

The Acton Free Press

Ninetieth Year.—No. 8.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th, 1964

Authorized by Special Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

Twelve Pages.—Ten Cents.

Van Dam Barn Razed by Fire

Over 43 pigs, 150 bales of hay, 150 bales of straw and a quantity of grain as well as a farm tractor were burned when the barn on the Anthony Van Dam leased property at R.R. 2, Acton, went up in flames at noon Wednesday.

Acton and Erin firefighters combined forces to pump water on the smouldering ruins and to protect nearby buildings. By the time Acton firefighters arrived the barn was burned to the foundation and the structure had collapsed.

Mrs. Van Dam was in the house with her mother-in-law who is visiting from Holland when their youngster ran into the house yelling "barn fire!" She ran outside and into the barn where she saw a bale of straw burning and flames leaping to nearby bales.

Unable to throw the burning bale out a window, she ran to the house and called the fire department. Meanwhile, both the Van Dam women assisted by neighbors, fearing the house might catch on fire, began carrying clothing and bed clothing out onto the lawn. Ironically sparks from the blazing barn landed on the clothing burning small holes.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes believes the fire was caused by children playing inside the barn. Total amount of damage is not known to date.

Receive Resignation From Jack Bullough

At a special meeting of council Tuesday evening members received the resignation of chairman Jack Bullough from the Acton Recreation Committee.

Acting clerk J. T. Hurst who also serves as secretary of the committee told members a recommendation for a replacement would probably be dealt with at the Thursday meeting of the committee.

Final approval was given a by-law to incorporate clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie and town superintendent Alf Doby in the town pension plan in co-operation with the Hydro Commission. These two men were former employees of the now disbanded Public Utilities Commission and in order to include them in the town plan, permission was received from the hydro.

Woods, Parking
During the enquiries by members it was learned the weeds were still unattended on property at the corner of Mill and Main Streets. Councillor Alce Johnston reported that garbage had been dumped in this area and was very unsightly and dangerous.

Number of town committee were asked to investigate possibilities of having businessmen in the downtown area park their vehicles off the main thoroughfare. This action followed a complaint from one businessman who was of the opinion if merchants park off the main street there would be more space for customer parking.

Reeve Hinton Meets U.S. President, Family

Acton's Reeve H. H. Hinton returned Sunday from the National Association of Counties convention in Washington, D.C. as Halton County's representative and one of 12 delegates of the Association of Ontario Counties.

While at the convention, the Acton Reeve acted as a goodwill ambassador for the county during a reception at the White House, formally greeted President Lyndon B. Johnson and chatted with their daughter Lynda Bird.

