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Micro workers vote strike action if conciliation report rejected

Micro Plastics workers, members of the United Rubber Workers of America, at a meeting Sunday voted overwhelmingly in favor of strike action if a conciliation board report is not favorable.

On Sunday at the Legion Hall 110 Micro workers were present. Out of this number 109 were union card holders and eligible to vote. The strike action was unanimous, in the event a proposed two-year contract did not meet with their approval, according to local president Paddy Dick. Union members are also requesting higher wages and increased benefits.

Negotiators for the local United Rubber Workers of America union and company officials met at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto Friday with Dr. Louis Fine, chairman of the conciliation board, to discuss the contract. During the meeting negotiations for an acceptable contract came to a standstill on a company proposal for a seven-day continuous work week, the local president reported. At present workers are on eight-hour rotating shifts and receive overtime for weekends.

According to reports, workers do not favor the continuous work week as it

would mean taking normal weekend holidays throughout the week. One union official stated the proposed work week would disrupt the entire family, especially in cases where a wife worked and children attended school.

Union officials are now awaiting a report from the conciliation board. When this is received, it will be presented to a meeting of union members and if rejected strike action may be taken within seven days after the vote, union president Paddy Dick reported.

E. J. Bones, who is district representative of the international union, was present for the Sunday meeting along with local union president Mr. Dick, vice-president Wilbert McMullen, secretary Norman Elliott and treasurer Leo Smith.

Today (Wednesday) John Hagerman, Acton plant manager, was contacted by the Acton Free Press for comment. Following are his remarks:

"The company has negotiated with the negotiating committee of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America, Local 603, since last October. Meetings have been held with the conciliation officer and we are now waiting the report of a conciliation board."



A. B. (SANDY) McLEAN, veteran Fair Board member, was honored Wednesday night of last week when he received an agricultural service diploma from president Jack Marshall. Looking over the certificate left to right are

Miss Acton Fair Margaret Given, president Jack Marshall, Mr. McLean and newly-elected Halton county warden, Nassagaweya township reeve William Coulter.

—Staff Photo

Administration, policy changes proposed by newly-formed board

Parks and recreation programs in Acton could be undergoing a change in administration policy if the thoughts and suggestions at the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed boards are applied as vigorously as they cropped up Thursday in Council Chambers.

Role of the newly-formed boards which will operate with the same personnel, but independently of one another, was discussed freely by five of the new appointees at the meeting. Since two of the members were unable to attend it was decided to leave the election of a chairman, vice-chairman and appointment of committees until the first regular business meeting this Thursday.

Clark-administrator J. McGeachie outlined the duties of the new committees for the members present emphasizing they must operate as two independent boards with accounts to be kept completely separate.

Council appointed John Goy and Harold Townsley to parks board for a three year term, Helen Otterbein and Hugh Patterson for two years and Brendan Aherne, the lone member from the previous board, for one year. Councillors Earl McKeand and Ted Tyler Jr. will represent council on the committee.

Appointments will be made on a three year basis after the initial term transpires with recreation committee members appointed for no stated term on council's recommendation.

Mr. McGeachie pointed out that parks board operates independently of council but recreation committee can not operate its own bank account. Itemized accounts from the recreation committee must be submitted to council for approval. Discussion ensued on possible means of running meetings without duplicating discussion. Members agreed there would sometimes be overlapping of parks and recreation business but the secretary would be responsible for keeping separate minutes.

The role of recreation director Howard Pearce in the new set-up was also discussed after Brendan Aherne told members he'd like to see Mr. Pearce in a dual role as director of parks and recreation, administering the decisions of the board.

Questioned by council member Ted Tyler Jr., Mr. Pearce outlined his duties, most of which are curtailed to the community centre during the winter months. "I'm a little dissatisfied with the present set-up," he said. "I spend 50 to 60 hours a week in the arena besides an afternoon at the Y.M.C.A. I'd like time to program recreation in the schools and elsewhere."

