

The Acton Free Press

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SWIMMING CLASSES for beginners started again Tuesday for the second group of youngsters under the guidance of Ann Johnson of Georgetown. Miss Johnson took over following the departure of former recreation director Jim Casburn. Pictured above with Miss Johnson are Lorrie Mellor and Kevin Evans as they got a few pointers.

50 Years Ago

18 Area Volunteers First to Enlist Fight Overseas in World War I

When word was received in Acton 50 years ago Tuesday, August 4, World War I had been declared against Germany. It took only nine days for 18 volunteers to enlist from this area.

Col. Alec Noble, commanding officer of the 20th Regiment of Halton, received his orders to enlist men for overseas service on August 7 and by the 13th of the month 18 had enlisted from Acton.

Of the original 18 who signed to go overseas only two are still alive and living in town — Wilfred Coles and F. L. Wright. Prior to enlisting in World War I, Mr. Coles had served three and a half years in South Africa as well as three years in colors. Mr. Wright was a member of the Militia.

On August 26 members of the 20th Halton Regiment received word to leave for Valcartier for basic training. While there the men joined with other volunteers and were divided into battalions and brigades to make up the

First Canadian Division.

In September 1914 the soldiers boarded ships at Quebec and sailed across the Atlantic ocean and arrived at Plymouth, England for additional training at Salisbury Plains. Early in the following year the soldiers were at the front of the fighting.

Today Mr. Wright still is active as an insurance broker and Mr. Coles who is retired, lives with his wife and daughter.

According to an earlier issue of the Acton Free Press the following men formed the original 18 volunteers — Color Sergeant

Harry Harwood, Sgt. Wilfred Coles, Cpl. Gus Large, Sgt. William Lee who was killed in action; Pte. James Gibb, Pte. David Douglas, Pte. A. Algeo, Pte. A. Winterburn, killed in action; Pte. Jimmie Robertson, Pte. George Green, Pte. Fred Wright, Pte. John Rielly, Pte. F. Rault, Pte. J. Sahli, Pte. R. Singleton and Pte. W. H. Ward.

It wasn't long after the enlistment of the original 18 that other volunteers signed for overseas service and Acton boasted of a good turnout of men to fight for the country.

Col. G. Brown Injured In Mount Albert Crash

On Thursday, July 30, about 9:30 a.m. a Chrysler Imperial sedan driven by Mrs. Hilda Shannon of Scarborough rammed the driver's side of a 1962 Rambler driven by Lieut. Col. Gordon Brown, R.R. 2, Georgetown, who was on his way to go fishing with Calvin Bailey in Haliburton. Mrs. Shannon, who had her two small sons with her, escaped with lacerations and they were not detained at the hospital but Col. Brown was thrown across the front seat and through the passenger door, finally landing in the ditch with the car.

He was taken to York County Hospital, Newmarket, where his injuries were found to be a cracked pelvis, an injury to the back of his head, a crushed chest with several broken ribs, as well as serious internal injuries. However, since an extensive operation Saturday morning, his condition has improved considerably. While the doctors expect him to be on the critical list for about three weeks, his chances for a complete recovery, provided no complications develop, are good.

The accident happened at Mount Albert, east of Newmarket on a dangerous blind corner where a house with trees in front of it completely obscures the view from his approach until one is almost half way across the highway as well as making it almost impossible for Mrs. Shannon to see him in time as she came down the highway. According to the constable who investigated there were no skid marks.

On Saturday when insurance investigators went to see the scene, they found the car had been driven into a ditch.

Seven Apply For Township Job

Seven applications for the position of township clerk-treasurer were reviewed by members of the Nassagaweya Township Council Tuesday evening in committee of the whole. Interviews were to be arranged for several of the applicants. Present clerk-treasurer Don H. McMillan submitted his resignation last month.

It was also reported during the meeting the Ontario Municipal Board had acknowledged the township request for a public hearing on the proposals for township offices. No date, however, has been set. In answer to other queries it was pointed out winter works benefits could be applied to the project; both from the Municipal Loan Fund and the centennial grant and funds would not be applied to the same project; and no subsidy is available for placing the road superintendent's office in a new municipal building.

Council renewed the gravel pit license of Klaus Erler and approved payment of road accounts totalling \$6,438.98.

