

Queen of Your Citie...

(Continued from Page One)
With their mothers supplying them with the essentials for light housekeeping, their fathers sacrificed the time to drive them by bus and buggy on Monday mornings and home again on Friday evenings.

Before returning to teach in the Woodside School for three years Miss Bennett graduated from Milton Model School. Although teaching in the same school was no bad of roses she survived and later returned to Georgetown High School and graduated from the Toronto Normal School. Thus the trustees of Clay Hill believed that if she could manage Woodside school, she could handle their school but they would expect excellent results. Were they not paying her three hundred and twenty-five dollars a year and this was seventy-five dollars a year more than she received at the home school? Miss Bennett was eagerly determined to merit such confidence and generously and in no time at all her pupils developed a willing obedience based on respect and affection.

In two short years the record of her ability as a teacher and her skill as a disciplinarian had spread afield — even to Hornby. In 1905 those citizens living on the fringe of the Scotch Block offered her another generous raise and were confident that they would receive outstanding service. According to the Inspector's report there was an enrolment of 36 children and those who formed her class at Hornby still speak of her excellence as a teacher and her kindness as a person.

In 1907 Miss Bennett was the envy of many a teacher when she was appointed to a graded school in Acton. Here she would enjoy the companionship of other teachers and the guidance of a principal W. H. Stewart whose son she taught and is today one of the two Deputy Ministers of Education for the province. On her arrival after seven years of experience it would appear that she had "arrived" and there was little to desire or hope for in the way of advancement. Increased attendance and greater interest in Secondary education, however, forced the construction of a three-roomed Continuation School in Acton.

In 1913 a new High School principal was hired and the school board tried a daring experiment of selecting a Public School Principal, a woman, Miss M. Z. Bennett, at a salary two and one half times what she received in 1901. To Miss Bennett an opportunity for service always offered greater attraction than the desire for monetary gain.

From 1913 until her retirement in 1939, Miss Bennett established and maintained an enviable record for the Acton School. Of the many illustrations which might be selected, one will illustrate the type of achievement which her efforts produced: "In 1919 it is recorded that the highest mark in the county at the Entrance Examinations was won by Miss Rose McEvoy, a pupil of Miss Bennett of the Acton Public School." One Inspector stated, in his opinion, "No other principal or teacher has had such a lasting and uplifting influence on graduates as Miss Bennett." By precept and example she inspired others to do better and live nobler lives.

In 1939 when she retired from the teaching profession, Gordon Gibbons, speaking on behalf of all the students, said, "We are conscious of the uplifting power of your personality as you worked with ardent zeal to teach the rudiments of education and the principles of Christian living." Mr. A. Dills, editor of the Free Press, spoke for the entire community when he wrote, "For many years her influence in our public schools has been our greatest interest."

As a citizen of Acton, her greatest interest has been our educational facilities, the children she taught, her church and the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. As a charter member of the I.O.D.E. she has supported work at home and abroad; as a staunch member of Trinity United Church her work with the Sunday School, the Women's Missionary Society and the "Friendly Circle" will long be remembered; and throughout her retirement she has always remained vitally interested in our educational affairs.

Her contribution was recognized in a tangible way when the M. Z. Bennett Public School was officially opened in 1957, a living and lasting memorial to a dedicated teacher.

Miss Bennett: To recognize your continuous contribution to our community as a teacher, a counsellor, and as an exemplary citizen for almost sixty years, the Acton Chamber of Commerce is proud to proclaim you "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR."

Yah! Yah! Beatles Were Here! Rangers in Disguise at Banquet

The Beatles came to a banquet Tuesday night, and the Guides and Brownies, attending the annual Mother and Daughter banquet, filled the parish hall with their squealing. The only-too-accurate imitation of the singing group was a highlight of the entertainment after the salad supper served to about 150.

Dressed in slacks and loose sweaters, hair combed low, the four head-shaking girls wielding guitars were Vivian Smith, Gwen Lauder and Nancy Rognvaldson, while Ringo — complete with his famous ring — was playing the drums with Kathy McKenzie. They mimed a record and sang "Bubble" to the vast delight of the youngsters and amusement of the mothers.

The annual banquet was sponsored by the Guide and Brownie Mothers' Association. Mrs. Syd Newton was convener, assisted by Mrs. M. Nesbet and other leaders. Rangers helped serve and clear the tables.

Mrs. C. Ross said Grace and Mrs. Tom Watson led a singing. Guides Anne Watson, Cayell Marshall and Barbara Nicolak led the girls in a game, "Lion Hunt".

Guest speaker was the area commissioner, Mrs. Hiltz of Glen Williams, who spoke on the new White Oaks guide and brownie area camp which serves this district. Some girls from Acton will likely be going this summer. She was introduced by Mrs. E. Franklin and thanked by Mrs. Newton.

Brownie wings were presented to little Sherry Lott, who had been absent before when they were awarded.

Traditionally, Taps concluded the evening.

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Just back from a trip to Nassau — all expenses paid — are former Actonian Dan Force and his wife Pat of Toronto. Mrs. Force entered a series of contests in a Wilkewald weekly newspaper, and after winning appliances finally won the grand prize, the eight-day, all-expense paid trip to Nassau for two. She and Mr. Force arrived back in New York Sunday after the delightful vacation at the Montague Beach Hotel in Nassau.

