

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of  
the Free Press of Thursday,  
December 27, 1956

Damage totalling \$300 was estimated following a collision Friday between cars driven by Ronald Clow and Thys Oost on Main St., north. Drivers reported to police the Clow car was proceeding east and stopped to pick up a passenger. The Oost car, following, collided with the rear of the Clow car.

Minor damage was sustained when during reportedly heavy fog and an icy road on Sunday, cars driven by Andrew Theriault and Newton Fowler were in collision on Church Hill, North. Total damage was estimated at \$50.

Employees of the Roxy Theatre provided Christmas joy for 35 local children this year. Manager Bill Leslie and his staff received a cheque from the theatre's head office for a party for themselves. Instead, they turned the money over to the town office to buy gifts for children.

Visiting in Ridgetown on the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Scoyne were Miss Doris Allan and Mr. Murray Scoyne.

John Hufnagel is home on leave from the Navy. He expects to be transferred to Halifax.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shoemaker and Susan visited in Owen Sound.

Christmas guests of Mrs. J. Symon and Mrs. Taylor were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Symon of Montreal, Mr. and Mrs. Nobel, Mrs. Edna Snyder and Miss Campbell of Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Pollock of Montreal were visitors here with Mr. and Mrs. Doug Manning and family.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of  
the Free Press of Thursday,  
December 30, 1926

Canada's leather industry continues to show improvement, according to reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The value of the output by Canadian tanneries in the past year is the largest since 1920, and exceeds the average of the five year period, 1920-1925, by \$6,620,811 or 7 per cent. As the largest tanneries in Canada are located in Acton, and are operated by Messrs. Beardmore & Co., the above information has special interest and significance.

A disastrous fire wiped out the frame livery barn of Councillor Atkinson early on Monday morning. When Mr. Atkinson was awakened by the glare of flames on the windows of his residence adjoining, he found that the interior of the building was a volume of flames. He rushed to the door to release a horse in one of the stalls, but was driven back by the flames and found it impossible to enter. The poor animal was standing just inside the door, where it had been driven the day before. It was totally destroyed, as well as a quantity of hay, some harness, and one or two rigs.

St. Alban's Sunday School held their annual Christmas tree and concert in the Town Hall on Thursday evening. Recitations, solos, choruses, dialogues and a cantata composed the programme, which was appreciated by the large crowd which filled the hall. At the close of these numbers Santa Clause arrived and delighted the children with prizes and candies.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of  
the Free Press of Thursday,  
December 21, 1876.

Secord Bros. have laid in a mammoth stock of everything that is rich, rare, useful and beautiful for Christmas. Gents' mottoed mustache cups and saucers, children's mottoed cups and saucers, flower vases, preserve dishes, sick cups and feeders, goblets, pickle jars, wine glasses, tea sets, lamps. Canned peaches, plums, gooseberries, pickles, lobsters, salmon, sardines, clams, oysters, raisins, currants, figs, nuts, biscuits, confectiery and honey, tobaccos, rice, barley, Hardware cutlery, paints, oils.

The Sabbath School Festival in the basement of the Methodist Church last week was heartily enjoyed. After the refreshments were disposed of the company adjourned to the audience room where they were entertained for a couple of hours with singing, recitations and dialogues by the children. A most amusing feature was the stripping of an immense Christmas tree of its load of presents. Most were for the children from their friends. But there were also valuable gifts for the older people, the pastor receiving quite a large share. Perhaps one of the most valuable articles cut from the three was a handsome Russell gold watch labeled for W. H. Storey Esq.; we have since learned it was a present from his son Fred who purchased it at Hynds' jewellery store.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



