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Name Miss M. Z. Bennett Citizen of the Year for '64

Retired 25 years ago as principal of Acton public school, Miss M. Z. Bennett yesterday (Wednesday) housecleaned all day before accompanying the man who succeeded her as principal, G. W. McKenzie, to the Chamber of Commerce banquet at his request—ostensibly to hear a former pupil speak. Then her host rose and began to speak about her, and at the conclusion of the citation 110 in St. Alban's parish Hall rose in a standing ovation for Acton's seventh Citizen of the Year.

Murmuring to beaming Mr. McKenzie "Shame on you," she went to the front of the hall to accept the traditional engraved plaque and a gorgeous bouquet of gold and bronze mums.

"I'm really dumfounded!" the teacher declared, speaking briefly of previous dinners and previous winners. "I haven't done anything for years! I can't say any more than 'Thank you!'"

Head Telegram

Former pupil William R. Stewart, deputy minister of education, had intended coming to honor her, but was prevented by duties with the House. Two of his sisters, Miss Elsie Stewart and Mrs. Roy Brown, were there from Toronto, and another pupil, Roy Brown, read the deputy-minister's telegram which said in part, "The honor is richly deserved as all her pupils know. She was a great teacher, dedicated to her work and devoted to her pupils, determined to get the best effort possible from all of us. I can still see her standing in front of the class with an intense look on her face as she worked hard. I can still recall her tone of voice as she urged us on for the entrance examinations. Throughout the years I have re-

membered her with respect and affection."

Inspector Adds Praise
L. L. Skuce, who had direct contact with her as Halton inspector and who has just retired, stated his happiness at being there to extend his congratulations on this signal honor. "I grew to admire her work in the classroom, and since to admire her influence."

Mimographed song sheets with an original ditty composed for Miss Bennett were distributed

and everyone sang the song—product of Mr. Skuce, Mrs. Reed and Glenn Banks' ingenuity with guitar.

Tables Turned

Then Mr. McKenzie who had connived Miss Bennett's unsuspecting appearance at the dinner, realized with astonishment chairman Roy Goodwin was talking about him next. "Acton Y's Men's club has brought the name of Acton to the world," Mr. Goodwin said reviewing Mr. McKenzie's career as charter member,

district governor, regional officer and now international president. "He has brought honor to the club, town, school board and fellow teachers."

Accepting the tie bar and cuff links, Mr. McKenzie at first exuded Miss Bennett's insouciant remark, "Shame on you! It's still Miss Bennett's night!" He mentioned some who had helped him attain his post—first of all Miss Bennett, who left him a school "rich in a number of things" (when he first met her, she was cleaning out a cistern, he recalled); then Mr. and Mrs. Skuce, Elmer Smith, the school board, staff, and Y's Men. In the next three weeks he will be in Dallas, at an all-Negro Conference in Richmond, Virginia and at centennial celebrations in Summerside, P.E.I.

Full House

Turkey dinner was served to slightly over the number anticipated. (Continued on Page Five)

Citizen of Year Citation

Resounding applause followed the citation read by the Chamber of Commerce dinner last night by Principal G. W. McKenzie. The moving summary of a long and distinguished career concluded by declaring former principal Miss Minnie Z. Bennett Acton's "Citizen of the Year."

On one of the highest pinnacles of the rugged Niagara Escarpment, three or four miles northeast of Glen Williams still stand the ruins of the old Clay Hill School. In mid-August, 1903, on a very hot morning a straggling procession led by an eager, open-faced, vigorous, young teacher wound its way up the slippery hillside to the old, stone building. With numerous books on her left arm she clutched her long skirts with her right hand to save them from the deep mud which filled ruts left by the recent heavy rain. The high-buttoned boots only occasionally visible beneath the new, frock obscured black hose from view. The forward bend of the figure and the eager virile bespeaking confidence, energy, eagerness and enthusiasm for the new experience.

It was the opening day of school, and since the night's rain had called a halt to harvesting, all 42 pupils were on their way to match wits with the new teacher. Would they again win out or had they met their match?

Those who knew Minnie Bennett had few doubts. Parents and neighbors had seen her manage her home school, S.S. No. 10, Erin Township, where along with others her sister Margaret, had moved from the old yellow Fourth Book into High School. It was in this farming community that Minnie Bennett grew up, completed her elementary education and developed a strong desire to be a teacher.

After much consultation involving expenditure of money, time and travel it was decided that she and her shawl should be allowed to attend High School in Georgetown—13 miles distant. (Continued on Page Three)

Lady Councillor Wields Gavel First Time Since System Began

For the first time in Acton council's history, since the adoption several years ago of the system of conducting business in council committee of the whole, a woman councillor acted as chairman, Tuesday evening, councillor Mrs. George Fryer wielded the gavel for the committee of the whole session and kept business moving at a rapid pace in her capacity as chairman.

During the committee of the whole session, deputy-revee J. Bert Wood, chairman of No. 1 committee, informed council his committee had briefly discussed possibilities of adopting a Centennial program for Acton and would deal with this further.

