

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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Voting treasured right

Our right to vote is a treasure that must be cherished. And like good silver, it should be used.

Tomorrow is election day in Ontario.

The weather—the date—the place—lack of information—nothing should be used as a good excuse to keep people from voting here tomorrow.

The polls open at 8 a.m. and close at 7 p.m., not the usual 8 p.m.

One good thing about going out to vote, it then gives you a perfect right to complain. If you haven't visited the voting booth you've really got no right to then spend the next four years complaining about the government, one of just about everyone's favorite pastimes.

It is important for every voter to consider the issues and choose the person they want to vote for. We certainly aren't going to suggest who that should be, people who make the effort to go to the polls are intelligent enough to make their own decision.

All three Halton-Burlington candidates, Fran Baines, Progressive Conservative; Chris Cutler, New Democratic Party; and Julian Reed, Liberal; have run strong campaigns. They've knocked on doors around town, delivered campaign literature made speeches and attended the all-candidates meeting.

The three candidates in Wellington-Dufferin-Peel; NDP's Marion Chambers, Conservative Jack Johnson and Liberal Elbert van Donkersgoed have worked equally hard as those running in Halton-Burlington to capture the voters' attentions.

The three major parties and their leaders have spent a lot of time and money too trying to persuade us all to their views.

Many will say it has been a dull election, costly and full of the same old jargon, promises and platitudes. To a great extent that's true.

But, that's no reason to shun the polls.

The last provincial election there was an excellent voter turnout in Halton-Burlington, 69.1 per cent. We don't think that campaign was much more interesting, so there's no reason not to expect a large turnout again.

What could make tomorrow night very interesting is there are over 10,000 new Halton-Burlington voters eligible to go to the polls this year that weren't around in 1977 and that's more than enough to create a few surprises.

In Australia all British subjects are required by law to vote.

It hasn't come to that yet in Canada to keep democracy flourishing.

Let's have a large turnout tomorrow to make sure such a drastic measure isn't needed.



On the Leavell

With Helen

A mayor's day is never done, nor are his duties. Halton Hills head honcho Pete Pomeroy recently visited the grade 4 students of Penny Carlos at M.Z. Bennett and talked about being mayor, and the town operation in general. He even brought them souvenirs, including a town crest each.

The Halton Hills Arts Council wants to extend a big thank you to all the local children and their teachers for the time and effort they spent in the preparation and painting of the murals now standing at the Georgetown library/cultural centre site.

Area schools participating were M.Z. Bennett, Robert Little, Speyside and Limehouse public schools, McKenzie-Smith middle school and St. Joseph's School. Acton children attending classes at Georgetown District Christian School also took part.

And more news from the Halton Hills Arts Council. The group has already scheduled their 1981-82 Trillium Series of concerts.

Acton will host the second concert, on January 27, 1982, at the Acton High School and it will star Sears and Switzer. Teresa Sears and David Switzer perform a

satirical music revue on modern life. The Toronto Star has said "Neatly trimmed song and dance, jibes and jokes are cabaret at its entertaining best." The CBC regularly commissions Sears and Switzer as comedians on their national TV and radio programs.

Other concerts will be held: September 23, 1981 at the Sacre Coeur Hall, Georgetown, featuring the Travellers. They have performed all over North America for the past 25 years charming audiences with their lyrical memorable songs.

The third concert will have the London Sinfonia appearing at the Halton Hills Library Arts Complex on April 7, 1982. They are 25 full-time musicians (the core of the London Symphony Orchestra) performing a program of music ranging from light classical to pop. Their program will also include a solo classical guitarist thanks to a grant to the London Symphony Orchestra from the DuMaurier Council for the Performing Arts.

For tickets, call 877-5452 or 877-5033.

Those with a sweet tooth will be delighted to hear of the brand new Chocolate Cake baking contest, at the Georgetown Fall Fair, sponsored by the William Neilson Co. Limited.

"The search for a super "Chocolate Dream" Cake, decorated in keeping with the 135th anniversary theme of the fair will be open to all residents of Halton Hills and will offer \$200 in cash and prizes. There will be a grand prize winner, plus prizes offered in three categories: one for women, another for men, and another for juniors, 15 years of age and under. The fair is slated for October 2 and 3.

