

# Free Press YOUTH PAGE

fresh tracks  
by Barbara McIntosh

### HERO-WORSHIP

Whether we like to admit it or not, essentially we are a society of hero-worshippers.

There was a time when the common man automatically looked way up to his king and queen and only true blue-bloods were hero material. However, times have changed and robbed of hereditary heroes, we've had to come up with alternatives. Now anything from space astronauts and pop music groups to radio announcers and national hockey stars can win our undying adoration—given the right press coverage.

Imagine skier Nancy Green eligible for fan mail in seventeenth century England, or a Victorian mob scrambling for a lock of Tiny Tim's hair.

In our unconscious need for ideals, we continually hoist up new figures on the pedestal of prominence. Today's hero doesn't have to be a "slew-the-dragon-with-a-sprained-wrist" type. Although we do idolize people with outstanding accomplishments, many of our so-called heroes earned our starry-eyed attention simply by being different.

A few years ago Elvis made it to the top because he dared to twist his hips on stage. The Beatles are wherever they are now because they were the first to come out under long hair. Wealthy movie stars who show up at formal dinners wearing sandals are naturals.

Few people can truthfully admit that they have no heroes. Most of us are guilty of admiring and often trying to imitate people who have what we would like, or are what we know we could never be.

Extremes of idol-worship that affect a large number of people are generally termed a fad and are explained away by many adults as merely a stage in growing up. However, I've noticed a significant increase in the number of leather jackets and tweedy ties on businessmen since the election of our present Prime Minister.

Hero-worship has no age limit and what appeals to one person doesn't have to cause weak knees in another. It's no embarrassment to have heroes. Those who say they have none are either very conceited or very dull.

Mrs. Nan Hurst was born in Georgetown and with the exception of a few years during the war, she has lived in Acton for the past 31 years. She has her B.A. from the University of Guelph and is in her first year teaching English and History.



## Pedagogues are people

Teaching has held fewer surprises for Mrs. Nan Hurst than for most first-year teachers. But then she has had at least one child in the high school since 1952 without a break, so she feels she knew the school fairly well before she joined the staff.

Four years ago, Mrs. Hurst decided she was bored at home and joined her daughter in grade 13. She recalls the first few weeks were confusing and comments, "When they say your

brain gets rusty I can certainly believe it." Two weeks before the fall semester started, her family persuaded her to enrol at the University of Guelph and before she knew it she was frantically jotting down lecture notes. "If I'd known how hard I was going to have to work in the next three years, I never would have gone," she claims.

Being the only one in her class over 20, she held a rather unique position. For the first week

everyone wanted to sit beside her and she wondered why she was so popular. Then the realized they were all homesick and she was a "mother image". Being a full-time student and managing a household at the same time didn't prove a major problem. "In fact, my husband says I was better organized and he got better meals while I was in school," she says. "I knew I had to work hard to learn, and I knew I had to plan ahead to keep the house going. I couldn't have done it without the co-operation of my family."

The Hurst family includes her husband Joe, Acton's town clerk; Peter who works for the Department of External Affairs in Nigeria; Michael completing his Masters Degree in Bus. Admin. at York University; Jon who runs his own electrical business in town; Jill in her final year of Honors Phys. Ed. at Western University; and Mark an honor student in grade 12 and current President of A.D.H.S. student council.

With every reason to be proud of her children, Mrs. Hurst admits "I'm glad I'm not raising kids today. There seems to be a trend that you're not supposed to reprimand young people the way we used to. Today, they seem to expect so much more." Mrs. Hurst lists as her pet peeve, parents that take no interest in the student's work in school. "I didn't see as many parents as I would like at the recent parents' night, and the ones I saw mainly belonged to the better students."

"Parents are too ready to blame the school. Nearly every time my kids got into a jam at school, it was their own fault." Mrs. Hurst has definite ideas on slacks in school. "I guess I'm

### School carnival Wed. April 2

The annual school ice carnival will be held at the community centre this year on Wednesday April 2.

Arena manager Harold Townsley is hopeful that he'll be able to pull the switch on the ice making machinery right after the carnival ending the 1968-69 season.

### GOOD START

A youngster walked into a bank to open an account with \$25. The teller asked him how he had accumulated so much money.

"Selling magazine subscriptions", said the boy.

"You've done very well. Lot's of people must have bought them."

"Nope," answered the boy proudly. "Only one family—their dog bit me."

old fashioned but I think there's a time and place for slacks. School is a kind of formal occasion. They couldn't go out to work in slacks."

As far as the current move to permit skipping classes, the comments, "I'm sure most parents expect their kids to be supervised in school time. If they're skipping, obviously they're not going to be supervised."

In her spare time, she enjoys sewing, reading, bowling and curling. This year she is co-ordinator of the high school curling club. She also serves on the Senate at the University of Guelph.

LEAPING FOR THE REBOUND, Acton's Harry Oehrich (55) beats Grey Highlands players for the ball in the high school's triumphant 51-32 victory at O.S.D. in Milton Saturday. Acton won the senior boys' CWOSSA "B" tourney by defeating Milton O.S.D. 54-26 and the Fisherton Grey Highlands team 51-32. (Staff Photo)

### Acton gets preview of April TV program

Acton will have a preview of a television program later this month.

The film documentary produced for the Ontario division of the Canadian Cancer Society included interviews with eight Acton high school students who took part in the walkathon which raised \$1,300 for the Cancer Society.

Attending a cancer Society seminar in Toronto recently, Mrs. R. Arbie was pleased to see the Acton young people in the 16 mm. color film. Now the Acton and district branch executive have made special

arrangements to have the half hour film for a week.

It will be shown to the general public on Tuesday evening, March 25, in the high school auditorium. The executive is arranging a guest speaker and variety program and will perhaps have a doctor on hand to answer questions.

High school students will see the future TV show the same afternoon.

Since the local branch has the use of the film for the week, they would be glad to make it available to other groups for meetings during that time.

"Who Saved Johnny Q?" is the question the program asks. Was the patient really cured by the doctor who operated, or by the scientist? Then the involvement of lay people is investigated and the volunteers who are interviewed include the eight Acton high school students.

This segment of the show was made at the high school here. "Who Saved Johnny Q?" will be released to television in April—the traditional Cancer Month.

## First time Sr. Redmen take CWOSSA

The Acton Redmen came home with the first basketball CWOSSA Championship in the history of A.D.H.S. last Saturday, in the CWOSSA "B" basketball tournament staged in the two auditoriums in the Ontario School for the Deaf at Milton.

Fourteen teams participated in the tourney's 10 exciting games. The Redmen emerged with the senior championship by a lopsided 51-32 victory over Grey Highlands school from Fisherton. They had Harry Oehrich an O.S.D. team 56-24 in an exhibition match. Grey Highlands had ousted Chesley 34-34 in the preliminary.

The victory advances Acton into the OFSAA Ontario finals to be staged in Peterborough March 17-19. A busload of fans and cheerleaders travelled to Milton to boost the boys to victory. Following the game they formed a victor's line and ousted coach Skerrett into the showers. He is reported to have escaped without getting even his feet wet.

Bob Turkocz scored 15 points to lead the Redmen to the victory over Fisherton. Oehrich added 12 and Bill Landsborough 10 in a winning cause.

Junior boys' championship went to Warton when they beat Elora 60-51 in the junior final. Elora had a bye to the finals and Warton disposed of Mount Forest 47-34 earlier in the day.

Winner in the senior girls' division was Sacred Heart school from Walkerton. They put out Grey Highlands 34-20 in their first game and dumped Erin 24-15 in the final. Erin had earlier beaten O.S.D. 12-4 in an exhibition match.

The Arthur junior girls' entry won the championship, defeating Ripley 39-31. Ripley had edged Mount Forest in a preliminary, while Arthur held a bye.

Convener of the tourney was Doug Andrews of Elora.



ACTON REDMEN WERE CHAMPIONS in the senior boys' section of the CWOSSA "B" basketball tournament staged at O.S.D. Milton on Saturday. The team won the right to enter the OFSAA Ontario Finals in Peterborough Mar. 15. Coach Brian Skerrett proudly holds the shield for players (back left) Harry Oehrich, Bill Landsborough, Dave Broostad, Jim Lee, George Wallis, Mike Marcoux, Steve Robb; (front left) Lloyd Smallwood, Phil Dupuis, Bob Turkocz, Fred Flitnik. (Staff Photo)

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MRS. NAN HURST