

Short 45 years for Ben Rachlin

"It's been a short 45 years for me," says Ben Rachlin as he phases out his many years in business in Acton. He has sold his jewellery business to Hai-Piao Ling, a watchmaker, clockmaker, goldsmith and jeweller from Toronto.

He is still helping Mr. Ling and giving advice from his years of experience. He has always had a good feeling for the requirements of Acton people, stocking the kind of clothing and jewellery that find favor here.

These days he is thinking of all the friendships he has made, his days on council and his "wonderful relationships" with many people.

In 1931 Ben started in business

here May 1, 1931, opening a clothing store. On May 24 he married Actonian Ethel Starkman, whom he had met in Toronto. Ethel went to school here and was well-known. She became active in the business.

Two stores operated for years where Nielsen's is now, Rachlin's Men's Wear and Rachlin's Ladies' Wear.

In 1948 Ben opened his jewellery store where he has been until now. For some years there were the three stores.

Retiring? Then in 1953 the clothing stores were sold to Bob Ridsdale. Ben was thinking about retiring even then and there were plenty of days when he

simply didn't open up the store.

But after a while he was rested and felt more enthusiastic about the business. He kept up his jewellery store as a "one man" operation. He liked to always be around, but over the last years he has also had a couple of knowledgeable clerks, Gladys Price and now Norma Thornhill. Mrs. Thornhill will remain with Mr. Ling.

The Rachlins have an apartment in Toronto as well as one here. But when Ben thought about it, he realized he has lived within 75 feet for 40 years.

To celebrate their 40th anniversary in business, friends threw a memorable party at the curling club.

Highlights were hilarious speeches by Ben and his sometime business partner George Robertson.

Family

They have two children. Ted is a lawyer in Toronto and Elaine lives in Burlington. Each has two children.

It's the family who try to persuade Ben to take a holiday, even to the point of making the reservations! Last winter the Rachlins actually did have a good long holiday, in Arizona for a month and then in Israel. In the first 22 years in business they seldom had a full week away.

Ben is always keenly interested in the affairs of the town and in 1957 and 1958 he was a member of council. In 1952 he was mayor. This is a period of meetings and decision that he particularly enjoyed.

He belonged to Y's Men and the Rotary club for a while, too.

"It'll be days before I feel I have nothing to do," he admitted this week in his store. "I'll spend more time with the kids and grandchildren."



FAREWELL HANDSHAKE is given to Ben Rachlin by Marinus Schuts, formerly of Acton and now of Guelph. Mr. Rachlin is retiring after 45 years in business here.



BEN RACHLIN goes over stock with the new owner of his store, Hai-Piao Ling, presently of Toronto. Mr. Rachlin is retiring after 45 years in business here.

New IGA owners combine their talents

The new owners of the IGA Store, Wayne and Lynda Ruse, are combining their skills in the day-to-day operations.

Mr. Ruse is the one side of the Ruse family who will most often greet shopping customers. "I'm doing the operations part," Mr. Ruse said.

Mrs. Ruse will handle the store's book work, mainly from the family's Bramalea home. She also takes care of the couple's two sons, two-year-old Graham and David, who will be eight in September.

"We hope to move here," Mr. Ruse said last Thursday.

Mr. Ruse worked for about four years with the Oshawa Group, suppliers to IGA outlets in this area. Prior to joining the Oshawa company, Mr. Ruse worked, mainly at Toronto, for Dominion Stores.

Change name
Mr. Ruse said he hoped to change the Main Street North store's name to Acton IGA from Ledger's IGA because he said, most people call it that, and also because the Oshawa Group made the suggestion.

The Ruses first approached Dave Manes, the former owner, late last April about taking over the store. The paper work was completed last Thursday, Mr. Ruse said.

Mr. Manes is planning to beef farm for the summer. He said in a phone interview Monday, that he has no firm plans, but he will keep his contacts with the Chamber of Commerce, the Legion and the Rotary Club.

Dave and Marnie Manes thanked their many friends and customers last week with an advertisement in the Free Press.



NEW OFFICERS OF Acton Rotary club are front row left to right secretary Ted Hansen, president Wayne Moss, director of vocational service Gary Dawkins; back row director of community service Phil McCristall, vice-president Don McDonald, director of international service Bill Pendleton. Absent: director of club service Bruce Cargill, treasurer Ed Bendicks.



CERTIFICATE CITING Acton's contribution to the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society was presented by Society representative Tom Houlding of Brantford, left, to Rotary club campaign chairman Mac Sprowl and president Wayne Moss at last week's meeting.

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John Goy is new president

Legion members held their annual election of officers last month.

Past president is Fred Allen; president, J. H. Goy Sr.; vice president, Alex Waldie; secretary, Brian McDonald; treasurer, Gord McCutcheon; executive committee, Robert Angell, Kevin Conroy, Ed Footitt, Gord James, and Earl Waller; sergeant-at-arms, Ted LeBlanc; and public relations officer, John McHugh.

The Rev. Andrew McKenzie is the chaplain.

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James Charles Blick commended by 'Monty'

Rev. Peter Barrow, padre of Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion, conducted funeral services for James Charles Blick at the McClure-Jones Funeral Home, Wednesday, June 23. Mr. Blick was mentioned in despatches and

also received a letter of commendation from Field Marshal Montgomery in World War II.

Born in Georgetown in 1920, son of George and Ellen Blick, the deceased moved to Glen Williams when he was two years old. He attended Glen Williams public school and Georgetown high school. He enlisted in the Lorne Scots militia and went on active service overseas with the regiment in 1941. He was assigned to the 6th Duke of York Royal Canadian Hussars and saw action in Italy, Holland and Germany with the 5th Canadian Division.

Mentioned in despatches, the deceased also received a letter of commendation for bravery signed by Field Mar-

shal Montgomery. Returning home from active duty, he purchased a farm on the Ninth Line where he farmed until his death. He was also an employee of Abitibi paper mills for many years.

He leaves three sisters, Mrs. James Jolley (Sarah) of Georgetown, Mrs. Lorne Murray (Kay) of Kenilworth, and Mrs. Ken Murray (Dolly) of Acton; and two cousins, Mary (Mrs. Don Latimer) Glen Williams and Jim Watson of Georgetown.

Interment was in Glen Williams Cemetery. Pallbearers were Lorne Garvin, Paul Wagstaffe, John Wagstaffe, Harold Inglis, Tom Carmichael and Roy Ireland.

Improvements on Elizabeth

Town workmen are improving the drainage through a patch of swale off Elizabeth Drive this week. They are making the drainage area deeper and neater, and this will make mowing the grass easier.

Some ditching is also being done on Elmore Dr. this week.

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