

Weekly Editors Tour Bases Overseas

At the invitation of the Department of National Defense a group of weekly newspaper editors toured Canadian Army and Air Force establishments in Europe.

It was our pleasure to be among these editors on this tour, following the executive meeting of directors of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association in Ottawa the last week of February and a quick day-long tour of the Expo '67 site in Montreal. We were flown over and back by the air force, toured bases for a week, staying a week extra "on our own" in Paris, Dusseldorf and London to visit friends and incidentally, present a new Canadian flag to the council of Acton, England, from the council of Acton, Canada. We arrived back Sunday.

In this and coming issues we will attempt to relate a few of our experiences and impressions. It is well, perhaps, before attempting to recount the details of the tour, to briefly recap the background and events which led up to Canada's present position in Europe.

These forces are Canada's participation in the North Atlantic Treaty signed in 1949 and are a part of the integrated western defense system under the operational command of Supreme Headquarters Allied Forces Europe (SHAPE) which was authorized by representation of the NATO countries in December 1950.

The editors, members of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, give a Canada-wide representation. After attending their semi-annual meeting in Ottawa the editors were taken by RCAF transport to Marville, France, for the start of their visit. Accompanying the editors was Capt. H. R. MacDonald of Oakville, a public relations officer of the Department of National Defence. While a member of the Canadian Army, Capt. MacDonald serves as a public relations officer for the Combined Forces. The public relations departments of the three services were one of the first departments to be consolidated under the present unification program.

Canada's participation in the North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington on April 4, 1949, involves, among other commitments, the maintenance of armed forces in Europe. The forces are a part of the integrated Western defense system under operational command of SHAPE. In 1951 an independent brigade group of the Canadian Army, 27th Infantry Brigade Group, was sent to Germany where it was stationed on the outskirts of Hanover for almost two years.

In 1953 this brigade was replaced by the 1st Infantry Brigade Group which moved into the newly constructed campsite near the Westphalian towns of Soest, Hemer and Werl. Wives and children were authorized to accompany servicemen to Europe for the first time. Brigade units are dispersed over a 400 square mile area in nine camps or "forts" named after Canadian fortresses associated with early Canadian history.

After two years in Germany, this Brigade was replaced by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group. In 1957 the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group took over the European NATO land force duties and the name of the Brigade - but not the personnel in it - has remained the same since.

A five year plan of military purchasing, announced late in 1964, will see the brigade acquir-

ing other new equipment ranging from a new infantry soldier's anti-tank weapon to 155mm guns. The total military personnel in the brigade and supporting elements of Canadian Base Units is just over 6,500 all ranks. This total combined with wives, children, school teachers and other sponsored civilian employees means that there are more than 16,000 Canadian citizens involved with the Canadian Army in Germany!

Approximately half the members of the Canadian Infantry Brigade are married and most have their families with them. There are over 3,000 wives and 6,000 children in Germany. 1,600 families live in married quarters sites in towns around the "forts" and 1,400 more families live "on the economy" in the surrounding towns and villages in German civilian accommodation.

Within the brigade area there are seven schools located where there is the greatest density of children. Total enrollment is about 2,900 pupils and about 87% of them are in elementary classes. Conversational French is taught daily beginning in the Kindergarten and continuing to grade 6. The general curriculum follows that of Ontario. School buses take the children to the schools from outlying areas. 1963-64 senior matriculation results showed 98% pass on all papers written.

Local building restrictions provide that 25% of the total cost of the schools and public buildings shall be used for hallways, entrance foyers and service areas to maintain a pleasing architectural design. The schools and all buildings, when no longer required by the army, are to be turned over to German civilian government, therefore they must conform to the local building code. One graft has been that the two storey school at Soest rather than having a centre hall with classrooms off both sides, built with the hall down one side and classrooms on the other. The entrance foyer is quite spacious and pleasing in appearance.

The strategic importance of the dam was not in its electric generation but in the water storage for the steel industry. A sizable number of Russian prisoners of war were said to have been lost when the 60 foot wall of water swept through the valley below the dam. The dam, which we saw, was fully repaired and functional within three years and today any evidence of this particular bombing operation is hardly noticeable. During very serious drought conditions last year when the water was almost all gone from behind the dam, the wreckage of some aircraft was recovered. Reportedly the civilian population's present attitude is to minimize the damage, loss of life and results of the 1943 mission coupled with a reluctance to discuss the subject.

