' Day, should have ever come to be observed with wild sky-larking, buffoonery and masquerade. Its observance should cease to be so grotesquely at odds with the character of the day from which it derives its name.

Remembrance Day is in the offing. It seems as good a time as any to mention a couple of books that deal with World War I, that vast, brutal, bloody conflict which was to end war forever (ironic laughter in the wings from the Kaiser, Hitler, and Joe Stalin).

The Guns of August, by Barbara Tuchman, is a fascinating account of the incredible events of the first month of the Kaiser's War. Old sweats and history buffs will read it with deep interest.

That war is almost ancient history to the youngsters of today. Their grandfathers fought in it. When I was a kid, it was very recent, very real. Most of my numerous uncles had been privates in the Canadian Army. As a boy, I used to come across souvenirs in our attic: belts containing the inscription "Gott Mit Uns," a German spiked helmet; an Iron Cross, second class; a water canteen made in Munich.

This book reversed some of my ideas, confirmed others. Somewhere in my reading over the years, I had picked up the idea that the stories of German atrocities in Belgium were largely based on Allied propaganda and fanned by the hot winds of patriotism blowing in 1914.

Apparently I was wrong. Mrs. Tuchman, writing coolly and objectively almost 50 years later, quotes chapter and verse to reveal that the German high command deliberately pursued a policy of terror in an attempt to enjoy a quick victory.

The town of Andenne was burned to ashes and 110 persons shot, not by rioting, drunk-

en soldiers...but on the order of the commanding general. At Taminies, 384 civilians were shot. At Dinant, 612 men, women and children, 50 of them taken from church, as it was a Sunday, were cut down by machine guns. The campaign of murder, arson and pillage culminated in the sack of the ancient Belgian city of Louvain, where the university, with its world famous collection of books, was burned.

The Germans failed to learn then the lesson that terror breeds resistance faster than it quells it. Thirty years later, they were up to the same tricks, and with the same excuse — that the victims had brought it upon themselves by their stupid ingratitude and their stubborn opposition to German "law and order".

However, I was not wrong about another idea I've held for a long time — that most generals should be in straight jackets. This book merely confirms my opinion. Not that it needed much confirming, with General Walker egging on segregationists in the south, General Montgomery sounding off on world affairs, of which he apparently knows next to nothing, and various other old generals writing books in which they explain that they were right and all other generals were wrong.

A book like this one must be written from time to time, to blow away the smoke-screen thrown up by the charges and counter-charges of retired generals more concerned with their

place in history books than with the truth.

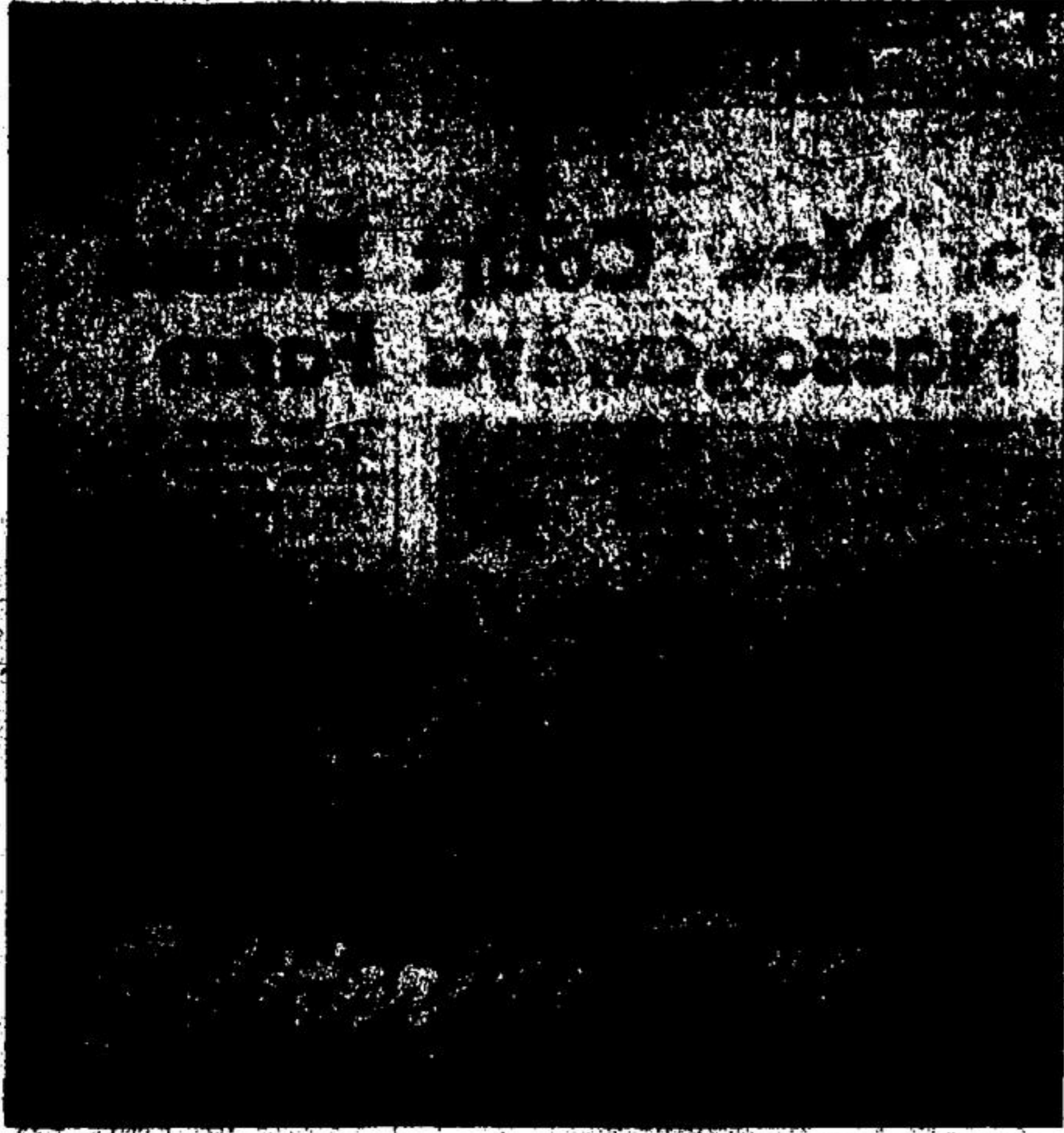
The Guns of August reveals ineptitude, stupidity, timorousness and viciousness in high places. But it also illuminates the flashes of the human spirit contained in such words as valor, honor and heroism, in such deeds as gallant Belgium's stand against the bully Germany, and the dash to the Marne, where the taxis of Paris carried straight to the front the men who turned the tide.

