

On the Leavell

With Helen



I came to Acton as a teenager, fresh out of college, alone and a little frightened to face the working world ahead of me. I was accepted by Actonians as if I was born here. In the past five years they have watched me grow into what I hope is a competent journalist and a mature adult. It would not have been possible without the continued support of the people who I have come to know as friends rather than news contacts.

Now, I find myself saying a professional goodbye as I throw in the towel on what has been an exciting and rewarding career, but sometimes tiring, frustrating and hectic life. I will still be around Acton, but have decided to take part of the life of leisure some people have always said I have.

I won't miss the 50 to 60 hour work weeks. Nor will I miss hearing complaints about things I had nothing to do with, or had any control over.

What I will miss however, are those who know me as "Helen Free Press."

My five years on the staff of the Free Press have been the most rewarding I will probably ever have. Of all the many friendships I have kindled in the past I will always treasure those of Kay Dills and Hartley Coles the most. Both have been my editors who have taught me more than newspapers. They have taught me friendship has no age barrier.

There are, of course, many others

who have been special to me. Maybe now with a bit of free time I shall be able to show them just how special they are.

The decision to quit my job as news editor and leave the news room was a very difficult one for me. It was not a hasty decision and there was no particular reason why I chose to leave. I was beginning to feel stale at the job. I felt I was not giving the people of Acton my "all," which I feel they deserve.

I've given my "all" for over five years and have selfishly decided to take a chunk of myself for myself. I will still be keeping my finger in the newspaper by working part time in the production end.

I will also continue to write this column, and hope to expand it into a centre for news tidbits small town people like. I need your help for that. And don't be surprised if you see me around town doing the odd assignment. I'm sure the staff is not going to let me relax too much.

Professionally I say goodbye and thank everyone for having a part in my career. There are those who are sad to see me go, but not nearly as sad as I am. On the other hand, there are those who are probably glad to see me go, but not as glad as I am. Make sense? Well, to those who know me, I never did make sense. So why should it be any different now.

Thanks Acton, and goodbye.

Eden Mills

Christmas meetings keep residents busy

by Mrs. W. MacDougall
Mrs. G.W. Lasby was hostess for the Christmas meeting of the Presbyterian Women. Mrs. Barden opened the meeting with a reading.

The communications were mostly thank you notes for gifts or flowers received. The White Gifts from church were donated to the Pastoral Visitation Group in Guelph. Pennies for the Fellowship of the Least Coin were dedicated by Ev Barden.

A Christmas message, interspersed with carol singing, and a poem was read by Mrs. W. Lasby. The roll call was "cookies for sale" and these goodies were auctioned off by Rev. Doehring. Presbyterian coffee spoons were presented to Rev. Doehring as a gift from the congregation. The January meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Barden. A social time was convened by the hostess and daughter Cathy. Mrs. Anna Wilson expressed thanks for a nice meeting.

The United Church Women held the Christmas meeting in the church hall. The president, Mrs. Betty Snow opened the meeting with a reading. Scripture was read by Mrs. Ann Cann

and the Christmas story was given by Mrs. Ruth Millson. Miss Laurie Early was pianist for the carol singing.

Mrs. Freda Thompson read the minutes of the last meeting and Mrs. Jean James gave the treasurer's report showing a good balance.

The nominating committee submitted the following slate of officers for 1980 past president Mrs. Betty Snow; president, Mrs. Mabel Parker; vice president, Mrs. Ruth Millson; secretary, Mrs. Freda James; missionary convener, Mrs. Ann Cann; supply convener, Mrs. Holly Saulnier; flower and card convener, Mrs. Lorna Tomlinson.

