

**OUR READERS WRITE:**

**Old-time notables**

25 Canyon Ave.,  
Apartment 15037  
M3H 4Y1  
Downsview, Ont.  
September 26, 1978

The Editor,  
Acton Free Press,  
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Editor:

On the Editorial page of the Free Press issue of September 20th I was pleased to see the reproduction of the frosted upper window pane of my original business in Acton, "Rachlin Men's Wear". This, my wife and I operated, together with "Rachlin Ladies' Wear", commencing in 1931. It brings back pleasant memories of those times when the population was around 1800 and there existed industries which have long since disappeared; Mason Knitting, Hewetson Shoes, Storey Glove Co. and some smaller ones.

I wonder how many are still around who remember Arlof Dills, owner of the Acton Free Press; Magistrate H. P. Moore, A. T. Brown, druggist; "Pop" Jones, who operated a thriving grocery business with horse delivery; "Teddy" Hassard, druggist just across the street from "A. T.'s"; Bob McPherson who had a number of titles including police chief, assessor, street cleaner, etc., etc. "Bud" McDonald and Dr. Nelson, who are both took a very active interest in our very outstanding hockey teams. There were many other persons of note including a number of very capable hockey players. In those days it was not unusual for Acton fans to charter a special train to attend some out of town hockey game in which our team took part. Milk was delivered to the door by Watson's Dairy and Masales' Dairy.

Prior to retiring in 1976 I had considered myself as being in the retail business longer than anyone in Acton. The Free Press of April of May 1931 can attest to that because of our advertisements at the time. So now it occurs to me that recently you reported in our news columns that a certain gentleman who is now retiring from business in Acton has been so operating since the year 1929. I suggest that you made a slight mistake in that as late as 1931 and perhaps later, he was still a student in Acton High School and I am quite sure that Bertha Buchanan taught him. There should still exist high school records to prove this. Even as late as 1935 the Village of Acton assessment roll shows his father as being assessed for business tax and the gentleman was shown as a "tenant" in his father's home and his occupation was shown as "clerk". There is no record in the assessment roll to indicate that he was owner and operator of a business even 6 years after the date in your news column. For what it is worth, I thought the information would interest readers who may have shown an interest in the news item to which I have referred.

Among the old time Acton notables, I see that I have omitted the "young" scribe, Esther Taylor. Thank goodness she is still with us.

Yours very truly,  
Ben Rachlin

**Boosts defensive driving**

To the Editor  
Dear Sir:

Visiting friends in the U.S.A. recently brought up the subject of cars, and their drivers. I was somewhat surprised that people under the age of 18 years cannot drive after dark in some states and began to give that particular piece of information further thought.

I wonder how many young people's lives would be saved if we were able to effect the same legislation here in Canada? After all these young people have just been informed that they are not old enough to drink until they are 19 years of age, and yet we allow them to drive 2 tons of metal around at all times of the day and night from the age of 16 plus. Doesn't make sense in retrospect.

Certainly we have some well trained young drivers, those who attend registered driving schools are to be commended since it helps keep Dad's insurance rates down, but how about making it compulsory for new drivers to take a Defensive Driving Course one year after they have received their licence, and all other drivers currently licenced as soon as possible. It could then be legislated that every five years all drivers be required to take a D.D.C. course. Attending one of these courses is quite an eye opener for anyone who has been driving for more than a year, particularly when you realize all the stupid silly things you did in traffic the year previous could have killed you or someone else.

In 1974 the Halton Regional Safety Council D.D.C. instructors processed 1500 people through the course, and continue to instruct a goodly number of men and women each and every year no matter what their occupation, how about you?

Yours truly  
"Aunt Edna"  
for Halton Regional Safety Council

**Acton Hydro Electric**

A system for Emergency Calls for Acton Hydro between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. has changed. A paging system has been installed and the number to call is:

**821-5560**  
Pager No. R2202

This is a Guelph Number but there is no charge to the consumer.

Please leave message for Pager R2202 and the lineman on call will be in touch with you. Be sure to leave your name and address.

**Interested Citizens lay their case**

Why is the Interested Citizens' Group continuing to carry on their fight against the giant utility, Ontario Hydro in the face of enormous odds? It amounts simply to a request that citizens along the route of the Bruce to Milton hydro corridor receive the same rights other citizens along similar corridors have received—an independent examination of the route and its alternatives. This has never been done.

