The Acton Free Press

Eighty-Ninth Year.—No. 26. ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26th, 1963 "Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa" Eight Pages—Seven Cents

J. Lowries' Best House Wins $25

The home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lowrie, Beaufort Terrace, was picked as the winner this year in the Chamber of Commerce's best decorated home contest. A group of out-of-town judges visited the town independently Monday evening and just phoned back their pronouncement to Chamber president Paul Nielsen.

On Christmas Eve, a past president, Ted Kyle, Sr., and Jim Ledger knocked on the door of the Lowrie home to tell the news and present them with $25.

Their house was partially illuminated by floodlights, the windows were decorated with much loaded pines sprayed with snow and had a lighted Santa and the exterior shrubbery was studded with colored lights.

H.S. At Home Last Thursday

The high school auditorium lived up all the way to the name of the At Home this year — Winter Wonderland — last Thursday evening. The decorations were considered the most attractive ever, but the change in date caused a marked drop in attendance. Few parents spared an evening so near Christmas.

The blue, white and silver decorations were under the direction of Grade 12 student Marilyn Kingsbury, and were beautifully co-ordinated throughout the room. Long streamers were very effective. The Harvey Smith's orchestra was seated on the floor, and on the platform were a snow-covered tree and its modernistic counterpart — a sail-shaped "impressionistic" Christmas tree of wire and tinsel.

Dressed as Santa and sitting in a sleigh, Carl Weir took the tickets at the door. In the receiving line were principal and Mrs. Ted Hansen, school board trustee Dwight Engel and Mrs. Engel; Mayor Lee Duby and Mrs. Duby, student council president Randy Daly and Susan Radford, and vice-president John Wood with Sally Wilson.

Mrs. A. Orr and a group of her students served refreshments — sausage rolls, punch and cookies. Helping were Marilyn O'Connor, Anne Fryer, Karen Perkins, Peggy Holmes, Fay Adams and Sandra Hargrave.

David Woodhouse was in charge of the checkroom.

Some of the guests thoroughly enjoyed an impromptu tour of the classrooms to see the original decorations designed and created by each form.

Pots of white mums on the serving tables were from Lakeview Greenhouses. Before the dance many students helped decorate and prepare the lunch. The home ec. room was effectively decorated, too.

—Staff Photo

SANTA CLAUS never had it so good! On cold chilly nights when he skims over roof tops, old St. Nick would never feel the zero weather if he had two helpers like these to snuggle up to. Actually Cathy Higgins on the left and Grace Clow, right, were among the many office workers helping distribute gifts at the Beardmore Christmas party last week.

Santa Comes Early to Sparks Family Burned Out in Friday Noon Blaze

Generous citizens, neighbors and organizations flocked to the aid of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Sparks and family of five children — two sons and three daughters, ranging in age from five to 11 — shortly after they were made homeless by fire which ravaged their home and ruined all their belongings Friday.

The family, who moved to Acton recently from North Bay, were living in the downstairs apartment of the home owned by Harold Deforest Sr. on Elgin St. and had just moved in the previous day.

A neighbor, Mrs. Fred Lawson, first noticed smoke billowing from the house and phoned in the alarm to alert firefighters.

Two trucks loaded with firefighters sped to the scene and soon water was pouring from hoses in the below-zero weather. Firemen donned smoke masks to enter the house and battle the blaze.

