

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 2, 1943.

While the nominating meeting in Acton only drew the usual handful of citizens, there seemed to be keen interest in municipal affairs and plenty of nominations. Acton will have its first election since 1919 when four out of a slate of seven will be chosen for council. J. H. McDonald was re-elected mayor by acclamation. Members of the school board by acclamation were Dr. F. G. Oakes, G. A. Dills and J. A. Chapman. W. H. Clayton, member of the board last year, has resigned. For Public Utilities commissioner, C. H. Hanson was returned without opposition.

The election on Monday for councillors will be from W. J. O. Oakes, A. Mason, C. Kirkness and F. Davison, all members of last year's council, and J. H. Boulton, superintendent of the Canadian Wool Co., George Fountain, an employee of Beardmore's, and Frederick Hunter, an employee of Storey Glove.

Acton United Church was the scene of a pretty wedding when La Verne Peace Smith became the bride of Cpl. Earl Chisholm Ryder, Rex A. W. Fishery performed the ceremony. Mrs. Fishery sang and Miss Fern Brown played the organ. Miss Mona Smith, the bride's sister, was bridesmaid. The bride's aunt, Miss E. Hawthorne, received at the reception with the mother of the groom.

Miss Elizabeth Moore, who has been a resident of Acton for 60 years, was 90 years of age on Sunday.

The first regular meeting of Knox Y.P.S. was held Monday with the president, Bill Mann, in charge. Mr. Thomson conducted a panel discussion.

First overseas Christmas card to reach our desk was from Pte. Ross Swackhamer.

Supplies of the Free Press last week did not meet the demand. Rationing of paper makes it necessary to print only a limited number.

Born: Susan Blanche, Carlisle, Catherine Gale McCallum, David Louis Thompson, David Mary McIntosh Gibbons, James Winton.

The R.A.F. RCAF triumphs keep pouring. Berlin, Churchill, Roosevelt and Chiang Kai Shek have met in North Africa.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Nov. 17, 1931.

As stated in the resignation of H. P. Moore, secretary of the Acton Board of Education, he has been 35 years in office. The first board he served with was in 1879 with W. H. Storey as chairman and Edward Moore, David Henderson, Michael Speight, Samuel Moore and Alex Lanby.

There have been 26 chairmen, including John Speight, James Matthews, James Moore, Dr. Lowry, J. E. McGarvin, George Hynds, Thos. Ebbage, A. R. Nicklin, T. H. Harding, Rev. G. W. Cook, W. H. Storey, James McLam, Robert Holmes, H. Swackhamer, Robert Holmes, W. R. Kenney, Henry Grindell, John Coleman, George Agnew, Dr. Ault and C. C. Speight.

During this long period, the school has had but two principals, the late Thomas H. Moore, who occupied the position for 25 years, and Principal Stewart, who is now in his 11th year.

When the present secretary-treasurer commenced his duties, the cost of maintenance of the school was \$1,542 for the year. This year it is \$6,240. The staff comprised three teachers, T. T. Moore, Miss Nina McKellar and Miss Carrie Moore. Their salaries were \$500 and residence, \$300 and \$275 respectively, in all \$1,075 and \$6 for rent.

At present, the following eight teachers comprise the staff: Principal Stewart and Misses Mabel Howie, Minnie Bennett, Tina White, Veda McPherson, Lottie Polley, Winnifred Watson and Annie Taylor. The aggregate of the salary list is now \$3,000.

Give Grand Opera in your Own Home. Faust — the most popular of all operas — is loved by everyone with any musical culture. Columbia Records cost from 85 cents to \$7.50. Music on both sides. Fit any machine. A. T. Brown, agent for Music Supply Co.

Disaster was narrowly escaped in the G.T.R. yards. Engines were reversed and the engine crews jumped, but the trains slipped with a yard to spare between them.

At the new Federal building, the platform has been put in to support the tower clock and works, weighing two tons.

Sages and Spies...

BY BILL SMILEY

For the first couple of years my job friends in the newspaper business were complacent. They knew I'd been in the field when I recanted from this teaching horribleness.

I used to hear their thought waves, "How in the heck, they'd think, 'can old Smiley stand it? How can the Board put up with him? He was never cut out to be a teacher."