Drinking Party Raided Thursday

Police reinforcements were called in from Milton Thursday of last week to conduct a raid at a Mill Street West home following complaints of a teenage drinking party.

Charged with supplying liquor to minors is a 26-year-old army man home on furlough. Also charged with consuming while minors are four local girls and two local youths.

Constable Bruce McArthur who received a phone call regarding the party, obtained a search warrant and called in O.P.P. from Milton. Assisting in the raid were Corporal J. Parkinson and Constables Tom Dube and J. Hodson. It is expected charges will be heard in Milton court August 12.

Living conditions, she thinks, have improved 50 to 75 per cent since she lived there. Now the people can afford to travel, but this is arranged in an unusual way. As a rule, a week's pay looks after expenses, and there's seldom enough left to bank. Each worker receives a coupon weekly, though, which he cashes in later for holiday pay.

Wages, paid in guilders, which are 100 to a dollar, are higher than here, but prices are out of proportion, higher still.

Quote Costs

An average working man would receive about 100 guilders or dollars a week. But here are a few prices: bottle milk \$1.67, pound beef \$3.50, pound hamburger \$2.80, six slices of ham 60 cents, six pounds sugar \$3.21, pound butter \$2.50, chestfield and two chairs (not as much upholstered as ours) \$1,200, coffee table \$98.

"The hospitality was marvelous," she stressed. Everywhere she was graciously welcomed. She made her headquarters with an aunt, Mrs. Van Der Brink, in Nykerk, visited other places and went off by herself on buses and trains.

Motor Bike Tour

A 22-year-old nephew on holiday offered to take her places on his motor bike. "I was scared stiff!" she recalled. But she climbed on back and soon thoroughly enjoyed seeing the countryside that way! She enjoyed a wedding and reception and a pleasure cruise through Amsterdam canals.

She had trouble, though, and it turned out to be with her native tongue, Dutch! The Van Der Brinks speak English at home and when she got to Holland

spot, another similar accident had just happened and spectators informed them it was the third in three days, and that two weeks ago another car had landed in the same spot on its roof. Yet there are no lights at the crossing except for some at a double rail crossing nearby which only flash if a train is coming.

The Rambler was completely wrecked while the Chrysler appeared to have suffered only minor damage across the front.

Col. Brown is a member of the Court of Revision and of the Esqueping township planning board. For years he was secretary-treasurer of the North Halton High School District Board. Within the last two months he has returned from a 29,000 mile trip to India and back, without accident.

—There were \$9,700 worth of building permits issued in Nassagaweya in July, including one residence at \$3,000, a garage and a residential addition.

Trip to Homeland

Diary of Holland Journey Tells Prices, Many Changes

In the dozen years since Mrs. John Van Der Brink has been in Holland, there have been many changes. She is just back from five and a half weeks visiting relatives and travelling by various modes of transportation all over the country. It's her first trip back.

The Van Der Brinks, who live on Main St. N., have a large garden and daughter Jakobia looked after preserving the vegetables while she was away. They have three children and now their hope is that all can go back for a visit before long.

She kept an extensive diary and brought many souvenirs and pictures.

Bare Quorum Splits Vote Seeks New Application

Acton Planning Board barely had a quorum Thursday evening of last week and on one occasion, reached a stalemate with a resolution to allow the Evangelical Baptist congregation to erect a new church on Churchill Road South on property owned by Mel McCullough. This motion, according to the procedural by-laws, was defeated when the four members present split their decision.

A second resolution dealing with the same subject, but advising both applicant for the new church and property owner to make application for land severance, was approved.

At a previous meeting of the board, church pastor Alan Silvester had asked permission to build a church on property bordering on Acton Boulevard which is owned by Anthony Sevnuck. This was refused on grounds the chosen location would hinder any future housing subdivision.

At another meeting, the pastor returned with a proposal to build on the McCullough property. Board members agreed to discuss the application and make a decision. Pastor Silvester was not present last Thursday.

During last Thursday's meeting, secretary Jack McGeachie told members he was of the opinion the church delegation at the previous meeting had visited the board with the intention of obtaining a severance for the property involved. Chairman Aldo Braida and council representative H. H. Hinton were of the belief the church delegation was mainly interested in the board's reaction to the construction of a church on Churchill Road South.

Mr. McGeachie claimed the delegation knew before coming to the meeting, a church was allowed in this area, as it had been discussed in the town office Council representative Eric Johnston felt the application dealt mainly with lot severance from the McCullough property as this had been the intention of previous applications.