But back to the Infantry Brigade Group which was later supplemented with an air observation post troop equipped with light fixed wing aircraft and in 1961 with a surface to surface missile battery armed with the "Honest John" rocket to further increase the formation's fire power. In 1962 helicopters were added for use in reconnaissance and liaison. In 1964 an independent anti-tank company became a new addition to the brigade order of battle. With the arrival in quantity of the M113 armoured personnel carrier in 1965 the brigade converts from a motorized to a mechanized formation.

The brigade "arms" or fighting troops include

a regiment of artillery with an air observation post troop, a surface-to-surface missile battery, an armoured regiment, an independent reconnaissance squadron (including helicopters), a signals squadron, a field engineer squadron, an anti-tank company and three Infantry battalions. "Service" or supporting units such as transport, medical, dental, ordnance, electrical and mechanical engineers, pay, postal and provost have static as well as operational field roles. Units and facilities other than the ones which would actually do the fighting, but which are required to support the brigade form an organization known as Canadian Base Unit Europe.

Westphalia is the state where Canada's NATO formation is located in Germany, between the Rhine and Westphalia. It is comparatively small in area but of immense importance economically to the rest of the country. There are the wooded hills of the Sauerland in the south and south-east the rings of spas in the Teutoburg Forest; the Wiechen Hills to the east and the broad plain of the Muensterland to the north.

Soest was first mentioned in historical documents in the year 836 AD. The Roman Catholic Patrick Church, built in 954, still stands in the town. At the beginning of the 13th century Soest received its town charter, almost 300 years before the existence of North America was known. Through this charter it acquired the right of self government. Today it is the only town in Northern Germany with its town walls still surrounding two thirds of its area.

The town of Soest has no newspaper devoted exclusively to it specifically. However, four provincial dailies serve the area. Newspapers are owned by the minister of justice in Germany and each paper serves a large area with about two pages of local news inserted in the various editions for distribution in the many local areas.

An article a short time ago appeared in one of the papers which dealt with the import of the economics of the Soest area by having the Canadian Army base there. It was estimated that over \$10,000,000 is going into the county of Soest annually.

"By the presence of these Canadian NATO troops in the county, a little more than 38 million DM (German Marks) yearly go into bank accounts of German businessmen and shop owners into the cash boxes of German pub-owners and landlords, into the pockets of market women and taxi drivers and for the pay cheques of more than 1,100 German employees. It is quite correct to say that the Canadian troops, seen from the economic point of view, are the most important 'industry' of the county.

"Our Canadian citizens spend most of their money for cars, cameras, sewing machines, radios, tape recorders and record players. Many toys bought here in the county, especially electric trains, and besides that china ware and silverware are taken back to Canada by the soldiers after their 'Soest tour of duty' has come to an end. Everybody going to the market will notice the many Canadian women who take a great pleasure in shopping in the old town atmosphere, the opposite of the super market."

Second instalment. Trip from Ottawa to Marville, Dusseldorf and Soest, visit to army brigade at Soest, meeting Staff Sgt. Charlie Rushmore, Corp. George Smelhurst, Corp. Ken Gregory and Capt. Morgan, dinner with German journalists back to Air Force base at Marville.

Third instalment. RCAF photo-reconnaissance wing at Marville, Quick Reaction Alert Wing at Zweibrücken, meeting Airman Bernie Kuhn; display by unique personnel-highly-trained, stranger-hungry dogs.

Fourth instalment. Paris, London, Acton, meeting mayor and editor of Acton Gazette, back to Marville, France for RCAF flight home.

Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL BAILEY



For the past few weeks, I've been confronted by an enigma. This word does not mean, as one of my students told me, "Something a nurse gives you in the hospital, before you have an operation."

The enigma is this: what is humor? And the reason it confronts me is that some mis-guided people asked me to be one of the judges in a competition involving humor. Equal to my misjudged by an inflated ego, I accepted.

