



FORMER PRINCIPAL Miss M. Z. Bennett presented with a bouquet of roses. She began teaching here in 1907 and is a former Citizen of the Year. (Staff Photo)

M.Z. Bennett school addition formally opened last Wednesday

Again honored by the town where she taught so many years, Miss M. Z. Bennett was given three completely spontaneous standing ovations last Wednesday evening at the opening of the school addition.

Officials, students, teachers and parents rose in a wave of applause as Miss Bennett was led to the platform of the new gym by a former pupil, Vic Bristow. Another former pupil, Murray Smith, presented her with a bouquet of roses.

Both have been school board members until this spring.

About 300 attended the official ceremonies and tour of the new section of the M. Z. Bennett school afterward.

The auditorium, with its vivid blue plastic chairs and blue draperies, was also decorated with a huge bouquet of red, white, and blue flowers and Canadian flags. Special guests were seated on the stage—all men except for Miss Bennett.

These included the director of education for Halton W. J.

Singleton, North Halton director of Education E. S. Lavender, new county board chairman Fred Armitage, local board member Tom Watson, Rev. V. J. Morgan, Mayor Les Dudy, former inspectors Lorne Skuce and W. L. McNeill, architect Don Skinner, general contractor W. McNally, principals Elmer Smith and G. W. McKenzie, former Acton board members Cyril Bishop, Orval Chapman, Murray Smith and Vic Bristow, and former secretary-treasurer William Middleton.

Principal Smith introduced the guests while Mr. Bristow introduced Miss Bennett.

"In God's name I dedicate this new, beautiful addition of which all citizens might well be proud," declared Father Morgan. He spoke of the role of the school in society, and recalled a few famous Bennetts a prime minister, a young man of the parish recently ordained as a priest, and of course Miss Bennett herself.

Character building taught by its teachers be the stepping stones of salvation for the youth taught here and may its teachers be filled with the spirit of knowledge and wisdom," he concluded.

Guest speaker was former area superintendent W. L. McNeill who began by referring to the past, present and future. A continuous thread was begun by Miss Bennett, he said, and over 60 years of education in Acton was represented on the stage. Miss Bennett came to Acton to teach in 1907. When she retired, Mr. McKenzie took over, and when there became two public schools in 1957 Elmer Smith became second principal.

Over 30 years of administration was also represented. Mr. Middleton has been secretary of the local board 35 years. Mr. Skuce came to Halton in 1938 and was inspector till 1958, followed by Mr. McNeill. And now Mr. Lavender and Mr. Singleton represent the future.

(Mr. Skuce died suddenly this week.)

Some of the board members, such as Tom Watson, Murray Smith and Charles Heard, have served for many years. He cited Colin MacColl, school caretaker since the M. Z. Bennett school opened.

Mr. McNeil concluded his address speaking on the importance of communications. In fact, communications may make or break the whole new system of education in the province, he felt.

Two presentations were made for the new school. From the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E., regent Mrs. E. Lidkea presented a large illustrated book on Japan for the resource centre. From the Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E., Mrs. David Dills presented four Canadian flags for the new classrooms.

Former board chairman Cyril Bishop accepted the gifts. Speaking to the audience he

expressed the board's pleasure in serving the town and his assurance that the Acton schools are second to none in the county.

Roses were presented by members of the school safety patrol to the wives of honored guests. Miss Julie Smith played the piano before the program began.

During the musical part of the program the boys' unchanged voices choir and the triple duet sang several numbers, and Cindy Lee sang two solos. Glenn Banke, who is leaving after 11 years as music supervisor here, accompanied them.

The crowds toured all the school afterward. Of special interest was the resource centre where Mrs. Elmer Smith is librarian. On display were all Miss Bennett's certificates and the seals of former boards. The reproductions of paintings are on loan from the county board.

Refreshments were served in the roomy new lobby.

To investigate V.O.N. sources

Acton may soon have the services of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Council Tuesday evening agreed to investigate the best way of providing the service for the town. The recommendation came from No. 1 committee after a special meeting following a few questions, council unanimously agreed to proceed.

While Acton might be served however, if they are unable to pay the full cost, the town is billed the remainder of the amount. Very few medical plans cover V.O.N. services, Mr. Coats explained.

