

Canada built on railway...

An elderly former resident of Acton writes in to say she is sorry to hear they are trying to close the station here. "I don't believe Sir Donald Mann would be pleased to hear his home town depot was closed," she writes, reminding us Sir Donald had a lot to do with building the railroad from coast to coast.

Although no firm decision has been made to close the station here, there is no doubt in the minds of railway people the C.N.R. would like to see it closed. In the original scheme outlined by the C.N.R.'s public relations department, the railway wishes to shut Acton down. Of course, the final decision rests with the Board of Transport Commissioners.

Evidence this newspaper has gathered about delayed and suspended closings in other communities suggests rather than being an impersonal decision based on revenue figures, the Board's findings are sometimes based on political pressure. Otherwise, how explain the fact that railway stations in small communities like Brussels with much smaller revenues, are reopened.

Surely these decisions would affect the entire program, cause a cessation in attempts to shut down stations with revenue on a comparable level. But they don't!

What disturbs us most by the C.N.R.'s decision to close stations, is the taxpayer in the smaller community is again getting shortchanged. Train service available to those in large centres

is upgraded. Taxpayers in the smaller places go without entirely.

Who pays the deficit when the railway has one? We all do! In other words, we pay for a service we don't get.

There are other facets of the Railway's operations that strike us as strange, too, but there is neither the time nor the space to enumerate them here.

When the railway first went through, its intention was to provide a service for all Canadians. Deficits were to be picked up by all taxpayers since they all benefited.

Now it turns out the small communities will be expected to pay their share of the deficit but be provided with few services.

Cuts are made of course, in the interests of economy. It happened here with express. Now most of the customers here say the express service is so bad, some are using more expensive ways to have articles shipped.

No wonder Sir Donald Mann would be shocked. The vision of the nation's first railway builders was for a service available to all Canadians. Now it is modernized to the point where it caters to those living in cities only.

Acton Chamber of Commerce is working actively in an attempt to organize support so proper representation can be made to the Board of Transport Commissioners to keep the Acton station open.

We hope all boosters of this area will support it actively.



From the Imperial Oil Collection

THE FUR TRADE formed the advancing frontier of European civilization as it swept across the northern half of the continent to the Pacific. Ultimately, the fur trade also represented a retreating frontier for the civilization of the Indians, who had more furs than they could use; they eagerly exchanged them for European goods such as guns and metal tools. The fur trade led to cultural and racial interchange as well as commodity exchange. French traders and coureurs de bois married Indian women along the St. Lawrence River, around the Great Lakes and across the northwest, wherever they were trading. English and Scottish traders were not permanently posted to Canada and did not live away from their posts to the same extent as the French traders. Even so, many of them intermarried with the Indians of the Hudson Bay area, the prairies and the far west. But many of them left their children behind to be raised as Indians. Trading alliances formed and broke among Indian tribes, and between Indians and whites. Wars were fought over the lucrative fur trade as the rivalry grew between English and French, bet-

ween white and Indian, between the Hudson's Bay Co. and the North-west Co. The organization of the fur trade reflects this bitter political and corporate competition. It also reflects the harsh living conditions and the high cost of transporting heavy trade goods and supplies up the rivers of the eastern Canadian drainage basins. These problems were conquered with an organization based on tough central authority and fortified outposts. The trading posts aimed to dominate the territories completely. They discouraged the encroachment of settlers on the wilderness, except in areas where the trading posts wanted agricultural support for themselves. These autocratic outposts strengthened their rule over the wilderness when the two rival fur-trading companies merged, but eventually, slowly and grudgingly they yielded their grip as the fur supply dwindled and the frontiers of heavy settlement moved westward. Industrialization followed, quickened by gold rushes, the advent of steam powered transportation, and the formation of strong central government provided by the Act of Union and Confederation.

— one of a series

Free Press Editorial Page

English and their dogs...

English people are noted for devotion to their dogs as witness the following reader's letter to the editor of the Nottingham Evening Post:

"In reply to the comments of Office concerning dogs riding on bus seats, may I say that I am considerably smaller than my German wolfhound.

