



ACTON'S PRIZE WINNING CITIZENS' BAND

Band first at 'Ex'

Acton Citizens' Band claimed the first prize Whaley-Royce trophy in competition at the Canadian National Exhibition on Sunday. It was the first time since 1947 a local band had claimed the top prize.

Playing under the direction of Bandmaster George Elliott and Conductor A. E. Hilliard, the band outscored the Cobourg Kiltie Band that last year placed second in the same competition.

Adjudicator Kenneth I. Bray praised the playing of the Acton Band for its treatment of the music and the full sounds in several of the passages.

A third band, the Port Colborne Concert Band failed to appear for the contest.

Tops in two

Scoring in the two selections, one the choice of the band and the other the test piece, *Songs of Wales*, showed the Acton Band ahead on both.

The Cobourg Kiltie Concert Band earned 164 points on its choice piece and 159 points on the test piece. Acton Citizens' Band earned 166 on its choice piece and 163 on the test piece. Acton's choice piece was the spiritual, "Were you There".

Bandmaster George Elliott received the trophy on behalf of the band.

The competitions are sponsored by the Canadian Band Directors' Association and the local group competed at the north band stand in the CNE grounds. A number of supporters were on hand from Acton.

Adjudicators in the class were Mr. Bray who is associate professor faculty of music at the University of Western Ontario and Capt. K. R. Moore, director of music, Air Transport Command Band, Kingston.

Progressive Improvement

Bandmaster George Elliott attributed much of the success of Sunday's performance to the progressive improvement of the band over the last six years. "We got a second two years ago and a few thirds prior to that," he explained, "and we've finally got to the stage where we were able to pull off a first." He feels the work conductor Art Hilliard did with the band three years ago also pointed them in the right direction. Mr. Hilliard spent the entire summer with the Acton band.

Dr. Elliott said the band has been working on the test piece off and on since last fall and felt they had it pretty well down by this June. Then conductor Art Hilliard polished them up for the competition. Spade work had been done and his interpretation of the music added the final touch.

The Cobourg band was criticized for being too cautious in their interpretation but the Acton bandmaster said they had a polished group of players. Adjudicators paid special tribute to the brass section of the Acton band.

Dr. Elliott said the constant practice members of the Opportunities for Youth group of the band have experienced all summer also probably assisted them in the competition. He feels they also may have ensured the standard of the band stays high by turning up several "good kids" who will help in the years ahead.

First engagement for the Acton Band following their win is at Acton Fall Fair in two weeks and they'll be joined by some members of the George Harvey secondary school band for the occasion. Conductor Art Hilliard is the school's bandmaster.

Murder charge hearing held today

Thomas Bourke, 26, was to appear in court in Milton this morning (Wednesday) at a preliminary hearing on a charge of capital murder.

Bourke was charged May 9 after Acton OPP discovered the body of his wife, Colleen, 21, in an apartment at the Maplecrest Apartments on Churchill Rd. South about midnight the previous day.

Since that time Bourke has been confined to the county jail in Milton. He has been refused bail.

The Acton Free Press

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Twenty Two Pages—Fifteen Cents

Inflated grain prices affect millers, farmers

by Dave Pank
Rising costs of grains and feeds are affecting retail trade, millers in Rockwood and Ballinafad told the Free Press this week.
Recent suggested retail prices released by wholesale distributors have doubled prices of just a year ago.
"It's too damn dear," complains Keith Ford of Ford Bros., in Ballinafad. Prices continue to rise and Mr. Ford finds he has to raise them every second day to keep up with the trend. With no cooling off in sight the Ballinafad businessman states his trade has been lessened in recent weeks.
Mr. Ford cited the possibility that the strike at St. Lawrence Starch in Toronto is responsible for the shortage of corn.
Rockwood mill proprietor Jim Milne indicated to the Free Press he could see no downward trend in feed prices. He quoted this week's price on a bushel of oats at \$1.55 when it was 81c a year ago.
Other mill products such as calf meal has risen from \$7.55 to \$14 this year for a 100 pound bag. Chicken booster has been raised from \$7.95 to \$13.55 while pig feed has increased from \$8.35 to \$14.75. Cattle feeds have also increased substantially.
"Soy beans, says Mr. Milne, are an awful price." Prices have increased from \$91 a ton in Dec. 71 to the present price of \$500.
Mr. Milne deals in both Master Feeds from Maple Leaf Mills and Blatchford feeds whose prices

are comparable. He regrets he cannot buy large quantities of grain while the prices are cheap because storage and interest would drive prices up anyway.
Acton Flour Mills owner Jim Eccles was unavailable for comment.
Steady wheat prices
Wheat prices will remain steady until September 30, it was decided last week by the Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board. They have frozen wheat prices at \$3.18 a bushel to satisfy purchasers that wheat is not being inflated in price at an unrealistic level.
Henry Stanley, Agriculture Representative for Halton County, can see no need for such

Members of the 1947 band which look honors were Jean Wilds, Elaine Arbie, Joanne Veldhuis, Dena Braida, Lena Lawson, Bandmaster Charlie Mason, June Dunn, Joan Coles, Muriel Ralston, Muriel Burns, Shirley Ralston, Norma Kentner, Charles Kingsmill, Ken Allen, Tom Perkins, Leno Braida, Peter Agar, John Ware, Bill Greer, Gordon Lawson Don Lamb, Don Van Goozen, Jim Spielvogel, Jim Dills, Gerald P. Perkins, John Agard, Ken Marchmont, Aldo Braida, Armand Braida, Crawford Douglas, Shirley Sutcliffe and George Elliott.
Some of the sons and daughters of the 1947 band members are now carrying on the family tradition in the band.



