

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL GIBNEY

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 1, 1943.

Entrance pupils at the Acton public school received word this week they had successfully passed their examinations. This year, principal McKenzie's class of 28 pupils all passed. Fourteen of the 28 received honors.

Three Acton residents were injured Sunday evening when a Grav Coach bus crashed through the walking room window at the Guelph bus terminal. Most seriously injured was Miss Barbara King, of Waterlool. She is confined in Acton. She is suffering from a badly crushed knee, leg wounds and shock. Miss Marie Clayton, of St. Joseph's hospital, Guelph, suffering from a badly bruised leg and George Bowman, also from Acton, was taken to Guelph General and treated for a cut wrist and other minor injuries. Strangely, all three injured are employed in the office at Beardmore and Co.

Mr. Stanley Hall was nominated as Progressive Conservative candidate in Halton last Friday evening for that party in the coming election.

Freddie Cunningham, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Cunningham lost his life Saturday by drowning in Fairy Lake. The boy was with a large number of swimmers in the lake and the young lad was playing on a raft with two chums. In some manner the raft tipped and all three were tossed into the water. The two others came to the surface and were rescued but the Cunningham boy never surfaced. His body was located in a patch of weeds by Andy Buchanan, a strong swimmer.

F. S. Joyce, Amos Mason and G. A. Dull of the Acton and Halton War Finance Committee will be local representatives on Monday at the ceremony and luncheon at the DeLavan's Aircraft factory when one of the Canadian built bombers will be named after Acton. This honor is a result of the splendid response during the Victory Loan drive.

Mr. and Mrs. George Simpson received word this week their son Harold had arrived safely overseas. Quite a number of the soldiers from here have written the Free Press asking for organs of the weekly paper and other gifts.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 1, 1913.

The bridge gang from the Toronto Suburban Railway have almost completed the bridge across Fairy Lake in readiness for the new electric railway line.

Mr. Robert Rigle, agent of the G.T.R. at Dunnville and for several years ticket agent at Acton, has received the very responsible position of travelling freight agent for the Canadian Northern Railway and Canadian Northern Steamships with headquarters at Toronto.

The Station Hotel has received its license and opened for business on Dominion Day.

Contractor Swackhammer has commenced operations on the erection of the new school building. John Crausshaw, stone cutter, has the contract for the cut stone and has already delivered several loads. The new stone addition will enlarge the present structure on the commodious grounds.

The following is the report of the Dominion Day for last year: St. IV—Hessie Joe 67%, Sandy Mc Isaac, 61 per cent; St. III—Reta Gibbens, 80 per cent; Errol Spowal, 69 per cent; St. II—Jackie Waddie, 85 per cent; Alice Stewart, 80 per cent; Lawrence Gibbens, 69 per cent; Willie Kaley, 62 per cent; St. I—Beatrice Mc Isaac, 86 per cent; Beatrice Creamer, 75 per cent; John Creamer, 72 per cent; St. I (A) Rena Joe, 67 per cent; Alfred Fryer, 58 per cent; (B) Mary Gibbens, 83 per cent; Nellie Stewart, 82 per cent; Blanche Joe, 77 per cent; Catherine Kelly, 75 per cent; Violet Stewart, 72 per cent; Primer, "A" Frank Creamer, Bertie Scott, "B" Willie Kelly, Maudie Joe, George Mino and Herbie Fryer.

During the Dominion Day celebrations in Acton, which were sponsored by the Fire Brigade, Acton certainly cleaned up in the sports events, mainly baseball. The Indians of Toronto were defeated badly by Acton in the morning game. Outstanding for the local team were "Sorter" Holmes, Nelson Ryder, Murray McDonald and Phil Baxter. Other events included lacrosse, races and games. Acton Citizens' Band, dressed in their ceremonial uniforms, met every train in the morning and paraded visitors downtown.

Were you, gentle reader, a youngster 20 years ago? Or 50? Or even more? If you were, you find, already scintillating with wit, humor, and sometimes horror, as I do, at the difference between summer holidays for kids, then and now.

Just how it has happened, I don't know. But in those two or three decades, kids have lost the ability to amuse themselves. Even the little ones come in whining, "Mom, what'll I do? There's nothing to do, Mom. Can I have a dime, Mom?"

It's cheap at half the price. Give them a dime.

As for the big kids, their boredom is colossal, crushing. It makes you feel like ordering up the Molotov dancers, or at least putting in a desperate call for Paul Anka.

Sometimes I think that perhaps those of us who grew up during the depression era had a far better childhood, all things considered, than the glided youth of the current decade.

How simple it was for our mothers, comparatively! In summer, we were out at the creek or down, or soon after, and they saw us only twice again during the day, for a brief and bestial gulping of food.

