

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



After 40 years of teaching, most mathematics teachers would look a little harried. Ted Hansen, former principal of Acton High School and now retired teacher, serenely discusses his plans for the future and his years educating two generations of youngsters.

Starting in 1940, after graduating with his degree in education and spending his early school years in Acton, Ted taught at Alton Continuation school with one other teacher. The two of them handled four grades and split the subjects between them. For this he received \$900 a year.

He was glad to get the job, he says, since teaching jobs were still scarce after the influx into teaching of depression victims. His own son, John, is now facing the same situation as he starts a career in teaching this coming season.

Seven years later, Ted moved to Acton Continuation School, joining two other teachers. He was to be there for the next 23 years, the last 16 as principal, supervising a staff that grew from seven to 25.

However, the frustrations of administration and the gradual removal of a principal from the lives of his students propelled him back into the classroom as he elected to teach advanced mathematics at Milton District High School and was there from 1970 until his retirement this past June.

In addition to math, which Ted says he enjoyed teaching, he has specialized in English and history, although in his early days of teaching he found himself teaching everything from Latin to Geography.

"Math is more definitive, more objective than English," he comments, "and the marking is easier."

Then vs. Now

Looking back over 40 years of teaching Ted remarks, "I'm not convinced we're educating students better than we used to... changes are often made to aid administration not the students."

"Teaching is more difficult now," he comments, remarking a teacher didn't have to fight the students a few years ago, they had training at home first. Now a teacher has to be both parent and educator.

However, emphasising that his feelings towards today's schools is not wholly negative, Ted

says there's a lot of good students going through the system and some really nice youngsters. He adds, "I'm surprised there are as many good kids as there are. The good student isn't allowed to get as much out of the system as he should... (teachers) have to spend so much time with poor students."

Ted doesn't agree with experimentation in education.

"We're dealing with human lives—we only have one chance. You can't just say we failed, too bad, throw the kids out."

In contrast with the many vast changes in education seen during the past decade, Ted feels a sound system should be gradually improved upon, "if you've got something good, make it better."

Commenting on the New Math that had parents so confused 15 years ago Ted says he doesn't think it's very much different from the math he's always taught.

"It's basically the same with more theory—2 plus 3 is 5 because..." Ted also states he doesn't agree with the use of calculators in class and feels students don't have the basics of tables, and other solid learning devices.

In fact, he feels that's a major fault with today's schooling, the lack of basics, and he adds most universities are saying students are not prepared for their courses.

Ted agrees with the words of a fellow educator who compared today's children with yesterday's. "In his career in teaching," Ted says, "he'd never come across a time when students were so anxious to get out of work."

Ted remarks on the lethargy and lack of appreciation of students who resist learning now as they never used to.

"They don't get good work habits, it's too easy now."

Life of leisure

Those concerns are behind him as Ted tries to catch up with the jobs around the house. He and his wife Kay plan to travel and have a trip to Scotland on the books for this fall.

Two of their sons are living at home, John the school teacher, and Paul who works with Beardmore. An older son, Bill is at Fort McMurray north of Edmonton on the tarsands project.

Ted finds life very busy with his work as a senior in the Acton Rotary Club, his leadership of The Acton Legion Choralliers for the past 10 years and his position as organist and choir leader for Knox Presbyterian Church, not to mention his curling.

Ted Hansen, a teacher in the true sense of the word, and one who will be remembered by a great many Acton students.



Ted Hansen



Over 30 senior citizens from St. Joseph's home in Guelph enjoyed a picnic on the banks of Fairy Lake last Wednesday afternoon at the home of Peter Papillon. Mary Papillon supervises the crafts program at the home.

Eden Mills

Mill may become home

An offer has been made by a Toronto couple to buy the old mill in Eden Mills which was destroyed by fire earlier this year.

Owner Ted Barden confirmed in an interview this week that he has accepted an offer to purchase the mill from Joan C. Symon of Toronto.

Mrs. Symon's husband is an architect and they want to turn the mill into a home.

However, before the mill can be converted into a house Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) permission is needed since the mill is on hazard land, Barden noted.

rebuild the historical mill when a massive fire gutted it last February. The mill had previously been razed by fire in 1968.

The Barden family has owned the mill since 1917, converting it to a saw mill in 1953.

It was being used to produce construction skids, flower flats and other wood products at the time of the February blaze.

The original mill, one of the few left in Ontario to use water power, was built in 1840 by the Kribbs Brothers, founders of Eden Mills.

The Kribbs built the mill and dam and then sold it in 1846 to Adam

Argo for \$5,000. In 1855 it was acquired by the until the Bardens bought it in 1917.

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Local family supports Fox

Marathon runner Terry Fox is receiving support, sympathy and contributions from all over Canada in his bid to raise money for the Cancer Society after he lost his right leg to cancer two years ago. One local family doing their bit for the cause is that of Martin Lott of R.R. 4, Acton.