I should have known better. Not that being a judge is all that difficult. I've judged public speaking contests with great success. Everyone agreed completely with my decisions. Except those who didn't win and their relatives and friends.

I've judged races at the Sunday School picnic. And had to fork over a dime to every runner because "I woulda beat him if he hadn'ta tripped me (or shoved me, or beat the gun)."

And there'd be no trick to judging a beauty contest. I'm sure. Although there's always the danger of getting a bust in the eye from some disgruntled contestant. Or even from some grunted one.

But judging humor is a house of a different color. There's always, in fact, the menace of misjudging the dark

horse, which turns the whole thing into somewhat of a nightmare.

The character of humor is as perverse and varied in its qualities as the character of women. Picking the winner in a humor contest is as tricky as picking a wife. Everybody else thinks you made a bum choice.

Do you want Mabel, who bows you over on first acquaintance? Or do you want Bert, who will wear well over the years? Do you want an hilarious companion for an evening or a quiet chuckle once a week for generations? Humor is in the eye of the beholder.

It's no use. Let's get back to the enigma. What is humor? Ask the first person you meet, and he'll say, "It's anything that makes you laugh."

Well, it's not, necessarily. People will howl with laughter from sheer nerves, giggle uncontrollably from drink or titter uncontrollably from a story whose point they have missed completely.

People will laugh at practical jokes. Only yesterday, I was looking out the window. A young matron, known for her high opinion of herself, minced along, serene in her mink. Right in front of our place, zip went her foot on a piece of ice.

Mere words cannot describe

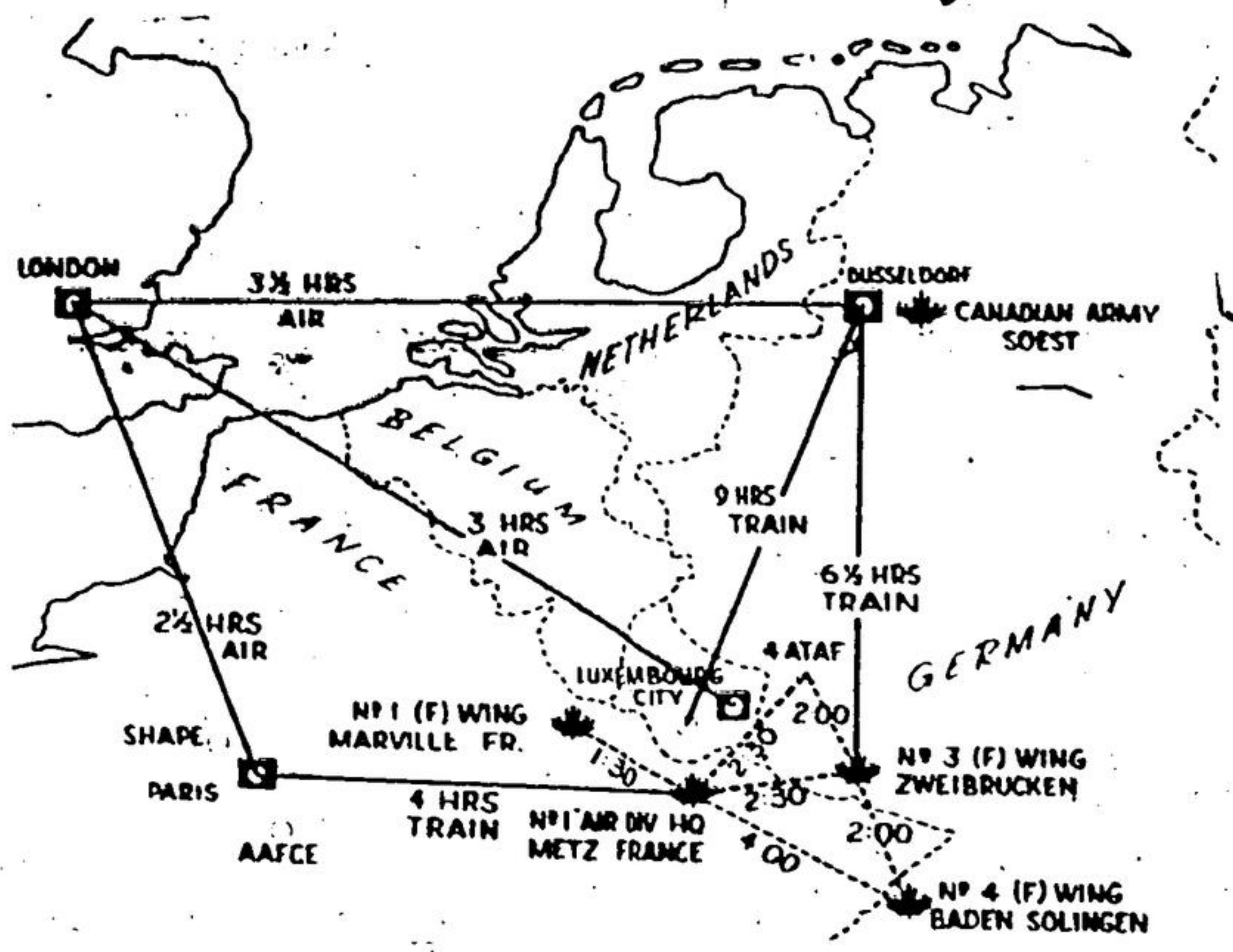
the hall-gamer she performed the way she looked, flat on her tummy, fur hat over her nose. Only a camera could capture the wild, desperate look she threw around to see if anyone had spotted the spill. Only the great Charlie Chaplin could have imitated the frantic scramble to her feet, the desperate effort to stifle off, as though nothing had happened.