It was also learned during this report a discussion had taken place regarding the increase for town office caretaker Harvey Palmer and the committee recommended a further increase of \$10 per month. It was also agreed the salaries for the clerk-administrator and assessor would remain the same as adopted at the last council meeting.

During the report from chairman Hamilton Peal of No. 2 committee it was recommended a man be engaged to supervise the town dump with full authority to claim complete salvage. Council were informed the man had already started and the program seemed to be working out suitably. A minor discussion took place regarding closing the dump gates on Sunday and No. 2 committee was asked to discuss the suggestion further.

More Chlorine?
Mr. Peal also informed council a report from the O.W.R.C. had been studied at the committee meeting advising more chlorine be used in the town water system. A recommendation from his committee to engage an engineer to submit a proposed plan for street widening off Mill and Young Streets was accepted by council in regular session.

Council also learned a meeting would be held with the county weed inspector Vern McArthur when weed control in Acton would be discussed.

Industrial Land
Council agreed to the consulting engineers to prepare a report including soil tests on the Anthony Hufnagel farm, on Main St. N., which would include pro-

posed water and sewer services. Previously No. 1 committee recommended council offer to purchase the farm for future industrial expansion. Tuesday evening an account was approved amounting to \$25 to Realtor Syd Lamb for appraisal of the property.

Councillor Eric Johnston, chairman of the industrial committee, told council his committee had held a meeting with Industrial Commissioner J. G. Blair, Burlington and were quite impressed with information received. The committee were instructed to pursue possibilities of future industrial land for the town.

Council also:
● Granted permission to the L.O.L. to hold a tag day in Acton July 11, in conjunction with the district rally.

● Approved adoption of Daylight Saving time effective Sunday, April 26, when clocks will advance one hour at 12:01 a.m. until October 25 at 2 a.m. when clocks will be turned back one hour.

● Approved payment of \$445.26 to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for stump removal at Fairy Lake.

Hydro Expenses Given Approval

Approval was given by Ontario Hydro for capital expenses amounting to \$35,170 for the year by Acton Hydro Commission. This was learned Thursday evening of last week when the local commission met.

In the absence of Commissioner Gordon Beatty and Mayor Les Dubs, chairman E. G. Tyler and commissioners Doug Dawkins and Wilfred McEachern approved accounts totalling \$18,603.02 and dealt with several items of business.

A brief discussion was held regarding a new type of hydro pole which carries equipment for underground services. No conclusions were reached and the subject was left for further discussion.

New Heaters

Superintendent Doug Mason informed members his crew had installed six new hot water heaters since the previous meeting. Secretary-treasurer Mrs. Audrey Urquhart informed members the commission had a bank balance at the end of March amounting to \$34,319.99. Of this amount salaries and accounts will have to be paid.

A brief discussion took place regarding a large proposed hydro service map outlining where service and transformers are located but action was left for a later meeting.

Ice Melts Season Over

Ice is melting at the community centre, and the winter sports season is officially over. Jim Casburn, after a full-scheduled season of sports at the community centre as well as other recreation duties, will be helping consider the next project, the arena floor. Council has earmarked \$5,000 toward it.

Ice-making machinery is being turned off gradually this week, slowing increasing the temperature of the ice surface so it melts slowly. This slow melting prevents brine damaging the pipes.



WELCOMING the seventh Citizen of the Year into the small group of townspeople so honored, John Goy, 1963 Citizen, congratulates Miss Minnie Z. Bennett at the Citizen of the Year dinner which brought 110 to the parish hall Wednesday.

Black-Faced Minstrels Tap, Sing Attract Large Crowd Three Nights

"Hilarious, side-splitting, colorful, full of movement, wonderful! They were some of the adjectives used to describe Acton Lions' third annual minstrel show which played Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights last week at the Robert Little school auditorium.

Written, produced and directed by the husband and wife team of Joyce and Jack Carpenter, the show was another smash-hit of almost professional calibre. The many antics of the six madcap men kept the audiences in stitches while, the singing of the chorus, always a special feature of the shows, was listened to intently by appreciative audiences.

Some of the rousing numbers, sung by the chorus had toes tapping, hands clapping in rhythm, and many joined in the mellow southern songs which bewitch audiences with their nostalgia of a bygone era.

Shine Again

The opening number set the tenor for the entire program. It flowed from the familiar "Tonight" into three chords which generally start God Save the Queen. Without exception, the minstrels, headed by Rastus, Bones, Amos, Snowball, Sambo and Tambo, saw the audience rise expecting the Queen. Instead, they swung into action-packed

"Alabama Bound" and from that point, no one knew what to expect.

Dialogue which kept easy going interlocutor Pete Papillon busy umpiring, revealed Rastus was having trouble with his girlfriend, Bones was a country boy at heart, Amos had answers for everybody, Snowball had a remedy for everything, Sambo was afflicted with in-laws and Tambo's wife never ceased to trouble him.

Almost Drowned

When minstrel maverick Les Dubs sang "River Stay Away from My Door," it drew the gasping comment from Tambo, "Very effective, wasn't he, he almost drowned us!" he calmly poured water from one of his shoes.

