

## Big bouquet...

Nothing to do in a small town? The person or persons who uttered those sentiments could never have spent much time in a small community, especially in the winter.

Last week, Acton was a virtual beehive with an operetta, winter carnival, dances, hockey playoffs, bingo, annual meetings and the usual activities going on simultaneously. It was a hurrying time for the news staff at this newspaper, trying to cover all the events and we must admit there wasn't enough staff or hours to go around.

The operetta at the Robert Little school attracted 1500 over two nights to see a colorful production on sunny Mexico, a highlight of the school year.

The high school's winter carnival—phonetically spelled

"Phuture Phreeze"—exceeded all expectations. Enthusiasm generated by students and teachers enveloped the town and district and spectators flocked to all the events in large numbers.

Hockey playoffs at the community centre were another magnet for spectators. Acton teams did very well and at least two will continue along the playoff trail. The eliminated teams were fine representatives from the town's minor hockey system as well as the winners.

Congratulations are in order to all who contributed in any way to making Acton and district a more lively and cultured centre in which to live. Their efforts are appreciated by all who had the privilege of attending the various events.



HOME CAN TAKE many forms for many species of birds but a woodpecker's is easily recognizable. Or maybe it belongs to a squirrel? Photographer Jim Jennings wasn't sure when he took this photo but the peeling birch bark signifies the tree is an elder statesman in the forest.

## Free Press Editorial Page

### Where the money goes...

The average housewife thinks 'cents-off' deals are a gyp, according to a report on a recent panel discussion with 10 housewives on consumer problems.

Women object to cents off deals because they know the manufacturer has to make money somehow. "What's the point in cutting the price four cents for a week when they bounce it back six cents for the next three months?" they asked.

This growing skepticism about food marketing was balanced by some positive statements. The average housewife likes the cleanliness and efficiency of most supermarkets, thinks staff members are friendly and helpful and is impressed with the freshness and variety of meat cuts.

The only way for food prices to go apparently, is up! But consumers would like to know why.

The farmer complains he is hardly getting any more money for his produce now than he did 10 years ago. The retailer has to sell in volume before he can make money. The wholesaler complains he can hardly get by on a slim profit margin.

The average housewife, naturally, wonders where the extra money does go. It is difficult to lay the entire blame on packaging, which has borne the burden for higher food costs for some time.

She knows it is becoming more difficult each pay day to find the money for food from its contests.

### Rates at new high...

Borrowers have been turning up their noses at mortgages in the last few weeks, mainly because interest rates are so high, reports The Financial Post.

Lenders and other firms active in mortgages report a lessening demand among private purchasers of both existing and new homes, as well as among developers planning apartment projects. But, it is occurring haphazardly. In some cities, demand for apartment mortgages is down. Elsewhere, the

pressure for single-family dwelling mortgages has eased.

Another factor slowing the market is the possibility of legislation stemming from the Hellyer Task Force on Housing that might improve the National Housing Act mortgage regulations. The Financial Post says that interest rates seem to have reached a high plateau.

Rates on conventional mortgages lay between 9 1/4 per cent and 9 3/4 per cent, with the bulk of house mortgages at 9 1/2 per cent.

### Off the cuff...

Ontario is putting its shoulder to the job of eliminating pollution of its streams at a cost, the Premier says which will be six times that of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

An example of good farmer-sportsmen relations involved a party of Lake Erie Forest District hunters who, at the end of their

hunting day, purchased and presented a small turkey to each of the two landowners on whose property they had hunted. Talking turkey.

The thermometer has dipped below the zero mark this winter but our coldest snaps have not lasted long enough to complain of a cold winter.



AT THE TOWN HALL door, members of Acton band posed for their photograph in 1909. The picture was lent for this series by Roy Brown, Bower Ave. In the front row left to right are Billy Coleman, Roy Brown and Harry Bell; in the middle row John Hill, Herbert Brown, Charlie Mason; in the third row Jimmy Bowie and George Agnew, and at the back an unknown player, Bill Kenney, unknown, Harry Jeans, Anson Thurston, Bert Smith and Nelson Moore.

## Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

February!  
I find you very  
Hairy,  
Not to mention  
Contrary,  
Weather-wise.

Driving is scary  
In February.  
One must be wary  
Even more than in  
January.

Milk in bottles  
From the dairy  
Freezes on the porch  
In February,  
And it's not  
A very merry  
Business

Cleaning up the ruddy mess  
When the bottle cracks and the  
milk leaks all over the  
Refridgeratory.

Sorry, chaps, but I've been conducting  
poetry-writing classes this week. And at the  
same time wading through drifts, trying to  
get my car started in the good old sub-zero,  
battling my way through 40-mile-per-hour  
blizzards, and helping bury an old mate.