The secretary also wondered if sewer lateral services might create a problem if the church building were allowed. He told planning board members, the present services running along Churchill Road South are located 20 to 25 feet above land for the proposed church. He also doubted if council would be

willing to pay the costs for installation of sewers to lots at this depth.

Reeve Hinton reminded members that economics were strictly council's problem; he was of the opinion the application was valid and should be granted. Mr. Braida thought both the applicant for the building and the property owner should jointly apply to the board for land severance.

When the original resolution to approve the application for a church building was defeated with a 2-2 vote, an alternative motion agreeing with the application in principle but asking applicant and property owner to apply for land separation was approved. It was also agreed to discuss sewer installations at that time.

Planning board members present for the brief meeting were chairman Aldo Braida, Wes Maxwell, Reeve H. Hinton and councillor E. Johnston.

—The cool and rainy weather will allow the water at the swimming beach to settle and clear. There was swimming there almost every day in July and the water was becoming murky.

Level Ground, Replace Pipes For New Cement Floor at Arena

Piping for artificial ice at the arena has been removed from the dirt floor and is gradually being replaced before cement is poured for the new concrete floor.

Contractors for the project, Datoe Metalwerke Floor Company Limited, have workmen on the job. Plastic piping, which held the brine for making ice, is being lifted off the dirt floor. Ground is being levelled, steel rods are being laid under every

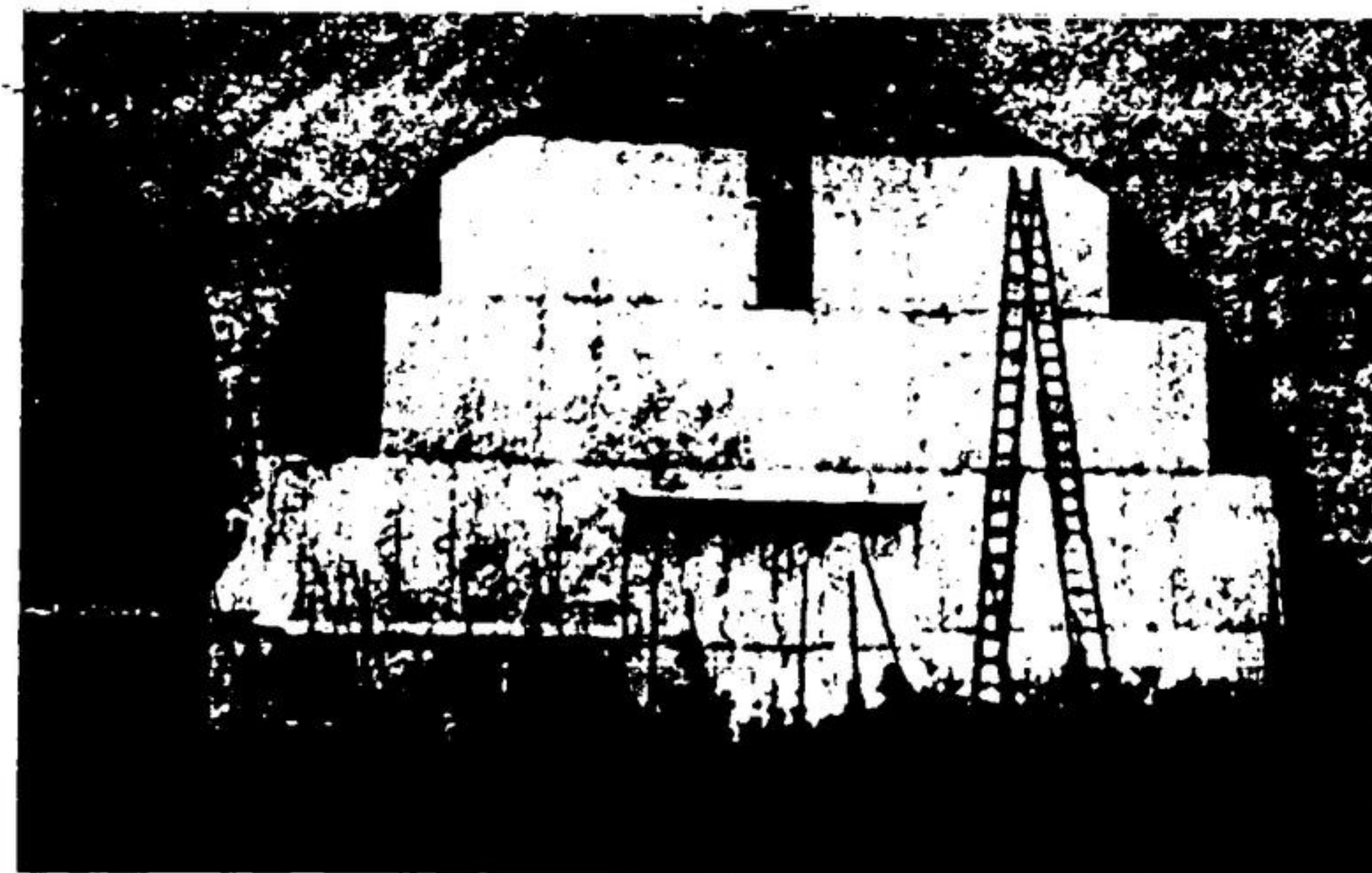
third pipe as a temperature gauge and pipes are being replaced on top of metal braces. On top of this, heavy reinforcing steel mesh will be placed before concrete is poured.

