

The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 1963

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Twelve Pages—Seven Cents



PULL HOUSE does not indicate a card game. In this case the term is used by curling fans. Monday evening Acton ladies played host to Erin curlers at their first invitational bonspiel. The team skipped by Olga Zbeinoff is being congratulated by the Erin ladies after they won a hard-played match. Left to right are Mrs. Zbeinoff, Mrs. Paul Nelson, Acton; skip Mrs. Fred Steen of Erin; Miss Bernice Carson, Erin; Mrs. Douglas Petherick, Erin; Mrs. Joe Hurst, Acton; Mrs. Gordon Delany, Erin and Mrs. Lorna Doberheim, Acton. Tuesday evening Erin men were here for a return bonspiel.

To Study Parking Meters Parking Limit Signs Fail

Meters for downtown parking are under consideration by Acton council. Tuesday evening it was agreed to remove the two-hour parking signs and reword the governing by-law.

All attempts to solve parking problems on Mill and Main Sts. in the downtown business section have failed, according to the recreation committee, and meters are now being considered. Two-hour parking signs installed approximately six months ago will soon disappear. It was agreed by council the standards had proven a nuisance both to motorists and store owners with awnings. Small children playing tarzan on the standards were also blamed for bending the standards while swinging on them.

When the vote was taken, Reeve, H. H. Hinton, voted in the negative on the strength some attempt should be made to enforce the two-hour parking by-law.

Remove Barricade
Mr. Hinton promised council Tuesday evening to remove a barricade obstructing pedestrian traffic at the corner of Lakeshore Park Avenue by the end of the week and council agreed to investigate ownership of a portion of sidewalk removed in the same area.

The conclusions followed a lengthy discussion sparked by councillor Erik Johnston when he reported four residents had complained. Mayor George Barbeau and councillor Les Duby also confirmed complaints received by them.

In spite of a suggestion by the mayor to have the road committee resolve the problem, Mr. Hinton requested further discussion. After Mr. Johnston refused to disclose the names of the complainants, the reeve stated he had not received any objection from the public to his street despite a personal survey and he was of the opinion he should know the names.

Determine Ownership
Mr. Barbeau voiced alarm at the Park Ave. sidewalk being removed in case a ratepayer was injured and the town was taken to court. He was told the sidewalk had originally been installed and later removed at the cost of Mr. Hinton. The barricade is to protect newly-seeded lawn. Mr. Hinton is aware of the purpose of the barricade and also aware of the legality of removing town property, stated the mayor as he suggested clarification of ownership. The clerk was instructed to determine if the town or the homeowner installed the sidewalk.

Board's Secretary
Council approved a request from the recreation committee and parks board to advertise for a part-time secretary to serve both boards. Chairman John Goy of

council's representative on parks board and Ah Irwin and myself are representatives on recreation committee. If we can't be trusted to do what is right, we might as well cash in now." The recreation committee chairman stated "If we happened to budget \$7,000 for a new road at the community centre and went out and bought a trotting horse, I would say we are straying from our budget and require some control."

The two-man delegation was told council would provide a plowed road to the community centre but plowing other areas would have to be paid for by the two boards. Mr. Goy expressed a desire to have a close liaison with the two boards and council and stated the recreation committee would be pleased to report to council periodically if required.

Council learned that government grants for educational purposes would be increased for 1963 and would be paid in four instalments with the first due in February. During a committee report it was learned the dogcatcher had picked up nine dogs during the month of January, searched for one dog lost (to no avail) and serviced four complaints.

Detergent Pollution
Council endorsed a resolution from the County of Wentworth regarding petitioning the government to curtail the manufacture of mineral-based detergents in order to prevent pollution of water in Ontario. It was learned the mineral-based detergents cause an algae buildup but detergents can be produced with an organic base which is not harmful to the water.

Future sales for cemetery plots will cost prospects an additional \$20 but for the increased cost they will receive four granite installed corner markers to designate the plot.

When it was learned a price of \$16 plus \$4 for installation for the markers had been obtained, Reeve Hinton suggested other quotations should be obtained. He said several firms handled the product and was of the opinion a cheaper rate might be received. The reeve voted in the negative for the increase.

Name Chairman, Committees For Esqueuing School Board

R. J. Cunningham was returned as chairman of Esqueuing school board for another year and Mrs. Shirley Armstrong as vice chairman during a meeting January 22, at the home of secretary Miss Ruth Evans.

Also appointed were the following committees: Finance, Mac Sprawl, Stanley Brown and Mrs. Armstrong; Property, Mrs. Armstrong, William A. Lawson and

Mac Sprawl; Transportation, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Sprawl and Mr. Brown; Teachers, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Armstrong and Mr. Lawson.