Since council approved the service, Miss Jean Klein of the V.O.N. National Office in Ottawa will begin to investigate the best means of servicing Acton. She had attended a committee meeting on Monday of last week, with nurse Mrs. Helen Laughlin of Acton and Dr. David Vanderbent of the Acton Medical Group.

Make draws Saturday

In spite of cool and dreary weather, participating merchants are very pleased with shoppers' response to their special sidewalk sales. They're hoping for better weather this week.

On Saturday, the 20 participating merchants will each be making their own draws. Names of winners will be announced next week.

from the Oakville branch to begin with, it was thought since the town is oriented to the Guelph area for hospital services, arrangements might be made later through the county of Wellington.

Councillor Coats explained that the estimated cost, based on Oakville's experiences, would be 10 cents per capita per year. This comes to about \$460 a year. Payment is theoretically by the patients themselves, however, if they are unable to pay the full cost, the town is billed the remainder of the amount. Very few medical plans cover V.O.N. services, Mr. Coats explained.

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Dr. Vanderbent and Mrs. Laughlin had outlined the need for V.O.N. services in the town and Miss Klein had reviewed the services that would be provided.

Negotiations for V.O.N. services through the North Halton Urban Board had been initiated but had failed to accomplish any results. Since then Nassagaweya and Georgetown have made separate arrangements for the service.

The committee was told requests for V.O.N. visits to Acton homes would come under

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Plumbing inspections planning board concerns

Council discussed a request from the town of Milton that Acton join with the five northern municipalities of the county in requesting the county establish a plumbing inspection service on the same basis as the safety construction inspection. Each municipality would pay its proportionate share.

Deputy-revee Ted Tyler said "There are too many unknowns." He felt the town should first approve investigating the suggestion.

Reeve Dr. Oakes explained each municipality would set its own plumbing inspection fees. Mr. Tyler mused on additional costs for office, clerical

assistance, mileage, etc.

Finally council agreed to accept the suggestion in principle, approving investigating the establishment of the service. They replaced the word "establish" with "investigate the establishment" in their motion.

Planning board's problem with frequent lack of a quorum concerned council, after planning board member G. W. McKenzie introduced the subject at Tuesday's council meeting.

While the board had received a letter of resignation from chairman Bob Drinkwater, they had not met formally since, to deal with it. Various councillors

had spoken to Mr. Drinkwater personally.

It was agreed councillor McKenzie would formally approach Mr. Drinkwater and a letter would be written, asking him to reconsider his resignation. It was hoped he would meet with No. 1 committee to discuss the board's problems.

Councillor Tyler asked No. 1 committee to investigate a per diem rate for members of council attending meetings. He gets a per diem rate as a county councillor, while the mayor gets only his expenses paid. "It's only through the good graces of

his employer that he gets wages," Mr. Tyler pointed out.

One other councillor agreed he is out of pocket by attending meetings.

"Other municipalities (in the south of the county) get \$30 per day plus 14 cents a mile mileage, as well as meal allowance," Mr. Tyler revealed. "It's not fair... the days of volunteering are about past. I'm not for a huge rate but I hate to see people out of pocket."

Other members agreed to have committee discuss the problem.

Holiday Tuesday

Dominion Day Tuesday and The Free Press office will be closed. The news and advertising staff would appreciate having all copy as early as possible for next week's paper. The Free Press will be published the same time as usual.

21 years in Acton Mrs. Alger retires

When Kathleen Alger retires this week, she will leave principal Elmer Smith the lone survivor of the original staff at M. Z. Bennett school.

Completing over 21 years teaching primary grades in Acton schools, Mrs. Alger was among the staff to move up to M. Z. Bennett when it first opened in 1957.

Born in England, she moved to Arcola, Saskatchewan, in 1912 and began her teaching career with grades one to 10 in a rural school. She came to Acton with her husband in 1926 and during the war years found she could make more money as a machinist than as a teacher. She recalls how she used to ride up to work in Guelph with the present school caretaker, Colin MacColl.

After 20 years out of the classroom, she went back at first as a supply and finally as a full-time primary teacher.

"I think children are noisier now than they used to be, probably due to the modern music and television," she says in reviewing her years in the primary grades. "I've always enjoyed grades one and two because the children are all very



interested and enthusiastic. They seem to lose some of this enthusiasm as they grow up."

