

Poor turnout but good pancakes

The fresh aroma of pancakes and maple syrup filled the Scout hall last Saturday morning.

The first Acton Venturers, along with their adviser, Rick Saville, organized and carried out a "Pancake feast" as their first fund-raising activity.

The boys were up bright and early Saturday morning preparing for the day. They bought orange drink crystals from McDonald's in Georgetown, who also supplied cups and a dispenser.

The \$1.50 charge included the first beverage and an unlimited number of pancakes. Ford Alton took the record for eating the most pancakes after putting away seven of

them.

The Venturers were somewhat disappointed with the turnout of only 25 people for the "feast". However, not easily discouraged, the boys

are planning another "feast" in the spring.

The troop expressed special thanks to Janet Rowe and Joan Phillips for helping out on Saturday, as well as to all those people who attended.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Begin recently announced that there will be full escalation of Family Allowances for 1978.

The Family Allowances legislation calls for annual escalation of payments in January of each year in accordance with the increase in the cost of living. Effective January, the federal government monthly allowance paid for children under 18 will rise to \$25.68 from \$23.89 in most provinces and in the territories.

Special Allowances, which are paid to foster parents, welfare agencies, government departments and institutions maintaining children, will also increase to \$25.68 from \$23.89.

Each month during 1977 the federal government paid out more than \$173 million in Family Allowances to 3.6 million families. The cheques covered 7.2 million children. The national average allowance for each recipient family was about \$49.

Old age security pensions increase as well.

The new monthly total at

the single rate for persons receiving both the basic Old Age Security pension and maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement will be \$261.06.

For a married couple, both pensioners, the combination of the basic pension and maximum supplement will provide a payment of \$498.00 for the couple monthly.

The basic Old Age Security pension will rise in January to \$153.44 from the present \$150.43.

The Guaranteed Income Supplement is paid to pensioners whose income, apart from the Old Age Security pension, is limited. The amount of the supplement varies in relation to the amount of income.

The maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement for a single person, or a married person whose spouse is not a pensioner and is not receiving a Spouse's Allowance, will go up in January to \$107.62 from its current \$105.51. The maxi-

imum supplement for a married couple, both pensioners, will increase to \$96.56 each from \$93.69. Added to the basic pension, this will give each married pensioner \$249.00 monthly or a total of \$498.00 for the couple.

The Spouse's Allowance is paid to persons between 60 and 65 years of age who are married to Old Age Security pensioners and meet residence requirements. Entitlement to a Spouse's Allowance and amount paid, is based on yearly income.

The maximum Spouse's Allowance will increase to \$249.00, from \$244.12.



HEARTY EATER at the Venturers' pancake breakfast Saturday was Tim Garton. He'd just finished playing with the Atom hockey league and needed refuelling.



FLIPPING PANCAKES at the Venturers' breakfast on Saturday are Eddie Blaser, advisor Rick Saville, Robert Rowe and Jim Saxon.



JOAN PHILLIPS joins the Rowe family for pancakes and syrup. All you could eat!

A girl's best friend -but not in Canada

by Ward Chesworth
University of Guelph

In spite of what the gossip columnists might lead you to believe, the biggest pile of diamonds in the world isn't to be found in Liz Taylor's bank vault, but underground in South Africa. More than 700 geological structures called kimberlite pipes have been found there, and many of them contain diamonds.

The pipes are in reality long narrow funnels that cut through the crust of the earth and allow rocks from the earth's mantle, the layer below the crust, to intrude upwards towards the surface. Kimberlite is the type of rock found within the pipes and really it's a rock made up of thousands of angular fragments of other rocks, welded together during the high pressure and high temperature process of being squeezed up the pipe. Some of the fragments are pieces of the crust through which the intrusion has been forced, but many come from one hundred miles or more within the earth, where pressures are at least 40,000 times greater than atmospheric. That means every square inch has a force of 600,000 pounds on it. Under these conditions many common substances take on new and denser forms. The substance carbon is a good example of this.

