



Acton Volunteer Firefighters were called out to Holly Industries Tuesday afternoon.



Guest evangelist Garnett Gunter speaks at the Evangelical Pentecostal Tabernacle Monday evening. Mr. Gunter will speak again tonight at 7:30 p.m.

PROFILES

with

Jennifer Barr



Jim and Gwen Johnson, who live in an attractive three bedroom home in rural Acton, are busy raising two small children and seem to conform to the classic Canadian stereotype.

However, seven years ago they were engulfed in a strict Moslem society working with CUSO in Nigeria.

"I cried when I arrived and I cried when I left," says Gwen of her two year sojourn as a teacher to Nigerian teenage girls.

Just out of university and barely into adulthood, Gwen and Jim volunteered to work with Nigerians in education and agricultural areas.

Jim, an agricultural graduate of Kemptville College, was sent to work with a CUSO staffed agricultural co-operative in Bauchi, the north-eastern part of Nigeria on the rural fringe of the Sahara. Gwen taught in a government run girls' secondary school in the same village.

"The cultural shock was considerable" Gwen comments. "It was like closing one book and opening another."

The Johnsons say they were screened by a panel before being accepted as part of CUSO staff. Gwen corresponded with the teacher she would replace in Nigeria so had some idea of the work she would be teaching. As instructor of English language and English literature she had to cope with teaching Shakespeare and several English novels to Nigerian girls barely graduated from tribal life and speaking little English.

"We ended up translating most of it (the literature)," Gwen remarks. Jim's duties encompassed work on the Bauchi farm centre working in the area of in-service training. He enjoyed his work and had more opportunity to work with traditional tribal farmers.

Gwen's work was considered very innovative. Most Moslem women of rural Nigeria were married soon after puberty, veiled and protected from western civilization.

About 10 per cent of the population attended primary school and then only the brightest went

on to secondary school. So a school dedicated to providing females with secondary education was very new.

Gwen said she was regarded as something of an oddity because she worked for a living and had not provided Jim with sons. In the polygamous Moslem society, Jim was sympathetically offered a second wife to provide him with the sons he needed for social stature.

I'm glad to say, since then Gwen has fulfilled her wifely duty and provided Jim with one son, Greg, 4 and a daughter Carrie, 2½.

Festival fun The Johnsons found the culture of Nigeria fascinating and were keen on learning all they could. They are also adamant in their feeling Nigerian culture shouldn't be westernized but should be allowed to remain unpolished.

Jim says it's hard, in a teaching situation, to know which technology to select without imparting materialism.

As part of a Moslem society, the Johnsons enjoyed celebrating Moslem festivals. The feast equalling Christian Christmas is Sallah and is celebrated on November 1 after a fasting period of 30 days called Ramadan.

During Ramadan, no food was partaken from sunrise to sunset and prayers were said seven times a day.

The weather was a factor Gwen and Jim had to get use to. Living right at the equator it would get "hotter than blazes" at midday but the work day started at 7 a.m. and finished at 1 p.m. to allow for a sensible rest period.

However, cool dust-filled winds from the Sahara called Harmattan would bring night-time temperatures right down during the winter season. Gwen found herself wearing her winter coat.

The five month rainy season started "with a bang" in March and heralded the start of planting.

"They live by the rains" explains Jim "and it's a big thing to decide when to plant... they would pray for rain... the Moslems believed in it fervently."

In times of drought—and there was a terrible drought occurring when the Johnsons were in Africa—the Emir, head of religious faith, would be paid homage and asked to pray for rain.

"You know, at 10 a.m. the Emir would be praying to a cloudless sky and by a quarter to eleven it would be raining cats and dogs," Jim says.

How did their years in Nigeria affect the Johnsons?

"I hope it affected our materialism," Gwen comments. "The news now has more meaning," she adds.

"It broadened our horizons—I'm an ardent internationalist," says Jim.

The communal society of Moslem Nigeria had quite an impact on the pair.

"It's all giving and sharing, they don't keep score... I don't think our capitalist society would work there—you know, the maximization of individual greed," Jim says.

Although the Johnsons feel they couldn't settle permanently in such a slower pace of life, they remember their years in Nigeria with affection.

MPP Julian Reed keynote speaker at Scout Forum

by Jean Layman
"Forum '81" Scouts Canada Halton Region, which includes Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Hornby, Georgetown and Acton was held at Sheridan College last

Saturday Jan. 10. Chairman Jim Dills, A.P.C., of Milton welcomed leaders, group committee, council persons and staff personnel. Highlighting the theme for the day was Julian

Reed MPP, speaking on "Promoting the Growth of Scouting". The speech set the pace for the general sessions and panel discussions in the day. Mr. Reed was in the Norval Boy Scout move-

ment and later as a leader. Mr. Reed concluded his speech by playing his Banjo and leading in song.

General Sessions started with Larry McIntyre of Kitchener giving a very interesting talk on public relations and recruitment entitled "If you Don't Promote—Nothing Happens." Eric Balkind, Acton also gave an interesting speech on "Insight on Youth." Both Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Balkind being in the teaching profession dealing with today's youth, were able to compare today to when they were boys.

Other sessions were conducted by John Pettifer on leadership development. "Ready" by Gord Douglas and "The Big Adventure" by Bob Carlaw.

Fred Wiskin of provincial headquarters showed slides of the CJ '81 camp grounds and reminded all who would be attending, to start getting good footwear and warm gear because temperatures drop at night time in the foothills.

Bob Carlaw reminded all Venturers attending the "Trek Away" to have skis, snow shoes, snow machines and ice fishing gear in first class shape. This event starts from Blue Springs on February 13, 14, 15. Further information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Carlaw at Blue Springs.