At first, I answered their queries with what I hoped was an eloquent shrug and a typical Canadian tactfulness.

Let's Play Bridge

Last weekend, my wife and I played at the Tri-County Duplicate Bridge Tournament held in Guelph. We came first in a field of 13 in the Non-Masters Pairs on the Friday evening. I was particularly pleased since this was the first tournament that my wife has ever played in.

For the last two years, my wife and I have been experimenting with the weak no trump 12-14 points to be used in any position with any vulnerability. Two weeks ago at the Acton Bridge Club, I once opened one no trump vulnerable and was doubled.

Both times, I was set for a very poor score. However, I got back all this on this one board that led to our victory. I was slitting and saw the dealer. I have reconstructed the hand as accurately as I can from memory.

Dealer — South.
North — South vulnerable.
North
S—A 10 5 4
H—8 4
D—5 3 2
C—K J 10 6 2

West East
S—O 9 6 2 S—8
H—K 9 6 H—A 7 5 2
D—8 4 2 D—A J 9 7 6
C—Q 6 4 C—A 8 7

South North East
1 NT Pass Pass Double
Pass Pass Pass

I opened 1 NT vulnerable on 12 points. As I did, I was thinking of those hands two weeks ago at the Acton Bridge Club. My partner passed without hesitation as the should and East was in a spot. With an opening bid, he felt that his side was being taken for a ride, so he doubled. West, with a balanced hand and a scattering of high cards, elected to pass. As you can see, each side has exactly 20 points, but we had all the tens and these made the difference. West opened his fourth best spade and I ducked this to my hand. I led a low club and finessed the ten. This held.

I led a low heart, played the queen, which West won with the king. West switched to a diamond and East took his ace and returned a diamond. I won and led the nine of clubs and finessed again. When East did not take his ace (for fear of setting up all of dummy's clubs), I led the heart jack. East won and returned another diamond. I won and played the king of spades.

East carelessly discarded a heart and so I made the balance with the ten and three of hearts and the marked spade finesse.

All this has a bridge moral. If a bid is a good bid but goes wrong a couple of times, don't blame the bid. Blame the distribution. Keep trying and sooner or later, it will average out. Book bids don't work all the time, just most of the time and this is what counts.

Winners this week first Tom Warrnes, Dick Anderson, tied for second and third, Earl Emph and Mike Lorusso, Mrs. Campbell and Bill Coats.

How's the teaching?

"Not bad," I'd answer.

After three years in the teaching game (that's some game!) I can state flatly that teaching is probably the most fascinating and frustrating job in the world.

I can state flatly that teaching is three times as tough and teachers three times as good as when you and I were young, Maggie.

Why is it fascinating? I hesitate to say. Teaching is a thing that seems to attract the cliché. "The blossoming (or even worse) the flowering of young minds." The "thrill of kindling a spark of knowledge." The "molding of malleable metals in our youth." And a lot of jazz like that.

That's not why it's fascinating. The real reason is that you can act as the old fencing-master. Leading the kids by their points against yours. Showing them tricky ruses and clever foot-work. Teaching them, by example, the morals and manners that must go with the skill. And then seeing them go out and enter the lists, quivering but confident, afraid but fearless.

Why is it frustrating? Oh, it is a grinding, wrenching, tearing thing that eats your strength. It is a paper jungle.

It is a despair of bright minds in broken homes and dull minds in happy homes. It is a rage at the democratic, tax-paid obstacles between what you could do and what you can do.

I said teaching is three times as tough today. It is. There are more machines, bigger classes, higher standards, tougher examinations. There is also psychology at home and at school.

I said teachers were three times as good as they used to be. It's true. With a few exceptions, my teachers — and yours, old friend — were nice. Frightened, naive, poor, apologetic, they were fair game for school boards, home and school clubs, parents and students.

Today, they're less timid, more sophisticated, less shabby, less intolerant, more interesting, and just as interested.

Teaching is this: five days a week, eight or nine times a day, facing a battery of about 15 pairs of eyes — cold, hot, curious, indifferent, wondering, cynical, adoring, rebellious, sparkling, dull — and doing something about it.

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Standard Time.

