

# PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



A new baby was born in Acton this week and its father is mighty proud. Birthpangs were considerable and the babe is somewhat overdue but, as always, the result is worth it.

"From the Wheelhouse," the story of a Great Lakes captain is the offspring of Chuck Beaton (Rev. Charles P. Beaton), Acton resident and minister of Trinity United Church.

The stories are straight from the mouth of his father, Horace Beaton, a ships captain most of his life, and edited by Chuck who also gathered the pictures, worked with layout and generally prodded his father along.

**"Great Storyteller"**

"Dad is a great storyteller," Chuck comments "who spent many an hour telling Great Lakes stories to his grandchildren."

It was these stories and the television production of "Roots" that convinced Chuck someone ought to write them down.

"My pop was living history, I couldn't let these stories pass away," says Chuck.

It's easy to decide to write a book but quite another to put the operation into effect. Fortunately, Chuck had friends who encouraged him and sent him to Boston Mills Press, a publishing house situated near Cheltenham specializing in local history books.

Chuck describes Jim Filby, one of the principals of Boston Mills, as the "guiding guy" who kept Chuck straight on editorial requirements. John Dennison, also a Boston Mills principal was responsible for layout.

Originally Chuck planned to write the book himself in and around his time-consuming duties of ministering to a large and enthusiastic congregation. However, he ran into his first road block while trying to tape his father's tales. As Chuck writes in the books prologue:

"Dad was intimidated by 'that gadget' and I couldn't get him to talk into it with any sense of continuity. So, I asked him to write down all the ships on which he sailed. Dad did so well he filled two school scribbled, top to bottom, front to back."

Filby felt the book would be more authentic if the story was told pretty much as Captain Beaton told it.

"It was a lot less work for me to edit it rather than write it," agreed Chuck.

However, the editing took a good eight months of the two years from inception till publication. Gathering the pictures took the remainder.

Most of the newspaper clippings and photos came from the scrap books of Marjorie Beaton, Chuck's mother. The rest came from the Collingwood Museum and Schulla Photography in Collingwood, the official photography company of the shipyards.

"Fire" The book, a heavy quality paperback with color front and back cover, has an abundance of illustrations. Photos of many of the great lakes liners, pictures of early Ontario towns, informal family pictures, charts, and drawings add much to the detailed text.

Both prologue and epilogue are written by Rev. Beaton.

The most exciting chapter is chapter 4, "Fire." Captain Beaton's favourite ship, the Harmonic, caught fire and exploded when filled with passengers at Point Edward. The captain plays down his part in the guiding of the ship away from harbor to a place safer for passengers to disembark the burning ship. But newspaper clippings named Horace Beaton a hero and commended his level-headed actions.

An autograph party to christen the book will be held Sunday afternoon between 2 and 4 p.m. at Trinity United Church.

"From the Wheelhouse" is published by Boston Mills Press and sells for \$8.95. It is available at the Book Nook in Acton.



Chuck Beaton and 'baby'



The entire entourage of monks, jesters, peasants and people assemble for old English corals and the Trinity United Church Boar's Head Dinner Sunday night at the Legion.



In comes the Boar's Head borne by Bill Taylor and Rick Bailey as part of the procession during Trinity United Church Boar's Head Dinner at the Legion.

## Boar's Head Dinner for 500

Over 500 people thronged into the Acton Legion Sunday for the third annual Boar's Head dinner.

The dinner is a tradition brought to town by Rev. Charles Beaton.

Wherever he has preached, he has started this Christmas event, and leaves it behind as he moves on to new parishes. However, Acton people seem the most enthusiastic in the preparation he says.

From the meal to the entertainment everything including costumes. A cast of close to 100 put on the entertainment while many more prepared the turkey meal and the actual boar's head.

Crawford Caswell was in charge of the kitchen duties, while Jean Beaton headed the entertainment. Pauline and Bill Leslie did the table arrangements and Valerie Johnston took care of the ticket sales.

Monks were Chuck and Jean Beaton, Pauline and Bill Leslie, Lloyd and Ann McIntyre, Kim and Gord Toth, Gary Steele,



Jesting is tiring, Mandy Silcock awaits her turn to perform at the Trinity United Church Boar's Head Dinner held Sunday in the Legion.



The Town Crier, Mark Sawden, tells the story of the boar's head tradition at the third annual Boar's Head Christmas Dinner sponsored by Trinity United Church.

### Severance

Halton Land Division Committee passed a severance which will give an Acton couple enough land to round out a building lot.

Committee granted the severance to Karl and Hildegard Schumki on land on the south side of Highway 7, on the town's western edge.

Land from Jean Goy was put in common ownership with the Schumki property.

## St. Joseph's news

by Honor Sweezy and Rhonda Barrett

Our school now has 201 students. We have reached 200 for the first time in our history.

On Wednesday, December 19, St. Joseph's school is having their third annual Christmas concert and everyone is invited.

The kindergartens made stockings, Christmas trees, and Christmas wordbooks. They are also preparing for our Christmas concert.

Mrs. Robertson's class made angels bells and trees out of tissue paper. They have a Santa Claus display on their blackboard.

The student of the week for Miss Bradley's class is Christine Beaton. Along with the rest of the school they are preparing for the Christmas concert.

