



Charlie Perry is taking life easy now after retiring from the CN after 39 years. However, he has not retired completely, working full time at the family business, Lakeview Centre.

CN era ends for Charlie

by Helen Murray

For 39 years, Charlie Perry has been singing "I've been working on the railway." Now, after a lot of hard work, and even more moving around, he is able to sit down and relax, knowing he doesn't have the 40 mile drive to work in the morning.

As of January 31, Mr. Perry is officially retired from CN. However, he is currently on holidays until then, giving him an extra month of relaxation.

The Acton resident first joined the railway in 1940 in Angus, Ontario, near Barrie, after apprenticing in telegraphy in Collingwood. He started his career as a clerk, but pointed out that "back then" a clerk did everything, not just sell tickets.

He explained he was in charge of the operations of trains, looked after incoming and outgoing freights, and various other things. On several occasions, he recalled, he had to get down on his hands and knees and scrub the floor with a brush and a bar of soap.

Nowadays, he says, everyone is specialized. A clerk only knows how to be a clerk, an operations person only knows about that. He takes pride in knowing about everything involved at a railway station.

From Angus, the young man went to Penetang, Geraldton and Beardmore before heading to Washago, Bracebridge, Barrie, Allendale, Minesing, Elmvalle, and Stroud. His next string of stations took him to Beaverton, Zephyr, South Parry, Foothills Bay, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Burk's Falls, Scotia Junction, Callwell Junction, Napanee, Wabashene, Brighton and then Acton, in 1963.

Amidst all these transfers, Mr. Perry managed to find the time to get married, in 1945. He notes that he and his wife and their family moved 12 times in their marriage. The other transfers were just temporary and he was able to keep his family at home.

Mr. Perry ran the Acton station as agent from 1963 until its closure in 1969. After this, he was transferred to Mimico, then to Brampton. He finally ended up at McMillan Yard at Keele and Highway 7, where he was a transportation operator.

It was commuting to the Toronto stations that finally convinced him to retire. Mr. Perry explained that after 11 years of driving 80 miles a day, he wanted to quit.

In 1966, he and Bruce Cargill opened Lakeview Centre, and he decided he would work in the store. He pointed out though that if the store had not been there, he would have got a job doing something else. At 58 years old, he is too young not to do anything, he says.

His main hobby is one he hopes he will be more able to pursue now that he's retired. He loves to travel and has already been to more places than most people only dream of going.

He has seen the sights of Japan, Europe, Spain, New Orleans, California, Arizona and an array of other places. He regrets now that he didn't go to India, when a free airfare was offered by a man he met in Hong Kong, and sometimes wishes he had gone to Australia instead of Japan, but he doesn't regret any holidays. It has cost a lot of money, he said, but all the trips have been worth every penny spent. The memories and photographs can send him back anytime to anyplace.

The prestige of working for the railway is gone, according to Mr. Perry. It went out with Morse code, small railway stations, clerks who deal in the operations of trains, or scrub floors, the employees who put in 16 hours a day etc.

Not only had the job changed, Mr. Perry said, but getting there had also. He explained that when he first started commuting from Acton ten years ago, there was not nearly the traffic there is now. By the time he got to work, in the morning, or home at night, he was "just a bundle of nerves."

Mr. Perry has enjoyed his life on the railway, but he is glad it is over.

"Thirty-nine years is a long time to work in one career," he said as he stood in the middle of his decorating store. He is glad to see familiar faces come through the door, and likes to stop and chat with old friends. He has time for all that now, and 39 years of visiting to catch up on.

Teachers, board settle for 6% hike

Ratepayers will dig deeper into their pockets to pay Halton secondary school teachers this year, but not as deep as teachers would have liked.

The teachers and Halton Board of Education accepted the recommendations of a mediator last week and the price tag amounts to about \$30 million, according to board chief negotiator Bill Priestner of Burlington.

There is a general six per cent hike in salaries to all positions. Teachers were seeking a seven per cent increase while the board would settle for five and a half per cent, according to a fact finder's report. The contract goes from last September until August 31.

