

The Acton Free Press

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Agent, operator still there

C.N.R. station partially closed

Acton's C.N.R. station is a forlorn, deserted looking place this week.

Orders came through Monday that neither the agent or the operator could sell tickets, money orders or handle freight as the first stage of the new master agency plan is being implemented. Consequently commerce is wiped out at Acton station.

Only a few things were removed from the station Monday but

it's expected auditors will be in sometime this week to take out the books. Then agent Charlie Perry will have nothing to do but twiddle his thumbs as the master agency takes over complete control.

Operator Jean Marcoux will stay until November 15. His only duties are to report trains passing through. Next week after 25 years with the C.N.R. he'll be out of a job unless he decides to take a "bottom" position with a considerable cut in wages.

Jean Marcoux is confused. He said it has always been the duty of the operator to keep "time books" on trains, which is information about their position and time. Severe discipline could result if this wasn't carried out properly.

It's a mystery to him how it can be done now. Both he and agent C. Perry are waiting for instructions. Meanwhile they sit and wait.

"When I came to Acton in 1950 there were 10 to 15 freight cars every day coming to Acton and

six going out. Five men were employed and they were so busy there was no spare time," said Mr. Marcoux.

Now there's one car every three days. That's the extent of the business in spite of large industrial growth.

If the board of transport commissioners decides the Acton station should remain open when the case is reviewed they'll operate with one man. The operator is expendable.

The agent now has no duties but when the case comes up before the board one of the first questions liable to be asked is what he is doing. This bothers C.N.R. agent Perry. He'd like to have some official function but the railway is building up a case to close the Acton station after over 100 years.

Brussels, a small village with a population of 844, recently raised such a fuss over the closing of their station that it was reopened. The Brussels station has less than half the Acton revenue.

The Progressive Conservative member for Huron, Mr. McKinley, announced the agent would be returned to Brussels, suggesting he had worked to keep it open. Brussels station operated for some months under a master agency plan conducted through the Stratford office.

A member of the board of railway commissioners attended a protest meeting in Brussels during the summer. At that time it was shown Brussels had increasing revenue from cattle shipments and revenue came to more than \$147,000 in a year. Despite a severe fall-off due to the railway's loss of business Acton revenue is much more than that figure.

While The Free Press reporter was at the station here Tuesday one man dropped in to be reassured the morning train still stopped.

Although no firm decision will be taken about the closing of the station until the case is reviewed by the Board of Transport Commissioners, people here

generally feel the C.N.R. intends to close it. Some industries in particular are quite concerned fearing freight service will follow the same path as express when it was moved to a central depot in Guelph.

Boosters of the town are particularly upset because of the effect closing of the station could have on new industry interested in locating here.

The railway, however, says their studies indicate the job can be done better operating out of Guelph. An on-hand representative from Acton has been appointed a travelling customer service representative appointed to maintain personal contact.

Detractors of the C.N.R. scheme are dubious how hiring two new men and needing trucks to transport freight back and forth from Guelph is more economical.

Meanwhile, the future of Acton industry could hang in the balance.

Gradual change in p. s. system told to board

Acton public schools are moving into a phase of "continuous progress" which leads to ungraded classes, principals reported to school board Tuesday evening.

On December 1, new report forms will go out to parents which are very different and will reflect the gradual change.

Teachers are being encouraged to become accustomed to handle several groupings in one classroom. The grouping is a first part of the gradual transition. Promotions will be regarded differently, eliminating the strict pass-or-fail-in-June concept.

While accelerating of students has been done for years, by skipping a grade, under the new system children will not be conscious of accelerating; they will proceed to another group.

The new report cards will not mention grades. Teachers will be primary, junior, intermediate or subject teachers, not "grade" teachers.

Mr. McKenzie pointed out most students transferring here have been on this progressive system.

The changes won't come all at once, he said. "We want it to be easy and gradual."

Parents' problems with the new system can be discussed with the individual teacher.

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Remembrance

Beardmore and Co.'s whistle will sound as usual on Saturday, November 11, at two minutes to 11 a.m. and then at 11 a.m., to mark the traditional two minutes' silence for Remembrance Day.