Ever wonder "Where Your Food Dollar Goes"? Doesn't everyone? The Wellington County Dairy Princess, Christine deGroot, will be at Stone Road Mall this week to distribute samples of dairy products and to answer any questions. There will also be

eleven displays. The Wellington County Federation of Agriculture is sponsoring the display.

Heading to Oakville April 8? If you are, why not drop into the Holiday Inn and sit in on the seminar Rights and Responsibilities of Children / Youth and Parents, from 8:00 p.m. to 10:30.

Dr. John Mayer, professor of the department of Philosophy, Brock University, is the main speaker discussing "What is education Preparing students for in the 1980's?"

An array of panel speakers is slated, including Halton Regional Police Chief James Harding.

Preregistration is necessary. Contact the Halton Board of Education.

Some time around now is the second anniversary of this column. For two years I have written this column, never missing even one week. While away on holidays, I made sure On the Leavell got written. While sick in bed after getting my wisdom teeth out, I kept on typing. Dedication? Well, maybe.

When former Free Press editor Hartley Coles asked me to start this column, I had no idea what I was going to put into it. And now, two years later, some weeks I still wonder. Thanks to all those who have called me with news items, without their hope my column would not be the success "they" say it is. However, as much as I appreciate the help, I still need more.

Please call me with your news tips. Hear of the death of a former Actonian, or the success of a former Actonian, or a present one for that matter? Is your neighbor moving and you want to give him a special goodbye? How about a birthday or anniversary?

All these things and more are welcome items in On the Leavell. Give me a call at 853-2010, 853-3224 or drop off a note at the Free Press.

Our readers write

Same old promise from Davis, Smith and Cassidy

Dear Sir:

Once again it's election time and once again we are hearing all about the issues, the tax cuts, the poverty. We hear of overspending, underfunding, deprivation and inflation. And as an added bonus we get to listen to the various political parties promising to raise us out of an economic hell into the glorious promised land of milk and honey.

But, instead of Moses or some other great biblical character leading us to prosperity, we in Ontario have to settle for one of the Brothers Davis, Smith or Cassidy. And the Jews thought they had it rough?

It seems to me, we've heard the same issues and promises before. Unless some big changes are made, we will be forced to wander through the no man's land of Ontario for another four years.

It seems sad, doesn't it? But ours is a sad time. The economy is falling apart, crime overwhelms us, and people are personally more insecure than they have been since the depression. We need help!

But, where do we get this help, where do we get the strength to put our province back on its feet?

Should we let the government do everything for us, should we let them solve all our problems?

Why not, that's how it's done in the USSR, isn't it?

Or should we, as responsible people, use our government as a tool and not a crutch, as we work out our own solutions to our own problems?

Mind you, between the parties themselves, the media and our own lack of interest we have been sucked into believing the government is the be all and end all.

How? The parties tell us that they will take care of us. Then the media bombards us with party propaganda, good or bad. And because we don't actually get involved with such time consuming issues we take what is reported as being truth, good or bad.

The main problems with the government are that they care more about being the governing force, than actually governing the forces of the province of Ontario.

They promise the world and deliver little. And they seldom, if ever, admit to a mistake.

If the parties would spend less time playing the "blame game", if they would quit passing the buck and have the guts to say "we were wrong, that didn't work let's try a different approach", we would get a lot more work done.

But being a democracy we still have to take part of the blame. Like the maiden seduced by the lecherous old man, she could still say no.

We should have the brains to make the right choice or voice our opinions when we

see wrong doing. We should say "no" to our government when we see them playing us as fools!

Still, despite all of the griping and moaning, despite all of its shortcomings, our system is still the best in the world. And I am the first to admit that we need a responsible government.

But the government should guide us, they shouldn't try to play God. If they do they'll just ruin His reputation. The government should be realistic and responsible. Just as the people should be.

Look at our heritage, for instance, when our forefathers were building our nation, did they go to their members and say "we want a grant so we can hire some men to build our homestead and clear our land." "You can bet your great-great-grandfathers are that they didn't. They got what they needed by the sweat of their brow and the help of their neighbors.

Pioneer people used to gather and build a barn for a good neighbor or friend. It would be raised in a matter of days with the only wages paid being a good meal, a good dance and the peace of mind knowing that the same people would help you in your time of need.

The old fashioned values of hard work and helpfulness, applied with some proper government management, could make us a better, stronger province than ever.