Not conducive to a lyric column about  
the longest-shortest month in the year?  
Right.

As you can see from the above, the  
poetry classes have been going very badly.  
Imagine having a teacher who writes such  
garbage trying to breathe Life, Imagination,  
Experience into your creative  
poetic soul. It's enough to turn a kid off  
poetry for life.

Normally, February is a month in which  
nobody in his right mind can be found  
north of the 49th parallel. Unless he hasn't  
the money to escape. That's why there are  
so many of us lurching through snowbanks,  
noses dripping, eyes watering, coughs  
racking. We're either out of our minds, or  
poor. And in many cases, both.

And if we're not out of our skulls when  
the month begins, we're ready for the  
straitjacket and total sedation by the 28th.  
Thank the gods it's not Leap Year.

All I needed this year, to garnish my  
February complex, was to help bury an old  
mate.

He wasn't old in years, and he wasn't a  
life-long friend, but I'll miss him. Our paths  
crossed and re-crossed since we both made

Middle age is that time of life  
when you meet so many people that  
every new person reminds you of  
someone else.

The only place where success  
comes before work is in the  
dictionary.

Nothing is impossible to the man  
who doesn't have to do it himself.

the ridiculous decision to become teachers,  
about nine years ago.

During our teacher-training summer  
courses, surrounded by hot-eyed, panting  
youth, just out of university and happy in  
the knowledge that the world was theirs  
for the asking, we sort of drifted together in  
a mutual-defence pact of gentle  
cynicism.

I'd been through a war and a period of  
carving a living out of a pretty tough toast  
of a world. He'd been through a terrible  
accident, broken neck and the works, years  
of pain-filled convalescence. We'd both  
emerged, battle-scarred but banners still  
flying, from a decade or so of marriage and  
children.

We weren't exactly student militants,  
but we shared a hearty scorn for and a  
quiet amusement at the establishment, the  
keen types, the pushers, the scammers, the  
sparrows trying to make like eagles.

So we gravitated, and the friendship,  
sporadic and casual, lasted. After some  
years we wound up in the same town,  
teaching in the same school.

We golfed together quite a lot because  
we enjoyed the pace. It was leisurely,  
good-natured, and we both practised  
one-upmanship without scruple. You  
know: the loud scratch of a match at the  
top of the other's backswing; the coughing  
fit when the other was making a delicate  
putt; the gazing into the sky when the  
other hit a grounder? The gently raised  
eyebrow when the other missed the ball  
completely and almost broke his back in  
the process.

And we kept a fairly good eye on the  
yardarm. If the sun was over it, we marked  
the occasion in the usual manner. And  
many a late summer afternoon, we sat  
under the oaks and discussed, without  
rancour, the foibles and follies of the  
world, while our wives and the squirrels  
chattered in the background.

I'll miss the Old Boy. And so much for  
February.

## Free Press back issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press  
Thursday, February 23, 1949.

First robins reported to the Free Press  
this year were the pair spotted by Mr.  
William Benson on Monday morning. Signs  
of spring are certainly early this year.

Giant Campbell of Moffat, well known  
Shorthorn cattle breeder, is in Perth,  
Scotland, this week attending a big cattle  
sale there. He went across by plane a few  
days ago.

Mary Hunter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.  
Fred Hunter, sustained a deep and severe  
laceration on her thigh when she fell on  
some broken glass on Church St. near her  
home. The wound required about 50  
stitches to close and was a deep cut.

We agree with those folks who say this  
is the finest and most unusual winter they  
have ever experienced in this part of  
Ontario. It's certainly been a mild winter  
and January and most of February are  
gone.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press  
Thursday, February 27, 1919.

The people of Acton proved they are  
just as ready to welcome home soldiers  
returning home from overseas now as when  
they first started being invaded home.  
The town hall was crowded and the spirit  
of Welcome Home was in the air when the  
stalwarts seated on the stage were  
Lance-corp. E. M. Soper, Pte. William  
Wells, Pte. Albert Rudman, Pte. Harry  
Goldham, Pte. John Jennings, Pte. Hubert  
Macpherson, Lance-corp. A. Algoe and Pte.  
Philip Holmes. Dr. Gray made the  
presentations of gold watches and there  
were various speeches. The community  
choir and orchestra interspersed with  
patriotic songs.

At the meeting which followed it was  
decided to provide a memorial in honor of  
the soldier heroes. Named to a committee  
are Rev. J. C. Wilson, W. H. Stewart, Mrs.  
Geo. Havill, Mrs. R. M. Macdonald, Rev. I.  
M. Moyer, George Hynds, Dr. Gray, A. O. T.  
Beardmore, George Barber, C. C.  
Henderson, John Clarke, W. A. Storey, Mrs.  
H. P. Moore, Mrs. William Arnold, Mrs. J. L.  
Warren, Miss Minnie Z. Bennett, Mrs. A. T.  
Brown, Mrs. Gordon Beardmore, Mrs.  
Alexander Bell and Mrs. C. S. Smith.