Mr. and Mrs. Lott and daughter Marlene, 17, have been drumming up pledges and donations for the past two weekends and travelling with Terry on his southern Ontario run. Marlene has been one of his assistants and companions during the Guelph to Acton portion of Terry's cross-country trip.

"Nobody can equal his task," says Martin Lott, open in his admiration of the young amputee runner. "It's a cause we took to heart—we have respect

for him (Terry)." Lott feels the little people have been "coming through" and giving their money to Terry's cause and he says the bigger companies should be doing more.

Acton has opened its heart to this 21-year-old hero. Exact amounts collected for the Cancer Society are yet to be tabulated. Keep following the Free Press for details.

Tractor pull

The Erin Agricultural Society will be holding a tractor pull Friday July 25 at the Erin fairgrounds.

The offer to purchase is conditional on GRCA approval and Barden reported there has been no indication how GRCA feels about the proposal. Barden decided not to

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Festival decision expected by fall

The future of the North Halton Music Festival will be decided this September.

The decision will be in the hands of public, private and separate schools which have traditionally kept alive the half-century old festival, except that in recent years attendance has fallen off.

"The decision will be based on the participation and personnel commitment," festival organizer Doug Magwood said.

Each of 25 or so schools will be surveyed in September to determine if its musicians will participate and also if the school's principal and teachers will actively support the festival.

"We need people and participation. If we're not going to get both, we're beating a dead horse," said Magwood.

The festival was cancelled this year because of a lack of participants. The last year the festival was held eight of a possible 25 area schools participated.

If a green light is given to the festival it's likely some changes in the categories and format will be made. The Georgetown Kiwanis Club's offer to help organize the annual affair was accepted by the music festival's organizing committee earlier this year.

In May, Ellimra held its Kiwanis music festival. Magwood, who attended, reports that the quality was very good. "They have a good festival up there. It's growing."

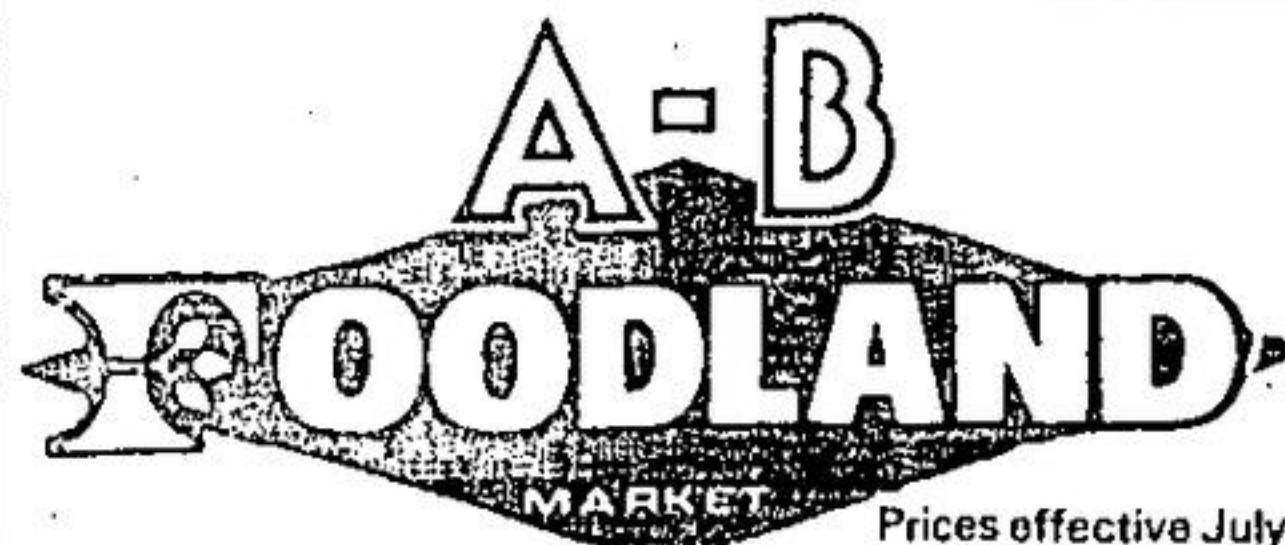
Georgetown Kiwanis Club member Bill Kort said that he and Magwood, principal of M.Z. Bennett Public

School, will contact public and private music teachers this summer, then present a program format to the schools in the fall.

The falling attendance at the North Halton Music Festival is mainly due to changing attitudes towards competition in the arts, according to Magwood. In an earlier interview he said: "It's different in physical education, you compete against the clock or teams. But when you compete in singing, they feel competition should not be stressed."

Financially the festival is in good shape, according to Magwood. The school board's support of the festival amounts to paying to bus participants and having a trustee greet singers.

Instead of attending the North Halton Music (Continued on page 5)



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