



VOLUNTEERS AND FIREFIGHTERS were able to remove some furniture from the blazing farm home of three families

during Tuesday morning's fire on the Fifth Line of Nassagaweya. Then flames drove them back and the house and remaining contents were a total loss.—(Staff Photo)

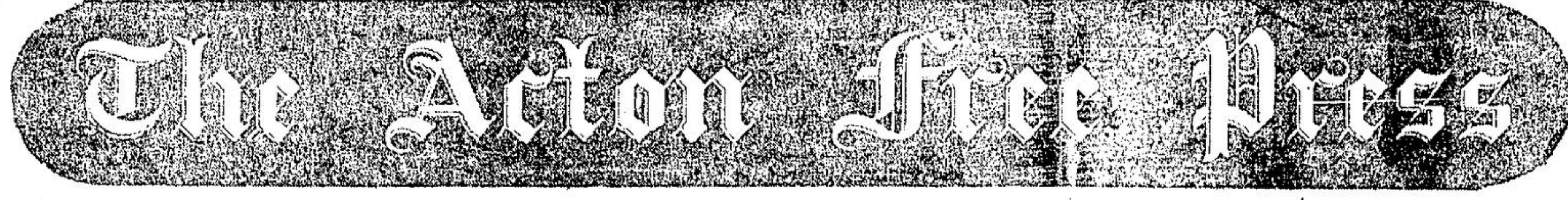


WHAT DO YOU THINK of as you watch the home you lived in for two years go up in smoke and flames? Mrs. Floyd Foster,

some furniture saved and out in the snow, reflects on the loss but is thankful everyone got out of the house safely.—(Staff Photo)

Flames level country house, 15 homeless

Three families lose possessions



Ninety-Sixth Year. — No. 25

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1970

Twenty Pages — Fifteen Cents

Three families with nine children are safe but homeless after a disastrous fire which swept through a 75-year-old frame farm house at R. R. 2, Rockwood, on the Fifth Line of Nassagaweya, late Tuesday morning.

Acton firefighters, with two trucks pressed into service, were helpless to do anything but prevent flames from spreading to neighboring farm buildings. The house, once the Near home, was an inferno when the brigade arrived. Flames levelled it to the foundation.

The families lost all their possessions except for living room furniture belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Foster which was removed in the fire's early stages. They carried no insurance.

Homeless are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Calzavera and six children ranging in age from one month to 10 years, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Foster and their two children, Norman 4, and Tammy Lee, one, and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Geneau who have one child.

No one was injured as the families evacuated the home, known as the Honey Locust Farm after trees by the same name in front. Mrs. Foster phoned in the alarm after Nancy Calzavera was unable to contact the Acton brigade.

The fire was believed to have started in the children's bedroom at the back of the house, which is owned by Bert Leroy, of Oakville. Mr. Leroy, who stays at the farm and brings his family up for weekends, was not there during the fire. The house was insured.

Mr. Foster was called home from his work from Acton Motors and assisted neighbors and passersby to remove furniture from his apartment.

"There it goes — five years of work," the distraught young father of two said afterwards as they watched the front verandah of the house collapse in the intense heat.

A propane gas tank exploded during the blaze blasting a gaping hole in the burning building and sending debris hurtling over nearby fields. Flaming brands landed in a nearby swamp. Helpers clustered around the front of the house, started by the explosion, were showered with sparks and debris. Again no one was injured.

Firefighters narrowly escaped injury too, when a refrigerator on the second floor, plunged down to where they were standing moments before playing hoses on the flames.

Fleeing families and their children were harbored at the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Hanousek. Two of the nine children were in school.

Mr. Calzavera and Mr. Geneau were working at Indusmin Quarries and Beardmore and Co. respectively and did not learn about the fire until the early part of the afternoon. Mr. Geneau and his wife and child went to stay with his mother, who lives in the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster and children had quarters offered them at the home of Steve Manery on 30 Sideroad. The Calzaveras went looking for

accommodation during the afternoon leaving their children in the care of Mrs. Hanousek, who told the Free Press last night (Tuesday) that she had received offers of accommodation for the stricken family.

The families lost almost all their possessions including Christmas presents. "I had all my Christmas presents bought and in my bedroom but there was no way to get them out," said Mrs. Foster. Included among them was a tune-up kit her husband admired and was bought for Christmas.

Among articles rescued which gave the young mother some satisfaction was the piano, which firefighters and volunteers managed to save just ahead of the flames engulfing the interior of the house.

The farm is located about two miles south of 7 Highway. Smoke and flames could be seen for miles attracting the curious as well as neighbors and friends.

Second time

In spite of the fire which robbed them of almost all their clothes, Mr. and Mrs. Foster were thankful no one was hurt during the fire. They comforted each other with assurances the furniture and clothing could be replaced.

Mr. Foster recalled this was

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Commission raps Chamber

Acton Chamber of Commerce was the target for criticism voiced by Acton Hydro Commissioner Ted Tyler Sr. at the commission's final monthly meeting, Thursday night.

Commissioner Tyler expressed concern the Chamber weren't able to find \$350 to spend on Christmas street lighting. Christmas lighting was to be a three way project with the Chamber supplying funds, the commission providing labour and the town donating power, according to commissioner Tyler.

Chamber approached Hydro. A representative of the Chamber had approached the

commission in October. The Chamber rep estimated repairs to present lighting would cost about \$800. An investigation since, by Hydro superintendent Doug Mason revealed only \$350 was necessary for repairs.

Reminded responsibility for Christmas street lighting used to be assumed totally by the Chamber, commissioner Tyler nodded in agreement. "There are a number of things they used to do they don't do anymore," he replied.

