

Teacher profile

Mrs. Joan Morgan has many enthusiasms

By Corie Maxwell



PREPARING A lesson is A.H.S. teacher Joan Morgan, whose subjects are English, Typing and remedial reading. She lives in Burlington.—(Staff Photo)

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH



In order to raise money for our annual Christmas assembly, the grade 13 class, (who are sponsoring the assembly), held a bake sale last Tuesday. The money which was made will be used to buy decorations and supplies for the assembly. The sale lasted from 10 a.m. to 3.20 p.m. and approximately \$13 was made.

Do these songs bring back memories? "R-O-C-K", by Bill Haley and the Comets; "Hound Dog" by Elvis Presley; "The Banana Boat Song" by the Tarrriers; "Don't be Cruel" by Elvis Presley; "Bull Moose" by Bobby Darrin; "I Walked the Line" by Johnny Cash or "Dream Lover" by Bobby Darrin. This is the bit of nostalgia which hit Acton High last Friday. The physical education department played these songs from 78 r.p.m. records, while phys. ed. classes were in progress. As students swung badminton rackets in time with the music, a few teachers clustered around the record player "living" to their favorite yester-year tunes.

Last week the grade 13 students wrote the S.A.C.U. tests. (S.A.C.U. stands for Service For Admission to College and University). This includes a scholarship aptitude test in the morning and an English language achievement test in the afternoon. This test is given across Canada and in some foreign centres. Its purpose is to give college and university officials a standardized evaluation of the student's academic aptitude as compared to other Canadian students.

Most universities have three basic criteria for admission: 1. Grade 11, 12 and 13 marks. 2. Accommodation by the school. 3. S.A.C.U. tests (mainly for borderline cases).

SCAT tests There was another set of tests last week for the grade 9 students. They were called the SCAT test (School and College Aptitude Tests). These tests are offered across Halton County and their purpose is to give students and their counsellors some information on their academic potential for academic and vocational planning. The group testing program at

the H.S. is limited to S.A.C.U. and S.C.A.T., but individual tests and inventories are offered at the students' or parents' request. Mr. Skerrett, head of guidance, feels that the danger in tests lies in their interpretation and that if they are considered one piece of information added to a host of others, they can be quite helpful.

This year, Acton High has started a brand new school store called "The Closet". The marketing 400 class is sponsoring it and in order to find out more about school stores, three students from the class—Margot Matheson, Nancy Frost, and Ron Mailloux, accompanied by two staff members, Mr. Boris Shean and Mr. Ian McGillivray went to White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville for a workshop.

There were many schools present and each gave opinions and problems which they had found in running a school store. Our representatives found some mistakes that "The Closet" has made and also found out how to solve some of these problems. It was very informative and our representatives learned many things that we can use.

Both students and staff felt that the workshop was very beneficial.

If you are wondering who organizes the dances, most assemblies and a lot of the school's activities, you would be wrong in saying the staff of Acton High.

Each Tuesday afternoon the student council have a meeting. There are representatives from each home form, the executives of the student council and a staff advisor—either Mr. Coats or Mr. Eastwood.

The meeting starts with the roll call and minutes of the last meeting, by secretary Nancy Abram, followed by the treasurer's report by Robert Ellerby.

The president, Hank Wissenz and vice president, Sean Ahern work hard in organizing activities which are beneficial and which they feel the students will enjoy.

At the last meeting, such issues as the school's dance rules, money raising schemes, inter-school teams (or rather the lack of them this year) and a student council constitution were on the agenda and dealt with.

It was mentioned that the student council is planning to present a new set of dance rules to the staff in the New Year, since there has been some dissatisfaction shown with the previous set.

The student council is also engaging the group, "Edward Bear" to perform some time in December.

Mrs. Joan Morgan who teaches English, typing and remedial reading at Acton High, believes that you shouldn't become attached to any set, fixed ideas. As circumstances change or as you begin to see things differently, you should alter your philosophy. Mrs. Morgan says, "You should try to live a happy and fulfilling life and when you find that you're not doing just that, change your lifestyle to encompass the change."

