

St. Patrick's Day departure for Spain



TWEENIES WHO enrolled as Brownies are Tracy Gordon and Lisa McIntyre. Brown Owl Mrs. Shirley Scott leads them in their promises around the toadstool Friday. (Photo by H. Coles)

By Dollie Des Haies
 "Well, we've just been to Spain. And we kind a' like the music. Seems the men are insane there, And they sure know how to use it..."

So goes the lyrics of the well-known popular song "Well, I've never been to Spain" - rearranged for the benefit of the travellers who did just that - visit Spain.

Even though it may be all over and everyone is almost back to the 'old grind', memories still burn brightly in everyone's mind. Such an excursion is not to be forgotten and I know that my adventure to Spain will be etched in my memory for years to come.

March 17, 1973 was the big day for the forty-eight travellers from Acton. As the crowd of voyagers congregated at the high school, familiar sounds could be heard. Lines like: "Did I forget anything" or "Where's my passport" were constantly in the air.

Finally with last hugs, kisses and safe blessings over, we bid 'adieu' to the crowd of mothers, fathers and other well-wishers as the bus pulled away from the high school parking lot on that stormy St. Patrick's Day. Little did we know of the adventure which was lying ahead of us.

Slowly the bus made its way through the blinding storm, down the streets of Acton, down Highway 26 and onto the 401, weighed down with its travellers and suitcases. As we snaked our way to the airport, the results of the storm could be seen scattered along the sides of the road. In an hour's time, Toronto International Airport was finally reached.

Check in
 As the travellers and suitcases were unloaded from the bus, we were directed by our group leaders to form a line in order to have our suitcases weighed and

be given our tickets. Once that was done we were allowed a few minutes in order to buy a snack or visit the washrooms, but we were to end up at the departure Gate No. 50.

After a brief interval, we began to move through the doors into the waiting room. Through the huge glass windows, a variety of planes could be seen - JUMBO JETS, "stretches", DC-9. Everyone took advantage of the view to take pictures. Shortly, we were given the word to move again. This time, before we were allowed into the next 'compartment', our handbags were checked by a guard, and we were scanned with a metal-detector to detect any hidden weapons. Once over to the 'other side', we again had another 'wait'. At about 8:00, we were finally on our way, - the line moving slowly through another set of doors, down a flight of stairs, through the passage way and into the plane.

Once into the plane, there was a scramble for seats, seeing that there had been no particular seating arrangement on that flight. Logically, the window seats were the first to go. With everyone fastened down, we waited for our take-off.

Wait...Wait
 And we waited... and waited. Our take-off time was long overdue. Half an hour had passed and we were still sitting - waiting. At last, the pilot came on the PA system and announced that we were 4,000 pounds overweight and we'd have to burn off 4,000 pounds of fuel to compensate. He also told us that we'd have to find a vacant area in order to do this.

After 50 minutes of waiting - and the fuel finally burned off and runway clearance given - we were on our way. Air borne at last to Montreal. Although the flight was only an hour long, we found it a little on the rough side, mainly due to turbulence.

Within an hour's time, we were landing at the Montreal airport. Here, too, we found that it had rained. With the plane completely stopped and the "Fasten Your Seat Belts" off, everyone unboarded it, and congregated inside the Montreal airport.

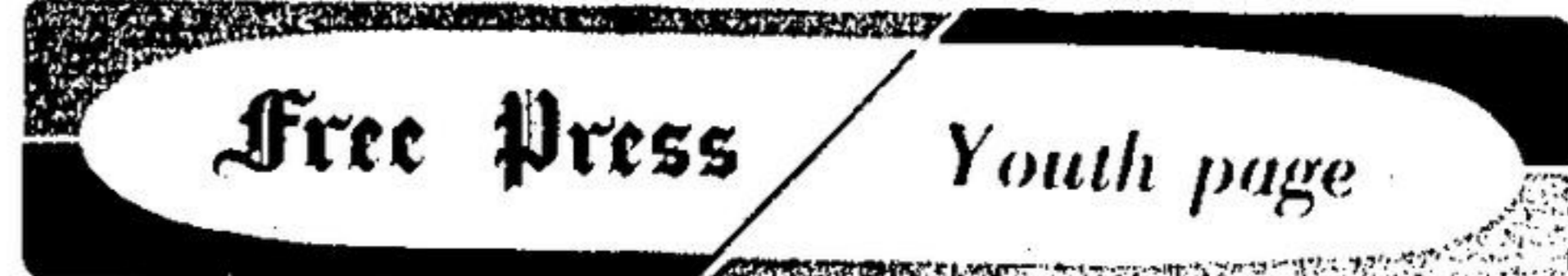
Beautiful fix
 All too soon, we were informed that the flight to Spain had left without us. This was a 'beautiful fix'. What were we going to do?

However with the calm planning of Mr. Black, our organizer, we were finally "put-up" at the Skyline Hotel for the night. Those who wished to retrieve anything from their suitcases could do so if they desired.

After the arrangements were settled, we boarded the bus to take us to the hotel - about a 10 minute drive. At the hotel, we again had another wait in order to "work out" the rooming situation. Once this was

established, we were notified that we were allowed to have an evening meal. But because the service was so slow, we found that most of us had at least a good hour of waiting before we could be served.

