

The Acton Free Press

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Midnight Fire Destroys Plant

James B. Ledger stood by watching as his door manufacturing plant, opened January 1 of this year, was gutted bringing him an estimated loss of around \$15,000 Tuesday night. The old Greenock school which closed its doors last year had been purchased by Mr. Ledger, remodelled and opened the first of the year to house his new-type door operation. The entire building was burned out and a new shipment of plywood lost as well as tools and machinery damaged. All his office records were destroyed. About 20 completed doors ready for shipment also went up in flames.

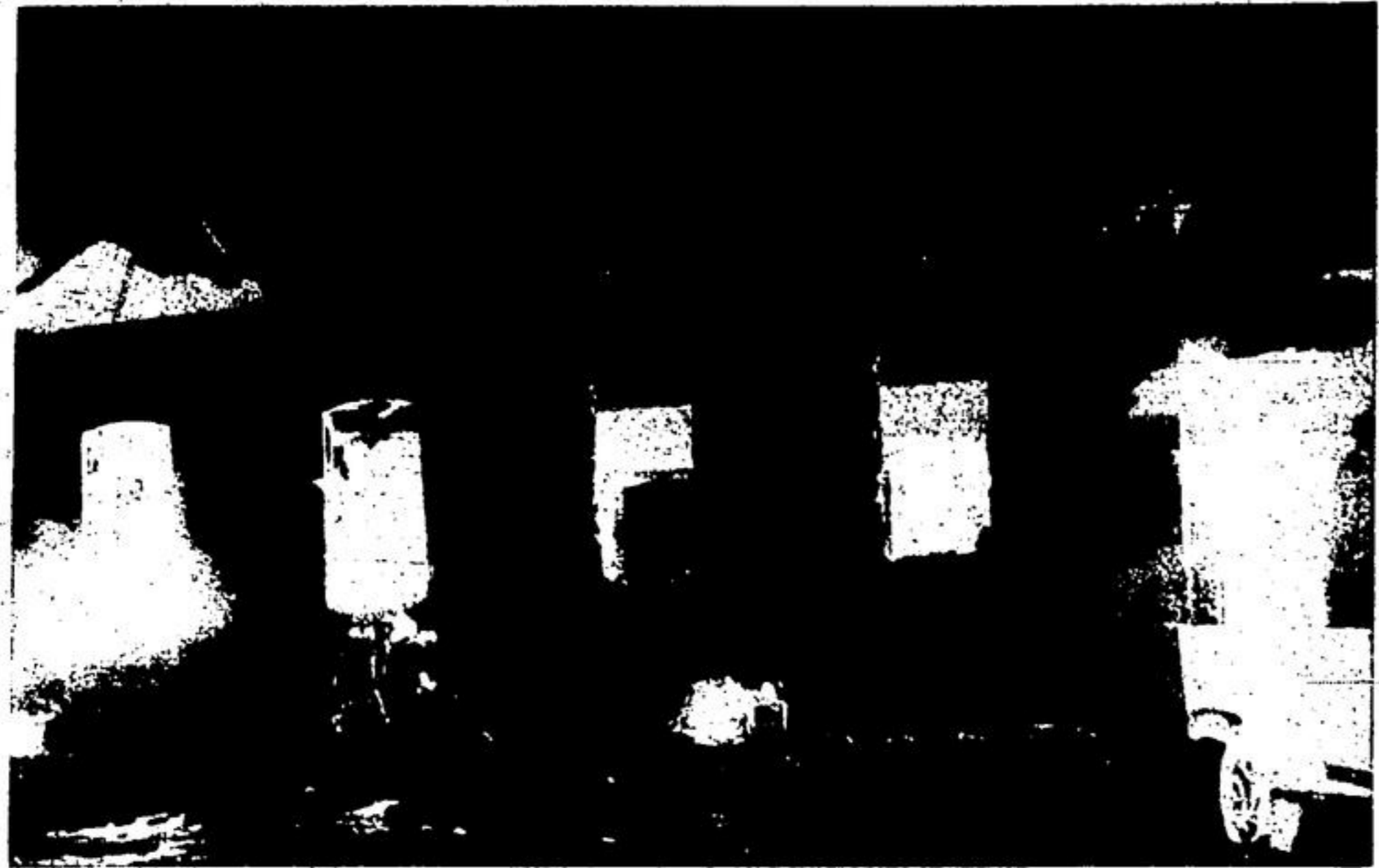
Turned In Alarm
Gordon Allan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Allan, R.R. 2, Acton first noticed the blaze in the sky and drove from the third line of Erin to the scene. He then continued to the farm home of Calvin Aitken, who phoned Mr. Ledger about the fire. The owner turned in the alarm to Acton Fire Department.

