



FLAMES CHARRED the outside of the Highway Garage during Wednesday's destructive fire which gutted the back end of the building and caused almost \$20,000 in damage.—(Staff Photo)

Brigade battles . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)
welding equipment, and innumerable tools and equipment which Mr. Saunders had accumulated from his years in the excavating business. Fortunately larger pieces of excavating equipment were elsewhere.
A car and truck in the garage were removed by Mr. Saunders before the flames could reach them. Attempts to douse the flames with a fire extinguisher first looked successful but they broke out again along the partition which separated the workshop from the two bay garage.
Firefighters filled their tank again at a nearby creek and emptied it onto the remains of the flaming building.
Neighbor phones
A neighbor telephoned Mr. Saunders to tell him the building was belching smoke. He ran to the workshop while his wife phoned in the alarm. Grease and

oil in the garage and workshop as well as tires fed the flames. Two nearby gasoline tanks were saved from the heat.
Mr. Saunders believes he could have saved the building if several extinguishers had been handy when the fire first broke out but he was helpless to prevent the fire spreading. Monday, Mrs. Saunders praised the speed with which the Acton brigade responded to the call.
About an hour after the fire at the Saunders property, the firefighters were called to the home of Ed Brown, 96 Churchill Rd. S., where a youngster was cooking some lunch while Mrs. Brown lay in bed sick.
Flames scorched the stove, cupboards and walls of the kitchen. Ejectors had to be used to expel acrid-smelling smoke. There was also some water damage.
It took firefighters only a few minutes to douse the flames.

OPP report another busy weekend

Icy roads and bad weather were responsible for 14 motor vehicle accidents on Friday, North Halton OPP say. The weekend was busy for the district police too, who report investigating at least six accidents on Saturday, six on Sunday and six Monday. A few of the accidents involved personal injury, although most were damage only.
Two trucks were involved in a collision on the property of Dufferin Quarries, Base Line, Nassagaweya on Friday. The drivers involved were Oswald Kirkland and Rupert Russell. Both men are from Toronto. Estimated damage to the

Kirkland truck was \$600; to the Russell vehicle \$1,000.
Three cars collide
There were no injuries in a three car collision on Highway 25, just north of Highway 401 on Friday. Drivers involved were Steven Timbers of Acton, Jessie Toland of Chatham and Margaret Nichols of 33 Miles St., Milton. Estimated damage to the Timbers vehicle was \$1,100; to the Toland car \$350; to the Nichols vehicle \$50.
A Milton woman was involved in a collision with nine guide posts on Sunday. The site of the accident was Highway 25 and 10th Sideroad, Esquesing. The driver involved was Paula Ryan

Ceremonies mark meeting

Erin township council held the first meeting of 1972 a little earlier in the day than usual, this month, in order to give members of council, municipal employees, and guests, a chance to say a few words.
Reverend Wayne Maddock of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hillsburgh opened the session with verses from the Scripture and a short prayer.
Reeve Lloyd Lang spoke optimistically of work to be done in 1972, then called on those present, explaining that the Deputy-Reeve Donald Matheson was in Winnipeg.
Of the speakers, at least three

had been in public office for some length of time. Henry Wheeler of the Village Trustees mentioned this was his 50th consecutive year in municipal affairs.
Councillor Harold Griffith, counting back, stated he has missed only three years on council since he first started at the inaugural meeting 27 years ago, adding that it has been a real privilege to serve the people.
Clerk present
Although consigned to the sidelines because of a recent illness, Clerk Elmer McKinnon was present, and said it was nice to be back, even as a spectator.

Mr McKinnon has been with the township for 20 years, 13 of them as clerk.
Others present, and asked to say a few words were Councillors Bill McLean and Bert Wheeler who thanked council for the time put in on behalf of the Fire Department, Road Superintendent Ed Bardon, Building Inspector Jim Delaney, Treasurer Bert Berry, and Wendy Thomson from the Free Press.
Council and guests adjourned to the Old Hotel Restaurant for lunch then inspected the new fire hall before resuming the council meeting.

Money shortages trims plans

Tight financial restrictions have forced Halton County Roads Committee to defer some of their projects by a year in some cases and two years in others.
The tight money conditions are brought about partly because of the inclusion of Main St. Milton in the county roads system and the \$310,000 reconstruction program required for that road in 1972.
Not considered
In the original five-year program no consideration had been given to the Main St. because it was under the control

of the town at that time. It was taken over by the county a year ago. While it will go ahead as slated some projects have been shifted back a year.
Roads chairman Jim Swanborough was provoked when he learned engineer Jack Corbett was recommending the reconstruction of the Guelph Line in Burlington from Mainway to Upper Middle Rd. be left a year.
Supported Main St.
He said he had supported the inclusion of the Main St. Milton but wasn't aware that other roads would be deferred because of it.

