

## Interview with the P.M.

The weekly newspaper people were given an hour's exclusive press conference with Prime Minister Trudeau Friday—an unexpected pleasure.

Chairman Jim Dills, president of the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, took along a carload of people from here to join the roomful of reporters from all over southern Ontario.

The Prime Minister as usual spoke to his audience assuming they, like he himself, have a reasonable array of intelligence. The

questions were good ones, and so were the answers.

Mr. Trudeau looked chipper and healthy in a grey striped summery suit, grey patterned tie and pink rosebud. He looks far better in person than on TV or newspaper photographs—younger, less bald, more interested and interesting.

Mr. Trudeau and his office in Ottawa have let down the weekly newspaper associations on different occasions, much to the weeklies' embarrassment.

But this time was a good one.

## Get the mail moving

Although prime minister Pierre Trudeau asked weekly newspaper people to support the government in letting the postal strike continue, people who need the mail look at it from quite a different way. The government is expected to give us postal service, no matter which party is in power. And they have failed.

Is there anyone who doesn't need the mail for something or other? Not likely.

Businessmen find ways of providing their services, and the government should do the same.

One company has managed to win its case against the post office union, which may indicate a change.

A Quebec court has ordered the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to pay \$1,000 to Santana Inc. of Sherbrooke, for damages arising out of the illegal postal strike in April 1974. This represents only a fraction of what the mail order company lost—but the decision is highly important if it sets a precedent.

To ensure delivery of Free Presses, we have hired a trucking service to take the papers to rural post offices. The rural mailmen who recognize their responsibilities, travelled their regular routes for Free Presses alone for a much smaller fee than they would have received for carrying the regular mail.

It's unfortunate there aren't more people like that in government service.

Other newspapers, printed in our plant, have cut down on their runs considerably. Some publications, completely dependent on the mail, will not be printed at all.

So extra expenses add to lost revenue.

And we know our troubles are minimal compared to those of some companies.

Surely when a monopoly provides a public service, both management and union should have the obligation to keep the service operating.

## Free Press Editorial Page

## Games and goodwill

Friday — Hallowe'en — time for child's play. But there are a few other things for Acton and district children to think about.

Malnutrition is the biggest single contributor to child mortality in the world. Even in the midst of plenty, 10 million children face starvation each year. Worldwide shortages and failing harvests this year have multiplied the number beyond imagination. Canada has its own pockets of poverty but most of the 500 million potential victims are in the drought-stricken underdeveloped regions of Africa, Asia and South America astride the Equator.

It's something to remember, when thousands of costumed youngsters, flushed with excitement begin knocking on doors and

childish voices demand "trick or treat."

We hope our readers will humor them, because it's important that the spirit of Hallowe'en enter into every child's life. But we hope they will also be generous to those who seek not candies, fruit or other goodies for themselves, but funds to buy food and medicines for other children who don't know where their next meal is coming from.

They can be identified by the familiar orange and black United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) collection boxes.

Hallowe'en is—and should be—a time for child's play. But it ought to be for all children, not a few. It doesn't cost much to mix games with goodwill. Ringing doorbells for those who have none to ring can be twice the fun.

## Of this and that

The children and teenagers of this district have been reasonably well behaved on Hallowe'en for many years. Citizens will look forward to another night of fun—no foolishness—this week.

over the paper and bottle collection. The people had become used to saving their newspapers and glass bottles, and it seems a shame no group has taken over. The high school Outers pioneered the idea, and their project was taken over by the high school band. Years ago the Scouts raised money that way.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

Burlington, Ont.

Dear Sir: As a spokesman and a representative of the Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (H.E.T.A.), I am writing in response to the article in your paper dated October 8. Ombudsman won't enter in parents' board battle. There are several comments attributed to Mrs. Betty Fisher which I feel misrepresent the collective views of the elementary teachers in Halton Region.

