

Write your reminiscences . . .

With just two months to Canada's centennial year we want to invite local citizens to reminisce. There are many older residents who have interesting and informative stories to tell about Canada's first century. They should be recorded before they are lost forever.

Miss Beatrice Hilts' current series on the history of Ballinafad is a perfect example of the kind of thing we have in mind. Even if we haven't the space to publish all the submissions, we can assure any amateur writers they will be kept and treasured.

Our invitation goes to those citizens who can remember events that have fashioned the community and the area. Write the reminiscences as clearly and as interesting as possible.

We will do our best to edit and publish the material during the centennial year. It will then become part of the town's record and will serve in future years as guideposts for historians and researchers.

It is virtually impossible for our staff to seek out, interview and write all the reminiscences of the many interesting people in the area. While we have endeavored to do this in some instances, the list grows longer and our efforts become more frustrating. Each year we see some names drop from the list of potential subjects as death takes a toll.

In researching the town history of the past, we often come across an article that has been written by some citizen

whose memory stretches back to previous decades. The record thus provided often gives clues to missing points in a detailed study of some aspect of community life or progress.

Our invitation to older citizens to record their recollections on community life and progress and the people who dotted the picture, may be taken as an individual's own centennial project. Canadians have been urged individually as well as collectively to develop centennial projects. This writing of recollections could well be the centennial project of many individuals.

Naturally the inclusion of dates in any of the writings will add to its future value, but in many cases the dating of events can be difficult and tedious. This can be the work of future researchers. The colorful anecdotes, the description of the life and times — these will be the things that will add value to the record and be within the capabilities of almost everyone.

We are not seeking family histories noted in some cases biographies of local individuals whose contribution to the area was significant can be considered. Basically we're after some of the colorful items that will provide an interesting framework on which to show the growth and progress of the town and area.

The invitation is extended. Are there any takers?

Loyalist Hilts family settled in dense Esquesing bush in 1821

Miss Beatrice Hilts' recollections this week include a very personal event — her 85th birthday party! Again she gives a clear picture of what life was like in this district many years ago.

On Friday, October 21, 1966, the Hilts families gathered at the home of Miss Beatrice Hilts for dinner to celebrate her 85th birthday. Those present were Henry and Viola Hilts, Mrs. Will Hilts of Toronto, Sarah Allan of Erin, and Phoebe and Robert Warne of Acton. Phoebe made the birthday cake and placed the candles on it to represent 85 years.

During the afternoon a few near neighbors and a number of old time neighbors called on Miss Hilts to congratulate her and extend best wishes and were served cake and ice cream.

Their great grandfather, Joseph Hilts and his wife Sarah Johnson, who were United Empire Loyalists, settled in a log cabin in the bush on Lot 32, 8th Concession, Esquesing Township, Halton County, in the spring of 1821. The log cabin was built the previous year one mile east of what is now the village of Ballinafad.

Their son, Joseph P. Hilts was born in this cabin on Nov. 23, 1821, just two weeks later than Nathaniel Roszell's son Benjamin, the first white child born in Erin Township. Two children were older than Joseph and there were younger sisters and brothers.

Joseph P. Hilts married Hannah Varnatter. Their oldest son, Ira Hilts, married Martha Beswick. Their family consisted of Etta, Beatrice, George, Sarah, Henry, Will and Phoebe. Bea, Sarah, Henry and Phoebe are still living.

Some time through the years a frame house was built with an upstairs, then in 1876 a two-story brick house.

All seven children were born in this

house. The frame building was moved across the outer yard and used to store farm implements.

Beatrice started to school at the age of five years, her sister Etta was seven but was not allowed to walk alone one mile to the Fad where they could join other children going down to Blue Mountain School. Bea took the eight grades and passed but after that remained home to help with the work.

When Ira Hilts and Martha Beswick were married the house was divided, the young couple given one part and the parents the other. The grandfather passed away in Dec. 1900, his son Ira in May 1902 after a short illness, leaving his wife and seven children. But by hard work and hiring some help in the summer, they managed to make a success of farming. The grandmother passed away in 1903.

Mrs. Ira Hilts lived to see most of her family married and settled in good homes. She passed away in 1939, in this home, but had seen some of her grandchildren.

Henry Hilts married Viola Kentner; their two girls, Muriel and Helen, are the fifth generation on this farm.

The Hilts families were Methodist, so naturally the children attended that Sunday school and church and became members.

