## Store at Fad has long history

Miss Bea Hilts adds another instalnent to her chronicle of Ballinafad's his-

The first store was opened at Ballinafad by James and Thomas Stevens. This store was on the north corner just across the Seventh Line from that log school.

have lately learned the names of three teachers who were there before Miss Bella Young, namely Miss Cowan, Miss Rutherford and Miss Grant, also two other pupils. David and Esther McEnery. She received a certificate on February 14, 1867 as a reward for diligence and good behavior, Miss Grant, teacher. Esther later became Mrs. Robert Cole.

I cannot describe the first store but can describe the one I saw in the early

It was a large two-storey frame build-, ing with a very good general store on the main floor and a post office in the eastcorner with kitchen, living room and bedrooms upstairs.

Mr. and Mrs. John McKee were the store keepers; she was a sister of 10m, Maggie and Tena Young. Their family -Maggie, Lottie and Fred, went to Blue Mountain School when I did.

Directly back of the store was a large storeroom for barrels, bags and other material, coal oil, etc. A door opened into this from the store.

The barn was just north of it, in which to keep a team of horses, a democrat and a sleigh and hay.

Mail had to be delivered to Georgetown every week day and mail brought back. This was called the stage.

Those on farms had milk, butter and eggs for their own use but what they could spare was taken to the store and exchanged for groceries. What was not sold to local customers was taken to Georgetown along with the mail, and sold there or shipped to Toronto on the train. The incoming mail was picked up in town, also supplies brought back for sale at the store.

On each side of the store were rows of shelves, on the south side groceries, and on the other, dry goods and numerous other articles with a counter in front of cach. Flour was sold by the hundred weight as most women baked bread, buns and cookies.

Sugar, oatmeal, etc., were weighed out in paper bags according to what the customer wanted or could afford. Very little food was in boxes or tins at that time. Farmers and others with a garden

grew their own vegetables and fruit too, such as apples, plums, cherries and black currants, but what about the pioneers who had no fruit trees?

The store was heated by wood stoves unstairs and down. Coal oil lamps and lanterns provided light.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee were there in the carly 1880's and for several years after.

They sold the store and business to Mr. Frank Betts and wife, a Miss Mc-Dermid of Georgetown. Their family was Helen, Ruth and Jessie. Jim Ismond, Nathaniel's son, drove the stage and chored for Mr. F. Betts for a long time. After some years he sold the business to his brother, Ed Betts and wife. Their family was Ray, Edith and Reta.

Mr. Ira Roszell drove to town and back every day, looked after the team and did other chores around the store.

Many children through the years rode with the stage driver to Blue Mountain school.

Jennie Binnie lived with her mother, Mrs. George Binnie in the Fad, first in the brick cottage and then in Ella McEnery's house, later known as Miss M. Young's. Jennie helped Mr. Ed Betts in the store.

There was no help self service years ago. Customers had to be served.

On an early summer afternoon in 1905 a fire started in the store room. A strong southwest wind was blowing and as water was very scarce little could be done to save the buildings so they began carrying things out.

Rev. Milne was living at the manse at that time. He and many others in the Fad rushed to get out what they could. All their buildings went up in flames.

A frame house and barn on a lot just east of the store also burned to the

The horses were saved.

Others at a distance, seeing the smoke, rushed there as quickly as possible but all they could do was watch Harry Shortill's frame house across the road and also watch Mr. Richard Shortill's house and barn on the hill to the east did not burn from sparks flying. Cam and Ernie Mc-Enery have lived there for some years.

There were no phones, cars, nor fire brigades 61 years ago.

It was a great loss to the Betts family and to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hilts who lived in the frame house. They got very little

Mr. and Mrs. Hilts were offered the use of a house down the Seventh Line, across from Mr. George Campbell's and later lived in Ira Roszell's house in the

What few things were saved from the store and Post Office were placed in the lower half of the brick cottage to the north and they carried on from there.

Mr. Frank Betts returned from the west and decided to build so farmers took their teams and waggons and cleaned up the rubbish and drew stone from the surrounding countryside and helped get other material there for a new build-

Some blasting had to be done to make a better basement and so the work began. The Swindlehurst brothers, William, James and Alfred were engaged to do the mason work for a two story building. Each stone had to be trimmed, especially the part facing out. No cement blocks in those days! The work was well done and after 61 years is still in good condi-

A cement platform was built along the front and two large windows put in with the main door in the centre. There was a side door near the east corner leading to the stairs and to living quarters above.

