

Santa charms children at Legion Christmas party Sunday



I'M dreaming of a white Christmas...



MY, what a long beard you've got, grandpa!



DON'T look now, Santa, but a camera's watching.



MAYBE it's a piano... maybe I'm Chopin.

Tuesday paper

Christmas Eve is not the best time for relaxing from reading the week's news, so the Free Press will be published on Tuesday next week rather than Wednesday. But the procedure will revert the next week; the paper will be out Wednesday, December 31.

The local post office got instructions to return all their new six cent Christmas stamps to be checked. Apparently 400 defective stamps were shipped from the manufacturer in the general delivery to post offices. Action postmaster Gord McKeown said there were none of the defective stamps here, but their current supply had to go back anyway.

Four swell P.O. staff misprints slow sixes

As if the traditional Christmas rush wasn't enough, the post office this Christmas has an additional problem—misprinted six cent stamps. The local post office got instructions to return all their new six cent Christmas stamps to be checked. Apparently 400 defective stamps were shipped from the manufacturer in the general delivery to post offices. Action postmaster Gord McKeown said there were none of the defective stamps here, but their current supply had to go back anyway.

estimated that 191 of the stamps could still be in circulation, purchased by customers. The design frame, wording "Canada Christmas-Noel" and the denomination "6" and the miniature date "1969" are missing. This week, last year's six cent Christmas stamps were being sold at Acton, but a new supply of '69 sixers was expected very soon. Four have been added to the staff to help cope with the Christmas onslaught of mail. It's flowing well, the postmaster says. There are plenty of Christmas cards coming through. The four extra assistants for the season are Ellen Holmes, Nan Reed, Marnie Mellor and Diane Butler.

Santa-Rama amounts up for last draw

With a big "Merry Christmas" to Acton shoppers the merchants will boost the amounts in their final Santa-Rama draw this Saturday afternoon. The total amount to be won in cash vouchers had been upped from \$100 to \$150, with the top award going from \$30 up to \$50.

C. of C. annual set for Jan. 21

Acton Chamber of Commerce has set January 21 for their annual dinner meeting. This year the event will be held at the Halton Heights Country Club and it is expected a bus service will be arranged to ferry all those interested back and forth. Election of officers will be one of the main items on the agenda. The chamber is asking those who were not home when a surveyor dropped in to pick up completed forms to fill them in and send them through the mail or give them to a chamber member.

It'll be excited winners who receive this last minute gift for a special Christmas present! Following the top \$50 in vouchers will be second prize of \$40, third for \$25, fourth for \$20 and fifth of \$15. Last week's winners were Mrs. A. Grant, McDonald Blvd. for \$30; Bea Chew, Main St. N., for \$25; Elma Timbers, Elmore Drive, for \$20; J. McAfee, Mill St. for \$15 and M. Charles, Crescent St., for \$10 in vouchers. At the same time as the Santa-Rama draw last Saturday, draws were made for Eramosa Flower Mart. Winners were D. Dupuis, Elmore Drive, beauty sachet, A. Dempster, Brampton, potted urn; Mrs. Fran Tolton, Andrew's, rubber plant; H. K. Andrews, McDonald Blvd., potted mum; Mrs. R. Hart, 341 Orville Rd., potted mum; Tony Reid, Rockwood, bunch cut mums. Eramosa Flower Mart is also having a draw again this week. This Saturday's draw will be made at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon at the Y.M.C.A.



Ninety-Fifth Year.—No. 25

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1969

Eighteen Pages—Fifteen Cents

Jan. 13

Public Hearing set to decide agents' fate

A long awaited public hearing will be held in the Acton council chambers Tuesday, January 13, at 10 a.m. to hear representations for and against removing station agents at Acton, Rockwood, Elora, Moorefield, Preston and Hespeler railway stations.

The Railway Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission announced last Thursday that the hearing would be held in Acton, presumably because the lone opposition to taking the railway service to Guelph under a master agency plan was encountered here.

has been heard from the other three communities involved. At a hearing in 1968 representations against the action of the railroad in removing services from Acton were made by the Chamber of Commerce, federal and provincial members of parliament, town council, high school students, businessmen and women as well as private individuals. One merchant declared he was in favor of the change.

When the suggestion was made over two years ago that the railway would close up its Acton operation and run the business from a master agency in Guelph, there was almost general opposition. Public opinion was that the CN was hampering the town's growth and importance both as a manufacturing centre and commercial hub by taking services elsewhere. There was almost general agreement at the informal hearing that the service had deteriorated when the operation at Acton was closed down with only a symbolic agent left at the station to preside over an empty station with no duties to perform.