Was under better management. Referring to the days the Chamber looked after Christmas street lighting, commissioner

Tyler added "That's when the Chamber was under better management, when they were out to make money, not throw it away."

The Chamber of Commerce used to assume a lot of work to save the legs of council, in commissioner Tyler's view. "One time the Chamber of Commerce used to have cars out and take people to vote," he recalled.

Commissioner Tyler went on to compare the Acton Chamber with the relatively new Milton Chamber.

"Acton Chamber of Commerce was organized many years ago," he pointed out. "The Milton

Chamber hasn't been organized long and they're giving a free bus service," he continued.

Not in same park. "The Milton paper shows the aims of the Chamber of Commerce. These fellows aren't even in the same park," commissioner Tyler concluded.

Mayor Les Duby thought perhaps consideration should be given to the town taking over the responsibility for Christmas street lighting.

Commissioner Tyler said he would be opposed to subsidizing the Chamber for Christmas street lighting.

Bank blamed

Canadianism rouses council

A strong sense of Canadian identity showed up at Acton council meeting on Tuesday evening when councillors Coats and Marks submitted the following resolution to council:

"Whereas the chartered banks of Canada enjoy protection under the bank act from foreign takeover and

Whereas recently the Bank of Montreal transferred its ad-

vertising account from a Canadian-owned company to a subsidiary of an American company,

"Be it therefore resolved that the clerk be instructed to investigate the financial implications of transferring all accounts and loans from the Bank of Montreal to other banks in the town of Acton."

No complaint locally. Councillor Coats in presenting the motion said he had no complaints with the local branch and the service given but this was an action against the head office

Cigarettes cash taken

An estimated 300 cartons of cigarettes and about \$50 in cash was reported missing following a break-in at Foodland store on the weekend. Evidently access was gained through the front door Sunday night or Monday morning, with the thieves leaving by the back door.

Cons. Bruce McArthur is investigating.

which he felt had instituted action "not necessarily good for Canada".

He pointed out the resolution doesn't withdraw business from the Bank of Montreal but merely institutes an investigation.

No problem. Reeve Oakes said that he could foresee no physical complications in transferring to another branch. He said the suggestion had been investigated six years ago but in the light of these new circumstances a new approach can be made.

Deputy-reeve Tyler said "This is pretty drastic action." He felt councillor Coats had studied the situation at length but he himself didn't feel well enough informed on the subject to vote.

Clerk Hurst wondered if the Bank of Montreal was the only bank in this situation.

The motion was tabled and referred to committee and the clerk for study

OVERNIGHT parking can bring tickets from the police these days. Seven cars were ticketed Monday night. The snow plow must go through!

municipalities are dealing with this growing problem. The mayor felt the onus was on the municipality to come up with a curfew or something.

Maybe park? Councillor Marks said he would



Hello, Santa? . . .

YOUNG JAMES Kelman appears fascinated by the toy telephone he received as a gift at Building Products employees' annual Christmas party at the Acton Music Centre, Saturday afternoon.—(Staff Photo)

Three accidents during week

Two accidents investigated by Acton police this week involved parked cars.

Maurice Gerth, Peel St., Acton, was driving when his car struck a parked car owned by Alfred Neumann, R. R. 1, Acton. The Gerth car was not damaged but the Neumann car had an estimated \$100 damage. The incident occurred Friday on Wellington St.

On Saturday on Churchill Rd. N., a car driven by Michael Ulmeanu, R. R. 2 Acton, struck a parked car owned by Reg Andrews, Acton. Each car

received an estimated \$200 damage.

In another accident Friday on Churchill Rd. N. a car driven by Hugh Gourley, R. R. 2, received no damage while the car driven by Don Grein, Acton received \$300 damage.

There were no injuries.

THERE ARE more local dances than ever before this New Year's Eve — Legion, band hall, curling club, Acton golf club and Halton Heights Golf Club. Not long ago only the Legion had a dance New Year's Eve.

Snowmobiles: 2 a.m., no lights, private property

During the inquiry period at Tuesday night's council meeting, most councillors reported receiving complaints about snowmobiles within the municipality. Reports of snowmobiles operated after 2

a.m., without lights, on sidewalks and main thoroughfares and over private property were reported.

Mayor Duby said it was very difficult to legislate restrictions against a problem such as this,

however the municipality also had a responsibility to protect the rights of the majority.

Will investigate. It was agreed that investigation would be made to try to find out how other

municipalities are dealing with this growing problem.

The mayor felt the onus was on the municipality to come up with a curfew or something.

Maybe park? Councillor Marks said he would

ask parks board at their next meeting to take a look at the by-law prohibiting snowmobiling in the park. He suggested that there was a larger amount of snow this year and damage to the grass might not be so great.

Mayor Duby reminded the chairman of the parks board that there were also citizens living near the park on Park Ave. and Lake Ave. who could be affected by increased use of the park as a snowmobile range.

Look for house. Mr. and Mrs. Foster and children had quarters offered them at the home of Steve Manery on 30 Sideroad. The Calzaveras went looking for

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Early issues

Next week's and the following week's issues of the Free Press will appear a day early to ensure delivery in time for the holidays. Publication dates have been moved ahead to Tuesday, December 22, and Tuesday, December 29. This also entails altering deadlines.

Display advertising deadlines for the Dec. 22 issue is Monday, Dec. 21 at noon; classified advertising must be in by 5 p.m. Monday. This is our special Christmas greeting issue so advertisers wishing to insert a greeting message are urged to contact the advertising department no later than noon Monday.

December 29 issue deadlines will be the same — display ads by noon Monday, Dec. 28 and classifieds by 5 p.m. Monday.