In the following article the Independent Citizens lay out their case for the people who have no axes to grind or are motivated by a desire for fair play:

**Interested Citizens Group Report**

"During the long struggle carried on by the Interested Citizens Group to defend their rights and property against the intrusion of a major corridor being constructed by Ontario Hydro, a number of deeply disturbing threats to citizens everywhere have emerged.

1. "People outside the corridor area find it difficult to believe that this project is being built on a route which was not Hydro's first choice. Hydro publications make it clear that their engineering plan was to take a direct route from Bruce to the Kitchener area where there is a major need for more power. Because of pressure and threats from a small but organized resistance group, affected by the direct route, D'Arcy McKeough announced in 1974 that the new route would be across country to Trafalgar near Milton. This route reaches no load center where high voltage power is needed and is a longer distance and more costly. A clear case of a political decision displacing a plan developed by qualified planning engineers, a change made in spite of the additional costs and increased damage to a viable farming and rural residential area. This corridor, if completed, will cost many millions of dollars, primarily from foreign loans whose interest is being paid in depreciated Canadian money and, if it goes into operation, will waste more than five million dollars per year in unnecessary line power losses.

2. "Faced with clear evidence that they were the victims of obvious discrimination, the people affected by the political route, as well as many beyond, it formed the Interested Citizens Group known usually as the I.C.G. The group has never asked for a specific change in the route but have suggested and shown that alternatives do exist. They have made only one request to Hydro and the Government, that an independent examination of the route and its alternatives be done. The route then chosen independently would be accepted with no further objection. For some five years this request has been refused, on the basis that there was "not enough time". Two other groups were given the precise consideration asked for by the I.C.G. The people of the Caledon-King area were given the Solandt Commission which moved the east-west, Nanticoke-Pickering corridor to the Toronto Parkway Belt. The people on the route from Pickering east were given the independent study by Commonwealth Engineering. The I.C.G. even reduced their request to a four-month review of Hydro's existing data compared with only one alternative route, by an independent agent. A guarantee to accept the result with no further resistance was given. Even this was refused. Nearly a year has passed since this request was made yet the refusal was still based on the farcical reason that there was not enough time to do the review.

3. "The Ontario Ombudsman investigated the problem when it was brought to his attention. He expressed concern and support for the stand taken by the I.C.G. but was unable to take further action because of limitations in his terms of reference.

4. "During the long struggle the I.C.G. members have tried to identify the resistance to their request which clearly was a reasonable and moderate one. Hydro appears to have been directed by the Government. The dominant position held by D'Arcy McKeough and the fact that he announced the route decision may have "engraved it in stone" in spite of the obvious government losses in the last two elections throughout the route area. Since the problem arose, a procession of five ministers have appeared in the Energy Ministry, surely a somewhat unusual life expectancy. At least one told I.C.G. representatives that he was concerned about "natural justice" being denied the people, yet the refusal continued. The Deputy Minister of Energy, Malcolm Rowan, has repeatedly expressed adamant opposition to the I.C.G. request so that suspicion has grown that this civil servant has played a major role in providing continuity in the blocking of that request.

5. "Another problem that the I.C.G. members have had to cope with is the strange reluctance of Toronto daily newspapers to report the effort being made by a threatened group of Ontario people. An energy columnist in one Toronto paper has made an occasional reference, almost invariably coupled with Hydro's propaganda theme of "millions lost in power bottled up in Bruce" all caused by the I.C.G. Another Toronto paper carried one major report, the only piece of investigative reporting during all the years of struggle. An Energy Department response was then published but a following article by the I.C.G. pointing out errors in that response was refused. This paper has carried news items in an edition covering a local area only. Many news releases and letters to the editors have been forwarded but almost none have been published. Hydro propaganda that a small group are blocking power needed in Toronto seems to have infected the newspapers. Hamilton press coverage has been sustained as has been that of local papers in the area affected. Radio and television media have reported frequently also. The fact that major dailies do not report regularly on an issue involving thousands of citizens in the I.C.G. and millions of dollars of extra construction costs to be paid by all Hydro users has implications for all Ontario citizens.