By the time firefighters arrived the entire building was engulfed in flames and the roof had caved in. A portable pump was hooked up to a nearby stream and firefighters stayed on the scene for several hours keeping the fire under control.

The alarm was turned in to the fire hall around 11:45 p.m. Cause Unknown
Cause of the fire is unknown. Mr. Ledger told the Free Press his employees left the building about 4:30 p.m. and no one to his knowledge, would be near it after.

With brick walls buckled and roof collapsed, the 90-year-old building is complete loss.

The loss is partially covered by insurance.



MIDNIGHT FIRE Tuesday gutted the door manufacturing plant owned by James B. Ledger, formerly Greenock school. By the time Acton Firefighters arrived the entire building was engulfed in flames and the roof caved in. Approximate loss estimated by the owner is around \$15,000 for building, machinery and supplies.



—Staff Photo

At right neighbor Calvin Aitken, left, talks to Mr. Ledger at the scene of the fire. Gordon Allan, R.R. 2, Acton, first spotted the blaze from the third line of Erin and drove to the home of Mr. Aitken who in turn phoned Mr. Ledger.

'67 Forecast

Busy Year Indicated by Centennial Program

Discussion at Monday's meeting of the Centennial Program Committee indicated local groups are beginning to plan celebrations. Most comprehensive program reported was that of the Guide-Brownie group. Mrs. Lowrie indicated their centennial program would cover a wide range of activities ranging from church parades, through mother-daughter banquets, field days and a tree planting and beautification pro-

gram at the Scout Hall. Local 479 United Packinghouse Workers (Beardmore's union) reported they were interested in and would sponsor a softball tournament at the park in July, 1967. Acton Legion indicated they could possibly be interested in staging a sports program during the summer. Also discussed was the suggestion of organizing a young people's New Year's eve party;

expansion of the Fall Fair program into three days of activities; publication of locally written works of literature; a Decoration Day, Round Up and Homecoming Weekend in June; public speaking contests; school activities; the library project; an adult music festival, and a redecoration and town beautification project. The band had volunteered to assist any local organization in their centennial plans. Recreation Committee, while not represented, advised they would assist through the provision of their facilities at the Community Centre.

Seventeen attended the meeting representing various Acton organizations. Bob Parker, chairman of the centennial program committee, chaired the meeting at the Robert Little school and led the discussions. Brendan Ahearne, secretary of the group, recorded the suggestions.

Will Co-Ordinate

As time progresses and the various organizations complete their plans, these will be announced and co-ordinated through the centennial committee. The committee was formed in 1964 not to sponsor or stage the activities in 1967 but to encourage and co-relate.

Tragedy Saddens Community Teenagers' Funerals Saturday

Incredulity, shock and overwhelming sympathy were felt by Acton residents Thursday morning as they learned of the sudden death of two popular teenagers, Ruth Ann Elliott and David Galt.

The well-known young people were reported missing the night before. They were found in the Galt car north-west of Acton on the town line, by Const. Marvin Harness of Acton O.P.P. before 9 a.m. He had received a phone message from Albert Klooster, R.R. 2, Acton.