Carbon is very common at the surface of the earth. It's a necessary component of all living things and when an organism dies and decays, some of the carbon that it

contains becomes incorporated into sediments that over thousands of years solidify into rocks. The stable form of carbon in this situation is called graphite, one of the softest substances known. But take graphite and subject it to the high pressures found in the earth's deep interior and it becomes diamond, the hardest of all natural materials.

In other words the diamonds found in kimberlite pipes represent carbon that has been squeezed by pressures of at least 600,000 pounds per square inch, one hundred miles deep in the earth's mantle. How the carbon got there in the first place is something of a mystery. It isn't likely that it originally came from surface rocks as used to be thought. More probably it represents carbon that was part of the original dust cloud that came together to form the planet earth more than four and a half billion years ago.

Although other countries in Africa, as well as Russia, Brazil and India have their own diamond mines, no other country on earth has as many diamond-bearing pipes as South Africa, and the richest one there, near the city of Pretoria, has been mined to a depth of 3,500 feet. Since 1903 this mine has produced six tons of diamonds. The fact that it has also produced roughly sixty million tons of waste rock gives you some idea of the scarcity of the gems within the pipe.

Srs. benefit too

Family allowance increase



DIBS JUST adores pancakes and came along with the Rowe family for the Venturers' pancake feast Saturday morning at the scout hall. Robert Rowe is one of the Venturers.

M.Z.B. news

by Lisa Gillis

The past week has had a lot of bad weather which has caused the bus students to miss two days of school. On Friday, December 9, Mr. Magwood and Mrs. Williams phoned all of the parents of the Afternoon Kindergarten children to cancel the afternoon session. The weather was so bad that many parents of children in the other grades kept their children at home.

This has been a busy week for many of the Grade 5 students. Mark Beaton, a Grade 13 student, has been doing some experiments with them at noon hours for a class project.

Christmas is upon us again, and the students of many grades have started Christmas crafts and cooking activities. A great many parent volunteers are involved. The teachers are very glad that they are able to help out, for without their willingness to co-operate, the activities could not be operated so well. The pupils are enjoying these activities very much.

M-S news

by Carole Lovell and Chris Baginski

Parents and students are reminded that our Carolling Night will be on Monday, Dec. 19. We welcome you at 7:30 at McKenzie-Smith for our warm-up, followed by carolling in the streets. We hope everyone has an enjoyable time.

On Thursday, Dec. 8 the grades 8-1 and 8-2 visited with Mrs. Jennifer Barr (the writer of Sideroad Five for the Free Press) in our Resource centre. Since we are talking about Canadian Authors and work involved in writing, we were impressed, hearing about her writings and especially her first book "And the Lord Rode a Donkey". We enjoyed listening to her many tales about Annabelle and Bojay and have decided that a donkey would make a fine pet.

Some classes have started decorating the school with many beautiful decorations for Christmas.

Due to the bad snow conditions the school was very pleased with those people who came to school. The student council's Christmas dance for December 5 was cancelled due to the lack of communication on the Student Council's behalf. We hope our January dance is more of a success than our December dance.

High school

by Janet Rowe

With Christmas only 12 days away, the school is looking more festive. Acton High received their Christmas tree last week. It was placed in the bear-pit and decorated.

The school store, The Closet, is really something special with Christmas lights and gifts in the display window.

The library has also taken on a festive look with snowflakes and other decorations adding to the decor.

Classrooms will soon be decorated like the rest of the school.

Yearbooks were on sale last week. At this time students could order a yearbook for next year. The class with the highest percentage of sales yearbook wins a pizza party before the Christmas holidays.

Tonight the Athletic Society at Acton High will be holding their annual Sports Nite. Come out and support them. I'm sure you will have a good time!

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CHRISTMAS WEEK HOURS

DECEMBER 19, 20, 21 — 9:30 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 22, 23 — 9:30 A.M. - 10:30 P.M.
DECEMBER 24 — 9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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