General superintendent for the company, Giles Tran told the Free Press Tuesday, the brine will be turned on through the pipes while cement is being poured so that each pipe will be absolutely straight. At a specified time during the hardening pro-

cess of the cement, the brine will be shut off and cement allowed to harden thoroughly.

As soon as the cement is hardened, a trap rock surface will be applied in order to complete the job of installing a four and a half inch cement floor.

It is expected the new floor will be ready in the early fall. The Datoe Company is presently installing a similar type floor in an arena in British Columbia.



OLD LANDMARK ON Queen St. E. is fast disappearing. A steel barn on the Eugene Braida property which is believed to be Acton's first steel barn and presumed over 100 years old is being demolished. The barn was originally built by H. Swackhamer for Sir Donald Mann, who was then president of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Old Steel Barn Disappears Believed First in District

One of Acton's oldest landmarks, a semi-circular steel barn, considered to be nearly 100 years old, is being removed on the property owned by Eugene Braida on Queen St. E.

The barn, originally built by H. Swackhamer, a popular carpenter of his day, was erected by Sir Donald Mann, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, for his father Hugh Mann.

George Grundy of Osprunge is demolishing the building and will use the lumber to build a barn on his own property.

As far as records indicate, the Braida property, once a thriving farm before it was subdivided for the Glendon subdivision, was originally owned by Jos Collins around 1856. Mr. Collins was a prominent sheep breeder and following his death the land was bought by Charles Sidney Smith.

Following Mr. Smith, owner of the property became Donald Cameron. Sir Donald Mann bought the land for his father Hugh and had the barn constructed. On occasions when Sir Donald visited his father his private rail-

way car was parked on the sidewalk alongside the present Ajax Engineering industry.

When Hugh Mann died the property was purchased by Henry Stevens of Toronto then changed hands again when Fred Cooper became the owner. After Mr. Cooper's death the present owner, Eugene Braida, acquired the land. After farming it for a few years with his family he decided to subdivide the land for a housing development.

The family home and barn remained in the hands of the owner who lives there today. The barn was always maintained and although not used for housing cattle or sheep, has been used until lately as a storage place for scrap leather for Corona Shoe industry.

Safer for Children

When Corona moved to its present location in the former Wood Combining building in 1962, the barn became vacant once again. Mr. Braida's decision to have the barn torn down was not an easy one to make. However, safety for children in the area as well as improving the approach to the easterly limits to town won out over personal sentiment.

Sold for Housing

Mr. Braida purchased the property from Mr. Cooper in 1945 and a year later took possession. After farming the land for 10 years he sold 50 acres to Thomas and Thomas for a housing development. Since then he sold 18 more acres and was left with one and a half acres for himself.