Called for Help
Firefighters with a resuscitator and Dr. Craig Hutchison were hastily summoned but the teenagers were by that time beyond help. Cause of death was determined as carbon monoxide poisoning.

As the car was on the north side of the town line, Guelph O.P.P. Detachment was called to investigate. Corp. A. C. Jeffers and Const. J. S. Pitts were notified and arrived shortly after. The two

were taken to Guelph General Hospital where they were pronounced dead by Wellington county coroner Dr. Walter Scott.

Grade 13 Student

Ruth Ann, the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Elliott, Church St., was born at Acton on July 26, 1948. A sister, Mary Beth, teacher at the Robert Little school, and brothers Paul, Acton, and Norman, Guelph, remain.

The grade 13 student was active in school activities and sports and was a member of the student council.

Private funeral service at the Rumley - Shoemaker Funeral Home Saturday was conducted by the Rev. Dwight Engel. Interment was in Fairview cemetery.

Worked at Dairy

David Galt moved to Acton with his family several years ago and since then, his father passed away. His mother, Mrs. Jean Galt, a brother John and sister Helen, who both attend school,

survive at their 56 Main St. home.

David was born in Toronto in 1947, and the family lived on the third line of Erin and at Bolton before coming here. He attended Mount Wolfe public school and Alliston high school.

He was employed at Acton Jersey Dairy.

Funeral service was held at the Rumley - Shoemaker Funeral Home on Saturday afternoon, followed by interment in Fairview cemetery. Pallbearers were friends Allan Reid, Frank Kerseman, Doug Lockerbie, Bernie Benton of Acton, John Hammell of Lucetta and Tom Smith of Tottenham. Flower bearers were John Davidson, Dave Garrett, Fred Collins, David Waldie, Howard Roszell and Gary McEachern.

The tragic deaths of these two fine young people touched the hearts of everyone and much sympathy has been expressed for the mourning parents, families and friends.

TB Clinic on Monday, Tuesday All Homes Will be Contacted

Many of the door-to-door callers handing out cards for the upcoming Tuberculosis survey here have already completed their districts.

Area chairmen explain that anyone who is not contacted in advance will be welcomed at the free clinics anyway, since the aim of the mass program is to reach EVERYONE in Halton county. There will be forms available in the town hall to be filled out by anyone missed at his or her home. Children of every age are urged to attend as well as absolutely all adults.

Many have already been tested at industries or schools. The importance of reaching everyone is especially stressed this week by Acton volunteer chairmen. Chairmen, they report, have encountered some who stated blankly they would not attend the clinic. "They are not only endangering their own lives, but those of their families and neighbors," it is explained. To protect all of us, all unknown cases of tuberculosis must be detected.

In Oakville, a baby in a tuberculosis-free family was discovered to have the disease; treatment was begun at once, while the family endeavored to discover how the infant could possibly have encountered T.B. Eventually, they learned the baby's grandmother had been in contact with it on a trip to Europe, had been met by the family on her way home, and had kissed the baby!

The tests are not painful. "Ask your doctor if you're wondering," it's suggested.

Prepare Clinics
District chairmen Mrs. Bert Hinton and Mrs. Charles Leatherland are now detailing the town hall clinics which begin March 7 — next Monday.

Nassagaweya Clinics
In Nassagaweya township, Rev. W. Leeman is working in co-operation with the Acton group. All the houses in the township will be canvassed. The clinic in Brookville is in the town hall on March 10 and 15, and in Campbellville at the Masonic Hall, March 11 and 16.

School Board Asks for \$137,722 \$69,222 Increase Over Last Year

Acton taxpayers will be asked to dig deeper into their pockets to offset the rising cost of public school operation for 1966. Tuesday evening, public school board members agreed to requisition council for \$137,722 for this year. Last year, council raised \$68,500 for public school purposes.