Coultter Steps Down From Wheat Bd. Chair

A Huron County resident R. T. Bouton was elected chairman of the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board, succeeding Dr. E. Coultter of E. L. Campbellville who has been chairman of the board for the past two years. Mr. Coultter, now past chairman, was also named delegate to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and as a director on Ontario's 12 wheat production.

Wallpaper... COMPLETE LINE of WALLPAPERS SAME DAY DELIVERY TENPRO DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED 54 Mill St., Acton 853-0860

—Annual spring four-town high school field day is scheduled for May 5 in Guelph.

—Free Press readers who chuckle over Sugar and Spice every week will be interested to learn that a collection of his best columns is being contemplated in book form. The column started modestly in Bill Smiley's own paper, The Warton Echo. Another editor bought, and then others. We have had plenty of comment and complaint since we started running them in the Free Press, getting every so often the question, "Who is it in the plant REALLY writes those columns?" It's one of our best features, despite the fact some readers have even threatened to cancel their subscriptions because of it! But Bill's a mild, pleasant, law-abiding, church-going gentleman... believe it or not.

—The old mill on the Valley Road in Rockwood is being torn down. The stonework is being levelled and a possible parking lot made.

—Georgetown's largest industry — Smith and Stone — was idled Sunday night as about 540 workers went on strike. It was the first strike at the plant. The report of the conciliation board, containing "substantial" increases by the company was rejected.

—Who are those handsome young men walking with books in their arms? Answer: high school students! It was "gentlemen's day" at the high school Wednesday, and almost all the lads wore jackets, white shirts and ties.

—At their meeting on Tuesday, Rotarians sent out receipts for Easter seal donations.

—Just 12 hours after Brampton's new test well in Huttonville began pumping, Huttonville United Church well ran dry. The water was confirmed Huttonville's direct predictions. The O.W.W.C. declared other wells have not been affected.

—Melting snow and ice have raised Fairy Lake's water level to a high point. An outdated sign at the edge of the pond reads "Danger — Thin Ice".

—The first pussy willows are out in swamps spots.

—There have been special wind strikers during Chamber of Commerce week, with Chamber red, white and blue place mats at the banquet.

—Wednesday's change in the weather and sudden snowflurries came as a surprise.

—Police have been alerted to tag cars parked facing the wrong direction on streets. Be careful!

—Some of the bad potholes in the roads have been filled and the street sweeper, brooms and shovels have all been put into service cleaning the streets of winter debris.

—At a meeting in the Y last last night, a committee of Y's Men discussed another regatta on Fairy Lake this summer.

—Used flannel sheets are required by the Cancer Society for making dressings. They may be left at Acton Home Furnishings store.

—High school students are selling magazine subscriptions to raise money to send a student to the U.N. seminar at Waterloo. There are prizes — including cushions in school colors and beanies. The form which raises the most each day has the right to carry a big stuffed dog from room to room that day.

—The four major causes of spring grass and bush fires, according to Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau, are garbage burning in open incinerators, matches and cigarette tossed into dry fields, bonfires on a windy day, and children playing with matches. In short, sums up the Bureau, carelessness is the biggest cause of grass and bush fires.

—Walker Lodge members and visitors from several other lodges in the district, totalling 72, received Rt. Wor. Bro. G. H. Walker, D.D.G.M. of Wellington district, from Kitchener, on his official visit.

—He was accompanied by his secretary, Wor. Bro. B. H. Davis of Drayton, Past Master of Conestoga Lodge.

—A salad supper was served in the Y basement.

—Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do.

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County Assessment Commissioner Discussed by Halton Urban Board

Adoption of a county assessment commissioner method of assessing in Halton came in for discussion at a meeting of the North Halton Urban Board on Wednesday evening at Milton Fire Hall.

Addressing representatives of all Halton municipalities on the proposal was Donald Wright, of the Department of Municipal Affairs Assessment Branch.

Adoption of the system would put one man, an assessment commissioner, in charge of assessing throughout the county. He would hire the assessing staff and be centrally located. All assessments would be processed through the central office.

Grants for this type of program were outlined including \$2,500 annually towards the salary of such a commissioner, 50% of the cost of necessary office equipment and \$75,000 to \$125,000 for the rental of special machinery to establish the county assessing system for three consecutive years.

In discussion it was noted the county council could not control the assessment commissioner by direction, any more than it might its county assessor. Local municipalities would no longer be assessed, and the assessment would be automatically equalized when it was returned by the assessment commissioner.

One court of revision would hear the appeals throughout the county on local improvement rates, as well as tax rebates and

assessment appeals. An assessment commissioner, hired with the approval of the Minister, can not be fired without the Minister's approval.

Asked what the basic benefits to Halton might be under an assessment commissioner, the speaker suggested it would make municipalities more competent personnel, administrative efficiencies and permit specialization. He doubted, he said, that adoption of the system would ever become compulsory but he admitted there would be advantages in the distribution of grants to having the whole province on one assessment system beginning at the county level.

Plans on Water

Preceding Mr. Wright's presentation the officials present saw a film outlining the discovery and development of wells to obtain ground water supplies. It was presented by Dave Turnbull of International Water Supply.

Thanking Mr. Turnbull, Reeve C. A. Martin of Milton noted the town was currently developing a well that would produce 1,000,000 gallons of water daily. He also noted the advantages of water at Kelso Dam in maintaining summer stream levels in the Sixteen.

Councillor A. Irwin, Acton, presided for the meeting attended by 30 representatives from Essex, Kent, and York counties, Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Burlington and Oakville.

D.D.G.M. Visits Walker Lodge

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