Publishers contributed to the life of Acton



Taken from the Free Press of April 25, 1895.

lenthy illness.

His ailment was something quently he went to Clifford similar to that of the late Rev. and established the Arrow. G. B. Cooke.

Mr. Hacking was for many in the commercial capital of Banner about 22 years ago, removed to Guelph and engaged in the publication of the Daily Advertiser with Mr. Guelph was very keen and events proved that the town could not successfully maintain three dailies. Mr. Hacking then turned his attention to Acton and after consultation with the businessmen of this place found that a local newspaper would be welcomed and was promised encouraging support. On July 1875 he issued the first number of the Free Press which has regularly appeared every week without interruption. In Mr. J. H. Hacking, the .1877 Mr. Hacking disposed of founder of the Free Press, his youthful journalistic child died at the home of his son-in- to Messrs. Moore and Gallaw, Mr. Henry F. Hill, Buf- braith and returned to Guelph falo, on Thursday, after a engaging for some time in the job printing business. Subse-

years the publisher of the the North West attracted his Listowel Banner which was attention and he removed to perhaps his most successful Winnipeg and secured the enterprise. He sold the position as foreman of the Free Press job department which situation he filled successfully for some time. For several years his health R. Elliott now the proprietor has been failing and he found of the Wingham Times as the severe winters of foreman. The competition in Manitoba very trying. Last fall he removed to Buffalo and has resided there since.

His first wife died in Winnipeg several years ago, He subsequently married a Miss Allan in that city who with three daughters as well as two sons, survives him. J. H. Hacking was a first-class printer, an upright and conscientious business man, a loving husband and father and a worthy citizen of any community where he resided. His interest in Acton was always manifest and the success of the Free Press throughout its career was a matter of personal gratification to him.

His remains were interred at the family plot at Listowel, the home of his early years, Shortly after this, activity on Saturday. April 25, 1895



S. W. Galbraith was a partner with T. Albert Moore in the publication of The Acton Free Press in its early days. The partners followed founder Joseph Hacking.

Mr. Hacking, after publishing from 1875 to 1877, concluded the 14 miles that separated sell to the new partners.

"In future the Free Press will be conducted by Messrs. Moore and Galbraith", he gamut of reading material, publication.

from a continued novel on the front page through the miscellaneous local, national and world news that was common in publications of that era.

The partners set out an independent course for the paper refusing to espouse either the Grit or Tory line. his business in Guelph from They also added a new card the one in Acton was not press "and other requisites to satisfactory, and agreed to a well conducted printing of-

On July 18, 1878 it was reported that Editor Galbraith had accepted a position with wrote. Mr. Galbraith was the Montreal Evening Post named editor of the four page and he left the fledgling Acton paper that included the full paper, then in its third year of



The Rev. T. Albert Moore was the first apprentice of the Acton Free Press and later rose to become part owner of the publication, later abandoning printing for a career in the church. He became moderator of the United Church of Canada.

It was as a member of the partnership of Galbraith and Moore that purchased the newspaper from the founder Joseph Hacking, that the Moore family first became associated with the Acton newspaper. Both were described as "enterprising practical printers" when in 1877 they became the paper's own-

T. Albert Moore was pub-

lisher. He and his partner acknowledged in 1878 that "compliments go a great way in encouraging an editor but it will not support him. It is a well known fact that it takes a great deal of money to run a newspaper and we would like it if those who are in arrears would come and settle at

When the editor S. W. Galbraith took a position with the Montreal Evening Post, T. Albert Moore took as his partner H. P. Moore as manager. The Moore partnership was dissolved June 30, 1879 and H. P. Moore continued as sole owner until establishing a partnership with G. A. Dills in

