

Co-operation is keynote ...

When Acton sets its collective sites on a celebration even the weather gets into a co-operative mood. The proof of the point was combined in the Fall Fair and town centennial celebration that attracted hundreds to the grounds and supporting events on the weekend.

As someone said, "If a little co-operation can produce something like this, think what a lot of co-operation would do." We're inclined to the position there was a tremendous amount of co-operation by the events of the weekend no matter what smouldering may have developed in the early part of the week.

We've never seen a better parade in Acton than the one that flowed down the streets of Acton on Saturday. It was a grand opening to the day's festivities. Most important, it contained entries from the town and rural district that forms an important part of the community we call Acton. There were floats from Eden Mills and Ballinfad as well as Nassagaweya and other rural groups. The town entries were also well done and the two areas contributed to one of the most successful parts of the weekend.

Old Fashioned Days which the local merchants sponsored was a successful project that set the mood for the weekend events and established a mood of co-operation often missed. It was worthwhile and well supported by local and area shoppers.

It serves as further evidence of what co-operation can produce if groups are willing to participate and involve themselves.

The fair itself was blessed with perfect weather and the regular events, coupled with the centennial events drew crowds that surpassed records. It was heartening support for those who had invested many hours of time and initiative is completing arrangements.

There were countless indications of the co-operation the community as a whole developed and it is virtually impossible to remember or recount them all. Suffice it to say the whole weekend was a worthwhile exercise in community co-operation that should not be soon forgotten.

When the cause is there the town and district can still work together and produce highly desirable results. We hope the spirit of co-operation will not falter until the next centennial.

Free Press Editorial Page

Differences and indifference ...

The community church service Sunday afternoon followed the pattern of the fair in being a success, if you can say a service is successful. The fact that all denominations could unite in thanksgiving and charity for centennial celebrations is indicative of the present climate in the Christian community and perhaps prophetic for the future.

Many people have asked, and are going to ask, why they can't rub shoulders with their neighbor more often in a community of prayer. In this day and age beliefs held in common are assuming more importance than differences which divide Christians.

At the service, Rev. John Waldie spoke of early days in the Dublin school section of Esquesing township where Irish Catholics and Scottish Presbyterians predominated with some Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and others sprinkled between. There were real and imagined differences between them but when tragedy struck all the neighbors, irrespective of belief, pitched in to help.

Differences, of course, are some-

thing for the theologians to argue over but the spirit of charity and brotherhood between all men emanates from the "grass roots" and needs no interpretation.

Although attendance at the centennial service exceeded expectations it is our view the community centre should have been packed to the doors, overflowing into the park.

In today's age it is not the differences which are dangerous but the indifference and there is a large body of it. There are those, of course, who couldn't attend Sunday's service because of prior commitments but there are many who couldn't care less. This would seem to indicate the missionary fields are not so far as India or Asia but right under the respective noses of the churches.

Obviously Christians are going to have to practice what they preach or the indifference will turn to absolute hostility.

The day may not be so far away when we are driven into each other's arms by the force of opinion and a desire for mutual protection.

Theory not "borne" out...

Can we expect a rise in the birth rate nine months after the merry month of May? Interestingly, in Canada, our highest birth rate has not been nine months after the spring season, but May itself, nine months after September.

In May, 1964, it was 8.8 per 1,000 population and in 1965, 9.0 per 1,000 population.

So much for the theory that the coldest months of the year — usually December, January and February — produce a bumper baby crop. Between August to October in 1965 and 1964, an average number of births, 9.3 per cent per 1,000 population was recorded.

The theory that weather affects the birth rate is not borne out in Canada. Accordingly this theory states that nine months following hot spells, the birth rate will dip.

But in both 1965 and 1964, July hit a record high temperature. The birth rate the following March for both years, 8.7 and 8.9 per cent per 1,000 population was second to May, the highest month.

What was the birth rate nine months after the traditional month of May and spring and a young man's fancy — just above average.



EVE COOPER is drumming up business for boss Paul Neilsen, left, as part of the Acton merchants' Old Fashioned Days promotion. The pair were so realistic they were mistaken for refugees from a reserve. (Staff Photo)

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



I wonder how many people, including English teachers, ever sit down in this rat-rat world of ours and read a play by Shakespeare? Or anybody else for that matter.

I'm sure the number of persons on the North American continent who do this for the sheer joy of it, annually, could be counted on two hands and two feet. And I wouldn't be among them.