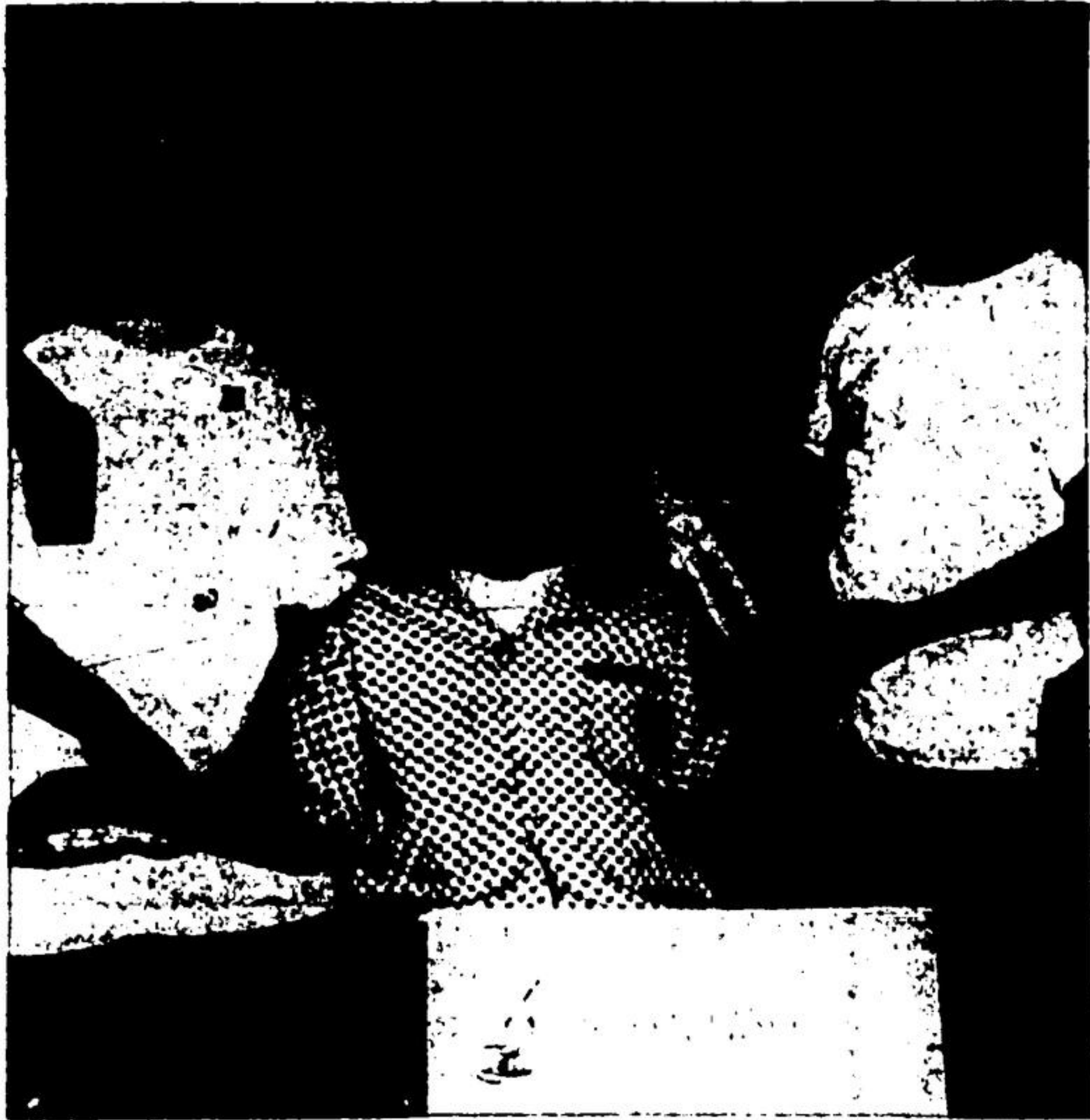
On the trip to Washington, Mr. Hinton carried a small Red Ensign, also a quantity of ball point pens inscribed "County of Halton." The Red Ensign and one of the pens were presented to Lynda Bird Johnson as a personal gift.

A total of 2,900 attended the convention and all were guests at the White House to hear the president and other cabinet ministers speak. Basically the problems which exist in the U.S. counties are similar to those here in Ontario.

Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater spoke at the convention due to the coming election and following his speech, several other senators spoke.

Mr. Hinton found the U.S. convention delegates quite friendly and the sessions informative.

During his visit to the New York World's Fair many of the Halton County pens were handed out at booths sponsored by various countries. When the pens are taken home by the foreign representatives,



KEVIN STANBLAND posed as Dr. Ben Casey when he hung out his shingle during the Ballinacfad Summer Vacation Bible School. Above are members of the kindergarten class during one of their play periods. Left to right are Shelley Wilson as the nurse, John Thompson, the patient receiving a needle from the doctor, next patient Vicky Williams and the doctor. The children enjoyed games and crafts as well as Bible lessons during the week.

One Scholarship

University, O.A.C., Teachers' College Ahead for 10 Grade 13 Graduates

Acton High School has the most grade 13 graduates ever this year. Ten receive certificates; there were eight graduates last year and six the year before.

According to principal Ted Hansen there will in all likelihood be even more next year, as a swell of increased enrolment has now passed grade 12 to form the largest grade 13 class ever this coming term.

