

Credit to the Lions

Acton Lions centennial pool is now official.

The opening ceremonies Sunday afternoon were arranged by a committee to show the pool to the people, and to forward the people's contribution of \$50,000 to the town.

Costs escalated hugely between the time the Lions conceived the idea and the actual time of construction. Much money was re-

quired from other sources — the old town of Acton, the old township of Esquering, government grants and Halton Hills council. However, it is still the Lions initiative that got the pool started. They met with co-operation and willingness during their public campaign and building program.

Thanks, all 13 Lions club members.

Acton IS perogie country

It took a zany set of coincidences to turn Acton into — believe it or not — perogie country.

On CFTO Night Beat news a week and a half ago, the weatherman referred to the common temperatures between Kincardine and Acton and added "That's perogie country."

The Free Press had a little story last week recounting the couple of seconds of TV time, and doubting that Acton would be whatzit country. Tannery town, maybe. But perogies? Not very likely.

But into the Free Press office sounded the man with the whole

story, Mike Yurek, the cameraman. He explains weatherman Dave Duvall enjoys bringing in the names of small towns, and he'd mentioned Acton because that's where Mike comes from. And Mike's wife Linda had just made some perogies, which Mike shared with Dave Duvall. So when he said we up here were in perogie country, he knew what he was talking about — even if we didn't.

So this week we are showing the people in perogie country what perogies are, as a nutty kind of community service.

Birds are our pleasure

Conservation officer Dale Gartley of the Ministry of Natural Resources has come to Acton to talk to the main people involved in the feeding of the wildfowl at Fairy Lake, Harold Twonsley and Esther Flor, and to the Free Press.

Red-headed Mr. Gartley is quietly knowledgeable and speaks with pleasant authority on the situation. He says he can be contacted any time about problems here.

He was asked in particular about so many neighbors feeding the birds. No quotes from government regulations for Mr. Gartley! People get great pleasure from feeding these wild birds, he said, and it won't really matter much at all what anybody gives them extra.

A pleasure to Acton they are indeed, and a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Gartley.

Melting snowflakes

Recipe: one cup friendly words; two heaping cups understanding; four teaspoons time and patience; pinch of warm personality; dash of humour.

Mix together. Keep temperature low. Do not boil. Season to taste with spice of life. Serve in individual molds.

Behind the wheel of a car these days of slippery roads, use your eyes, the ears and your nose.

Good luck to the high school band, which is taking over the Outers paper and glass collection. It's for the good of conservation and the love of music.

Bill Smiley



Next week's column is going to be a real smasher, but in the meantime, I'm going to clear up a lot of Christmas things, most of them personal. If you don't like personal stuff, turn to another page.

First of all, thanks to my Uncle Ivan for a cheery note. He is now the patriarch of the clan, on my mother's side. I am supposed to look like him, and act like him. I hope it's true, and that I do. I'd like to be a patriarch of something. When you are a patriarch, you are old and wise and everybody pays attention to you. I am old and stupid and nobody pays attention to me. Except my wife and grandbaby and students.

Bless you, Ursula Brady of Vancouver. Remember how we kissed behind the car while Bob White and Pappy Warren and Dinny McManus tried to get it out of the snow bank? Don't blush. It was beautiful.

Thanks, Norm Lightford of Ottawa. You always remember. Do you remember the room we shared at college, with the bay window and the fireplace? Cannel coal on Sunday afternoons, stripped to the shorts, talking about life and women and stuff. And do you remember that I left in the middle of the year, and left you as sports editor of *Torontoensis*, and you lunked your year?

George and Elda Cadogan. Do you remember the night you had a party for all the sharp young editors and their wives whom you had met at the newspaper convention? And it was the night of Hurricane Hazel? And only about four of us made it?

Hello — out there to a couple of characters. First, my "TV repairman." Six times a year I get a pungent comment from him, but there is no identification beyond that. He lives in Westport, Ont. It is always signed the same way, "Your TV repair man."

Here's his Christmas card, in part. "Merry Christmas, Smiley, and the biggest surprise of all, I like your column. You, I'm not so sure about. Are you trying to make us think you are old, with that grandpa bit? My kids are in their 50's and I'm not old." And more of the same. How do you deal with that old reprobate?

And hello to another nut: Lt. Col. John McEwing, who sends an annual picture of his pipe band in, of all places, Spokane, Washington. This year's card is a splendid thing with four brilliantly colored quarters. I wish I could include the description of the coat of arms, but space forbids.

Here's a sample: "The parti-colored shield Azure (Blue) and Gules (Red) is quartered saltire-wise by a St. Andrew's Cross, Argent (Silver), taken from the old Flag of Scotland."