The only people who read plays are producers, directors and actors, who read them for obvious reasons, and high school students, who read them because they have to.

Plays are not written to be read, but to be seen. Just as operas are written to be heard, and houses built to be lived in, and cars built to rust and women built different from men.

That's why I enjoy so much our occasional visit to the Stratford Festival. Suddenly, a soliloquy becomes not something you had to memorize in school, but a real man baring his tortured soul before your naked eyes.

Suddenly a turn of phrase or a shrug brings tears to your eyes. Or an unexpected belch draws a wave of laughter. Or an old cliché like, "A horse, a horse; my kingdom for a horse," becomes a wall of mad anguish that has you bolt upright in your seat.

This year we would up our summer with a real bash of play-going at Stratford. It was great. Even Kim, the 16-year-old cynic admitted, "I really dig that Shakespeare."

Fourteen years ago, my wife and I saw a production of Richard III, with the great Alec Guinness starring. It was the first season of the festival, when the theatre was a huge tent, rotten hot in midsummer. But it was something new, colorful and vital on the Canadian scene. We were thrilled.

This year, we saw the same play, with British actor Alan Bates playing the emotionally and physically warped Richard. There's a handsome theatre, air-conditioned. The festival is no longer something new. But it's as vital and colorful as ever. And it's still a thrill.

Despite a fairly solid lambasting from the drama critics, the festival is having a solid smash this year at the box office. Which merely goes to show you how much attention anybody pays to drama critics, outside of New York.

It also shows, I think, that the festival is more than just a theatre. For the real drama buffs, of course, the play's the thing. But for thousands of others, it's a sort of pilgrimage to an exciting annual event. Not even Will Shakespeare could fill that theat-

re night after night, year after year. People come for the music, the modern drama, the art exhibits, and the whole involving atmosphere.

Things have changed a lot since that first year we attended. No longer do you have to stay in a private home where the landlady is not only a kook but plastered, as ours was. Motels have mushroomed, but it's a good idea to reserve.

No longer do you have to sit on the bank of the Avon, paddling your feet in the water and drinking gin and tonic out of a thermos. Now you can paddle your feet in the broadloom of any of several good bars.

No longer do you sit down to a good meal prepared by the Ladies' Aid, for a dollar and a quarter. Now you can take your pick of some fine restaurants. But the price isn't the same, I'm afraid.

Yep, the festival has changed and so has the town. Some people yearn for the good old days, but I think everything has improved about 400 percent. One big bonus is the lengthened season, which gives thousands of high school kids a chance to see Shakespeare alive and exciting.

And that's the way it should be. Long live the Festival. It was a great idea nobly conceived and executed. It's a source of real pride to see something in Canada that does not flop, but flourishes.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 18, 1947.

A unique gathering was held last Thursday evening by Mason Knitting Co. when a "20" club held its charter night at the club house at Cutten Golf Fields in Guelph. This company, which many of us still look on as one of the younger of Acton's industries, is observing this year its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The "20" club comprises those who have served twenty years or more with the company. Charter members are the founder, Mr. Amos Mason, Mr. Ray Agnew, Mrs. Dorothy Stapleton and Miss Millie Rowles. A delightful banquet was served the honored company and a presentation was made on behalf of the company by Mr. George Mason of a gold pin set with diamonds and a cheque for \$20.

Another historical booklet is issued this week in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Alban's church. The Rev. W. F. Swallow named the newly-built church after Saint Alban, the first British martyr.

After some discussion by councillors concerning the traffic danger at the Mill and Main Sts. corners, Police Chief Harrop was asked to draw up a parking plan to be presented for approval at the next meeting of council.

Attempting to pick up a milk bottle caused the truck Thomas Miller was driving to go out of control and crash into a tree on Friday. Miller, employed by Glenspey Farms, had only been in Canada 10 days, having come over on Premier Drew's immigration plan. He received two cracked ribs and the truck was badly damaged.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 20, 1917.

A new three-cent postage stamp, commemorating the jubilee of Confederation, and with a reproduction of Harrison's well-known painting, "Fathers of Confederation" is now on sale throughout Canada.

The new cement pavements on Peel and Arthur Sts., Brock and Victoria Ave., and Elgin St. will be about completed this week. Messrs. Forbes and Bell have constructed very superior work, much better than laid by outside contractors in previous years. The walk on the grade on Brock St. is of especially fine construction.

