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Attendance disappointing

Teachers, boards, parents meet at Communications Night

In spite of lower attendance than expected, Communications Night at the high school last Thursday proved to be of sound educational value to all who attended. The special program held with Education Week, originated in the committee of quality education, comprised of staff and board members, which meets regularly.

It's hoped there will be further opportunities to bring parents and professionals together to discuss and seek solutions to common problems.

Forms sent back to the school by parents indicated 150 would be attending, but just a disappointing 75 came for the prepared program.

However, as one individual commented, the parents there were represented by quality if not by numbers in attendance. A total of 16 resource people outside of the school staff helped

with the discussion groups. Teachers from all three schools as well as board members took part.

To set the pace for the evening area superintendent G. R. Cromb of the Department of Education spoke to the entire group. Then four smaller groups assembled to mull over the suggested topics and introduce new problems for discussion. Groups leaders were Elmer Smith, Bob Laughlin, Bill Coats and Doug Copeland.

Parents were assigned to various groups according to the subjects they had indicated a special interest in.

Discussion was lively, interested and intelligent, the panelists agreed.

And the questions were sticklers.

Should a student who is discouraged with school be allowed to quit?

Are cars and academic work compatible? What progress is being made toward ungraded high schools? Is there a general lack of respect and discipline, lack of incentive and interest on the part of teenagers? Do Parents' Nights serve their intended purpose? What would be better? Why are education costs increasing? What about the granting of exemptions at 60 per cent? Some of the questions were philosophical and involved the all-over concept of modern education: Will conventional curriculum develop the breadth of understanding in our young people to allow them to cope with future problems? The home economics department served lunch, as spirited discussion continued.



Fire guts home near Speyside

Fire gutted the Speyside home of Ron Wilson when the wood frame house caught fire about 2 p.m. yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. The house was saved from being levelled but considerable damage was done to the inside of the house and to the contents. Mr. Wilson rents the house from Bruce Frame of Glospey Farms on Highway 25 just south of Speyside.

A motorist passing by saw the flames and smoke from the highway and told a hired hand, who in turn notified Milton firefighters. Both Milton and Acton fire brigades were summoned to the blaze.

At press time there was no indication of the cause or any estimation of the damage.

Del French takes oath of office

Formal administration of the oath of office to Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Del French took place at Monday's meeting of Esqueping Council. Mr. French is taking over some of Clerk K. C. Lindsay's duties while the latter works only three days a week.

Clerk K. C. Lindsay administered the oath and he recalled the occasion was "a bit of an anniversary" for him.

"It was 25 years ago today, on the third of March, 1943, that I took the oath of office," he recalled. "There's been considerable changes since then."

Mr. Lindsay said the robe was the only one present who sat around the table with him on that date. Everyone else had passed away.

He asked council's indulgence in permitting him to attend only the first meeting in the month unless there were special circumstances.

Council agreed with the clerk's request and Reeve Currie told council Mr. Lindsay has been a real faithful servant of this township and the thanks of the council go to you tonight.

4-Town Tourney set here Saturday

Plans are all set for the annual Four Town Tournament which will be held in Acton this year, this Saturday, March 9. Novice, pee wee and bantam teams from Georgetown, Fergus, Milton and Acton town leagues compete in the annual affair which is held in each place every four years.

Nearly 200 boys will play hockey and nine at the Legion Hall starting at 7:15 a.m. Saturday. Final game of the tournament is set for 6:30 p.m. in the evening. In between there'll be loads of hockey action for spectators.

The enthusiasm pumped into this annual event has been known to outdo more sophisticated tournaments and the Acton Legion minor hockey officials are quietly betting this one could be the best yet.

The Acton teams have been getting in shape with extra practices. The teams are picked from the house leagues each town has with the qualification now of the players is signed with O.M.H.A. team or leagues.

Following is the complete schedule of events:

- 7:15 a.m. - Bantam - Milton vs. Georgetown
- 8:10 a.m. - Pee Wee - Georgetown vs. Milton
- 9:05 a.m. - Novice - Fergus vs. Georgetown, Scrape and flood
- 10:20 a.m. - Bantam - Fergus vs. Acton
- 11:15 a.m. - Pee Wee - Acton vs. Fergus
- 12:10 p.m. - Novice - Acton vs. Milton, Scrape and flood
- 1:25 p.m. - Bantam Consolation
- 2:20 p.m. - Pee Wee Consolation
- 3:15 p.m. - Novice Consolation, Scrape and flood
- 4:30 p.m. - Bantam Finals
- 5:30 p.m. - Pee Wee Finals
- 6:30 p.m. - Novice Finals

Third secretary, new teachers more insurance on board agenda

An additional secretary will be hired for the high school, the school board decided at their meeting Monday night.

The principal and vice-principal explained to the board the two secretaries, Mrs. Lauder and Mrs. Pendleton, are busy with ordering, invoices, attendance, correspondence, detention lists, entering marks, typing examinations and doing special typing for teachers, as well as answering the phone and tending the counter.

