



A RECORDER was the instrument played by Ann McDonald at the L'Arche Auxiliary show.



MARIE LAMARCHE was the 11 year old hillbilly.

An evening of talent and fun



SEATTLE AND Country Road were titles of songs sung by Barbara Wilson, Janice Raine and Patti Tullford, all 11-year-olds competing Friday night at the talent show at the Robert Little school.



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 Johnstone, Debbie Bousfield and Karen Hilfman chose the group as tops in the show for the group prize.



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

Speyside girl tops talent show

Friday evening was one of minor catastrophe for the 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 Auxiliary, 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 performance fuses blew and record players wouldn't play but, despite the problems, the show did go on and those attending enjoyed the program.



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

Lawyer writes of boyhood, school days in Acton

A Toronto lawyer, who spent some of his formative years in Acton, has written a book about some of the most memorable experience of his life.

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 One.

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

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.

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 summer job was serious, for without a summer job there might be no college in the fall. Just as my problem was approaching a crisis, I had a stroke of luck. King Edward died and an enterprising publisher rushed out a biography 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 I made eighty cents. When I got the hang of the thing I had some big days: eight, nine, 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 had to buy the books, undelivered copies had to be resold.

"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 family 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 canvassing native Canadians was unrewarding.

"But the field was limited. Soon I had harvested all the good fields in my territory. About the time my licence to print money expired, I worked the little town of Glen Williams. I went there from Acton by train in the morning, changing at Georgetown. After a frustrating day banging on doors that, when opened,



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. Toilet requirements were no 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 home.

"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 occupation to acquire the money I needed for full. Even the figure I estimated to have made as a salesman proved, after deliveries were made, to be illusory.

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

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 be looked forward to eagerly. Then there would be no more work until seven o'clock Monday morning. For the remainder of that summer I did very little reading. My twenty-four hours were divided into three periods: work, consumption of food, and sleep. As a sixteen-year-old trying to do a man's job, near the end of some weeks I 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 treads! 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 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 fifty 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 trip I had had only three flats.

A copy of *A Stuff Gown and a Silk One* is now in Acton public library.

Region briefs

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 Niagara 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.

Council has lively exchange

A lively exchange of views ranging from energy efficiency in town planning to retaining the quality farmland in Halton led planning Mario Venditti and Donnie Probe, Georgetown, in a meeting Wednesday.

Mr. Venditti has the task of amalgamating the three official plans of Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown into a single plan which will maintain in the respective the three areas as well as making allowance for the dictates of the Provincial Escarpment Commission.

Halton Hills has had a considerable development pressure and without a mechanism to compensate farmers for conversion of agricultural use it does not seem possible for a complete freeze to be imposed. A detailed land inventory and environmental assessment of his planning area would help tremendously but this would cost \$250,000, a sum which is unlikely to come approved Venditti said.

On the subject of energy conservation the town planner put forward the neighborhood concept, which a balance of residential, commercial, recreational and industrial development is maintained within walking distance. Some of the seven Georgetown neighborhoods do not meet that criteria and future planning efforts will be directed towards their restoration.

Venditti predicted the quest for industrial development in Georgetown will soon be re-

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