The agent could not sell tickets, handle freight or express. Those who wanted these services were obliged to call the Guelph master agency. The inconvenience resulted in loss of revenue to the railway when people found other means of travel or shipping express and freight. Many Acton residents have expressed the opinion that if the railway wishes to pull up stakes in Acton, then let it go and pull up the tracks, too, because they don't want to be bothered either by the noise of whistles or the hazards from crossings. Others are still concerned that moving the service out will continue to work against the best interests of the municipality, hamper development and completely shut off the passenger service still available. Industry in Acton and district has made no formal protests about moving of freight service to Guelph. Reaction from spokesmen of several companies was that they had discontinued using the railway and found other means of moving freight.

Okay Halton-Peel if Burlington included

Halton County will ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs to form a regional government unit with Halton and Peel on condition that Burlington is included in the region. The decision at the final meeting of County Council Tuesday came over the opposition of Nassagaweya and Acton representatives who fought to remain firm on an earlier county decision favoring Halton as a single regional unit.

A recorded vote on the contentious question, the last piece of business dealt with at the wind-up meeting, showed 28 votes to 6. Of the 14 member council five members opposed the move. The vote reflects the weighted voting system related to population in effect on recorded votes. Support for the action came from Oakville, Burlington, Georgetown, Milton and Warden Currie of Esqueping. Opposed were Nassagaweya and Acton and Deputy-Reeve Tom Hill of Esqueping.

Reeve Gordon Gallagher of Burlington, speaking in support, reported a Burlington council vote had favored that town remaining in a Peel-Halton unit by a 10-1 vote the previous evening. Reeve Alan Day of Oakville sought to delay the decision, suggesting the county should study the results of the Steele Report and the recent Burlington referendum. Warden George Currie warned members that this was the most important decision they had considered all year and called for

full debate on the topic. Entering a plea to stand firm, Deputy-Reeve Gordon Agnew of Nassagaweya suggested the Ontario government was "running scared". He suggested the government would be very happy for Halton to "throw in the sponge. It's time to remain damn firm", he insisted on the county's earlier request for a single Halton unit. "I fully realize there will be no regional government of one county at a time", Deputy-Reeve A. Speight of Georgetown concluded. He suggested the time had come that if "we're going to save Burlington with Halton we have to indicate to the Minister we're willing to go along with regional government for Halton-Peel".

"Now is the time to do something", Deputy-Reeve Bert Reeve of Burlington pleaded. "We all want Halton as a unit but I don't believe anyone in this room feels we can accomplish it. If we don't do something, something will be done for us." "Surely we are not living under a threat", Reeve A. MacArthur of Nassagaweya observed. "If the provincial government is holding a hammer over our heads it's all the more reason to stand up and fight. What are the advantages? she questioned. "I'd like to see Milton and Burlington make a

Bell block building?

Development in Acton could come to an abrupt halt if Bell Canada's inferences that they would not be able to supply the equipment to service telephones are not backlashed from the Transport Committee's hearing rejecting two-thirds of a Bell plea for rate hikes. Mayor Les Duby told the Hydro Commission that the company's area manager phoned that afternoon to notify him that a six million dollar cut in the budget almost ruled out more than six or seven phones being installed in the Churchill Rd. North subdivision now being constructed. Bell only received

one-third of the hike asked for and this had created a dollar deficit which ruled out much expansion. It could seriously hinder homes being built in Acton," the mayor declared, "if people can't have phones." The mayor wondered whether the company was trying to get even with the town for opposing the rate increases but later stated the situation was not confined to Acton. The manager said he was also living in hell in the city of Guelph over the company's money embarrassment. "It would be too bad if this happens just when it is our turn

to develop," the mayor said. Vice chairman Tyler wasn't too perturbed. "They must provide," he declared advising the mayor not to lose too much sleep over it. "Other people will have a say in this, too," he predicted. A letter from council asked the commission's co-operation in future tree trimming by qualified tree surgeons. The tree trimming on Churchill Rd. was criticized by Mr. Tyler who said people have been sent to jail for less. Chairman Wilf McEachern presided for the meeting with all commissioners present.