To Sell Schools
During the meeting the solution was instructed to prepare an agreement for the sale of Bannockburn school to the Bannockburn W. I. and Blue Mountain school to S. G. Bennett.

A request from Nassagaweya school board to provide facilities at the Robert Little School for additional home economics and industrial arts classes, led to considering the possibility of Acton Public school board and Nassagaweya sharing proportionate costs for full time teachers of these two subjects.

During the public school board meeting Wednesday evening, Horace Blyth and Calvin McIntyre inquired if arrangements might be made to accommodate grade seven students from their school area in the shop and home economics classes.

Mr. McIntyre inquired if Acton board had ever considered full time teachers for these classes. He suggested that Nassagaweya was willing to share in the additional cost. The Acton board was told approximately 132 students from Nassagaweya would be involved.

Principal G. W. McKenzie from the Robert Little school, informed the Acton members the stu-

dents from Brookville school fitted right into the school program in Acton and enjoyed the classes.

Chairman Tom Watson instructed principals McKenzie and Elmer Smith to work hand in hand with inspector W. L. McNeil and board secretary W. Middleton in preparing a complete outline for the next board meeting.

At this time it is hoped complete costs will be known and the Nassagaweya trustees will be informed of their share at this time.

Approve Rental System
Board members approved a rental system for the auditorium at \$30 each evening. Allowances were made to allow school activities and council nomination night free of charge. During activities in the auditorium, police agreed to patrol the laneway every hour and motorists with cars parked illegally will be given a chance to move cars. In the event vehicles are not moved violation tickets will be handed out. Firefighters will also be present to assist with parking of vehicles in the rear of the school.

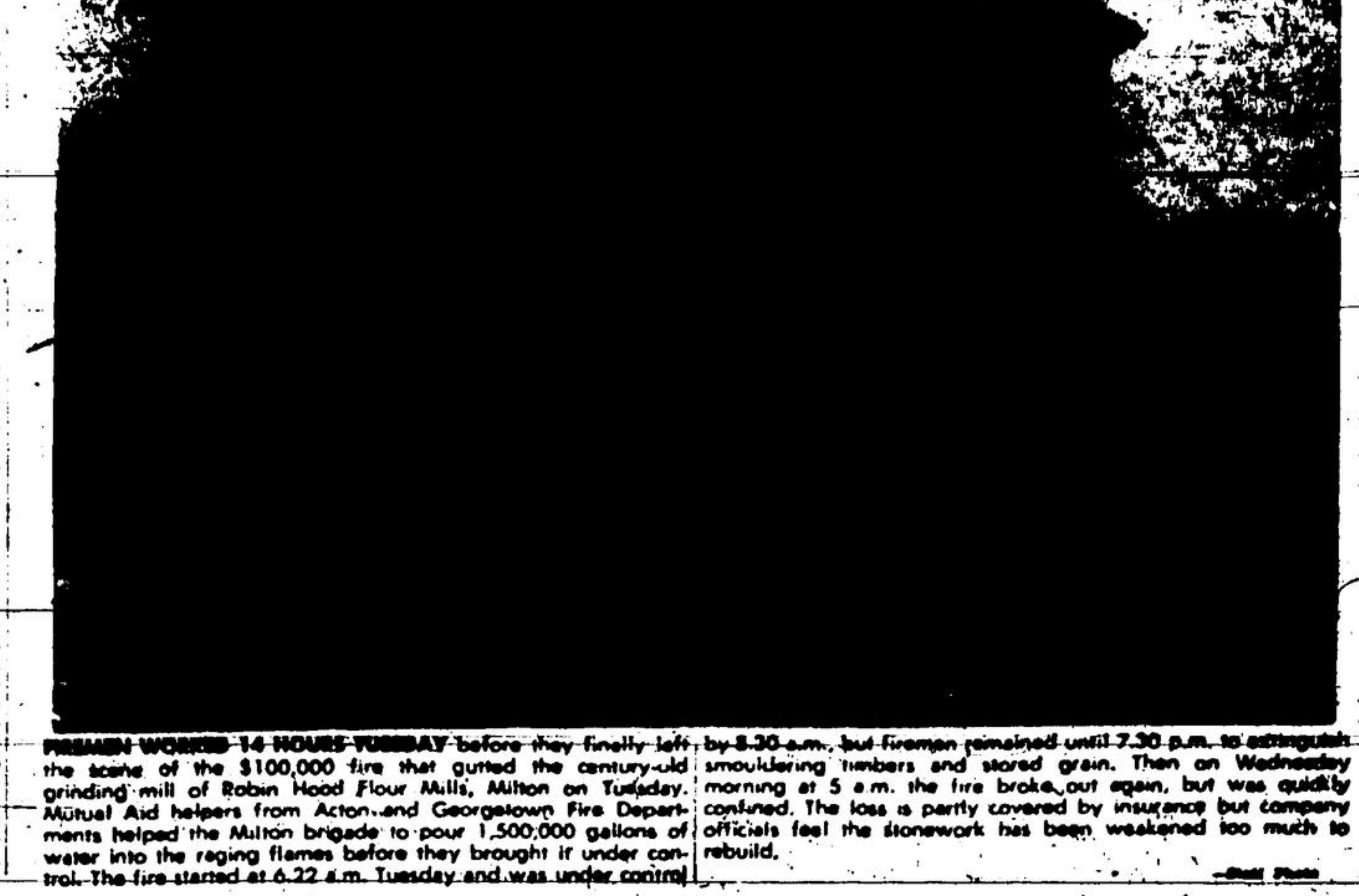
The building committee was authorized to spend up to \$500 to obtain information from an independent engineer regarding the condition of the roof at the M. Z. Bennett school.

