



ONLY THE SHELL of the Master Feeds mill at Stewarttown remains standing and hosed down by firefighters after a fierce fire early Tuesday morning. It is the third mill to be burned on the site, long a magnet for farmers in the district. The adjacent store was not touched.—(Staff Photo)

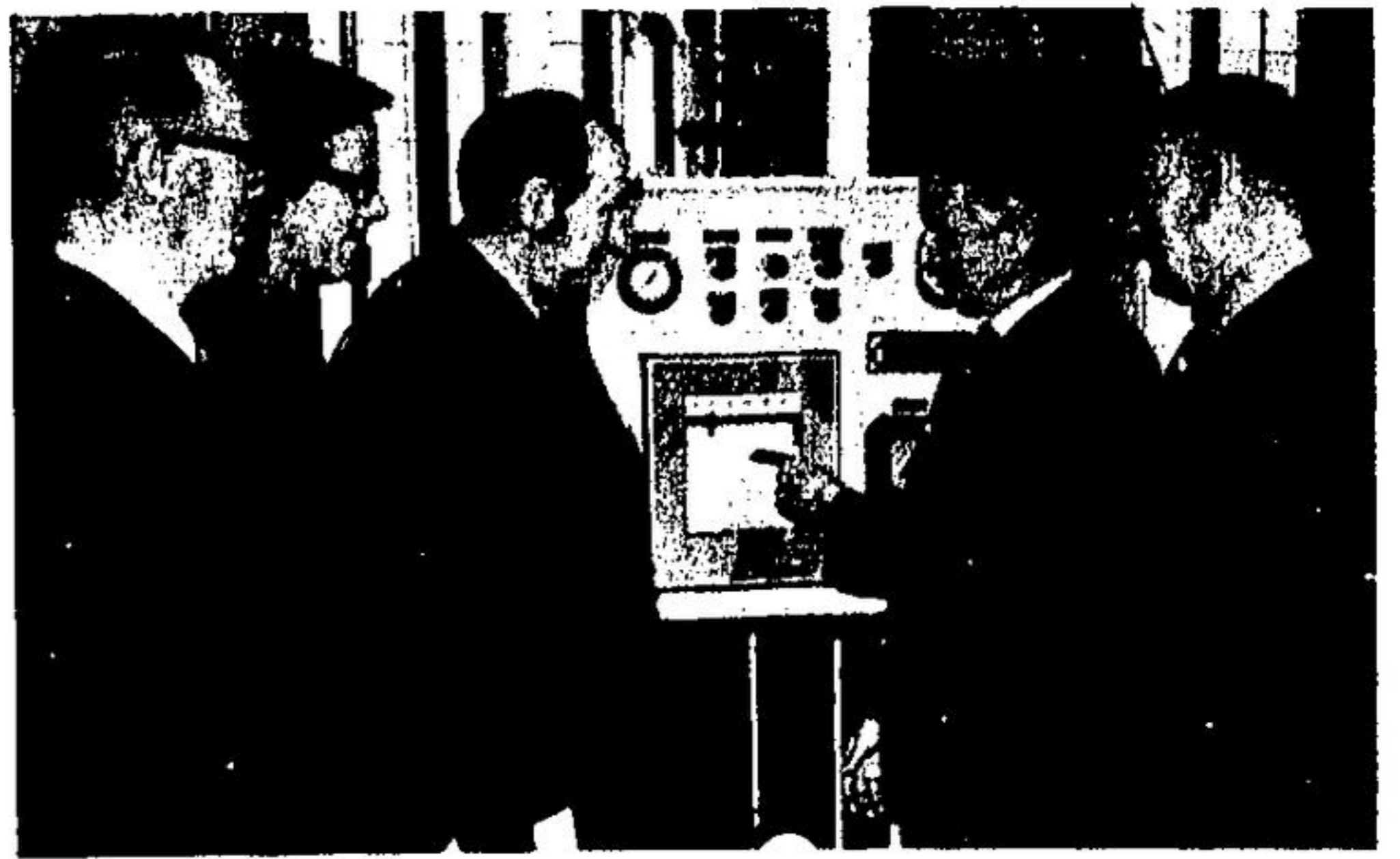
40 mph limit on Fourth Line stretch

The speed limit on a half-mile strip of the Fourth Line, north of Highway 7 has been set at 40 miles per hour by Esqueping Council.