The guidance teacher is spending some of her time doing clerical work that in other schools is done by a guidance secretary.

One of the teachers spends some of his time on attendance records.

The board agreed teachers should be able to devote all their time to teaching, not doing clerical work.

It is expected the new secretary will work part-time on guidance and part-time on attendance. Harold Denny attended the

meeting to review insurance coverage and as a result the board agreed to increase their blanket content coverage to \$105,000. This is about 80 per cent of replacement value. The staff had recently provided an inventory of equipment, books, and supplies. This coverage also includes desks and some clothing loss.

Mr. Denny will present figures on the building as soon as possible, including the original costs of the school and its three

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Pick Acton Rotary top club at Ball

Picked as the top club from over 50 in attendance at the District Governor's Ball at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto last Saturday were the Rotarians from Acton.

Plans were also made for a spring dance in May and arrangements made to send a rink to a Rotary curling bonspiel in Milton March 27.

The next regular meeting of the club will be cancelled to facilitate the annual Father and Son Banquet for Cubs and Scouts at Knox church hall. Boys in attendance without a parent will have a foster father or from the sponsoring Rotarians who will attend in a body.

Another highlight of Tuesday's meeting was a talk by Frank Petch, retired auctioneer and honorary member of the Georgetown club. Mr. Petch spoke on his experiences as an auctioneer since 1914.

The evening wound up with Rotarians stuffing Easter Seals into envelopes for the annual appeal.

Novice driver mashes his team to second place finish in races

When 15-year-old Kenny Marshall hooked up his team of Siberian Huskies to compete in the Hespeler Kiwanis Club's dog race at Bushnell Lake recently he thought it would be good experience both for himself and the dogs.

A novice at the sport with a new sleigh, Kenny has been making practice runs in Acton park for the past couple of months. Neither he nor the dogs have competed in official races before, however.

Imagine his surprise when he placed second against larger and more experienced drivers in the course around Bushnell Lake. His time for the almost 16 mile run was 55 minutes.

The qualifying race was held Saturday and Kenny and his team placed first with a time of 20

minutes for the six mile run. Sunday he did over nine miles in 35 minutes despite catching his foot in a wharf, wandering off course and dunking a foot in an ice fishing hole.

Jerry Rouse of Hespeler won the event with a five dog team 12 minutes ahead of Kenny. He took the winning trophy for the second year in a row.

Kenny, meanwhile, won himself the second place trophy. He'll receive it officially within the next few weeks.

Sam and Karu, Kenny's two Siberian Huskies, acquitted themselves real well in their first race, mashing over the frozen lake surface like they've been doing it all their lives.

Next year the young Acton sled driver hopes he'll have four more

dogs to add to the front of the sleigh. They're only lively pups now but they show promise already of being full of the stuff which makes good sled dogs.

"They're so lively," says Kenny's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Marshall, 23 Church St., "he's got to get them out of the house soon - or else."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ken Marshall were present at the carnival with their family to cheer Kenny on to his win. They said the event was a real thriller and the degree of co-operation and competition among dog owners made it even more worthwhile.

Race officials predict the young Acton sled driver will bear watching in future races.

Ladies treat band members to dinner Saturday night

Ladies of the Acton Citizens' Band treated over 50 band members and guests to a roast beef dinner at the music centre Saturday night.

Special guests were Mayor Len Duly and council's band representatives, Dr. F. G. Oakes. They shared the head table with band president Bill Buchanan, past president Ted Tyler Jr., bandmaster Dr. George Elliott, and Charles Kingsmill and Gordon Ramsden of the executive.

Band president Bill Buchanan acted as chairman for the annual event, one which is looked forward to each year. The ladies excelled themselves with the dinner and each was presented with a carnation corsage after a suitable thank you, Joyce Buchanan replied.

Muskrat bites Lakeview boy, animal killed

After being bitten by a muskrat on his way to the Robert Little school, young Michael McMurray, son of the Rev. and Mrs. McMurray, is receiving anti-rabies injections - just in case.

He was bitten by the muskrat at the corner of Elizabeth Drive and the highway. Few muskrats have been seen in this area and suspicions were raised that it might have had rabies.