Early casualties foretold the sickening slaughter that was to follow. In the month of August, 1914, France lost almost 300,000 men. Later, some battles were to kill 50,000 in a day.

If this meat is too strong for you, try the other book on the same war. Called Three Cheers for Me, it is written by a Canadian, Donald Lamont Jack. It's corny in spots, but hilarious in others. The last chapter, describing the wedding night of the hero, a Canadian airman, is one of the funniest things I've ever read. (No, Mum, it isn't sexy.)

Perhaps The Guns of August will make you despair of mankind. Don't Read Three Cheers for Me and restore your faith in the theory that the human race is the only one worth being in.

Even if you have a hole in your running shoes.



—Photo by Esther Turley

Another View

North Development Important...

From the Burlington Gazette Mayor Anderson of Oakville has proposed that the planning staffs of Burlington, Oakville and Milton undertake a joint study of the tri-town area in Halton County to determine how closely knit are the needs, services and inter-relationships of the three largest municipalities in the county.

The terms of reference of the Hamilton area study could be used to start the planning staffs on this important survey.

Certainly nothing but good and useful information would come from such a study; and even closer relationships might develop between the three as a result of it.

Development of the northern area of Burlington is stalled for lack of services and a fictitious barrier called the Improvement area line.

Pitiful because Milton's water and sewage services are sustained by water from the north of Burlington.

Milton itself wants to annex part of Oakville to provide room for its own expansion south while development northward in Burlington is stalled.

Oakville's planning staff is beginning to work on a planning study of the former village of Bronte. How will this plan dovetail with Burlington's official plan if no joint study is undertaken?

How will Milton's plans to expand southward square with Burlington's lack of northward development if no consultations and joint planning are initiated?

It is not hard to imagine one municipality zoning an area on one side of the municipal boundary an R1 area while the municipality on the other side of the street is busily locating industry opposite the R1 homes.

The retail areas of Burlington, Oakville and Milton don't compete with one another as the retail areas of Hamilton and Burlington do so that closer relationships are a threat to no one in the commercial areas.

Trafalgar, or what was Trafalgar, has developed a talent for acquiring industry; and Burlington's school costs go up as each family with children employed there moves to Burlington, and the industry there contributes nothing to financing the school costs for the children of its employees.

Nine hundred Ford employees live in Burlington. At the national average these nine hundred people are sending about 1,800 children to school in Burlington at a cost that is borne solely by taxpayers in town.

Oakville, Milton and Burlington are all competing for industry. If it were only the tri-town area as a whole that was seeking

industry it wouldn't matter which of the three towns an industry settled in. All would benefit. And the tri-town area would be in a much stronger financial and administrative position to attract industry from other areas, could offer a variety of locations within a single set of boundaries, and would be better able to cope with the demand for services made by industry.

