



VISITING CANADA for the first time and staying with Acton residents, Eva Noren and Kristina Axelsson left for home in Sweden, Tuesday with plans to return in two years' time to attend a Canadian university. The girls are seen chatting outside the home of Michael and Christine Fray of Churchill Rd. Christine is Eva's half-sister.

Acton visit enjoyed by Swedish schoolgirls

Acton had special visitors this past month, two delightful Swedish girls who arrived in Canada for the first time on June 4, and left Tuesday July 9, after their four week visit, with a promise to return in two years.

Eva Noren and Kristina Axelsson were the school chums who came as guests of Michael and Christine Fray of Churchill Rd. Eva is Christine's half-sister. Besides enjoying a family visit the two girls made many friends in the Acton community as well.

Both 17, the girls felt that Ontario countryside, as they saw it around Acton, was not unlike their own hometown area of Stockholm. On their agenda of places visited they spent time in Toronto seeing city sights and visited Niagara Falls. "We've had a chance to get to know what at least part of Canada is all about," they said chatting

last week before their Tuesday departure.

Fun weekend
The girls said they'd had fun attending Swedish mid-summer weekend with the Nordic Society at Lake Simcoe. Three weeks ago they attended the outdoor camping spree where approximately 500 members from Sweden, Norway and other parts of Europe and England gathered near Barrie.

In Acton they went to sports and community events and visited the Acton high school. They said they found Acton students not as interested in politics and current civic affairs as their Swedish contemporaries. School trained in horsemanship the girls also took time to enjoy horseback riding at Bob and Joan Marshall's farm at R.R. 2, Acton.

Senior students in their Stockholm high school, Eva and Kristina explained, the last two years of the schools

in Sweden are equivalent to two years of university in Canada. Already beautifully versed in English, the girls also speak French, Spanish and modestly admitted to some Russian. They hope to return to Canada and study English and Canadian history in a Canadian university.

While staying in Acton they visited about the district. While canoeing in Rockwood they spent some time catching cray fish for, what they termed, is a delicious eating delicacy when properly prepared, European style. One of their comments, besides the fact they had thoroughly enjoyed their visit and the friends they had made in Acton was that, in Canada, the mosquitoes bite harder than in Sweden.

No fires

Fire Chief Mick Holmes reports that there have been no fires for the week.

Helping Hands win reprieve

Halton Helping Hands has been rescued from collapse by a \$9,000 special development grant from the Ministry of Community and Social Service. The previous grant had expired and help had been sought from the Region and the town.

The grant was announced by Jim Snow M.P.P. for Halton East and Minister of Government Services.

Halton Helping Hands was started in February 1972 under Local Initiative Program, launching a maintenance program for the homes of elderly and disabled people.

Under the program a total of 22 maintenance men and 40 cleaning ladies help keep the elderly and disabled in the dignity of their own homes by doing such chores as housecleaning, window washing, outside paint jobs and floor cleaning. Without this help many

would have to give up their independence, to become a burden on the taxpayer.

Halton Helping Hands was started by Halton Multiple Sclerosis Society and was extended to the disabled and elderly when the need became apparent.

The service is free to those who cannot pay, but a fee is charged to those who can pay.

The information service which co-ordinates the whole

operation is run by a multiple sclerosis patient, who is permanently confined to a wheelchair.

Jim Snow stated in his letter, "This organization provides a most valuable service to the community and the special development grant will ensure the continuity of this helpful group."

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Telephone centennial

The telephone would never pay, they said. Telecommunications have come a long way in the 100 years since Alexander Graham Bell dreamed up his telephone in Brantford in 1874. Today we can receive news events almost instantaneously, send streams of data across Canada or the ocean and even keep millions of words of information on file, then send it to other parts of the country.

