Fifty years - plus - for librarian Mrs. Watson

cidtorial page) Isabel Walson was engaged as librarian and one of her qualifications was

Exactly 50 years ago (as worked at the library for se- the years she worked as have library nights off. recorded in the column on the veral years before, leaving assistant during her high when she married.

So her career as the town's fifth librarian not only spans the fact she had already the past five decades, but also

ing years before marriage. After her appointment exactly five decades ago she went to work in January 1926 in the small room in the town hall It was so small that customers couldn't range over the shelves picking out their own books. Instead, they ordered them over the count er from printed catalogues for many years. In 1934 the library moved from the town hall into the Y.M.C.A. The library occupied quarters on the left hand

side off the main Y entrance, which has been completely changed into offices now. Packed Here there were closelyspaced rows and rows of books from floor to ceiling, and it was delightful for children to disappear in the

back corners and turn over

school years and then work-

pages of interesting books un-The place became packed with volumes and the library have been Mary Chalmers, board long had a dream of new quarters. This came true in 1967 when the splendid new library building was erected as the town's centennial prolect. Location was a corner of

First sod for the project was turned by Mrs. Watson,

Started

the school property.

It was in first form high school that Isobel Elliott began to work at the library. She recalls she would have been 13 or 14 at the time. Margaret Wilson had been the assistant to librarian Lettle Scott, but the Wilsons moved away from the Presbyterian manse and young Isobel took over the job.

She finished school and took a position in Wiles' confectionery and ice cream parlor. still continuing to work in the library. The Wiles let her closed Monday and open on

delay implementing a by-law

which would give lands near

Highway 24 to the Grand

Council found the new Era-

mosa-Guelph townline inter-

section with the highway un-

acceptable and joined Guelph

in calling for improvements.

A by-law, which would stop-

up the road and convey 14.19

acres to GRCA, will be held

up at least until council has

met the ministry of trans-

portation and communica-

Representatives

Representatives from

(GRCA).

Delay giving land

to Grand Authority

Eramosa council moved to GRCA attended the final

River Conservation Authority Guelph City officials who

Then the library was open three nights a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays

from 7 to 8.30 p.m. A catalogue was printed with the names of the books, and patrons would select their books from lists rather then searching on the shelves.

Resigned

In 1921 Isobel Elliott married Perry Watson and retired from both her posts. Then, when son Tom was a toddler, she applied to work in the library again. The board promptly chose her over the other applicants, worthy as they all were. She began ag-ain January 1, 1926, and has been there ever since.

Now they also have a refer-Lettle Scott had left, since ence soom downstairs in the she was working full-time at new library where they can Beardmore. She is still living read and copy facts from the in Kitchener. big volumes.

Mrs. Watson's first assistant was Lettie Scott's sister Laura Scott, who is now in a nursing home in Galt. Assistants

Assistants over the years Oral Norton, Helen Lamb, Madge Chapman, and now Esther Taylor, Eileen New and Margaret Merrin. Miss Taylor has been on the staff for years, too. First one

The first librarian in town was Ettie Laird, who began in 1898 at a salary of \$40 a year. As Mrs. R. M. MacDonald she lived in town all her life and died a couple of years ago, over 90 years of age.

Second librarian was Ethel Coleman, who was there st the time of World War One. Then came Lettie Scott followed by Mrs. Watson, giving these four librarians a span of service of 78 years. Mrs. Watson's starting sal-

ary in 1926 was \$10 a month. Full-time now The job became a full time one last year. The library is

meeting of council for the

year, Dec. 15. They described

a previous meeting with

called for the new north-south

signed for 40 mph and other

The major shortcomings

Eramosa council found in the

crossroads were the lack of

turn lanes, signs, and ac-

Council has already sent its

comments on the intersection

to MTC, but so far have not

received an answer.

improvements are made.

But she's happy to see them switch back to fiction during As well as the toddlers, old friends come in to chat who have been reading the library's choices for many years. Mrs. Watson remembers

little Meryl Grindell coming to the old library in the town hall and kicking her feet against the railing! Meryl and Charles Kirkness have been regulars over the years. Bessie Musselle is another long-time card holder. Mrs. Watson has seen changes come with the South-

the other weekdays including

At one time the librarians

used to take books to the

schools, Mrs. Walson remem-

bers. She and Esther Taylor and Madge Chapman would

load books into taxis and head

for the Robert Little and M. Z.

Bennett schools before the

Now the children use the

school libraries and flock to

the town library, too. And

their use of the facilities has

changed. Projects are a maj-

or part of the curriculum, and

the students need help in find-

Mrs. Watson finds many

children read primarily non-

fiction during the school year.

Old friends

children in all grades.

ing material.

hollday times.

Saturdays.