She is enthusiastic about the new concepts in education but feels a major problem for teachers will be finding time to get assignments marked. "With the group system now, you're moving around the classroom teaching all the time. They have to have something to do all the time and the more work you give them, the more you have to mark. It's impossible to get any marking done within regular school hours."

Mrs. Alger is looking forward to her retirement and the free time it will give her to read, make handicrafts and work in her garden. She expects to visit her two brothers in British Columbia this fall.

During a testimonial dinner last week, the staff at M. Z. Bennett presented her with a string of pearls.

Mrs. Alger was a prime contributor to the collection of sea shells in the new resource centre.

Esquosing Experts claim blasting harmless residents still finding cracks

Monday night's two hour blasting debate in Esquosing Council chambers ended the way it began with residents convinced their cement pools were cracking and quarry officials equally convinced that they were not to blame.

The meeting was called after repeated complaints by area residents of what they claim has been excessive blasting by the stone works, resulted in crumbling plaster, rattling china and annoying noise.

Representatives from three area quarries, plus a spokesman from the department of mines and a blasting expert from Canadian Industries were on hand to defend their positions.

Following a film explaining blasting procedures and the nature of concussions on surrounding countryside, Ross McKeown of C-I-L attempted to convince the meeting that the effects of a normal blast are really less than most daily activity, but they caused concern because they are sudden and unexpected. The readings on an instrument called a seismograph would prove this, he said.

Mr. Hughes of the Department of Mines backed him up. "There is a scrutiny of blasting in all areas and there is no recording of any blasting that would come close to causing damage. As far as we are concerned, it is being done safely."

Wilf Fortowsky of R. R. 3, Milton wasn't convinced. He claimed the blasts had become increasingly intense in the past year and he had recorded 15 bad ones since January. Mr. McKeown admitted that weather

conditions could make some blasts felt more than others.

Mr. Fortowsky criticized the Department of Mines for not owning their own seismograph and claimed there was no way of proving if a blast was excessive when the quarries hire their own engineers who then reported to the department.

At this point a spokesman for Dufferin Quarries interjected, "We are not Russian commissars. We know that if we are derelict we can be sued in the highest courts."

"We blast with the least amount of dynamite we can

because we want the least expense," added Mr. Armstrong of Indumim.

"To the home owner this may look like a snowjob," added Mr. McKeown, "but it is fact."

Although the meeting was called especially for Esquosing residents and Indumim and Acton Quarries in the township, two spokesmen from Dufferin Quarries near Milton and several North Burlington residents from that area were present.

Jim Seager of Tremaine Road claimed that his cement pool had cracked from what he felt were the effects of the blasting.

"The quarries are an extremely efficient and valuable business but as neighbors they're a nuisance." He went on to say he felt the noise, the dust and the potholes in the roads from the trucks were more of a problem than the blasting.

John Conway, also of Tremaine Road, said he felt there should be a noise abatement law to cut the noise of the quarries at night as well as a program to beautify them.

"At some point we have to relate the taxes these quarries pay to the damages to roads, the destruction of scenery and the wear and tear on people in the area," submitted councillor Ken Marshall.

Mr. Hughes of the Mining Department indicated that the mining act was currently being expanded to possibly limit the amount of blasting a quarry could do during a day, but he maintained that safe levels of blasting were being observed.

"It's the inconvenience that comes with progress," summed up Mr. McKeown of C-I-L.



THE OLDEST of over 400 Senior Citizens gathered for the annual zone picnic in Prospect Park on Tuesday were Sarah Johnson 91 and Nugent Sinclair 80, both of the Burlington club. (Staff Photo)

Georgetown man dies in car crash

A young Georgetown man was killed Saturday just after midnight when his car left Highway 7 and struck a tree. Dead is Gary Thomas Briggs, 21, of 164 Guelph St., Georgetown.

Milton O.P.P. said the man was alone in his car when the accident happened. The car was wrecked.

The deceased is the son of a

Georgetown upholsterer, Howard Briggs. He leaves a wife and an infant son, also two sisters.

Funeral service was held Wednesday at St. John's Anglican Church, Stewarttown with Rev. Canon J. E. Maxwell officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown.



ONE OF THE AREA'S WORST accidents of the year early Sunday morning resulted in the death of Gary Thomas Briggs, 21, of Georgetown, and left his car a crumpled mass of metal. (Staff Photo)