

Need Station in Acton..

Signs have become increasingly apparent in the past few years that Canadian National Railways intended to eventually close their Acton station but the news this week that it was going to happen, dropped like a bombshell in the community.

No one really believed it could happen and the thought was apt to be scoffed at because the operation here, unlike some of the other stations due to be shut, has always been lucrative. The volume of freight handled from the station here is indicative of a bustling industrial town much larger than it really is.

First noticeable step in the long process was cutting off daily train passenger service to a single stop each way. Ironically the C.N.R. continued to advertise special fares to Toronto, for instance, but supplied service only one way on a Saturday when most people would be inclined to take advantage of it.

This is typical of the technique. Advertise a service which is only partly

there. Then cut it off because hardly anyone is taking advantage of it.

Now, we are told, in the interests of economy and efficiency the entire operation would be better off centralized in Guelph. Some towns, which obviously had a few strings to pull, will keep their stations open as "satellites" for a while at least.

Let's not kid ourselves. Shutting the Acton station will be a blow to the town's attraction for new industry as well as a deterrent for expansion of plants already established here.

Before the service can be closed for good a hearing before the Board of Transport Commission must take place. Interested parties make submissions to prove the new master agency works or is inconvenient.

We would hope the town of Acton will present a strong case for the retention of the present services. Otherwise the town could lose its identity as a centre of industrial expansion and suffer the same fate as communities the railway has already "by-passed".



BANKS OF GREY CLOUDS scudding across autumn skies are punctuated by shafts of brilliant sunshine which illuminate Acton as seen from the high elevation near St. Joseph's cemetery. The vista stretches for many miles before it dips over the limestone cliffs of the Niagara escarpment. (Staff Photo)

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 25, 1947.

At a recent meeting of the Acton Free Library Board, Rev. L. Pickering was elected chairman replacing Rev. Walter Fosbury. It was also decided that starting October 1, the library will open Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock for the convenience of the school children replacing the Saturday afternoon hour which is to be discontinued.

Everyone who attended a special citizens meeting held in the town hall to discuss the swimming pool was in favor of going ahead with the pool. It was felt there was sufficient capital in the town of Acton to put up a pool. Parents said they were not happy about their children hitch-hiking "to Rockwood and all over" to swim.

W. M. Gowdy said, "We should be able to keep up with Ferguson." A committee was named.

On Thursday last the Women's Institute played host to the Boys and Girls band in honor of the band's victory at the C.N.E. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ware, Rev. and Mrs. Pickering members of the band and some of the drivers sat down to a delicious meal. Mr. Mason thanked the ladies for their \$25 cheque. Mrs. Davidson, Institute president, said the ladies were happy to congratulate the winners in this manner.

Coats were brought out of the closets in a hurry.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 29, 1892.

Everything is in readiness for Acton's attractive Union Exhibition next Tuesday and Wednesday. Entries are now coming in rapidly and with fine weather those who visit Acton next week will be favored with the finest exhibition ever held in Halton.

Now that the big exhibitions are over the sharpers who ply their nefarious games are giving the smaller shows their attention. One of the most successful schemes is the "pea" or "walnut" racket. Last week at a circus in Brampton numbers of people parted with \$5 and \$10 bills to sharpers who manipulated this trick.

Rev. Father Cavanaugh officiated at the regular monthly services at St. Joseph's church last Sunday.

Quite a contingent of Acton young people go daily to Georgetown to attend high school. Mr. P. Barry is turning out an immense number of barrels for apples at Rockwood. He boasts of having the fastest cooper in America. His name is McKay. This man turned out 80 barrels one day last week.

Advertisement - Hard, back-breaking toil at the wash tub, inhaling hot steam and bad smell, has broken down many a woman's health. But millions of women throughout the world have been rescued from this unhappy condition by the use of "Sunlight" soap, which almost does the wash itself. Don't be humbugged by cheaper imitations.

The new electric lights erected at Horseman's Hill, Guelph, can be seen from Mr. Franklin Ramshaw's house at Knatchbull, a distance of 12 miles.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 27, 1917.

The Conservative members of the House of Commons and Senate joined last Thursday in paying tribute to our venerable fellow-citizen, Hon. David Henderson, the member of this county, who is retiring after 30 years experience in parliamentary life. Sir Sam Hughes made the presentation of a comfortable arm chair.

Mr. Henderson is in his 76th year and is the oldest member of the Commons. He fought ten elections and has sat continuously since 1891. He first ran in 1887 when he was defeated.

The fall fair on Tuesday and yesterday was again a gratifying success. The fair has become a great meeting place for friends, and the automobile has greatly facilitated travel.

Interesting letter from Sapper J. V. Coleman, Sussex, Eng. - "From our parade ground here we look away out to sea. Destroyers come into view often. Brighton is a regular town, full of pep and fun." "I am trying to follow the political situation. . . . It seems a calamity the country should be divided and racial cleavage made when it has taken years of the past to heal such."