Mr. Pearce also outlined the advantages of the present Y.M.C.A. building falling under the auspices of the recreation committee. "There's a facility sitting there not being used for 10 per cent of its potential," he claimed. "I have a meeting with the 'Y' board and they want to know the possibility of my running a program there."

"All that's necessary," injected John Goy, "is for the direc-

tors of the Y and this committee to sit down together and program it."

"We talked to the Y board a few years ago but we couldn't afford to meet their requirements of time," explained committee member Hugh Patterson referring to a previous attempt to program the Y.M.C.A. in conjunction with the committee.

"How could you get time to operate your suggestions for possible new programs?" asked Mr. Tyler after Mr. Pearce had passed around a brochure outlining possible new recreation activities.

"Most of my time in the arena is spent supervising paper cup throwing," answered Mr. Pearce.

Two breaks school pipe

Public school caretakers had their problems last week when two breaks appeared in underground heating pipes.

It was necessary to call in town workmen with the compressor and drills in order to break through the cement and make repairs. A break occurred in the office of principal G. W. McKenzie and another in the hallway at the rear of the school auditorium.

It wasn't just a case of repairing pipes and filling in the holes. Matching floor covering which had been down for approximately 15 years was a chore as well as dusting the entire school after dust from the cement filtered throughout the building.

"You're too costly a man to be supervising paper-cup throwing," Mr. Tyler countered. "Is this why you want an assistant?" he said, referring to a proposal by the recreation director for assistance if the board intended to add additional duties.

"If the parks were all operating and programs at the Y and arena, how much assistance would you need?" asked Mr. Tyler.

Mr. Pearce (thoughtfully): "Myself, two part time assistants."

(Continued on Page Three)

Inaugural Hydro meet held in new building

A goal set in 1966 by Hydro chairman E. G. Tyler Sr. was reached last week when Acton Hydro Commission held its inaugural meeting in the recently-completed hydro building on Alice Street.

As 1966 was drawing to a close and Whitney Construction Co. was racing against time to complete the hydro building, chairman Tyler vowed the inaugural meeting would be held in the new building. Thursday evening of last week, Mr. Tyler and other members of hydro conducted routine business with new overhead lights glaring, floors gleaming with polish and the smell of fresh paint filtering through the building.

Returned to office for another term were chairman Ted Tyler and vice-chairman Doug Dawkins. In accepting the office of chairman for another term, Mr. Tyler thanked his colleagues for their vote of confidence and remarked "I feel the Chairmanship should be handed around, but if this is your wish, I will abide by it."

Everyone commended Mr. Tyler for his work in the past and noted he should be the man at the helm during the opening of the new building and for the Centennial year.

Mayor Les Duby quipped, "We know a winning horse when we see it," as he congratulated Mr. Tyler on his return to office.

In his concise inaugural speech, Mr. Tyler spoke proudly of hydro's new building as he remarked "It's quite a thing to be connected with a project this size. It took quite a few years to get the wherewithal and commissions in the past helped achieve this goal. The building is a credit to the past commissions as well as our own."

The chairman predicted the new building should do the town for the next 25-30 years with the workshop area adequate for the next 15 to 20 years with room for expansion if necessary.

Mr. Tyler wouldn't predict when the official opening would be held, but hinted the commission would possibly wait for warmer weather and the completion of a few minor jobs.

Mayor Duby commended the Whitney Construction Co. general contractors for the new building, on doing "a good job." His feelings were shared by other members.

The chairman noted the hydro workmen had saved the commission \$4,000 on the contract price for wiring the new building. "The boys did a bang-up job," he stated, as he noted the saving of \$4,000 from the original \$13,000 contract price for wiring.

Standing committees for the year include Orval Brown and Doug Dawkins on property and Les Duby and Wilfred McEachern on finance. Other routine business at the inaugural meeting included authorizing the chairman and secretary to have signing power for the cheques.

The meeting was held in an office-room-as-board-room furniture hasn't been purchased.