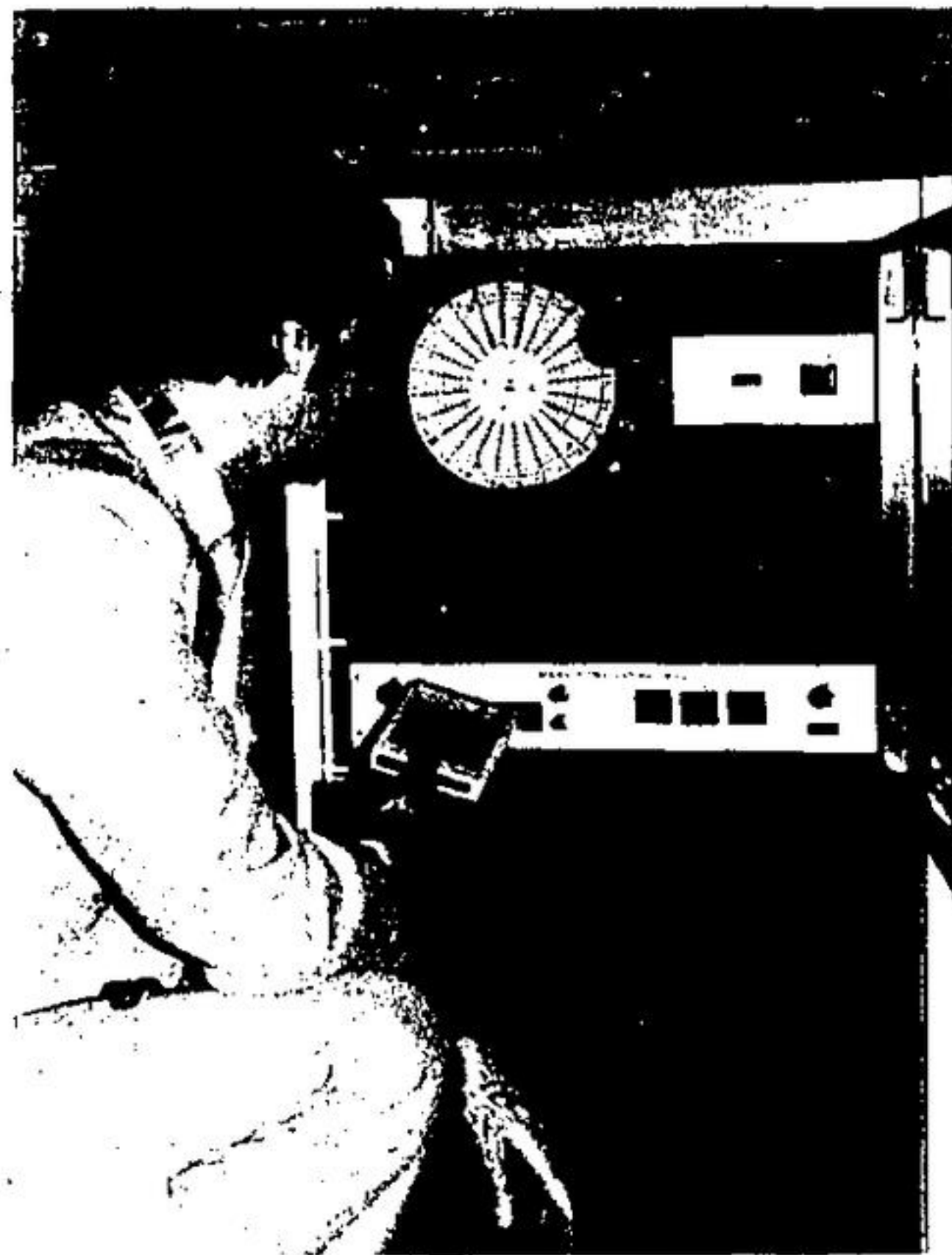
Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 89 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Canadian Community Newspapers Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$7.50 in Canada, \$9.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 15 cents; carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 0115. 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.

Ditts Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

David R. Ditts, Publisher

Kay Ditts Editor Advertising Manager

Copyright 1976



ORGANIST DR. George Elliott inserts a tape into the player in the United Church, to produce the carillon which will be heard amplified from the bell tower. The church has a collection of tapes.



## Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

I must admit that my feelings about the so-called "holiday season" are a bit ambiguous.

There's no feeling of satisfaction greater than that experienced when the blasted Christmas tree is finally up and decorated. And there is no feeling more sinking that when your one-year-old grandson tries to climb it and pulls the whole pagan mess over on top of himself.

For sheer gluttony, nothing can beat the Christmas dinner, speaking of paganism. But the sensual joy of stuffing oneself is slightly overcast by the knowledge that (in our house, anyway), one has first to stuff the turkey, and second, to wash the dishes after dinner.

Then there's the Post Office. We used to know they were just trying to startle the early birds when they gave us those dates for mailing. Now we know better. This column is written to appear in your Christmas issue. You'll probably be reading it about mid-February. As I write, they threaten to strike, just before Christmas. I have as much sympathy with them as I had with Hitler in his last days in the bunker with little Eva.

I like a white Christmas, but I don't particularly want to drive 400 miles to exchange season's greetings with anyone, when I could be sitting by my own fire with a good book. Why don't we all stay home?

I like the old carols, but I can't stand old Bing Crosby singing you-know-what for the 800th time.

Even some of the old carols almost demand parody, with the state of the world as it is. Here are a few I have left over.

To the Liberal government. (Yes, Virginia, there is still at least one Liberal government left in Canada):

"God help you, merry gentlemen,  
'Cause no one else will do it.  
We handed you a prime rib roast,  
And all you did was stew it."

To the Parti Quebecois:  
"Oh, hell! O-o-h hell,  
What a mess you have made,  
You have sundered our country  
At Zilch centigrade."  
Wouldn't have been so bad if they'd done it in the summer. We'd have all gone fishing.

To the oil industry:  
"We three sheiks of Araby are,  
We've got oil, but never from tar  
Sands like all you dopey Canadians,  
Whine while we raise the price."

To the Anglos in Quebec:  
"Hark, let's all us Anglos sing,  
We don't want Rene for King,  
Though we've scorned the man for years,  
Save us from his French With Tears."

Enough? I agree. I'm getting faintly nauseous myself. Avaunt, ye carols!

Then there are the Christmas parties. The merchants have a big one, counting their shekels, even though they know they'll be lucky to break even in the next few months. The cops have a party, hauling in drunks. The drunks have a party, because they know 'tis the season to be jolly and they can get away with anything short of murder. The murderers have a party because, under our present prison rules, they'll probably all be home for Christmas.

And the rest of us gallop from one egg-nog to another, gulping down grub that some poor woman has spent 24 hours preparing, and tried out on her husband so often that he throws up at the mention of it.

The social committee of our staff tried to have a Christmas party for all the teachers and it was practically a flop because so many could not make it. They were al-

ready signed up for such things as a free party for municipal employees and their spouses, a free party for employees of a large institution and their spouses, and various other worthy events, none of them designated to help the hungry or comfort the afflicted of the world.

It's bad enough before Christmas, but the pace accelerates right after the big day. All those hostesses who couldn't round up guests for a pre-Christmas bash have been frantically phoning people to attend their New Year's Eve soiree, or their apres-ski swill, or their toboggan-party burlesque. You have to be fast off the mark, or you'll miss the chance to play host to 30 or 40 people you couldn't give a diddle if you never saw, and fill them with food and booze you can't afford.

Well, our bacchanalia comes to something of a grinding halt about the day after New Year's. We all lurch back to normal, suffer through the physical and financial hangover, take a look out at the falling snow and the falling temperature, and realize with a sickening thud of the heart that we are not, after all, living it up on the Riviera, but are stuck in the true north, strong and freezing, and there are still three months of it ahead of us.

## Committee wants input

Omitted in error in last week's Free Press was the box number in the Letter to the Editor from the Acton for Actonians committee, signed by Peter Papillon and Norm Elliott. They asked to hear from any citizens who have useful information or comments on regional government. The special committee is trying to determine the future of the town.