MEMO. MINUM OF APPRENTICESHIP ACCREMENT BETWEEN AILINE DILLS AND H. P. MOORE. ________ I, ARLOF DILLS, of the Village of Acton, being desirous of learning the Art of Printing, enter into this agreement with H. P. Moure Proprietor of the Acton Pron Pronn, an an Approntice to the Printing business. In consideration of being taught the trade of a Printer, I hereby promise and agree :-1. Paithful, obedient and willing nervice to Mr. Moore and

to those who are in authority over me in the office, and who are authorized to give me instructions as to the work to be done in the office and in connection with the business. 2. I will always be willing to do the work ausigned to be; will be prepared to work on Wednesday evenings when it is

necessary to get out the weekly edition of the paper, and on

8 Centennial Section, The Acton Free Press, July 2, 1975

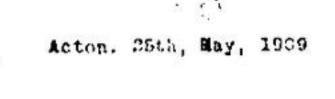
any other evenings when the demands of the work of the office require it. 3 I will take all possible care to prepare from damage or loss all type, machinery, paper, or other materials in the office, pick up all type rules, leads, etc., I may find on the office floor, keep the office floor, deaks, counter, woodwork, windows and walls always clean, clean the boiler flues every morning the builter is in use, and keep everything in my charge

always in a tidy and presentable condition. 4. During the Summer combine I will be at the office averymorning before the seven o'clock bell rings-that it on every working day, and in the coldernonths, when it is necessary to have the office heated, I will be there to light the fire not later than 6.30 a.r., no an to have steam up and the office warm by neven o'clock. It is understood that I am to be allowed time to return home for my breakfast when this early firing in necessary.

5. I further agree to keep from repeating to any one mituide the Free Press office any information respecting Free Press office business that may come to my knowledge, either in connection with my work, or that I may overhear in convernation in the office.

G. I notemaly promine that while I am employed in the Proc Press office I will not use Tobacco in any form, nor intoxicating Tiquer as a heverage, either in the office or out of it; that I will be homest, truthful and straightforward, and will endeavor to act the part of a gentleman, wherever I may be, and that I will in all reasonable ways use my best endeavors to advance the interests of the Free Press and apply misself to become a competent

It is arranged that my wages shall be \$1.50 per week the first year, and that they shall be increased by \$1.00 per week onch sucreeding your during my a continently.



certof XICEs



Moore

Taken from the Free Press of Thursday, July 2, 1931.

The robins in the maples sang lustily last Saturday afternoon as the casket encasing the body of H. P. Moore - judge, churchman, newspaperman, friend, and lover of children and birds -was carried out from the home he loved so well on Church Street, Acton.

"That man needs no monument," noted one of the throng who had come to pay their respects. "He has it in the bird houses he has built around him. "You don't know the half of

it, brother," commented another, more familiar with the situation. "He has built monuments in the hearts of scores of children, not only in Acton, but all over Ontario, to whom he has given bird houses, but he has left something even better than that in the respect he engendered, in the warm friendships he made, in the good deeds he did for his native town and for the folk within his magisterial jurisdiction.

On the Friday evening previous a little girl of perhaps nine stood looking for a moment, with the hundreds of others, at the face which had smiled down at her

frequently in life.
"He made a bird house for my little sick brother." she noted, with childish ingeniousness. "And then he got better and painted it and a bird came in it every year. And then my brother died, but the birds still come."

Typical Perhaps it is that sort of thing, typical of hundreds of similar incidents running back through half a century, that H. P. Moore would rather be remembered by. To those who loved him that type of legacy is vastly greater than came quietly, if suddenly all the honors of his profession, as well as of church and state which were bestowed on him in generous measure. For, above and beyond everything else, H. P. Moore, was, first of all, friend, counsellor and helper.

Another type of tribute, just as significant in its expression, came the next morning when a man whom Magistrate Moore, in his official duty, had committed for a term to a government penal institution, brought a bouquet he, himself, had gathered. "He was square with me," he said. "I only got what was coming to me. I've always remembered him

kindly. more ordinary payment of respect came in the throngs who came from distant points, from adjacent counties, from the county round about and from the home village, in numbers beyond the capacity of any church or ordinary building and who stood reverently, appreciatively, while the service was being conducted and while the robins sang their praise under the blue

sky of a perfect July day. Usual routine Magistrate Moore appeared to be in splendid health up to the Saturday before his death. The previous Wednesday evening he had given an address. including a very considerable amount of information as to the early settlers of the district at a garden party at Churchill. Later in the week he had held court in Oakville

and Milton, following his On Saturday morning just at breakfast time, when he was working with the flowers he loved at his home, he the editor fought for the best suffered a seizure in the abdomen which caused exquisite pain. Later in the day a specialist was brought from Toronto as consultant with the family physician and it was felt that with due rest the ailment might be tided over. Every effort was made

to alleviate the primary condition and on Wednesday distinct improvement seemed to be evident. On Thursday morning, however, after a trying night, the heart, known for some time to be affected, wore itself out and the end