Hydro plays Santa Claus

One local lady will be \$229.12 richer this Christmas thanks to a red faced Santa Claus. That is the amount overcharged one water heater bill and Acton Hydro agreed Thursday night they would have to reimburse the customer. The lady has been paying a flat rate on the heater since June of 1964, in addition to the metered rate. The installation of a new heater uncovered the double charge. The customer thought she was paying only the \$3.58 a month flat rate for a rental heater. "She is entitled to the rebate," agreed Commissioner MacArthur, who along with other members of the Commission were mystified by the mix-up. (Continued on Page 3)

BULLETIN—

Local police maintained roadblocks through the North Halton area Tuesday afternoon, following a noon-hour robbery at Mount Hope. Roadblocks were called off by OPP headquarters at approximately Tuesday.



DENTAL HYGIENIST Mary Ludzik of the Halton County Health Unit directed the first year "Brush-in" in County schools, at Robert Little school Tuesday.—(Staff Photo)

To Joe with love

The town office is ready to receive Christmas gifts this Thursday and Friday. They have an appeal out for donations—and they don't need to be wrapped in Christmas paper and tied with red ribbon. What's this, on their Christmas list? It's D.D.T. And they want all they can get. D.D.T. is banned for home use throughout the province starting in the new year. It can't be disposed of at home or put in the regular garbage. So clerk-administrator Joe Hurst has an ad in today's Free Press stating D.D.T. will be accepted at the town office all day Thursday and Friday. He expects to just "keep it" till he hears from the province what decision has been made.

Collision Friday has \$850 damage

An accident on Queen St. at the BP car wash involved two cars Friday morning. Drivers were Stewart Brown, Toronto, who was travelling west and had estimated \$600 damage to his car, and Bill Landborough, Acton, whose father's car received an estimated \$250 damage. The Landborough car was making a left turn, according to police, and when the Toronto car braked it skidded on the slippery, wet pavement.

Lack of liaison with council frustrating to planning board

Frustrated by reading in the Free Press that council had referred their approval for a small shopping plaza back to committee, planning board found no answers to their questions at their regular meeting Thursday in the council chambers. Their two representatives from council were both absent, councillor G. W. McKenzie at the school safety patrol dinner and Councillor Earl Masales at work.

When councillor McKenzie arrived late, he explained that the night council had referred the plan back to committee, he and Mr. Masales had again been absent—he at parent-teacher interviews and Mr. Masales at work. He said he was sure if he had been at council, he could have explained why planning board had felt approval should be given to the Becker's milk plaza at the Queen-Churchill corner. In so doing, the board had not agreed

with the recommendation of the Project Planning Association. (Project Planners Associates representative, Denis Flood, had not attended either meeting when the new shopping plaza was discussed. The official recommendation had been that a plaza should wait, and be located further down the highway after the subdivisions in that area had been developed. Planning board felt the plaza would be an asset, and the location was a suitable one.)

"I like to read the local paper," mused Paul Martindale, "but I don't like to get information that way." "There could be better liaison" sighed chairman Bob Drinkwater. Mr. McKenzie had contacted fellow councillors after reading in the paper about the hold-up in approval. It wasn't rejected, he stressed, just referred for further information. Another item on the agenda caused a repeat of the "lack of

liaison" tune. December brings the meeting date when planning board would recommend to council the appointment for the coming year. Vic Bristow's term is ending, since he joined the board this year to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Charlie Perry. Mr. Bristow said he had already been approached by a council representative to ask if he would remain on the board. The board nevertheless

adhered to its prerogative and passed a resolution recommending Mr. Bristow be appointed to planning board again. "If we're going to be a rubber stamp we might as well fold up," Mr. Martindale mused. After serving as board secretary-treasurer for three and a half years, Iain Williams submitted his resignation, but agreed to serve until a replacement can be found. Mr. Drinkwater was given authority

to contact the town office to see if the duties could be undertaken there, and, if not, to place an ad in the Free Press. In thanking Mr. Williams, Mr. Drinkwater commented the job is more involved than realized. Mr. McKenzie also agreed that planning goes deeper than most people realize. It's hard to keep abreast with changes, he said. As requested by the planning consultant, a more detailed plan of the apartment proposed for the Orr property was presented.

The plan was considered by the board and will be forwarded to Project Planners for their recommendations. Board members expressed particular concern about adequate storm and sanitary sewers and the need for a buffer zone with bushes to separate the area from the neighboring private homes. The drawings of the lot show an entrance off Bower Ave., where

(Continued on Page 4)