

The Acton Free Press

Ninetieth Year—No. 29.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14th, 1965

Second Section

Jack Elliott Announces His Retirement Practised Auctioneering for Nearly 34 Years

"Jack Elliott, Auctioneer." This familiar signature, appearing on auction sale notices in Milton and throughout Halton County for the past 33 years and 10 months, will appear no more. For Jack retired last week, and the gravel-voiced, familiar figure will be missed by his countless followers of auction sales throughout the district.

"I have only one regret," he said after announcing his retirement at the Joe Crosse sale last Wednesday afternoon, "and that is, that I don't have a son to take over where I left off." For, he points out, the auction sale trade is a flourishing business and there's plenty of work for the man who doesn't mind the hours of hard work and the honest effort that is required.

Lot of Pleasure

"I want to say thanks, though, to my many friends for the cooperation and business they have given me over the years. We had a lot of pleasure out of auctioneering, and I took it very seriously. My acquaintance with most of the people was the very finest."

And though he's through as an auctioneer, Jack Elliott isn't finished working. He still plans to continue his work as an agent for J. A. Willoughby and Sons Ltd., Realtors, from his Court St. home. For the past 16 years, he has been their local representative on a part-time basis, and recently Mrs. Anna Cairns joined the staff to handle home sales, while Jack devoted more time to farm and rural property transactions.

Real Estate Work

Now he figures he can spend his full time on real estate, leaving enough free evenings and weekends to head off to the curling rink or the bowling green, Boston Church hunting and fishing trips, or fall falls.

Jack was farming in the Scotch Black area, north of Milton, and got his start in the auctioneering in 1931 when a neighbor showed up at his house carrying an auctioneer's cane and a sale bill listing Jack's name as auctioneer. Jack figured his friends were just pulling his leg, but soon found out the sale was for real.

He'll always remember that sale. It was on March 3, 1931, and sponsored by a Mr. Coulton, who owned the farm now occupied by Reford Gardhouse on the Fourth Line, Essex. "I didn't sleep very well for a week or 10 days before the sale," Jack admitted. "I remember the day of the sale it was really cold and I walked to the sale to cool myself off."

Scrap Show—\$1.90

When the time came to start selling, the first item up for sale was a scrap show which, trembling all the while, he managed to sell to Charlie Morton from Nassagawya for \$1.90. Was he nervous? "Everything was black," he remembered a bunch of his friends had gathered at the back of the crowd that day, probably to laugh at his amateurish efforts. But before the sale was over, they had worked their way up through the crowd and stood smiling—and bidding—in the front lines.

"I came up the hard way from then on," the retiring auctioneer recalls. "I had no help except good hard work, and some wonderful cooperation from the public."

Scrap his business had grown to quite a size, and in 1945, Jack and Roy Hindley began working together on sales. Mr. Hindley at that time was conducting sales in the north end of the county, and their sale dates were overlapping, so they decided to work together. The arrangement lasted until 1958 when Mr. Hindley retired.

"I learned a lot from Roy Hindley. He was a graduate of the Chicago School of Auctioneering and had been at it since 1917," Jack recalled. "He was a great evaluator, a good judge of human nature, and he could carry a crowd along with his clean Irish wit."

Roy was strictly honest in his dealings, and our association in business was most pleasant," he added. "We never had any disagreements—except over points after the sale."

Since 1948, Jack was associated with Jack Holmes of Acton, who he claims "would have made a wonderful auctioneer." But Mr. Holmes has recently decided to devote his full time to real estate.

10 Cents to \$50,000

During his years of association with Mr. Hindley, they would cover anywhere from 50 to 125 sales a year. Jack has always purchased auctioning licenses in Halton, Peel, Wellington and Wentworth Counties, and claims: "I've sold everything from a 10-cent box of nuts to a \$50,000 commercial site in Burlington."

One thing that impressed him the most was the helpfulness and community spirit shown by neighbors for a bereaved and often times called in to dispose of chattels after a death in the family, and he really appreciated the fact his neighbors would hand together to aid the deceased's family during a sale.

Another thrill he always got was the expression on a child's face after successfully outbidding the others on a particular item.

\$100 Cow

He recalls the first cow he ever sold for \$100, and the price was the talk of the county for weeks to come. A few years later, he sold the daughter of the same cow for \$410. His work has ranged over farm equipment, modern horse furnishings, real estate and even large herds of pure bred cattle and other animals.

