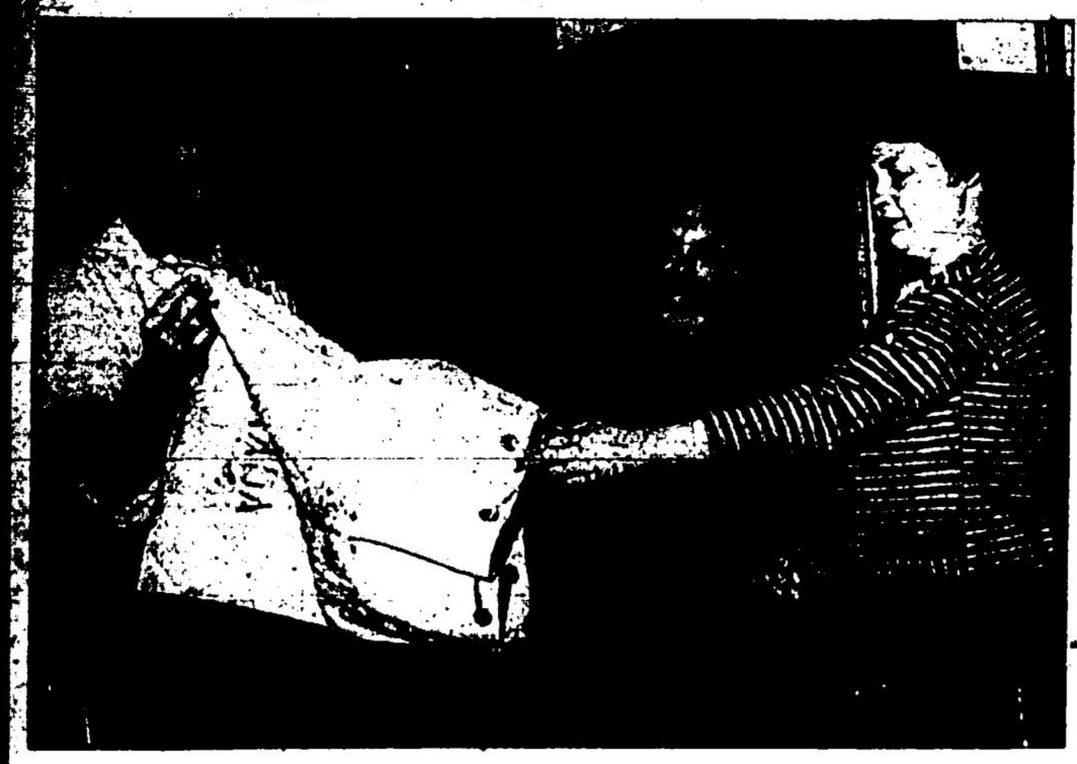

Post Office Strike Stalls Deliveries

A radio stays turned to the hourly news at the post office as postmaster Gordon McKeown and half staff listen to latest developments in the postal workers' strike. When mail moves again in this district depends on the decision of the Toronto mail carriers and clerks. Thousands of postal workers are on strike in key areas across the country.

Acton is not represented in the Canadian Postal Employees Union and the staff here continues to work.

Not Mailing

"But there is little work to do this week. People are simply not mailing letters and parcels knowing they won't reach their destinations. "Our volume of mail is down to nothing — maybe two per cent of our regular business," says Mr. McKeown.

All local mail is going through as usual. This includes all the Acton rural routes.

Right Ready to Move

But mail for any out-of-district point is date stamped, sorted and left waiting for pickup.

Since the middle of June, Acton has depended entirely upon trucks for mail delivery. Although the strike began last Thursday, things slowed down gradually. The last truck delivery was made Monday morning at 10.30 a.m. Since then, no mail has been picked up or delivered.

Some Advice

There are no sacks heaped in piles here as in city post offices. Everything is orderly and ready to return to normal at a moment's notice.

