

Special Christmas events

By Mrs. A. Benton
Quite a number of parents attended the Christmas party in Limehouse Memorial Hall for Brownies, Cubs, and Scouts on December 15. Earl Maltby was moved up from Cubs to Scouts. The program consisted of carols and skits.

Attend wedding
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Benton were guests on Saturday at the Judd-McMillan wedding in Barry Hill United Church and the reception in the Legion Hall in Guelph.
Large crowd attended.
The pupils at Limehouse Public School, especially the younger classes put on a very good program on Thursday evening. A large crowd attended.

Christmas eve
Mr. Robert Hyde will be speaker when a Christmas Eve service will be held at 9 p.m. at Limehouse Presbyterian Church. Arranged by the young people, the choir will sing several anthems and the public is invited. Professor Hay preached last Sunday, and Rev. G. Rennie, B.A. will next Sunday.

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH



By Corie Maxwell
The senior executive of the Oracle (which is A. H.'s yearbook), Debbie McGilroy, Karen Pierce and Julia Alkon attended a yearbook seminar in Toronto. They report an enjoyable time and came home with several good ideas to incorporate into our own yearbook. We'll be looking for them!

contest! Students have been busily attaching trimmings to their home form room doors in a Christmas way! One door has a partridge in a pear tree theme, with a star in the East over Bethlehem. Another has a decorated Christmas tree, securely attached, and others still, are covered in silver paper with multi-colored trimmings. This is one of the ways in which students and teachers make Christmas come to life at A.H.

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The bricks have all been laid in A. H.'s proposed new resource centre. The steel decking and steel joints (which hold the roof decking) are about to be assembled and the cement window sills have been poured. When asked if the weather had any adverse effects upon the job, one workman was quick to reply, (amidst a flurry of snow) "... It's cold!

\$30 prizes for windows

By Corie Maxwell
While walking or driving by the stores in Acton, you may have noticed the gaily decorated displays in the windows. These windows were decorated, as a contest, by students of A.H. in co-operation with the merchants and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.
The judges for the competition, Mrs. J. Levy, Mr. J. McGilroy, Mr. B. Shean and Mr. and Mrs. Daley, from Georgetown, made their decision, between eight windows, last Wednesday evening.

For the most original, Adam's Bus Depot won, by Terry Ward and Jim Kidd; and for the window with the most selling potential, Moss Hardware won, by Denise Drinkwater and Janet Gidman. A prize of \$30 from the Chamber of Commerce will be divided between the two teams.
This is the second year of the window decorating contest and the high school appreciates the co-operation of the merchants with this project.

As one teacher mentioned "This is education going out to the community!"

Suggest integrating

A committee, either of Halton County Board of Education trustees or an outside agency should examine education offered by the Halton Board to its retarded students, trustee Tom Watson said the board at a meeting in Burlington Thursday.
In a report submitted by Watson and Burlington trustee Noel Cooper it was pointed out the per pupil cost in the county runs at \$2,500 for the county's retarded students.
The two trustees forwarded four recommendations to the board after attending a conference for the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded in Halifax. While there the pair examined education facilities for retarded children.
Pilot project
Their report recommended a pilot project to integrate two classrooms of younger retardates into a regular elementary school. "This would alleviate a crowding problem in our retarded schools, and if successful after careful evaluation could pave the way for future programs for the retarded

in the community."
Watson felt the principal and staff of a school should be indoctrinated for this project. He said that if problems arose the school should be forgotten and a second one tried. He said it was important that a school that was eager to help the integration process be used.
Fear isolation
"We have taken retardation out of the closet in the home and put it on the closet in education". Retarded students wouldn't be integrated during classes but in corridors and on the buses, Watson said.
The report urged the formation of a parent indoctrination course. During this course the parent should be given a familiarization with all community services available to him as well as a background of what the school hopes to accomplish for the child and how the parent can help.

Today's winner

In the Pay What You Pull draw at the Christmas assembly at the high school this morning (Wednesday), the winner is Helen Yatesman.