The ten graduates are Joan Cook, who topped her class with 13 subjects listed on her certificate, Gary Masales, Susan Heard, Mary Beth Elliott, Norman Smith, Paul Bennett, Marilyn Lemon, Don Lindsay, Ed Van Hoekelen and John Williams.

44 Wrote
Altogether at high school there were 64 persons who wrote grade 13 examinations including adult private students. Some wrote a grade 13 subject while studying in grades 11 and 12 — generally botany, zoology or history. There were 11 such students from grade 11 and 19 from grade 12 writing with a wide range of success and failure.

Mrs. Clifford Ashley is one of the adults who wrote grade 13 papers and she passed the four

she wrote with good marks. Some of the other adults studying on their own were not successful. Number writing had jumped to 64 from 44 last year. Of these 45 passed all or some of the papers written.

Percentages and total number of papers written and passed have not yet been calculated by the principal who is busy arranging alternative timetables for the new addition. There is still much work to be done although it had been stated the school would be ready for September opening.

There were 428 students at the high school last year with ten graduating. Many are in classes which do not lead to grade 13 certificates.

Won Scholarship
Acton's top student, Joan Cook, learned Monday she has been awarded an entrance scholarship of \$500 for York University. She will be living in residence, studying science in the Faculty of Arts and Science. It is a four year course. Joan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cook, Peel St., misled by five marks a \$400 Ontario scholarship. She had a total of

635 marks on eight subjects, a percentage of 79.8, just short of the required 80 per cent. She already had written Botany and Zoology, and this year wrote 11 subjects to receive seven firsts. She wrote Problems as well but results haven't been announced yet.

Susan Heard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heard, Church St., hopes to go to Macdonald Hall, Guelph, or Waterloo University. She wrote 10 subjects in her first year in grade 13 and obtained five firsts.

Gary Masales learned Saturday he has been accepted in Honors Applied Physics on the cooperative plan at Waterloo University. He will live in residence there. In his first year in grade 13 he wrote nine papers with firsts in Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry. He also wrote Problems, and has not yet learned his marks. (He and Joan Cook were the only two at A.H.S. to write Problems.) He had Zoology previously. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Masales, Queen St.

Mary Beth Elliott, who will be going to Lakeshore Teachers' Col. (Continued on Page Eight)

Stetsons for Fair

Commercial Displays in Arena Raise Money for Arena Floor

The directors of the Acton Agricultural Society held a meeting at the Community Centre on Wednesday, August 12, when 27 directors were present to complete plans for this year's fair on September 18-19.

Prize lists are completed and will be mailed to exhibitors this week. Extra copies will be available for anyone wishing to make entries, free of charge, from the secretary, Mrs. C. W. Swackhamer, R. R. 2, Acton, the Acton Free Press or various stores throughout town.

Arena Display
A special attraction this year will be commercial and industrial displays in the arena. The net proceeds from the sale of this display space will be given as a donation from the Agricultural Society to the cost of the cement floor recently laid on the arena ice-surface.

The space will be available at \$3.00 per foot frontage for booths of 10 or 20 foot frontage by approximately 15 feet depth. Space will be sold as requested, but it is hoped that local industry and

merchants will take advantage of this opportunity to advertise the products of the town of Acton and district.

Requests for space may be made by calling Mrs. Swackhamer, phone 853-0398.

Permission was given to the Duke of Devonshire Chapter I.O. D.E. to hold their special tag day for educational purposes during the two days of the fair.

Stetson Hats
Acton Fair bumper stickers and stetson hats will soon be making their appearance to advertise the dates of this year's event. On Radio CJOY, Guelph, spot announcements will begin soon.

The Lorne Scots Military Band and the Acton Citizens' Band, a variety program featuring TV artists, an old-time fiddlers' competition and the crowning of Miss Acton Fair will be some of the features of this year's entertainment.

The first official duty of the newly-crowned Queen will be to open the fair on the arrival of the one o'clock parade to the

grounds.

Good prizes are again being offered for floats, decorated doll buggies, bicycles and tricycles.

The Miss Acton Fair contestants and officials will ride in convertibles in this opening attraction.