A by-law was passed Monday night to regulate the speed in the half-mile strip which is in a built-up area, a mile east of Acton. The stretch of road was first slated for the 40 mph limit for four tenths of a mile but later extended to five-tenths so it would take in almost the entire built-up area.

While the Fourth Line was still being discussed, Councillor Len Coxie said he had received a call from Harold Ritchie, a Fourth Line resident, congratulating the reeve, council, road superintendent and staff for the manner in which Esqueping roads had been tended this winter.

"It is nice someone calls when they are happy", commented Councillor Coxie. "We accept both bouquets and brickbats", smiled the reeve.



GLEN WHITE of Acton was among Ontario Milk Commission fieldmen attending a five-day refresher course on dairy products processing held recently at the University of Guelph. From left to right are Les Farquharson, Alliston; Dave Keith, Toronto; Glen White, Acton; Dr. Al Myhr, Food Science Department, University of Guelph, course instructor; and Dr. E. L. Rothmel, Guelph.—(Photo by Ont. Dept. of Agriculture and Food)

Fire destroys mill Tuesday

Fire of unknown origin almost completely destroyed the Master Feeds mill at Stewarttown early Tuesday morning although the modern retail store immediately adjacent to the mill, was barely touched by flames.

Fire Chief Jack Cunningham of Georgetown said the only damage to the store was some water in the basement. The Georgetown brigade still poured water on the smouldering shell of the mill Tuesday morning

at 10.30 but the fire was under control before dawn. The alarm was sounded about 3.10 a.m., Cunningham said. By the time firefighters arrived, the building was a mass of flames. It is believed the fire started in

the front of the building which housed a seed cleaning plant. "This will be a big blow to the village", said Esqueping councillor Len Coxie, surveying the gutted building. "It is one of the few remaining seed cleaning

plants around." He paid credit to the work of firefighters who kept flames from spreading to the adjoining store which is only a foot or two away from the older mill. Water was pumped from the nearby creek, which once supplied power for earlier mills on the site. This is the third mill on the site to be destroyed by fire.

From the days of the pioneers the prosperity of the village depended to a great extent on the successful operation of the mill. First there was a grist mill and sawmill, then a flour mill, owned by James Young and then by Walter Lawson. It burnt to the ground about 1906.

Rebuilt—burns It was rebuilt as a grist mill with a planing mill attached. This also was destroyed by fire sometime during the first world war and a new four storey building erected by Walter Lawson. Several additions were made later by Mr. Lawson and his son Bob. When Master Feeds bought the business a few years ago they constructed a store immediately adjacent to the mill.

Police apparently checked the building to see if everything was locked up around 2 a.m. and noticed nothing unusual but a nearby neighbor at the scene Tuesday morning said he looked out around 3 a.m. and could see the reflection of the flames which by then enveloped most of the front part of the mill.

Other villagers were unaware of what happened until they walked down the hill on Tuesday morning and saw a maze of hose, two fire trucks, firefighters and police presiding over the burnt-out shell.

*I give up!
Don't hit me again!!*



FED UP WITH their mail box being knocked over by snow plows, one district farmer on the Townline between Esqueping and Nassagaweya tacked up this sign.—(Staff Photo)

Best actor, actresses named

Acton tops drama festival

By Henry J. Stanley Acton Junior Farmers were the winners of the Halton Junior Farmers' Drama Festival held Saturday evening, Feb. 25 in St. Paul's United Church, Milton. The adjudicator, Mrs. Vera MacDonald of Georgetown Little Theatre, told the large audience she had great difficulty in selecting winners. The Acton play was under the

directorship of Mrs. Carol Hyde, formerly Carol Swackhamer, past president of Halton Junior Farmers. The cast of the winning play included George Henderson, Janice Swackhamer, Sharon Britton, Rob Rutledge, Rick Britton, Robert Foster, and Doris Burt. Two Palermo plays Mrs. Evelyn Oates directed two plays for the Palermo Junior

Farmers, "A Glorified Brat" and "An Overpraised Season". Carol Oates, as the brat in the former play, won the Best Actress award - the Margaret Alice Elliott Trophy. Her sister Judi Oates, as the maid, won the best supporting actress award. She received a new trophy, the Frank Pelletier Memorial Trophy, presented by the Palermo Junior Farmers in memory of Mr. Pelletier, the

father of Evelyn Oates and grandfather of Judi. Best Actor and winner of the J. E. Whitehead Trophy was George Henderson of the Acton Junior Farmers. The Acton play goes on to the Zone Drama Competition to be held this Friday evening, March 3, at the Erin District High School.

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