A furnace was placed in the centre of the main floor with pipes to the hot water rads upstairs. A wood or coal stove was used for cooking. A new barn was also built for the horses and democrat and sleigh as that was still the mode of travel.

When the work was finished Mr. and Mrs. Frank Betts moved in and continued as store keepers for some years then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hewins.

> (To be continued) AT BALLINAFAD STORE

By Frank Betts A circle gathered every night, Say twenty odd or more Around the big invitin' stove In Betts' general store. Nail kegs and cracker barrels take The place uv fine settees An' here the circle spends it time In most luxur'us ease.

Here's where the farmin's carried on Here's where the hay was raised, Here's where the cords uv wood are cut Here's where the monstrous claims are

Instead uv 'long the shore Great deeds are done around the stove In Betts' general store.

The women folks around the town 'low if these great affairs Would only happen close to home They'd all be millionaires. But while they're luggin' up the coal Or wood from out uv door, Their men are talkin' still In Betts' general store.

The nights they come, the nights they go, Spring, summer, winter, fall And still they meet there regular The settlers one and all. I'd tell you more uv what they do And rake them fellers o'er But I must go and take my seat In Betts' general store.

## Harley to

by harry harley m.p.

"The stalemate on interim supply continues in the House of Commons. The Conservative Party states that it has no intention of letting iterim supply pass until they receive the assurance of the Government that the Bill on Unification of the Armed Services will be sent to Commitsee prior to second reading. This is a rare procedure and is used only when a Government is not sure that the policy of its bill is correct. In this case, however, the Government is convinced that unification is a progressive move and like other Government legislation will stake its political future on at.

Of course the dispute itself is not on integration but on interim supply which gives permission to have the Government pay its bills and meet other financial commitments. It is expected that approximately 100,000 civil servants will not be paid until such time as interim supply is

granted. There is no reason why this matter can

not be discussed when the Bill on Unification is before the House of Commons and the Conservative Party at that time could make their same objection and have it brought to a vote in the usual democratic manner. Interim Supply is an issue not voted on until everyone stops talking. At this, stage all that is required to bring on another election is for the debate to continue and I would think the crisis would be reached by the end of next week: If this is so there appears to be no doubt that an election would have to be held and it would have been forced by the Conservative. Party's unwillingness to grant in-

It would be very difficult at this time to hold a general election. With redistribution of the Federal Ridings now in effect, many of the areas are without Returning Officers and without Poll Divisions and it would be some weeks before this administrative work could be carried out if an election is called.

## More Plunkett study...

The Plunkett report is getting a lot of study lately at municipal, educational and utilify level. A county committee, with representatives of each municipality has now circulated a request for comments under specific headings from each municipality. .

The duplication of efforts seems unnecessary. If the county committee, representatives of all municipalities, want to forward comment to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, fine; but they should not have to pick the collective brains of local municipalities to do it. Let the:

committee do its own thinking.

Several groups have started an agitation to have the deadline for receiving comments by the minister extended. It was originally set for the end of the

There seems little justification for extending the deadline into the new year. It may only serve to continue the state of limbo that government finds itself in

Everyone is afraid to move, to plan, to progress, in case all-is lost in the final shakedown of the report.

## Change ahead...

The conversion of the Acton Free Press and Milton Champion to the most modern method of offset printing is progressing, although you won't see any visible signs until December 7. Meanwhile, we offer a sketchy progress re-

The large new major piece of equipment was shipped from Chicago last Friday, and arrived Tuesday. Erectors will come to instal it here. This will take several weeks. Technically, it's a Goss

three-unit Community web offset press. But installation of this press is only

part of the story. There are smaller presses, light tables and other pieces of photographic equipment that are allied to the different method of printing.

Basically what we intend to do is photograph all material to be printed, rather than print directly from raised

For the staff, quite a lot of technical re-training is involved.

Our first offset issue is scheduled for Thursday, December 7. If we're late, or the appearance of our two papers isn't all we had hoped for, we trust you'll understand during the first few weeks.



1906 STAGE COACH is seen loading at the Ballinafad store shortly after the building was erected. Indentified in the photo are Frank Betts and Jennie Binnie, standing on the verandah, while Mrs.