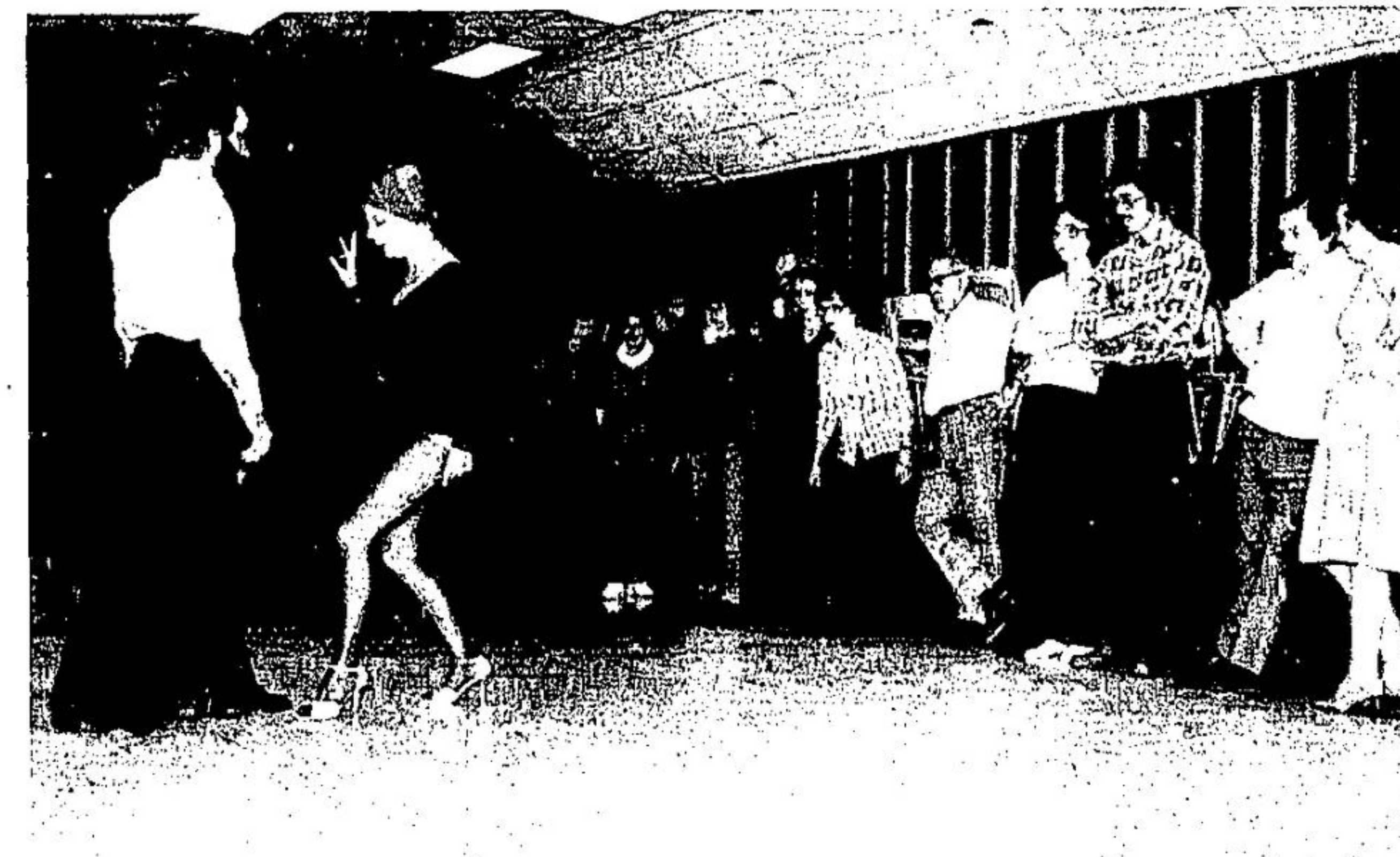
For example, if a man loses his job temporarily why not, instead of welfare, or worse yet turning to crime, let his friends and family help him? That way we could be sensitive to him in his time of need, but we could also kick him in the butt if he sponged or took advantage of others' hospitality. I believe most men still have the pride to want to pay their own way.

How about, instead of tax breaks and government gimmicks, (which we only pay for somewhere else), easing commercial zoning laws. This way people could earn a living or supplement their income from their own homes. I'm not encouraging sawmills and factories in the suburbs, but why restrict services like hair dressing salons, small sales outlets, accounting services or appliance repairs?