Mr. Corbett said the county would be in a better position to design that portion of road in another year once they learned what developments take place there.
The reconstruction of 22 Sideroad near Limehouse was set for 1975 rather than 1974; the Cedar Springs Rd. reconstruction was deferred from 1973 to 1974 and the construction of the Bronte Rd. subway was deferred from 1974 to 1975. The reconstruction of Bronte Rd. between the Queen Elizabeth and Lakeshore Rd. was set for 1976 rather than 1975.

Most can't afford home, panel says

"Acton leads both Georgetown and Milton in per capita senior citizen housing," reported Mrs. Margaret Willoughby at the meeting of the Women's University Club of Milton and District on Thursday, January 6, at the home of Mrs. Marjorie Powys, Milton.
A panel of Women's University Club members presented information on housing problems with emphasis on the three towns

of Milton, Acton and Georgetown. The members of the panel included Miss Isobel Davy, Mrs. Helen Scisizzi, Mrs. Beverly Whamough, and Mrs. Margaret Willoughby. The moderator was Mrs. Agnes Ruhl.
People's needs
Miss Davy stressed the essentials in ideal houses as well as the psychological needs for individuals. All people need ready access to nature, space for hobbies and play, and especially privacy. To avoid ghetto-like housing developments she suggested that both the old and young live in an area.

Five year budget forecast

At their regular meeting last week Halton County Board of Education tabled a five year capital budget forecast of \$20,915,000. In his presentation superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley noted the capital forecast was up \$19,225,000 from the last forecast.
The budget includes \$6,365,000 for elementary schools and \$12,550,000 for secondary schools. This covers construction of new facilities and renovation of the old. The budget also covers the cost of property acquisition.
The capital budget is a forecast of what will be needed to meet growing demands on the facilities. It covers the cost of buildings and land but not salaries or instructional costs.
The acceptance of the budget does not bind the board to each project outlined in the forecast.

Desperate need
Mrs. Scisizzi summed up the report. Her statistics showed that 93 per cent of the population in Canada cannot afford to buy a home. New low cost housing is needed desperately and she urged the Club members to support local groups working for better housing.
The next meeting will be on February 3 at the home of Mrs. Isabel Thompson. The speaker will be Mr. Henry John of the Toronto Distress Centre.



A Christmas story:

My donkey Anna Belle

By Jennifer Barr
CONCLUSION

Another big event in Anna Belle's life was being entered in the Rockwood Carnival in June. This carnival is completely for charity, all home grown talent, quite large, and loads of fun. Annr Belle, Jingle Belle and Earl Grey were scheduled to join the parade and then go in the pet show with the children.
Jingle and Earl were to be ridden and decorated with flowers, Jingle sporting a "Support your local heart fund" sign on her tail. Anna Belle was dressed as a flower child wearing a fringed sheet with peace signs on it and lots of flowers all over. They really looked sweet when first done up but a half-mile walk down a busy highway to the parade meeting place, with me hanging on to a very excited pair (Earl was ridden by his owner)

and trying to keep the children from being bounced on, succeeded in wrecking most of the costumes.
Kick-off
By the time we found a place in the long parade line, Jingle had kicked off her sign, eaten most of Belle's flowers and terrified Erica who was to ride her. Belle had her blanket round her stomach and kept treading on the fringe—anything but peaceful.
We finally got settled and the parade moved off with two, now, dignified but tattered animals drawing "oohs" and "aahs" from the spectators.
They all got their pictures taken for the newspaper and had lots of timid pets from we admirers, crowning the day by Jingle winning a third prize ribbon for Patrick, and by Anna Belle coming first in the most unusual pet for Erica.
Incidentally, she beat a one-eyed frog on a leash.

We must end the chronicle of Anna Belle's first year. She is now a plump sophisticated yearling contenting herself by moaning a great deal and still stealing cat dinners. Her favourite time to speak is when I am on the barn phone.
Shocked silence
The shocked silence on the other end, as the sobbing intake of breath is followed by a very loud creaking door sound, is priceless. Long distance operators have known to crack up completely, after a conversation with Anna Belle.
And Anna Belle has become attractive to males. I enjoy the familiar sight of a donkey mincing around the field with fluttering eyelashes, twitching tail, a Mona Lisa smile, and an entourage of hopeful geldings.
Three husbands have been found for Belle to choose at the age of three. I wonder if she'll accept a donkey jack after being raised with horses.
After hearing the stories of donkey longevity I realize Anna Belle will be with me for 30 years or more. A pleasant thought, except that I also will be quite middle-aged by then.
On that cheerful note, the curtain falls.

Fowl tally: all present

Thought to be killed or missing a while ago, the full complement of ducks and geese is now accounted for at the lake. Although dogs harass the clipped-winged birds, apparently none have been killed. They're all back in the semi-domesticated flock, anyway.
They have taken a winter migration...over to the water near the dam, where the Beardmore "burpers" keep the water open all through the freeze up.
Their houses will be going

along too, but the birds seem to have no inclination to get housebound. Even in last Friday's blowing storm, they stayed contentedly outside.



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