Mrs. Edith Jennings and Mrs. Ann Cann will convene the lunches for Acton school teachers. The Friendly Seniors held their Christmas meeting on Wednesday. Prizes for the year were

won by: Mrs. Clara Borcham, high; Mrs. Aileen McKelvie, lone hands; Gordon McKelvie, high; and Ed Jennings, lone hands. Guests present were George and Grace Day, Rockwood, Fred Rinehart and Mansell Lowrie. Before everyone sat down to a turkey sup-

Pot luck at meeting

by Mrs. L. Giffen
Mrs. D. Lindsay was hostess to the Silver Wood W.I. Christmas meeting.

Fifteen ladies sat down to a delicious pot luck Christmas dinner. After dinner they exchanged Christmas gifts with their unknown friend.

Mrs. B. Lindsay introduced Mrs. Gail Collett from Col Craft. She demonstrated some items of Christmas decorations and favors which were very interesting.

per, the president Anna Wilson read a poem "Little things at Christmas" and said the grace. Gifts were presented to president, Anne Wilson; 1st vice president, Jean Rinehart and secretary-treasurer, Jean Lowrie. Winner of the lucky cup was Catherine Gilbertson and the lucky chair was Mansell Lowrie.

Happy Birthday was sung to Norman Marshall and Marnie Lowrie and all joined in the singing of Silent Night. The next meeting is today. A special

Blacklock on trombone; Stephen Blacklock on trumpet and Jeff McNabb from Rockwood on violin.

Both churches enjoyed special Christmas music. At the United Church, the last Advent candle was lit by Laura Wachal; David and Laura McNamara. At the Presbyterian Church, the last Advent candle in the wreath was lit by young Darrin Duffield with readings by Lisa Webb and Kathy van Rhijn. Young people taking part with their musical talents were Susie

George, Judy and Cort Campbell of Sundridge were holiday guests with Judy's parents Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boulé.

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Ballinad

Holiday happenings

by Winifred Smith
Mrs. Florence H. Vedehave, an area resident recently received some good news about her only nephew, Dr. Paul H. Tanser professor of Cardiology at McMaster University, Hamilton. He has just returned from Sweden, where he was on a lecture tour. On his return home he received word that a tremendous position had been offered to him with two honour degrees. Dr. Paul, his wife and two young sons moved from Montreal a few years ago. Mrs. Tanser is also a professor at McMaster University. His parents, Dr. and Mrs. H. Tanser reside in Chatham, Ontario. The young Dr. Paul graduated from the University of Ottawa at the age of 23. He received at that time five out of 13 prizes given in Doctoral examinations. He had the highest standing.

The young peoples group from Ballinad Church went by bus to visit the planetarium in Toronto last Thursday afternoon. There was a beautiful and inspiring service held at the Church on Christmas eve. Many of the church members took part in the service. Familiar carols were sung. Both the Junior and Mens' Choir

delighted all with the anthems they sang. Paul Schwarz sang a solo, Helen Bird and Susan O'Connor sang a duet and the O'Connor sisters sang "The Little Drummer Boy". Special music was provided with Mrs. Kathryn Bailey at the piano and Mrs. Eileen McEnery at the organ.

A group of carolers from the church and others in the vicinity of the village were invited to the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Papst at King City the Sunday evening before Christmas. It was an enjoyable time of fellowship and fun for all as the Christmas carols were sung. The McEnery's providing the music to go along with the singing.

Rev. Stiles had an interesting sermon for those that attended Church for the last Sunday in the seventies. He based his sermon on the changing conditions of society and said as he quoted different paragraphs from recent publications, we can expect more in the eighties. He finished his message by saying that God was still Ruler of His Kingdom and knew what was in store for the world.

On Friday evening December 28, several

couples from the community along with many others from Halton Hills and Wellington County gathered at the new Canadian Legion Hall in Acton to honour a native son of Ballinad. It was a retirement party for "Bud" Snow. Bud was overwhelmed as it was a complete surprise for him to see such a large crowd. Many residents spent Christmas away, others had their families home.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Jamieson joined other members of their family when they spent Christmas day at their son Murray's home in Kincardine.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Marshall spent the day with their daughter Ruth and husband and family and other members of the family when they gathered at the farm home near Guelph.

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