Tenders for window drapes were received from three companies and after a lengthy discussion, the tender from Walker's Home Furnishings, Guelph, was accepted. The tender price from Walker's for \$339.70 plus sales tax plus \$40 installation charge was accepted over tenders from Duncaen-McPhee, Guelph and Lakeview Discount Centre, Acton, agents for A. B. Caya Company.

(Continued on Page Three)

One tier or two?

Halton Board of Education favored by present boards

General support for the establishment of a Halton Board of Education was indicated at a meeting of representatives of all Halton School Boards and Boards of Education in Milton last week.

The meeting, hosted by the Milton Public School Board, was chaired by Board chairman Ron Harris, in the County Administration Building.

A majority of the Boards favored establishment of a north-south boundary as opposed to the east-west boundary suggested in the Plunkett Report. Main crux of the discussion hinged on whether or not the representatives favored a single Board of Education or a two-tier structure that would have a local and a senior board with different responsibilities.

Representatives of the Burlington and Oakville boards expressed strong support for the two-tier system while rep-

resentatives of the northern boards after initially indicating support for a single board, suggested they were not inflexible in this stand.

The Burlington Board of Education, in reviewing the brief it will submit to Municipal Affairs Minister Spooner on the Plunkett Report, noted some consolidation was long overdue. The brief suggested high school districts were too small to offer the three streams of education. Strong support for a two-tier structure in education was expressed to retain the morale and proximity between staff and board. A senior level would be responsible for the co-ordination of special programs and financing.

Acton Public School and High School Boards expressed their support for maintenance of the north-south boundary, retaining Halton as a unit in its present form for education.

The Esqueping representatives suggested the boundary proposed in the Plunkett Report was the worst possible division. The board supported a two-tier structure applied to Halton as a unit.

E. Wilson representing the Georgetown Public School Board called for patience in permitting the present County Consultative Committee to complete its report before reaching conclusions. While he noted the larger unit was probably inevitable, he feared the personal touch would be lost in too large a unit.

The Georgetown District High School Board favored the east-west boundary but including Bramalea and Brantford in the north section with Acton, Milton and Georgetown. Milton and Nassagaweya representatives of both boards expressed support for the maintenance of the county boundary and the establishment of a Board of Education for Halton.

Oakville and Burlington members outlined their proposals for a two-tier system, referring to the Goldenberg Report on Metropolitan Toronto for a definition of the responsibilities allocated to the two levels. Stressing the importance placed on the structure of the organization, the Burlington representative indicated his Board was flexible on the boundaries but was very concerned that the two-tier system be adopted.

The meeting adjourned, noting Boards had until January 15 to submit their briefs to the Minister of Municipal Affairs on the Plunkett Proposal.

