



THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice ...

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 25, 1948.

Games of cards, carol singing and dancing were features last Friday night of the Christmas party of the Y's Men's Club. But, of course, the highlight was the draw for 10 turkeys to grace the Christmas table. Half of them went to Acton residents and half of them to friends.

Winners were, W. M. Rolfe, London; Agnes Flear, Rockwood; C. H. Harrison, Toronto; Roddie Force, Mary Dennis, William Waterhouse, Robert Healey and R. MacArthur, all of Acton; Vernon Stephenson, Toronto; L. H. Merrill, Kitchener.

After two and a half years with the Canadian forces, Sgt. W. Findlay arrived home on Wednesday just in time for Christmas. Acton friends, as well as Mrs. Findlay and Kathleen, are indeed glad to see him back home again and especially for Christmas.

A letter from the Liquor Control Board was read at the meeting of county council, saying, "May we advise it is not the intention of the Board to open any stores owing to the shortage of spirits. After the war, this matter will have every consideration."

The young folks will really appreciate the arena when it opens after the war. Permission was given by the public school board for a rink on school property.

Sam Brunelle has enlisted in the RCAF.

The annual Christmas entertainment at the United Church was a big event. There were carols, a welcome recitation by Miss Marilyn Rogalski, a prayer offered by the church school "Dream of the Months", orchestral numbers by Mr. Benn's class, reading by Miss Ema Wilderspin, quartette by C.G.E.T. girls, Mr. A. T. Brown, superintendent, and was chairman.

Thelma M. Storey is home from Point Albert, B.C., for holidays. AC 2 Don Russ is home from Regina and AC1 Stuart Lantz is home from Dunnville.

The Boys' Band had a presentation for Mr. Charles Mason.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 10, 1913.

An interesting debate under the auspices of Knox Church Young People's Literary Society was held on Monday evening. A keen interest was taken as manifested by the large attendance. The subject of the debate was "Resolved, that Home Rule for Ireland will be for the betterment of the Empire as a whole."

Messrs. J. A. McKinnon and John R. Kennedy supported the affirmative and president John Cole and Mrs. William Hunter, the negative. The judges were Messrs. W. J. L. Hampshire, George Murray and Alex. Mackie. Their decision was for the affirmative.

The rabbit shooting season closed on Monday.

Citizens are still able to dig celery in their gardens. Sleighing for Christmas is devoutly hoped for.

The women's ball and supper Friday night was largely attended. Outside guests were numerous.

Hurrah for the Christmas entertainments! As usual, Knox Sunday school is preparing for an entertainment "New Years' night."

A hydro wire on the outside series of street lights snapped between six and seven o'clock Monday night and as a result, those streets were without light for the rest of the night.

An English aviator has abandoned his attempt to fly from London to Paris with three passengers. The machine struck a fence and broke in two at Folkestone.

A movement is underway, it is stated among the rank and file, to have Winston Churchill removed from office. His naval activities are too much for the real Liberals.

Rarely have municipal politics been so quiet on the eve of nomination, as they are now. It was rumored a week or so ago that Councilman Smith had aspirations for the reeve ship, but it is now generally regarded as a quip.

The Fort Garry Hotel at Winnipeg has been opened at a cost of a million and a half.

We neurbitles of the frantic twentieth century have a genius of sorts. We can take almost anything that is simple, clean and beautiful, and make it complex, sufficed and a garish monstrosity.

Almost anything, but not quite. We haven't quite ruined Christmas yet. But we have taken a day that was, for our ancestors, a simple observance of the birth of Christ and turned it into a gift-scrabbling, card-exchanging, Carol-jangling, tub-thumping several weeks.

Then they went home and drank something hot to take off the chill. While the servants were sweating in the kitchen, preparing the vast dinner to come, the gentry took a bite of lunch. Then the ladies set off to distribute gifts to the poor, while the gentlemen put their coat-tails to the fire and tried to keep warm.

That's YOUR ancestors I'm talking about. Mine were among the people the ladies were taking the food to. I can just see them, kicking the pigs under the bed when her ladyship came in, tugging their forelocks, scraping their feet and saying, "Fank yer, Mjady, Fank yer, Mum," as she pulled from her basket one of the geese that had died of disease, and one of last year's bottles of blackberry brandy that had gone vinegary.