That's the essence. By some wild reach of logic and probability, the remainder of the coat of arms drags in such disparities as the United States Air Force, the Cairn of the MacCrimmons, and Canada. "The home of many fine papers."

The Colonel winds up his message with: "I continue to greatly enjoy your writing. I have been told that whiskey improved with age." Thank you sir, and if you are correct in translating the Gaelic motto "Suas Leis A'Phìob Mhoir" as "Up with the Great Highland Bagpipe," I couldn't agree with you more.

You might be interested, sir, in knowing that our local pipe band, including our favorite paper-hanger, Alastair Milligan, who sounds Irish but doggedly avers he is a Scot, is off to Miami with a pipe band, to play at some football Bowl or other. Perhaps the last Bowl of the Scots. Or the last Bowl of the Smileys, if he reads this.

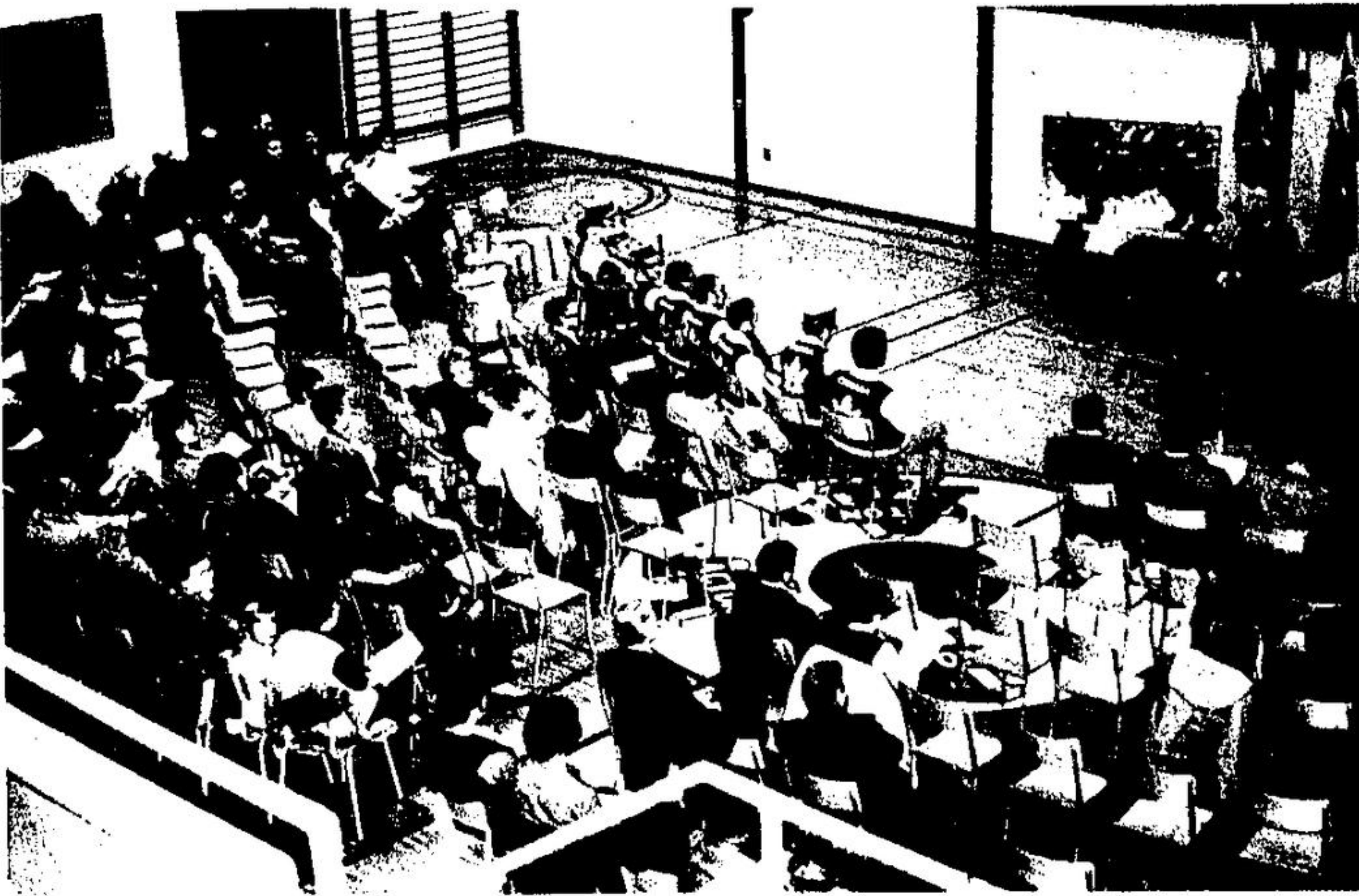
But I wander. I wanted to say that I am pretty disappointed in some people. Not a word from Dutch Kleinmeyer. He usually asks me to the Last Reunion of the Last Fighter Pilots. Not a word this year. Maybe I'm the last, and they're all gone. I wouldn't be surprised. Last time I went to one, I returned on my last legs.