In those days, only the rich played golf and tennis, only the rich had summer cottages and boats. And rich kids were scarce. Water skis had not been invented. The transistor radio was, blessedly, far in the future. There was no money for summer camps for the children, or motor-tips to the east or west. There was no drive-in theatres. Ice cream cones were a nickel and, seldom, only fathers drove cars.

What in the world, then, did we do with ourselves? You remember. At least, you old boys remember. I'm a little hazy about what the girls did.

When they were 13 or under, they did everything we did. Well, practically. They were squaws when we played cowboys and Indians. They were beautiful Spanish princesses when we played pirates. They were stoop pigeons and gun molls and corn cobs when we played cops and robbers. They were extra fielders and waterboys when we played ball. In short, they knew their place and enjoyed every minute of it.

In the soft, throbbing dusk of a late summer afternoon, we played Run Sheep Run. It was quite an experience, I can assure you.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Howard Van Wyck Buried in Fairview

Well-known to many Acton residents, Marjorie Scriven, wife of the late Howard Van Wyck, passed away at Guelph General Hospital following a lengthy illness on June 4, 1963.

A resident of Acton for many years before she moved to London where her husband was transferred with the C.N.R., she is sadly mourned by a son, Frank and daughter, Della (Mrs. Ed ward Moxie) and Jean, all of Acton. She is also missed by a brother, Sydney of Milton and Jack of Acton.

Mrs. Van Wyck was the daughter of the late Francis John Scriven and Jane Anne Rendell. She married her husband in Acton, September 16, 1918. During the 22 years she lived in London, she was an active worker with the Anglican All Saints church or organizations.

Funeral services were held June 6 from St. Alban's Anglican church with interment in Fairview cemetery. Pallbearers were Tom Van Wyck, Fred Walker, Fred Moxie, Bob Patterson, Robert Warden and Charlie Warden.

United Bible School Attracts 50 Children

Between 45 and 50 children are attending the United Church Daily Vacation Bible School being held at the church. Pupils are divided into three groups. Each group takes part in the worship service, lesson, a handicraft period and a play session.

Rev. Dwight Engle is in charge of the Bible school with Mrs. Edgar Ludka as assistant. Other teachers and helpers include beginner, Mrs. Ruth Musselle and Mrs. Ena Gibson; primary, Mrs. Hazel Wood and Mrs. Tamis Ironside; junior, Mrs. Lorraine Shields and Mrs. Ruth Mary En.

Other intermediate assistants include Mary Beth Elliott, Donna Stieritt, Donna Pendleton, Diane and Laurie Ironside and Vivian Smith.

The school continues next week and the final Friday night will be parents' night when parents and friends will witness the vocation of the children's of faith.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

BRAMPTON — The town's first Flower Festival was a four-day round of fun and excitement for residents and thousands of visitors. Two parades, two evening dances, a carnival and shows headed off the celebration. Other attractions were homey, gayly decked in flowers, a beauty contest, flower shooting, art and craft show, baseball tournaments, musical entertainments, square dance competitions, puppet shows, a tennis tournament, driving skill test, outdoor church services, greenhouse tours, donkey baseball, street dancing and fireworks.

GEORGETOWN — Water rates were upped last week by council in a move designed to bring an extra \$15,000 yearly water revenue to the town. There's a present \$42,000 deficit in the water department. Minimum gallonage was reduced to 5,000 from 6,000; and the minimum water charge was increased from \$3 to \$13.35.

BURLINGTON — A new broadcasting company is filing application for a licence for radio broadcasting in Burlington. Their station — CKBA — would broadcast on both AM and FM bands, and if a licence is granted it would begin in the spring of 1964.

OAKVILLE — First planting ceremonies were held last week to start the six and one-half acre Citrus Service centennial garden beside the company's Bronte refinery. Official flowers of each Canadian province were specially flown in for the occasion, and were planted by Minister of Trade and Publics Bryan Cathcart and Citrus Service President A. P. Frame. The garden is Canada's first centennial project to get underway.

OBITUARY

Ardent, Fisherman, Veteran Edward Moyses Dies Suddenly

Death came suddenly to Second World War veteran, Edward Andrew Moyses, Thursday, June 20 when he passed away from a heart attack enroute to Guelph General hospital.

A resident here since 1948, he served with the Canadian Army Service Corps during the last war, two of which he spent in Italy transferring supplies to the front lines. For the past six years he has worked with the H. K. Porter plant in Acton.

Mr. Moyses was born in Bow, Manitoba a son of the late John Moyses and Mary McCallister. He was a member of St. Alban's Anglican church where he married the former Della Van Wyck in 1941.

An ardent fisherman until late years he spent considerable time as an angler around local streams. Until his death he was fond of reading and took considerable interest in doing crossword puzzles.

Besides his wife he leaves two daughters, Patricia and Thelma living at home and one son Edward of London to mourn his death.