For this reason, postmaster McKeown advises Actonians that they might as well mail anything that must go — such as payments — so they will be ready to be sent on as soon as the strike is settled. Letters with payments are date stamped here the date they are mailed. "I don't think there's any point in creating a rush when the strike is ended," he said.

Three Days' Mail

With industries on holidays, this was a slow time of year at the post office as everywhere. The bags of three days' accumulated mail are filling very, very slowly.

The regular staff of nine, including Mr. McKeown, is down to half staff with as many on holidays as possible. Rural mailmen continue on their rounds, picking up any mail and delivering a little. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jocque also find slim pickings in the nine town mailboxes, but continue the routine just the same, so local letters will be processed.

"Everybody has been very pleasant," the clerks agree. They have not had any complaints.

Instructions for Mr. McKeown came from district office in Toronto. He is spervisory postmaster for Acton, Milton and Limehouse.

No Parcels

The customs office is open as usual but of course the volume of parcels has dropped greatly.

A telegram yesterday brought latest news to Mr. McKeown. Signed by minister of revenue Benson, postmaster general Tremblay and solicitor-general Pennell, it stated no disciplinary action would be taken against postal workers who returned to their jobs.

Christmas in July

Instead of writing letters, many people are phoning. "It's worse than Christmas", one district operator said. With direct distance dialing, it's hard for the Bell Telephone Company to estimate the number of calls.

Parcel delivery by bus in Acton has increased considerably. The bus will not carry letters — just parcels.

Late News?

If the post office strike continues, or return to normal is slow, Free Press deliveries will be delayed. All papers go to the local post office at the usual time Thursday, but only town and Acton rural route deliveries will be made until things return to normal. Papers for all out-of-town points will be held here until trucks begin their mail pickup again.

NO LETTERS TODAY! Empty post office bag is opended by postmaster Gordon McKeown, clerks Miss Alice Pillington and Mrs. Hartley Coles as the strike of postal workers in key areas enters its seventh day. There have been no truck deliveries or pick-ups in Acton since last Monday morning. Only local deliveries to town addresses and Acton rural routes are being made of letters mailed right in the immediate district.

—Staff Photo

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-First Year.- No. 5. ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JULY 29th, 1965 Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa Eight Pages.-Ten Cents.

Wading Pool Open for Public On Late Afternoons, Weekends

Arrangements have now been made to have the park wading pool open for free, public swimming as well as for scheduled swimming lessons.

For the first time on Tuesday the pool was kept open from 4 to 5 o'clock. Swim lessons are at one, two and three o'clock for the three age groups registered. After that, anyone between the ages of five and 10 inclusive may enjoy a dip in the shallow safe pool.

The wading pool will also be open Saturday, Sunday and holiday afternoons from two to four o'clock. This will include Civic Holiday next Monday.

Always Supervised

Regular swimming instructor Steven Dubois will supervise the free swimming some of the time, and recreation director Harris Roe is making arrangements to have adult supervisors from Georgetown community pool on duty at other times. With no supervision at the lake area, parents and small children will be delighted to hear arrangements have been made for safe swimming in the wading pool. Public swimming there has been one of the attractions of the park since the pool opened several years ago.

Swimming lessons are in the afternoon since other years the young learners had complained of the cold water and stiff breeze off the lake in the mornings.

Rockwood Playground Joins Program Here

Yesterday (Wednesday) the boys and girls of Rockwood playground came to Acton Park to join the youngsters here for an afternoon of games and swimming.

A special program was planned so that Rockwood and Acton boys and girls would get acquainted.

In Rockwood there's a summer playground program at the school. Bob Love is supervisor with assistants Betty Laverty and Brian Slipp. The group of about 40 came down to Acton by car. They had intended to bring a picnic supper but abandoned the idea when they realized some of the group had to get back early for a scheduled ball game.

Regional Jail Project Participation Unlikely

A regional jail project for Halton and Wentworth Counties and for the city of Hamilton has only "an outside chance" for receiving the approval of Halton County Council, chairman of the County's Administration of Justice Committee, Reeve William Coulter, of Nassagaweya Township reported this week.

