

A musical choice...

The choice of Acton's music centre as the location of the Centennial Citizen of the Year dinner was prompted more by convenience than sentiment but it could hardly have been more appropriate.

George Musselle, the tenth to be honored as Citizen of the Year, has been associated with music and musicians in Acton since he arrived here from England's shores. He brought from Britain his love of choral singing and a knowledge of music coupled with a pleasing voice which has enriched the musical life of Acton for decades.

George is never satisfied with second best. This writer, who has had the pleasure of being associated with minstrel shows and choruses which George directed, learned early that he could pinpoint a sour note in the second tenor section or a trill in the bass with unerring precision.

He took men who fancied themselves singers and others who could hardly hold a tune and fashioned them into a well knit chorus. Sometimes he lost patience with us but he was always back at the next practice with renewed determination.

Audiences who listened to the polished, finished product could never guess the amount of work it required to train these choruses nor the time involved. It could only have been done by one who took personal pride in achievement with an enormous love of music.

Now George is busy directing the Chorallers for their appearance at Expo, a thrill which caps years of training singers and the frustrations it involves.

It was only fitting, therefore, the committee which made the selection for Citizen of the Year should choose the man who's putting Acton on the map musically.

Free Press Editorial Page

Propose County Board

There is a sound basis, beyond the statistical and analytical approach, for a county board of education which was recommended last week by the County Consultative Committee on primary and secondary education.

Early this year county boards concerned with education met to discuss the merits and faults of the Plunkett Report as it affected education. Their conclusions favored retaining Halton as a unit, as opposed to merging it with Peel County, and uniting all the educational effort under a single Board of Education.

There was considerable debate and discussion on the merit of a two tier system of administration as opposed to a single all-powerful board. Those who represented the southern municipalities appeared to favor the two tier plan to maintain closer liaison with staff and board. Those from the north, accustomed to working in smaller numbers, were inclined to lean toward the single board but with a willingness to listen to the experience of the south.

The support, by those most closely associated with education, for a single county authority, is probably the strongest vote in its favor. While the Consultative Committee was analyzing and studying the problems and advantages of equal educational opportunity that would be available in the single county board system.

At the present time, the report notes, 69 trustees are administering 10 boards and under the proposal there would be one Board of Education with 22 members. Representation would be by population with Oakville and Burlington each having eight members and Acton, Esquesing, Milton and Nassagaweya with one each and Georgetown with two.

The proposal for a single county board of education will produce some interesting discussions. We certainly hope those discussions are salted with understanding of the educational system. Too often a good many problems develop when a lack of understanding is accompanied by strong opinions.

Off the cuff...

The unwashed, bearded ones who frequent such areas as Yorkville would have us believe they are intellectuals; that they are leaders in the making whose thought plains tower above those who would choose to apply common logic to living with a measure of soap.

We delude ourselves if we permit catchy phrases like New morality and New theology to rationalize us into forsaking some of the old morals and theology that still contain sounder guidelines for living, albeit more discipline too.



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS received more than their share of fire calls the past week. The one which produced the most odor was probably Saturday morning's at the town dump when billowing

clouds of sooty grey smoke rode a westerly wind and blanketed the older sections of town. The fire was difficult to extinguish. Earth was bulldozed over to smother it. (Staff Photo)

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley



There's nothing like a good old-fashioned family fight on Saturday night, to relieve the built-up tensions of the week, clear the air and get everybody squared around for a quiet Sunday.

For centuries, this was a tradition in many families. But, like so many of our other fine old customs, this one has been virtually destroyed by television.

Don't get me wrong. I don't mean the kind of thing in which the brutal, drunken husband lurches home, beats up his wife and kids, robs the sugar bowl and piggy banks of their pennies and staggers back to the pub and Pearl.

This happened, of course. And still does. But I mean the ordinary family fight. The father, a decent working man, has gone up-town Saturday afternoon, with his \$1.50 allowance. He's bought a pack of fags and had three or four beers. He's mildly merry.

His wife has done the week's shopping. She has lugged four bulging bags of grub a block to the car. She has slaved to prepare a good supper. The baby is crying, just for the hell of it. The teenage daughter is whining about going to a dance with a known hoodlum. The 12-year-old son is still out fishing, it's almost dark and he's probably drowned. And her feet hurt. And the dinner is ruined because the old man is late. Twenty minutes late, already.

Well, there's a dust-up. Pa comes in with a happy smile and the old lady peels the hide right off him. The boy comes in grinning, with two speckled trout, and gets a cuff on the ear. The daughter whines on and is sent to her room. The baby, no slouch at the game, yells like a banshee, to get some attention.

