





instrument played by SEATTLE AND Country Road were titles of Ann McDonald at the songs sung by Barbara Wilson, Janice Raine and L'Arche Augiliary show Patti Tufford, all H-year-olds competing Friday night at the talent show at the Robert Little





AWARD WINNERS AT the Friday show were the Dixie Band trio of Jim Saxon, 13, playing trombone, Mark Bray, 8, playing trumpet and Paul Bray 11, on the clarinet. Judges, Bob Juhnstone, Debbie Bousfield and Karen Hilfman was the 11 year old chose the group as tops in the show for the group



BILLY DON'T BE a Hero was the musical accompaniment for three acrobats, Katle Bell, Connie McCristall and Diana Wilson who performed back bends, summersaults and dance steps in the talent competition Friday.

# Speyside girl tops talent show being born in 1820 In a pioneer cabin. Some things seem to symbolize the changes.

organizers of Acton's first talent competition sponsored by L'Arche Auxiliary and held on stage of the Robert Little school. The show was sponsored as a means to raise money for the mentally retarded in North Halton and was organized by Shirley Skeggs, president of the Auxilinry, and Julie Conroy, corresponding secretary.

The day before the Friday night performance, Mrs. Skeggs became ill and could not be present for the big event. During the perform-ance fuses blew and record players wouldn't play but, despite the problems, the



FRECKLES was on stage for first time last Friday evening with his young ventroloquist master, Allen Kleine Deters.

Friday evening was one of show did go on and those minor catastrophe for the attending enjoyed the pro-

Refreshments

From 8 p.m. until 10.30

p.m., 24 acts were presented on stage with time out only for a 15 minute intermission. Coffee, hot chocolate, cake and cookies were refreshments for the evening before the audience hurried back to their seats to see the secondhalf of the two part show During intermission and at end of the program, the Acton Citizens' junior band played under direction of Dr. George Elliott. The senior school choir also performed directed by David Mashinter, music teacher at Robert Little.

Winner of the evening was Wendy Hilfman who took the individual trophy for her abilities as a gymnast. She is a student of Speyside public

Dixie band trio, composed of Paul and Mark Bray and Jim

Judges were Bob Johnstone, Debbie Bousfield and Miss Acton Fall Fair, Karen Hilfman. In the absence of Shirley Skeggs who was unable to assist at the Friday show, Mrs. Edith Hilfman, chairman of the Tinkerbell Nursery school stepped in to pinch-hit as master of cere-

Group-award went to the

# Lawyer writes of boyhood, school days in Acton

spent some of his formative years in Acton, has written book's about some of the most memorable experience of his

And some of them, luckily for Acton readers, happened right here.

Ernest G. Black has just published his second book, A Stuff Gown and a Silk One. His first book I Want One Volunteer, was about his experiences in World War

Mr. Black came to Acton as a boy and left in his midteen years. While here he met the girl he was to marry, Mildred

Friends of long gone Acton days are enjoying reading this new book, getting a special delight out of the index at the back of the book where the first item is "Acton" followed by five page references. flere are a few excerpts

from the book.

"Life in Central Ontario was very different seventy ago. One span of life has taken me from the country I was born in to an almost foreign land. Changes have been gradual for the most symbolize the changes.

me of Halloween. What a different event it was in those early days. Once we piled (an outhouse) on the door step of the weekly newspaper. (That was the Free Press.)

Toward the end of my year in the senior fourth class we moved to a farm near Acton. There my brother and I walked about two miles to school in Acton across That achool deserves a

word. There was no high school or collegiate, that I know of, nearer than Guelph. Acton had as a substitute its Continuation School that undertook to cover the whole high-school curriculum. There were two rooms and two teachers. This must have been W. H. Stewart and Minnie Z. Bennett. One was the principal of the public was unrewarding. school and combined with his duties as such the task of teaching us mathematics and science. I well remember the gasps of incredulity from the whole class when he told us that matter was not solid, but was composed of small particles called atoms with spaces between all of them. It

"There was a connecting door between the two rooms. and when the principal's public-school duties took him away, that door could be opened and the assistant could watch both rooms. She

was a long time before we

believed that.

had plenty to keep her busy. She taught us all the rest of the high-school course. She taught us grammar, English composition, and literature; history; ancient, English, and Canadian; and languages; Latin, French, and German. She also prepared to teach us Greek, but there were no volunteers for that option.

"We then went to university at the age of fifteen years. Having wandered a long

way from my first year in college, I must get back to it. at least to the end of it. With vacation approaching, the necessity of finding a sum-Just as my problem was hiography to be sold by subscription.