After teaching for three years in Toronto, Mrs. Morgan and her husband spent a year travelling. Their aim was to go around the world. That is, start at Toronto and end up in Vancouver. They spent one summer in Great Britain; worked in Switzerland for six weeks; stayed in France for three months, doing odd jobs, then on to Spain via Northern Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, East Pakistan and finally to India. Their impression of India was one of depression and it was so hot they thought they would never get back and this ended their sojourn around the world.

From the west This is Mrs. Morgan's fourth year of teaching. She was born in Manitoba but grew up and was educated in Saskatchewan, before coming to Toronto and O.C.E. She now lives in Burlington. She has an older brother in Victoria and a younger sister in Toronto.

Mrs. Morgan's favorite colour is red and she is a Pisces in the signs of the Zodiac.

Blue uniform One of the things Mrs. Morgan appreciates about school dress is the attitude displayed by the students in their freedom of choice. She says "you'll find more and more kids who look almost exactly alike; it's almost as if they have a uniform and that uniform is blue jeans." She does feel, however, that some of the students could be better groomed.

Mrs. Morgan likes reading, sewing, cooking and finishing furniture. Travelling, skiing and skating are also rated as pleasures and she finds that she has so many interests that it is sometimes hard for her to come to work everyday.

Mrs. Morgan very much believes in Women's Lib, although she is not a charter member of any organization. She says, "The more we can release people from any stereotyped role, the happier we will be. If you liberate women from the roles they have to play, then you liberate men from their roles." For example; some women are not suited to raising children and would rather fulfill themselves at a more creative job, since this is not condoned by society, the woman is forced to stay at a job

which she might consider mundane. On the other hand, her husband may like his work but may not want to do it for the rest of his life. He may enjoy taking a year off to look after his children, but again, society does not actually approve of this. In this sense Mrs. Morgan believes in women's lib.

Dislikes arrogance Mrs. Morgan's pet peeve is arrogance. It is the one thing which bothers her most about people.

Mrs. Morgan feels that if students would become more enthused with their classes, they would enjoy them more. Mrs. Morgan thinks that students will only get out of school, what they put into it and sometimes they don't give classes a chance. If they think they're wasting their time, then their year will be unhappy. Mrs. Morgan likes Acton High very much and because it is a small high school is not as impersonal or cold as a larger school could be. She feels the same way about the town itself.

Her ability and experience is an asset to Acton.

High school trip "looks to the sky"

By Sheena Johnstone Have you ever had the opportunity to view the sky as early man did? To gaze upon the stars with no obstructions such as smog and other forms of pollution? If you haven't had this opportunity, maybe you have had the privilege of riding the tail of a comet to the distant planet Pluto.

On Wednesday, December 1, our grade nine science class, with chaperones Mr. and Mrs. Eastwood, had these opportunities. All this plus an enlightening narrative was presented at the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto. The show was designed exclusively for grades eight, nine and ten, and because of this the dialogue was easy to comprehend.

Free to wander We arrived at the Planetarium between ten-thirty and ten forty-five. At first we were free to wander and look at the many displays before the show started. The theatre itself is round and the show takes place on the dome shaped ceiling.

For the viewer's comfort, the chair reclines and prevents his neck from getting stiff. The show provides an excellent foundation for future studies of astronomy.

The program we saw was called "Look to the sky." But there is also a program for the general public entitled "The Star of Bethlehem."

On our way back to the school, the bus stopped at Cloverdale Mall, enabling us to catch up on some of the eating we had missed, or just to browse around. Despite the fact that three of us were delayed and consequently held up our departure, we made it back to the school just in time to attend our last class.

ACTON band took part in Milton's Santa Claus parade Saturday.

Georgia convention

Last week, Mr. Keith Black, geography teacher at Acton High, went to a convention in Atlanta, Georgia for three days.

A meeting at the Charles Hotel in Milton, he spoke to teachers of Halton County about his trip at the convention in Georgia. The emphasis was on "the relevance of geography to the issues of our times." At the sessions, it was argued that geography needs to become more prescriptive, and to become more involved in providing a geographic viewpoint about the issues of our times. As the main speaker stated in his address, "The creative frontier": our educative system needs to analyze the whole spectrum of our world today, rather than pinpoint our concern on certain parts only. We must be concerned with international

understanding; we need to respect human identity and the creative ability of man to overcome our problems. We need to opt into society and give our bit to find new answers.