Board members pointed out the increase in school operation was mainly due to teacher salary increases. The fact the board deducted a 1964 \$28,000 surplus from last year's levy, makes the jump appear greater.

A previous request from M. Z. Bennett school principal Elmer Smith for the board to consider seriously an addition at his school was discussed briefly and it was agreed to wait further action until a survey is taken to determine the anticipated enrollment at both public schools.

No Auditorium Yet

Chairman Vic Bristow suggested board members should delve into the problem at the M. Z. Bennett school as soon as the survey is completed. He also believed the anticipated increase in school population would not be sufficient to warrant an addition at the M. Z. Bennett school.

He did suggest, however, the board might have to alter the school boundaries to allow some of the pupils presently attending the M. Z. Bennett school to at-

tend the Robert Little school. It was agreed if this was necessary, it would only be on a temporary basis.

The continual problem of leaky school roofs is still before the board and Tuesday evening, property committee members Murray Smith and Orval Ghafrman submitted an estimate for a partially replaced roof at the M. Z. Bennett school, amounting to \$5,000. Cost for a new roof had been estimated around \$15,000. Before a final decision is reached, both members are to investigate work completed by the company submitting the estimate.

The chairman reported on a recent safety meeting he attended at Hamilton and reported on the school safety patrol program.

Management chairman Bill Benson reported on a brief submitted by the executive director of the Ontario School Trustees' Council, outlining resolutions submitted at the annual meeting.

Board members learned the public school skating carnival would be held at the arena on Thursday, March 17, and the Halton public speaking finals on March 18 at the Robert Little school.

Invitations were received for members to attend the Ontario Rural and Urban Trustees' Association convention at Vineland, with a registration cost of \$4 per member. No decision for delegates to attend was made.

Accounts totalling \$21,002.41 were approved for payment.

15 Year Service Award Hydro Chairman Tyler

Hydro chairman E. G. Tyler Sr., who has completed 15 years' service with the Commission, receives a service award. Announcement of the award was made at a convention at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto Monday.

The combined Ontario Municipal Electrical Association and Association of Municipal Electric Utilities convention, February 27, 28, and March 1 and 2 is being attended by superintendent Doug Mason.

Four Weeks' Holiday

At the commission meeting last Thursday, approval was given for employees with 20 years' service to receive four weeks' holidays each year. Superintendent Mason has another year to serve before being eligible and secretary Mrs. Audrey Urquhart has three more years.

Architect Donald Skinner, who had been engaged to draw plans for the proposed hydro building on Alice Street (which since has been dropped temporarily) was present to discuss his fees. It

was agreed to honor an agreement of 75 per cent of 6 per cent of the lowest tender with payment to him amounting to \$4,497. The remaining 25 per cent fee would be payable upon completion of the building.

Truck Standstill

Finalization for purchase of a new truck for the meter reader was detained when members present differed in opinion as to the type required. Both a half ton pickup and a panel truck were discussed but four members present were at a standstill with two in favor of each proposal.

Commissioners are to "stew each type and discuss the merits of both types before a decision is reached.

Accounts, totalling \$2,937.29 were approved for payment.

Present for the meeting were chairman Tyler, commissioners Orval Brown, Wilfred McEachern and Doug Dawkins as well as secretary Mrs. Urquhart and superintendent Mason. Missing for the meeting was Mayor Les Duby.

New Product For Micro

Building Products of Canada Ltd. and Durapipe and Fitting Ltd. of London, England, have concluded an agreement under which Durapipe PVC pressure pipe and fittings will be made in Canada by Building Products.

John Hagerman, plant manager of Micro Plastics division in Acton, confirmed today that the fittings will be manufactured in Acton at the Micro plant. Injection moulding equipment was installed here last November and December but has not yet begun.

PVC pipe and fittings, both of which would be made here, have been accepted by C.M.H.C. for drain, waste and vent use.