I'm a little piqued that I haven't heard from Gene Macdonald, the man from Gleggery, last of the big-time spenders; and Pete Hvidsten of Uxbridge, last of the vital virile Vikings. These are old newspaper friends. Probably they both think I'm dead. Maybe I am, and I'm typing this in heaven. God forbid.

Finally, thanks to Mary and Alan, George and Win, John and Helen, Bill and Joan, Karl and Michelle, and a host of others.

By the way, the Acton Free Press is about to be a hundred years old. A hearty to Kay, Dave and Kathy Dills.

And to everyone, fight a good fight in 1975. It's the only fight in town.



STANDING IN the bleachers at the high school, photographer Peter McCusker caught this picture of former councillor Norm Elliott speaking to those attending the official opening of the Lions centennial

pool. The program was held in the gym Sunday afternoon, with tours of the pool and refreshments afterward.

Halton Sketches

By John MacDonald

Gowdy family prominent in Limehouse history

The village of Limehouse at one time was celebrated for its lime works and stone quarries. From about 1840 it was known as "Mountain Green" but when the Post Office was opened in 1857 the community was renamed Limehouse.

For many years prior to 1840 it was known simply as the "Rock" because of its topography and its proximity to the Niagara Escarpment. Limestone in the area was used to great advantage by early manufacturers since the 1830's. Lime kilns were built in the village to produce quicklime which was slaked with water to use in mortar or cement manufacture. The first lime kilns were built by Messrs. Lindsay and Farquhar and the ruins can be seen today almost directly across the road from the new public school in the village.

The kilns built and originally owned by Messrs. Bescoley and Worthington were located just south of the Grand Trunk Railway Line and these ruins still stand as a monument to the past industry.

In 1857 Messrs. Gowdy and Moore purchased the Bescoley Lime Works at Limehouse. Thomas Gowdy was born in Toronto (known then as Muddy York) on October 10, 1831 and moved to Guelph in his youth. Very ambitious at an early age Thomas served his apprenticeship as a plasterer before entering into partnership with John Stewart at Guelph.

He later became a prominent manufacturer of farm implements for over 14 years in Guelph where he also served as Alderman for a number of years. He was elected mayor in 1889 and 1890.

Thomas Gowdy was a director of several well established insurance companies including Dominion Life. He was an original director of the Guelph Junction Railroad.



WORKERS AT the Toronto Lime Company at Dolly Varden near Limehouse in 1913. William Gowdy can be identified. He is sitting in the centre of the picture with white shirt and tie.

William became manager of the Toronto Lime Company at Limehouse in 1903 upon the retirement of his uncle John Moore. He continued as manager of the Limehouse and nearby Dolly Varden plants until they were taken over by Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Co.

For over 37 years the William Gowdy family lived in Limehouse and there wasn't a phase of the community life that the Gowdy's didn't give a helping hand.

It was Thomas Gowdy, who, in 1876, deeded the land for the Limehouse Methodist Church which was eventually close after the "Union". In 1945 it was bought by the Limehouse Women's Institute for a community hall in memory of locals who fought in the two world wars.

William Gowdy was a Justice of the Peace and served as a deputy reeve and reeve of Esquering Township during the 1920's. He was a member of the school board for the old S.S. No. 9 or Gibraltar School which still stands just below the village.

William apparently had a musical talent as he was superintendent of the Sunday School choir and performed as a soloist at various local events.

Due to the concentration of manufacturing facilities the Limehouse Works were eventually closed down. The last burning of the kilns was about 1915 and eventually the entire plant was closed.

In its peak period during the 1890's the Lime Works of Gowdy and Moore employed over 100 men on a three shift basis and produced over 75,000 bushels of lime a year from the six kilns. Although lime was the primary industry in the area, I cannot neglect the sawmill which was owned by the Gowdy-Moore firm and can be seen in the accompanying photograph. The mill was capable of making 10,000 feet of lumber a day. The account of goods shipped from the

Limehouse Station during 1876 was 4,130 tons principally lime and lumber at a cost of over \$5,000.