His vivid memory takes him back to the day he and Roy Hindley sold the first Canadian cow in Canada to reach a \$500 price tag—it was on the Fred Armstrong farm on Highway 25, south of town, now owned by Dr. C. A. Martin. "The mud was terri-

170 Dutch-Canadians Welcome in New Year

About 170 guests from all over Ontario, about 75 percent of them of Dutch origin, welcomed in the New Year at the first social event organized by the newly formed Dutch-Canadian Country Club as a New Year's Eve buffet and dance at the Agricultural Hall in Milton.

Organizer Jim Langsdick reports everyone had a good time during the course of the event. The dinner from Hamilton Cottage Delicatessen served a buffet including meats, salads and trimmings at 11 p.m. The club is organizing another public dance for later this month.

Harold Thompson At Speaking Course

Harold Thompson, Milton, R.R. 2, representing the Halton Junior Farmers, attended the first Effective Speaking course for Junior Farmers, held at the Alton Hills Conservation School, December 18 to 22.

This course, under the direction of Nelson Hawn, of the Kempsville Agricultural School, was to train these Junior Farmers in speaking and teaching techniques.

Harold Thompson has an outstanding 4-H club record, having completed 23 4-H clubs.

to that day," he remembers, and Bob Ford, who was clerk for the sale, had a terrible time getting around in all the ankle-deep mud.

The latest sale he ever conducted was the disposal of the Russell Kipp estate in 1962, held at Milton Fair Grounds. In four and three-quarter hours, he sold off 570 items, averaging a sale every 30 seconds. George Curran was clerk that day and his working hand was paralyzed that night.

No Bargains

"I don't believe in the 'old' policy when you're an auctioneer," he claims. "For that reason, he never purchased anything for himself at a sale, and no friends ever got a bargain price on any item. You're working for the man who's paying you, and you have no friends on the day of the sale," he explained.

The work of an auctioneer is no easy task for he must be able to estimate the value of every piece of merchandise sold, and he must know a lot about every line of work. The auctioneer is responsible for viewing and listing the goods to be sold, advertising the sale, hiring clerks, and arranging the display of chattels before the sale. "You can't put everything in a pile in the back yard and expect it to sell," he warned.

Still Same Price

And yet, though times have changed and auctions have gone modern, inflation has never in the auctioneer's charges. Jack boasts he has never once raised the price of his services, and he's not a commission on the stock and implements and five per cent on furniture.

Despite a lot of travelling through four counties, and some pretty bad nights for driving, he's made it home every night except one, he says, snowed out at Clark St.

His price and his work on the same whether the sale falls on the hottest, most humid day of summer or the coldest, blustiest, stormiest day of winter, and he's worked in both extremes from 100 in the shade to 20 below zero temperatures, and credits his good health to allowing him to keep a schedule for nearly 34 years at the job.

Warned to Slow Down

Jack has been considering retirement for several years now, but lately, he explains, he has had indications it was time to slow down and take it easy.

"I've had a few warnings," he says, pointing to his chest, "and I'm not as young as I used to be. Now, with no one to take over his place, he expects the auctioneers around the district will be able to handle the local work."

"I sure enjoyed the trust in people put in me and I'm sure going to miss it," Jack Elliott concluded. And thousands of auction sale followers are going to miss Jack Elliott.

How about this for a suggestion? Hold the Twelfth Night Christmas tree burning at the tip of the promontory at the far end of the park, clear the snow from the ice on the lake all around it, and hold a community skating party at the same time?

It was Monday of this week that FAME finally announced it could not meet the commitment



OFFICIALLY RETIRING after nearly 34 years as an auctioneer in Halton and district, Jack Elliott of Court St., Milton, looks back on many pleasant associations with thousands of people during his years in the trade. He's sporting for health reasons, and plans to devote his time to his real estate business.



JACK IN ACTION: "Now what am I bid for this fine job right here?" auctioneer Jack Elliott coaxes skeptical bidders at a recent auction sale in Milton. After nearly 34 years of conducting auctions, during which time he sold "everything from a 10 cent box of junk to a \$90,000 commercial site," Jack hung up his cane for good, on December 31.

