

Recently, Earl Van Norman had a delightful surprise. He was honoured with a plaque from the Wellington County Electrical Contractors Association in recognition of 25 years service, one of only four presented in Ontario. He was also made an Honorary Life Member.

Earl has had his own electrical business for 37 years, starting as an apprentice with Rolly McEachern in the '30s. He's lived and worked in Acton since 1942 and there isn't a house or building (with the exception of the new subdivisions) that he hasn't worked on, he says.

He's always been a local boy. Born in Rockwood, Earl was transplanted to a farm on the First Line of Erin near Ospringe where he farmed as a young man before becoming an electrician.

Now living on Main Street North, he and his wife Vera have occupied the same house for nearly 30 years. Prior to that, they lived two doors down.

A hard working man, Earl never took time for vacations. In all that time he and Vera have had just one full week's vacation. They went to Orillia last year and it rained nearly all the time, Mrs. Van Norman chuckles.

Now Earl is officially retired. However, no one seems to have told him because he's working just as hard as ever, it seems. People still call when their lights go out. Hot water heaters still need attention, vacuum cleaners still blow their tops. "I'm not retired," he sighs, "just tired."

Wire a house for \$350

When Earl started back in the '30s as an electrician's apprentice, most of the electrical work was in wiring houses. He has fond memories of wiring old farm houses for the first time, bringing the light to old rooms.

"I'd rather work on an old house than anything," he comments.

In those days an entire large house could be wired for \$350. Earl says it wouldn't cost much more than \$500 to wire a whole farm.

Now, prices are much higher. He's not sure how much it would cost to wire a house now, but feels it would be at least \$2,000.

Of course, in the '30s Earl was making \$1.25 a day as an apprentice.

Eventually, when he charged \$4 an hour people would gasp "you're a dear so and so", he says, but now electricians fees range from \$15 to \$20 an hour.

Earl always worked on his own, with a helper. Presently Stan Morrison is his assistant. However, when he had a large factory job to do he would have a crew of 10 to 15 men working weekends, after hours from their other jobs.

His office has always been his home and Vera Van Norman has been his secretary all along. "We pull in double harness," she explains, while Earl says he couldn't have made a living without Vera to help him.

She answered the phone, knew where to call him in an emergency (even sending taxis after him if necessary), drove the car for pickups and was general gopher. She can do a little electrical work herself if it's called for—fixing lights and replacing plugs on one delighted customer's vacuum cleaner.

"She knows just enough to be dangerous," Earl laughs.

Double duty car

In addition to wiring most of Acton, Earl has

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



There's not too many night calls these days, although Earl recently assisted a home without lights on Christmas Eve. He use to be out all hours when emergencies occurred.

"Nobody wants to work all hours now..." he says. "We always figured, if you're not going to serve the public, there's no use being in it (the business)."

Earl Van Norman has served the public for these many years and hasn't quit lighting up Acton yet.

worked with Ontario Hydro servicing water heaters for years. He has also wired gas pumps all over Ontario for Imperial Oil in Guelph.

The Van Normans were the first in their area to have television in 1954. Vera says she got tired of being alone when Earl popped off in the evening to attend to an emergency, so she requested a television.

Naturally, the attraction brought in the neighbourhood children. They've been in droves ever since.

"They're like a bunch of crows," Vera grumbles good naturedly—but she's busy knitting masses of mitts and scarves for them at Christmas.

Earl never had a truck and constantly used his car as a work vehicle, feeling he could combine the business wheels with the recreation and family vehicle very well. His rolls of wires went in the trunk or the back seat, with his ladders perched on top.

"Sometimes the bumper was that far from the ground," he remembers.

Times have changed from the days of knob and tube wiring, threading wires through solid log or clay walls and one light per room with a pull chain.

Now every room has to have at least three outlets and each kitchen must have three split outlets on a stretch of counter. Rules and regulations are far more complicated now, but safer.



Earl Van Norman

Town wants lots merged

Failure by the Halton Land Division Committee to stipulate that two parcels of land in the Guelph St. area should be merged forced Halton Hills council Monday to appeal the decision so a small triangular piece of land won't permanently be a separate lot.

Karl and Hildegard Schmuki, Guelph St., wanted to separate an irregular shaped lot from their property. However the lot doesn't satisfy residential zoning requirements because it wouldn't front on a road. At the same time a triangular parcel of about 10 acres owned by Jean Goy was proposed for severance. The Goy land would be too small for a building lot so neither parcel meets requirements.

Both property owners went to Land Division Committee wanting the two parcels to be merged into one lot which would meet zoning requirements.

Halton Hills planning department supported both applications on the condition that they be merged and Land Division Committee went

along with the plan. The committee was supposed to stipulate merging take place simultaneously and in the case of the Goy severance attached the proper conditions, but forgot to impose the same conditions on the Schmuki severance, even though that's what the owners wanted. It was an oversight based on

committee unfamiliarity with new planning laws. If the properties aren't merged the Goy separation will be a lot forever and even if purchased by an adjoining landowner can't be merged.

The property owners and town have decided jointly to appeal the Land Division Committee de-

cision to the Ontario Municipal Board, asking that the property be merged.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
Authorized as Second Class Mail Postal Registrar Number—0515



WEDDING INVITATIONS

Forever Yours
BY INTERNATIONAL OF STAFFORD

Choose your wedding invitations with complete confidence from our elegant selection...which includes announcements and all the correct wedding accessories.