This Christmas, of course, our ancestors' descendants will eat turkey legs under the bed, kicking the pigs, while the descendants of Mjady, who have managed to hang onto the manor house only by taking tourists through a shilling a shot, will dine in the only room of the big house they can afford to heat, on a small bit of brislet and brussel sprouts.

However, that's not what I started out to say. Well, despite all the wailing and throwing of hands in the air at the paganism and commercialism of Christmas today, I feel that we have failed, somehow. We haven't quite managed to ruin Christmas.

If I want our children to know as much, and maybe more, of the story of Christmas, and the coming of the Christ-child, as their counterparts of 100 years ago did, I'll bet we are not as smug and selfish, despite our much-touted materialism, as our Victorian great-grandfathers were.

Witness service clubs scurrying about town with Christmas baskets for those less fortunate. Witness groups of youngsters singing carols at home for old people. Witness high school kids selling Christmas cards of JUIE CBE to feel little, starving children abroad.

So gird your loins, plunge into your shopping and debt, give for the joy of giving, be happy in the family reunion, go to church on Christmas Day, and don't be a hog with the turkey, and you won't go too far wrong!

Editorial Page

The Christmas Season...

The holiday season is almost here. Decorations are up in most homes and gay Christmas trees light windows all over the town and country.

Children are busy peering in cupboards and other likely hiding places and gazing in wonder at tinsel-clad trees under which the brightly wrapped, mysterious parcels are appearing. Grown-ups are doing that last-minute shopping and wrapping, and hoping that almost forgotten card will reach its destination before Christmas Day.

Besides the gay lights on the streets reflecting clear evidence of the season, there is a happy bustling spirit of good fellowship in the air and strangers are surprised to find a cheery smile doesn't cost anything, yet brings warm dividends.

The well-loved Christmas carols are heard again after a year's absence and even pre-occupied business men are surprised to find themselves humming these well known Yuletide Hymns.

There are the smells of Christmas, too, the glorious aroma of the Christmas pudding, the delightful scent of fruit cake, shortbread and cookies, the snow-fresh smell of pine needles and the Christmas tree.

All of these things are as familiar to us as are the brightly lighted store windows, the gaily wrapped Christmas gifts and the swelling tide of arriving Christmas cards.

All of them mean Christmas to us and sometimes we are inclined to forget the real reason behind the festivity. We look at the children asleep in their beds and fail to see, through their lonely manger with a bit of hay, Wadlock at the colored lights on our

Christmas tree and fail to see, through them, the glorious galaxy of stars which shone in the Heavens on that winter's night so long ago. These things reflect the true meaning of Christmas but, sometimes in this busy world of ours, we are inclined to forget. We are inclined to forget what the Spirit of Christmas really is and like Scrooge, have to be reminded that there is more to Christmas than the exchanging of cards, gifts and greetings.

Who among us can deny the joy at the heart, we feel, when we spot a ragged, shivering little figure with his or her nose pressed tightly on the breath-frosted window of a toy store? The little tug at the heart you feel is the true Spirit of Christmas, trying to force its way into a busy, modern world once more.

The Spirit of giving! Not the giving of material things that cost money, but the giving of love and happiness to others which is, after all, the most precious gift we can bestow, and the one which costs the least and brings such wonderful dividends.

The sharing of love and happiness with others is a privilege we should be proud to know is ours. And at what better time of year can we start making use of this privilege than at Christmas when thought, turns to the Heavens and when we are assured that in the eyes of God, all men are equal?

Resolve now to share your happiness all year round with others secure in the knowledge that Bob Cratchit, his wife and Tiny Tim will live again as once more around the world echo these wonderful words: Merry Christmas.

One Life...

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his feet on a sidewalk. He never travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine magnetism.

While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through

the misery of a trial. He was found guilty of a crime between two thieves. He was sentenced to the gallows for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was young, and that was his coat. When he was dead, his was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries ago, some one again and today he is the center of the human race and the glory of the world.

I am within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, I and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not done as much for the life of man upon this earth as has the One Solitary Life.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

CAMPBELLVILLE - Voters in the village headed to the polls on Saturday and elected Walter Lambly, Roy Olan and Bob Elliott as village trustees for 1964. Also voted was a money by-law concerning extended street lighting and it was defeated. 51 ballots to 31. Of the 135 eligible voters for the trustees' vote, 72.5% of 98 voters cast ballots. The street lighting by-law was voted on by 86.5% of the eligible voters.