It may safely be said, one without suggestion of exaggeration, that few towns have had a more representative or more helpful citizen than H. P. Moore. Born in Acton, on the spot where he later built the family home, on October 18, 1858, he loved his town and was, from boyhood to the time of his death, zealous and energetic in its interests. After attending the Public School in Acton he was at Rockwood Academy and Albert College, Belleville.

Publisher As a young man Henry Moore spent some years in the stave and shingle mill operated by his father north of the present C.N.R. line, and later worked in the tannery operated under the Moore and Storey interests. Just about fifty years ago he became interested in THE FREE PRESS, and as a young man, in partnership with his brother Albert, now Rev. Dr. T. Albert Moore, assumed the responsibility for the publication of the paper, which he continued until four years ago.

In 1879 he married Harriet Isabella Speight, daughter of John Speight, another Acton pioneer. Perhaps it is sufficient to say that there has never been any other woman

A personal characteristic, thoroughness, and a liking for well-groomedness, which was evident in his person, his home, his business, soon found itself reflected in the newspaper which in later years came to be familiarly dubbed by the editor's newspaper associates "the dude weekly of Ontario." Through THE FREE PRESS things for his town, lending his influence to every good cause and frequently fighting battles against what seemed unworthy and lowering movements. During his work as editor he was closely associated with the Canadian

Press Association and

of this body.

Municipality of Acton, was forty-four years Secretary-Treasurer of Acton Board of Education, and for years, up to the time of his death, a member of the Acton Library Board. These offices give some idea of the faithfulness of his service for his town, outside of his newspaper influence.

Probably, however, H. P. Moore made as great a contribution to the church of his choice as in any other department of his life. Just how great this was may be judged from the fact that for thirtythree years he was Superintendent of Acton Methodist Sunday School, was member of the Official Board for forty-four years. member of the Trustee Board of the church for forty years and its secretary for nineteen years. He was given various honors by the church, being elected repeatedly to Annual as well as to General Conferences for years. In 1890 he was elected a member of the Book Committee, the board of direction of the church's publishing house, and held this office continuously till Union was consummated in 1926. At that time he was chosen chairman of the newly-formed board which position was held till his death. A member of the committee on Church Union, he was subsequently elected a commissioner to the first two General Councils of the United Church. In education circles he had held office as a member of the Board of Albert College, Belleville, since 1884, and was last year elected a member of the Senate of Victoria University.

Magistrate During his later years his magisterial work came to claim a very large part in his flowers and gardening. With life. Over 20 years ago he was large foresight he purchased appointed as J. P. In 1920 he was named Police Magistrate for the Counties of Halton, Peel and Wellington, and in 1927 an order-in-council designated him Judge of the Juvenile Courts throughout his jurisdiction. In his courts

developed some of his finest he was notably just and abfriendships among the solutely fearless. He may members. In 1892 he was have made the occasional honored with the Presidency mistake, though surprisingly few appeals have been made against his decisions and in In 1875 Mr. Moore was very few cases, indeed, have other times, particularly with first offenders, or when there had been mitigating circumstances, he was exceedingly

> As in other things in his magisterial work he became deeply interested in the organization for furthering the interest of the profession. For a number of years he worked energetically in the Ontario Magistrates' Association and in 1929 was elected President. In his work in this office he made a material contribution for the betterment of the organ-

ization. Up to this point these paragraphs have been devoted, in the main, to H. P. Moore's work, and it will be realized that he worked hard as was necessitated by the enormity of varied interests suggested. But he also played hard and in his own good way.

Trouting From his boyhood, "H.P. as he has been familiarly known in his home town, has loved to handle a trout rod. The streams in the Acton vicinity were naturally stocked in the carly days, providing excellent troutfishing and the editor's greatest outdoor relaxation has been to spend an afternoon with a friend, latterly usually with his son, on one of the streams in the neighborhood. Through the years he developed almost uncanny knowledge trouting lore and it was unusual that he did not return at the end of the day with at least double the number taken by any other member of the party.