The roof has plagued board members constantly.

During mild spells in the winter and rainy weather, the roof leaks causing damage to the interior of the building. To date nothing has been resolved with the architects or roofing company.

Letters of appreciation for use of the auditorium were received from Acton Citizens' Band and the Scottish Dance Club. Approval was given to the Home and School Association from the M. Z. Bennett school to hold a fun fair in the auditorium May 11.

Principal Elmer Smith was instructed to prepare a letter to parents of children attending school outlining the loss of government grants when children do not attend school, in the hope of improving attendance.



FIREMEN WORKED 14 HOURS Tuesday before they finally left the scene of the \$100,000 fire that gutted the century-old grinding mill of Robin Hood Flour Mills, Milton on Tuesday. Mutual Aid helpers from Acton and Georgetown Fire Departments helped the Milton brigade to pour 1,500,000 gallons of water into the raging flames before they brought it under control. The fire started at 6:22 a.m. Tuesday and was under control by 8:30 a.m., but firemen remained until 7:30 p.m. to extinguish smouldering timbers and stored grain. Then on Wednesday morning at 5 a.m. the fire broke out again, but was quickly confined. The loss is partly covered by insurance but company officials feel the stonework has been weakened too much to rebuild.

Merchants' Delegation Blitzes Council Suggests Solution to Closing By-Law

A 17-man delegation representing Acton merchants, headed by Jim Ledger, led to the postponement of a second reading of a proposed store closing by-law, when they suggested further investigation by a committee from the retail section of the C. of C. and council committee to attempt a suitable solution for the betterment of everyone concerned.

Previously, merchants had submitted a petition suggesting closing hours which were drafted into by-law form by council. The by-law received one reading a few weeks ago and during council's last meeting it was shelved temporarily pending investigation into several former by-laws still in existence.

Tuesday evening, Mr. Ledger read a report to council on behalf of merchants and his suggestion to set up a meeting with the two committees was accepted by council. (The full report is published nearby.)

Mayor George Barbeau informed the delegates council is elected to represent all the people of Acton and thought the present gentlemen's agreement appeared to be working nicely. If the proposed by-law was approved and contested in court, all taxpayers would have to share in the court costs. Why, when the present agreement is working fine, do the merchants desire a new by-law, he wondered.

"I have been told it was to protect our merchants in the event a big discount store moved in and decided to stay open after hours," he stated. Mr. Barbeau also explained he had asked if the newly constructed Acton plaza had been the reason for merchants' anxiety for a closing by-law and had been told "No".

Ask Public?
Councillor Duby cautioned adoption of an early closing by-law because of contentious points which might arise but stated he was not opposed to a suitable working agreement for early closing.

Councillor Peal enquired if merchants had considered a poll of the public to find out what store hours might be required for shopping. Mr. Ledger replied "This could be considered as part of the program when the two committees meet."

Assured a meeting would be arranged with the two committees, the delegation left the council chambers. Present were Cliff Bradie, barber; Joe Hurst, Paul Neilsen, grocer; Henry Aynsford, Fred Gordon, A. L. Newton, Mac Swain, Norm Hummick, Jim Ledger, Mrs. Lena Mann, Cy Perkins, Dave Manes, Bill Benson, Rae West, barber; Ron Holloway, Mrs. Gold and Mrs. J. Wilson of the Edna May store.

Share Information
We have gone further than this and have checked with other Chambers of Commerce and have received a brief from them outlining what they have done to relieve situations similar to ours. This information, along with any other pertinent facts, we would be pleased to share with you in the search for a common understanding that would be acceptable to all concerned.