6. "For over four years Hydro has maintained a costly publicity department whose chief effort seems to have been directed toward convincing the public that there was an immediate risk of power being "bottled up in Bruce" if the corridor was resisted. This proposition was based upon an expected growth in electricity use of seven percent per year. This growth was largely the result of Hydro's expensive advertising campaign to "live better electrically." When conservation of power became popular, the growth dropped and presently has reached a condition of no growth in Ontario. Still the expansion plans developed earlier are rolling forward in spite of the huge cost of the foreign loans required. A more economical plan to get power out of Bruce actually now exists. At present Hydro has the new corridor near completion to where it meets an existing 230,000 volt line from Kitchener to Essa near Barrie. The line from Kitchener as far as Orangeville has been improved to carry an increased load and Hydro has announced a connection to send Bruce 230 KV power to Kitchener. With the rest of the 230 KV system out of Bruce this will take all the power that your units of Bruce A

will produce except on "bad days". A similar economical improvement on the Orangeville to Essa portion of the 230KV line would permit another connection from the new line to send power to Essa and Toronto, and avoid any "bottling up" in Bruce A. Bruce B units are years away. With zero growth they might be moth-balled indefinitely. Yet the Citizens continue to be blamed for "bottling up" power.

"The preceding information may explain why the I.C.G. has maintained a struggle against heavy odds to obtain an independent review of their problem. Many are owners of farm and residential property disrupted by expropriation for the corridor but there are also many who are not directly affected but are concerned about the way the rights of citizens have been overridden. They have devoted years of effort and money, together with the property owners in the corridor in an effort to obtain the treatment granted to other groups of Ontario people but have met refusal.

"Costs have been carried by citizens' donations, often involving real sacrifices. Hearings have been held by Environmental and Municipal Boards. Expropriation hearings were held. The corridor was dealt with in three sections multiplying the hearings required. In all these the I.C.G. required legal help to present the case for the people. Repeated donations not only from I.C.G. members but

from other concerned people and municipalities have carried the legal costs until the last stages associated with expropriation proceedings. Here proceedings were drawn out so debts mounted.

"A major community effort raised several thousand dollars by a "white elephant" sale but the debt remains a major one. Still more money will be required to have the I.C.G. represented in the coming municipal board hearing during which Hydro will try to override the Halton Hills municipal plan. This plan approved by the Ontario Government does not permit the passage of a bulk transmission corridor.

"Many citizens, not all of whom are I.C.G. members, are angered at the fact that, during the costly expropriation hearings, Hydro was represented by a lawyer on loan from the Provincial Attorney General's staff while the people paid for theirs. Another injustice lay in the allocation by the hearing officer of three times the amount of expense allowance to a witness appearing for Hydro as was granted to those appearing for the I.C.G.

"New money-raising activities and donations are now being planned so the struggle continues. People know that errors have led to unfair and undemocratic treatment and they are determined not to submit to injustice.

The Interested Citizens Group.  
Further information may be obtained from Norman Bird, 305 Maple Ave., Georgetown.

**Mayor conspicuous at CVCA**

October 2, 1978

To the Editor:

Outbursts of a sensational nature from any politician tend to elicit negative responses from the public they serve. And such is the case after the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA) unexpected visit last Thursday evening from Thomas Jefferson Hill.

Halton Hills' Mayor Hill has never been quite as visible as he was when he attended the CVCA's meeting; the first he has attended in 1978 although he is an appointed member of the Authority. He had barely given the other members time to recognize who he was when he attacked their planning and budget in a manner most unbecoming a public figure. Surely, there must have been a good reason for his attendance at this meeting and his subsequent outburst!

Could it be that since a municipal election is scheduled for November 13, and since Mayor Hill has declared his intention to seek a third term, that a little bit of political "grandstanding" was brought into play? Although it is a sad reflection of the times, it is also a reality that Halton Hills must now be considered "big business" in the political arena. Hence, a leader must be chosen who is capable of meeting the demands of such an organization. Mayor Hill has repeatedly shown he is not that man as evidenced by his dismal attendance record at the CVCA meetings.

**Radio Pappy**

He was known on every T.V. set,  
By everyone in Town,  
He'd stay up late to Modulate,  
They called him "Charlie Brown".

Then he met a little Irishman,  
Who was raised among the heather,  
With unpaid "dues" and lots of booze,  
They ran around together

With this little rogue, with the foreign "brogue"  
They raised the "lower" higher,  
With a million "dots" some "kilowatts"  
They set the clouds on fire

Now "dits" and "Dah's" around the world,  
There's friendship at its best,  
In the little "shack" out at the back,  
He "hob-nobs" with the rest.