A cement walk from the G.T.R. station to the Mill St. crossing would be appreciated. Pedestrians have plowed through cinners and loose coal for a decade or more. Crimson halos now crown the woodland.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, September 26, 1867.

The great cheese intended to be exhibited at the forthcoming show was to have been brought down by steamer this morning, but did not arrive. Owing to its immense size, the gangway was not wide enough to receive it, so that it could not be got aboard at Hamilton. It will have to be sent by rail. The monster weighs 7,000 pounds.

The Volunteers will be pleased to learn that new breech loading for the 20th Battalion have arrived, together with a supply of ammunition. The Snider is a very effective weapon, and we hope the men of the 20th will pay great attention to their drill, so as to be able, in case of trouble, to use them against our foes. In consequence of the change of arms some alteration has been made in the different movements of the Companies and Battalions.

A few weeks ago Mr. Robert Simpson, License Inspector of Nelson, who has been active in the discharge of his duties suffered a severe loss by having all the trees of his orchard girdled. His orchard is a large and valuable one and consisting chiefly of young trees. We do not know if they have done so already, but it would be very proper for the Township to offer a reward for the discovery of the perpetrators of this foul deed.

100 new homes mean..

With new homes sprouting up in Acton it was interesting to note the effect 100 new homes have in a community, as prepared by Dr. E. G. Pleva, University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Pleva's first statistic is startling. Of these 100 new homes, all the direct municipal taxes collected will pay for only half of what these homes require in services. The rest of the money will come from assessments on commercial and industrial property, federal and provincial grants, mostly income tax, liquor tax and gasoline tax coming back home, and borrowings.

One hundred new families will mean 149 more cars, 472 more people which in turn means 118 more children in school. Broken down it means 69 in elementary school, 40 in high school and nine in university.

More students means 2.5 new elementary school rooms, 1.9 new high school rooms at a total cost of \$143,000 and 5.21 more teachers, costing \$28,735.

Land required in the process of assimilating new people will total 6.7 acres - 1.61 acres for elementary school, 1.1 acres for high school, 1.9 acres parks and 2.1 acres playgrounds.

The municipality will require new employees: 0.94 in the police, adding \$6,721 to the police budget; 0.73 in fire department adding \$4,372 to fire budget and 5.89 new municipal staff adding \$16,405 to the payroll.

Increased municipal services will require 576,000 more gallons of water per day, 2.07 hospital beds, 0.55 additional visiting nurse, 704 additional books in the library increasing library budget by \$2,228 and 0.21 additional cells in jail.

It is hard to realize the amount of extra services 100 new homes require until the figures are compiled. Most of them would be applicable to Acton.

It is the problem growing communities must cope with and the increase is reflected in heavier work loads on municipal councils and committees.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



Some people take a beating and skulk away to lick their wounds. Not me. Like Dief, I believe that "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

Just to digress for a moment, didn't you admire the old leader's courage during that convention? Though he was caught in a web of his own creation, he had enough guts to die fighting, politically, rather than find for himself a soft spot to land on his last flight. And the mixed metaphor spotters can go to work on that one.

Back to business. You can't say I'm not game. Two years ago, I launched one member of the family into a university career. He went into orbit, tottered around in the stratosphere, ran out of fuel, fizzled, and sank, though not without a trace.

That was son Hugh. He did pretty well in high school. Scraped through first year college. Changed courses in second year. Lasted till late November. One day, after listening to a particularly putrid lecture - and you have no idea how numerous they are - he turned to a class-mate and said, "That's it. I can't take any more," walked out and hasn't been back since.

After wintering in Mexico and other southern climes (during which he lived on grass for a three-day stretch) he came home for a while, with a busted finger. The pianist. Left in mid-summer to get a job. A month later we had a card from Cape Cod, where he was about to get a job cutting fish, whatever that is.

Silence. This week we had a letter. He had a job at Ben's Delicatessen in Montreal, hoped to nail down something at Expo, and was planning to enroll at University of Mexico. Some time.

Undaunted I'm about to launch another missile at the university. Kim is too young to go, I wouldn't go back to University if they paid me \$100 a day, and there's only one other member of the family.

You're right. The Old Battleaxe is going to back and hew her way through fourth year Honor English. She hopes.

Why? We marked our 21st anniversary the other day. Or, rather, the day after the other day, because we both forgot. And don't think that won't cost me. You'd think that, like most women, she'd be quite content to keep my nose to the grindstone and enjoy life.

The answers are several. First, she's one of those exasperating people who like to finish something they've begun, even if it's two decades later. Ridiculous, but that's the way she is. So why didn't she finish her course in the first place? Well, to put it in the vernacular, she got a bun in the oven. The bun turned out to be our first-born. She struggled bravely to carry on at lectures, but decided that the bun (now spelled bum), was more important than the Romantic Poets and the Modern Novel.

