



Town Hall Tales

THIS CLASS met each day in the town hall, in 1923. First row, left to right, Hector Lambert, two unidentified, Frank Jones, Austin Gibbons, Jack McGill, Ken Watson, Cecil Gibbons, Rig Cross, Fred Harwood; second row, Ted Elliott, Harold Mooney, unidentified, Harvey Hodgens, Ed Footitt, three unidentified, Norm Scarrow; third row two unidentified Marj Mann, unidentified, Dot Coxe, unidentified, Rita Withers, Jack Smith, Herb Price; fourth row, Dot Babcock, Marj Near, unidentified, Lorraine Wilson, Jessie Trotter, Ellen Dunn, Dot Macarthur, unidentified, Mary Ryder, Helen Evans, Grace Lantz, Annie Holmes, teacher Miss Gardener. See Town Hall Tales.

by George Elliott
Back in the early 1920's the old school in Acton filled up as the population grew and classroom space was sorely needed. The back half of the school had become the Continuation School (first four years of High School) and the first year, Primary, students needed a room. The building my generation called the "old stone school" (now St. Joseph's school) was still the private residence of the Smiths with its beautiful gardens and forbidding fences. They didn't have portables in those days but they did have the Town Hall. It served as home for so many things when nothing else was available.

The Council Chamber room was pressed into service as a classroom. The old fashioned desks then popular, which held two students at a time, were moved in, coat hooks were put up, and there was already a fine wood stove on one wall for heat. Also, very important, there were two small wooden buildings out behind the hall. These had various descriptive names: I suppose the most polite being "outhouse", but no one room schoolhouse in the country had any better in that day before the bathroom. Another amenity was a bucket of water with a dipper beside the door for students who became thirsty as a result of their endeavours.

There was also a caretaker to lay the fires and clean up and apparently he divided his time between the old school and the Town Hall classroom. He was the father of Arthur Gamble and apparently Arthur and his brother often assisted with the chores about the classroom. So there it was, the Town Hall, ready for its first classes. It would serve as tutor to the primary students, 20 or 30, 5 and 6 year olds, being exposed to their first schooling.

What must it have been like going to school in the Town Hall? Some people in Acton attended those classes and to this day have warm memories of the experience. So Hector Lambert, Grace (Lantz) Robertson and Alice (Taylor) Doby have told me of this period in Town Hall history.

First of all there was no bell on this school to announce the beginning and end of each day. The Town Hall bell was reserved for a more important role - fire calls. The school bell on the hill had to serve both schools.

Today's recipe
Mushroom and Sausage Bites
1-8 oz. can tomato sauce
1 c. dry white wine
1/2 clove garlic
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. seasoned salt
1 lb. (2 lb.) mushrooms
8-10 cooked or canned sausages-cut in bit size pieces
Heat first 5 ingredients together in sauce pan and simmer over low heat 5 min. Wash and dry mushrooms, leave whole. Add mushrooms and sausages to the sauce in chafing dish; cover and simmer 20 min. Place cocktail picks beside chafing dish for spearing. Makes about 30 appetizers.
McNair Mushrooms

Miss Bennet was principal of the school but she left the operation of the orphan class in the Town Hall pretty much to the teacher in charge. The first teacher was Bessie Gardner of Rockwood. This young lady came each day by train and even when the weather was bad in the winter time, she managed to arrive each day on time. The opening of classes was more church and country oriented than it is today I think. Hector Lambert remembers that each day began with the singing of O Canada and to be asked to hold the flag during the singing was the summit of honour for a small boy. To conclude the day all sang "Abide with Me".

Grace remembers how frightened the students always were that there might be a prisoner in the cells behind their classroom when they arrived in the morning and what was even more frightening was the thought of being locked in one of those cells for misbehaving in class.

The Chief of Police, Bob McPherson, also had an office in the back of the Hall and he was often there. Children feared him as well because of his august title. It seems strange they would live in delicious terror of the prisoners who might be in the cells and also of the man who probably put them there. In spite of all this apprehension no one ever remembers the cells being occupied during school days.

Recess meant going out to the bit of grass to the south of the Town Hall which served as a playground separated from the adjacent home by a high board fence. There the children often stood and watched unemployed men cut wood into four foot lengths and stack it against the coming winter. This menial but essential job allowed the men to earn money in the service of the municipality for the necessities of life. It was undoubtedly, an important object lesson to impressionable youngsters.