Once dinner was over, we slowly retired to our rooms after an exhausting day. Little did we know that we would awake the next morning to be faced with a problem! (to be continued next week)



New policy set for school year

By Janice Gibson
 In February of this year, the Ministry of Education sent out a new policy regarding the school year. The policy allows three approaches to be possible for the school year 1973-1974:

- a) The modified school year plan;
- b) The experimental school year plan;
- c) The traditional school year plan.

A note was also made regarding the rest of the school year, January to June, 1973. The new policy is to allow school boards more flexibility in establishing their school year calendars. It recognizes the need for evaluation and preparation by teachers.

Modified School Year Plan
 The opening date in September and the closing date in June will be the same as it is now. The school year 1973-1974 will consist of 197 school days.

School year calendars must have a minimum of 185 instructional days for all students. An instructional day is defined as a day on which programs (including exams) are provided for all students. Days on which programs for all students are not available may not be designated as instructional days.

Holidays
 School Holidays will follow the same lines as they do now, but with these exceptions.

i) the mid-winter break consisting of five consecutive school days, may be located at any time during the January to June term.

ii) Easter Monday and Remembrance Day may be observed as school holidays on their specific dates. If Easter Monday is not observed as a school holiday, then a holiday must be observed at another time during the school year. The same idea applies to Remembrance Day. Schools are still required to hold meaningful and significant services on Remembrance Day.

Additional professional activity days will be programmed for purposes of evaluation, parent and student counselling, curriculum development, and staff development.

Experimental School Year Plan
 This plan allows school boards - who wish it - to design a school year calendar which moves beyond the outline set out in the Modified School Year Plan.

Traditional School Year Plan
 School boards may, if they wish, continue to operate the school within the calendar now followed, for the 1973-1974 school year. These boards must advise the Regional Office of Ministry of their decision.

The remainder of this year will operate the same as previously, except that elementary schools may use a maximum of five school days for Professional activities such as those mentioned above. These days may be used at any time during the remainder of the 72-73 school year, as approved by the board. The new policy provides flexibility which allows school year planning to meet the needs of the locality.



THIRD ACTON BROWNIES flying up to First Acton Guide company are Christine Allen, Julie Parsons and Susan Tonge, with Captain Mrs. Bea Ginger. The ceremony took place in the scout hall Friday. (Photo by H. Coles)

Students see play

By Lynne Simion
 On Wednesday, February 21, students were invited to go and see the play *The Little Prince*, written by Antoine de Saint-Exupery and performed by the Erindale College Drama Club.

The play is about a prince and his travels from planet to planet. The narrator tells about his memories of what happened when he crashed in the desert and the little prince approached him and asked him to draw a sheep.

As the days went by, the prince told him of his travels from planet to planet. The play ends with the narrator contemplating how the prince is doing on his own planet.

Later on in the year Mr. Cayer's Grade 12 French class will be reading the French version of the play. There was no background design and very little costuming. I feel that the play was very informative and will be helpful in the future.

Notes from Acton High

By Janice Gibson
 On Tuesday, April 3, we had some visitors from Stephen Leacock Secondary School in Scarborough. This school was one of the first in Ontario to go on the semester system.

Center Wellington District High School in Fergus sent some people to view our system, today. Parents night is tomorrow night - Thursday, April 5. Some students offer their services to

teachers as secretaries. They are responsible for checking off names as people arrive, watching the time so that everyone gets an equal, interview period, and introducing the parents to the teacher. These Parents Nights are held once a semester.

Subject department heads are meeting with the board of trustees on Thursday after school. Tom Watson will be heading the trustee delegation.

Juniors compete

Halton Junior Farmers competed on the weekend in a broomball tournament at Honeywood arena, losing their two games in overtime to Bruce county and Ontario county. The friendly games were followed by supper and dance. About 20 from Halton made the trip, most of them playing on the team. Acton Juniors represented were Sharon Britton, George Henderson, Dave McIntyre, Sheila Foster, Dave Storey, Doris Burt, Stanley and Beryl McEnery and team captain Rick Britton.

Plan school

Summer school will be held in Halton County this summer beginning July 5 and running through Aug. 15 at T. A. Blakelock High School and Nelson High School and if sufficient interest prevails satellite centres can be considered.

John Boich superintendent of program for the board indicated students who have completed grade eight can take grade nine credit courses in the summer school if they wish.

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Y.M.C.A. news and happenings

By Ted Newman
 It seems a pity our youngsters must suffer, but unless there is some response to our plea for help from some interested adults from the town of Acton, we shall have to cut down the number of nights we can open, as well as curtail some of our activities. With 30 youngsters per night. The willing can only do so much. To keep these young adults off the streets.

It would seem to this writer the usual apathy and falling to get involved is very deeply ingrained in this town, and surely two hours one or two evenings a week will not overtax any adult, or maybe our youngsters are no-one's concern, except for someone else to babysit.

We have tried to put on activities that have been requested, but as soon as we obtain an instructor, a supervisor to get the program organized - no one is interested. The apathy is rubbing off on the youngsters. If no-one is interested, perhaps a courtesy call from the disinterested persons to say they do not want a

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The Yukon is celebrating four 75th anniversaries in 1973: The Klondike Gold Rush, the formation of the Yukon as a territory of Canada, the formation of the Yukon Field Force and the building of the White Pass railway.