"Mr. Hagerman said the PVC pipe is being used in Etobicoke in a large sewage installation. The pipe is approved in Europe for transmission of drinking water; however, Canadian approval for this has not yet been granted. The PVC pipe and fittings are solvent welded and have different characteristics from carbon pipe which has been produced for many years. Main advantage of this type of product is the low labor cost for installation.

No additional staff or manufacturing space will be required at the present time. Staff was hired and trained at the installation of the equipment last year.

Form 'Vote No' Committee To Oppose Erin Outlets

A number of Erin Township ratepayers are up in arms against the coming liquor vote in the township, Friday, March 25 and have banded together to form the "Erin Township Vote No Committee".

The group is meeting regularly at the Christian Disciples Church, Hillsburgh, and plans are being made to oppose the liquor vote. Harry Burt has been named as manager of the committee and letters with sample ballots enclosed have been mailed to all eligible voters throughout the township.

Improve Community?
A news release handed to the Acton Free Press from the com-

mittee this week in part stated: "As a citizen of Erin Township, each voter has a responsibility for the welfare of his family, school, church and community as a whole. It is hoped that we will consider carefully the several aspects of the matter in hand and be concerned especially for long range results of our vote."

Continuing the release stated: "Can we honestly say that the sale of liquor by the drink will make this community a better, happier or more prosperous place?"

—Grade 13 students will be touring the University of Guelph one day next week.



FATHER V. J. MORGAN was surrounded with Guides, Brownies and Cubs Sunday morning when the three groups attended the morning service to mark "Guide Week". Left to right are Sonia Daigle from the second Acton Company Guides, Cub Joseph McConnell, Father Morgan, Cub Gordon McConnell and Brownie Joclyn Daigle.

George Lee Again Elected Chairman of Library Board

George Lee was returned as chairman of Acton library board at the inaugural meeting Wednesday evening of last week. Welcomed as a new member and then installed as vice-chairman was the Rev. Ritchie McMurray.

Two standing committees were named. Ted Pratt will chair the building and finance committee with members Mrs. E. G. Franklin and Mayor Les Duby.

Mr. McMurray heads the book buying committee with Doug Copeland, the librarians and any members able to attend.

Centennial Library
As is a long-standing custom at library board meetings, need for new quarters was again discussed. In his budget for 1966, to be presented to council, Mr. Pratt will incorporate estimates for the hoped-for centennial library.

Statistics on other libraries obtained by Mr. Duby were perused with interest; these indicated Acton spends less on our library than any other comparable community of the 15 he had listed.

Sacred Bleu
Completely in French with no translation, a letter was received from the Minister of Affaires Culturelles du Quebec, saying a collection of Canadian literature