MOST POINTS IN THE White Leghorn class won Fred Kentner of Acton two rewards at the Canadian National Exhibition poultry classes last week. The Howard Miller trophy was automatic but

the new Miss C.N.E. made the presentation—a bonus. Fred's chickens are consistent winners at the annual show. This year in addition to most points he had a first in the best trio and another first for a Leghorn hen.

Guides Armbro Nadir to stakes win ... Nelson White toast of Nassagaweya

by Denis Gibbons
While the majority of Rockwood area residents were relaxing in their backyards or cooling off in the refreshing waters of the Rockwood Conservation Area during the humid, sticky hours of Sunday afternoon, 29-year-old Nelson White was hard at work driving one of the world's top three year old standardbred horses and earning himself \$7,500 in the process.
Armbro Nadir, owned by Dr. Donald Davis of Guelph equalled the world record of 1:56.1 for pacing on the 5/8 mile track under White's guidance to score an upset victory in the \$130,000 Prix d'Ete, the world's richest three year old harness racing classic at Montreal's Blue Bonnets Raceway.
The remarkable time broke the Blue Bonnets track record and equalled the world mark set by Romeo Hanover at Sportsmen's Park in Chicago in 1965.
It was the biggest thrill in a 12 year racing career for White, who moved into his 10 acre farm at the corner of the Fourth Line of Nassagaweya and 30 Sideroad a year and a half ago. Although Armbro Nadir had romped to victory in recent outings, the horse and Nelson were up against outstanding combinations like Ricci Reenie Time and Harold Dancer and Armbro Nesbit and Joe O'Brien in the Prix

d'Ete. Ricci Reenie Time was the pre-race favorite.
From the number 7 pole position, Armbro Nadir raced on the outside for most of the mile. Coming down the backstretch White rocked the cart and the speedy three year old pulled away to cross the finish line 1 1/4 lengths ahead of Rob Ron Ritzar driven by Keith Waples, who was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame recently.
Rocked cart
"I was parked (on the outside) all the way, but I still had cover," Nelson said in recalling the race for the Free Press. "This horse doesn't like to be hit, so I rocked the cart and when I did, he responded."
A crowd of 20,105 racing fans watched the record-breaking event. For only the third time in Canadian harness racing history over a million dollars was wagered by bettors on one card. Nelson and wife Debbie, who flew in for the big race attended an exclusive post-race party for drivers and owners in the Raceway's Turf Lounge after the race.
Nelson's take home pay of \$7,500 for the recordbreaking drive includes \$6,500, 10 percent of the \$65,000 Dr. Davis received for Armbro Nadir's win and an additional \$1,000 he received from the Raceway for setting the record. There may be a further \$1,000 awarded for equalling the world

record. Armbro Nadir now has won a total of \$112,788 for the current season.
Was Nelson nervous before his first ever drive in the Prix d'Ete?
He says not. "I knew what my horse could do and I'd seen most of the others race so I knew what they could do," he said. "I just had to lead with him and hope for the breaks."
Gained experience
A native of Harwood, Ontario, Nelson began driving at local fairs when he was 17. Since then he has worked and driven for several top stables and established himself as one of the Golden Horseshoe Circuit's best drivers. He commutes to Greenwood in Toronto, Garden City in St. Catharines and Mohawk Raceway, which is just down country a few miles from his 10 acre property.
Nelson credits experience he gained training horses for Dr. John Finlay of Arrprior, Jack Kopas of Ilderton and Jack Gordon with hastening his rise to the top. At 29 he's one of Canada's youngest and best drivers.
Besides keeping a schedule of races that has him in Toronto, St. Catharines or Campbellville almost every night in the week, Nelson boards 10 horses at his R.R. 2, Rockwood farm. He has staff of eight grooms and trainers, most of whom move about the three Golden Horseshoe tracks as

seasonal meets change.
There are about 25 horses that he drives regularly on the circuit.
Enjoys work
"It's a living and what I like about it is you're not cooped up inside. I could never go for this factory work," says Nelson. "I believe whatever a person likes is what he should be doing."
Nelson has been in and out of the ownership facet of the sport, but has not enjoyed the same measure of success he has driving. It remains one of his ambitions to produce an outstanding standardbred of his own someday.
With the Prix d'Ete tucked away in the Davis stable, Nelson and Armbro Nadir now prepare for the \$35,000 Beaver Stakes at Hichelieu Park in Montreal, September 8. After that it's on to Winnipeg and Edmonton for stakes races leading up to the \$100,000 L.K. Shapiro Stakes at Hollywood Park, California in which Armbro Nadir will race in November.
There's an excellent chance from those events will come more trophies and photographs to enhance the already impressive collection at the White home and additional monetary rewards to make life that much more comfortable for Nelson, Debbie and their two children, John 2, and Christine, 2 months.



TOAST OF Nassagaweya since he guided Armbro Nadir to victory in the \$130,000 Prix d'Ete at Montreal's Blue Bonnets Raceway Sunday, Nelson White rests with the outstanding three year old

following the big event. White, who earned himself \$7500 for the record-breaking drive has operated a 10 acre farm at the corner of the Fourth Line and 30 Sideroad for the past year and a half.