If you have anything to offer this committee of citizens, please write to box 741, Acton Free Press, Acton.



## Happy New Year

We'll be thinking of you as the old year passes into history and the New Year arrives. Celebrate with someone you love and accept our best wishes now and always!

It's time to live it up a bit and celebrate the beginning of a wonderful New Year!

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kinal and Staff



No mystery

## Carillon source: tapes, amplifier

On Christmas weekend, carols rang out over the snowy streets from the carillon of the United Church. The sound of pealing bells emanating from the bell tower of the church is enjoyed every day by all the people within range.

But many of those people wonder just how the music got there!

Is organist Dr. George Elliott inside the church, playing the carillon? He's been asked that question several times. He has had surprised looks from people who see him on the street while the bells are ringing merrily away in the bell tower.

No, the carillon has nothing to do with the nimble fingers of Dr. Elliott.

The sounds of a real carillon have been tape recorded, and this tape is played automatically through an amplifier and speakers in the bell tower of the church.

An automatic timer on the player is set to play six selections at noon and 7 p.m. every weekday and at 9.45 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The times can be varied, as can be the number of selections played. It has been set up for what are felt to be the best times.

The church now has about 10 tapes with 15 selections on each, covering hymns for all the different seasons of the

year as well as a carillon concert tape which is played on Sunday afternoons in the summer.

The carillon was the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Lindsay, who are members of Trinity United Church.

Dr. Elliott says "It is to them you owe a word of thanks if the sounds of the bells from Trinity help to brighten your day."



Happy New Year 1977

by David Cohen

Another year has swiftly passed,  
With joy and sorrow in its wake,  
Good health and illness both amassed,  
Blessings and good for us to take.

Some us ring the old year out  
With happiness for times well spent,  
Whilst others mourn and deeply doubt,  
The passing year in sad lament.

Three hundred and sixty five days passed  
In joys and troubles, shared by all,  
But gone forever so really fast  
Its passing, we scarcely can recall.

But now a bright New Year is here,  
To greet us with its very best,  
With all good promises and cheer  
Perhaps I'll be better than the rest.

May we experience perfect peace,  
A dove upon a twig benign,  
Denoting a world where troubles cease,  
Where friendship and trust are its design.

Ring out the old, forgotten days!  
Bring New Year's babe in happiness!  
Any may it serve in many ways  
Our lives to change and cheer and bless.

## Complaints this week

The first of the season's snowmobiling complaints have been received by police this week. With the new fall of snow, snowmobiles are out in town and through the countryside.

## Missed Your Free Press?

Please Let Us Know

Our carriers do their best to give fast courteous service but mistakes do happen; so if you do not receive your paper or have any complaints regarding delivery, please call our office.

853-2010

### '77 HONDA CIVICS

This luxury you can afford "NOW"

THE MONEY YOU SAVE AT BAZ WILL BE YOUR OWN

2-Door

OUR PRICE \$3232

OR PAY ONLY \$86.64 PER MONTH

WITH \$381.40 DOWN

Interest 13.5% - Cost \$950.77  
Scada Bank 48 months  
Honda sales tax, licence and dealer prep extra

SIMILAR PAYMENT PLANS ON ALL '77s

BAZ MOTORS . . . where after sales service is tops

**BAZ MOTORS LTD.**

VOLKSWAGEN - PORSCHE - AUDI - HONDA  
Sales and Service  
199 Guelph St., Georgetown 877-5286 or 676-1813

# WATER DAMAGE SALE

A water line burst at our warehouse and there is slight water damage to assorted sizes and styles of . . .

## Box Springs and Mattresses

and  
Love Seats

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE UP TO

# 50%

OFF REGULAR PRICE

SALE THURS. 'til 9 p.m. & FRI. ONLY 'til 5:30 p.m.

WE WISH EVERYONE A

Happy and Prosperous New Year

# HALTON HILLS Furniture and Appliances

352 QUEEN ST. E. • HWY. NO. 7 • ACTON • 853-0211