Scouts were reminded of the Huck Finn Race to be held in September so get started on their rafts.

Mr. Dills announced North Halton Region was on the Honor Roll with over 100 percent registration completing the day long conference.

Officers voting in favor of bullet proof vests

In a survey being conducted by Halton Chief of Police James Harding, 75 per cent of 195 officers surveyed are in favor of wearing bullet proof vests as part of the uniform. Eighty officers still have to be questioned.

Following Thursday's police commission meeting in Oakville, Harding said speaking as an officer he would not be in favor of wearing the vest as a permanent article of clothing, but would like to see the vest available to the force.

"I'm not the person to think about it. I'm a member of the force and personally I will vote no but the person to form the opinions is the man on the street. I want my officers to be as safe as possible," he said.

Harding said if the majority of the officers want the vest he would try to work to get them. If the vote is split Harding said the vests would be obtained for those who wanted them.

"I think the law is too great to be enforced at the point of a .38. The law should be enforced with

the badge but in order to use this method everything has to be working correctly. Society can only work correctly if the courts, the crown attorney, and correctional institutes all work towards one common goal or purpose—a system where a badge is a sign of authority, not a gun. It may be a dream, a type of Utopia, but it's a dream I'm working towards," the Chief said.

Harding said a full report would be filed when the survey is completed.

Legions in step for Remembrance Day

Ontario school children may spend the next Remembrance Day in class rather than away from school.

All five Halton Royal Canadian Legion Branches fell into step in pressuring the province to delete November 11 as

a school holiday. The legion branches, however, stressed the need for appropriate Remembrance Day programs in schools, according to education director Em Lavender.

Halton sounded out the legions on the idea which originated with the Hamilton Board of Education.

Hamilton and Halton are encouraging other boards to follow suit in asking the province to keep school open on Remembrance Day.

Rec. program openings

There are openings left for several Halton Hills recreation department winter programs. Many of the programs with openings are new this year.

There will be a workshop entitled Nutrition and You at the Acton YMCA on Valentine's Day, February 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Boys' Gymnastics, which will run Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at M.Z. Bennett, is a new

program with openings. Ladies Self Defence is another new program with room left for participants. This program runs from 8:45 to 10:15 p.m. at Robert Little School.

Limehouse School will be the setting for a number of winter programs. Fitness and Dance and Jazz for Juniors will run Thursday nights.

Fitness and Dance also runs at M.Z. Bennett, but

on Wednesdays. Power Skating is a winter program on Wednesdays at Acton Community Centre after school.

Girls' Gymnastics, a successful program, returns at Acton High School on Saturday mornings.

There are a few openings left in Preschool Playshop at St. Alban's Anglican Church on Tuesdays.

Cancer thanks donors

The Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society thanks those who donated knitted garments and food items for the annual Christmas bales which were distributed to cancer patients.

The lovely handmade children's garments

were sent to the Oncology Ward of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, while those for adults went to Henderson General Hospital in Hamilton. Baked goods, tea, coffee, etc., were sent to Princess Margaret Lodge to be used as refreshments for patients, relatives and

friends staying there. Several gift boxes were distributed to patients residing in the Acton area.

The gifts mean a great deal to the patients and help to make their stay in hospital during the Christmas season a little brighter.

Obituary

Annie McLean

Elizabeth Ann McLean died Nov. 25 at Halton Centennial Manor in her 99th year.

Born the daughter of William Cole and his wife Margaret Jane Reid, July 9, 1882. She is survived by daughters Jean of Acton and Irene (Mrs. F. Dixon) of Milton and son Will of Erin, grandchildren, Anne Marshall, Diane Harris, Earl McLean and Frances Johnston; and four great

grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her husband John McLean, brother Fred Cole, and sister Agnes McKay, Minnie Kirkwood and Emma Cole.

After her marriage at her home near Georgetown in 1908, Mrs. McLean and her husband farmed lot 5 concession 10 of Erin Township until 1948. They then retired to Acton. A member of Trinity Church, Mrs.

McLean was fond of flowers and music.

Funeral Service was held November 27 at Shoemaker Funeral Home, Rev. C.P. Beaton officiating. Interment took place at Erin cemetery.

Paul bearers were Earl McLean, James Johnston, Don Harris, Brian Marshall, Wilfred Kirkwood, Gordon Kirkwood.

Ultra Mild



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Outers end glass drive

The Outers Club's glass drives are finished, however, more glass than ever is being collected in town—by the municipality.

The Outers Club, which is based at Acton High School, conducted its last monthly collection of refuse glass on January 3. The catch was about 12 45-gallon barrels full of crushed glass, according to high school teacher Paul Tamblin.

Those dozen barrels amount to about a third of what the club would normally expect to gather prior to the spread of Halton Hills' Divide and Conquer recycling campaign to Acton.

The club members, students who are interested in participating in outdoor education, normally gather enough old bottles to fill 36 large barrels with crushed glass. The Divide and Conquer campaign, which started in Georgetown, collects paper, metal as well as glass for recycling.

"If they've taken it over and they are getting more glass out of the town than that's good because it means the raising of peoples' awareness about recycling glass," Tamblin said.

The town's glass collection cut the club's

normal rate by half at first. The club's take was now down to a third, said Tamblin.

The money raised by the club's collection went directly towards the purchase of new equipment—tents, ropes and such—or repairs. The club, which Tamblin said is OK financially this year, has already started searching for new ways of raising money.

None of the club's plan. (Continued on page B 11)



Jim and Gwen Johnson with Greg and Carrie examine a hoe Jim used while farming in Nigeria. The children are wearing Nigerian hats.

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