

BARN RAISING brought all the neighbors to help. This photograph by A. T. Brown was titled "Flynn's barn raising." (A. T. Brown Collection)

Back in 1881

April - A comment from one of the exchange papers and included in the Free Press reads: "We would like to see the Acton Free Press man outdone for the concoction of headings. For the old style of heading Born, Married, and Died, he has substituted The Cradle, The Altar, The Grave, Why not put it Hatched, Matched and Dispatched."

January - A ballot was taken on the by-law for the purchase of a new cemetery on Monday last which resulted in its defeat by a majority of 8. Very little interest had been taken except by the Village Council and the proprietors of the movement until the past week when several parties who were prejudiced on the subject began to put afloat wrong impressions in reference to the site chosen and the time which would expire before possession of the property could be obtained. On the day of the election considerable excitement was manifested and those not in favor of the by-law worked all day against it and eventually succeeded in its overthrow.



MRS. SMITH'S RESIDENCE, built in 1834, was there? photographed in September, 1899. Is it still (A. T. Brown Collection)

Remember when *Pricer for kiss* Bower Avenue

Back in 1880
June - A by-law was passed at the meeting of the Council on Monday evening last, prohibiting cows from running at large during any hour of the day or night after the first day of August next.

July - From an advertisement inserted on behalf of one of the many famous circuses we find an incentive to attend in that it is the "Only exhibition using the new and wonderful electric light, requiring a 50 horse high pressure engine to produce the same."

Dominion champs
Dominion of Canada Champions for four years and six time winners of the Canadian Manufacturers' trophy were Bearmore and Co. tug-of-war teams in the late 20's and early 30's. The Acton teams proved they had more pull than any comparable outfit from anywhere in this wide Dominion at the C.N.E. capturing dozens of other minor trophies as well. Trophies, shields and medals of solid gold and silver won by the teams would fill a good sized room.

One time Mrs. Secord went over to Mike Speight's when the children had the measles and offered the eldest of them a penny if she'd kiss Percy. She wanted Percy to catch the measles and get it over with when the other children were having them. We have no record of whether the contract was sealed and delivered right there or not.

Bower Avenue was originally the farm lane to the back of the old Adams farm. West Bower was the front lane, from the house to the second line as it was in those early days. It commenced at the farm residence just in the rear of where Knox Manse now stands and ran to a point on Main Street opposite the present Knox Church building.

Hall by-law passes by big margin

March 31, 1881 - At the beginning of the year we recommended the newly-elected village council to take into consideration the erection of a new town hall and lockup, in some central site in our village. Since that time considerable conversation on the subject has been indulged-in by the ratepayers and citizens generally, and at the last meeting of the council the matter was taken up and notice was given that at the next meeting a motion would be presented to the effect that, "in the opinion of this council the time has arrived when steps should be taken to secure a proper town hall and lock-up." We understand that it is the intention of the council to visit a number of halls in other towns for information respecting the construction and cost of a suitable town hall. The reeve will probably call a meeting of ratepayers in a week or so to lay before them the result of the investigations and to ascertain their opinions on the subject.

September 1, 1881 - The election on the Town Hall by-law last Friday caused considerable comment in town, but notwithstanding the stir a comparatively small vote was polled. It is hardly necessary to state that the by-law was carried by a large majority, the poll being 50 for the by-law and only 14 against. This, we think, clearly shows the spirit of enterprise possessed by the freeholders of our village.

There are still some non-progressive electors and specially non-ratepayers who object to building a town hall, but the building of the hall now being a certainty, and a well understood necessity, by a large majority of the electors who voted for it, would it not be well for the non-progressive party of electors who opposed it - to gracefully submit to have the village improved and the value of the property increased by this, one of the best investments of public funds yet made by the electors through the village council.

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Grandpa and Grandma Never Had it So Good.

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Grilled Wing Steak	\$1.75	Breaded Jumbo Shrimps	1.60
Grilled T-Bone Steak	2.25	Roast Beef	1.50
Baked Chicken Pie	1.35	Roast Pork	1.50
Grilled Ham Steak	1.60	Grilled Pork Chops	1.60
Breaded Scallops	1.60	Tenderized Steak	1.25
Mashed Potatoes		Peas and Sliced Tomatoes	

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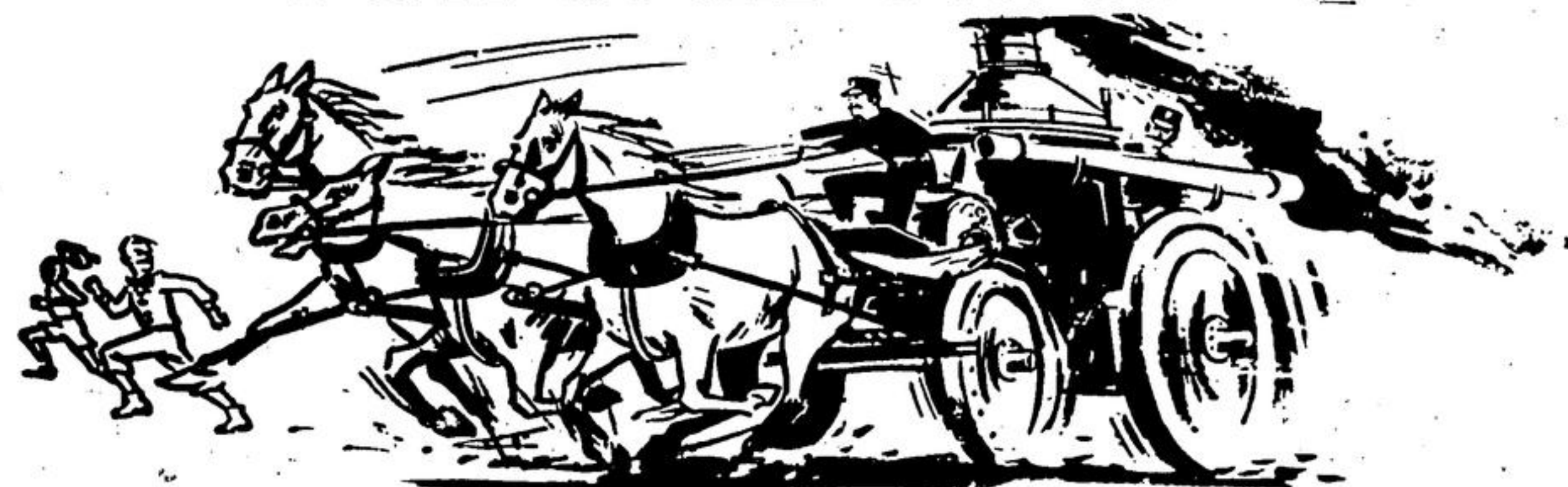
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