Anyone who knows his home, "Moorecroft", on Church Street, Acton, would know of another hobby, the lot on which his lather had lived and the family had grown up, after the home had been broken up, planted the property with fruit and ultimately erected the home there over thirty years ago. Everyone in Acton knows the

tensive vegetable gardens, usually weedless, provided vegetable world. Another hobby

disposed of the Free Press to to make himself thoroughly Dills, the present proprietor, Judge Moore began the development of another hobby. Starting with the construction of a few bird houses for his own property, he began to build them in large numbers: The use of hammer, saw and plane seemed to give him the outlet he needed for his abundant physical activity and scarcely a day went by, no matter the season, but that an hour or two were spent in his cellar work shop fabricating bird houses of almost every type. There are a hundred or more of those bird houses, made with his own hands, in Acton, most of them given to the trees and around the homes in every section of the seen, was dignified and town. There are scores of them in Toronto. Others have been carried east to Quebec

and others again north to Some of his friends, knowing his active temperament, had been somewhat fearful on his retirement from his strenuous newspaper work, lest his time should hang heavy on his hands. But he found in this unusual occupation a hobby which not only served the purpose of keeping him busy but also gave him a great deal of pleasure and provided an immense amount of joy for the children who were favored with his production. On Victoria Day an event

occurred which was not only Sunday to Sunday. significant but gave Judge he and Mrs. Moore were in England with the Canadian Editors' party in 1924, they met in quite an incidental way Sir Harry Brittain, who at that time was the sitting of Acton, England, in the the funeral.

"Moorecroft" gardens, with British House of Commons. As flower borders trimmed like a result Mr. and Mrs. Moore a Beau Brummel with a new visited the English Acton and hair-cut, with a rose garden, various amenities have since the Magistrate's particular been exchanged, including a pride, which presented coat of arms from the English blooms from June till town, which hangs in the town Clerk and Treasurer of the these been successful. At December. On the other hall here. This spring Sir York on some mission for the British government and the best of everything in the made opportunity to visit the Canadian Acton. While here he was the guest of Judge and Four years ago, when he Mrs. Moore and took occasion

> acquainted with the town. A friend In all this it seems is surely the record of a worthy citizen. But with it again goes the spirit of a warm-hearted friend, something which

cannot well be dwelt on in an article of this kind Judge Moore's body was carried out while the robins sang. But he is not dead. A good man lives in the things he has done for the friends he has made, in the influence he has left. And H. P. Moore has left a spirit-legacy of this kind just as surely as he made friends while he lived. The service in the home on

Saturday afternoon, while children. They may be seen in one of the most largely attended the town has ever simple — just that. Conducted by his paster Rev. Clarence L. Poole, B.D., sections of the service were taken by Rev. C. W. Bishop, D.D., Principal of Albert College, as representing the Board, by Rev. S. D. Chown, D.D., who came especially to represent the Moderator of the United Church, by Rev. Charles Hackett. President Hamilton conference, by Rev. S. W. Fallis, D.D., as representing the Board of Publications of the Church, and by Rev. George Little, B.A., the secretary of the same board. The casket was borne out by fellow-elders of the local church, men with whom he worshipped from

Mrs. Moore and the only faction and pleasure. While son, E. J. Moore, are left in the home. Besides this his sisters Mrs. Lyman Butlin of St. Clair, Mich., Mrs. H. T. LePage of Toronto, and the brothers, Rev. Dr. T. Albert Moore and S. H. Moore, both a host of other projects were member of the municipality of Toronto, were present at



From The Free Press of January 20, 1966. -

George Arlof Dills in his 73rd and soon placed it, with the year, publisher of The Acton Acton paper, in the winners' Free Press and The Canadian Champion, Milton, ended a life of rich service to his community and to his profession.

In 1958 The Acton Chamber of Commerce had named him the town's first Citizen of the Year. That same year he was honored by members of his profession when Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association named hlm an Honorary Life Member and the provincial association named him Mr. Weekly Newspaperman of the Year.