The wage settlement of six per cent is augmented by a 2.4 per cent increment plus benefits.

A starting teacher earns \$13,301 under the new agreement while the highest category of teacher with 12 years experience gets \$28,454. Teachers not in the highest group also pick up an increment of \$1,010.

The nearly 1,160 teachers succeeded in working in a dental plan into the agreement, but failed to persuade the board to pay 100 per cent of the cost. The board is to pay 75 per cent of a dental plan and the same percentage of OHIP. Hospital coverage was seen eye-to-eye by the sides, according to the fact finder.

A major concession by the board was the agreement to hire 18 more teachers, which according to the discussion Thursday are earmarked for special education. The teachers hoped to get 38 additional staff members.

According to Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District Nine president Diane Barsoki the hardest points to convince teachers to move on were differentiated staffing and the professional development fund.

Agreement was reached to make the \$100,000 figure the amount for the professional development bank for this calendar year. The flat payment amounts to about a \$33,000 drop from last year and some financial benefit to the board, according to Priestner.

The question of hiring non-teachers for schools—differentiated staffing—was a thorny one in negotiations. Non-teachers, such as library technicians, are hired and paid for out of funds won in negotiations by OSSTF. Under the agreement non-teachers will be laid off before any teacher can be declared surplus.

The cost of the settlement imposed by mediator Martin Teplitzky amounts to 9.02 per cent of last year's cost.

One member of the board's negotiating team—Burlington's Dr. Helen Howard-Lock—voted against the mediator's proposal during the full board meeting Thursday. She said she viewed the differentiated staffing clause as an infringement on the school board's management rights. This is the first Halton secondary school contract to include a clause spelling out differentiated staffing.

"In my opinion tying differentiated staffing to redundancy is worse than not having anything written at all," Howard-Lock said. In a recorded vote five trustees voted against the mediator's proposal while 15 said "Yes" when their names were called out.

The most vocal trustee against the contract proposal was Burlington's Fred Armitage who said the OSSTF is not motivated by a desire to serve students, rather the federation wants "to save teachers' jobs in the face of declining enrolment."

The hiring of 18 teachers slightly lowers the pupil-teacher-ratio (PTR), another point taken up by Armitage. He contended there is no convincing argument which establishes the education benefits of having fewer pupils per teacher. He said he was also concerned because the settlement exceeds budget guidelines. For teachers, he pointed out the wage grid, further separates the new teacher from the one with much seniority.

Former board chairman Gary Norton, in favor of the contract, pointed out that the maximum salaries "are getting beyond reason." "However, I feel the committee has done the best job possible," he said.

Halton Hills Ward 1 and 2 trustee Betty Fisher in a later interview said she voted in favor of the agreement because there was a chance of a strike, a lock-out or arbitration. She indicated the first two are unthinkable while in her opinion both sides would have been in favor.

Barry Shepherd, Halton Hills Ward 2 and 3 trustee, said in a telephone interview later he voted in favor of the contract because it would be foolish to try and reach an agreement without reducing the PTR, though he said he was in favor of maintaining it at the previous level. He also indicated uneasiness concerning a teachers' strike because of the effect on students.

"It's a pretty fair agreement," Shepherd said.

Concerning the 18 teachers for special education, Shepherd indicated sympathy, but mainly in elementary schools. He said he felt if more was accomplished in the lower schools, not so much need be done in high schools. He did say he was glad special education is getting the teachers.

Milton Ward 1 and 3 trustee Ivan Armstrong said he supported the agreement, but not because of everything in it. He told trustees before the vote he was not sure of what could be gained from a work stoppage. "Teachers," he said, "are no different from

the rest of us. They want more money and less work."

The high school teachers, for the first time, started the class year without a contract. Negotiations took about a year. The mediator conducted two meetings and a tentative agreement was set December 13. Director of education Em Lavender said Thursday there were thousands of hours of talks leading up to the introduction of the mediator.

"With all due credit to the mediator, he was no miracle worker," said the director.