He was preceded by two brothers, Jim and Wallace, but will be sadly missed by five sisters, Thelma, Ethel and Gertrude of Oregon, Dorothy (Mrs. E. Schmidt) of Bartlett, Illinois and Eva (Mrs. F. Reed) of Niagara Falls, New York.

Announce Winners In Hay Competition

S. E. Griffin and Son won Acton Agricultural Society's hay competition, when they netted 955 points to head a field of 16 competitors. S. R. Laughlin of Guelph was judge for the Acton Fall Fair competition.

The following are the top ten winners announced this week by secretary, Mrs. C. W. Swackhammer:

1st, S. E. Griffin & Son, 955 points; 2nd, Chas. McNabb, 954; 3rd, R. M. Storey, 945; 4th, A. McPhedran, 94; 5th, J. M. McCullough, 935; 6th, Ralph Dennis, 93; 7th, Fife Somerville, 925; 8th, George Wallace, 92; 9th, Donald Matthews, 915; 10th, Norman Harris, 91.

Mr. Laughlin noted that of the sixteen fields scored all competitors had excellent crops of hay!



COLLEEN McILLOWAY is the centre of attraction as playground leasers, Jill Hurst and Marjorie Basson pin her name tag on at Tuesday's registration for the summer playground program. Following registration, the children started the program with games and races in the park. Other leasers working under the supervision of recreation director Jim Casburn are Don Price and Donna Landsborough.

Is This Increase Demanded?

An increase in rates to Acton telephone users has been indicated by the Bell Telephone Co. because of their plans to permit toll-free calling to Guelph.

We find it hard to understand the need for toll-free calling to Guelph unless it may be to place the Acton telephone user in a higher rate bracket.

The commercial telephone user will experience a \$2.50 rate increase monthly. At the 15 cent charge to call Guelph, as at present, that would cover some 16 phone calls. To the homeowner the rate will go from \$4.15 to \$4.65 monthly, that would provide for three of four phone calls.

The Bell Telephone Co., in its message to subscribers, notes there are presently 3,000 toll calls to Guelph each month. It would seem more equitable that those who are placing those 3,000 calls should pay for them rather than those who never phone that city.

should not be too difficult for the Telephone Co. to include a ballot in one of its monthly billings to measure the reaction to the extended area of service.

If the majority of users are inclined to pay the additional 50 cents or \$2.50 a month that will be required of them whether they telephone Guelph or not, then the service should be introduced. If, however, the majority object to the rate increase the Bell Telephone Co. should bow to the users wishes rather than to their overall plan that calls for this or that accomplishment.

Toll free calling has already extended Acton's telephone boundaries to include Georgetown and Rockwood. With each extension the number of callable telephones is increased and it is on this formula that rates are altered. Addition of the Guelph exchange naturally adds several thousand callable phones and thus permits the formula increase in rates.

The additions of Georgetown and Rockwood to the toll free calling area have surely been adequate for the moment unless there is strong support for the toll free calling to Guelph, as evidenced by some concrete balloting of all subscribers.

What This Town Needs Is?...

With Dominion Day now past us perhaps we should begin to think quietly of the country's 100th birthday that will take place in 1967.

Municipal councils, service groups and some already formed Centennial committees are already giving thought to the event. The ideas emanating from all these discussions are wonderful, in fact they are fantastic. They include some of the most grandiose thoughts that have hit municipalities for years. The sky is the limit and to prove that Canada is 100 years old it seems we're supposed to build overnight those cultural centres and downtown complexes that would have died aborning if discussed at any other time.

Let's face it. There is not an unlimited central pot of money that will be magically uncorked to give every Canadian municipality the lion's share of the cost of some of the fantastic projects that are being talked of now. John Fisher who is handling the National Centennial celebration has told us repeatedly that events should be planned by the individual municipalities without looking to the federal and provincial governments for all the required funds.

But governments have a responsibility. They had better draw up the ground rules pretty quickly. The 1967 celebration is one that ignites the imagination and kindles the

flames of enthusiasm. The hotly generated plans will be defended long and loud by the originators of the countless celebration plans once they are formulated. If the governments have not established the ground rules on which they will participate and to what extent, the pressures to work in the already established plans will be something to behold.

We're looking forward to the centennial celebrations and to the planning that will lead up to them locally. It is not easy to find projects that don't cost too much money and that still exemplify the significance of the occasion. Parades and pageants should be considered, but only for their brief moments of existence. What the town undertakes should, of course be something lasting.

Acton might well consider developing a park on the Beardmore property at the corner of Church and Maria St. It could be the kind of park with a band stand in the centre, a library conveniently located, and attractive paths and gardens that would be a real credit to the community. There are problems like land acquisition, and future maintenance but these will occur in any project.

There are other projects too that merit consideration and the early appointment of a local group to consider them will assure Acton's readiness to participate in Canada's centennial.

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