Eastbound
6:11 a.m. (Daily except Sun and Hol.)
8:44 a.m. (Daily except Sat, Sun & Hol., Express)
11:11 a.m.
2:08 p.m.
5:08 p.m.
6:21 p.m.
8:51 p.m.
10:14 p.m. (Sun and Hol.)

Westbound
7:37 a.m. (Daily except Sat, Sun & Hol.)
10:27 a.m.
12:57 p.m.
3:27 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
6:36 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sat and Sun.
7:36 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sat and Sun.
8:52 a.m. daily except Sunday and Monday. Direct connection from Owen Sound etc.
7:42 p.m. to Toronto, daily except Sunday.
7:47 p.m. to Toronto, Sunday only.
9:25 p.m. to Toronto, daily, board at Georgetown only.

Westbound
8:31 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sun.
4:25 p.m. to Stratford, daily except Sun and Mon.
7:24 p.m. daily except Sunday.
12:00 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat.

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Air Transport Command R.C.A.F. Band Plays Here

The students and staff of Acton High School were delighted to entertain on Friday afternoon, with a program of instrumental numbers by the Air Transport Command Band of the RCAF, which visited the high school for the first time, and it is sincerely hoped that they will come back.

For the students from the stone school who had to come and sit in the bleachers, and for the other students from the main school, this unique program came as a soothing interlude prior to a hectic week of examination writing.

The members of the 45-piece band, wearing the trim uniforms of the RCAF, were arranged at the front of the gymnasium in dual formation, with the percussion and the brass section on stage and a brass and reed section below in the auditorium, with Band Master W. Owen Bridgewater directing from a dais.

Of special interest were the solos, "Night and Day," and "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," led by Sergeant McGee at the microphone. The majority of the musical arrangements were by Ken Campbell, RCAF officer. The concluding number, "The Air Force March Past," ended very appropriately a program of a calibre, perhaps seldom before enjoyed by many of the students of Acton High.

Principal E. A. Hansen introduced the band master and his band, and Vice Principal M. Bevan, a former RCAF man, expressed the appreciation of the school.

Bad Weather, World Events Dampen Enthusiasm for Cards

Brown Gunder leaders, and the banquet at noon in St. Mary's auditorium in Brampton one day last week.

The W.I. sponsored euchre held in Limestone Memorial Hall on Friday evening, attracted enough guests for eight tables in spite of inclement weather and serious world events. Winners at cards were Mrs. Graham and Clara Wilson, while Mrs. John Crawford, Dr. and Tom Hamilton won second and Mrs. Johnson won lone hands prize in a draw with Tom Hamilton Lunch was served afterwards.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Noble visited Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jones in Brampton one day last week. Mr. and Mrs. Roland McQuaid and twin daughters, Linda and Louise of Port Credit visited Mr. and Mrs. S. Wolsky on Sunday. Thirteen girls attended Brownies last week on Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Ron Thompson and Mrs. Stephen Wolsky attended the all day school for Blue and

Theatre Nights At Birch Hills

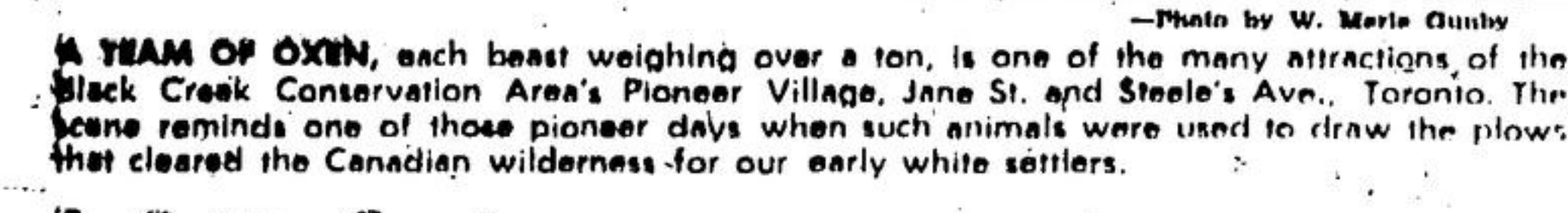
Birch Hills Golf and Country Club, Sixth Line, Nassagaweya, recently launched a winter program that includes monthly theatre nights on a specially constructed stage area in the clubhouse dining room.