A life-long resident of Acton, where he obtained his education, he was always its proud defender and public champion while he pressed for its progress directly in the field of community service as well as from the editorial chair of its paper. He was not silent on provincial and national topics, either, and his editorial writings were frequently quoted.

Mr. Dilis apprenticed in the printing trade under the late H. P. Moore in 1909 and later sought a breadth of practical experience in Toronto, Guelph, Kingston and New York State.

In 1917 he returned to Acton and the Acton Free Press where he installed the country's first linotype machine to reduce the laborious hand setting of type. In 1918 he married Isma Macpherson section of the property ex- Harry Brittain was in New and the following year became a partner with H. P. Moore in The Acton Free Press. In 1927 he became sole owner of the paper.

> During his years with the Acton paper he co-authored Acton's Early Days which was compiled from a series of newspaper columns that appeared under the name The old Man of the Clocktower. He was an active member of The Acton Citizens' Band and his memory was rich with recollections of Calithumpian parades and Minstrel Shows le served as a director and was president of Acton Fall Fair in 1937. In 1961 he was presented with an Agricultural Service Diploma. He was an Honorary Life Member of Acton Fall Fair. He was a member of Acton Library Board, Acton Public School Board. Walker Lodge and Trinity United Church, He served as chairman and as a member of the North Halton High School District Board for a number of years. He was the first president of the Acton Y.M.C.A. Board and played an active role in establishing that facility in the community. For a number of years he was on the advisory committee for the School of Graphic Arts at Ryerson Institute of Technology. He was Justice of the Peace for many years and was active in the Liberal party in Acton

His editorship of The Acton Free Press kept him at the table of Acton Council for 25 years and he played an active role in Victory Loan Campaigns. A Mosquito bomber was named after the town during one of those campaigns for the promotional work he developed.

and Halton.

He was a member of the executive of the Intermediate Hockey Club and saw the team win its championship in 1939. War Service work and included in his interest. In 1943 he purchased The

The death last Thursday of Canadian Champion, Milton, circle for national weekly newspaper honors.

> During his association with the business that spanned 47 years he saw and particlpated in expansion from four employees to the present 34

As one of the founding members of The Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, he enjoyed, with Mrs; Dills, a number of conventions, particularly in later years. He served as a director of the national organization and as chairman of the Executive Committee for a number of years.

In 1958 illness forced him to discontinue his active participation in the day-to-day activites of the business but he continued as president of the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. which he formed in 1954. Until recently he made almost daily trips to the Acton plant and retained a keen interest in its activities.

His life was one of many loves. He loved his family, his work, his community and a new challenge.

The printing plant in Acton which he acquired in 1927 was always a second family home. His children were always welcome and early in life they were challenged with an opportunity to be useful.

His work placed heavy demands on him physically and mentally and the busy years of the second world war followed in close succession the depression years with the struggles common to that era. His acquisition of the Milton paper in 1943 came at a time when he might have been forgiven for expecting to take life a little easier but he enjoyed the challenge it

The acquisition of new plant facilities in Acton in 1959 aroused his keen interest although he was physically limited and prevented from playing an active role in the resulting move. His keen assessment of planning and negotiations, however, were ever present in the trans-

The funeral service was held Saturday from the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home conducted by the Rev. Dwight Engel of Trinity United Church, Acton. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery. A Masonic service was held Friday evening.

Those acting as pallbearers were former Acton Mayor E. Tyler Sr., long-time employee R. MacArthur, nephew A. B. Corless, Goderich: Lodge and Church associate R. H. Elliott; former Milton mayor G. C. Gowland and secretarymanager of the Ontarlo Weekly Newspapers Association, Werden Leavens, Bolton.

He is survived by his wife Macpherson: daughter Frances (Mrs. C. R. Prosser)) Bracebridge, Ont. two sons, David R. of Actor and James A. of Milton; and one sister Myrtle (Mrs. F) Browning) Toronto. Predeceasing him were one soo George Macpherson Dills: a brother Park and three sisters, Blanche (Mrs. Bob Macpherson), Etta and Maude (Mrs. T. Workman). Those of us who worked with him and those of us who were his family naturally feel a great sense of loss, for his enthusiasm, imagination, and love of challenge were rich

assets he freely shared.