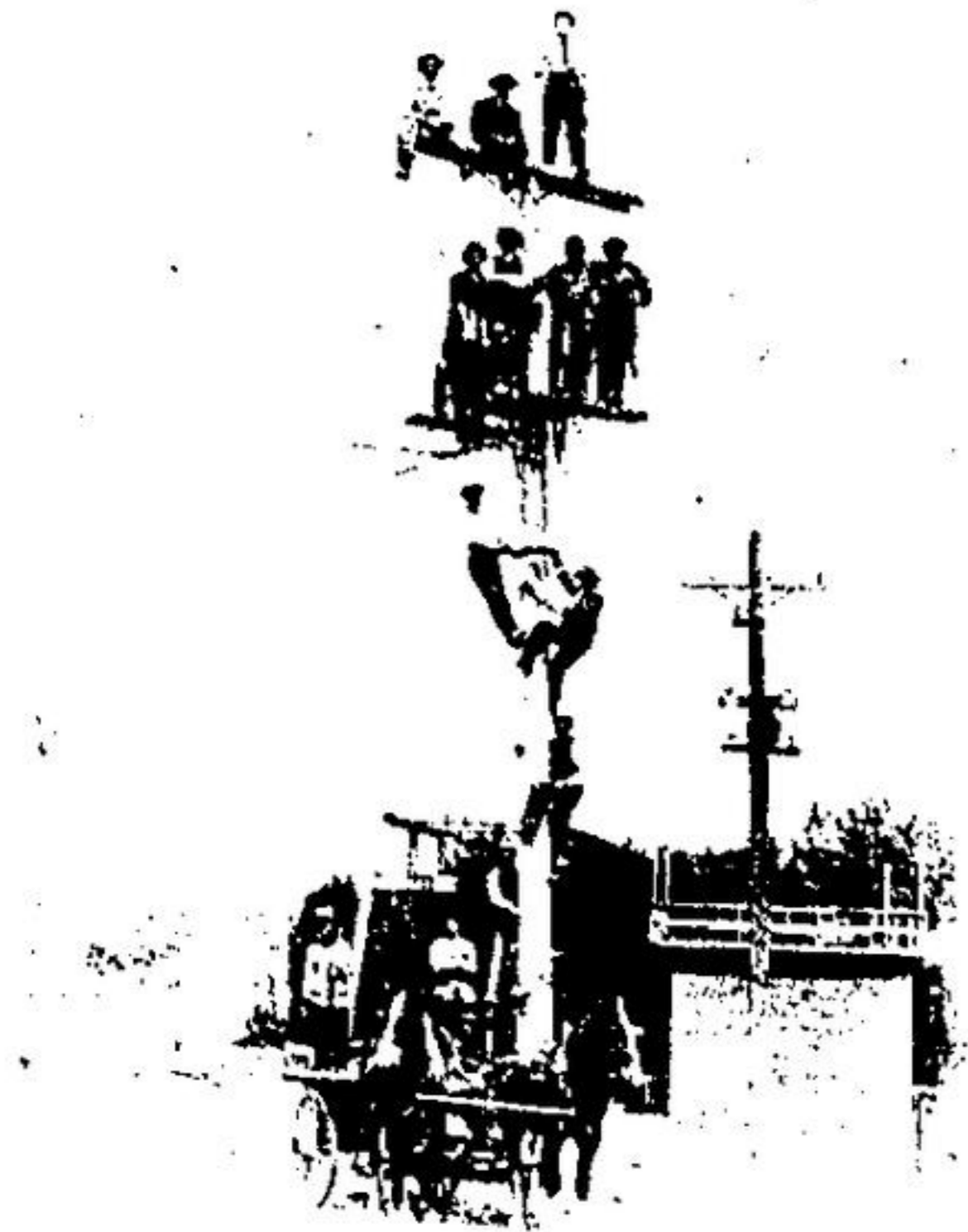
First telephone
Six years after its invention, Acton's first telephone was installed. Telephones in the 1880's were homemade instruments used by R. Gray, Grand Trunk Railway agent, over a three mile circuit.

Four years later the first exchange was opened. It was located in J. E. McGarvin's drugstore on Mill Street with Mr. McGarvin as manager. In 1885 the first directory listing appeared with four subscribers' names.

Dial service
As recently as 1961 dial service was installed. Three years later direct distance dialing was introduced. Today there are 3,739 telephones in the Acton exchange.

Correction

A line of type missing from a story last week changed the meaning completely. The proposed fire budget, not yet passed, should have read \$77,800 for the Acton Fire Area, and \$100,300 for the Georgetown Fire Area for a total budget of \$178,100.



AT THE TURN of the century telephone linemen became heroes to small boys and bustle-clad ladies. Sometimes they liked to show off a bit as shown here when they arranged themselves (about 1906) on the crossbars and up the sides of a sturdy pole. They used horses and wagon to carry their heavy equipment. The linemen often walked miles to do their work of keeping the telephone lines repaired or stringing new telephone lines around the country.

Engineer must answer to finance committee

Halton Hills Engineer Peter Morris will be asked to attend the next meeting of the finance committee and explain why the town is being billed by more than one firm for both gravel and asphalt. Councillor Harry Levy said tenders had been advertised, the best price accepted, and that there was no reason for the town to be paying several different prices for materials.