Beatrice became a teacher of a Sunday school class in that church many years ago and continued to teach after union of the two churches in the Fad in 1925 and only a year ago gave up teaching a class. She also believes in contributing to missions, for Jesus said "go and teach all nations".

"If people can't go, surely they can help to send others and help to make the world a better place in which to live", says Miss Hilts.

Free Press Editorial Page

A boy's dream . . .

For many boys, self-education includes visits to factories, docks, construction sites, railway yards and automobile showrooms — any place where machines are in evidence. Machines that such boys romantically see themselves operating with all the prestige that goes with the role.

When such dreams of glory are in full flood little thought is given to obstacles that might lie in the way of ambition. This is true even for boys who to the outside world seem too handicapped to ever join the ranks of future heroes.

This story is about two boys who have dreamed such dreams. They have sat in the driver's seat of a 300-horsepower fire truck and held the steering wheel, scanned the instrument panel, and listened in their imaginations to the scream of the siren. The boys are brothers — Kirk and Richard Clouthier. They are also victims of muscular dystrophy.

Perhaps the full significance of their plight is ever-present to Kirk and Richard. Perhaps, on the other hand, they banish

the deadly implications of their plight to some forgetful corner of the mind.

If they have been able to do the latter it is with the help of their friends among Canada's fire fighters. The fire fighters have taken it upon themselves to help rid the world of muscular dystrophy, and to bring what aid and comfort they can to the victims of this mysterious disease. Thus a visit to the fire hall by Kirk and Richard Clouthier lets the two boys dream . . . the dreams of normal boys, if only for a little while!

Canada's fire fighters and thousands of other voluntary workers for The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada will be making the round of practically every community in this country during the week of November 6 - 13 helping to raise money for research into muscular dystrophy — called by many "childhood's cruellest disease". You can join the March for MD in your community by contributing.

Acton firefighters have placed canisters in many locations in town for our contributions.



—Staff Photo

COUNTING PENNIES can be a tedious job normally but, when it means helping needy children in other countries this group enjoys it. Some of the children who toyed UNICEF-boxes around Halloween night seeking pennies brought them to the Y where the above group counted

and rolled them. Left to right are Sally Wilson, Brian Smith, Ed Leatherland, Rick Coe, Mrs. William Wilson and Garry Bateman. Many others also assisted at the Y and other centres where boxes were turned in under the direction of Y's Men.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Another Remembrance Day is in the offing. As I write, two things evoke the particular mood that day always holds for me, or rather the combination moods.

Outside, it's a gloomy fall day. The lowering cloud weeps a desolate drizzle. A handful of oak leaves cling to the stark branches and no bird sings. A typical Remembrance Day atmosphere.

But on my desk is a letter from an old friend, and the warmth, courage and indomitable spirit contained in it defy the feel of death and sadness outside.

His name is Alexander Forbes, Cunningham, Ontario. We've never met, but have corresponded. We are both lovers of the printed word and about once a year, he writes a long letter, filled with reminiscences, wit and goodwill. His letters always give me a lift.

He has been in poor health in recent years, like so many of his old comrades. But this has not dimmed his spirit. His writing becomes increasingly difficult to read. Not because of infirmity, but because he is going blind.

Cataracts are forming on his eyes, and he will enter St. Joseph's Hospital, Peterborough, after New Year's, for an operation. "Does he complain? Not on your life. He can even joke about it."

The reason he wrote is that he had promised to send me a book, and wanted to get it off before his sight failed completely. It is based on a Yank's experience in World War I, and typically, he adds, "I believe it to be authentic and not a lot of Yankee ball . . . when you have read it, you might lend it to some old sweat at the Legion Hall, particularly if he served in the PBI". Short for Poor Bloody Infantry.

Each year, my mood on Remembrance Day is a mixture of sadness and admiration.

There's a reason for sadness. Twenty years ago, Remembrance Day was a vital and colorful affair. World War II was an immediate memory. The Legion Parade was striking. The World War I vets were barely middle-aged and their ranks were swelled by the youthful, swinging

veterans of the second war, young, fit and full of beans.

But the grief was real. There were brothers, uncles, sons and fathers missing from the files of Legionnaires. And when the Last Post sounded, the bell tolled in the hush, the tears ran free, and there was a communal lump in the throat.

Time passed. Grief eased. Things changed. A whole new generation grew up, to which even World War II was just something in the history books. The veterans of that war are middle-aged now and every year the ranks of old sweat's of the first great war grow thinner.

There is something almost puerile about the occasion now. The veterans remember, and the women who lost their men remember. But it doesn't mean much to the kids, and for many others, it's just a day to go hunting, or put on the last of the storm windows.