Secondly, the idea has been percolating for several years. She has too much intellectual curiosity to sink into the familiar morass of teas and bridge and curling and gold and gossip.

Thirdly, the kids are out of the shell. The son is a young rooster, the daughter a healthy chick. The days of diapers, bottles, Hallow'een costumes and helping with homework are over.

And fourth, there's the economic factor. She has listened to me groan and crunch out of bed in the morning. She has taken a long, hard look at the bags under my eyes, the bulge under my belt. She has heard me hacking in the morning, wheezing after one flight of stairs. It's good insurance to have a college degree that will get you a job when Midas kicks the can.

She doesn't know it, but the minute she graduates, I retire.

So, it's Josephine College, off to lectures, full of ideals and worries about the mess she'll come home to every weekend. There are only a few things that trouble me a trifle. I hope she isn't arrested in one of those student demonstrations. I hope she doesn't fall in love with a freshman. And I hope I can run that blasted washing-machine.

Editorial Notes..

"A Place to Stand", the entertaining 17-minute film shown in the Ontario pavilion at Expo will be seen by audiences throughout the province. Technical difficulties involved in the reduction of the original 70 mm film to 35 mm have been overcome and the theme song On-ta-ri-a-ri-a-ri-o, should soon be as popular as the latest pop hit. We were fortunate enough to see the film and quite agree with a Toronto daily which calls it "superb; fast, ingenious, informative, entertaining."

With a provincial election less than three weeks away it seems awfully quiet.

Are there any issues? Is there any interest? Unless things warm up a good deal in the next three weeks it may go down as one of the quietest elections in history, and indeed there may be very little opposition left in the Ontario house.

We think there are issues but they aren't the glamorous ones that catch voter interest or on which the lines of party demarcation are very firm.

Comparing spiralling costs of education in 1962 and 1967, the Central Ontario Regional Development Council notes the typical municipality paid 38.8 per cent of tax dollars for education in 1962. In 1967 the same taxpayers put up 56.6 per cent, a rise of nearly 18 per cent.

If you've been resisting the rosy glow of color television in your living room in anticipation of a price drop, you are going to be disappointed, Basil Jackson says in The Financial Post. It is almost certain that there will be price increases soon. Canadian television manufacturers - like their colleagues in the U.S. - are caught in a cost-profit squeeze which is becoming more intense. They are betting on increased demand in what has been a relatively soft market.

Insurance companies often get remarkable explanations for accidents. Here are some, quoted by the Ontario Safety:

To avoid a collision I ran into the other car.

Cow wandered into my car. I afterwards was informed that the cow was half-witted.

I blew my horn but it would not work as it was stolen.

I knocked over a man. He admitted it was his fault as he had been knocked over before.



Centennial Picture Gallery



DOLLY VARDEN around the turn of the century presented a much different scene than today. This picture lent by Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Skirrow was taken from a tinplate owned by Rev. John Lawson of Guelph. Notice the feed mill long since torn down, the house to the right and the stone house to the left.

The Lawson homestead where the Skirrows now live, believed to be 135 years old. It has 22-inch solid stone walls, a fireplace built in each end with no projection. The Black Creek meanders down the valley after passing under the railway tracks. Saplings have now obscured much of this view.

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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, OCTOBER 1, 1967
World-Wide Communion Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Trinity United - Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Nursery provided.
11:30 a.m. - Churchill United. Sacrament of Holy Communion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 a.m. - Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11:15 a.m. - Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1967
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School.
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m. - Evangelistic Worship.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. - Prayer Service and Bible Study.
Thursday, at 8 p.m. - Christ Ambassadors.

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, OCTOBER 1, 1967
9:45 a.m. - Church School for ages 3 to 15 years.
11:00 a.m. - Worship and Holy Communion. Communion Meditation: "Loving God is Letting God Love Us."
7:30 p.m. - Youth Fellowship.
Everyone Most Welcome

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1967
11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship. "Tools in the Hand of God."
No Evening Service to allow our people to go to a Service of Witness in Varsity Arena, Toronto at 7:15.
Monday, Oct. 2 - Ladies' Thank Offering 8 p.m. Dr. Cserephs of Bolivia guest speaker.
Wednesday, 7:30 - Prayer & Bible Study.
Thursday, 7:30 - Choir Practice.
Friday 7:00 p.m. - B. H. F. meets.
Text: "A contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Ps. 51: 17.
All Are 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.

Fri. Sept. 28 Feast of St. Michael and All Angels.
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist for mothers and children and shift workers.
4:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist for all teenagers.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1967
Trinity XIX
9:00 a.m. - The Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m. - Church School
10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist