

BY DEL RAINY

Back in 1943

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Jan. 29, 1943.

One of the worst blizzards that has been experienced in years started on Tuesday morning and by late afternoon the heavy snow had packed the main street until drifts disrupted travel by any means. All trains had to be preceded by a snow plow and buses were cancelled.

All roads in the district were blocked with snow and drifts 10 feet in height being common. Warden J. M. McDonald and ex-Warden Alison Moffat, who were attending county council in Milton, were marooned until Wednesday.

J. M. McDonald, reeve of Acton, was elected warden of Hamilton county at the inaugural meeting.

Fifty-six letters and postcards and a large number of telegrams were received by Acton and Vicinity War Service League since the last lot enumerated several weeks ago in the Free Press.

A new battlefront is shaping up in North Africa as the Allies possess Axis positions and the strongholds of Bizerte and Tunis by air-while waiting for the end of the rainy season. The Nazis are sending a few raiders at a time on hit-and-run raids at the south coast of Britain. They are directed mainly against the civilian population.

A pretty wedding was solemnized under an arch of evergreens, white bells and streamers which made a lovely setting for the marriage ceremony of Mary Isabel, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Susschamer, Churchill, and Dick Curtis, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Van Goozen, Acton. A toast was proposed to the bride's parents on the occasion of their 34th wedding anniversary.

At the annual vestry meeting of St. Alban's congregation, Mr. George Chapman, retiring church warden, became Hon. Rector's Warden.

Last Saturday morning, there passed away one of Rockwood's oldest citizens, Mr. John M. Dyer, in his 91st year.

Born: To Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Parker, a son, Robert Ross Jr. Garbage collection Tuesday was impossible due to the heavy storm.

The junior girls' sewing class at the Y will begin again Saturday morning and the boys' acrobatic club will also meet again Saturday.

The school boys and girls of the Y were planning their second big dance in Berlin for the second night in succession.

Back in 1913

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Jan. 29, 1913.

The night school for the instruction of the foreigners in the English language, conducted by the churches with Mrs. Dr. Aull as instructor, has been discontinued. Many foreigners have been here but a few weeks and others have returned. They appear to be despondent at change of scene. The Bulgarians returned home to take part in the war with Turkey.

The low mists are giving for some good still weather. There is now a crop of good clear fog, 12 or 14 inches thick. They will probably commence harvesting in a few days.

Geolph is talking of running their streetcar system on a three-cent rate.

The Hydro Electric line men are getting lamps placed on the cross streets. Now that we have power, let's boost Acton for additional manufactories.

A postal card from Mr. Jos. H. Boyd from Honolulu, Hawaii, says he is en route from New Zealand on a business trip. He wrote on New Year's Day and said the voyage was delightful and he was enjoying a few days in the Hawaiian capital.

Last Friday evening was a time of much rejoicing in the ranks of England's sons in Acton. New officers were installed by the Sons of England and the company sat down to a magnificently decorated table and an appetizing menu.

The speeches were of a highly elevated character. Bro. H. Harwood, the president, toasted the King and sent a thrill of loyalty through the veins of all.

Mr. J. N. Taylor proposed the toast to Canada. He showed that this is the greatest age in the world's history and that Canada, by means of her natural resources, climate and sturdy manhood, is doing more than any other country in the world to take advantage of the condition existing.

Vocal and instrumental selections were rendered by Brothers Littley, Barnes, Coles, Smith and Messrs. Taylor, Roddie and Forbes, and gramophone selections were given by A. W. Benton.

Mr. T. Statham has been somewhat seriously indisposed this week with an attack of rheumatism.

Robert Joyce and James Reid have been named Exequising associates.

The new Rockwood station is much appreciated by travellers. The lighting is the only weak feature. This will be remedied when power is installed.

Off to a Good Start...

It was a pleasure this week to see the amicable relationship established between the Parks Board and the newly inaugurated Recreational Committee. These two boards through their closely tied areas of interest will find it necessary to establish and maintain a very close liaison. Basically the Parks Board is charged with the responsibility of establishing and extending the Park facilities while the Recreation Committee has the responsibility of operating a program not only in the Parks but throughout the town.