Betts looks down from the upper verandah. Stage driver is Jim Ismond with Phebe Hilts, three of the Betts family and three of Rev. Milne's family on the

# Sugar and Spice

Ancient Romans used to throw Christians to the lions. Modern Canadians throw lions to the Christians. As the lions are somewhat scarce in this country. they often have to resort to lambs. This is known as layman's Sunday.

Last Sunday I was the sacrificial lamb. I preached a sermon. You think those early Christians had a tough time with the lions?

Layman's Sunday is a special day. Usually, I look forward to it. It's a chance to get into the choir, with the other laymen, and belt out the hymns, serene in the knowledge that most of the others too, are off-key.

Normally, I pray fairly fluently, asking for all sorts of ridiculous things, like a kid writing a letter to Santa Claus. Last Sunday, before I mounted to the pulpit, which is 84-feet high, all that would come out, over and over, was "Lord, help me!"

What is a layman, anyway? The clerical definition is: "One not in holy orders." The worldly definition is, "One who is not an expert." I was fully qualified. A clear case of the blind leading those with 20-20

Let's have a look at the typical layman. Usually, he's an ordinary soul, a bit baffled by the trials of the twentieth century: kids, wife, job and society.

The kids are expected to bloom like roses, but they inevitably have thorns. The wife is supposed to be a gentle, forbearing creature, a good mom and faithful, help-mate. Too often, she is an old harpy.

The job is supposed to be a vocation of which the layman is proud because of his particular skills. Too often it is fraught with terrible tensions. Society is supposed to be a well-oiled machine which enables him to live with grace, ease and dignity. Too often, he finds the only way he can stand the machine is to keep himself well-oiled.

Upper class, of Grade Three lavmen, are the types who are treasurers, elders, fund-raisers, that sort of thing. They don't have to be religious. They merely have to raise the loot, pay the bills, pare the expenses, and fire the preacher when he becomes intolerable. They rather enjoy-

Down one in the hierarchy is the Grade Two layman. He's the earnest soul who gets stuck with the Scout Group or the Bible Class or chaperoning the Young People's Dance. He's usually reasonably religious. But definitely not the executive type, or he'd be Grade Three.

by bill smiley

Farther down is the holy Grade One layman He looks on the church as a slightly shabby-service:club, but is willing to drive some kids to a youth conference, or tell his wife to make scalloped potatoes for the laymen's supper, or serve ice cream at the Sunday School picnic. Apt to be a keen curler or golfer, but always cheerful. His philosophy is, "I'll leave the church alone, if they'll leave me alone,"

And at the bottom of the heap, striving with all his might to remain there, and out of sight, is the Grade 0 layman. He takes up the collection, bumblingly, twice a year He falls behind with his financial pledge. He crosses the street and looks in a hardware store window every time he sees the minister approaching. And he is too stupid, or too cowardly to laugh heartily and shout, "Don't be ridiculous!" when the latter has asked him to preach the sermon on Layman's Sunday.

As a Grade 0, my admiration of the chaps on the higher echelons is unbounded. But the guy I really envy is the layman of 2,000 years ago

What a snap he had. He turned up at the service with his offering, a loaf of bread or a couple of onions, worshipped, then went home and counted his sheep. his daughters and his blessings. No golf, no summer cottage, no ski hills, no television. Nothing to do for the rest of the day but meditate upon what a good layman he was.

It's a little tougher today. But we're tougher people. Anyone who can stand up to television commercials, the price of beef, and the threat of instant annihilation can cope with anything.

Well, we can do the chores, anyway. Let the rector handle the alkies and the infirm and the broken homes and the mentally ill. After all, that's what he's paid for. And in some cases, he makes more than a truck driver.

## Tree Press

### Back Issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of

Thursday, November 14, 1946. Skies that poured rain failed to dampen the Remembrance Day observance in Acton on Monday. There was a splendid turnout of Legionnaires and veterans of the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45.

Employees of Beardmore and Co. Acton, topped the list for two counties in purchasing Canada Savings Bonds with a grand total of \$53,000 in bonds. This is the largest purchase of employees of any industry in either Halton or Peel

The monthly meeting of the W.A. of the United Church was held at the home of Mrs. J. Symon with Mrs. L. Agar presid... ing. After the business was disposed of Mrs. Symon assisted by Mrs. Fosbury and Mrs. W. Evans served lunch.

The officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. L. Agar; first vice-president, Mrs. J. Symon; second vice-president, Mrs. S. Reid; secretary, Miss E. Hawthorne; treasurer, Mrs. F. Cleave.

A three hundred pound, five point buck deer was killed on No. 7 highway about five miles east of Acton early Sunday morning when it was in collision with a car driven by Chas. D. Currie of Toronto. Mr. Harry Boulton, who was coming to Acton from Toronto, notified Provincial Constable Ray Mason.

Shipment will be made this week to those who recently placed orders for "Acton's Early Days" There are still ten copies that may be purchased at \$3 each.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 30, 1916.

The new Governor-General, the Duke of Devonshire, has manifested his interest in the work being carried on by the Canadian Patriotic Fund by consenting to become president of the fund. This position was held by the Duke's predecessor, the Duke of Connaught, from the inception of the fund until his departure from Canada.

Pte. George Caswell arrived from the Military Hospital in Toronto by the 5.40 p.m. train. He was met at the station by the Reception Committee.

At 8 p.m. a reception was held for him in the Town Hall when he was presented with a gold watch by H. P. Moor on behalf of the Municipal Council and

Pte. Caswell expressed his thanks and told of the engagements at Ypres and Somme. The woods around Churchill have

been resounding with the reports of the sportsmen's guns and the tongueing of their dogs lately. Rabbits have been plentiful and an occasional fox has been

Mrs. George Havill, representative of the District Women's Institute and Mrs. W. Laird, representing Acton's Women's Institutes, were delegates to the Provincial Convention held in Toronto last week. They also attended the reception of Lady Hendry at the Government House.

## 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of

Thursday, November 19, 1891. The Earl of Aberdeen speaks in encouraging terms of the great country in the Northwest, which is waiting to be peopled by agriculturalists from other lands. His remarks will do good, as he is known in the old country as a man of standing, and one who would not lend himself to the booming of land companies or other speculative schemes. There is room and to spare in the Canadian Northwest for many millions.

The recent municipal census of Toronto makes the population of the city

Remember the snow by-law citizens. Your sidewalk must be cleared of snow

after every storm. Miss Hattie Cook, daughter of David Cook Esq., was married yesterday to Mr.

Lindsay of the seventh line, Erin. The new Presbyterian Church a Campbellville was opened on Sunday, sermons being preached morning and evening by Prof. McLaren of Knox Cotlege, Toronto. In the afternoon, the pastor,

Rev. Mr. Blair, occupied the pulpit. The new edifice is commodious and

member of the Cabinet stated or Tuesday, that the government would at once renew negotiations with a view to the early establishment of a fast line steamship service between Halifax and Great Britain equal in point of speed and equipment to any of the Atlantic Ocean greyhounds sailing from the port of New

### ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010 Business and Editorial Office



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## Free Press

#### BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1966

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) Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D. "Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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 Title: "Satan's Costumes." Sunday, 8 p.m. - Classes for adults for church membership or learning

-Biblical Interpretation

-Church History - Denominationalism

-Doctrine

-Morality

Tuesday, 8 p.m. - Men's night at Knox church.

All Welcome

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1966 9.45 a.m.—Church School Adult Class. 11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship, "Filthy Lucre".

Evening Service cancelled for Presbyterian Anniversary Service, 7.30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22 - Men's Fellowship, Knox Presbyterian, 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 Diety of Christ, His . Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

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

ANGLICAN

The Sunday next before Advent SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1966 10.30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

10.30 a.m.-Church School. 10.30 a.m.—Holy Eucharis.

Next Sunday St. Alban's will hold its annual Advent Carol Service at 10.30

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 20, 1966 9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15. 9.45 a.m.—Teenage Church Membership

Class. 11.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. 121st ANNIVERSARY SERVICES Guest Preacher: Rev. Donald C. MacDon-

ald, B.A., St. Paul's Church, Simcoc. Sermon Themes: "Jesus Looks Over His Church" (morning) and "Life's Musts" (evening). Guest Soloist - Norman Elliott and Guest

Choir - St. David's Church, Campbellville. Everyone most welcome.

#### MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Georgetown) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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 877-6665 EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1966 10.00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages. 11.00 a.m.-Morning Worship Service. 7.00 p.m.-Evening Service. Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study

Thursday, 8 p.m. - C.A. Service. Friday, 6.45 p.m.-Crusaders: