

# A geography lesson in glamorous New York

By Roberta Nassot



During the Victoria Day weekend, a group of high school geography students took a tour of New York City. Most were fascinated with the glamour of the cosmopolitan city. Some commented that the streets were littered with garbage blowing over the pavement, and the air was so polluted, they had to wash after every outing.

All in all, they would have liked to stay longer just for a temporary visit, but to live there was another question.

The following is a first-hand account of the weekend.

On Thursday May 15th at 8 p.m., sixteen students and two teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martindale, left Acton with a roar of exhaust. We were at last on our way to the city of countless nationalities—New York.

Everyone was in very high spirits and had great expectations as to what lay ahead.

The bus trip was roughly 11 hours and very tiring. As we rolled into New York at 8 a.m. Friday morning, my first impression was not as I expected. It was mostly a residential area for 20 to 30 miles outside and it was quite some time before I finally realized we were in New York.

We stayed at the Hotel Piccadilly which was right in the heart of Manhattan and New York. Just off Times Square. This was more my concept of New York—bright lights, the theatres, the high-rise apartments and the office buildings that make you crane your neck to look at the top.

The most important thing was the people thousands of people bustling and never slowing down. New Yorkers are a breed of people special to the world. They have a dialect and mind of their own that makes New York a fascinating place.

Friday afternoon, we took a tour of Manhattan Island on a Circle Line ferry. We travelled under 19 different bridges and that wasn't all of them. The

entire tour took about three and a half hours.

During the tour we passed by the Statue of Liberty with her invocation "Give me your tired, your poor." I think everyone coming to this city for the first time feels a kindred bond to this spirit of peace.

We were very disappointed that Friday night we were unable to get tickets for the Merv Griffin Show, but anyway it gave us a chance to explore downtown Manhattan.

Times Square and Fifth Avenue were ablaze with lights as we walked down the street. We were very lucky to get to Macy's Department Store and we were told by someone it is the largest department store in the world.

Natural History and Central Park, two equally exciting places. That evening, a lot of us went to Radio City Music Hall.

Monday morning accomplished the first purpose of the trip. We visited the Urban Planning Department of New York City. After leaving, we realized that there is a lot more to planning than sitting in air-conditioned offices and making maps.

Two o'clock that afternoon we were waving goodbye to the city of New York.

New York has been called "little Italy." It also has more Jews than the country of Israel. It is definitely a cosmopolitan city. It beckons the tourist with a personality unique unto itself and it makes thousands of tourists return each year.

I know that many of us will want to go back again, but for now we must be content with our photos, our memories, and our "borrowed" towels and telephone books.

**JUST TRY IT**

The corporal was preparing to fingerprint a recruit. "Wash your hands," he ordered.

"Both of them?" asked the recruit.

After a moment's hesitation the corporal said: "No, just one. I want to see you do it."

## Security course at Sheridan

Sheridan College in Brampton will offer a unique new course on law and security administration starting this fall.

The day time, two-year course is designed for those who want to make a career of security, either in industry or on a regular police force. The evening course will be for persons already successfully employed in the field to better their qualifications or upgrade their knowledge.

Inspector J. A. MacPherson, second in command at the O.P.P. College in Toronto will be taking the evening lectures and serving on the Advisory Council for the entire program.

## NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Terry Curtis

### Jim Slaven runs third in Ontario

Jim Slaven, our track hero, placed third in the All-Ontario Finals, held last Saturday at Toronto's CNE grounds. Congratulations Jim!

### Graduates return

Acton high is welcoming back graduates of previous years to speak on their progress at college or university, on Wednesday afternoon, June 3.

### How to choose marriage partner

Thursday, June 4, a film will be shown on "How to Choose a Marriage Partner". This is with the compliments of Sheridan College.

Free Press

# YOUTH PAGE

## fresh tracks

by Barbara McIntosh

**JUST GOING OFF**

I managed to muster up more charm than my brother's girl friend on Sunday, and con him into spending the afternoon teaching me golf.

It wasn't as if I were starting out green. I've watched Arnold Palmer on television a couple of times and I used to be quite good at cricket. After a brief discussion of prime objectives, and sorting out when to use the fat colored clubs instead of the iron, I took a couple of warm-up swings at a blade of grass and confidently prepared for the tee-off. Admittedly I was doomed for a rough time.

My first successful drive shot sent the ball, that little wooden stand, and a mullen plant soaring 10 feet straight up. Many swings and 27 direct hits later, I was ready to chip it up on the green.