Peterson said that recently a town supplier and one councillor had come to him asking that a bill, which was only a couple of weeks old, be paid immediately. The councillor had said the payment could be done under his authority.

They also decided that only bills for purchases which had been initiated by the purchasing agent would be honored by the treasurer.

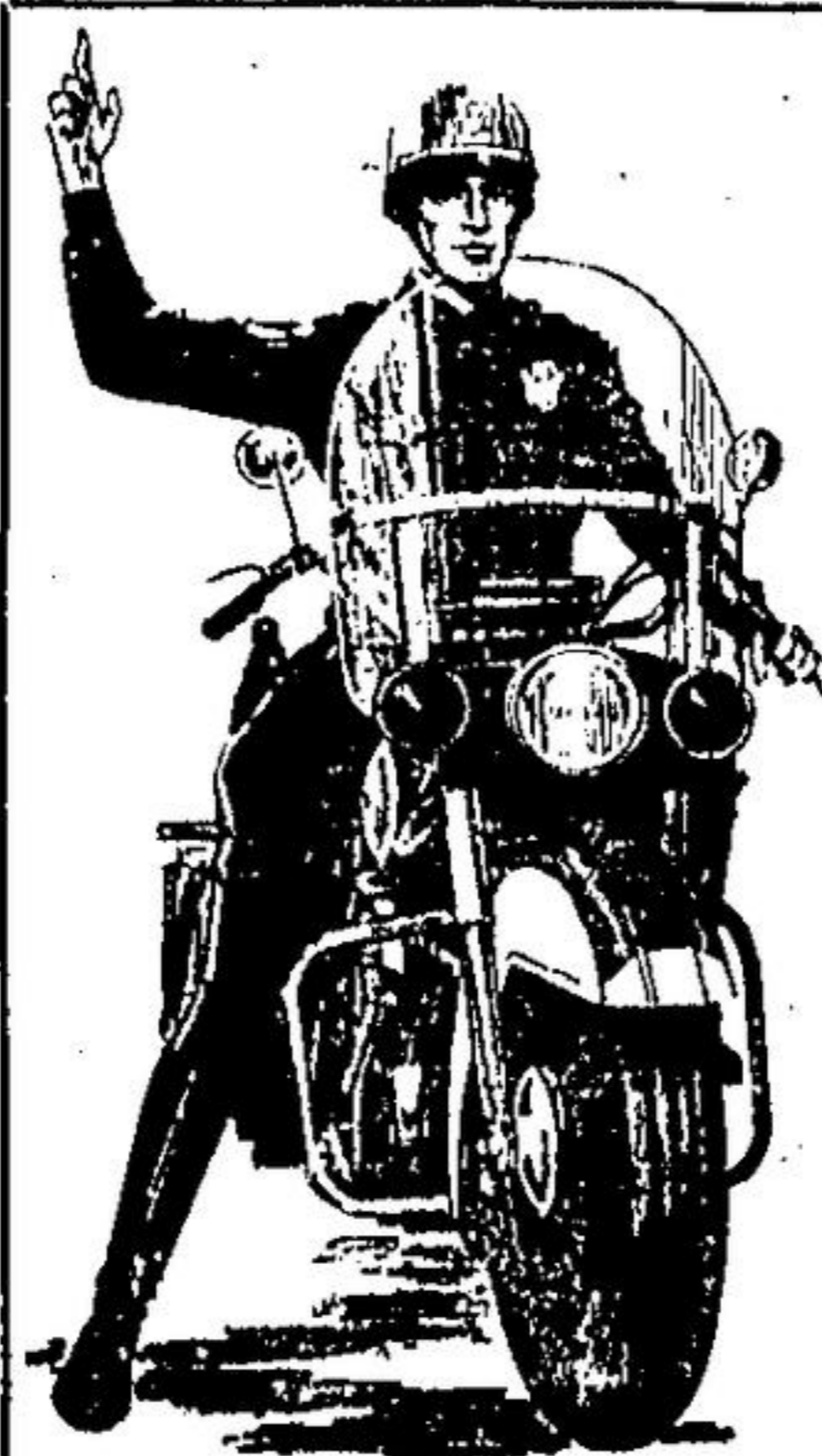
The committee also said that they would not allow other councillors to authorize payment of bills prior to their being approved by the committee. Treasurer Lloyd

New service

The Acton post office is planning its door to door service to begin on September 9.

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