The cast marched and sang through the difficult passages of "Joshua at Jericho" with petite and port blonde directress Joyce Carpenter handling the baton. Sambo, pleased with the result of the four part harmony decided to form a singing group and dispose of his side-kicks' hand.

Dialogue in two parts, was projected further by a dance routine resembling a wood-burning locomotive with Rastus as the engine, Bones as the coal car, Tambo as the smoke, Snowball and Sambo as the tenders behind.

Dixieland Band

The first half ended in a rousing, swinging "When the Saints Come Marching In" and featured in "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." A Dixieland instrumental group, composed of Ted Tyler Jr. (Snowball), Jack Bullough (Rastus) and Charlie Landborough joined in with the band of Glenn Banks on piano, Charlie Perry on drums and Charlie Rocher strumming the guitar for a colorful production finale.

The second half saw the minstrels swing into "Swanee" and "Alabama Bound," then split the songs and sing them together in toe-tapping rhythm. Dialogue in scriptural origin, led into soloist Al Lauder's "Gonna Build A Mountain" with choral arrangement. Vic Bristow's golden tenor singing "Lucky Old Sun" followed a visit by two of Acton's old codgers, Rastus and Amos, who dredged up some reminiscences which tickled the audience's fancy. Then the end men took up copies of this family journal and found items which escaped the careful scrutiny of the proof readers.

Well Trained

The southern melody "Tallah

Two Kids Fine Nursery is Home

Proprietors of Carolina Nurseries now have their hands full and besides playing nursemaid to budding flowerers have an added chore looking after twins.

Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Red played the role of doctor and delivered twin kids into the world. The young were soon hopping around in great fashion letting their owners know how much they appreciated the wide, wide world.

Mrs. Red "who knows about these things" was absent for the big occasion as she was attending a W.A. convention in Hamilton.

Dessert-Euchre For Fair Ladies

Delicious desserts of every variety greeted the ladies who attended the dessert-euchre in the arena on Tuesday afternoon. The event was sponsored by the Lady Directors of the Acton Fall Fair Board.

After the dessert was served, the ladies played euchre for two hours. The winners playing with pink cards were first, Mrs. J. Kenney, second, Mrs. S. Robin; and those playing with green cards were first, Mrs. Inez Crofton; second, Mrs. J. A. Robinson.

Robinson's lucky prize was won by Mrs. G. S. Matthews.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent by the ladies.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes are being held regularly at St. Alban's church, and confirmation will take place on Sunday, April 26. Bishop Bagnall will be here.



WALKER LODGE A.F. & A.M. had a visit from Rt. Wor. Bro. G. H. Walker, District Deputy Grand Master, Monday evening. Left to right are W. Bro. Gordon Beatty, Master of Walker Lodge; Rt. Wor. Bro. Walker and Wor. Bro. B. B. Davis, district secretary.

Three Leave Department New Representative May 1

A new Agricultural Representative and a new Fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist have been appointed to work in the Halton office of the Department of Agriculture, following the resignations of the three men presently working in the office.

Agricultural Representative J. Allen Francis, Assisting Ag. Rep. Douglas Burnside, and Fruit and Vegetable Specialist Earle F. Muir resigned this month and have gone into partnership on a 913-acre farm at North Cobalt, 100 miles north of North Bay. The farm has been operated for many years by a nearby lumber company, and the new owners plan to operate it as a hog, beef, poultry and vegetable farm, with the emphasis on the hogs.

H. Stanley Here

Henry J. Stanley, presently Associate Ag. Rep. in Wellington County, will take over as Halton Ag. Rep. on May 1. At the same time, Fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist Andrew Ellensberger who is stationed at the Wineland Horticultural Station will be transferred to Halton

with headquarters in the Milton office.

Al Francis began working as Assistant Ag. Rep. in Halton and Peel Counties in May 1957, and became Halton Ag. Rep. in April 1959 at the retirement of the late J. Earl Whitlock. Earlier he graduated from O.A.C. in 1949 and besides working on the family farm near Renfrew, had spent two and a half years as assistant rep. at South Simcoe county, and five years as associate rep. in Hastings.

Here in 1961

Doug Burnside came to Halton and Peel Counties in May 1961 as assistant rep. Earle Muir began working as assistant Fruit and Vegetable Specialist in Halton, Peel, York and part of Wentworth Counties in 1955, and has been the specialist since 1956. Until 1959 he worked from an office in Oakville, then moved to the Milton office when a new office was opened in the Center Building on Main St.

Both Mr. Burnside and Mr. Muir left the Milton office earlier in April. Mr. Francis will leave on May 1.



RASTUS, BONES, SAMBO and all the rest of the Minstrel Boys were on hand for the annual Acton Lions Club Minstrel Show. Shown in the back row are Hartley Coles; Jack Bullough, co-director Joyce Carpenter, Eddie Owens and Ted Tyler Jr. Kneeling are co-director Jack Carpenter and Hugh O'Rourke. Large crowds attended the three shows and appreciated the wry wit of the local cast.