Doesn't strike clock faces major repairs

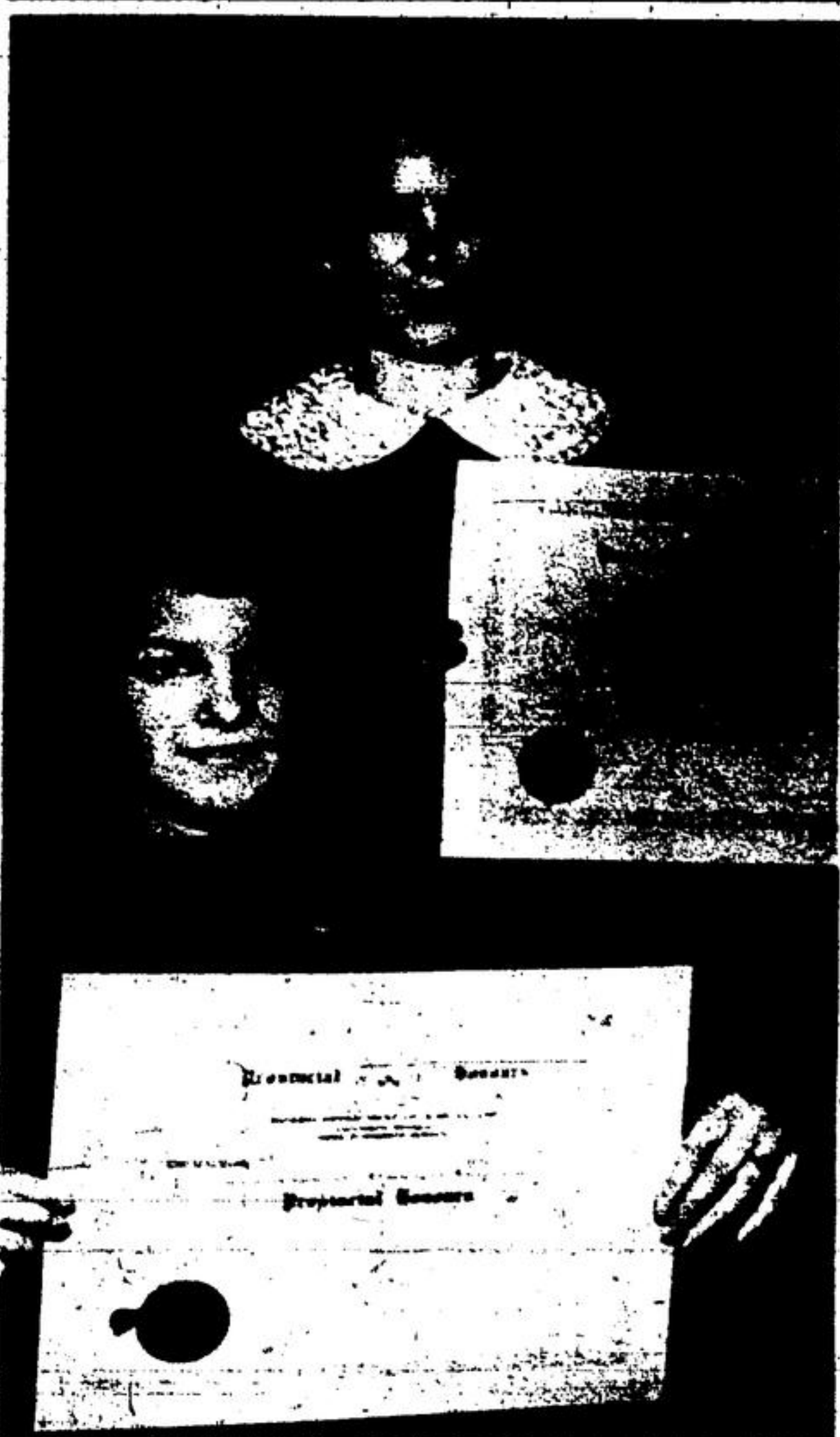
Time marches on for the old town clock, but for a while it will do so quietly. The striker will not sound until necessary repairs are made.

Co-owner, local jeweller and watch repair merchant B. D. Rachlin informed the Free Press the striker ceased to operate Saturday evening and a careful study indicates major repairs will have to be made.