Our wedding gift to you... a Keepsake copy of your Invitation processed in luxurious gold.

Home Gifts · Cards · Jewellery

45 MILL STREET EAST, ACTON 853-3160

Liberterian hat in ring

Karen Selick, a 26-year-old tax lawyer, announced that she would run as the Libertarian Party candidate in the Halton riding.

Ms. Selick was the Libertarian candidate in Halton in the May, 1979 election also. That was her first political campaign and the first time the Libertarian Party had nominated a candidate in the region.

During the campaign, Ms. Selick will continue working full time at her job at the head office of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. However, she does plan to attend all-candidates' meetings and will do as much canvassing as her schedule permits.

A-B
WOODLAND
MARKET

Fresh Ontario Pork
PORK LOIN ROASTS lb. **\$1.29**
RIB PORTION 3-4 LB. AVERAGE
TENDERLOIN PORTION lb. **\$1.49**
3-4 lb. AVERAGE

Regular Loin Pork Chop lb. **1.39**
Fast Fry or Thick Cut
Centre Chops lb. **1.89**
Whole
Pork Loins 12-14 lb. Average lb. **1.35**
CUT AND WRAPPED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

Fresh Meaty
Side Spare Ribs lb. **1.39**
Sweet & Sour Ribs lb. **1.69**

Maple Leaf 1/2 Cryovac
S.P. Cottage Rolls lb. **1.49**
Schneider's 1 lb. Pkg. Assorted Varieties
Sliced Bologna lb. **1.59**

Swift's Premium By The Piece
Polish Sausage Coil lb. **1.59**

Schneider's 1 lb. Pkg.
Side Bacon lb. **1.59**
Schneider's 1 lb. Pkg. Assorted Varieties
Wieners lb. **1.59**
Schneider's 2 lb. Pkg. Family Pak
Beef Burgers **3.79**

Weston **Cinnamon Buns** 8's **.79**
Delmonte breakfast **Prunes** 1 1/2 lbs. **1.59**
Gem long grain **Rice** 2 lb. **.89**
Crisco salad & cooking **Oil** 1.5 litres **2.99**
Beef, Irish or meatball Puritan **Stew** 24 fl. oz. **1.49**
Libby **Sauerkraut** 28 fl. oz. **.69**
Libby (in tomato sauce) **Spaghetti or Alphabeti** 14 fl. oz. **.49**
Libby (in tomato sauce) **Zoodles** 14 fl. oz. **.49**

YOUR FAVORITE FOODS PRICED TO PLEASE

Prices effective Jan. 9, 10, 11, 12
We reserve the right to limit quantities

Digestive, Nice, or shortcake **Peek Frean Biscuits** 7 1/2 oz. **.49**

Blue Bonnet Soft **Margarine** 1 lb. **.79**

Individual Wrap Process Canadian **Kraft Cheese Slices** 1 lb. **1.79**

Kraft Cheez Whiz 1 kg. **3.59**

Libby Deep Brown **Beans With Pork** 28 fl. oz. **.79**

Assorted Lipton Cup A Soup 4 env. **.68**

Asst. Savarin **Meat Dinners** 11 oz. **.98**
3 var. Foodland **Dog Food** 15 oz. **4/.99**
Foodland strawberry or raspberry **Jam** 24 oz. **1.09**
Tetley **Tea Bags** 72's **1.79**
Assorted Nestles **Mini Pudding** 3x5 oz. **.89**
Scope **Mouthwash** 375 ml. **1.89**
Dietrich cracked wheat **Bread** 24 oz. **2/1.09**
Weston plain, sugar or cinnamon **Donuts** 12's **.79**

Fresh, Hand Selected Produce Arrives Daily At The Lowest Possible Prices!!

P.M. in Halton

Prime Minister Joe Clark will be in Halton Monday to meet the public at a luncheon to be held in the Oakville Holiday Inn. Halton MP Otto Jelinek told a press conference Monday he had received confirmation of the Prime Minister's visit the same day. He is the first, and possibly only, federal political leader to visit Halton.

NIGHT SCHOOL CLASSES ACTON HIGH SCHOOL
Registration: Thursday, Jan. 10 7:00-9:00
Classes Begin: Monday, Jan. 14

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays
Bookkeeping	Cake Decorating	Typing
Woodworking	Drawing & Painting	Sewing
Ballroom		Yoga
		Disco

Consult Recreation Department Brochure For Full Details or Phone 853-2920
Halton Board of Education
E.S. Lavender Director W. Hand Chairman

SALE

THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT SWETMAN'S! INVENTORY COUNTDOWN!!

SUPER VALUES THIS WEEK...

All Children's **SLIPPERS** (Reg. to \$9.98) **\$3.98** to **\$6.98**

Selected Lines Of Men's / Women's **SLIPPERS** (Reg. to \$14.98) **\$6.98**

All Children's Vinyl **BOOTS** (Regardless of original price - some up to \$24.98) **\$4.98** to **\$12.98**

20 to 40% Off All Casual & Dress Boots In Stock!!

PLUS MANY OTHER BARGAINS WHILE THEY LAST

Sweetman's