Customs varied

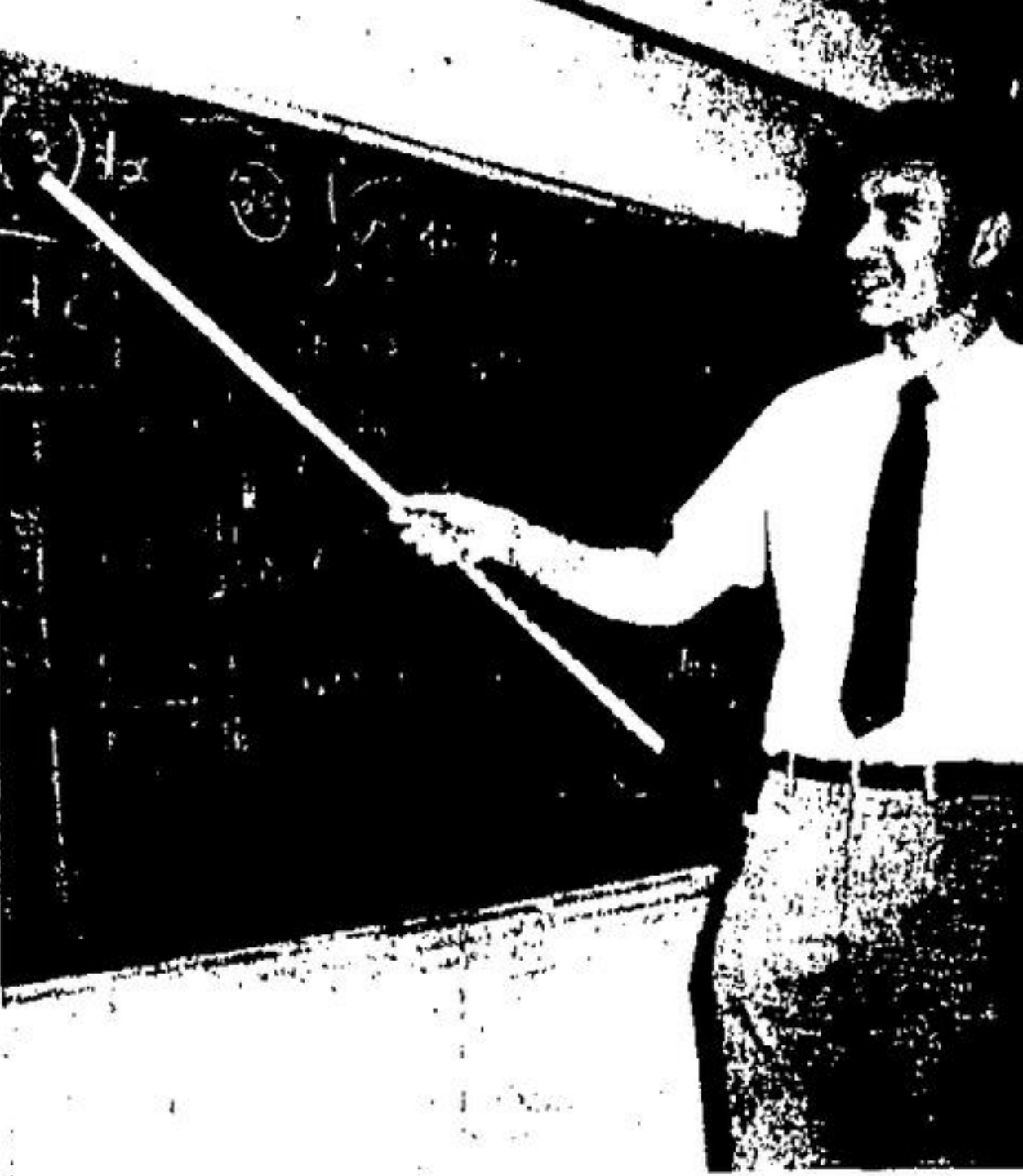
Australians spend Christmas upside-down from the rest of the world - eat on traditionally hot Christmas dinner, then cooling off from the boiling sun on the beaches!
Australia's Christmas, though it comes in December, has the weather of the July and August vacation-time of the Northern Hemisphere!
Some shopping
The pre-Christmas shopping rush is the same hectic, never-again experience, but further inconvenienced by temperatures that usually hover in the high 90's.
About 80 per cent of Australians live close to the beaches, from Cairns in the north, to Hobart in the south, and west to Perth - so it's natural that most should spend their festive holidays in beach houses, trailers, and tents!