Vince Mountford, the popular M.C. for any entertainment, will be in charge of the Saturday afternoon show, which will feature the Lorne Scots Band, the Acton Citizens' Band and other entertainment.

Larger Entries
Increased prize money is expected to draw larger entries in the livestock classes. Requests for advance lists of the homecraft and domestic science classes indicate many new exhibitors will be making entries in the ladies' section.

The Acton Lions Club and directors from the Erin Agricultural Society will be in charge of the gates and car parking. The directors hope that anyone interested in the promotion of Acton Fair will co-operate with them in making this year's fair a continued success.

Form New Development Commission First Chore to Acquire 72 Acres Land

Tuesday evening at a special meeting council accepted the recommendation of the newly-formed Acton Economic Development Commission to proceed with acquisition of approximately 72 acres of farm land on Main St. N. for future industrial expansion. Reeve H. H. Hinton voted in the negative.

Several months ago, council made an offer to purchase on the Anthony Hufnagel farm and had engineers take soil tests and do a survey in order to determine the possibility of acquiring future industrial land.

New Commission
The former Acton Industrial Commission's three-year term expired and new appointments made. The newly-named Economic Development Commission replaces the former Commission and comprises members of No. 1 committee of council as well as John Goy, Aldo Braida and Neil Bowles. A fourth member may be named later.

Before final action is taken toward acquiring this land approval from the Ontario Municipal Board must be obtained for financing purposes.

Monday Meeting
Monday evening the new commission held a five and a half hour meeting to discuss the proposed plan of purchase and review action to date. At this time Mayor Les Doby was named chairman, the name of the group selected and agreement to proceed with acquiring the land made. Reeve Hinton was the only dissenting member at this time.

At council Tuesday, while members were in committee of the whole, Reeve Hinton requested an opportunity to explain why he had opposed the recommended resolution.

Reeve Objects
After revealing his own calculated figures on estimated costs of the project, the reeve was of the opinion the cost would boost the present town debt, not add to it out of all reason.

Councillor Eric Johnston reminded Mr. Hinton that final costs had not been received to date and thought that when the public learned the facts, they would be of the opinion the commission had acted properly.

Councillor Mrs. George Fryer asked if council was authorized to spend money on the project without the consent of the people. Mayor Doby informed her that

council could take action without a plebiscite. "We feel we should work in the direction to open up new industry in town. In the past council has been in the position to listen to enquiries but no industrial land was available. No doubt we will be subject to criticism from some — but then we always will be," stated the mayor.

Council was told the proposed industrial area would not be developed entirely at one time. It was proposed to have approximately seven acres available for sale and once this was sold, further developments would be made.

The reeve argued that development of the area would increase the debt of the town by demands for water and sewer services as well as school additions caused by an influx of people.

Deputy Reeve J. Bert Wood took exception to the reeve's statement and said whether there was new industry or not the town was always faced with sewer and water requirements as well as lights, schools and roads in the event a housing program began.

Mr. Wood stated the present sewage disposal plant was already overloaded and that council had forecast large expenditures for sewage, paving and school additions earlier. Using a series of figures the deputy reeve indicated Acton's present debt would be drastically reduced by 1969.

The deputy reeve also expressed his alarm at the possibility of losing some existing industry as well as not acquiring some of the recent enquiries.

"We have to look forward and not go backward. At present we

haven't any industrial land in town on which to grow," emphasized Mr. Wood.

Councillor Johnston said about 25 per cent of local residents were commuting to jobs out of town. (Continued on Page Seven)

Rotary Receives \$400 Circus One-Day Stand

Almost \$400 was raised by Rotarians who sponsored the Sells and Gray circus' one-day stand in Acton yesterday (Wednesday). Advance sale of tickets in a three-evening blitz brought \$725, of which the Rotarians received half. They received 10 per cent of gate receipts yesterday to bring the total up further.

Club members were perhaps more happy than the circus troupe with nearly 100 persons working to produce the show when the big tent was only about half full each performance. Acton had been selected as a place to fill in an unscheduled day in the district.

Very Close
However, the customers were delighted to be so close to the acts with a splendid and exciting view of the performing elephants, acrobats, dog and horse acts, clowns and contortionists.