OKAVILLE - A stag in Okaville was interrupted recently by Town Police and four men have been charged for playing with cooked dice. The Police found 200 sets of dice in a car outside the building. No charges were laid against the other persons in the building when it was raided. In Police court last week, the charged men were remanded until January 21.

BRAMPTON - Safe Driving Week in Peel County from December 1 to December 7 wasn't too safe as 74 accidents were investigated and 24 persons were injured, including one fatality. Total property damage was estimated at \$30,000. In Brampton alone, 18 accidents were investigated.

GEORGETOWN - Skaters in town will be able to use seven outdoor natural ice skating rinks this winter. Five of the proposed rinks will be created and maintained by the town works staff, and the other two are projects of the Delcex recreation committee.

Our Readers Write

Municipal Elections

Dear Editor,

Through the medium of your newspaper, I would like to appear before the people of Acton some facts concerning my request for a recount of votes cast in the recent municipal election.

On Dec. 11, 1964, an error in my polling station Mr. Frank Simons was declared elected. The fact that this error got as far as the town office and seven the Globe and Mail before being discovered would suggest a lack of proper supervision in this polling station.

22 Unusual amount of rejected ballots in one particular polling station.

23 I attended a council meeting Tuesday, December 16th, to request council to consider making an investigation to the county judge to permit a recount of all ballots cast.

24 These matters of irregularities were put forth by members of council at this meeting. This proved to be that they were as much concerned about this matter as I am myself.

application direct to the county judge on my own behalf, in order to assure myself and the people of Acton that no other irregularities have taken place. However, this recount can only cover votes cast for council and it is in my opinion this is still not satisfactory.

I have been advised by my lawyer that this recount will take place on January 30th 1964.

If we are to get this great country moving and make our contribution into the world, we must start by insuring government for the common good. To accomplish this it is very important for everyone to act according to the dictates of their conscience.

It also contains more than just casting our ballots, but rather in active all year round interest in the government of our town and country.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity of wishing the people of Acton a festive and peaceful Christmas.

Bob Drinkwater
160 Churchhill Road
Acton, Ont.

GET IT LATER

After being spotted by the head of the town's was started on a journey that was not to be as comfortable as he looked in the bath room mirror. He dreaded the inevitable encounter, but there was nothing he could do about it.

When nothing was said by his wife, he decided to follow the route and get it over with.

"Let's suppose," he said rather sheepishly, "were pretty angry with me for coming home with a black eye last night?"

"Angry? Mrs. no, no, no, you remember? When you got home last night you didn't have that black eye!"

Let's Play Bridge

By Bill Coats

Hasty play at any time in bridge can lead to difficulties, but hasty play to the first trick can lead to lost contracts. When dummy goes down, you should count your winners and losers and plan your play. Only when you have done this, is it safe to play the first card from dummy.

Hasty play to the first trick cost two declarers their contract on Board No. 20 from last week's meeting of the Acton Bridge Club.

Another declarer went down two more than necessary by hasty play at the second trick. (Defence took the first.) I am not sure what happened, the fourth time, since it was played by five. To trump doubled just making.

Here is the hand:

Dealer - East

Both sides vulnerable.

North

S K O J 10 8 4 2
H 4 2
D K J 4 2
C void

West - S 6 5 3
H K J 10
D - Q 9 6 5 3
C 1 8 6

East

S 4
H A 10 7 5
D - A 10
C - A K Q 10 5 2

Suggested bidding

East South West North
Pass 1C Pass 1S
Pass 3C Pass 4S
Pass 5H Pass 5S
Pass 6NT All pass

The optimum contract is six no trump by South. However, six spades or six clubs should both make as well.

One pair did reach six no trump and received the lead of the trump suit. This was all allowed to run to the 10. Now, declarer sat back to count tricks, but it was already too late. A spade was led to the king and another spade led West winning. South now had five good spades in dummy but no way of getting there.

One pair reached seven clubs on a slight misunderstanding. West doubled and led the ace of spades. West's double was not good and neither was her lead. South could easily have a foul in spades and this lead could set up the whole suit. After winning the spade ace, West switched to a diamond which South won with the 10. This South could not get back dummy's good spades either.