But for me, the second emotion of that day — admiration — does not dim. As the latter remnants of Canada's gallant lads of 1914-18 turn out for the parade, my heart is with them. There isn't much spring in the step anymore, and backs are not as straight. But there is still a pride in their bearing.

And there should be. Their war was no Charge of the Light Brigade. There was nothing dashing about it. It was gold, wet, mud, lice, rotten grub and relentless pounding. It was a brutal, stupid war.

But they fought, and they didn't run. And they came home, those who were left. And they were shabbily treated. And they suffered their rotted lungs and their crippling arthritis. And they didn't complain much.

There aren't many of them left, but I hope I'm there to drink a toast to them on Remembrance Day after the parade, as they swap lies at the Legion Hall.

Alexander Forbes is one of them. May he be reading his beloved books 10 years from now, and I hope some of my other friends among the old sweat's will drop him a line.

It's lonely when you can't see.

Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 31, 1946.

The regular bi-monthly meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday evening. Reeve C. L. Kirkness and commissioners J. R. McArthur were present and chairman C. M. Hansen presided.

Chairman Hansen presented a cheque from the insurance company for the damages claimed by the Public Utilities, and Corporation of Acton when the filter bed broke away last March. The amount of damages were \$603.28 and a release was ordered signed for them.

On the fourth anniversary, the members of the Boys' and Girls' Band showed appreciation to their leaders and helpers when Mr. and Mrs. Mason and Mr. Tom Ware were presented with gifts on behalf of the band by Mr. Donald Lamb, president of the band.

Rev. Forbes Thompson of the Presbyterian church here has accepted a call to the MacNabb Street Church in Hamilton. He will preach his farewell sermon at Knox Church on Nov. 10.

It can be recorded that the October of 1946 was one whole month of Indian Summer. Seldom do we get as fine an October in these parts.

Mr. William Allison of Nassagaweya held a very successful sale of farm stock and implements last Friday. There was a good crowd and bidding was brisk and fair prices were realized.

The Acton continuation school soccer team defeated Guelph soccer team at Lyons Park Field in Guelph on Wednesday. The game was keenly contested throughout and ended in a score of 3-1 in favor of the Acton boys. Lorne Arbie got two of the goals and Ronald Salt scored the third. The following boys composed the A.C.S. eleven: 'Meb Blow, J. Spielvogel, Armand Braida, G. E. Elliott, R. Hemsley, L. Arbie, Ron Salt, J. Zions, D. Matthews.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 16, 1916.

The following shows the results of the examinations at Acton High School last month.

Middle School:

Class II — Olive Mowat, Marguerite Stewart, Leslie Scott, Roy Brown. Class III — George Anderson, George Agnew.

Form II, Class I — Annie Sweller.

Class II — Gladys McLaughlin, Mabel Robinson, Adam Orr, Violet Smith. Class III — Harold Kennedy, Ida Crawford, Alice Johnston, Willie Ross, L. McDonald, Stella McLam, Annie Martin, Herbie Ritchie, Deliene Gibbons, Luena Campbell, Ethel Starkman.

Form I: Class I — Elsie Stewart, Alice Stewart. Class II — Jessie Mowat, Clara Lantz, Ray Agnew, Kenneth Henderson, Mary McEvoy, Edna Johnston, Isabel Elliot, Margaret Britton, Gladys Huffman, Jack Waldie, Hugh Williams, Duff Wilson. Class III — Bessie Woodhall, Lucy Edwards, Mac Moffat, Neil Gibbons, Florence Robertson, Betty Lowrie, W. H. Stewart Principal, Pearl Z. Baker, Assistant.

Letters received here last week state that Lieut. T. D. Henderson, son of Hon. D. H. Henderson, has gone over to France with his corps of engineers.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 3, 1891.

The monthly examinations at the school were held in several departments with the following results:

First Department — Rollie Smith, Chas. Moore, William Lovrn, Arthur Pearson, Fred Smith and John McGill.

Inter. — Bella Lawson, W. A. Lawson, Edna Thurston.

Jun. — John McDonald, Madie McNabb, Ella Stauffer. Teacher — Thos. T. Moore.

Second Department: Sen. — Roy McIntosh; Minnie Holmes, Arthur Moore. Inter. — Nellie Fortune, Ella Anderson, Joe Stewart.

Jun. — Nellie Holmes, Maud Ryder, Jacob Bauer. Teacher — C. M. McPhail.