And it's all over, like a summer storm. Pa is ashamed for cuffing the kid. Ma is ashamed for blasting Pa. The boy gets doubles on dessert. Ma and Pa plead with the girl to go out with the hood, who really isn't a hood after all. The baby gets a bottle right in the mouth and shuts up.

The kid cleans his fish. Ma does the dishes dreamily. Pa goes out and roots around the rosebush. Sis flies out, at the hoot of a horn. Baby burps and smiles in his sleep.

That's the way it was not too long ago. But television has wrecked it. Nowadays, instead of taking out our aggressions on each other, we huddle before the Great Soporific on Saturday

nights, dinner balanced on our knees. We pour all our aggressions into a stiff body-check or a saloon brawl in a Western.

As a result, the fine old family fight on a Saturday night has degenerated into a quarrelsome quibble about who's going to get up and fetch a beer during the commercial.

However, I am glad to say, although the family fight is dying, it is not quite extinct. The other day I read, with growing fascination of a Christmas Eve squabble that has to rank with one of the great ones. It took place last Dec. 24th, and the legal aftermath is now in progress.

As the newspaper reported it, this young fellow admitted he drank between 20 and 40 bottles of beer during the day. That is some beer drinker. You try putting down about four gallons of beer the day before Christmas, or any other day, and I guarantee you'll have a belly the shape and a nose the hue, of S. Claus himself. Not to mention the beers coming out your ears.

It gets better. The Champ as we shall call him, had an argument with his brother, who threw him out of the house. Imagine the glug and undaunted. The Champ climbed a tree. Maybe he thought it was a pear tree and he was a partridge. Who knows.

Anyway, brother stepped outside with a shotgun. He claimed he fired a shot in the air not knowing the Champ was up a tree. But several pellets entered the latter's anatomy.

The Champ testified that he couldn't remember swinging his mother-in-law around by her hair, although he did admit having a fight with her.

It sounds like a swinging party. I'm just as glad I wasn't there, but it proves that the family fight still has a little steam in it, even though it is disappearing from our way of life.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, May 1, 1947.

The regular meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday evening. Superintendent Wilson tendered his resignation to the commission as waterworks superintendent. He explained that due to the press of work in both departments, he could not do justice to both hydro and water supervision. With the proposed new housing this summer, it would entail new construction of hydro lines.

The new executive of Acton Y's Men's Club are as follows: president, Mike Bennett; young people, Jack Greer; club extension, Dick Bean; program director, Ken Mackenzie; Y member counselling, John Gray; boys' work, Bill Denney; editor club paper, Don McLean; house committee, Mac Symon; membership, Wes Wolfe; projects, Bill Clayton; world outlook, Don McLean; publicity, John Gray.

The council unanimously passed an agreement to purchase the Duckett property for \$3,000 for the purpose of War-time Housing, containing 12 acres together with road extension from the north end of Wallace St. to the Duckett property and permission to use the Duckett lane from the north-east angle of the property to the third line, subject to upkeep.

Miss Flora Moffat, R.N., eldest daughter of Mr. James W. Moffat and the late Mrs. Moffat of Nassagaweya, left last Friday night, April 25, for Bella Bella, B.C., to work with Dr. George Darby, medical missionary at that place.

The monthly meeting of Knox Church Ladies' Aid was held at the home of Mrs. J. Leishman. There was a large attendance. Mrs. F. J. McCutcheon presided. Mrs. George Lantz read the Scripture lessons.

On Friday night, the employees of the machine shop called on Mr. Fred Crewson and presented him with a very fine pen and pencil set; a Ronson lighter and a purse of money. Mr. Robert Cross made the presentation. Fred has worked for the Beardmore Co. for 41 years. Mr. and Mrs. Crewson expect to move to the Dundas district.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, April 26, 1917.

Seed potatoes at 80c to \$1.00 a peck for ordinary varieties gives growers a new experience.

Mr. L. Starkman has leased the store in Arthur's Block and will conduct a dry goods, groceries and furniture business there.

Mr. A. L. Wyant, who has been manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia for the past two years, has been transferred to Port Elgin. Mr. W. K. Graham of Toronto succeeds to the managership.

Soldiers have made further raids upon Toronto factories in search of aliens. The British Houses of Parliament passed resolutions expressing pleasure at the entry of the United States into the war.