No tree
There are no Christmas trees, of course, but many Australians tear a branch or two off the gum-tree, to serve as a stand-in.
In the south, where there are chimneys, the fireplace is used, but for the most, Christmas presents are soaked into a spare pillowcase and placed at the foot of the bed.

Likes longer periods knocks "new math"

By Corie Maxwell

Mr. Brian Downs, who is the new head of the math department at Acton High, was born and raised in Guelph, but is now living in Burlington. He has two boys and one girl, ages eight, six and two respectively.
This is Mr. Downs' eighth year of teaching and previously he has taught at Cayuga, at Southbound High School in Hamilton and at Burlington Central High School. He received his training in Toronto at the Ontario College of Education. Mr. Downs said he "sort of fell into" the teaching profession, since his decision was not made until the last year of University. Mr. Downs believes that "people should enjoy themselves be friendly, try to make other people happy and be happy themselves."



MATH HEAD Brian Downs is critical of the 'new math' and thinks its approach is "backwards". —(Staff Photo)

Isolated here
Mr. Downs feels that school spirit is mainly due to competition with other schools and in this sense Acton High is isolated. The intramural sports give more of a unified house league spirit than actual school spirit.

He also feels that the student's dress, as compared to 1964 when he first began to teach, has deteriorated. This does not refer to the Acton High students explicitly, but the dress does not differ from his previous schools.

Under the sign of the Zodiac, Mr. Downs is a Taurus and his favourite color is blue. Mr. Downs says of himself, "I am more of a watcher than a doer when it comes to athletics". He likes bowling and skating though, and swimming in the summer. He says, he is more of an indoor person and likes to play cards.

When asked about Women's Lib., Mr. Downs says that he can agree with some of their issues, but feels that some of the leaders at the top level are too radical and are attention seekers.

Better concentration
Mr. Downs thinks the semester system is 'great'. When students have only four or five subjects at one time, they are more apt to do their homework and their powers of concentration are better. Their

chances of success are improved because they are working on a subject for a shorter period of time, therefore, the problem of retention is not as great. He especially likes the hour periods for his math classes since the longer time allows for a concentrated effort for practice and drill under his guidance.

Mr. Downs feels very strongly that the 'new Math' is a lot of garbage. He thinks it has failed because before showing them how to do it, the new math shows them why they must do it... and this, in his mind, is backwards.
"First of all, kids should learn how to do something before they're shown why! In some cases, they are not even shown why, for it isn't really important!" The 'new math' involves the same questions that students were doing in the 'old math'. It is still algebra, geometry and trigonometry but

the approach is different.

Open concept
If Mr. Downs could change the school any way he wished, he would simply tear it down and build a new one. His thoughts lean toward more modern views with the open concept school. Within the structure of such a school, (which has a few rooms in one, with blackboard dividers), Mr. Downs feels more free and there is a sense of spaciousness.

If Mr. Downs weren't a teacher, he would like to be in the computer programming field. He thinks that Acton High is small but the students are pleasant. His aim is to do the best job he can as head of the math department and... (barring any dismal failures, such as the triangle no longer consisting of three straight lines)... will probably succeed.