"While the book was being written and printed I was out selling it. For a short while it was like having a licence to print money. Any time I sold a book I made sixty cents. If I could talk my victims into the leather bound deluxe edition ! made eighty cents. When I got the hang of the thing I had ten and twelve dollars. That unfortunately was only on paper. When I came to deliver the books later I found that many customers had changed their minds. The husband, or wife, as the case might be, had made a fuss when he heard of the purchase, I do not wonder at that, The dollar and a half that the book cost represented a day's wages for the breadwinner in many of those homes. As I

"I soon found that success depends a good deal on whom I canvassed. English immigrants were the best prospects. Not only were they more interested in the royal than native Canadians, but they seemed to feel that the purchase of a biography of the late king in some way stressed their loyalty and their membership in the class that owned Canada. I found that can-

had to buy the books, un-

delivered copies had to be

" But the field was limited. Soon I had harvested all the good fields in my territory. About the time my licence to to be illusory. print money expired. I worked the little town of Glen Williams. I went there from Acton by train in the mor-Georgetown. After frustrating day banging on six with an hour off for dindoors that, when opened, ner-

were banged shut by the occupants, I had the problem to solve of how I would spend the night. There was no Irain that would take me home. The thought of spending fifty cents for bed and breakfast, the proportion of the dollar a day charged in a hotel, appalled me after a fruitless

day. I decided to walk home.
"It was only something like twelve miles and it was a nice summer evening. I got a bag of doughnuts—they were six for a nickel—and a bottle of cream soda and started off. Everything was fine until I passed Georgetown, but then mer job was serious, for I began to run out of doughnut without a summer job there energy. About half way to might be no college in the fall. Acton I gave up. The weather was warm and fair, there was approaching a crisis, I had a a bright moon in a cloudless stroke of luck. King Edward sky, and I decided to bivouse. died and an enterprising I found a nice grassy glade in publisher rushed out a a sugar bush. Using the little



**ERNEST G. BLACK** 

case, in which I carried my prospectus and order forms, as a pillow, I settled down to await sleep that never came. Region briefs problem. I could wash my celluloid collar next morning in the brook, and I was still at the stage where a shave a week was more than ample. Bye and bye the moon disappeared and the place became spooky. I tucked my pillow under my arm and walked the rest of the way

"That was the end of my career as a book salesman. The book, of course, had to be delivered, and I was faced with the problem of finding some other gainful ocvassing native Canadians cupation to acquire the money I needed for fall. Even the figure I estimated to have made as a salesman proved, after deliveries were made,

> "Like many another dream, I was forced at last to resort to manual labor. I got a job in the local tannery. at There I worked fifty-nine a hours a week, from seven to

A workman doing ten hours work did not have lunch; he went home to a hot dinner. On Saturdays we stopped work at five o'clock. That hour was the goal of the whole week, to he looked forward to eagerly. Then there would be no more work until neven o'clock Monday morning. For the remainder of that summer 1 dld very little reading. My twenty-four hours were divided into three periods: work, consumption of food, and sleep. As a sixteen yearold trying to do a man's job, near the end of some weeks t was so tired that I was near tears. I did in fact receive a man's pay, all of nine dollars per week. Having no board to pay, and having little time, energy or incentive to spend any of it, the whole pay went into the bank to add to the fund that would be needed in the fall!

"And those flat tires! A in the country that did not result in a flat was a minor triumph. Once I took a long-weekend trip. First I drove to Acton, going out Highway 5 to Palermo, and then north past the old farm and through Milton to Acton, about fifty miles. There I spent the night. The next day I went through Guelph and Elora to Fergus and back to Acton about another lifty miles. Then, a day later I came back to Toronto, a total of perhaps 170 miles. For weeks afterward I boasted that in all of that frip I had had only three flats. A copy of A Stuff Gown and

a Silk One is now in Acton public library.

During a meeting of Halton Region's Administration and Finance Committee the committee:

Referred to budget a request for a grant of \$3,600 from the Ningara and Mid-Western Ontario Travel Association. The grant request is based on a contribution of three cents per capita. The association promotes tourism and related business in the region. Representatives of the association pointed out the benefits of the service as well as the number of places and things in the region that could benefit from the promotional efforts of the region.

Recommended the Region purchase a half page advertisement for \$125 in a souvenir program being published in conjunction with the Lions Convention hosted by seven clubs in the Burlington area. Clubs from Ontario and Quebec will attend.

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#### lively exchange A lively exchange of views ranging from energy of licienty in town planning as retaining the autility facilifand in Halten tool place between Halton Ible, plainer Mario Vendith and Policina Probe. Georgether, ... meeting Wednesday Mr. Venditti has the factors

Council has

the three areas as said

making allowance to the

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Halton this fact and days

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On the subject of cuerats

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efforts will be directed

Venditti predicted the quest

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towards their restaration

Venditti said.

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Escarpment Compact sport

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fronts, will however, be limited by the sewage treatment plant expansion to mases due allowance for the Conditti envisages it, will tala place at the rate of per year to the limit of the

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