Did I laugh? Thought I'd bust a gut. I was glad she wasn't hurt, but like most people, I got a tremendous belt out of seeing the deflation of a stuffed shirt. Or judge, in this case.

What is humor? I've no idea. For some, it is the bitter, even vicious, parody of a political cartoon. For others, it is the dry, pawky humor of the realist, the man who sees life without rose-colored glasses. For some, it is the still scrawled on the walls of a washroom. For others, it is the mechanical canned wit of the professional comedian, the pun, the gag, the topical reference.

All I can say is, "Never again." Even judging a baby contest would be child's play, to this. At least the entries would all be made of the same material.

Editorial Page



LOCATIONS OF ARMY and Air Force bases in France and Germany, toured by group of 19 directors of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, are shown in map. Dave Dills begins telling what he learned in the editorial columns this week.

This Sunday's Church Calendar

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rector: The Rev. D. H. West, B.A., F.S.T., 188 Jeffrey Ave., Phone 853-2694

The Third Sunday in Lent
SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer.
7:30 p.m.—Evening Communion.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24
7:30 p.m.—Evening Communion.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON.
Rev. Andrew J. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. Minister
Mr. F. A. Hansen, B.A., Organist and Chorus Master

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
9:45 a.m.—Church School.
9:45 a.m.—Minister's Church Membership Class for Young People.
11:00 a.m.—Public Worship of God.
Sermon theme: "Personalities of the Passion: (1) Herod."
8:00 p.m.—Adult Study Group. Everyone Most Welcome.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Formerly Evangel Baptist Church)
SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
Bus leaves Y.M.C.A. at 9:15 a.m. Calling at Limehouse 9:30 a.m.
For information call Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6865

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dyk
Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
10:00 a.m.—English Service.
2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.

TRINITY CHURCH (The United Church of Canada)
The Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D. Organist;
Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
THE CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 a.m.—Grade 5 and higher.
11:15 a.m.—Grade 4 to Grade 4.
DIVINE SERVICES
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Baptism at 11 a.m. Service.
7:30 p.m.—Young People meet.
8:00 p.m.—Advanced Instruction Class. Topic: "Judgement."

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Rev. 144 Daley Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School and Adult Class. (Scripture Press material used.)
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Blessed are the Meek."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service. "Final Outflow of Christian Love" (Concludes series on Romans)

Wednesday — 7:30, Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday — 8:00, choir practice.
Friday — The B.H.F. meets at 7:00.
We Welcome All to Worship Bible centered messages. Jesus Christ the only Saviour. There is no other Salvation.

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE P.A.O.C.
33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thomas, Pastor
853-2715

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 1965
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ's Ambassadors.
Friday, 7 p.m.—Crusaders.

Professional Directory and TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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