Very beneficial The convention delegates were most interested in the approach and use made of school education in Ontario. They were enthusiastic about the idea of an educational field trip to the Mediterranean, financed by the students themselves.

Mr. Black felt his trip was very beneficial. "I learned a lot about geography's contribution in U.S.A. and I am pleased with the course of study here. I also learned more about the south and life in general in U.S.A. The landscape and people intrigued me."

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- Contest is open to anyone except participating merchants and their immediate families
- Employees of participating merchants not eligible to enter at their place of employment
- 5 names to be drawn weekly at each store. These names to go into master drum for grand prize
- These names will be published weekly in The Acton Free Press for the next 20 weeks
- All other names eligible for consolation prizes
- Trip must be taken... no cash
- Trip may be transferred
- Final draw on March 25th
- Contest open to all Acton area residents

Participating Stores

- Acton Pharmacy
- Acton I.G.A.
- Jims In-N-Out Variety
- Acton Home Furnishings
- Lovell Bros. Meats
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- J. B. Mackenzie & Son Ltd.
- Moss Hardware
- Nielsen's Clothing
- A-B Supermarket
- Watson's Restaurant
- Symons Hardware
- Hinton's 5' to 1 Store
- Benson's Shoe Store
- Dills Stationery Store

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS

T. Larsen, M. Patterson, Millie Rowles, Mary Humenuk, Mary Elliott, Vera Spires, Mary Couture, Mrs. W. Dubois, Mrs. J. Johnston, K. Heptner, J. Collett, Mrs. G. F. Ingles, Sue Murray, Ernie Gray, Mrs. M. P. Smith, C. J. Duker, Roy Carr, Roy Wood, Mrs. H. Wissens, E. Watzel, Ruth Courtney, Mrs. J. Dowding, H. Baren, James Sayers, Doug Sheppard, Florence Cousins, Jean McAfee, Helen-Holmes, Wm. McPhedran.

Eva Joubert, Henry Baren, Mrs. Susan Heller, Mrs. Crisp, Mrs. L. Medland, Mrs. J. Fedora, Maggie DeForest, H. Schmuksi, Melanie Hardie, Mrs. Maureen Charlton, Ad. McKerracher, Frank Freeman, H. Schmuksi, Cal McIntyre, Roberta Smith, Evelyn Deforest, Mrs. E. Donaghy, Mrs. D. Korink, Sheila Buchanan, C. Baker, Mrs. E. Mancini, Faye Plnk, Mrs. R. Armstrong, Gail Lidkea, M. Melsaac, Kim Eaton.

Jackie Phelan, Laura Dittich, Kathleen Alger, M. Kenney, Mary Vinski, I. Wilson, Mrs. W. Wilson, Greta Heller, Jane Hodge, Dodie McGilloway, Mrs. R. Jackson, Rose Gentles, Mrs. Mike DeJong, Tom Staves, D. Dawkins, John Harris, I. A. Williams, Mrs. David Hunter, Mrs. H. Harris, Karen Blain, Bryon Hammond, Mrs. Doris Allen, Mrs. G. Lamarche, Margaret McNabb, John Wiebe.

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- Santa figures and faces, electric wreaths, golden lanterns, lamp posts, candles, etc.

DECORATIONS FOR THE TREE

- Tree stands, stardust tree skirts, snow balls, tree drapes, tree tops, angels, stars, etc., icicles, angel hair, tinsel, garlands, ornament hangers, make it snow in assorted colors, also stencils.
- Tree balls and ornaments, choose from foil, blown glass, plastic, satin sheen, styrofoam, snowballs, etc.

DECORATIONS FOR THE HOUSE

Christmas door knockers, door and wall plaques, crepe paper—Christmas designs, and colors, Christmas bells and wreaths, garlands for fireplace and rooms, poinsettia, artificial Christmas flowers and sprigs, nativity sets, Santa figures, snowmen and reindeers, Christmas centerpiece for tables and fireplaces, silver and gold spray paint, fancy Christmas stockings, mistletoe sprigs and holly, Christmas candles, plain or twisted, decorated, novelty, some with fancy holders. A beautiful selection to choose from. Artificial Christmas trees, scotch pine or linsel from 2 to 6 feet.

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