The foundations of Mr. Frank Sayers' new bungalow on Knox Ave. are being excavated. Georgetown has passed the by-law for

the inspection of all milk and the profits of dairymen selling milk there. Married — Law - Near: In Detroit, on Wednesday, April 18, 1917, by Rev. E. J. Martin, Richard C. Law of Detroit, to Ethel May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Near, Acton.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, April 28, 1892.

The brick-work of Mr. Joseph Anderson's new house on Bower Ave. is nearing completion.

The Lasby homestead was sold on Saturday for \$3,000. Mr. McDonald takes immediate possession.

Miss Cassie McPhail, teacher of the second department, was the recipient last Friday evening, at the hands of the pupils promoted to the first department, of a neatly framed group photograph of the class.

Mr. D. McKenzie is Georgetown's new reeve. Messrs. R. D. Warren and Jos. Barber were also nominated for the position, but resigned in favor of Mr. McKenzie.

We understand that Mr. D. Strachan, B.A., just finished his last term at Queen's College, Kingston. Dan looks well although he has had a hard winter's work.

A main street resident complained to the police of the conduct of a number of young men who indulged in a game of ball on that street last Sunday. It is hoped there will be no repetition of such Sabbath-breaking in this quiet and orderly town.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, May 2, 1847.

A meeting of those desirous of forming a cricket club for 1867 will be held at Thompson House Saturday. There are some funds and cricketer material left over from last year, so very little expense need be incurred. Full attendance requested.

Georgetown Fair will take place tomorrow and we hope to hear of its continued success. It has now been an established day with all the farmers in the vicinity, and usually a sufficient number of buyers are present to produce a lively competition. Cattle and horses are now very high, so high that with the recent fall in gold, Americans don't find it profitable to purchase.

A young man advertised for a wife and received over 1,800 answers from husbands saying he could have theirs. This shows the virtue of advertising.

As large spring lambs are the order of the day, we have one in Nassagaweya belonging to Joseph Ferris which is ahead of any yet. When born, it weighed 18 lbs., girth about 18 and three quarter inches, length 22 inches.

Oakville Town Council, as of Monday, April 22, 1867, included R. K. Chisholm, D. Chisholm, G. K. Chisholm, J. Hagaman, Jones, King, Moore and Roman.

Free Press

Church News

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, MAY 7, 1967

9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.

9.45 a.m.—Church Membership Class for Teenagers.

11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Sermon Theme: "Fields White To Harvest."

Everyone Most Welcome.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
ANGELICAN

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

Thursday, May 4 — Feast of the Ascension. 10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967
Sunday after Ascension Day.

9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

10.30 a.m.—Church School.

10.30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842

Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidy Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967

10.00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.

11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Bethel to Peniel."

7.00 p.m.—Evening Services. Sound film "Where Does Mrs. Whalley Live". All are welcome.

Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.

Thursday, 6.30 p.m.—Explorers.

Thursday, 7.30 p.m.—Choir Practice.

Friday, 7.00 p.m.—B.H.F.

Text: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, what we sow we shall reap."

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchhill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967

10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.

7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.

Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.

Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.

Friday, 6.45 p.m.—Crusaders.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967

10.00 a.m.—English Service.

11.10 a.m.—Sunday School.

2.30 p.m.—Alternating Dutch and English Service.

Saturday — Bible Classes, 10-12.30 a.m.

Everyone Welcome

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967

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

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)

Minister: Mr. John May, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10.00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).

