

Hymnary Given Robert Kerr All Sing "Happy Birthday"

The quarterly board meeting of Churchill church was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Denny with a very good attendance. It was also in the form of a happy gathering in honor of one of our oldest members' birthday, Mr. Robert Kerr.

Mr. Duncan Fleming called the meeting to order and opened with the hymn, What a Friend We Have in Jesus and afterwards gave a very interesting review of the special address given by Prof. Dobbie at Five Oaks conference. The minutes of the last board meeting were read by Mr. Frank Freeman and adopted. Mr. Harold Griffin gave the financial report. Some business was dealt with.

Mrs. Douglas Swackhamer read a birthday card greeting and Mr. Kerr was presented with a hymnary for his faithful services to the choir and church. Everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday. Mr. Fleming closed the meeting with prayer.

A lovely lunch was served including birthday cake and ice cream by the hostesses, Mrs. Leitch and Mrs. Swackhamer. Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hamilton and family spent the weekend with friends at the Wagon Wheel near Minden.

Education Committee Report Presented to Council Monday

The report presented by J. Bert Wood, chairman of council education committee, on the progress of the discussions on a high school addition, follows in full. The purpose of this report is to bring the council up to date on what has happened since the high school board presented plans and costs for a new addition to the school. We have set down here all the facts as we have them.

In July the members of the board attended council and presented us with a request for \$330,000 to build an 11-room addition plus a gym to the school. Much discussion took place and we asked the board to get us a breakdown of the possible increase in pupils to the school in the next five years. This was required in order to give us a clear picture as to the future.

The report was presented to the education committee of council and briefly showed the following trends:

1. The loss ratio has dropped from 37% in 1957 to 23% in 1962 or 31% average.
2. There has been a normal growth of one class per year.
3. The percentage of students enrolling in grade 9 and the number of the same group enrolling in grade 12 has increased from 104% in 1950 to 40% in 1962. In other words more students are remaining in school till at least grade 12.
4. The last chart shows that the estimated attendance at the school will reach its peak in 1965 with approximately 511 enrollment and then drop off slightly. These figures are based on the estimates provided from the public school inspectors of the schools that feed the Acton High school. This does not allow for any expansion industrially or population-wise.
5. The stone school was and is used as a stop-gap till a building could be added.
6. All rooms in the stone school and the home school are in use. At the present teachers and pupils are travelling from one school to the other.
7. The new Roberts plan makes guidance and counselling an important part of the school work and space is requested for this.
8. The lab in the new building would be equipped with the present fixtures in the lab at the stone school.
9. Library space is required in a school of more than 200 pupils. This is a department recommendation.
10. More gym time is required as the time table now allows for only 45 classes a week when 48 is the number that should be operating.
11. The registration at present stands at 435 pupils with 133 coming from the two townships with an additional 24 pupils going to Georgetown and Guelph for which we are paying these boards.

The feeling was that we were not in a position to embark on an addition of this size with our present debt. The school board then presented an other plan consisting of only four rooms and a lab, deleting the gym, library, etc. This plan would put the school under one roof, but would not leave any room for expansion next year and we would be using the stone school again. The cost of this plan was estimated at \$125,000 less interest.

Further discussions took place with the school board and they came up with a third plan which consisted of six classrooms, a library, lab, storage space, etc. This plan although not on paper was estimated to cost between

\$180,000 and \$200,000 based on the cost of the first plan only. The feeling of the committee was that these plans should be put before a meeting of the representatives of the two townships so that they would know what was being discussed. This meeting was held on Wednesday night with some 14 present, five being from our committee.

The three plans were explained to the group with the information in the report and much discussion ensued. Several points were emphasized:

1. The boundaries between Georgetown and Acton school districts should be set down before any debentures were issued, so that they would not be paying to two boards on the same assessment.
2. How many pupils would Acton lose or gain by the reallocation of boundaries, in line with the last proposal which was declined. In answer to this question it was learned that another committee has been set up at Georgetown to look into this. The chairman of the school board felt that Acton would have a net gain of 20 pupils.
3. The question of when the debenture payments would start was asked. Mr. McGeachie replied that if, as and when the building was proceeded with, the issue date would be in '64 with payments starting in '65.
4. The question was raised by one of our committee regarding the possibility of grade 13 being dropped in the next two years and he felt that we should not build until we knew what was going to happen or we might find ourselves with rooms to spare.

The opinion of those present was that as nothing concrete was known, it was not likely that any change would be made for four or five years and this was not too long ahead to plan for.

The question of costs as to maintenance, etc., came up. The high school is paying \$4000 a year for the stone school and it was felt that this amount applied to the addition would not be too far out of line. The addition of another class means another teacher whether a school is built or not. Grants are on all these items each year.

The chairman of the meeting asked each member present to express his views on the plans presented. The consensus of opinion was that the last plan seemed to be most reasonable and they would be willing to present this to their council when plans and costs were completed.

To summarize this whole report the following things come to mind:

We realize the position we are in as to debenture debt and the effect even a 2% mill in increase would have on all tax payers, particularly the ones with limited incomes.

We are faced with the fact that both schools are full and that next year we will have to find space for additional pupils. Also the fact that if plans are not on the go at once the addition will not be ready for September '64. We feel that the first plan is too much for us to handle in our present state of finances that the second plan does nothing but put the whole school under one roof and does not provide for expansion and that we would be using the stone school again in 1964.

We feel that the third plan is a reasonable compromise and will provide for the additional classes for three or four years. We have presented the facts as we have them to date and there doesn't seem any way out other than to add to the school on the third plan.

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Rev. W. Welch Guest Preacher

At two services this coming Sunday Knox Presbyterian Church will observe its 118th anniversary. Guest preacher is the Rev. Walter H. Welch.

