



**PEACE
ON
EARTH**
GOOD WILL
TO MEN

The Acton Free Press

Merry Christmas

Ninety-Fourth Year - No. 26
ACTON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1968
Twenty Pages - Ten Cents

Huge tank stalled on tracks creates confusion Wednesday

Prompt action by Mrs. Lou Bonnette probably saved a large float truck, stuck on the Main St. N. railway crossing, from being rammed by a C.N.R. freight early Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Bonnette, aware the C.N.R. had removed the telephone from the Acton station, jumped into her car and drove to the station to warn agent Charlie Perry of the crossing hazard. He, in turn, notified the engineer of a freight which was switching in the yard and the train stopped short of the crossing.

The large low-slung float, loaded with a huge steel tank destined for Micro Plastics, could not make it over the Main St. railway crossing. The float wedged smack in the middle of the tracks with the tank on top.

Driver Cliff West of Stoney Creek said he had encountered

no difficulty on the trip from Hamilton until he got within sight of the Micro plant. The drop in the road on either side of the tracks made it impossible to move the float over.

All efforts to move the truck failed. The incident attracted

Planner urges county continue its support

Halton Planning Association chairman Maurice Newton urged County Council to continue its support of the group, drawing members from all county municipalities, when he reported to the county council's December meeting.

Mr. Newton, chairman of the Nassagaweya Planning Board, described the County group as a forum for open discussion aimed at improving the environment through planning. He recounted association action on the 10 acre

lot problem and noted that now every municipality was involved in planning. Esqueping township this year named its first planning board.

It was reviewed that association meetings now included films on planning as well as presentations by planning experts which proved of assistance.

Members of County Council praised Mr. Newton's report and the work of the association.

many spectators anxious to give advice. The train crew joined spectators at the scene and the engineer went further up the tracks and lit a flare to warn a passenger train expected in half an hour.

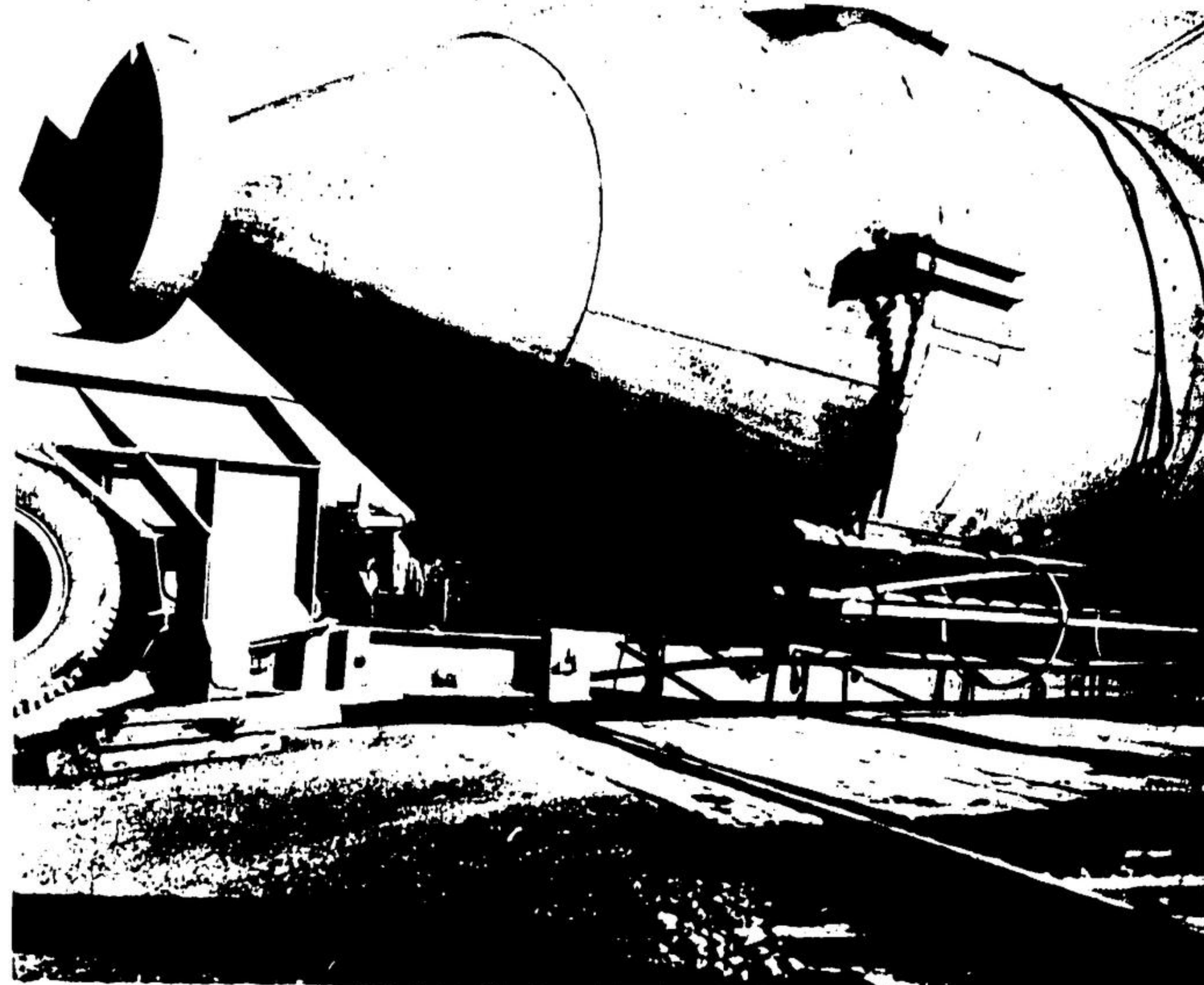
Police arrived on the scene to direct traffic which snarled behind the truck. Railway officials arrived from Guelph.