At that point I hit a fantastic slice to the right, which would have been perfect three shots before, when I was back in the cedar trees. However, from that position it sent the ball over the top of the green completely and into the long grass I had just spent 10 minutes getting out of. I never did find the ball again, but there weren't many people watching so I used another one.

By the time I finished two holes it was pouring rain so I had to give up due to slippery grass. I wouldn't even like to estimate my final score if I had completed the course.

But I'm not discouraged. I think it's going to be a lot of fun once I get some form of control over which direction the ball takes. I'm using Palmer's hand position so it should only be a matter of time.

At my present stage of proficiency, the biggest problem is keeping track of the ball, especially when it gets mixed up with the dandelion puffs.

Why doesn't somebody invent golf balls in psychedelic blues and pinks especially for beginners like me?

Principal Ted Hansen came with the new school and is finishing his 15th year as chief administrator. He has taught most of the arts subjects, in his career although his favorite is English.

## Pedagogues are people

Mr. Hansen was born in Acton and took his B.A. in English at the University of Toronto. He taught for two years in Alton before he was shipped out for four years with the army. After the war he went back to U. of T. for a specialized course in Honors English. He taught in the old stone school and then took over as principal when the present high school was built in 1954.



"Right now our school is in a transition year," he says, commenting on the recent switch to the county school board system. "So much of it is new to us. Acton has the smallest secondary school in the county and we're not used to the type of organization they have in the big schools in Oakville or Burlington.

"For example, in budgeting we did get along quite well before for a school of our size, but this year they're breaking it down differently and it takes some getting used to. One advantage of the county board should be a bigger budget for Acton—hopefully."

He also feels that the school building will be expanded in the not too distant future under the new board. "The problem is we've grown more slowly than Milton or Georgetown, so the school has remained small. This year we are shipping out students to General Brock in Burlington and to Georgetown because we couldn't give them what they really needed. I think this is changing now though with expansion in the new subdivisions."

Mr. Hansen maintains that a new cafeteria will be top priority in expansion. At the present time the students eat on the gym bleachers. "We're not happy with this but it keeps them in one place. If we could get an eating area we could double it as a study hall as well."

He also sees a great need for more office space, since the present facilities were built for an eight room school and there have been three additions since then, with no change in administration and staff rooms. He shares his own office with vice principal Joe Bray.

Commenting on student-staff relations, Mr. Hansen feels that the past year has been extremely successful. "The student-staff relation committee has particularly been a good thing. Certainly we are all for listening to the students and getting their point of view. In this group, they chose the topics and there was no limit to what they could talk about. I don't think students could help but be more informed at an earlier age today. Of course, human nature always remains the same."

On the question of compulsory attendance in classes, he says, "We've experimented with the contract-to-learn idea and we got what we expected. Some people can handle the freedom and some want a way to shy out of responsibility. There will always be those who want all of the privileges and none of the responsibility."

Outside of school, his main interest is music. He used to play piano in a dance band called the Merry Makers, with M. Z.

Saturday produced an all-day bus tour of Manhattan which proved to be much more interesting than the boat-ride. We were able to "scale" the Empire State Building, visit the Statue of Liberty and sit in a Chinese temple. We also visited St. John the Divine, the largest unfinished cathedral in the United States, and travelled down the Bowery, through Greenwich village and Chinatown.

As we had been unable to obtain tickets for the Broadway musical "Hair", Saturday night was free time. Some of us went to see "Cabaret", but the majority stayed at the hotel to rest.

Sunday with its balmy 90 degrees, saw most of the students at the Museum of

## Youth committee holds euchre at Brookville

The Youth Committee for the Mentally Retarded held their euchre last Tuesday at Brookville Hall. It was the committee's first euchre but under the capable guidance of the fund raising chairman, Miss Sandra Watters of Darbyville, the evening was a success.

The prize winners were: Mrs. J. Roberts, Mr. J. Roberts, Mr. K. Cartwright, Mrs. F. Hadley and Mrs. C. McLaren.

Donations were received from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kelly, Speyvide store, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. and Mrs. David Henderson and Mrs. Young.

Special thanks was expressed to all those who donated the euchre and door prizes.

The only incident was the loss of a coat belonging to Mrs. Gravston, Milton. Anyone knowing of its whereabouts was asked to call her at 878-6025.

The youth group is beginning a library with books which deal with recreation for the retarded, skills and reports on various subject matter pertaining to Mental Retardation. These books and pamphlets range in

price from 25c to \$12. These books will provide resource material and research information pertaining to the progressing concepts of recreation in the field of retardation.

Recreation director Gordon Dawe asks citizens to watch for notice of coming events; as support is needed. Mental Retardation does not discriminate and knows no bounds, he says.

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