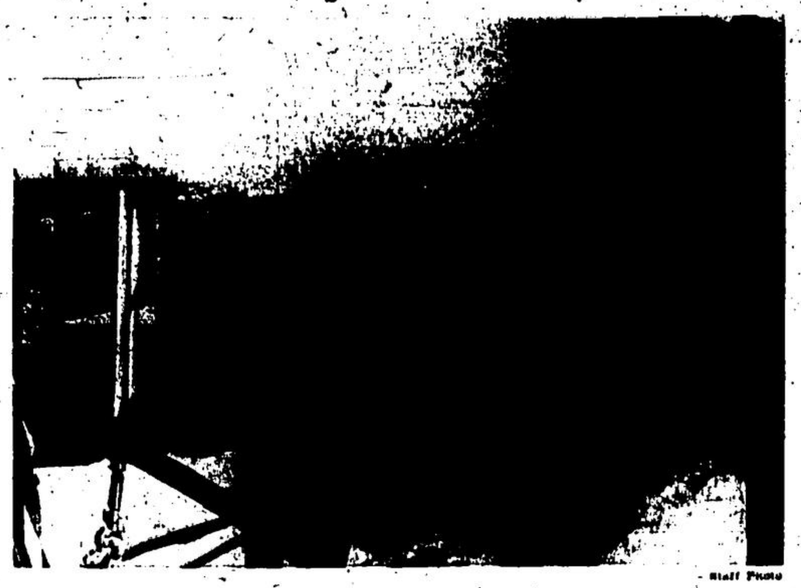
Mr. and Mrs. Sparks and one daughter returned home from shopping to find firefighters pouring water on their blazing residence. They were taken into the home of neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lamarche.

The family moved into a house on Bower Avenue and almost immediately, townspeople came to their aid with articles of clothing, furniture, food and even a Christmas tree and decorations.

Mrs. E. T. Marks, Services at Home and Abroad convener for the Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.D.E., began making phone calls and gathering items to give to the Sparks family. Acton Rotary Club, which shares in the Christmas service program with the I.O.D.E., rallied to the call to help.

Private citizens, a church and neighbors also donated articles of clothing and food and as late as Tuesday, items were still being handed in to Mrs. Marks for distribution to the family.

Fire chief Mick Holmes believes the fire started from overheated stove pipes, but to date has not determined the amount of damage.



—Staff Photo

ACTON FIREFIGHTERS battled a stubborn blaze Friday noon when Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Sparks and family of five children were left homeless temporarily. None of the family were home at the time the fire was first noticed by a former neighbor, Mrs. Fred Lawson. Estimated damage to the house, owned by Harold Deforest Sr., is around $2,000. Firefighters are shown as they douse a blaze in a chesterfield chair which had been carried outside.

Ian Moore Jr. Named Quarry Plant Manager

President F. G. Gardiner, Q.C., announced this week the appointment of Ian Moore Jr., P. Eng., as plant manager at Acton Limestone Quarries. He succeeds his father, who recently retired and is spending the winter at his winter home in Palm Beach, Florida.

The new plant manager learned the business from an expert in the field — his father. Mr. Moore Sr. drew up the original plans for the over $2,000,000 operation and after only slight modifications, the equipment was built and erected by Barber Greene Co.

The retiring manager, Scotch by birth, has been in the business most of his life and is an engineer by trade. The Acton plant was the largest he has seen spring up from the drafting board under his supervision.

Ian Moore Jr. has been second in charge at the quarry since it first opened and with his wife, makes his home on the former Stalker farm on the quarry property.

On Wednesday of last week, Joe Gray, managing director of the National Crushed Stone Association of America, paid a visit to the Acton Limestone Quarries and was amazed at the vast layout of the operation. He believes it to be the most modern and up-to-date plant in North America.

IAN MOORE JR., P. ENG.

"Weepy" Steals Show At Christmas Party

"Weepy" the clown stole the show Saturday afternoon at the Legion Hall when he entertained children waiting eagerly for the arrival of Santa Claus during his annual visit to distribute parcels to veterans' children.

Bill Taylor, who takes on the role of a clown at various Legion functions, assisted members of Acton Citizens' Band as they played Christmas carols when he wielded a broomstick as a baton and encouraged parents and children to sing. Later, he handed out large balloons to the kiddies and kept everyone amused with his antics.

Santa's helpers, in the form of members of the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary had the big chore already completed when parcels had been wrapped and stored in boxes on the stage for Santa to hand out.

The jolly old fellow arrived with a hearty Ho! Ho! and greeted children with a pat on the head and a handshake before sitting in his chair at the front of the auditorium to distribute parcels, candy and a promise to bring toys Christmas Eve if everyone was good.