Mrs. Fisher alleges 'the teachers are afraid to speak out'. This may reflect the viewpoint of some individual teachers; however, this is not the position of the Elementary Teachers' Association. There are several routes available to us as teachers and as an organization to discuss any situations with the Board or Administration which may arise or be of concern.

It is our philosophy that these approaches should be used since these procedures have the support of all the parties involved. Although this process for discussions does not receive publicity, we feel that the re-

sults have been most positive in solving the problems of all the parties represented and in fostering a better relationship and a clearer understanding.

In addition, Mrs. Fisher states that 'the teachers are supporting us in this battle'. Again, this may be the stance of some individual teachers. But, this is definitely not the position of the Halton Elementary Teachers' Association; nor have I or any other representatives of our organization been contacted by Mrs. Fisher or any other members of her group for our viewpoint or support in this matter. Thus, as an association, we do not support the position assumed by Mrs. Fisher's group.

As stated earlier, H.E.T.A. prefers to use the channels of communication established with the Board and we would appreciate other groups following proper procedures if and when comments are required.

Sincerely,  
Carole Anne Yuzwa  
President - H.E.T.A.



## Grade 13 grads grin as a group

GRADUATES OF ACTON high school had a happy reunion Friday. They returned from universities, colleges, courses and jobs for a dinner, commencement

exercises and dance at the golf club. Here they gathered in the high school gym for a group portrait.

## Halton Sketches

by John McDonald

# Outstanding educator, Robert Little memorialized

Robert Little was born February 7, 1835 at Woolwich, Kentshire, England.

At an early age he acquired a taste for books and at the age of 13, in 1848, he was appointed a Junior Assistant at the Lancasterian Night School in Edinburgh. He attended an academy as a student during the day, occupied his position as a teacher at the night school and rose at 6 a.m. to give lessons in arithmetic to a merchant for which he received a half crown per week.

In 1850, Little was appointed first of three assistant teachers in the Sessional School of St. Andrew's Parish.

In April, 1852, Robert came to Canada with his family and upon his arrival in Toronto he presented a letter of introduction from his teachers in Edinburgh which resulted in his introduction to Rev. Mr. Gale, Principal of Knox College, and subsequently to his appointment August 2, 1852 as teacher at S.S. No. 5 Esquesing (near the "Scotch Block").

In 1863, after a wide reputation for successful teaching, he was appointed Principal of Acton Public School. His tenure at Acton was a long and fruitful one. He gained the respect and confidence of both pupils and parents.

Many Acton students, of a former generation, could relate the outstanding teaching abilities of Robert Little or "Old Bob Little" as some students referred to him. A nerve problem in his left arm never impaired Mr. Little's ability to "use the rod" for any school room "pranks".

A love for one of his pupils resulted in the wedding of Robert Little and Sarah Johnson, the daughter of an Esquesing farmer, on May 23, 1856. They resided in Acton and eventually had a magnificent home built on Church Street. The wide halls and spacious rooms made several citizens believe that the Little's new home would one day be the nucleus of a high school building for Acton. However, the death of Robert Little and a fire one cold January night several years later, ruined this possibility.

**THE COMMITTEE:**  
J. E. ROBERTS, A. E. NICHOLSON,  
JOHN DUNGLAS, AUSTIN TIPPIN,  
J. E. NEARBY, G. GEORGE LYNDEN,  
CHAS. A. COOR, H. P. MOORE,  
SECRETARY-TREASURER.

George Hynde, Presiding.  
Hymn "O God of Israel" Mr. Little's favorite Hymn.  
Prayer  
Farewelling and Brief Words by Chairman  
Address R. S. Thurtell  
Address Rev. T. Albert Moore.  
Prayer

Photo of Old Public Surrounding the Monument

## SOUVENIR PROGRAMME of ... PROCEEDINGS Robert Little's Pupils' Second Re-Union

AT ACTON, Friday, 13th June, 1900...



PUPILS OF the late Robert Little held a reunion and gathered around his tombstone in Fairview cemetery for a group portrait.