Central Library system and then with Halton Hills and the amaglamating of the library boards of Acton and Georgetown. All of the changes are working well, she says. She joins Georgetown chief

librarian Betsy Cornwell in choosing books even going sometimes to the warehouses to choose them. She is no longer able to

have a knowledge of most of the books on the shelves, but she reads reviews and the book jackets and she can help customers find their favorite kind of reading. Records, films and pro-

jectors have been added to the library's equipment, too. Some people-particularly III ones-are beginning to get great pleasure from borrowing records as well as books. Mrs. Watson worked in her

husband's business with him and later with son Tom unti-Watson's restaurant was sold a couple of years ago. road to be closed until it is. Having the library keeps her from being lonesome, she

admits. Her dog Teachie usually comes with her to the library and keeps track of everyone

Veterinary science 4-H club is formed

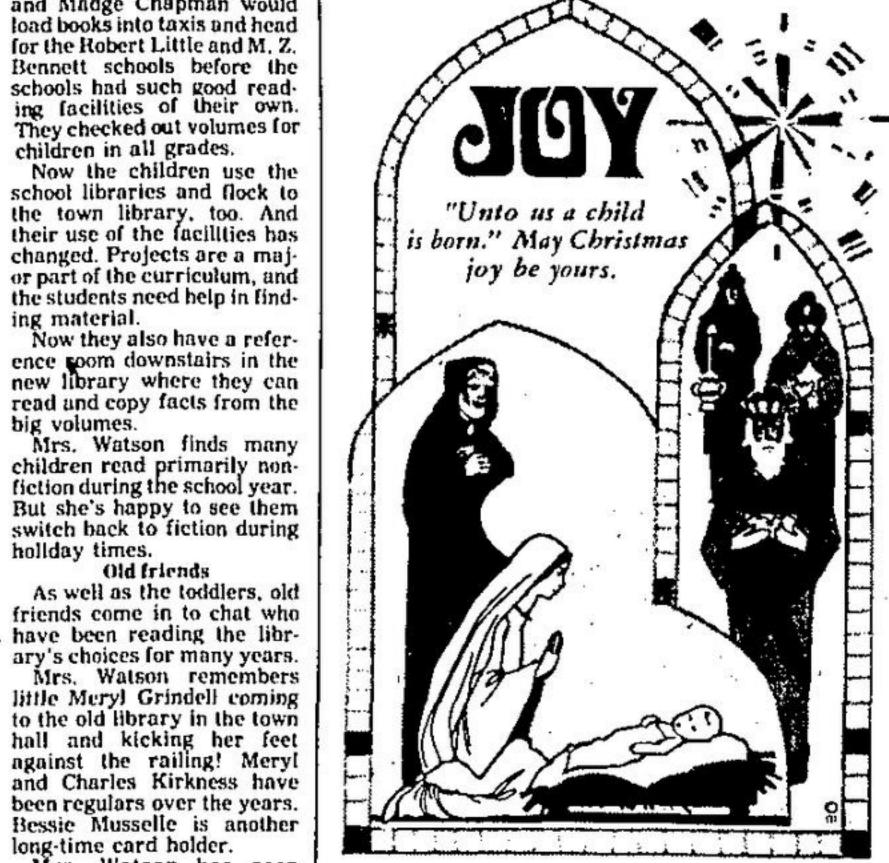
Asst. Agric. Rep. The organization meeting of the Halton 4-H Veterinary Science Club was held on Thursday, Dec. 18. Fourteen members and two leaders were in attendance.

By Mark J. Leany

The program for the coming year was discussed. It was decided to again have the club divided into groups. The club completion will be based on a demonstration given by each group at the final meet-

The new executive for this year is as follows, president, Doug McPhail; vice-president, Frank Robinson; secretary, Marilyn McNabb; and news reporter, Bill Robinson. Leaders for this club are Dr. Carl Middlebrook and Cecil Patterson.

The final date for Joining this club will be at the first meeting on Jan. 15 at the agricultural office in Milton



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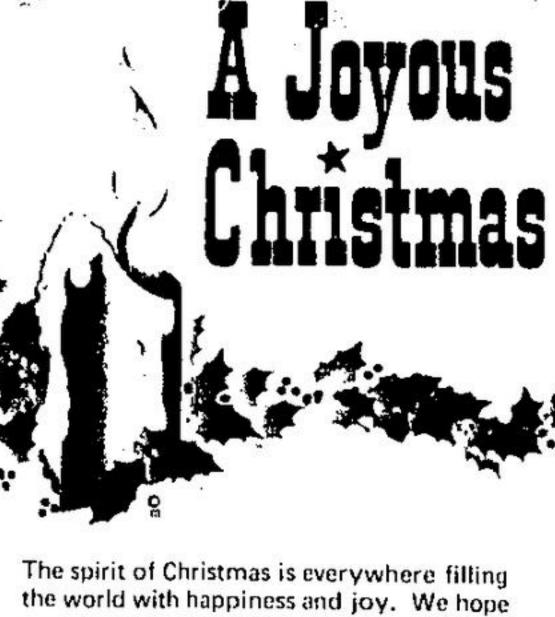
Acton Hydro Electric Commission

From Wednesday, Dec. 24 - 12 Noon until Monday, Dec. 29 - 9 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSED

from Wednesday, Dec. 31 - 12 Noon until Friday, Jan. 2nd - 9 a.m.