The committee will hold a meeting in August and will draft its final recommendations on the project, in time for the September meeting of county council. Reeve Coulter noted. "I'm not too sure how the needs study will affect councillors when it comes time to decide the issue." He was referring to the regional needs study to be taken in Halton and Peel Counties which will fully investigate almost every phase of municipal government operation.

The regional jail project will be carried out whether or not Halton participates, Hamilton Mayor Victor Copps said recently. If Halton decides not to participate thoughts on the location of the new jail would be changed considerably.

Halton County Council's acceptance of the regional needs study seems to have put a damper on the county's participation in the jail project. L. Cumming, chief ad

(Continued on Page Six)

Playground Bike Roadeo

Friday's playground program will take the form of a bicycle roadeo when all the youngsters will bring their bikes. Drivers will be tested on obstacle courses, turns and signals. One of the Acton police officers is expected to be on hand to be in charge of the safety check.

Bikes will be decorated too.

Highway Project Nears Completion

The work of laying new sod along the banks beside the new ly widened and paved highway at the east of town continues. New gravel entrances to the shopping centre are being levelled.

New Capacitators Should Improve Power Factor During Peak Demand

Hydro commissioners, at their regular meeting Thursday night, heard Superintendent Doug Mason review the proposal to install capacitators at Number 2 substation. He said, "I think this will cure all our problems."

The $2,000 installation was approved at the first of the year in the capital budget. The bank of nine 50 KVR capacitators is expected to improve the power factor during the peak load period between 11 and 12 a.m. and should result in at least a 90 power factor. During March and April of this year the power factor was 88.7 and 88.6. A study reviewed by the Superintendent indicated savings of $361 and $289 in the cost of power to the local commission would have been realized if the power factor had been 90. Delivery of the capacitators is expected within eight weeks.

Reinvestment

$30,000 was reinvested in Term Deposits for 60 days. A further investment of $25,000 will mature on September 2.

Accounts totalling $8,246.80 were approved for payment.

Changeover

Superintendent Mason reported the moving of hydro poles and lines on Mill Street West was almost completed and workmen would begin the changeover of transformers and lines on Main Street North from St. Alban's Drive to River Street. Commissioners O. Brown and D. Dawkins were present and chairman Ted Tyler presided.

Outline Five Terms of Reference for Halton-Peel "Needs Study"

The five terms of reference for the "regional needs study" to be conducted for Halton and Peel counties by special commissioner Thomas J. Plunkett, M.A., were outlined this week by Ontario's Municipal Affairs Minister, the Honorable J. W. Spooner, in a letter to local municipalities and the members of the county councils for Halton and Peel.

The complete text of the letter is reprinted here.

Dear Sir:

"On October 15th, 1964 the council of the County of Peel adopted a resolution recommending that the Department of Municipal Affairs conduct a survey of all aspects and phases of municipal government in that county with particular reference to inter-municipal relations and regional problems.

As this formal request gave strong support of my own opinion that there was a need for such a review in this region, the southern part of which is immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, I promptly assured the representatives of the county that such a study would be undertaken provided that it did not conflict with the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto which had been appointed on June 18th, 1963 and whose report was expected in early 1965. However I was later advised by my officers that in view of the direction given to the Royal Commission that it should consider among other things the boundaries of the metropolitan area with due regard to probable future urban growth, the actual undertaking of the Peel County study should be postponed until completion of the work of the Royal Commission. Nevertheless, tentative arrangements for the undertaking of the Peel County study were made.

The report of the Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto was issued on June 10th, 1965 recommending that before considering any extension of the boundaries of the metropolitan area the province should give further consideration to the position of the counties and to possible municipal reorganization in the fringe areas. This recommendation provided further support for the immediate undertaking of the proposed Peel County review. In the meantime I was advised unofficially that some members of the local councils and the county council in the adjoining county of Halton were giving serious consideration to the desirability of a similar study of the municipal government structures in Halton. This request culminated on July 13th, 1965 when the Halton County council requested the department to extend the proposed County of Peel study to include the County of Halton, upon the same terms and conditions as had been arranged for Peel County.