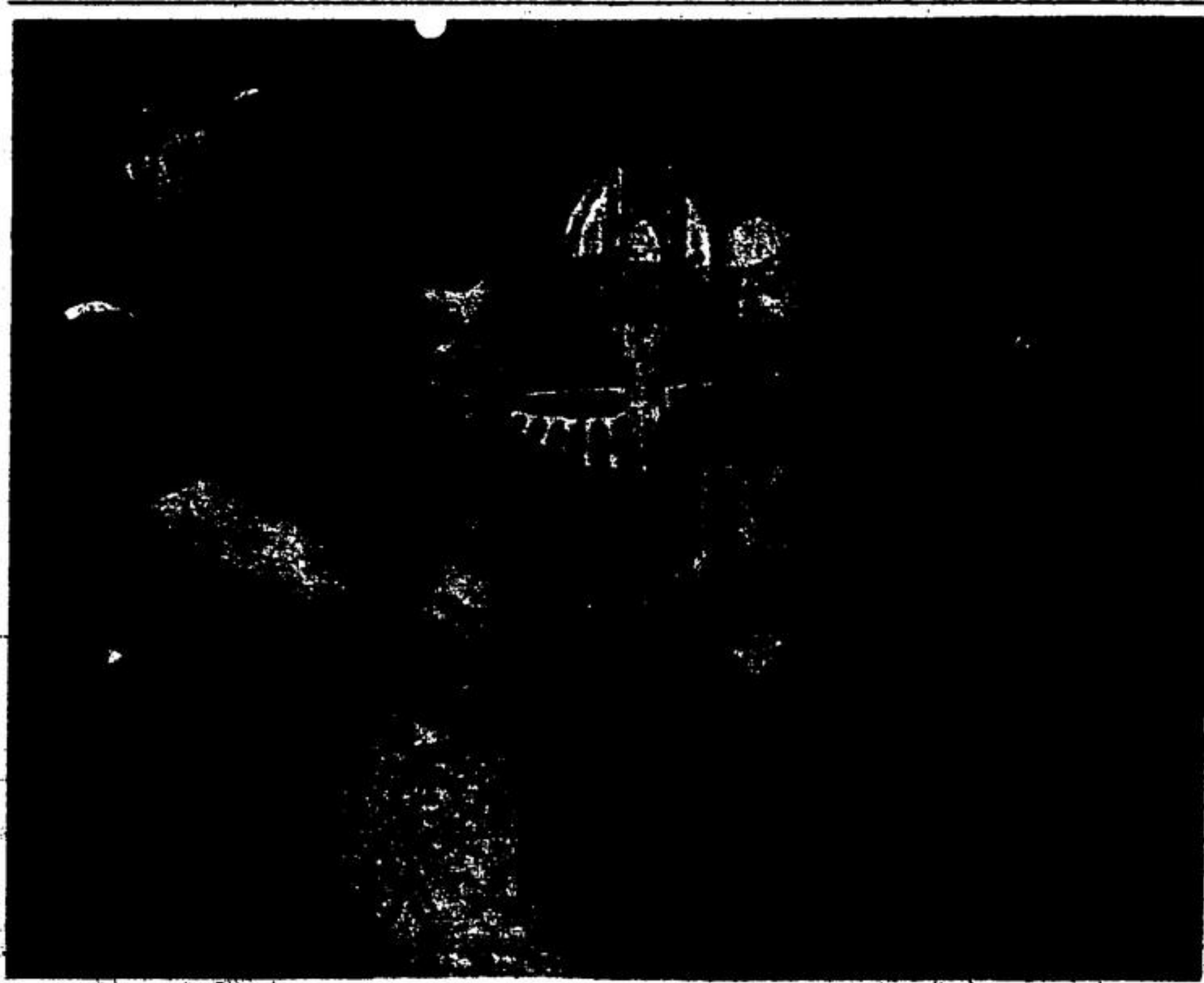
However Ben, as he is better known to his many friends and associates, assures everyone the timepiece will keep accurate time without striking every hour. When time is available the striker will be repaired—possibly not until warmer weather permits.

Numbers up

Number of ladies attending the popular slim and trim classes is increasing. Three more have joined the group.



PROVINCIAL HONOR CERTIFICATES for 4-H Home-making Club achievements were awarded on Saturday to three Halton girls, Eleanor Kern, seated, and Marlene Britton, standing, are shown with their certificates. Barbara Britton was absent at the time of the photo.



INVESTMENT CEREMONIES Tuesday night in the First Acton "A" Cub Pack turned out to be the "Grants' Night" when Mrs. Robert Grant was invested as assistant cubmaster by District Commissioner Norman Hubert of Georgetown. Her son Ronnie was also invested into the pack. Left to right are Mr. Hubert, cub-

master Mrs. Earl Jordan, Robert Grant, who was on hand to witness the ceremonies and his wife. In the centre admiring mother is Ronnie Grant who was also invested and his sister Carol who is a member of the Acton Brownies.

—Staff Photo