Third Department: Sen. — John Moore, Jennie Smith, Mary Towell, Daisy Nicklin. Inter. — Clara Cobban, Eva Perryman, Mary Harvey.

Jun. — Harry Loveys, John McDougal, Laura Petch, Mabel Mann. Teacher — J. K. Cleveland.

Fourth Department: Jun. — James Fortune, Albert McKee, Grace Chambers. Inter. — Bertie Speight, Willie Harding, Jennie Lennan, Edith Warwick.

Sen. — Robina Wallace, Mabel Moore, Minnie Arthur, Lizzie McDonald. Teacher — Minnie Nelson.

The council met on Monday evening. The Reeve was in the chair and all the members were present. The only matter of business before the council was the 21st report of the committee on finance and it contained but one recommendation, the payment of one coal oil per cent presented on behalf of Mrs. Read, Guelph, \$9.85. The amount was passed and the council adjourned.

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Free Press Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

Trinity XXII
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

TRINITY CHURCH

(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966

CHURCH SCHOOL
Church School—Juniors (up to Gr. 4) at 10 a.m.
Seniors (Gr. 5 - Gr. 8) at 11:15 a.m.
DIVINE SERVICES
10:00 a.m.—Trinity Church (Nursery service provided.)
11:15 a.m.—Churchill (Churchill Rd. N.)
Sermon Subject: "Passing the Buck".

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966
9:45 a.m.—Church School Adult Class.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship, "Remembrance."
Dedication of infants and communion service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service, An evening of music by the combined choirs of Acton churches. "The Life of Christ in Music."

Monday — Mission Circle at 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday — Prayer and Bible Study 7:30
Friday — B.H.F. 7:00.

All visitors welcome to our services.
Doctrines we preach and believe: The Virgin Birth, The Deity of Christ, His Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.

BETH-EL CHURCH REFORMED CHURCH

Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk. Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966
10:00 a.m.—English Service.
2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3:45 p.p.—Sunday School.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D., Minister

Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.
9:45 a.m.—Teenage Church Membership Class.

11:15 a.m.—Community Service of Remembrance, following Cenotaph Service. Parade will attend worship and Legion Choralliers will lead praise and render special anthems. Sermon Theme: "The Anatomy of Freedom."
Everyone most welcome.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 — Georgetown 877-6400

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE

P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1966
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
7:00 p.m.—Guest speaker: Mr. Truman Spruce of Acton. Hear his outstanding testimony of deliverance and hope by the Power of God.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday, 8 p.m.—C.A. Service.
Friday, 6:45 p.m.—Cruaders.



Harley to Halton

by harry harley m.p.

Since our last column the Medicare legislation has been approved in principle. Next week it is expected the detailed clause by clause examination will begin of the Medicare Bill. During the debate on Medicare many speeches were made which were quite critical, however, when the vote was called most members of the House of Commons voted in favor of the Bill.

There were about 20 members who voted against the Bill and they were Conservatives and Social Credit Members. It is likely that during the detailed debate on Medicare many attempts to change the Bill will be made. These will include attempted changes in the proposed, date of beginning of the plan, changes in services rendered (many non-physician groups wish to be included such as chiropractors and optometrists) and the question of compulsory or universal coverage.

At present the House of Commons is discussing some proposed changes in the National Housing Act. The major improvement will be the extension of National Housing Act Mortgages to older homes. This will allow purchasers to purchase and improve older homes which was not possible prior to this time. The exact details have not been discussed but it appears that such loans will be available through the conventional lenders or if these are not available, then through direct loans from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

For the veteran who wishes to buy a home, I would like to review the Veterans Land Act as it is coming to an orderly end. The size of lot must be one half (1/2) acre (21,780 square ft.). The only exception to this size is the case of a pensioner who may be allowed to have a smaller lot. The Veterans Land Office is extremely busy, probably due to the amendments of 1965.

Loans to commercial farmers have a maximum of \$40,000. Small family farmers have a maximum of \$18,000 and money can be re-borrowed up to the maximum after a reasonable portion of the principal has been repaid. Small holders, who are part-time farmers have the same \$18,000 maximum.

The Veterans Land Act benefits are drawing to a close. This is being accomplished in three stages.

(1) 31st October, 1968 — the veteran must have issued by this date a qualification certificate which protects his eligibility for assistance.

(2) 31st March 1974 — by this date applications must be made for financial assistance for new establishments.

(3) 31st March, 1974 — after this date no applications for any loans will be received.

If there are any veterans in Halton who are interested they should enquire now at the Veterans Land Act Office, National Revenue Building, Hamilton, Ontario.