St. Alban's S.S. Concert on Friday

A nativity play was one of the highlights of the Sunday school concert at St. Alban's Church Friday evening. A crowd of parents and friends watched the program in the parish hall which concluded with the arrival of Santa Claus.

In the nativity sketch were Brenda Denny as Mary, Bruce Sagaski as Joseph, Roger Haggett as the innkeeper, Sandra Denny, Janet Gidman and Fiona Gidman as angels, Sammy Schonnop and Stephen Mellor as shepherds, Randy Coker, John Last and William Laing as wise men.

Also on the program were Elaine Johnson and Glynis Johnson, with a tap dance and song; Katherine Hinton with a recitation and piano solo; a duet by Jane Withers and Cynthia Lee; piano solo by Muriel Holmes; Bonnie Bristow singing and dancing, duet by Fiona Gidman and Lynda Harris; tap dance and song by Rosalind Hall and an accordion solo by Brenda Denny.

Taking part in a choral group were Nancy McCutcheon, Glynis Johnson, Linda Harris, Debra Storey, Donna Lee Spielvogel, Pauline Lynch, Patricia Lynch and Muriel Holmes.

There were group songs by the nursery class.

Sunday school superintendent Ernest Coker chaired the program. The rector, the Rev. D. A. West, opened the program with prayer and welcomed guests.

—Staff Photo

SIGNING REGISTER at the Acton High School "At Home" last Thursday evening are, Bill Robertson and his friends Doris Moffat. The auditorium was gaily decorated with streamers and tables set up around the walls and the Home Economics room was decorated in a Christmas setting as dancers enjoyed their lunch.

Announce Appointments For Beardmore Co., Ltd.

This week, W. J. Beatty, president and general manager of Beardmore and Co. Ltd., announced new staff appointments. The following is a copy of the announcement posted on the plant bulletin board.

Notice to Employees

There have been several staff appointments in recent weeks, which I am pleased to confirm.

Mr. John Greifender has been appointed Chief Chemist of the Company. He will be in charge of our laboratory operations, including process control, product testing and research. It is Company policy to lay increasing emphasis on these aspects of our tanning operations.

Mr. Lorne Youngblut has been appointed Secretary of the Company and will be responsible for management of the office and office personnel and accounting.

Mr. Youngblut's appointment will permit Mr. Creighton to concentrate on the increasing demands of his office as Treasurer involving control of the Company's finances and the management of credit.

Mr. Guy Ross has been appointed Plant Engineer in charge of maintenance, capital construction and steam production. Mr. Ross will continue to have the assistance and counsel of Mr. Charlie Hansen.

Mr. Hansen has rendered long and valuable service to the Company, and it is a source of great satisfaction to the Board of directors that he is able and willing to continue his active support of the best interests of Beardmore and Co.

Mr. Frank Simioni has been appointed Supervisor to consolidate as far as possible the operations of our Manufacturing Departments. The Departments involved are Welting, Belting, Outsole, Specialty Crust, Specialty Finishing and Lower Shipping Room. He will take over from Mr. Lauder the responsibility for the security personnel, which includes gatemen and watchmen. Mr. Simioni's appointment will provide better means of control of the particular operations mentioned above and will also establish a clearcut and convenient channel of communication with the management for routine administrative purposes.

Mr. Harold Bumbridge has been appointed Assistant Manager of our Belting Division, under Mr. G. C. V. Hewson. Mr. Bumbridge has been with the Company for over 30 years and brings to his new responsibilities extensive experience in the Leather and Belting Sales Divisions of our Company.

W. J. Beatty,
President & General Manager

Boxing Day

This Boxing Day newspaper was published the day after Christmas, and went to the mail and to dealers whose stores were open then. Some dealers didn't get the Free Press supply until they opened on Friday, however.

Again next week the Free Press will be published on Thursday — the day after New Year's Day.

Welcome... to a new year

A complete 366 days stretch ahead . . . thousands of opportunities for reliving the Christmas message of goodwill to men . . . hundreds of challenges to live unselfishly. May the new year hold the best for you and may we each do our best in the new year.