Mr. W. Howard of Nassagaweya, who has earned an enviable reputation for prize-taking horseflesh, is again making the rounds of the fairs. His fine team has been entered for Acton fair next week.

This month ushered in the shooting season with accompanying dangers. The sport-

man is often also a smoker, careless with matches. The woods are very dry.

The dedication of the organ recently installed in St. Alban's church will take place Sept. 21.

A long cold winter is predicted by the prophets who say there is an unusually large supply of nuts, which is a sure sign. There has been an unusually large lot of stock shipped here by Messrs. Holmes and Son, drovers, the past week.

The politicians are becoming very friendly again.

On Monday evening, Pte. Fricker, who had just returned from Flanders, was tendered a cordial welcome by the town and presented with the usual gold watch. He was welcomed at the home of Mr. E. Prevost, where he was staying, and a parade with bands proceeded to the town hall. Pte. Fricker in his reply urged all eligible young men to enlist. Pte. Lantz and Sgt. Harwood also spoke. The Methodist Sunday school and Miss Wildgust contributed numbers.

Butter and eggs are scarce.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 22, 1892.

The splendid apple crop in this district this season has induced Messrs. Cook and Cook, of Clinton, a prominent firm of apple buyers, to come in and our farmers are disposing of their apple crops to better advantage than usual. Already some 9,000 barrels have been purchased and the buyers are buying, packing and shipping. The first car was shipped from Acton on Monday. The entire crop will be shipped to Liverpool.

Mr. T. H. Harding has been laid up as a result of overlifting.

On Wednesday a Knatchbull resident borrowed a neighbour's horse and rig to go to Acton with apples. He visited some of the hotels and got loaded with tangle leg. His head got too heavy for the rest of him and pulled him out of the rig with the seat on top of him. This ought to be a lesson to him to leave whisky alone.

The works of the Acton Tanning Co., which were closed for a few days for repairs to the engine, are now in full running order again.

The necessity for a few loads of gravel around the pump in the town hall square was referred to council.

Pinnacle Council R. T. of T. continues to prosper at Rockwood. There are initiations every month.

Mrs. Andrew Dobbie of Esquesing, Mrs. William Martin of Hanover, Mr. Wm. Dobbie of Esquesing and son Andrew, comprising four generations — all took tea at the home of Mr. Charles Kirkpatrick, Church St. Mrs. Dobbie is in her 94th year.

Free Press Church Notices

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister:
Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Dr. George Elliott, M.A.; Ph. D.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11.15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICES
Marking 123 Years of Service and Witness in Acton

Preaching:
The Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
10.00 a.m.—"The Purpose and Task of the Living Church." Anthems and Introit by the Trinity Choirs.
7.00 p.m.—"The Peril of Christianity." Special Guests of Trinity: "The Choraliers" presenting selected anthems.

Trinity Welcomes You to Share in Her Anniversary Celebrations!
11.30 a.m.—Churchill United Church. (Please note time change).

BETH-EL
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Minister — Rev. P. Brouwer
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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 a.m. Everyone Welcome

THE CHURCH OF
ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
ANGLICAN
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

Harvest Festival
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967
Trinity XVIII
9.00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School
10.30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist
10.30 a.m.—The Bread and the Wine for today's Eucharists have been prepared by members of the Parish in celebration of the local harvests.

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, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967
9.45 a.m.—Regular Church School Session withdrawn (this Sunday only).
11.00 a.m.—Family "Rally Day" Service. Sermon Theme: "Man The Explorer." Commissioning of Teachers and Leaders.
Everyone Most Welcome

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967
RALLY DAY
10.30 a.m.—Morning Service. Combined service and Sunday School. All parents and friends invited.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service. The ladies are in charge of this service. Mrs. Burritt of the B.W.M.S. will be the guest speaker.
All Are Welcome

Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday, 7.30 p.m.—Choir Practice.
Text: "He that hath my Word, let him speak My Word faithfully." Jer. 23: 28

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Pastor: Robert C. Lohnes

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service
Wednesday, 7.45 p.m.—Prayer Meeting.
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Worship.
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study.
Thursday, Sept. 21 at 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.

Centennial Picture Gallery



GATHERING AT the Aquatic Club in 1912 is pictured in a photo lent by Mrs. Helen Wood. She can only identify Jessie MacDonald, Gertrude Johnston, Lena Holmes, Ann MacDonald, Fred McLean, Dr. and Mrs. Holmes and perhaps Ada Holmes. Can anyone give more information?