Parade to cenotaph, church service mark Remembrance Day on Sunday

After the traditional solemn ceremony at the cenotaph Sunday morning, the annual Remembrance Day service was held in Trinity United Church.

The parade which formed in front of the cenotaph, after a parade from the Legion, included over 30 Legionnaires, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Acton Firefighters in uniform, scouts, five members of council and clerk Jack McGeachie. The color party, with seven large flags, was accompanied by an army guard of honor. Acton Citizens' Band led the parade.

Legion president, Gordon James gave the Legion charge, and John McHugh called aloud the names of the Acton servicemen on the cenotaph. Bill Middleton lowered and then raised the two flags - the red Maple Leaf and the Legion poppy flag - as the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Chuck Wright.

Wreaths were laid at the base of the monument for the province of Ontario by Gerry Parget-

er; town of Acton by Mayor Les Dudy; branch 197 of the Legion by Hugh O'Rourke; Legion Ladies' Auxiliary by Mrs. Gordon James; Duke of Devonshire chapter of the L.O.D.E. by Mrs. C. Nelles; Acton W.I. by Mrs. R. Lindsay; Firefighters by Jack Pink; Acton Citizens' Band by Bill Buchanan; Chamber of Commerce by Tedford Reid; Lions Club by Vic Bristow; Rotary Club by Gary Dawkins; Y's Men's Club by Walter Dubois; L.C.R.O. by Sam Brunelle; Boy Scout and Guides by Steven van Fleet; Local 479 by Herb Woods; Local 603 by Paddy Dick; Local 23650 by

Len Mitchell and L.O.L. by Ralph Barlow.

After a verse of Abide With Me played by the band, Legion padre the Rev. A.H. McKenzie pronounced the benediction.

Many of the paraders, church members and visitors filled the United church for the special service. The church choir sang, directed by bandmaster George

Elliott.

The minister, the Rev. Gordon Turner, posed the ever-recurring question: has their sacrifice been worthwhile?

Remembrance Day focuses attention on the sacrifice of the youth, remembered thankfully in the homeland, and on the memory of atrocities of war.

The travesty of war goes on; Remembrance Day reminds us of the successes and continuing failure of efforts for peace. "The past has taught us the futility of arms."

Continue their battle, he urged, quoting the famous lines "Take up the quarrel with the foe..." from In Flanders Fields.

Recently the service has been changed from Nov. 11 to the preceding Sunday.

This Saturday, Nov. 11, government offices will be closed, including the post office and Brewers Retail stores. Banks will be closed Monday, Nov. 13 to give employees a holiday since Nov. 11 fell on a Saturday.

M.L.B. addition comes to council

An addition for the M.Z. Bennett public school will be on the agenda at the next council meeting, Nov. 14.

On Monday, school board members met with No. 1 committee of council and made a detailed proposal, with sketches and pictures prepared by principal Elmer Smith.

No. 1 committee's recommendation will be learned at council meeting when the matter will be up for discussion.

The board's request was previously stalled by No. 1 committee before it reached council.

going to vary considerably, "but there were wide variations in the old system, too. Those who lost in the old system will lose in the present system."

Staff and board members agreed that evaluating grade 13 would be one of the subjects of discussion at the next meeting of the board-staff joint committee on quality education, Nov. 15. The teachers on the committee had also requested discussion on guidance and counselling.

A letter was read from Project Action requesting the use of the gym for dances, possibly every three weeks. The request was granted, after board members undertook a lengthy review of past school dances which had been cancelled when students did not comply with regulations.

Members agreed on a set of rules: no smoking, assume full responsibility for damage; no

alcoholic beverages; the premises to be left in good condition free of pop containers etc., and vacated by 11:30 a.m. on week nights and 11:45 p.m. on Saturdays. The rented area is limited to the gym and adjacent washrooms.

Project Action pointed out in their letter that they would provide their own supervising, lighting security guards, New Canadian Security Services, in Brampton, as they have in the past. The board requires the service to supply a report to them after each dance.