They began a month ago with a musical and last week the Queens Dramatic Club of Toronto visited to perform a three-act comedy, "A Little Bit of What You Fancy." Close to 100 attend and enjoyed the show.

Mrs. Eileen was director with music by Ruth Green and J. Burgess. The play was written by Catherine Wilbrahan, and featured a cast of 15.

Knox Student

Guest speaker Sunday at Knox was Robert Phillips, B.Sc., student who was in the program at Knox College, Toronto. He spoke on "The Anniversary of the Confederation of the Province of Ontario." The assumption of President Kennedy, evoked emotion and prayer.



A TEAM OF OXEN, each beast weighing over a ton, is one of the many attractions of the Black Creek Conservation Area's Pioneer Village, Jane St. and Steele's Ave., Toronto. The scene reminds one of those pioneer days when such animals were used to draw the plows that cleared the Canadian wilderness for our early white settlers.

A Spirit Continues...

The events that claimed the life of John F. Kennedy and continued in rapid succession left the hearer speechless, incredulous, the people of this area despite the separation of distance.

First news of the president's assassination left the hearer speechless, incredible, stunned. Its impact gripped the attention and forced one to listen intently for succeeding words of the event.

It was as if he was a close personal friend because in effect he had gained, through frequent news reports of his activities, the familiarity which develops between close friends. He symbolized the role of world leader, because through his strength of purpose and his courage he had established himself as one not to be lightly taken.

Kings, presidents, princes, prime ministers and world leaders of state paid tribute to the man and to the office he held so briefly. For less than three years he had led the world's most mighty power and despite his youth he had filled that role with dignity and understanding beyond his years.

From north of his country we were conscious of much of his activity. His death spread across the border that pall of grief which must certainly have been evident even throughout the United States. Flags were at half mast and streets were surprisingly quiet at normally busy times, as the country watched the drama of history and the expressions of grief unfold by television and radio.

It has been incredible and seemingly beyond understanding that the late president's accused assassin has himself been slain. Now another apparently awaits trial for murder. The whole tragic drama from the slaying of the president, a policeman, then the accused assassin seems beyond the wildest imagination.

It's Up to You...

Thursday's ratepayers' meeting was a sad example of the taxpayers' interest in their own corporation. The town with an anticipated annual expenditure of over \$590,000, deserves a better indication of interest by the voters and taxpayers than it is presently receiving. True, there is only an acclamation for the office of mayor and this is a healthy sign. Our concern is that only two questions on the activities and business of the town were asked. There was discussion of the qualifications of candidates but questions on the administration were too few.

The reports by boards and committees were sketchy, the report of the High School Board was non-existent. We feel that a more complete and detailed report of the boards might have stirred some questioning. Throughout the year it is often suggested we

ically buried on the same day. The president, of course was given full military honors and the flag draped coffin interred in Arlington Cemetery. The accused assassin was taken from the rear door of an undertaking establishment in a wooden coffin draped with a grey cloth for interment.

Watching the events of the weekend on television one couldn't help wonder how Oswald could ever have been given a fair trial had he lived. Locating an impartial jury and judge would surely have been one of the most difficult tasks. Yet this was his right despite what commentators frequently referred to as a "wealth of evidence against him".

And this right along with other rights of equality and liberty are among the ideals which are symbolized in the actions of the late President. It surely is a time for reflection on the care with which each should grant the rights of his fellow man if we are not to lose the example the late president set.

Surely the spirit of his efforts will continue and because of this, John Fitzgerald Kennedy will not be dead.

Many will recall with us the familiar and poignant words of Kipling's "Recessional" from our old school reader.

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine,
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget.

The tumult and the shouting dies,
The captains and the kings depart;
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart —
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget.

should write editorials about the terrible situation in the Hydro Commission, the schools, the planning board or the way the council is spending money like madmen or giving away the resources of the town. We think the time for these street corner critics to air their grievances is at a ratepayers' meeting.

If there is any question of the propriety of the operation of the town in 1963 it was certainly not evident in the double question period on Thursday night.

We suppose we should end this editorial urging everyone to exercise his franchise in the elections next Tuesday in a grand display of civic self-righteousness. However, if having voted ends your interest in municipal government, mightn't you just as well stay at home?

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