For Emergencies: Christmas, Phone 853-1245 New Year's, Phone 853-0813



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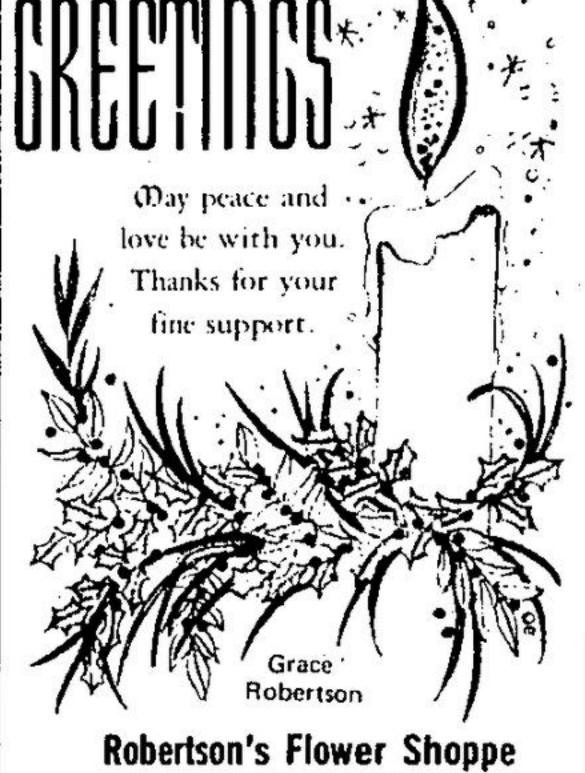




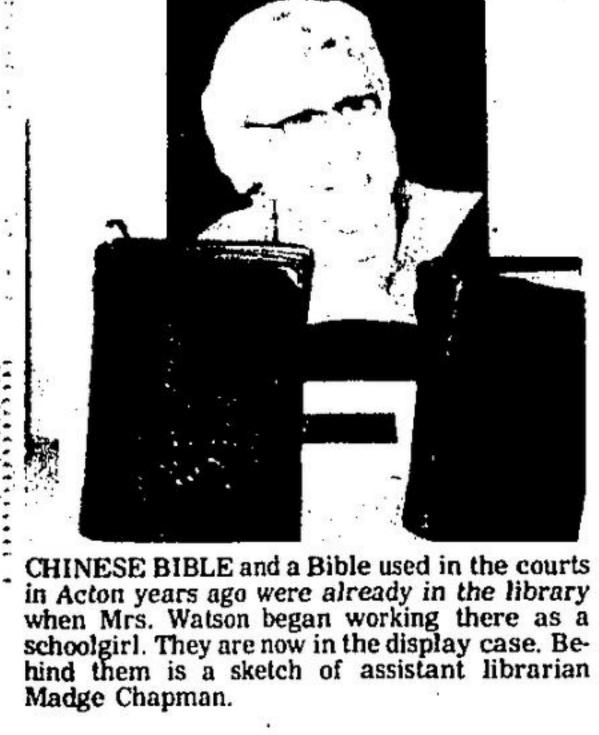
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news of the district

Mini-sewer study

ERIN—Downtown businessmen and Erin Village council are going to combine their financial resources to build a much-needed mini-sewage system feasibility system.

Reduce Hwy. 25 speed

MILTON-Milton council wants to meet with Minister of . Transportation and Communication Jim Snow and Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed to see if the speed limits north of Milton on Highway 25 can be reduced. The problem lies between Highway 401 and Five Sideroad on Highway 25. In addition the town wants traffic signals installed at the intersection of Market Drive and Highway 25.

Winter work for students

BURLINGTON-High school students in need of work during the winter months can find jobs through the city's Department of Recreation Services. Students are needed to work with children at winter activity centres throughout Burlington.

Housing seminar in Peel

BRAMPTON-Peel Region will host a seminar dealing with housing, servicing, conservation of resources, growth and citizen participation in urban development next month. Representatives from York, Peel and Durham regions will attend the seminar. The seminar is financed by the Ontario Secretariat for Habitat.

Statistics

During the week of December 8 to December 14, 95 occurrences of a general nature were reported and investigated by Guelph detachment of the O.P.P. Weekly statistics: liquor violations 8, narcotic violations I, thefts 5, impaired drivers 1.

Receives promotion

Lorraine (Tyler) Grittman of Scottsdale, Arizona formerly of Acton, has been promoted to Assistant Branch Manager of the valley National Bank, 40th Street and McDowell Office. Phoenix, Arizona which opened November 19, 1975. Mrs. Grittman, prior to Joining Valley National Bank in 1959, was employed by the Bank of Montreal, Acton, for three years.

Lorraine is the daughter of Mrs. Edna Tyler and the late Matthew A. Tyler.



LORRAINE (TYLER) Grittman is now assistant branch manager of the Valley National Bank, Phoenix, Arizona.



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