The start these two groups have made is an indication that both realize the importance of their respective duties as well as their dependence upon each other. Over a period of time there will be differences of opinion between the two bodies. We feel with close communication between the two, speedy and satisfactory solutions will be found.

The wily words of advice we have for the groups would be that they must not be too quick to reach a boil. It is only natural that over the course of time constructive criticism will be interchanged between the two bodies. It is our hope that these criticisms will always be constructive and received in good spirit as they are given.

However, it is also likely these same committees will also receive criticism that is either constructive or warranted. We trust at even under these circumstances they will accept this with good grace and act as they see fit.

One criticism that is even now being passed on the street corner but has not been presented to either group, appears to stem from a very few curlers. We make no apologies for the quality of the curling ice, neither

are we upholding the committee's and workmen's efforts to supply ice. We do enjoy our curling and we are very happy to have any curling at all. Until last winter curling in Acton was a non-existent winter activity. We now have curling, available to a large segment of the population at a price they can afford to pay.

For a solution to these vocal curling enthusiasts' problems we can only see two solutions. If any curler wishes to take a very active part in the game and proceed into provincial and national bonspiels, we suggest they would be wise to join a curling club where ice and curling conditions are conducive to this level of curling excellence.

The second alternative of course is to build a separate building to house the curling activities. Of course we like the second alternative and would be willing to support such a project to the best of our abilities but we should not lose sight of the fact that the majority of the curlers are quite satisfied with the present arrangement. Also a project to build a curling rink could only be supported by curlers. It would be foolish to expect the whole community to financially support a building program. It would be foolish to embark on a program which would eliminate from active participation in curling a large segment of the community who know they cannot afford to participate in such a building program.

We think it would be wise to accept the fact we do not have championship facilities and continue to provide this excellent winter activity for the largest number of participants. Communities, with the passing of time and the absence of any clear policy on the centennial, are building their hopes a little unrealistically. Four years to plan for an event that should be purposefully marked, is not too long, however. Necessary approvals, co-ordination of activities, and the grass roots planning are bound to occupy considerable time.

We can only hope that with the appointment of John Fisher as commissioner of the National Centennial Administration, some clear cut policies and plans may result.

In the meantime it would seem wise for communities to do their dreaming in a very special practical sense unless they are prepared to foot the bills. In any case it would seem wise for the local council to find a spot in its already tight budget to establish a reserve looking ahead to the actual celebration. Such a reserve would be regarded as wise planning come 1967, at least by the council of that future year.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

GEORGETOWN—Police are baffled by a chess game that car thieves have been playing with several motorists' cars were reported stolen, and police recovered all but one of them. In the process, the police turned up two other stolen vehicles. In none of the cases did drivers leave the keys in the ignition.

STREETVILLE—Residents of Toronto Township may be going to the polls next December, to vote on whether or not to take all Canadians over 21 years of age and under 25 years of age to ballot on Sunday sports. Sunday movies for the township were approved in December.

WATERDOWN—Possibilities of an arena for Waterdown are being studied by members of the Rotary Club. Costs are to be investigated and a committee has been named.

OAKVILLE—The town will benefit from recent contracts awarded to the Ontario Department of Highways for clearing and highway construction. Contracts totalling nearly \$300,000 for clearing rights-of-way will provide badly needed winter employment for manual laborers.

MILTON—Book circulation went up, up, up at Milton Public Library during 1962. Readers took out 43,000 books for a 22 per cent (7,700 books) increase in readership over the previous year, and the librarian signed up 591 new members.

Institute Reports 31 Parcels Sent Out at Christmas Time

Acton W.I. met at the home of Mrs. George Hargrave, Wallace Ave., with Mrs. C. Mapleaden presiding. The roll call was answered by naming "your best friend." Mrs. W. Maddox, the secretary, reported that 31 gift parcels had been sent at Christmas and many thank you notes were received.

Miss Marjorie Hall who with Mrs. W. Leslie had attended the area convention at the O.A.C. Geolph, gave a most delightful report on the program presented. The theme of the convention was unique, "Build Castles in the Air, then Put your Foundations under Them."