The Free Press has pleasure in  
presenting an enlarged and improved paper

this week. (There were six pages - up from  
the usual four - and for the first time the  
local news was on the front page, replacing  
advertising, a short story, poetry and  
jokes.)

High school entrance examinations will  
be written the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th July.  
The diminutive Shetland pony and  
Russian cutter that Mr. A. O. T.  
Beardmore, Miss Frances and Master Knox  
drive about town are greatly admired by  
the little folk.

### 75 years ago.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press  
Thursday, February 22, 1894.

Halton Teachers met Thursday and  
Friday at Oakville with an immense  
audience assembled. Inspector Deacon read  
a paper on Character Building.

The sudden death of Edna May Cripps  
in her 15th year was a shock to the  
community. At times she was troubled  
with an affection of the heart. A year ago  
in special services she gave her heart to God  
and united with the Methodist church.

On Tuesday two of the long-haired  
disciples of Prince Michael arrived in town  
and declared their peculiar doctrine to a  
dozen or so in Mrs. Secord's Hall. They said  
they are the elect of God, and heaven will  
be established in Florida. They said all  
Flying Rollers would live forever.

Their appearance with long locks and  
flowing beards caused people to regard  
them as dime museum freaks.

The new Hook and Ladder truck will be  
ready for shipment the first of March.

Samuel Laird's famous St. Bernard  
hitch Stella died suddenly on Sunday  
afternoon. She leaves a family of four  
youngsters. Dog fanciers valued Stella at  
\$50.

A man named Walters, who appeared to  
be tramping his way eastward, was taken ill  
at the G.T.R. station. He was lodged in the  
cells and received medical treatment and  
several young fellows remained with him  
during the night. He had been drinking  
heavily for some time.

Mr. William Jeans has gone into the  
manufacture of gloves and mitts. He is  
making a specialty of fur mitts for driving.

## Free Press

## Church Notices

**BETH-EL  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Minister - Rev. P. Brouwer, B.A., B.D.  
Acton, Ontario

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
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

**THE CHURCH OF  
ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR  
ANGLICAN**  
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive  
Rev. H. J. Dawson, B.A., B.Th.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
Lent I  
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.  
10:30 a.m.—Church School and Nursery.  
10:30 a.m.—Choral Eucharist.  
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays  
Mattins  
2nd and 4th Sundays  
2:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class for  
Young People.  
7:00 p.m.—Confirmation Class for  
Adults.  
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.—Mid-week  
Holy Communion followed by Coffee  
Hour. (Nursery provided)

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH**  
Minister:  
The Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.  
Director of Music:  
Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
11:00 a.m.—"Talk Back" (adults in  
dialogue on the sermon and related  
subjects).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
10:00 a.m.—Nursery to Grade 4.  
11:00 a.m.—Grades 5 to 8.  
We Welcome You and Your Family to  
Take Part in the Life and Worship  
of Trinity!

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown  
Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Lohnes

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
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.  
Georgetown 877-6665

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Churchill Road North  
Minister:  
Mr. Robert G. W. Hyde, B.A.  
Phone 853-2299

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship and  
Sunday School.  
All are Welcome at the  
Church on the Hill

**ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Founded 1842  
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon  
Res. 144 Tildy Ave., Phone 853-1615.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Adult  
Bible Class.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
"Be Prepared"  
Scouts, Guides, Cubs & Brownies  
will attend morning service.  
No Evening Service.  
Wednesday — 6:30, Explorers;  
8:00, Prayer and Bible Study.  
Thursday — 8 p.m., Choir Practice.  
Friday, 7:00 p.m. — B.H.F.  
All Welcome

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

**SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.  
Don't fail to hear Rev. R. Taitinger,  
General Superintendent, P.A.O.C. &  
Bob and Rene Holden, Norwegian  
musicians and singers, singing at  
both services. Rev. R. Taitinger,  
speaker.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer Service and  
Bible Study.  
Thursday, 8:00 p.m. — Christ's  
Ambassadors.  
Friday, 6:45 p.m. — Crusaders.  
Rev. 22: 14 — "Blessed are they that  
do His commandments that they may  
have right to the tree of life and may  
enter in through the gates into the  
city."

**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, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1969**  
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to  
15 years.  
9:45 a.m.—Minister's Church Member-  
ship Class for Teenagers.  
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship  
Sermon theme, "The Four Living  
Creatures of Revelation."  
Everyone Most Welcome

**THE  
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Business and Editorial Office

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