Alice Doby remembers another teacher from Town Hall days. She was Minnie Moore who eventually moved back to the big school on the hill when the Town Hall classes were discontinued. As a teacher she made sure all the students learned to sing early and well. A tuning fork gave the pitch and all joined in the songs or suffer her displeasure. She must have had a way with her because the students remember her with affection. In later years, and for many years, her choirs were famous and other winners at the Halton County Music Festivals.

And so the Town Hall for a few short years, five or six perhaps, was a part of the educational establishment, a little one room school in the center of town. And this is another facet in its colourful history in the middle of affairs in Acton.

Vandals tip tombstones
According to an Arthur Street resident vandals damaged several headstones at Fairview Cemetery last week.

Acton, Georgetown skateboard winners

Steve Bigg, 4 Eden Place, Georgetown and Robert Warrington, Acton Boulevard, Acton, skated away with the grand prizes—new skateboards following the Georgetown Jaycees Pioneer Days Skateboard competition Saturday.

The competition, held Saturday morning at Park School, Georgetown was sponsored by North Halton Sports, Main Street, Georgetown and Wee Willi Winkels Skateboards, Brampton.

Each competitor was timed on their two chances through the obstacle course and slalom course. The two winners each received a new skateboard and a Pioneer Days T-shirt. There were 10 competitors in the two class event. Bigg was the senior winner and is 15-years-old and junior winner Warrington is 13-years-old.

Doug Teramoto of Wee Willi Winkels gave a skateboarding demonstration.

Jaycees' first vice-president and event chairman Mel Fawcett said he hopes the skateboard competition can become an annual Pioneer Days attraction.



ROB WARRINGTON

Week of special events salutes Grand Circuit

Grand Circuit Week, harness racing's ultimate showcase of talent, opened Sunday at Campbellville's Mohawk Raceway surrounded by plenty of hoopla. In its first appearance at the area track, the "Roarin' Grand" promises plenty of action for harness fans as the continent's best colts and fillies perform in feature races. Mohawk officials tossed in the hoopla that surrounds the event, including banjo music, fashion shows, a frisbee-catching dog, free handicapping tips, a trotting saddle race, special prize draws, a milking contest, bluegrass concerts, a vintage car show, and a band concert.

Even the popular Argonaut SUNshine girls will be in hand to entertain, as Mohawk rolls out the red carpet for the visiting heroes of the trotting and pacing fraternity. Florida Pro, a three-year-old picked up first prize cash of \$16,400 in Sunday's Grand Circuit Week opener, finishing the mile dash in 1:59.4 to set a new track record for trotters. It was an easy win for the George Sholty trotter from Great Neck, NY and he won by over three lengths over Noble Art and Brisco Hanover. Sholty and three other drivers won gold watches for rounding the track in under two minutes. Sunday's attendance was just over 8,000. Jockey Club officials expect even larger throngs for the Friday to Sunday holiday weekend events which close Grand Circuit Week, culminating Sunday with the \$50,000 added Queen City Stakes pace race and draws for three trips for two to Jamaica.

Grand Circuit originated in 1871 State-side and the sport's most important stakes and classic races are in its roster. It first came to Canada in 1898 at Fort Erie, hit Quebec in 1914 and first ran in Ontario in 1921. It was last held in Canada in 1963 with Toronto's Greenwood the host raceway, luring 56,000 fans to the week-long event. A total of \$250,000 in purses is offered this week. Friday's special events include a bluegrass music show featuring Big Redd Ford, a performance by the Master Feeds Six Horse

Hitch, an interview with handicapping experts and a top driver, a trophy display, fashion shows and draws for trips.

Wins bronze medal

Four members of the Esqueving Pony Club did well on the weekend at a tetrahalon in Port Hope. One of them, Ross Turner, won the bronze medal for the novice division. The 12-year-old lives at R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Joint concert

A successful joint concert was given on Sunday in Brampton by the Citizens Bands of both Brampton and Acton. The two bands are considering playing other engagements together.

Dance classes

Tap, Jazz and Exercise classes will be held at the Murray Memorial Y.M.C.A. during the summer. They are for young people from the age of five to 18.

Suzanne Bew will instruct the evening classes, which will begin July 3. Anyone who wishes to register is asked to call Dot Redekop at 853-1319.