Seek \$25,000 to renovate Nassagaweya township hall

Nassagaweya's Township Hall may be in line for some major renovations. At a recent meeting of the township council, members voted to ask the Federal Government for a grant of \$25,000 under the Federal Local Incentives program (Winter

Works).
Although council expressed a desire to have insulation for the ceiling and panelling for the walls plus electrical and plumbing work, top priority was given to the maintenance of the furnace and structure of the building. "If these go, the whole building goes," remarked Councillor James Watson.

Pays all labor
Under the terms of the program the Federal Government pays 100 per cent of

the labor costs and 17 and a half per cent of the material expenditures.

Councillor Watson mentioned he had been in contact with a contractor who said he would need the services of a block layer, a plumber and an electrician. Watson mentioned that the Federal grant for labor costs is only applicable for one skilled worker. Other employees must be welfare recipients or come from the Department of Manpower.

Project 500

Halton County Department of Social and Family Services will take part in Project 500. The project operated by the provincial department of Social and Family Services will provide 500 paid university or college graduates to departments around the province for four months.
Director Jim Gray suggested the county make application for two persons, one to work as a field officer and another as a liaison officer working in the office.

Won't hire
Gray said the county would not hire either on a full time basis but the two workers would be able to make use of the experience when they applied for work on another agency or with another county.

Township creates board

The Township of Nassagaweya now has its own library board. Nassagaweya Council passed a by-law creating the board at a regular meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

At its Dec. 8 meeting Council had received a deputation from George Goldstraw and Mrs. Thore Robinson of the Campbellville Library Committee, who told Council that if the library was made public, it would be eligible for a provincial grant.

Receive \$2,300
Members of council expressed some concern that the Township would be responsible for the Library Board's expenditures if the Province was tardy in allowing the grant. "The province could wait until August 31 before it gave the grant," quipped Councillor Calvin McIntyre. Council fears were alleviated when Mr. Goldstraw assured members the Library Board would receive the grant by April. Grants are based on 55 cents per capita on the population they serve. It was estimated a Nassagaweya library board would receive a grant of \$2,300.

The only library in the township is located at Campbellville.



At this wonderful time of the year we wish you and your families the merriest and happiest Christmas ever.

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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**
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 - 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**
- Mrs. J. Lambert, J. Denny, Jan Kranendonk, John Thompson, Roy Arnot, Mrs. B. Baxter, Mrs. Jack Gibson, Charlotte Marchmont, Mrs. Bea Anderson, Katherine Elliott, Walter Dubois, Sue Stone.
Stu McCulloch, Corry Vos, Mrs. Wayne Kelly, T. Kurpiewick, Mrs. W. Wilson, Steve Trotter, G. Sproule, T. N. LeBlanc, V. Henderson, Joe Marshall, Mrs. J. Curtis, Zyg Luty, Else Andersen, Ray Agnew, V. Henderson, Dorothy Cox.
Mrs. John McNabb, Christine Britton, V. Henderson, Sharon Ellerby, Ross Ribey, Garry Couture, G. J. Duenk, H. Schmuk, Mary Papillon, Gordon Diamond, R. McDowell, Anne Kremer, Peggy Grace, Mike Cooper, Mrs. D. Bradshaw, Pat Henderson, Mrs. C. Campbell, Rae Swackhamer, F. Dent, Jessie Robertson, Lucy Synnot, Gordon Gibbins, Fran Marcoux, Mrs. A. Murchison.
Valerie Fraser, S. Turow, Colin Williams, Val McGinn, Jennifer Price, R. Toth, Mrs. W. Wilson, Roy Roszell, Bryon Walker, D. Mason, Betty Dunn, Ann McCarron, Mrs. Gordon Lambert, Mrs. Gordon Johnston, Jane Hodge, Marie Holmes, Fred Dent.
Mrs. Verley Hillier, Mrs. M. Ancker, Jack Tizzard, C. Holmes, R.R. I, Campbellville; Mrs. G. Schneider, Kathy McLure, H. Townsley, Roy McFadden, Fred New, Marlene Titon.

Peace, Joy
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