A-1 Used Cars

AT
Thompson Motors (Acton) Ltd.
MAIN ST. N. PHONE 853-2370

Clean, Dependable, Fair Dealing
Best Trade-in Allowance

1964 FORD CUSTOM SEDAN, 8-Cyl., Automatic, 800 x 14 Tires, Heavy Duty Suspension, Demonstrator 12,000 miles.

1963 GALAXIE 500 4-DOOR, Automatic, 8-Cyl., Radio. A Beautiful Car.

1962 GALAXIE 4-DOOR SEDAN, 8-Cyl., Automatic.

1961 FORD TUDOR, 8-Cyl., Automatic. A Real Clean, Good Car.

Test drive any of these and you will find total performance

these five advantages make

electric heating

the superior heating system

completely clean
Flameless electric heating can't create dust, dirt, film or soot.

gentle, even heat
Room-by-room or zone temperature control. No draughts, no chills, no sudden blasts of hot air.

low cost
Throughout Ontario users prove that in homes insulated to Hydro standards, electric heating costs no more to operate than other heating systems.

extra space
Requires no bulky fuel burning equipment.

quiet
And electric heating is so quiet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL YOUR QUALIFIED ELECTRIC HEATING CONTRACTOR OR—
ask your hydro

January Clearance

20% OFF ALL MODELS
10% Off Paint by Number Sets

FREE -- FREE -- FREE
WHILE THEY LAST

With Each Purchase of \$4.00 or Over
One Pair Children's Ski-Skates

NOW IS THE TIME TO INSTALL ALUMINUM DOORS AND WINDOWS

1 1/4" Self-Storing Doors — \$33.50 Installed
OR
Do-It-Yourself — \$27.95

ALL DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS
Up to 100" — \$17.50 Installed
Over 100" — \$19.00 Installed
OR
Do-It-Yourself — \$15.50 up to 100"
Do-It-Yourself — \$17.00 over 100"

FREE ESTIMATES AND RE-CHECK
DELIVERIES MADE IN ACTON
AMPLE PARKING FACILITIES

N.H.L. OLDTIMERS IN ACTON FEBRUARY 12
ALL PROCEEDS TO MINOR HOCKEY

GLENLEA SMOKE & GIFT SHOP
ACTON PLAZA 853-0540

EGGS Everywhere EGGS

Grade 'A' Large 39¢
Grade 'A' Medium 33¢

EXTRA SPECIAL
Grade 'A' SMALL
2 1/2 Doz. 65¢

Acton Creamery Ltd.
Main St. N. Acton, Ont.

N.H.L. OLDTIMERS IN ACTON FEBRUARY 12th
ALL PROCEEDS TO MINOR HOCKEY

FAME Loses Fearman's Cannot Make Payment

FAME — the Farmers' Allied Meat Enterprise cooperative — has lost at least temporarily its attempt to purchase the F. W. Fearman meat packing plant at Burlington.

In a joint press release issued last week by the Board of Directors of FAME and F. W. Fearman, owner of the plant, it was announced that in meeting its financial commitment on the purchase, and Mr. Fearman announced he was back at the helm of the company — unless FAME's financial position should alter during the next three months.

Behind on Payment

The cooperative announced plans to purchase the Fearman's plant for \$3,500,000 last spring, with a down payment of \$1,500,000 at that time and another \$1,000,000 payment due on November 30. However, FAME was unable to meet the November 30 payment and an extension to January 4 was granted.

Milton representative to FAME, Archie Service of Milton, said the big financial losses let FAME directors down on the deal, for after pointing a loan the financial crisis backed down FAME "initially set out to attempt to raise the \$1,000,000 through meetings of shareholders throughout the Province, but it was impossible to raise more than \$200,000 in this short period of time."

It was Monday of this week that FAME finally announced it could not meet the commitment

Mr. Fearman at the same time announced he would continue direct control and ownership of the plant, and he is organizing its financial structure and playing a role at Fearman's disposal to enable it to embark on an expansion program, which he expects will increase the company's volume of products and provide for increased employment.

"Mr. Fearman is sympathetic to the objectives of FAME, and will be receptive to meeting them, should their financial position materially alter during the next three months," and the joint release.

The Provincial board of FAME was holding a meeting in Toronto last day to consider launching a full scale fund drive. Funds already formed in one being held in trust to that if the deal falls through the farmers will be able to get every cent of their investment back.

The "most embarrassing" for FAME, admitted Mr. Service, "is very hard to take. For those of us who are members of the board, after we put four years of real hard work and a great effort into this."

Mr. Service added that he had been to several of the county FAME committee meetings, and there was "very little sign of animosity toward the board."

Yippee!

Music supervisor Glenn Banks will be casting cowboys and cowgirls soon for the Robert Little school operetta "On the Range" which will be staged the third week in February. He has started practices for the music, and the dialogue books are expected soon.

NOW A CONSTABLE
James Rodolph, the first young man to join the Ontario Provincial Police as a Cadet, and who was transferred to Milton O.P.P. last March, became 21 years of age in late November, and last week was officially sworn in as a regular Constable with the force. Magistrate James Black conducted the swearing-in ceremony at Burlington.