11.15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

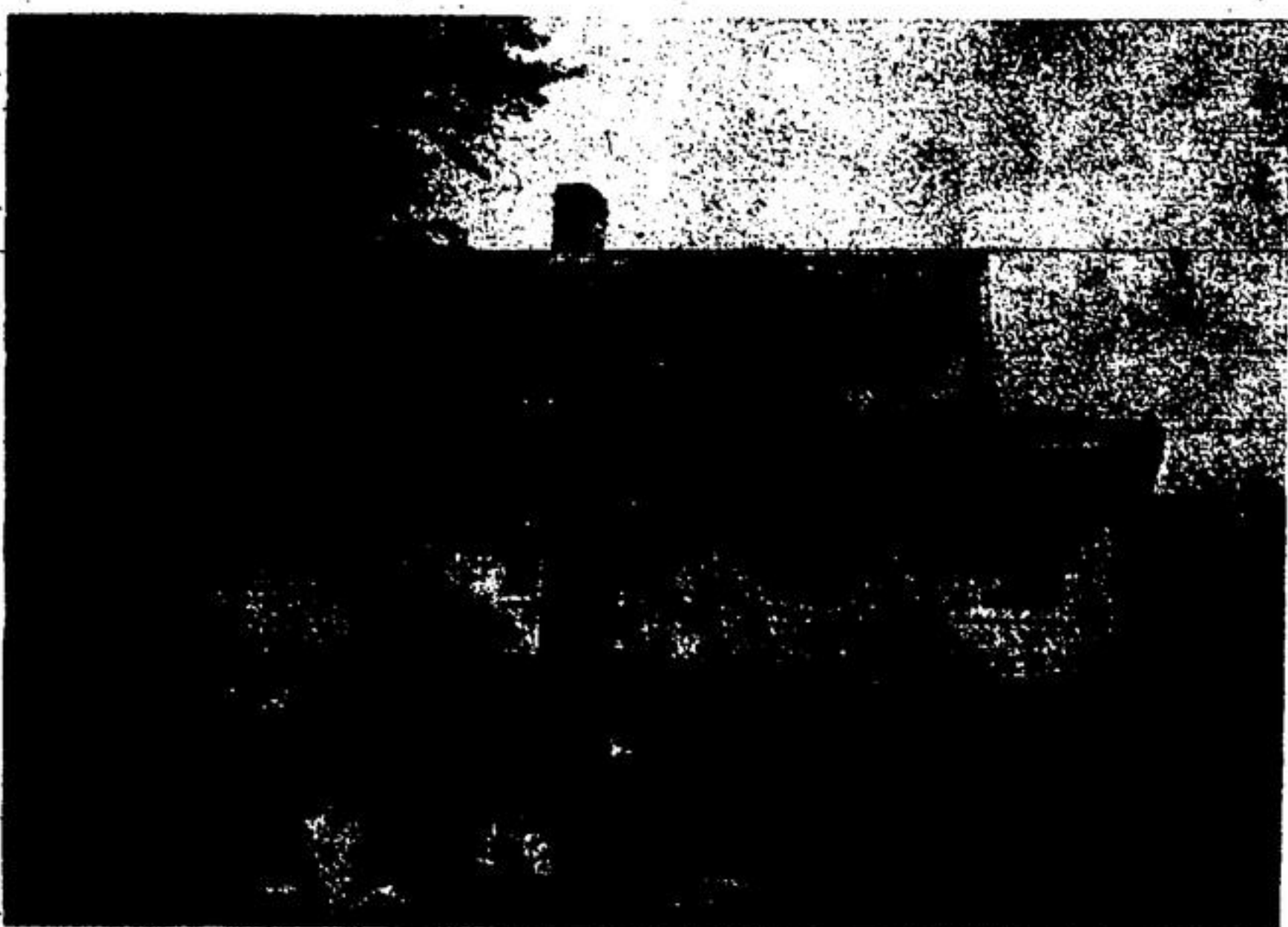
SERVICES

10.00 a.m.—Trinity Church Acton. (Nursery provided.)

11.15 a.m.—Churchill Church (Churchill Rd. N.)

All Welcome

Centennial Picture Gallery



THE ABRAM MATHEWS home on North Main St. is pictured this week. Mr. Mathews was the father of Postmaster Mathews whose history made interesting reading earlier. The five acres now owned by the Acton Dairy was given to the eldest son, John, when he married Jane Brown, a sister of James Brown, who owned the saw mill for many years. The other son Edward had his home in part of the father's house but later moved to Acton and still later to Kitchener where one, at least, of the family is thought to be still living. After Mr. Mathews' death the farm changed owners several times until bought by

James Brown in 1878. In a few years the house was renovated inside and out and the barn built. In 1913 it was sold to Charles Bailey of Toronto, later to Mr. and Mrs. Switzer of Norval and later to Hufnagel. To most Actonites it is still the "Switzer Farm". The old gentleman sitting in the picture is Mr. Ramshaw, the father of Hal Ramshaw, for many years Acton's photographer. The others are James Brown and his wife, a daughter; another daughter Mrs. Nellie Storey of Rockwood who lent this picture and Maggie Lynd, Mrs. William Smith and mother of Lynd Smith, recently deceased.

Editorial briefs

The Ontario Safety League asks parents and teachers to impress on youngsters the danger of walking on the right-hand side of roads that have no sidewalks. Adults also should remember always to walk facing oncoming traffic. A recent statement from the Ministry of Transport said that sample analyses in Britain show that pedestrians walking with their backs to the traffic suffer four to five times as many fatal and serious accidents as those facing traffic.

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