Crafts at library

There's a special display of senior citizens' crafts at the library all this week. Local people have loaned some of their projects for the occasion.

ORANGEVILLE RACEWAY

HARNESS RACING

Post Time

Thursday Evening 8 p.m.
Sunday Afternoons 2 p.m.

Tractor & Enactor
Wagging
Air Conditioned
Club House

STRAWBERRIES

PICK YOUR OWN or FRESH PICKED AVAILABLE

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Graham's Apple Farm

7th Line of Erin
1/4 mile South of Hwy. 24 - 3 1/3 mile North of Ballinafad

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MONDAY TO THURSDAY

2 Smash Hits 1. "The Buddy Holly Story" Plus 2. "Silver Bears"

Fri. Sat. opens 8 pm
Mon opens 8:30 pm
Tues. to Thurs opens 8:45 pm

MUSTANG

LITTLE 1 BY 1
LITTLE 2 BY 1
LITTLE 3 BY 1
LITTLE 4 BY 1
LITTLE 5 BY 1
LITTLE 6 BY 1
LITTLE 7 BY 1
LITTLE 8 BY 1
LITTLE 9 BY 1
LITTLE 10 BY 1

SUNDAY!

GIANT ALL NIGHT ACTION SHOW!

THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

SILVER BEARS

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT
Children Under 12 Free
Come In Anytime
One Price Covers Entire Program

3 CREEPING CRAWLERS...
THE GIANT SPIDER INVASION
Steve Brodie & Barbara Hale
A GROUP 1 TELEVISION-COLOR PGM

4 "The Uncanny" ALL COLOUR SHOW
SUNDAY BOX OFFICE OPENS 8:00 PM

DOMINION HOTEL

MAIN ST. NORTH, ACTON

BACK - TO - ACTON DAYS

Beer Garden

WITH BAND and DANCING TO 'WILLY T. NOBLE' OUTSIDE

★ Thursday 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
★ Friday & Saturday 1 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

OUTSIDE BARBECUE

Baron Beef with baked potato and vegetable

Celebrate Back-to-Acton and Canada's Birthday With Us!

FINAL 3 DAYS OF GRAND CIRCUIT WEEK.

MOHAWK

A WEEK OF THE FINEST HARNESS RACING IN THE WORLD

Grand Circuit. The world's greatest harness racing event. Top drivers. Top trainers. And the best two and three-year-old trotters and pacers in North America competing for well over \$250,000 in purses.

If you've never been racing before, now's the time. Grand Circuit offers the best in harness racing mixed with a week of colorful, crowd pleasing festivities.

There'll be bands, displays, interviews with the stars, handicapping tips, valuable prize draws, fashion shows and more.

So come on out to the greatest harness racing event of them all - Grand Circuit.

<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY, JUNE 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE \$20,000 ADDED CELIA'S COUNSEL STAKES. A TROT FOR 3-YEAR-OLD FILLES.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE \$12,500 ADDED MISS VERA BARS STAKES. A PACE FOR 2-YEAR-OLD FILLES.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Big Redd Ford, Canada's No. 1 Bluegrass Show.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Performance by the Master Feeds Six Horse Hitch. Plus 3 valuable prize draws for trips to North America's richest harness races.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY, JULY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CANADA DAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE \$20,000 ADDED CONSTANCE SCOTT STAKES. A PACE FOR 3-YEAR-OLD FILLES.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Music by the 411th Reserve Air Force Squadron Band. Canadian Flag buttons for the first 8,500 patrons. The Argonaut SUNshine Girls perform after the 6th race. Plus 3 valuable prize draws for trips to North America's richest harness races.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, JULY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GRAND FINALE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE \$50,000 ADDED QUEEN CITY STAKES. A PACE FOR 3-YEAR-OLD COLTS AND GELDINGS.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Big Redd Ford, Canada's No. 1 Bluegrass Show. Plus the ROARIN' GRAND PRIZE DRAWS... 3 draws, each for a trip for two to Jamaica, compliments of Adventure Tours, Club Guava, and Treasure Tours. Winning names will be drawn from entries deposited throughout Grand Circuit Week. Winners must be in attendance at the time of draw and must answer correctly a skill testing question.</p>
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HARNESS RACING AT ITS BEST MOHAWK RACEWAY

Hwy 401 at Exit 38, Guelph Line, Campbellville. Gates open at 6:00. Post time 7:30. Telephone 854-2255.