When Mr. Welch graduated from Knox College in Toronto in the spring of 1952 he was appointed to serve a small congregation of Presbyterians on the western fringe of Toronto, across the Humber River from Weston. Fully intending to go in a year or two to the mission field in India where he would use his training in scientific agriculture which he had gained at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Mr. Welch could not then foresee how differently things would turn out.

Circumstances intervened to keep him in Canada and today he is still in the Humber Heights area of central Etobicoke ministering to a large parish 15 times the size of the original.

He and his loyal congregation take some justifiable pride in the multiplicity of religious, social and cultural activities which keep their beautiful eight-sided house of worship "alive" every day and night of the week.

When Mr. Welch preaches next Sunday at the services in Knox, marking the 118th anniversary of its founding, it is anticipated that capacity congregations will be on hand to hear his messages on the themes: "Needed! Revival In The Church," at 11 a.m., and "The Emptiness of Modern Man," at 7:30 p.m.



THE REV. W. H. WELCH

Rainfall Low Observer Says

Rainfall in this area during the past four months shows a rapid decline and according to a report from Walter Lock who is an area weather observer for the climate and precipitation station in Toronto the rainfall during June, July, August and September of this year was 33 per cent less than an average for the same time over a period of the past 50 years.

An average for June, July and August and September for the 50-year period is recorded at 12.22 inches and the same period this year shows only 8.15 inches of rainfall.

Parcel Post Gifts Answer to Roll Call

Gifts for the parcel post table at the bazaar answered the roll call at the meeting of St. Alban's Guild Wednesday of last week in Luxton Memorial Hall. During the busy meeting plans were made for catering to the Klassen Paul wedding last Saturday and the Curtis-Maplesden wedding October 19. Mrs. Harold Denny will convene the rummage sale October 24 and Mrs. Frank Oakes was named convener for the annual bazaar.

This month's program convener was Mrs. Bill Coon. The ladies enjoyed games and a social hour followed with a delightful lunch served by Mrs. Coon, Mrs. Hare and Mrs. Eric Johnston.

C.N.I.B. Drive

Volunteers have begun the annual door-to-door canvass for funds for the local branch of the Canadian Institute for the Blind. Mrs. Tom Shields is in charge again this year.

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Help Children OVCDean Urges

"Any criticism or prejudice should be waived in the interests of children," declared Dr. Trevor Jones, O.V.C. dean, president of the Canadian Save the Children Fund and dean of O.V.C., when he addressed members of Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.D.E. and their guests in the Legion Hall Tuesday. About 30 felt eager to help in the work of the group after hearing his address, and thoroughly enjoyed his unusual slides of trips taken to many places out-of-the-way of the usual tourist routes in the course of work connected with his veterinary profession.

"More than half the people in the world go to bed hungry every night," he said, going on to say the aim of the Save the Children Fund was to spare the young some of the parents' misery. He portrayed a few cases of incredible poverty; many people in India have only a low shelter, a little charcoal and rice to subsist on.

The Jamaican School for deaf and dumb children - some of them abandoned as useless - financed almost entirely by Canadian funds, some of it specifically from Women's Institutes.

He told of how the money is collected in the Guelph group specialties in its highly successful Christmas cards sale; the organization of the fund, the popular adoption plan (some sponsors have delightedly visited the children they have helped); the recent concern to eliminate some of the operating expense, which is now down to a very reasonable ten per cent, and how the money is specifically used in Canada in the distribution of lavettes to Eskimos.

The work in Canada is just a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed in other countries," he asserted.

Hunger is bound to effect children badly. He found it no surprise that youngsters in such condition would steal anything they could.

He was introduced by representative Mrs. W. I. Sprinton and thanked by Mrs. Bert Hinton.

Members were reminded to collect Canada Packers labels. Four members agreed to canvass for the CNIB.

Youngsters at the Elmer the Safety Elephant program at the school Monday greeted with delight the suggestion that they learn the safety rules - and teach them to their parents.

Hit 3--Loot \$3.93

Vandals broke into and damaged three rural Esqueping Township schools during the past week, leaving a costly trail of wreckage following their apparent search for money.

Yet their cash loot totalled less than \$4.

A break-in at Speyside central school on Highway 25 above 17 Sideroad, was discovered Wednesday morning of last week. On Tuesday morning of this week, caretakers and teachers arrived at two other schools - Pineview, a brand new consolidated school just opened five weeks ago on the Seventh Line at Five Side road; and Stewarttown consolidated school on the Seventh Line at the village of Stewarttown - to find chaos and wreckage throughout the buildings.

Found by caretaker - The Speyside break-in was discovered by caretaker Jimmie Morrison after he reported for work shortly after 7 a.m. Wednesday morning. He found a back window had been broken to allow entry to the building, a classroom door smashed, and the door to the principal's office had been forced open.

A filing cabinet had been jimmied open and drawers rifled in an apparent search for money.

This week's theft at Pineview saw the vandals force a south side classroom window, ransack all the teachers' desk drawers, damage a filing cabinet and ransack the principal's office. Only \$1.50 was reported missing.

At Stewarttown, the story was the same. They entered by breaking the outside door on the girls' washroom, then smashed all the locked doors leading into the classrooms. Several doors will have to be replaced, officials said. The invaders broke into all the teachers' desks and escaped with \$2.43 taken from Red Cross collection jars.

North Halton O.P.P. and identification experts from O. P. P. headquarters have launched an inquiry into the wave of break-ins.

THANK WORKERS - Halton Riding New Democratic Party held a dance at Milton's Union Hall on Saturday, as a "thank you" party to those who spent time and effort on the Provincial election campaign. A large crowd attended to enjoy dancing to a Calypso band, and the caterers ran short of food before all were fed - a sure sign of good food and a bigger than-expected crowd.

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