Mr. McGeragle's class is doing stained glass windows with tissues for art. They will also be doing candle holders. For environmental studies

they made pinhole cameras and with them discovered light travels in straight lines.

The grade 5's are learning perimeter while the grade 4's are

studying decimals (10th to 100th).

Mr. Morris's class is doing Christmas murals for art. They are also doing a Muppet play for our Christmas Concert.

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## ACTON MERCHANTS CHRISTMAS HOURS

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ACTON RETAIL STORES CHRISTMAS HOURS OBSERVED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE MERCHANTS.

### DECEMBER

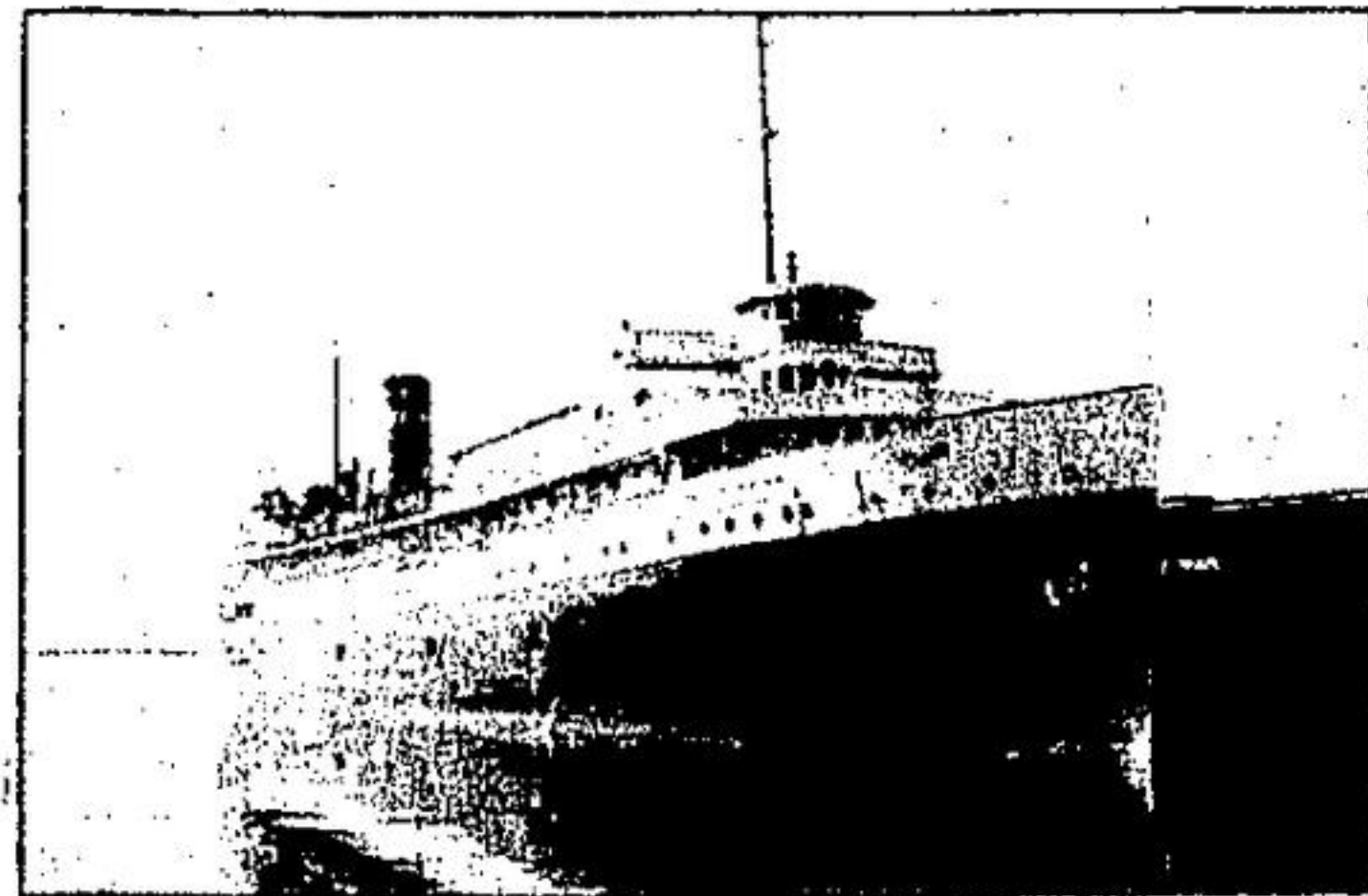
MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		12	13	14	15
		9-9	9-9	9-9	9-6
17	18	19	20	21	22
9-9	9-9	9-9	9-9	9-9	9-6
24	25	26	27	28	29
9-6	Closed	Closed	9-9	9-9	9-6

REMEMBER... TO RIDE THE FREE CHRISTMAS BUS BEGINNING DECEMBER 13 SPONSORED BY THE ACTON MERCHANTS.

## NOW AVAILABLE AT THE... Book Nook

### FROM THE WHEELHOUSE

The Story of A Great Lakes Captain: Horace L. Beaton



### SPECIAL AUTOGRAPH PARTY...

Sunday, December 16, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Trinity United Church with the author HORACE L. BEATON & Story Editor CHUCK BEATON

### Christmas Gift Suggestions

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