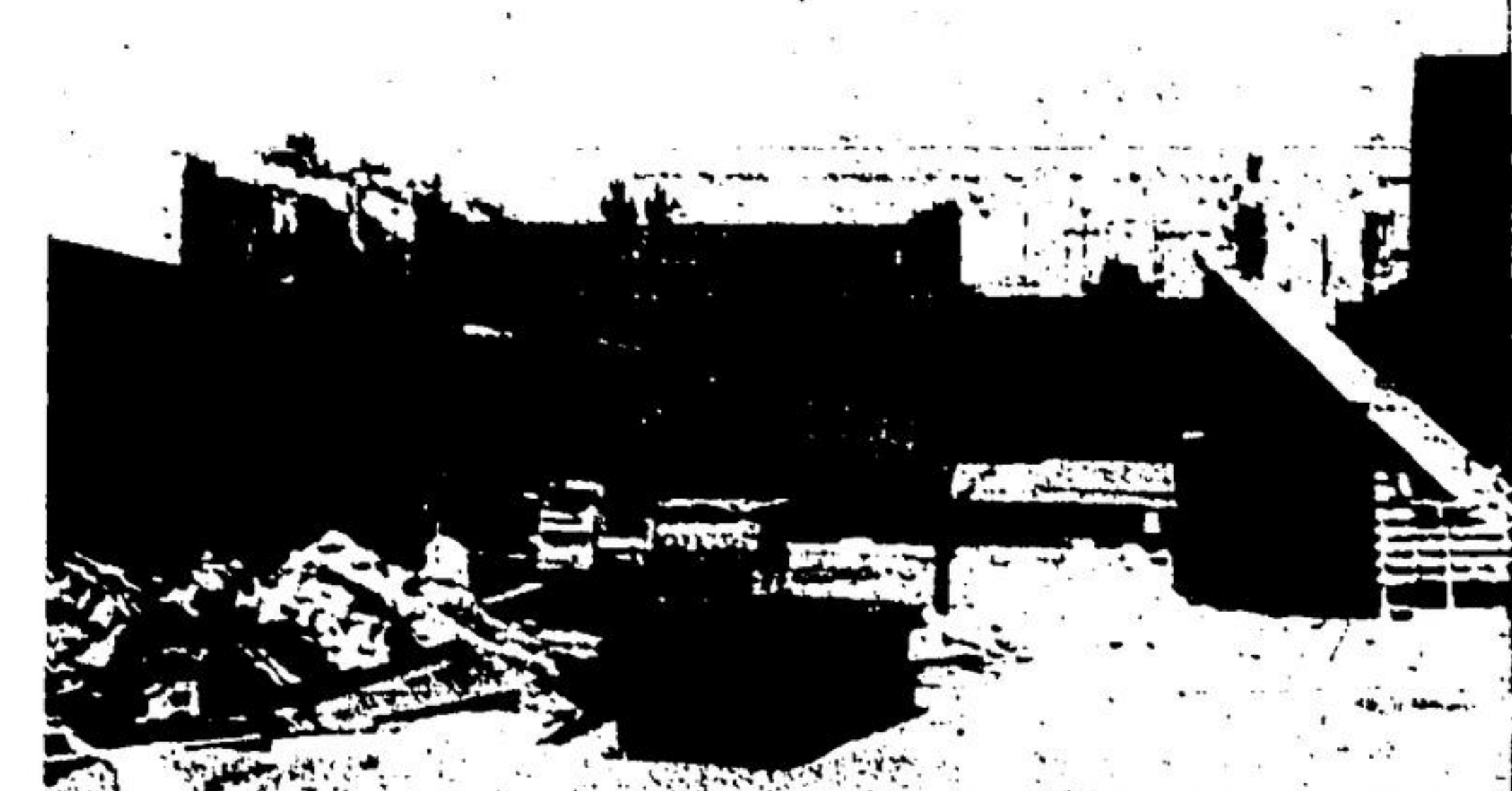
The barn which is being removed is considered to be the first steel barn built in the area.

No Decisions

There were no reportable meetings this week — just planning board last Thursday. Newspaper-wise, it was a week of no decisions! There were still quite a few things going on, particularly in the field of construction. But holidays have top priority.



NO BOMB SHELTER! Just cribbing for the cement bridge on Church Street W. After removing the old wooden bridge workmen had to install pumps to keep water diverted in order to install the cribbing. Next step will be to pour the cement. Another new bridge will be constructed on Brock Street when this one is completed.



HOY WEATHER doesn't seem to bother bricklayers working on the new high school addition. Work is continuing at a rapid pace in order to have at least four rooms ready for occupancy by September. To date workmen have had few holdups and construction officials are hopeful of meeting the fall deadline.