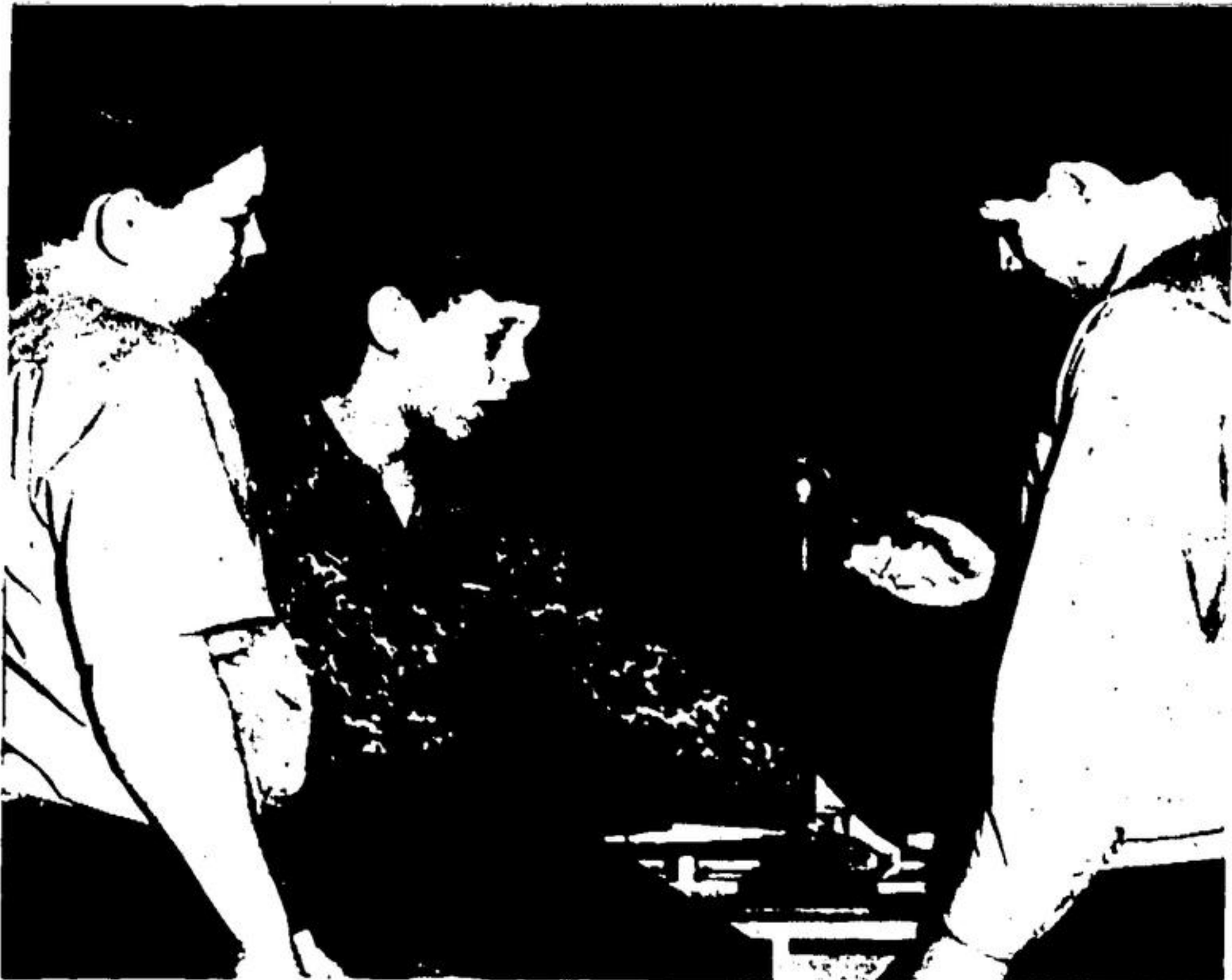
The next day when a muskrat was seen near the same spot, the crossing guard Stu McDonald killed and buried it. This animal was later dug up, taken by police to the Acton Medical Group and from there to Brampton for testing.

While the first test for rabies received Tuesday was negative, the McMurrays are not certain that this animal was actually the one which bit the lad, so the shots continue.

The chairman asked for the support of members to finish the music centre this year if possible. A work party installed the new hanging lights in the auditorium during the day, one of the first items on the building necessary.

Introduced as the "musical minded mayor," Mayor Duly spoke briefly telling band members of the high regard he held for the band. Bandmaster Elliott asked for continued co-operation to make Acton Citizens' Band an organization they could all be proud to play in.

After dinner cards were played and dancing enjoyed to taped music supplied by Chuck Wright. The evening wound up with a singsong. Bandmaster Elliott tickling the ivories.



BOB TOTH, SIDNEY BARENS and Bob O'Rourke conduct an experiment to demonstrate the force of expanding air at the Robert Little school open house Monday evening. (Hand-

reds attended the event which was held to show visitors the modern education methods. These boys are members of Mr. D. Copeland's class. (Staff Photo)



CINDY THORNHILL of Miss Braida's class introduces Wiggler to Flash during the Robert Little open house Monday. Byron Timbers owns the brace of rabbits. Newly-dissected frogs also interested the many parents who attended. (Staff Photo)



TEACHER WAYNE WHEELER shows Mr. and Mrs. Ed McGiloway the scale model of 'James-town' made by his grades five and six students during the Robert Little open house, all

part of Education Week. Many additional displays were set up in halls for the touring parents. Children from the school informally toured other rooms that afternoon. (Staff Photo)