New Bible for Reporter Miss Esther Taylor, well-known locally for her newspaper reportage, was awarded a copy of the new Bible for her services to the community. She was presented with the Bible by Mrs. W. Maddox, the secretary, and Mrs. C. Mapleaden, the president.

The 60th anniversary came up for discussion but nothing definite has been decided. Mrs. J. Hardy conducted a purse inspection contest with Mrs. Ivan Harris and Mrs. James Wida receiving the awards. The meeting closed with singing Home on the Range and a delightful lunch was enjoyed.

We get coast to coast this week.

And, as usual, I'm belated, but thanks anyway to those readers who sent cards and notes at Christmas time.

They're appreciated. In my better moments, I tell myself that there are about a million people, give or take a couple, reading this column every week. But sometimes, late at night, when I'm going to bed, I feel a little sorry for those who are not reading this column. I feel as though I'm writing in an immense void.

Think I'll have to go down east this summer. I'm going great there. Lovely cards, with sea shells, from Cypri Goddard of Hildesheim, N.S. Nice note from Miss S. Fortan of Halifax, enclosing an advertisement which reads, "Why, you haven't been in Germany yet! Plan your trip now!" She said it made her think of me.

Sorry, I've been in Germany. In those halcyon days, they didn't have to advertise. All sorts of tourists were dropping into the country. Most of them by parachute. They didn't spend a lot of money. Yet, despite this, they were warmly welcomed by the natives. This kind of thing is second only to erecting the Christmas tree in our family convulsions.

Chap in Aylmer, Ont., dropped a note to say a column of mine got him in trouble a year ago. Apparently I had come home, late, cold, wet, tired and had crawled into bed with the old Trouble 'n' Strife. I had compared her to a little box stove. (And I'll stand by it.) Chap in Aylmer did the same thing, but got a little mixed in his metaphors and said to his wife, "You remind me of an old post-bellied heater."

Mrs. Frank Rastin of Mount Brydges, Ont., sent a note revealing that there are still a few real Canadians abroad. She referred to a column of mine which I had mentioned Mrs. Mallett, an elderly lady, sick and alone, who had found time to thank me (I say it humbly), for bringing a little warmth into her life. Mrs. Rastin enclosed a letter, full of interest and cheer for Mrs. Mallett.

Mrs. Chas. Shultis Hands Legion Ladies

Mrs. Chas. Shultis was installed as President of the Acton Ladies' Legion Auxiliary at their first meeting for 1963 on Thursday, Jan. 3. She succeeds former president, Mrs. Wm. Buchanan.

Other officers installed were: first vice president, Mrs. D. Rogers; second vice president, Mrs. G. J. Irwin; secretary, Mrs. F. Toth. Property con., Mrs. Wm. Chisholm; sick con., Mrs. J. Bullough; membership, Mrs. J. McKnight; bingo, Mrs. F. Toth; standard bearer, Mrs. Wm. Buchanan; Sgt. at Arms, Mrs. A. Ford; pianist, Mrs. J. Bradshaw; banquet con., Mrs. L. Masales; recording sec., Mrs. A. Gordon.

Comrade J. Milne installed the officers for 1963. A plant was sent to Mrs. Irene Hunter, on the sick list. Cards of thanks were read from the widows and veterans receiving Christmas presents.

A statement of a very successful year was read after the books had been audited. After the meeting was closed a delightful lunch was enjoyed by all.

OSPRINGE

Euchres Start Again Eight Tables in Play The bi-monthly euchres, sponsored by the Women's Institute resumed on Friday night after the holidays with eight tables in play. Prize winners were Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Watson, Miss Doris Fines and Mr. S. Matthews.

Mr. Gary Buck spent a few days with friends in Ohio. Mr. William Foley became ill last Monday noon, while driving his truck through the Galt after examination by a doctor he was taken to the Galt hospital for observation and treatment. He was released on Wednesday and came home.