In both these cases, South must win the diamond with the ace. The 10 of diamonds is much less important to waste on taking a trick. It is actually needed to enter dummy with.

A third declarer played the hand at six spades (North) and received a heart led from East. When the timesse lost declarer was down one, the spade ace had to be led, well. Here the play was to take the first heart with the ace and pitch a club on the ace of clubs. Now, trump is led and the ace of spades is the only bid.

Do not play pucks to the trick if you are declared. Make your play carefully and only play the first card from dummy.

The weekly women's first Bill Coats' Luck Hoppy, second Dr. Logan Mary, Houser, third Elizabeth Leslie, Mrs. Har. Galy boys.

CHRISTMAS

Hardy fellows season the Acton Hall Season of the Christ-children's birth.

Erving, a young boy of good heart, Erving's school will have the Christmas tree.

King and the church bells and candles and laughter and joy were everywhere.

Hearts of the town's school children were

Time when our thoughts and wishes go to those who are suffering and those who are poor. They have not stopped our merry Christmas is for the young and old.

In all our hearts, we should be giving to all like gifts of gold. God's gift of love and peace is named.

—By David L. Cobbin.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL	FUNERAL DIRECTORS
DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River St. Acton, Ont. Phone 853-0341	Rumley Shoemaker FUNERAL HOME Phone 853-0350 night or day. Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.
DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Phone 853-1240	OPTOMETRISTS E. L. BUCHNER, O.D. Optometrist Contact Lenses Hearing Aids 6 John St. S. Acton In-Acton Wednesdays only 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. For appointment, phone 853-1041 If no answer, phone Waterloo 742-8867
DR. T. B. MOORE Physician and Surgeon 2 Main Street North Corner Main and Mill Street Acton, Ontario Phone 853-2180	ARTHUR A. JOHNSON 184 Main St., Milton (David Davis Jewellers) Phone TR 8-9722 Res. TR 8-9678 Tuesday Afternoons Thursday Evenings Friday Mornings
DENTAL	APPRAISING AND INSURANCE
DR. H. FIB Dental Surgeon Office - Corner Mill and Frederick Street Office Hours by Appointment Telephone 853-0610	F. L. WRIGHT 20 Wilbur St. Acton, Ontario Phone 853-0720 Appraiser and Insurance Over 50 Years in Acton
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office - 90 Church St. E. Office Hours - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 853-1750	ARCHITECT DONALD E. SKINNER B.Arch. M.R.A.I.C. 114 Mill Street, Suite 2, Acton Telephone 853-2740 Office Hours by Appointment 20 Stavebank Rd., Post Credit CR R 6065
LEGAL	TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
C. F. LEATHERLAND, O.C. Barrister and Solicitor Notary Public Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays by Appointment only Office 853-1100 Res. 853-1725 Acton	GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time Eastbound 8:33 a.m. (Daily except Sat.) 10:45 a.m. (Daily except Sat.) 1:31 p.m. (Daily except Sat.) 3:04 p.m. (Daily except Sat.) 6:21 p.m. (Daily except Sat.) 10:14 p.m. (Sat. only) Westbound 7:37 a.m. (Daily except Sat.) 9:52 a.m. (Daily except Sat.) 12:37 p.m. (Daily except Sat.) 3:52 p.m. (Daily except Sat.) 6:12 p.m. (Daily except Sat.) 11:02 a.m. (Sat. only)
A. BRAIDA, B.A. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public Office Hours in Acton Monday - Friday evenings 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. 24 Palace St., One phone Ontario Phone TA 4-2242 Office Hours in Guelph Saturdays 9 a.m. - 12 a.m. Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to Toronto daily except Sat. and Sun. 7:00 a.m. to Toronto daily except Sunday and Monday after connection from Owen Sound etc. 7:42 p.m. to Toronto daily except Sunday. 9:47 p.m. to Toronto daily, board at Georgetown only. Westbound 8:01 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sun. 8:22 p.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat. and Sun. 7:04 p.m. daily, except Sunday, 12:09 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat.

The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the C.W.N.A. and the Ontario Quebec Subscriptions payable in advance, \$3.00 in Canada, \$4.00 in England and other Commonwealth Countries, \$5.00 in the United States and other Foreign Countries. Single copies 2¢. Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The only paper ever published in Acton

G. A. Dills, Editor in Chief
David R. Dills, Managing Editor

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 853-2010