

# PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Burned Out Rooster is a trucker—an Acton trucker with his own enormous Kenmore cab over truck unit wheeling all over Ontario and New York State.

Burned Out Rooster is his C.B. handle. When he's at home he's Brad Timbers, a young Acton fellow living quietly with his wife Janet and nine month old baby daughter, Miranda.

Brad's been a trucker most of his life since graduation from Acton High School six years ago. However the decision to purchase his own truck was not one made lightly.

Brad says he's not regretted the purchase last November but Janet comments she was worried about the amount of money tied up in the vehicle.

The great big Kenmore (looked big to me!) was purchased new, sports a 430 Detroit engine and is grossed out to carry 110,000 pounds.

Fortunately Brad has a contract with Trojan Freight Lines and does all his trucking for them, thereby offering him security while enjoying the independence of being his own boss.

Drives all night Travelling from Sault Ste. Marie to Ottawa to Windsor to New York City in any kind of weather doesn't faze Brad who seems an easy going guy.

He usually drives at night, taking 12 hours to make the New York run. Once in New York City he'll sleep in the truck cab and be ready to go with another load by nightfall of the second day, arriving home by dawn. Sometimes he'll do this trip twice a week.

Brad prefers to travel at night, finding oncoming lights don't bother him way up high in his truck cab. He can avoid slow commuter passenger cars and pokey drivers at this time. Night is the time most truckers move.

He also prefers to travel full both ways, although if he's empty one way he says it's "easier on the fuel". He gets paid no matter whether he has a full load both ways or not.

Fuel can be a problem, especially in these days of soaring gasoline. Even though his big rig has a 238 gallon diesel fuel storage tank, at an average of 5.5 to 6.7 mpg, Brad has to watch his fuel consumption. With this in mind he made sure his truck had a new style fuel efficient motor that could be "squeezed down" to use less fuel when there's a lighter load on.

So far, Brad has been lucky and has had no bad experiences trucking. He says it's important to be patient and leave a little extra room when driving in passenger traffic.

Weather doesn't bother him, although he doesn't like ice (who does?) He has never experienced the sinking feeling of a tractor-trailer in full load slowly tipping over an off-ramp of Highway 400, as they so often do.

No matter what his load, be it insulation, steel, lighter fluid or booze, Brad takes it easy and drives carefully trying his best to stay upright and get to his destination in one piece.

C.B. usage slowing down Although Brad enjoys listening to his CB radio, he says he doesn't talk on it much.

CBing, so popular with all drivers two years ago, is now dying out around Toronto except with professional truckers, Brad comments.

It's different in the States, he says, and he knows as soon as he's crossed the border by the sounds coming over his radio. Most truckers monitor channel 19 which is kept clear by courtesy for truckers.

He finds police have a tendency to be a little more lenient with the truckers, Brad remarks. They probably recognize the trucker's professionalism and superior driving ability.

Even with a government rebate on fuel for transportation businesses, costs are going up. Trojan Freight Lines adds a seven per cent fuel surcharge to its shipping charges.

When trucking costs go up, consumer goods go up in price. Brad feels people will just have to go on paying higher prices.

"Sooner or later everything's got to come by truck."

Higher prices are inevitable. Brad says he can't imagine doing anything else, he enjoys what he's doing for a living. He's his own boss, home weekends, although he spends Saturday morning servicing his truck. And he's King of the Road.

"Maybe I'll get it out of my system in time, or maybe it'll get worse," Brad Timbers comments philosophically.



Brad Timbers

# Famed missionary speaks at Trinity United Sunday

Former moderator of the United Church of Canada and famed medical missionary Dr. Robert (Bob) McClure will be in Acton this Sunday to speak to the congregation of Trinity United Church at the 10 a.m. service.

Dr. McClure will be guest at an open house at Trinity United Church Saturday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.

All people who would like the biographies of Dr. McClure signed are welcome, according to Rev. Beaton. The biographies, by Munro Scott, are entitled The China Years and Years of Challenge.

Dr. McClure was born November 23, 1900, in Portland, Oregon in the United States, a fact which he feels gives him the right to call himself a refugee, since his parents were pioneer missionaries of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission in North Honan, China. His mother had gone to the United States

to escape the Boxer Rebellion, but returned immediately when it was over.