The board's main negotiator Priestner told reporters after the meeting the talks were "very long, hard and frustrating experience." "I hope it does not happen every year," he said.

OSSTF District president Barsoki said she hoped both sides, under the negotiating (Continued on Page 4)

15, 16, 17

Count Down to our Pre-Inventory Sale!

All Ladies' Leather
DRESS BOOTS

\$39⁹⁸ 

(REGULAR \$50 to \$70)

DRASTIC REDUCTIONS ON ALL WINTER FOOTWEAR PLUS SPECIAL LINES OF SHOES!!

Support the Restoration of 'Acton Town Hall'

MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY!!!

Swetman's

50% OFF ALL CLEAROUT MERCHANDISE!!

2 WEEKS ONLY—SALE ENDS JAN. 31st

LISTED BELOW ARE ONLY A SAMPLING OF THE SAVINGS

- ★ Pine Poster Bed **\$261⁵⁰**
- ★ Fern Stand **\$16⁵⁰**
- ★ Flower Stand (3 tier) **\$39⁹⁵**
- ★ Record Cabinet **\$19⁵⁰**
- ★ 12" Black and White Portable T.V. **\$99⁹⁵**
- ★ Eureka Upright Vacuum Cleaner **\$89⁹⁵**
- ★ 39" Wood Headboard **\$24⁵⁰**
- ★ Box Spring-Mattress (Mix 'n Match) 39" **\$99⁹⁵**
- 54" **\$125⁰⁰**

PLUS MANY, MANY MORE DISCOUNTED ITEMS!!

• Come See . . . Come Save •

NEARLY 7,000 SQ. FT. OF QUALITY FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES

OPEN MON., TUES., WED., SAT 10 to 6. THURS., FRI 10 to 9

EXTRA BONUS FOR BUYING AT HALTON HILLS FURNITURE

... YOU WILL RECEIVE 'WIN CASH FOR LIFE' TICKETS WITH PURCHASES OVER \$100 AND YOU COULD WIN \$1,000; \$500; or \$250 PER MONTH FOR LIFE!

WITH \$100 PURCHASE YOU RECEIVE 1 TICKET
WITH \$175 PURCHASE YOU RECEIVE 2 TICKETS
WITH \$250 PURCHASE YOU RECEIVE 3 TICKETS
WITH \$500 OR MORE PURCHASE YOU RECEIVE 5 TICKETS

• Master Charge • Chargex • Cash • Cheques
• Financing on the Spot

You save and win when you visit . . .

HALTON HILLS Furniture & Appliances

352 QUEEN STREET EAST, ACTON, ONT. L9C 1G1

COMING SOON
THE GEORGETOWN
CIRCUS GIANT INDOOR FLEA MARKET
FOR CHOICE SPACE
CALL
877-0206

NOW IN STOCK!!



Mazda RX-7 GS
2 in stock - 1 Silver, 1 White
Plus 1979 Mazda GLC's

achilles motors
SALES and SERVICE
357 Queen St. East • Acton • 853-0200

New access

Halton Hills residents will have an access point to Highway 401 at Winston Churchill Boulevard probably by 1982, when an interchange will be constructed.

This information was sent to Halton Hills council by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, who asked the town to accept the plans in principle.

Another interchange is planned for Highway 401 and the Fourth Line, Milton, slated to start in 1981. This will become part of the J. Snow Parkway, formerly known as Dorval Way.

NIELSEN'S Winter Clearance Sale

Savings up to **60%**

Men's • Ladies' • Children

- Suits • Coats • Dresses • Outerwear
- Shirts • Pants • Ladies' Slacks • Sweaters
- Windbreakers • Ski Jackets • Gloves

Nielsen's CLOTHING

DOWNTOWN ACTON

CLEARANCE

50% off

... SELECTED LINES OF:—

- Dresses • Pant Suits • Pants
- T-Shirts • Mitts • Hats

ACTON Toddlers to Teens
DOWNTOWN ACTON — 853-3080