"On the few occasions we have had to travel together upon a crowded bus, it has proved impossible for the dog to stand in the gangway without being brutally kicked by other passengers. It has thus been a matter of convenience that the dog have my seat, and at times on long journeys I have sat on the floor (I have weak legs). This has invariably made me the

butt of much callous laughter, and such inept comments as 'Why don't you bring a camel as well?' show the ignorance of most of the travelling public."

Editorial notes...

You've heard of the crackjack salesman who could sell refrigerators to the Eskimos. He exists! A department store in the Yukon reports a brisk business in freezer sales, especially in Whitehorse where there are 2,200 homes with electricity.

Honest confession may be good for the soul but it's darn bad for the reputation.

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

I'm beginning to realize what a widow with children goes through. It's tough being both a momma and a poppa. I'll be glad when my wife finishes her college course, gets home, and can fight it out with Kim on the old basis, no holds barred, recriminations aplenty, ferocious threats, and tears enough to wash the kitchen floor.

Last weekend I nearly gave my wife a heart attack. After spending most of the weekend screwing up my courage, I gritted my teeth, took a good, stiff pelt of Walker's Special Old nerve tonic, and announced gravely:

"Dear, I've got something to tell you about Kim. Now don't get all upset. Everything will probably work out for the best."

"She's not!" she shrieked. "Oh, my God!"

"I'm afraid she is," I said, sombrely. "But you've got to face the facts. You can't keep a kid in the nest forever. These things happen in the best of families. There are some things in this day and age that we may not approve of. But..."

Well, with hindsight, I'll admit I was pretty stupid. But after my wife had flown three times around the living-room, without ever lighting, it emerged that we were talking about different things.

She thought Kim was pregnant. All I was trying to do was tell her something even worse, that Kim had, after giving me a real feminine, logicless, charming con job, joined a "group". She's been invited to play the organ and sing in one of those shouting, belting, deafening groups that are driving every adult over 30 out of his little old square mind.

This is just a sample of the troubles I have. My wife thinks that classical music is it, and groups are for the well-known birds. Kim thinks a young person is missing a vital, terribly important experience if she doesn't ever belong to a group. I think—well, never mind.

But my point is that in the good old days, Kim and her mother would have fought it out, with frequent appeals to me from each side, and both sides ignoring my rational compromise. Now, I have to take the decisions, lay down the law, designate "getting-in" hours, and try to force the kid to eat some breakfast.

Centennial Picture Gallery



FOCAL POINTS of early Acton — the churches and the schools. These two postcards are from the E. E. Perryman collection, and the dates are unknown.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 4, 1947.

By a vote of nearly four to one Acton citizens on Monday gave approval of the band tax bylaw. The vote was 123 to 29. Each year an annual amount is levied in the tax rate. It is not a grant cancellable by council unless the band fails in its performance or requirements.

Acton has had a band since 1872. The vote is a worthwhile recognition of the successes of 1947 under Bandmaster C. Mason.

There was considerable interest last Friday in the presentation to the Acton Intermediate C team which won the Ontario championship for 1947. Presentation of bench coats with crests was made by Ed Ryder, president of Halton County League and J.F. Royston was master of ceremonies. Those presented with coats were Bob Footitt, Dudo Lindsay, Jack Kentner, manager Matt Tyler, Pete Chaubun, Lloyd Robinson, Johnnie Goy, Norm Morton, Sammy Snyder, Bobby Anderson, Lorne Masters, Don Ryder and Bill Waterhouse. Others who were unable to be present at the dance were Owen Masatos, Lorn Evans, Jack Waterhouse and Percy Woods, bat boy.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 6, 1917.

The 18th annual social function of the Acton Fire Brigade, held in the town hall last Friday evening, was pronounced a decided success. The attendance was large. There were nearly 100 visitors from Guelph. Benallick's orchestra was much enjoyed.

Two Acton foreigners were fined for violations of the Temperance Act \$200 and costs each.