His father, Dr. William McClure, after years of service as a medical missionary, was appointed Professor of Internal Medicine at Cheeloo University. Dr. McClure grew up in north China, spoke Chinese before he spoke English, and is still fluent in that language. In fact, he says, he often thinks in Mandarin.

He studied for his medical degree at the University of Toronto and graduated in 1922. He married the former Amy Hislop in 1923 and returned to China, where he served in a variety of posts until 1948 when the Communists took over and the McClures were once again refugees.

During his medical service in China his operations for gunshot wounds alone averaged one a day every day for ten years. In 1931, he was awarded the FRCS from

the University of Edinburgh. Later he received the FICS from the same university.

From 1937 to 1941, he was loaned by the United Church to the International Red Cross, who appointed him Field Director for Central China during the Sino-Japanese conflict.

McClure: The China Years, a book written by Munro Scott, ends with his departure from Shanghai in December, 1948. He had intended to return but when that proved impossible, he answered an appeal from the Church Missionary Society in England to serve in its hospital in Gaza, Palestine, where he remained until the spring of 1954. Then followed a 14 year stint at the mission hospital in Ratlam, Central India, under the aegis of The United Church of Canada.

In 1968 Dr. McClure was elected moderator of The United Church of Canada, the first layman

to hold that office. As moderator he toured Canada from coast-to-coast and visited several overseas countries.

When his term as moderator expired in 1971, Dr. McClure started travelling again. He spent two and a half years in Kapit, Sawarak, Malaysia, doing surgery at Christ

Hospital; six months at a hospital in the Peruvian jungle, - he returned because of the lack of government funding precluded his health service being carried out - and a few months at a hospital in the West Indies. His latest overseas assignment has been one of four months' duration at L'Institute Medical

Evangelique, Kimpese, Zaire.

Dr. McClure heard a cry for help from the Kimpese hospital while reading the Bloor Street United Church Bulletin one Sunday morning. In a letter from Dr. Robert Hillard, a pediatrician sent by the United Church, he appealed for a short-term help while one of the regular doctors went on holiday.

Dr. McClure decided that he would go and left Canada on July 5th for what was supposed to be a two-month stay. It turned out to be double that time and he also

found that there was much more work than he had anticipated.

He performed over 300 operations while at Kimpese, 65 per cent of them major. He was appalled at the number of traffic deaths, one per day on the average, and the number of Caesarian sections required. Most of these he attributes to the fact that the government hospitals closed at five o'clock in the afternoon. "Modern medicine has arrived in Africa," he says, "but medicine without the Christian spirit of service is useless."

Returning to Canada in October, 1977 to what everyone believed would be a well earned retirement, Dr. McClure found himself in the public spotlight as the subject of Munro Scott's biography. Demands from the media, church and service clubs are unsatiable and Dr. McClure's itinerary has rivalled those of movie stars.

On December 7th, 1978, Dr. McClure, his biographer, Munro Scott, and their wives were honoured by the Ontario Legislature.



Dr. Robert McClure will speak in Acton this Sunday at the 10 a.m. service at Trinity United Church.



First showing

Even though it was his first show, this yearling Quarter horse colt owned by Dr. Tom Thompson of Acton placed very high in his conformation classes at Quarterama, Canada's largest Quarter horse show held recently at the Toronto Coliseum. Eternal Award, shown here with Dr. Thompson and his handler Judy Ianson, also of Acton, won a seventh place in the Canadian Bred and Owned class out of 25 entries; and a reserve in the Canadian Owned and Foaled class out of 17 entries.

Photo by HAROLD CAMPTON

## Escapes injury

An Acton man escaped injury in a single-car accident in slippery conditions early Friday morning.

Wayne John Medland, R.R. 2 Acton was driving east on 22 Sideroad when he lost control on the slip-

pery road and struck a hydro pole. Damage to the vehicle is estimated at \$1,500.

Robert Little became principal of Acton Public School in 1863.

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The event is sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce with a view to honoring a citizen or group each year for outstanding service to the community. The winner will be honored at the Citizen of the Year Banquet at the Acton Music Centre.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS MARCH 14, 1980

Mail Your Entries To:  
The Acton Chamber of Commerce  
Box 416, Acton, Ontario L7J 2M7

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