The problems of modern growth that each of these three towns try to cope with must be handled in new and imaginative ways.

Sewage can be handled by package plants, or by lagoon disposal. Water out of the north area of Burlington goes directly into Milton homes without any need for chemical purification. So why does Burlington need enormously expensive installations in the south end of town to service an area with its own water resources?

Towns within towns in the northern areas, self-contained as far as services go, easily linked into the road pattern through joint planning action can be visualized between the lake and Milton in either Oakville or Burlington if councils will move their thinking up from the 18th century.

Do both Burlington and Oakville need two town halls if the prospect of co-operative action would make one town hall do the work of two; and at half the cost?

Does Milton need a technical school if a tri-town municipality can provide transportation for pupils to the new Burlington school?

All of the methods by which it is proposed that administrative costs can be cut in the Wentworth County-Burlington area can be applied to Burlington, Oakville and Milton in a manner that will open up development between the lake and Milton in a way that centralized government in Hamilton will never do.

What are we waiting for?

No Strings Attached

Put a stack of dollar bills on a shelf in a department store with a sign saying "take one" and chances are that most people will think there's something going on and won't take one.

Giving things away free has now become so much associated with sales promotion that folks readily believe that nothing is ever given away without strings attached in some way.

Give a man something "absolutely free," and he thinks to himself, "What do I have to do?"

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

MILTON—Oakville police are questioning one suspect in connection with an armed robbery at the Onagh General Store near Milton recently. Two armed masked bandits entered the store and commanded owner Harold Rutherford to hand over the cash box. He gave them the box and they escaped with about \$100 worth of cash and cheques. Neither Mr. Rutherford or his wife, who was in the store at the time of the robbery, were injured.

BURLINGTON—Mayor Owen Mullin's recent no smoking ban came under fire by Councillor George Harrington at last week's council meeting. Councillor Harrington suggested members of council take up tobacco chewing, and asked the mayor to direct the town clerk to supply council with spittoons.

BRAMPTON—Peel Memorial Hospital Board has written a letter to the Board of Transport Commissioners protesting noise from trains passing the hospital. "It's time we put pressure on them," said one board member, "at times you'd think it was a child at the horn instead of an adult."

GEORGETOWN—Complaints of discoloration and sediment in the town's water supply, and small worms in some parts of town have been relayed to the Ontario Water Resources Commission by Council. Mayor Doug Sargent told council the OWRC has twice taken samples recently but as yet no report on their findings has been received.

OAKVILLE—Magistrate Kenneth Langdon refused to convict an Oakville man recently on a charge of making unnecessary noise with squealing tires, since the town by-law did not stipulate that a person could be charged with such a practice. The magistrate suggested that the Crown Attorney recommend the town by-law be changed to specify that a charge be laid.

Bannockburn W.I. Grandmother Present Interesting Program

Mrs. D. S. Morrison was hostess Thursday evening in the Bannockburn Women's Institute during their regular monthly meeting.

Mrs. Stan Matthews presided, and following the opening exercises each member answered the roll call by introducing their grandmother, who in turn named a popular song in their teens.

Final arrangements were made for the penny sale being held the last Saturday of October. Mrs. Wes Storey reported on the district directors' meeting

BALLINAPAD

Seventh Line Road to Avoid

The work on the 7th line has been held up owing to bad weather. The traffic is unable to go through by the Peacock school—at least you are wise not to try it!

Communion service was held in Ballinapad United Church on Sunday, Mr. Fleming in charge, with Rev. Mr. Beverly taking the communion part of the service.

Mrs. Richard Shortill, Sr. has been ill with plebitis and still is confined to bed.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Dam and family Acton have bought the Larkman farm and are moving in this week. We welcome them to the community.

The Ballinapad U.C.W. catered to a club from Weston Baptist church on Saturday night.

Dr. E. E. Long Guest Speaker

The Rev. F. E. Long, B.A., B.D., D.D. was guest speaker at the two anniversary services at Acton United Church Sunday. This was the 17th anniversary of the congregation.

Dr. Long is a secretary to the general council of the United Church of Canada. In the morning he spoke on "What makes the church endure," and in the evening he spoke of his travels in Europe, Russia, Africa, South America, India and Japan.

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COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Standard Time
Eastbound
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.); 8:58 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:08 p.m.; 6:23 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.).
Westbound
10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:17 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:32 p.m.; 1:02 a.m. (Sat. only)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Standard Time
Eastbound
6:56 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sat. and Sun. 7:38 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sun. 7:42 p.m. to Toronto, daily except Sun. 8:01 p.m. to Toronto, Sun. only. 9:25 p.m. to Toronto, daily, board at Georgetown only.
Westbound
8:01 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sun. 8:21 p.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 12:59 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat.
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