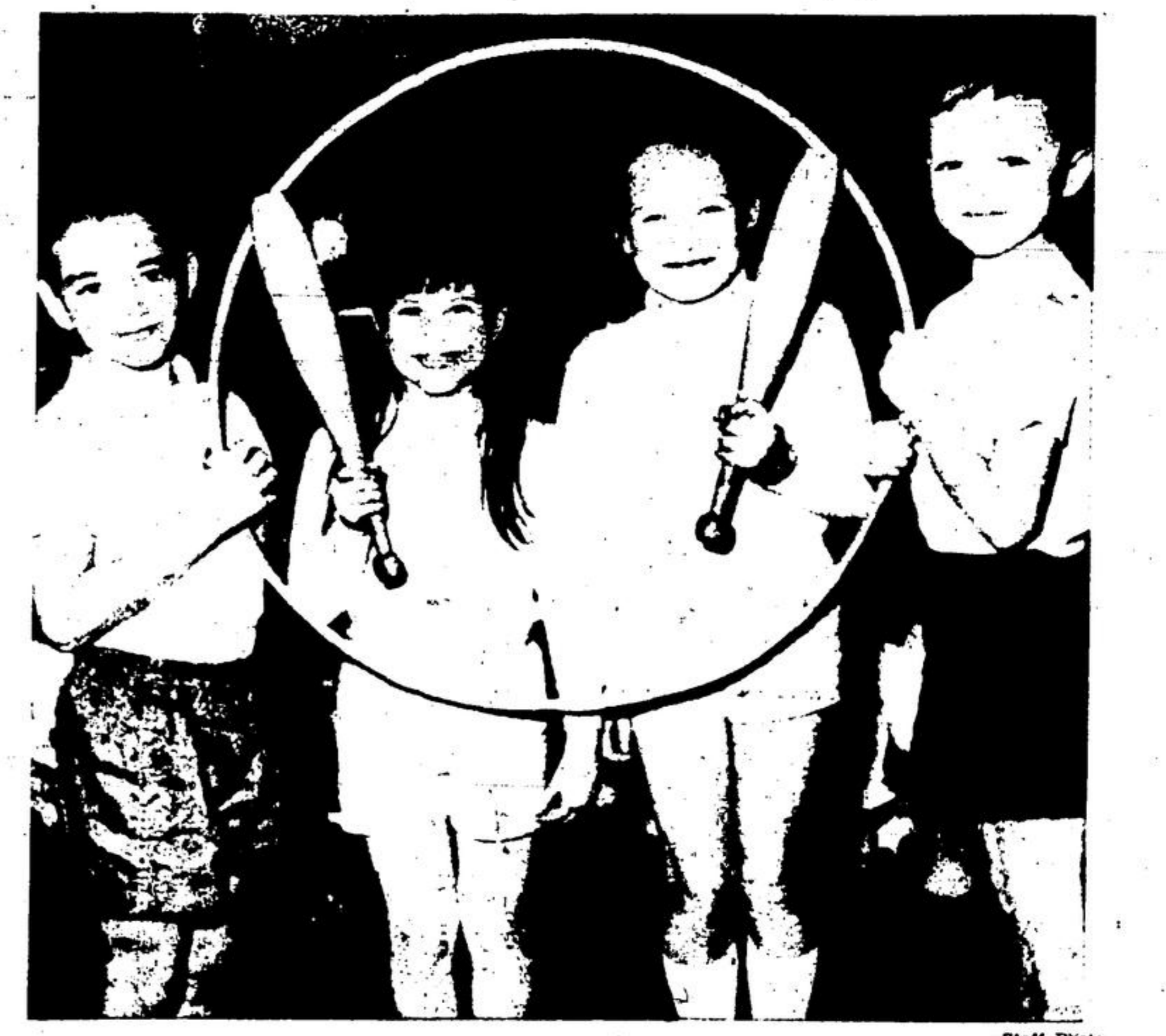
would be sent to the library here. Somewhat baffled, board members jestingly instructed secretary Miss Esther Taylor to reply in French. She complained she hadn't learned in school how (Continued on Page Three)

Council Buys Packer Chassis

At a special council meeting on Tuesday night, Acton Council purchased the chassis for a new garbage packer. The tender of Masson Motors of Acton for a truck with a 7,000 lb. front axle was accepted at a quoted price of \$4,010 plus taxes.

Council a week earlier had agreed to purchase a Sicaard packer which will now be mounted on this chassis. Price of the packer was \$7,400, which will give the town a unit worth \$11,410 plus taxes for picking up garbage.

At the meeting a week ago, it was estimated the unit would reduce the cost of garbage pick-up to the point where the savings would pay for the unit in two or three years.



THIS IS HOW girls got their man? Not quite! Grades two and three pupils from the M. Z. Bennett school went through their paces with rhythmic exercises using hoops, dumbbells and skipping ropes during the school's "Music Night" last week. James Ellerby and Steven Pappilon frame two girls, Susan Stevenson and Maria Pataky, in one of the hoops as the girls hold dumbbells.