

# PROFILES



with  
Jennifer Barr

Lou Grant and the Los Angeles Trib have their "Animal" and so does the Acton Free Press. Or we did until today.

In case you don't watch television, Lou Grant's "Animal" is a wild, woolly, freethinking newspaper photographer who barely wears clothes, let alone a business suit.

Our "animal" is Ken Bustin, photographer and darkroom technician who is leaving a gap on our top floor and in our hearts by moving to Collingwood (or somewhere thereabouts).

Ken grins at the world from under a shock of uncontrolled curls and through a mass of facial fungus sometimes identifiable as a beard.

He proudly points out that his tee-shirt doesn't have a hole in it today (but his jeans do). He bounces through the office flashing his teeth and rolling his eyes on his way to hole up in his closet with his ear full of hard rock.

Not only is this guy a super darkroom technician and fine photographer, but he also fixes

televisions, played blue grass with the "Hornby General Store" band, drives a peculiar van, enjoys gardening, Kentucky moonshine, and wild parties and eats styrofoam cups.

Is it any wonder we love him?

**Hobby to business**

Ken has been with the Free Press for two years and prefers not to move. However, a business partnership in a television repair shop up north has proved too attractive. He says he hates fooling around with TV's and stereos, but he and his life-mate, Norma Quee, need to eat—photography and part-time newspaper work are less lucrative.

He had returned to some television repair this summer in his "spare" time and found himself seeing an end to money worries.

"I was making money okay but I got foolish, went on a holiday (he went to the Maritimes for three weeks), spent it all, then everything hit the fan," he chuckles.

He hopes to get back into full time photography soon, it's his first love.

Four years ago Ken was working in the television field in Georgetown. He received a camera in trade and took a course at Sheridan College to learn how to work it. His technical mind opened to a new field and he found his hobby was becoming much more.

After taking five courses in photography and developing techniques, Ken felt confident enough to go into his own business.

Wedding and portraits are the mainstay of any

photographer and Ken had to take them, but he says "I don't like cliché portraits—the technically perfect picture with the plastic expression."

He prefers abstracts and scenic.

"In order to be creative you've got to break all the rules," he says and agrees the rules have to be learned first.

Most of his jobs were "spontaneous jobs".

"I'd go to dinner, we'd sit around, talk, I'd shoot a few pictures."

Those spontaneous jobs have made it into world circulation magazines on cycling from California and will be shown in Harrowsmith this spring.

Pictures of custom made motor bikes chronicling their birth from start to finish and step-by-step pictures of the building of a log cabin are subjects which Ken handles best.

**Old rock 'n' roller**

When he's not running around taking pictures, putting up with the demands of the Free Press staff or fixing tubes, he relaxes with a mandolin, guitar or banjo.

He loves all kinds of music from punk grass (?) to rock and roll.

"I'm an old rock 'n' roller from way back."

The Hornby General Store, the group Ken was part of until "everyone moved", played bars and social get-togethers, wooing the audience with bluegrass.

Does Ken sing as well?—"I try. Boy I try."

Until the recent move, Ken and Norma lived on

a farm north of Rockwood and loved it. Norma is a horse enthusiast and Ken found he liked gardening "and all that stuff".

How did he ever find time for so much living?

"I enjoy life—I'm full of life—I don't sleep much" he grins flashing his eyes.

Ken brought some life into the lives of those with whom he's worked these past years and we'll miss him.



Ken Bustin



Celebrating her 99th birthday Friday did not slow down Martha Jackson of Maple View Lodge, R.R. 2, Acton. The Toronto Maple Leafs number one fan says she is still full of nonsense in spite of her years. Cards and gifts came in by the hundreds to wish the birthday girl well, and a small party was held at the Lodge.



Mayor Peter Pomeroy has the chain of office placed around his neck by his brother-in-law and Justice of the Peace Leo Archdekin at Monday night's inaugural meeting.

## Mayor urges watch on the public purse

"The onus is on us the elected members of council to ensure the public purse is looked after," Mayor Pete Pomeroy told councillors and a large gallery of spectators at the inaugural meeting of the 1981-82 Halton Hills council, Monday night.

The mayor warned the solutions to problems depend on council. "We are the board of directors of the multi-million dollar corporation, and the public expects us to be well informed, confident, and knowledgeable in their deliberations." He emphasized the public expects council to make decisions.

Pomeroy said he was proud of the past two years. He noted the new apartment building downtown was completed, relieving a great part of the rental accommodation shortage, and freeing up houses for resale. He suggested it resulted in \$15 million worth of business in town.

The mayor said the long delayed library-theatre building is underway, and a bankrupt condominium project was saved.

He welcomed the two new members of council Pam Sheldon and Dave

Whiting, and told Sheldon, a Ward Two (Esquing) councillor that the rural roads would be done. He reminded Whiting that the name Sprackman and the Acton plaza would become familiar to him as an OMB hearing on the proposed shopping centre is scheduled.

The mayor pointed out all the problems are not local as he predicted a large part of the problems would lie at the region for at least the next six months. He said "as Chairman of the deficit committee, (as Regional Chairman Jack Raftis had termed it earlier in the evening) he hoped with cooperation he could turn that around.

Pomeroy maintained his first responsibility is to the Town, then to the Region. He claimed a new or extended municipal building was needed and a long range plan for the Town must be implemented. He admitted he was not satisfied with the draft Halton Hills Official Plan. "If we find it's not right we'll do it again."

He noted the boundary study, which may determine the ultimate growth in Halton Hills will be completed soon, and will be a major consideration of council.



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