With his money sunk in a pile of junk,  
And his family all un-happy,  
He goes for "kicks" out in the "sticks"  
To visit "Radio Pappy".

Victor Smith, R.R.2 Rockwood.

The appointment to sit as a member of the CVCA was a two-year appointment, made by Halton Council. It is of interest to note that during his first year (1977) Mayor Hill attended only two of eight full CVCA meetings and none of the four scheduled Information and Advisory Board meetings. In 1978 his record was no better. He did not attend any of the four Information and Advisory Board meetings and only one of the five full CVCA meetings. (And that one was the one he attended last Thursday evening).

Of course, the intent is clear. Mayor Hill is out to win another election and as an astute "politician" he knew when to take advantage of the media. However, his leadership qualities and sense of responsibility leave much to be desired.

May I suggest the time has come for a change?

Pamela Sheldon,  
Halton Hills.

**Glidden**

**FACTORY SALE!**

On Glidden's BEST Latex Wall Paint

**SALE PRICE**

**\$8.99**

REG. \$13.99  
SAVE \$5.00  
GALLON

**SALE ENDS OCTOBER 21, 1978**

**spread satin**  
LATEX WALL PAINT

**SALE PRICE**

**\$9.99**

REG. \$14.99  
SAVE \$5.00  
GALLON

**spread lo-lustre**  
LATEX WALL TRIM PAINT

**SALE PRICE**

**\$9.99**

REG. \$14.99  
SAVE \$5.00  
GALLON

**Lakeview Centre**  
126 Main St. North • Acton • 853-1190

**OCTOBER FOOD FEST**

Jello 3oz. Pkg. Save 24¢	York 2 Litre Carton Save 50¢
ASSORTED JELLY POWDERS 4/\$1.00	ASSORTED FLAVOURS DELUXE ICE CREAM \$1.59
Maxwell House 1 lb. Pkg. Save 80¢	Carnival 14 oz. Tins Save 32¢
NEW VAC-PAK COFFEE \$2.89	PEAS 4/\$1.00
Aylmer 48 oz. Tin Save 10¢	Aylmer 14 oz. Tin Save 22¢
TOMATO JUICE 69¢	FRUIT COCKTAIL 2/\$1.00
Maple Leaf 1 lb. Tin Save 70¢	Libby's 28 oz. Tin Save 22¢
HAM \$2.69	FANCY PUMPKIN 2/\$1.00
Bick's 32 oz. Jar Save 36¢	Proctor & Gamble 32 oz. Bottle Save 40¢
SWEET MIXED PICKLES 99¢	LIQUID DETERGENT IVORY \$1.19
Reynolds 18" x 25" Roll Save 30¢	Blue Bonnet 3 lb. Pkg. Save 40¢
HEAVY DUTY FOIL WRAP 99¢	MARGARINE \$1.99
Sealtest 10 oz. Container Save 20¢	Weston's Pkg. of 12 Save 41¢
FRESH WHIPPING CREAM 59¢	BROWN 'N SERVE DINNER ROLLS 2/89¢
<b>FROZEN FOOD</b>	
Old South 12 1/2 oz. Tin Save 26¢	Valley Farm 2 lb. Bag Save 71¢
ORANGE JUICE 69¢	FRENCH FRIES 3/\$1.00
<b>BEST BUYS IN OUR PRODUCE DEPT.</b>	
Ontario No. 1 2 lb. Bag	Ontario No. 1 2 lb. Bag
CARROTS 29¢	COOKING ONIONS 29¢
Ontario No. 1	lb. 10¢
<b>BEST BUYS IN OUR MEAT DEPT.</b>	
Grade 'A' 5-9 lb. Average	<b>TURKEYS FRESH KILLED-NOT FROZEN 99¢ lb.</b>
Maple Leaf Fully Cooked	SHANK PORTION \$1.39 lb.
SHORT SHANK BONE-IN	BUTT PORTION \$1.49 lb.
HAM	CENTRE CUT \$1.69 lb.
	HAM STEAKS \$1.79 lb.
Swift's Premium 1 lb. Pkg.	Schneider's 1 lb. Pkg. All Varieties
SIDE BACON \$1.69	WIENERS \$1.29
Schneider's CHUNK	<b>LUNCHEON MEAT \$1.59 lb.</b>

PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 7  
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

**A-B SUPERMARKET**  
9 Mill Street East • Acton  
853-0650