Two days later, on July 15th, 1965, the Peel County Council adopted a report approving a combined survey with the Department of Municipal Affairs paying half of the cost and the balance to be paid by the two participating counties on such basis as might be agreed upon.

I am now pleased to announce that in accordance with the relevant legislation and pursuant to the formal request of both county councils I have today appointed Mr. Thomas J. Plunkett, M.A. as Special Commissioner to inquire into and report upon:

(a) the structure, organization, financing and methods of operation of all municipalities and their local boards in the Counties of Peel and Halton;

(b) all aspects of the functions and responsibilities of the existing local government institutions within the said area and, in par-

(Continued on Page Seven)

They're Off and Running ... to the Marching, Racing Competitions at Fire Fighters' Convention

Monday, when fire brigades from all over Ontario join in Ajax for the annual Volunteer Fire Fighters' Association convention, Acton will be represented by a trim marching brigade, all in full uniform, with the Guelph Sea Cadets Band setting the pace.

At least 15 will attend the big parade and special program Monday. Others may be able to go as well, depending on holidays and standby arrangements here.

Voting Delegates

The convention continues Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday in the yearly get-together of volunteer firemen. Acton's voting delegates at these sessions will be deputy-chief Bern Van Fleet and John Krapek. There will be lectures and specialized demonstrations for the many men there.

But Monday is the special day for the general membership. During the long parade, each brigade will be judged on marching and appearance.

Acton men have been practising for weeks for entry in some of the taxing competitions, after bringing home a cup last year for tying Caledonia in the hose races.

Taxing Rescue Race

Most difficult race is the rescue race, when a group of men run 100 feet, grab a ladder, run another 100 feet, slam the ladder up against a 10 foot high platform, race up it stepping on every single rung, hoist a 125 pound sack and then pound down another ladder. The Acton men chosen for this team have been practicing for hours beside the hydro workshop, trying to nick just a few seconds off their time.

The strongest has the task of lifting the unwieldy sack and rescuing it down from the platform. It's hard to imagine, but they have the timing down to less than 30 seconds, distance run and all.

In the hose race, a team runs 100 feet to the fire truck, removes equipment, pulling out 150 feet of 2½ inch hose toward the target, connects the line, turns on water and knocks down three smallish metal targets, connects a gated Y and two single 50-foot lengths of 1½ inch hose, turns on the water and knocks down the two remaining targets, one with each nozzle stream.

Monday evening fire fighters were practising the ladder race, devising the best way to cut down their time. In this one, the team runs 150 feet to the truck, picks up ladder and equipment, runs 125 feet to a crossbar elevated 10 feet, throws up the ladder, connects two lines and knocks down two targets with two streams, one directed over the crossbar and the other by a fire fighter lower down on the ladder.

Acton Firefighters won't be taking a truck with them. All the equipment stays here. Equipment will be available at Ajax. Some of the firefighters are relegated to stay here on duty, and some of the members of the Beardmore fire brigade will join them on standby duty so the town and district will be well protected.

Acton's two voting delegates, Bern Van Fleet and John Krapek are attending as delegates for their second year. After three years, they become life members and other life members may attend as well.

Last year at the convention at St. Marys, Acton brigade tied Caledonia in the hose race at 42 seconds for first place, came third in the dress uniform competition and third in the rescue races. Hopes are high for this year.

Don VanFleet and Ed McGilloway Slow Down To Pull up Boots in Rescue Race Practice

So Bill Spielvogel Hoists Ladder Alone Till McGilloway Catches Hold of the Last Rung

Grant Withers is First Man to Mount Ladder As Stop Watch Ticks Off Seconds on Routine

Don Van Fleet Hoists 125 Pound Dummy "Victim" Drops It to Ground — And All Under 30 Seconds