The truck was finally moved off the tracks when a large crane, journeying behind the float to install the tank at Micro Plastics, arrived on the scene. Despite the proximity of wires the crane lifted the rear end of the float and the truck backed up clear of the crossing. The freight train continued westward.

The convoy turned around and took an alternate route to the plant.

Driver of the truck, Cliff West, said he knew the crossing was going to be difficult and he navigated slowly but the float was too low to pass over the tracks.

Half an hour after the truck was moved a passenger train, eastbound thundered through.



ALMOST LIKE A MISSILE ready to leave the launch pad at Cape Kennedy, this huge storage tank weighing about seven tons was stuck firmly on the Main St. N. railway crossing Wednesday shortly after 1 p.m. The long float on which it rode could not navigate the crossing because of the dip on either side. (Staff Photo)



MERRY CHRISTMAS AMIGOS from Santa's children waiting to talk to the man in red little helpers George Bowman and Harold (Dickie) Harris who patrolled the line-up of children during the Beardmore Christmas party Saturday. (Staff Photo)

Holiday spirits involve police

Acton O.P.P. laid seven liquor charges on Friday and Saturday.

Holiday spirits were also involved in another incident from this week's police book. A Crewsons Corners shopper reported while she was in the IGA, seven bottles of liquor were stolen from her car in the parking lot on Friday about 6 p.m.

Rats probably Muskrats

Town superintendent Alf Duby says there could be rats in Glenlea subdivision - Muskrats!

Reports of large rats sighted in the subdivision could really be muskrats disturbed from dens by construction at the new sewage plant addition, the town superintendent asserted. He said town employees have seen muskrats both in Glenlea and Lakeview subdivisions in recent weeks.

Mr. Duby also cautioned anyone seeing muskrats to stay away from them because they can be vicious and have been known to attack people when cornered.

Rats? If anyone catches one, the town superintendent would like to know about it. The town engages a pest control company to get rid of rats at the town dump and they'd soon have him working on an area where they were sighted.

The story of rats in the Glenlea subdivision originated when Mayor Les Duby told the Hydro Commission of a complaint he had received from a man at Mowbray Place who discovered two or three rats outside his home.

Insecure

One incident of insecure premises was investigated by the police this week.



EFFORTS TO FREE the tank, bound for the Main St. N. plant of Micro Plastics, were futile. While the driver and other workmen tried to dislodge the tank, a C.N.R. freight came along. Forewarned of the obstacle the train stopped in time to avoid a collision. (Staff Photo)



A CRANE FOLLOWING the huge tank, ready to install it at the Micro plant, was employed to lift the back end of the float and the truck backed off to clear the track, allowing the train to go on to Guelph. Not long after, a fast passenger train from the west went thundering through. The float and its entourage took a different route to the Micro plant. (Staff Photo)

Regional government imminent

Regional government, and probably a merger of Halton and Peel Counties into one form of administration seems imminent. A group of mayors, reeves and deputy-reeves who met in Toronto Friday with Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs D'Arcy McKeough for an informal discussion of the subject came away with that feeling, anyway.

At McKeough's suggestion, representatives of Halton's seven municipal governments set down with the minister and several top department of municipal affairs officials at the Friday meeting.

Although the meeting was closed to the press, delegates later reported the minister is eyeing Halton for an early start on regional government. Two months ago Halton County Council declared it was ready for the change and invited the minister to discuss it with county officials.

Mr. McKeough expects to present a regionalization proposal to Peel County Council on Jan. 22, 1969, and the mayors, reeves and deputy-reeves of Halton were invited as spectators to the meeting in Brampton.

Milton Mayor Brian Best said it looked like Peel would become a regional government first, with Halton following and an eventual merger of the two counties. Legislation covering the regionalization of Peel County is expected to take effect in 1971.

The minister told Friday's conference some form of buffer was needed to separate Metro Toronto and the Hamilton region.

All of Halton's seven municipalities except Esqueping were represented at the Friday meeting.