In this spirit I would ask that before anything is done by council, this co-operative offer be accepted and that this application go back to your committee and that we will have the Chamber Retail Committee work with them and between us perhaps work out some reasonable solution that could be acceptable to everyone.

In closing may I thank the members of the delegation for the time taken to see what other places are doing and their time spent in bearing us further. We appreciate what you have done in the immediate past and we sincerely hope you will accept our offer of joint co-operation and fact finding before slamming the door on this issue.

We wish this is the hope that all of Acton, including council, retailer and general public will ultimately benefit from our findings.

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No Night School? Lock Chairman

Should the night school be dropped for a year? How about a paid secretary to lift the burdening load of work? Could the high school board take over, as it has in Georgetown? What about the recreation committee?

These questions were talked over at the annual meeting of the night school committee in the high school last night (Wednesday). This most important meeting of the year was attended by just 14 — and all present members of the committee. Several of these were resigning.

No chairman could be named and a nominating committee was chosen consisting of Mrs. Jack Creighton, Mrs. Walter Dubois and Mrs. Claude Cook.

After six years of association with the committee and many hours of work, Mrs. Creighton has resigned. In her report she mentioned the major changes of the past year including the switch to pre-Christmas classes with 10 rather than 12, the change to Tuesdays and Wednesdays as accommodate cutters, the new, simplified and successful system of registration, the increase in fees which resulted in the first surplus for several years (about \$90) and advertising out-of-town for students.

Many Out-of-Town
Many of the 157 attending the 14 classes came from Georgetown, Erin and Hillsburgh as well as Acton district.

Some toll interest had waned and some of the handicraft courses had run their course. On the other hand, there was keen interest expressed from some, but a persistent unwillingness to serve on the committee in charge.

Lights Blazing
The Rev. Dwight Engel, the high school board's representative, expressed his pleasure at seeing as many people as possible using the buildings. "I like to see the lights blazing as often as possible." He said the board was grateful to the committee for their fine work.

Merchants' Report to Council

Mr. Mayor and members of council—

Firstly, let me clarify my position on the subject of closing by-laws. I am here only as a spokesman for the retailers of Acton, coupled with the Chamber of Commerce, two bodies which have always attempted to work in close harmony with the existing councils, and I have no reason to believe that this should change in any way.

To clarify our position in wanting this by-law may I list some of the things that we have and have not in mind.

New Stores
I have no idea of attempting to curtail the advent of new stores who might wish to come into Acton. Competition always makes for betterment of all, but there should be some cooperation there should be some basic rules, just as in a game of any kind there are rules laid down, this does not exclude the players, but it does keep the game under control. Without this, chaotic conditions might be the result.

"Free enterprise is in no way compromised by our stand. On the contrary, free enterprise without basic rules will suffer without basic rules."

Five Day Week
We are asking however that the hours in practice now in the town of Acton, which are verbal in nature, be accepted by all concerned as a basic set of rules.

One of the foremost reasons for this request is that we want to see both our employees, as well as employers, with a five-day week which is still more than most people are asked to work, but one which we are content to go along with. To find ourselves working longer than this would

Fox Rabid

A fox killed by Charlie Thompson, R.R. 2, Acton, has been determined rabid as a result of tests at the Dominion Laboratory, Hull, Quebec. The fox was killed near the barn two weeks ago and last week, vet. veterinarian Dr. Frank Oakes received the positive result.

Several Acton painters have been taking night school lessons in Milton since classes ended here. They'll be taking part in display night there next Tuesday.

Grandmothers Have Institute Program

The February meeting of the Busy Bee Institute was held at the home of Mrs. E. Cote with 10 members present. Mrs. Hayward the president opened the meeting with a poem and everyone participated the Mary Stewart Colley.

The ladies plan to water to the Miss Festival to be held on April 1 at Brookville School. It was also planned to have a social evening sometime in March. A quilt which the ladies had done was on display.

The thought for the day was given by Mrs. M. McIvor.

Mrs. M. Hayward gave a paper on "A Wrong Attitude to Education in the absence of the Educational Convoyers Mrs. Andeslevs McCall, Mrs. Swisher."

The Grandmothers had the program and a poem "Grandma's Acton" was given by Mrs. Beck. Mrs. Stafford gave a poem "I'm a Today Time" Mrs. Henderson read a poem "My Great-Grandfather" and Mrs. E. Cote gave a reading "Lovelorn Advice to Husbands."

The meeting closed with all reciting the Institute Grace and Mrs. Kidd thanked Mrs. Cote for the use of her home and the lovely touch.