Two sideshows, souvenir and food booths came with the circus, housed in brightly painted trucks.

Came, Left at Night

The new floodlights were left on at the park all night Tuesday and it wasn't till after midnight the trucks began rumbling in. At the break of dawn the first tent erected was the staff dining area. The trained elephant Anna May helped raise the tent. By moon, everything was ready.

Youngsters were hired to help. During the evening performance the young men with the company were dismantling apparatus needed for each act after its turn. Unoccupied seats were toted out shortly after the entertaining show began.

Considering the cool weather and the size of the town attendance of several hundred at each show was quite good. This circus generally plays much larger centres.

M.P.P. Writes

Mill-Main Accident May Re-Open Consideration of Traffic Lights

A serious accident at the Mill-Main Street intersection Saturday, August 8 involving four-year-old Jamie Widawski, prompted Acton council to request M.P.P. George Kerr to seek traffic lights from the Department of Transport at this busy corner.

An editorial appeared in last week's issue of the Acton Free Press and Mr. Kerr had been made aware of the child's accident and the urgent need for traffic lights.

At a recent luncheon Mr. Kerr had made a verbal request to have Acton council support his stand for another survey at this corner in his approach to Deputy Minister of Transport A. Cameron MacNab, himself a former Actonian. Tuesday evening council

willingly agreed to write a supporting letter.

Wednesday morning a copy of a letter submitted to the Deputy Minister of Transport was being copied by the Acton Free Press. A copy was also sent to Minister of Transport the Hon. W. I. Hasket. The following is the M.P.P.'s letter:

Dear Mr. MacNab:

As you know, there is a traffic problem in the town of Acton which your Department has been concerned with for some time. This problem is at the corner of Mill and Main Streets which are, in fact, connecting links for Provincial Highways Seven and 25. This, therefore, is the main intersection in the town and traffic is quite heavy, particularly at peak hours and weekends.

This problem has only been brought to my attention recently, and, frankly, I feel that this is quite a conventional traffic situation at a full intersection. I would think, therefore, that the remedy would be normal stop-go lights at each corner properly synchronized and including pedestrian control.

I am enclosing a copy of an editorial from the Acton Free Press dealing with this matter and it would seem to be quite accurate.

I would be obliged, therefore, if you would have someone in your Department again appraise this problem and I hope suggest a more adequate solution. With kind personal regards, I remain, Yours very truly, George A. Kerr, M.P.P.

Second Bridge Now Underway

Demolition of the old wooden bridge on Brock Street began last Friday and excavation for the new cement bridge is well under way.

Truck loads of earth from the site are being dumped at the point of the park in order to level this area for picnic sites.

Work is still progressing on final stages of the new cement bridge, planned on Church St. W. Contractors for both bridge are Inverleigh Construction.

Playground Program Ends With Parade

Due to vacationing families and the cool weather, attendance at the playground program has been lower over the last two weeks. However, the children are beginning to regain interest now that the weather is warming up. Swimming lessons have been still in progress between 1.30 and 2.30 every afternoon during the week except Saturday and Sunday.

The playground supervisors, who are at the park, David Lidke, Donna Landsborough and Jo Marie Marchant and at the M. Z. Bennett school, Jill Hurst and John McGeachie, are busy making plans for their closing program which is to be held tomorrow (Friday).

Outer Space
Their theme is Space and they are dividing all the children from both locations into groups, each group representing a planet. The children are to dress themselves in a costume which they think would fit the planet they are representing. The leaders themselves are building a rocket especially for the day.

There will be a parade of all the children who have taken part in the playground program during the summer on Friday starting at 6.30 p.m. at the station and will progress down to the park, where the leaders will build a campfire and everyone will enjoy a lunch.



STARTING YOUNG to be elephant trainer? It's a ticklish chore for these two rather reluctant girls. They visited the park Wednesday to see the circus tents go up and were coaxed to pet Besty, one of the two elephants which performed at the circus. Left is Jeannete Yelaman and right Susan McGilloy.