Or how about finding ways to ease or do away with some of the complicated paperwork burden of small businesses. Small business (which in my opinion is the economic backbone of Ontario) could use the extra time to become more productive in their fields.

We must remember that Ontario is a land of wealth and opportunity. We must give hardworking, responsible people the freedom to move ahead. Too many times these days we hear of what we cannot do, let's start telling ourselves and our people what we can do. It isn't just a matter of dollars and cents, it is a matter of spirit and pride.

Mark Yates
106 Churchill Rd. S.



Dancing up a storm

One, two, Cha cha cha! Instructors, Ivy Martin and Alec Pitt dance up a storm as eager students anticipate their next moves at the Acton Night School class.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, March 17, 1971

Acton Clergy Association has expressed its concern over the growing tendency to allow certain sports activities to interfere with worship services and Sunday School.

Marks store will be replaced by a sub-office of the Georgetown Animal Clinic. Mr. Marks will remain in the real estate business. A shoe repair store is locating in the former Rendezvous salon location. The boutique, the Purple Orchid has closed. Mr. and Mrs. Verboon will be opening a fish and chip restaurant in the new Becker's plaza.

The rumor that Foodland is closing is not true.

Shafi opened his fifth shoe store in Acton this week. The shop is located where Dollar Daddy was before.

Eramosa has passed the Rockwood water and sewer bylaw.

20 years ago

Thursday, March 16, 1961

Council authorized the demolition of the front section of the arena under the winter works program. The program will mean the loss of the band room, dressing room and toilets. It is hoped a building program will be undertaken by a volunteer citizen's committee. The band has practised in the arena for 31 years. They held their last practice by gas light since the power was shut off and bid the room a rousing sendoff.

The Friendly Circle of the United Church sponsored a fashion show of clothing from the new Paulette Fashion Shop and 250 attended despite a sleet storm. Commentator was Mrs. Ewart Leyland.

Volleyball champs during the Tri-Club meeting were the Y's Men, who defeated Rotary and Lions Club. Team players are Paul Lawson, Fyfe Somerville, Doug Copeland, Earl Brears, Jim King, Dave Dodgson and Bob Young.

Department of Transport agent Jack Hargrave says licence plate sales have reached 90 per cent.

50 years ago

Thursday, March 19, 1931

The weekly lantern slide services at St. John's church, Rockwood are well attended.

At the meeting of Rockwood village council, a committee representing the Agricultural Society, President Mr. Thos. Hutchinson, secretary-treasurer Mr. A. McNabb and a director, Mr. Sim McLean, were present and arrangements were made to transfer the agricultural grounds to the village, to be used as a public park.

Top pupils at Bannockburn school for February—Jessie Cross, Elva Wiley, Elmer Rossell, William Croft, Lloyd James, Erma Watson, Jetta Roszel, John Dickenson.

It will be another week or so yet before the motor cars are running on the back concessions and side roads.

Oral Chalmers gave a talk on St. Patrick at the High school literary society meeting. Volma Blair recited and Esther Taylor sang. Isabel Bruce and Eileen Clarridge danced the Irish jig.

75 years ago

Thursday, March 15, 1906

Definite orders have been issued by the militia authorities for the training camp at Niagara. The Third Infantry Brigade will include the 12th York Rangers, 20th Halton Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Bertram, Brigadier.

Mrs. John Agnew and Misses Mamie and Grace left for their new home at Hartney, Man. Mr. Agnew and Robin went to the north-west with their car of stock and household goods separately. The Grays, formerly of Limehouse, who have prospered there, will be their neighbors.

Arthur Inman was engaged as school janitor at a salary of \$150.

A Ladies Aid has been organized in connection with Crewsons Corners Methodist Church, with Mrs. Wm. Y. Gray as President and Mrs. Wm. Murray as Sec. Treas. Sixteen members have been enrolled.

100 years ago

Thursday, March 17, 1881

The Czar has been assassinated. The chief constable is placing notices throughout the village notifying cow owners they will be fined if they allow their cattle to run at large after this date.

Mr. Ransom Adams died at his residence. He has been a resident for nearly 62 years, and was consequently acquainted with nearly every person in this vicinity. By hard work and close economy he accumulated his wealth to the amount of about \$50,000. The body was interred in the village cemetery. He was 69.

The Temperance "Life Guards" are having the Temperance Hall put in respectable condition.

A wedding party drove through town on Tuesday. All seemed happy.