The Bishop of the diocese has transferred Rev. C.H.E. Smith to historic St. Marks, Niagara-on-the-Lake. This is a deserved promotion for Rev. Mr. Smith. Mrs. Smith will find a flourishing chapter of L.O.D.E. there offering her opportunities for continued activities in the congenial sphere.

Bronte fishermen have contracted with the government to supply 400 tons of late herrings.

Acton will have over 100 women electors at the next election. If you are a soldier's wife, mother, widow or sister do not fail to register for the coming election. Messrs. C.C. Henderson and Sergt. W.J. Gould are the enumerators.

A cable gave the news that Pte. A. Mino, Limehouse, has been wounded.

A cheerful letter from Pte. Fred Wright in hospital in England says he is improving.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 8, 1892.

Last Sunday Rev. W.E. Norton, pastor of Baptist churches of Acton and Georgetown, announced he had placed his resignation in the hands of the managers and would leave shortly for Owen Sound. He is an acceptable preacher and while a very attractive pastor spends ample time in his study.

Last Friday Messrs. Willie Anderson, Elwood Wilson and Hugh Aikens Jr. of Knatchbull were out hunting in the Nassau-guay swamp and were fortunate enough to shoot a wild cat, about three parts grown. At first the boys did not know what the animal was, but on investigation it was found to be a young wild cat.

A couple of young men went to the residence of the newly-married couple in Eden Mills a few nights ago and stated to the groom that there was a large crowd gathered for the purpose of charivariing them, but if he would give them enough to treat the crowd they were willing to let them off. Being a stranger he willingly satisfied their demand. The two adventurers, knowing that nobody knew of their game, divided the spoil and then went their way rejoicing.

A full house is predicted for the lecture in the Methodist church this evening by Conductor Slander on "Life on the Rail and the People you Meet". Immense audiences heard him on his visit of the 13th November.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, December 5, 1867.

At the last regular meeting of the Victoria Fire Company No. 1, the following resolution was passed: Moved by P.E. Zimmerman and seconded by Charles Niehaus that Victoria Fire Co. Number one disorganize until such-time as the Town puts the engine in proper order and furnish a proper engine room so that the frost will not hinder; and further that if the Town does not wish our services, we do not wish to force ourselves on them. Ed. Note — It is now high time that something was done in regard to protecting the Town from fire.

The old Company did their duty as well as possible under such discouraging circumstances; and we hope to see the Town council do theirs by having the engine repaired, and proper encouragement given to a Fire Company to attend to the matter. At County Council, the warden addressed the Council and informed them that the bank in which the Council formerly made their business had failed, recommending them to take some action towards transferring the County business to some other bank.

Free Press

Church Notices

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1967
Advent II

9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
Cocoa and rolls will be served following the Eucharist and a movie of interest to teenagers will be shown. All teenagers are welcome.

10:30 a.m.—Church School
At 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall the church school begins rehearsal for the annual Christmas pageant. Children interested in participating should be present at this time.

10:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer
3:00 p.m.—Family Baptism
10:00 a.m., Wed., Dec. 13—Holy Eucharist for mothers with young children and shift workers, followed by coffee and a movie.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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: Rev. Robert C. Lobnes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1967
Here is our sincere invitation to the whole family to attend church.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School. All ages
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangel
7:45 p.m.—Wednesday, Prayer Meeting
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School — classes for all ages.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7 p.m.—Evening Service
Wednesday, 7:30—Prayer & Bible Study.
Thursday, 6:30—Explosion.
Thursday, 8:00—Choir Practice.
Friday 7:00 p.m.—B. H. F. meets.

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, DECEMBER 10, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship (Nursery provided) Sermon Series: THE PRAYER THAT SPANS THE WORLD AND THE WORLDLY.
No. III "Our Daily Bread"
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11:15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).
7:30 p.m.—Hi. C. for teenagers. Under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Coats

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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.
Sunday School Christmas program Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

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, DECEMBER 10, 1967
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15 years.
9:45 a.m.—Minister's Church Membership Class for Teenagers.
11:00 a.m.—Universal Bible Sunday Worship. Sermon Theme: "The All-Time Best Seller."
Everyone Most Welcome

This is an invitation to attend the Church of your choice on Sunday.

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