

# Rev. Father Meehan adapts thunder, rain to sermon for 500 at church service Sunday

A gathering storm broke over the community centre Sunday afternoon just as the guest speaker at the interdenominational church service was being introduced, and he deftly adapted the ominous weather conditions to suit his subject.

Rev. Father Matthew Meehan CSsR, completely drew the attention of 500 in attendance back from the storm to his topic, Unity in The Service of the Lord.

"The weather always reminds us of Christ," he said. "Christ's tears fall from the skies and the thunder is his voice."

He continued to urge his listeners to love God through

service, and to use material things in the service of others.

Father Meehan was introduced by the Rev. H. J. Dawson of St. Alban's.

Acton clergymen seated on the platform and taking part in the service were Mr. Dawson, who also gave the call to worship, one of the prayers and benediction; Rev. Gordon Turner of the United church who led in prayer; Rev. S. G. Gannon of the Baptist church and Rev. Peter Brouwer of the Christian Reformed church who read Scripture; Rev. Father V. J. Morgan who led in prayers and Rev. A. H. McKenzie who led in prayers and thanked those who

participated and made various announcements.

There were 80 singers in the massed choir, which was accompanied by Acton Citizens Band. Both were led by Dr. George Elliott, Frank Bean playing the organ.

With the massed choir and band leading in the singing of the hymns, the congregation raised their voices to fill the arena with "a joyful noise". Father Meehan commented on the fine singing.

The massed choir, of church choristers and Acton Legion Choralists, was strong in all sections and included a front row of junior singers.

Their first anthem was a repeat from last year's service, O How Amiable are Thy Dwellings by Ralph Vaughan-Williams. The second was Now Thank We All our God in a cantata setting, by J.-S. Bach. The Chorallers sang the stirring navy hymn, Eternal Father Strong to Save.

The hymns were well-known ones to all congregations, Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, The Church's One Foundation and Rise Up O Men of God.

Before the service began and as the crowd left the band played suitable selections.

The pot of chrysanthemums for the oldest lady present was given to a warmly-welcomed visitor, Miss M. Z. Bennett, who now lives in Waterloo. She is 89 years of age. The mums for the youngest baby went to the mother of Annette Kroezen, Young St. The baby is 11 months old, and it was her first church service.

Fair secretary Mrs. C. W. Swackhamer was given the third pot of flowers which decorated the platform.

This is the second year for the interdenominational church service the day after the fair. Attendance was down from last year's 1,000.



**OLDEST PERSON** to attend Acton Fall Fair, 98-year-old C. K. Browne speaks to Father M. S. Meehan following Sunday's interdenominational service in the community centre. Mr. Browne has never missed a fair in the 47 years he has lived in Acton. (Staff Photo)



**NEWLY INDUCTED** Anglican rector, Rev. Harry Dawson introduces Father Mathew Meehan, left, to Mayor Les Duby, right, following Sunday's interdenominational service. Nearly 500 attended the service which wound up Acton Fall Fair. (Staff Photo)

## Midnight ending for fair opening program on Friday

The Friday evening arena program, climaxed by the Miss Acton Fair contest, split local talent and imported variety acts.

The popular Acton Legion Chorallers sang ten songs.

Joyce Carpenter's peppy dancers presented songs, dances and mime. Taking part were Cathy Ashley, Mary Fran Marcoux, Marianne Coles, Bonnie Bristow, Heather Reed, Cindy Lee, Vicky Bristow, Judy Scoyne, Kim Kressler, Barbara Pratt, Mary Lou Pendleton, Lynn Nielsen, Tracy Tyler and Becky Baxter.

Invincible Vince Mountford introduced a line-up of vaudeville acts—Bill Meek of the TV Pig and Whistle show; baritone Nick Genovese, and trained dogs, all accompanied by a small band.

It was midnight when the program ended, despite annual efforts by the fair board to cut down its length.

## Additions rising at both schools

Additions to both schools are rising slowly.

At the M. Z. Bennett school footings and foundation are in and the brickwork is started.

At the Robert Little library room the footings are up to ground level.

## Draw at fair

Mick Holmes made the draw Saturday afternoon for the Association for the Mentally Retarded. M. Trotter, 74 Nelson Court, won a radio, and Mrs. Ron Boyd, Warton, won a blanket.

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**SUN.-MON.-TUES. SEPT. 29-30 - OCT. 1**

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**WED.-THURS.-FRI.-SAT. OCT. 2-3-4-5**

**"YOURS, MINE AND OURS" — Color**  
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