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 3, 1955. Acton firemen made a brief call late Friday afternoon at Neil's Service Station where smoke had been noticed curling from the living quarters back of the station.

Damage was not extensive and water was not used. Cause of the fire is not known. There was no one in the building when the smoke was noticed by a passerby.

Mrs. Charles Heller was hostess for the October meeting of the Music Study group, when Mephistopheles' Scotch Symphony was the work of the evening. A recording of the symphony and a recorded commentary were played.

Those witches and phantoms and hoboes that looked so frightening on Monday evening proved to have both sense and sensibility. Hallowe'en damage in town was slight with wires and trees festooned with paper and some road signs knocked down.

Two Halton teachers, with a combined service of nearly 60 years, were honored at the annual convention Friday. Acton's Daisy Folber and Burlington's J. A. Lockhart were both presented with paintings in tribute from their fellow teachers.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 29, 1925.

Acton Citizens' Band will again inaugurate a sane and enjoyable Hallowe'en celebration with a parade. The masqueraders will follow the band in regular order in two and four six feet apart. Prizes will be awarded. The judging will take place on Main St. between the Government Building and the Hydro Shop.

About 150 of the neighbors and friends of Mr. and Mrs. David McEnery assembled at their home at Ballsfadd to say farewell prior to their moving to Acton.

One of the best known leather men on the continent Mr. Peter A. Smith of Acton, who has spent 52 years in the tanning business, has resigned his position. For 34 years he has been manager of the sole leather tanneries of Messrs. Beardmore and Co. When the tannery of this company was built at Bracebridge he accepted the manager's post and successfully conducted this large business until four years ago when he moved to Acton. Our citizens will be pleased to know it is not the present intention of Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Miss Smith to leave Acton.

There are five polling places for the election today. North of Mill St. At the Town Hall, A to I, in the fire brigade's room, M to A in the Free Library, South of Mill; in Tony Szymuk's near the Baptist church A to G, H to M in the Customs Rooms rear of the Post Office and M to Z in Woodhall and McKay's store.

The band elected its officers, Bandmaster A. Mason, honorary president J. C. Hill, president G. A. Dills, vice-president James Smith, assistant bandmaster John Allan, secretary Geo. Saper, committeeman A. Holland. A splendid banquet and social evening followed the business session, arranged by R. Spielvogel, with toasts by J. Chalmers, Reeve Barber, G. R. Agnew, C.H. Harrison and musical numbers by George Mason, Charles Landsborough, Campbell Currie and the band male quartette.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 25, 1900.

The Rowlands Comedy Co. have been playing in good houses in the town hall during the week. They are considerably above the average travelling company and their plays are clean in every respect. The members are quite at home in the Irish roles.

The electric light service was somewhat demoralized last week when transformers blew out on Frederick St., Bower Ave. and on Mill St. between Willow and Elgin and left stores and residences in darkness.

Interesting public meetings in the interests of the Women's Christian Temperance Union were held in the Methodist church. Miss Charlotte Wiggins, the lecturer, spoke on the need for temperance work and how to overcome the cigarette evil. Touching upon women's suffrage she deemed women to be the equal of men and declared that when women enter politics, politics will be clean and moral issues will be fought to a successful termination.

The death on Thanksgiving evening of Mrs. McKee, wife of Mr. J. D. McKee, druggist, came as a shock. Since becoming a mother two months ago she has been in a precarious state of health. She came to Acton two years ago as a bride.

Ward comes from Transval and Corp. Ballentine and Gunner Moore are all right. The generous showers on Thursday filled up the cisterns for the winter.

Mr. John Lawson's new residence at the corner of Church and Willow is up and enclosed.

Thanksgiving was a great day on the golf links. Most of the players in town were out and they had numerous spectators.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.C.A. and C.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$7.50 in Canada, \$10.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents, carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail registration number 0515. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

David R. Dills, Publisher

Key Dills, Editor

Don Ryder, Advertising Manager

Copyright 1975