

Lions raise \$900 for Salvation Army

Acton Lions Club raised \$900 for the Salvation Army's Red Shield campaign during the month of May. It was revealed at the club's regular dinner meeting Monday night.

Major Fred Brightwell of Guelph was present to convey the Army's thanks to the Lions for their work in the campaign. A Lion himself, Major Brightwell showed pictures of Bermuda where he lived for several years, and the International Convention in New York.

The Lions observed a minute of silence for the late U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy before president-elect Ray Ewell led in a sing song.

Profits from the Stanley Cup draw amounted to \$325, convener Dave Hunter told the meeting. Lions will be shaking their masses this Friday at the music centre at a ladies' night and dance. The club is sponsoring a minor Baseball Association.

Four Lions were deputized to attend an indoctrination meeting Wednesday. Lion Chief Vic Bristow presided for the meeting.

"Do you think there's intelligent life on Mars?" "I certainly do. You don't see them wasting 30 billion dollars to find out if there's life on earth."

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Third Year.—No. 50.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1968

Second Section.

Century of Worship in Rockwood

Crowd at United Church 'old home' day four former ministers assist in service



AN OVERFLOW CROWD of members and former members making it necessary to bring in extra chairs for the aisles, gathered to reminisce outside Rockwood United Church following their Centennial service. (Staff Photo)

Despite hot, muggy weather, present and former members of Rockwood United Church enjoyed an 'Old Home' Centennial on Sunday morning June 9, as four of their former ministers returned to lead in the service. Assisting in the worship were Rev. W. J. Taylor, Dorchester, who preached in Rockwood 1929-38; Rev. P.H. Lawson, London, 1937-40; Rev. John Ward, Guelph 1941-47, and Rev. J.W. Oliver, Hamilton 1947-52.

Guest speaker, Rev. F. Knox of Toronto, is retiring this year from his duties as missionary in central India. Although he is Presbyterian, he and his wife have been working through the United Church of Canada in India since 1938.

Rev. Knox used as his theme, "We are neighbors together with God." He stressed that God works through people and the Church, and told of the work of the missionaries in India.

"Everyone has a gift from God intended to be used, but it is not always being done because nobody has asked you. As a Church you have a task to do in the world."

Following the sermon Rev. John Ward, who served in Rockwood for the last seven years of his ministry before retirement, addressed the congregation.

"They were happy years," he said. "You and I can remember when carriages blocked this road to hear the wild Englishman preach. I am not a young man, but I am still young in spirit and hope with the memories."

Additional chairs had to be moved to the front of the church and down both aisles to accommodate the crowd. The church was decorated with yellow, mauve and rust flowers, and each window was lined with photographs of church groups and former ministers from the past 100 years.

Following the service, a lunch was served out on the lawn to enable visitors and regular members to recall old times.

Before the church was built, Rockwood and Eden Mills congregations combined strength and rented the old Methodist Episcopal Church (now four houses east of the U.C. parking lot.)

Rockwood charged 50 cents to drive the minister to and from his residence in Eden Mills because he had no horse and rig of his own.

However, there was much misunderstanding between the two charges and finally Rockwood decided to build its own.

The present stone church was built in 1868, and the records show that it was to be 34' x 50' at a cost of \$950. Alex McMillan was appointed to form a choir, and the first session meeting was held Jan. 1, 1868. It was a Presbyterian Church at that time.

By 1880, there were 120 members. In 1885 an organ was purchased, and in 1902, personal pews were allotted to those who wished them.

In 1907, a new stone front was built on to the original to provide a vestibule. Electricity was installed in 1916 to replace the acetylene gas lighting system.

When the proposal for a Union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches came in 1925, the Rockwood membership voted 135 for Union and 73 against.

The "Unionists" and Methodists formed the Rockwood United

Church. However, those who wished to remain Presbyterian left the old church building and set up their own church.

The survival of the Church was at times difficult and often the church had to borrow to pay its debts.

Yet as Rev. Lawson reminded the members at Sunday's service, "I was always impressed by the loyalty you have for your church."

At the 100th Anniversary, the well-equipped, attractive church building, the full choir, and the crowded pews were indications of the church's strength today.



REV. P. H. LAWSON who preached in Rockwood from 1937-40, visits with old friends following the Centennial service at Rockwood United on Sunday. (Staff Photo)



MISS SHARON LESLIE may not remember too much of the history of her church, but she can still enjoy a cookie on the lawn following the service. She attended Rockwood United Church Centennial with her parents Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie, R.R. 1, Rockwood. (Staff Photo)

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RETURNING TO ROCKWOOD United Church to assist in the service and renew friendships were Rev. P. H. Lawson (left), Rev. John Ward, and Rev. W. J. Taylor. Also present was Rev. J. W. Oliver. (Staff Photo)

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