The Project Action letter of application reviewed their projects and donations and other dances; their previous use of the arena before the hockey season and their present coffee house arrangements in the Y.M.C.A. Their proceeds would be for

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Acton Box Company sold to F. Unternahrer

Gordon J. Ralston announced this week he has sold the Acton Box Manufacturing Co. to Frank Unternahrer of Guelph, formerly of this district. Purchase price was not disclosed.

Mr. Ralston started the box company on a part time basis but went into the business full time

at the present location on Highway 7 at Acton's extreme limits in January, 1965. He employed one person at the start. Now there are 19 employees.

Mr. Ralston said he will go into semi-retirement, acting as consultant for the new owner only a few hours a week.



CHOSEN QUEEN of the Edelweiss Ball at the high school Saturday night was pretty Susan Allen shown above with escort Jim Lee. Five girls were finalists in the contest with the final selection made by ballot. More pictures of the ball inside. (Staff Photo)

Week of apparent calm reported by O.P.P. here

Despite Halloween being included in the week October 29 to November 4, 1967, the Acton O.P.P. is pleased to report a week of apparent calm.

Twelve occurrences, the majority of a minor nature, were dealt with. Only one of the complaints resulted in charges, that being one of "vagrancy". The remainder of the occurrences included several domestic squabbles, and three minor disturbances.

One motor vehicle accident, six traffic charges and eight traffic warnings were the other activities encountered during 240 work hours and 861 patrol miles.

Magistrate's Court at Milton was in step with the rest of the week as one conviction, although 12 cases were presented, was registered. The remaining 11 charges were all remanded to be dealt with at a later date.

Civic Pride - What is it? How do you get it? Who deserves to have it?

One might guess it to include many things; a clean street; a

green park; a good school; and a law abiding citizenry must too be included. And these are only a few of the ingredients.

To obtain these things and there must be a desire for them, a will to maintain them and a wish to co-operate with the persons directly responsible for them.

And only the persons who exhibit the desire, will and co-operation necessary can honestly be possessors of civic pride.

We, the members of the Acton O.P.P. try to measure up to the requirements and implore you, the people of Acton, to take stock of your attitudes. It's nice to know when you do your share.

Let us all be happy, pleased and proud to live, work and play in Acton.

Choralliers on film next?

The director of public relations for the Canadian Legion, Mr. Shannon phoned Choralliers president Jim Higgins this week to ask if the Choralliers would participate in a film being made to publicize Legion activities coast - to - coast.

While the songsters don't know much more than this, they are going to be prepared when they go to Tilsonburg this Sunday, as previously arranged, to take part in a some Command meeting. They will sing for the film crews, and perhaps their numbers will be used as background music for part of the movie.

Two car crash No. 25 highway

A car driven by Rink Vlietstra, 210 Churchhill Rd., Acton had damage estimated at \$800 when it collided with another vehicle at 7:55 a.m. Monday morning on No. 25 highway south of 22 Sideroad.

Driver of the second vehicle was George Brown of St. Catharines. Police estimated damage to his car at \$900.

North Halkon detachment of the O.P.P. investigated.

Bogus \$10 bills passed in area

Police warn people to be on the look out for bogus \$10 bills following the appearance of a counterfeit ten this week in the Acton bank.

The faked bill would easily pass for a bonafide one without close inspection. They were very few details. Police were able to identify it as counterfeit because there were no photo numbers, lines on the Queen's nose were faded and colors did not match exactly when compared with a real bill.

The bogus bill was passed in a business near Georgetown before showing up at the Acton bank.



ACTON CITIZENS' BAND led Sunday's Remembrance Day parade from the Legion hall to the cenotaph where the first traces of snow were gradually being obliterated by a bright but thin November sunlight. Parade marshal Bill Nicolai leads. (Staff Photo)



LEGION PRESIDENT Gord James salutes as service. Corporal of the guard of the Lorne Scots Regiment is P. D. D. Chuck Wright at Sunday's Remembrance Day. (Staff Photo)