With the closing of the Limehouse facilities, William Gowdy finally retired and moved to Acton in 1943 and resided there until his death on August 24, 1948. After the death of his first wife, William married Mary Hoppman of Detroit, Mich., on August 18, 1927. She is well remembered for her talent and love of music and formed a music club in Acton during the 1950's. She was also an active member of the Limehouse Women's Institute.

William Gowdy's son Douglas who was born in 1899 was a well respected member of the community and through his career held various managerial positions with The Financial Post and MacLean-Hunter Publications. He now resides in Toronto during the summer months and Florida during the winter.

The bustling industrial days of Limehouse are only a memory but are not forgotten. The lime kilns and ruins of the saw mill stand as monuments to their "heyday".

William Gowdy sold the property to a Mr. G. France of Toledo in 1942 who apparently had some interests in the lime and quarrying business, but no developments resulted.

On January 16, 1967, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority purchased over 190 acres, which includes the former Gowdy property, from the Spitzer family.

It is the intention of the Authority to restore the kilns as nearly as possible to the original form although one of the first undertakings was to demolish the lovely old Gowdy home which had recently suffered from vandals as a result of lack of occupancy.

The Authority has developed plans for the area

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THE GOWDY RESIDENCE which overlooked the mill pond at Limehouse was the centre of attraction recently for its classic outdoor privy.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from an issue of the Free Press January 20, 1955

A long awaited decision from the Ontario Municipal Board was handed down this week. As of March 1, this year, Acton's boundaries will enclose 970 acres instead of the present 514. Included in the new limits will be industrial property owned by the Wool Combing Corporation and Beardmore Co. Ltd. Acton applied for the 566 Esquering township acres, the Municipal Board awarded 465.

The highlight of the monthly meeting of the Public School home and school association held in the school on Monday evening was a talk by Miss Sybil Bennett, M.P.

Ten houses now being built at the Glenen Subdivision are, according to a release from the development's selling agents, models of construction types which will eventually rise on the 200-lot subdivision.

The regular meeting of the W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. H. Norton on Thursday evening. Mrs. Roughley was in the chair in the absence of the president. Mrs. Benton read the Scripture and Mrs. James Findlay read the prayer. Mrs. Sanford reviewed the first part of the study, Face to Face with India. The word was quirk.

The St. Alban's Acton Branch of the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen held its first meeting for the new year last Thursday evening after the week of prayer services. The president, Clot Taylor turned the meeting over to the Rector, Rev. E. H. Jones, who acted as chairman. After the report of the nominating committee the election proceeded with Les Doby and Hamilton Peel acting as scrutineers.

50 years ago

Taken from an issue of the Free Press January 22, 1925

The monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday evening, January 29 at eight o'clock in the Council Chamber. The election of officers for the year and other important business will be taken up. A full attendance of the members will advance the interests aimed to secure by this important organization.

About thirty of the young ladies of the Y.W.A. of Knox Church had a sleighing party on Tuesday evening. The hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Watkins, First line, was the objective and thither the party drove through the snow drifts to the accompaniment of merry sleigh bells. The home was delightfully warm, and substantial refreshments of wieners, cooked to a turn, appetizing sandwiches, delectable cakes and tarts and steaming hot coffee, all contributed to put the company in a happy mood. Games were played until midnight, when the generous drivers, Mrs. Alex Mann and Wilmer Watkins, announced the sleighs were ready for the return trip. It was a very enjoyable outing.

John Randall, Sr. was badly burned about the face and hands last Thursday night in putting out a fire that had started in some old papers in his back kitchen. It appears he went over to feed the horse and in passing through the kitchen he lit a lantern and threw the match down carelessly amongst these old papers.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press January 18, 1900

Miss Maggie Smith, of Acton, has the highest standing in her class at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville.

Mrs. W. H. Storey and Mrs. A. E. Nicklin arrived home from Chicago Saturday morning. They left Mrs. Payne in a very encouraging condition and making rapid progress toward recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Chisholm gave a farewell party to their daughter, Mrs. Johnston, and Miss Etta and Mr. Park Dills, on Friday evening, before their leaving for Johnstown, N.Y.

Mr. Charles Moffat, who has had the management of the shoe pac department for W. H. Storey & Son, the past two years, left at the New Year to take a position in a manufactory at Penetanguishene. His family will remain here until spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Oxy, of Arthur who are enjoying their honeymoon, were guests for several days this week of Rev. J. A. MacLachlan, M.A., and family at the Paragon, Bow Avenue.

Mr. John W. Border, of Nassagaweya who went out west to Yorkton last April, has left with a party of ten Yorktonians to act as scouts, or rough riders, in the Transvaal. The reappearance in our columns, after an absence of some years, of the Kandall's Spavin Cure will be, to many of our readers, like looking upon the "face of a familiar friend."

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