Mr. Ward Bruce had X-rays at the Geolph hospital on Monday morning which revealed two metatarsals in the shoulder. Mr. Bruce suffered this painful injury while putting blocks of wood in the furnace on Sunday evening.

De Vries Brothers on the second line have sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs. Mann of Toronto who take possession February 4. Mr. and Mrs. S. Baldwin and children of Ancaster visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. D. Stewart.

Barry Clarke Jr. and Reg Bullock and a couple of boy friends from Belleville left Tuesday morning on a six weeks' motor trip to Mexico.

Mr. Norman Robertson of Acton visited on Monday with his brother and sister-in-law D. G. and Mrs. Robertson.

let, asking that I forward it.

Old friends, Mrs. Viola Nicholson of Massachusetts, and Mrs. Paul Rutz of Red Deer, sent cards with friendly notes. Margaret Brewster, also operator of the Paris Star, suggested an addition to my list of Christmas gifts: giving the last 20 years back to the unhappy people. She adds, rather cynically, "I'll bet they couldn't do any better."

I agree, but I don't see anything wrong with being unhappy. They're the interesting ones.

From Don McCullig in Kenilworth comes the annual photo of the family. Each year, the inverse ratio applies: his wife and children get better looking while he gets... Another wonderful photo is that of the Rudells of London. Filled the whole backyard with boys before Jennie came along. Six boys and one tiny girl who wraps them all around her pinkie.

I spent a good part of Christmas Day on my knees. And I wasn't praying. Quite the reverse. I had been suckered into new skis for the kids and I was trying to get the blighted boots into the blasted harness. This kind of thing is second only to erecting the Christmas tree in our family convulsions.

That Boxing Day is the best day of the year, as far as I'm concerned. Fire in the fireplace. Friends with noggin. Kids off somewhere in the wild white yonder. A great sense of relief. Exchange of anecdotes. With message.

Chief replies, "Naitch. Euclid. Squaw on Hippopotamus hide, equal to sum of squares on other two hides."

And that reminds me of the sad, little, grunting hound, whose only desire was to join her predeceased mate and go to the Happy Grunting Hound, but perhaps we'll leave that for another day.

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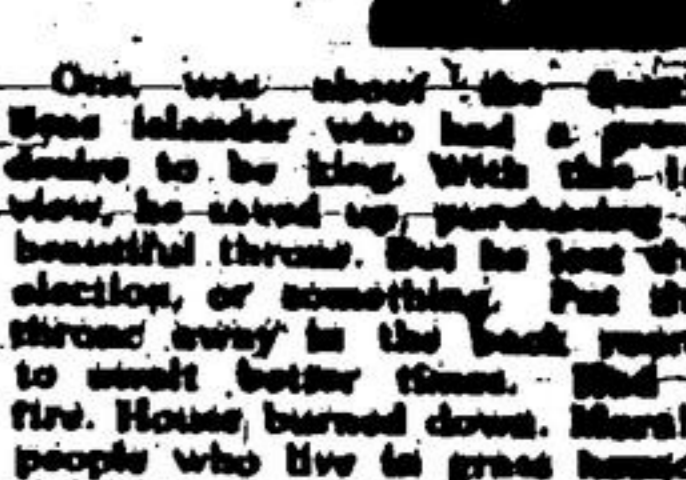
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One was about the same size as the other.

Another story was mathematical. Indian background. Rule of three: either must produce requested gift - for potential bride. Young chief wants wife. Easy. Five years later, chief decides to take second wife. She wants Hippopotamus hide. Chief sent leaves. Months later, wife returns with hide. Hippotale celebrated. Two years later, chief spots beautiful maiden. She wants Hippopotamus hide. Chief sent leaves. Four years later, she returns with hide. Hippotale celebrated. Pretty soon, first two wives complain, "You spend as much time with us as you do with both of us together."

Chief replies, "Naitch. Euclid. Squaw on Hippopotamus hide, equal to sum of squares on other two hides."

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time Eastbound 6:30 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.); 8:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 2:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m.; 8:25 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:00 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.) Westbound 10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:32 p.m.; 1:02 a.m. (Sat. only).

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