

Y's Menettes mark 25 years service to Acton and YMCA

The Acton Y's Menettes are in the midst of a very special year—their silver anniversary.

An offshoot of the Y's Men's Club, any wife of a member of this club is automatically a Y's Menette. However, in recent years, a Y's Menette need not have a husband in the other club.

On October 2, 1956 the organization meeting of the Y's Menettes was held at the home of Mary McKenzie. Mrs. McKenzie was elected president with Kay Lidkea as her vice president. Vivian Smith was secretary and Ruth Masales was elected treasurer. Others at the meeting were Ruth Leatherland, Edna Nellis, Doris Doby and Dorothy Rognavaldson.

On December 13, 1956, at the Y's Men's Christmas meeting, Malcolm Bowman, International President of the Y's Men, conducted the Induction and Charter Service.

Charter members were Doris Doby, Ruth Leatherland, Mary McKenzie, Kay Lidkea, Ruth Masales, Helen Otterbein, Helen McGeachie, Dorothy Rognavaldson, Eleanor McKeown, Edna Nellis, Marjorie Masters, Janet Rogers, Margaret Wilson and Vivian Smith.

Money raised by the Y's Menettes over the years has mostly been given to the Acton Y's Men's Club or the Acton YMCA or projects supported by the YMCA.

Over the years, the club had many projects, both profit and non-profit. They have sold memo-

notes, calendars, recipe books, hockey equipment, candy, perfume, Christmas cards and an array of other items. Individual members have made napkin rings, Christmas stockings, soap, crafts, wall hangings, oven mitts, coasters, baked goods, etc. to sell at fund raising events.

As a group aiming to raise funds, the Y's Menettes have made clown suits to rent, held garage sales, bake sales, tea rooms, arts and crafts displays, book sales, bazaars, Tupperware parties and a casino night. Non-profit projects over the years have consisted of collecting stamps, sending birthday cards to the elderly, canvassing for local projects, producing refreshment for UNICEF and Terry Fox Runs, giving food kits and first aid kits for World Vision and Christmas baskets or gifts for the elderly or needy.

The women are active socially as well as busy raising money or helping the needy. They enjoy various sports, such as bowling, curling, etc., followed by a pot luck supper. They also have gone to various theatres, held Christmas parties, euchres, box socials, treasure hunts, car rallies, fondue parties, corn roasts, sleigh rides, family day picnics, Hallowe'en parties, and played charades, and other games.

In 1963, interest in the club waned and it was decided to only hold meetings in the case of urgent business.

In 1969, after several years of inactivity, the

daughters and relatives of the original members decided to have a revival meeting. Once again, the meeting was held at the home of Mary McKenzie. The new executive elected was: president, Donna Bateman; vice-president, Adele Cleland; secretary, Kate Elliott; treasurer, Sally Leatherland; and calling committee, Carole Bomans and Marianne Lindsay.

The club has been going strong ever since. In the past 25 years, the club has experienced a number of "firsts," many of which continue to this day.

The first rummage sale was held in November, 1959, and the first combined auction/rummage sale in 1968. The first bulletin was published September 29, 1971, and they held their first dinner for the Y's Men's meetings in September, 1974. In 1974, the Y's Menettes had their first Regal card sale, and at the same time adopted a foreign child. In 1978-79 the secret pal was instituted, and a past members reunion was held in May, 1979. The first fall fair booth was in 1979, and in February, 1979 the Y's Men made dinner for the Y's Menettes.

The first ever Y's Menettes club was organized in Vancouver, British Columbia, in March 1924. The Y's Men's Board of Directors at the 1931 Cleveland International Convention voted to endorse the Y's Menette movement officially and to encourage the organization of such clubs. By 1937, there were 25 active Y's Menettes Clubs in the world. In July 1970 there were 364 Y's Menettes Clubs in 26 countries.



Acton Y's Menettes are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. They held their first reunion in 1979. Front row, left to right, at the time of the reunion were Sally Leatherland, Margaret Wilson (charter member), Mary McKenzie (charter club president), Kay Lidkea (charter member) and Helen Otterbein (charter member). Second row, Donna Bateman, Marjorie McDonough (charter member), Lynne Robertson, Dorothy Rognavaldson (charter member), and Carol Campbell. Back row, standing, Pat Nellis, Carol Bowman, Shirley Broostad, Carol Leys, Edna Nellis (charter member), Anne Perry, Bea Dubois and Marie Preuter.

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Five of the 18 local residents who will be models in next Tuesday night's Leathertown fashion show at Jack Tanner's Table got together Sunday at the old Hide House to try on some of the suede and leather garments they'll display in the show as well as accessories. From left to right are, Don McDonald, Shelagh Wirth, Tom Thompson, Kymm Lakin and Cindy McGilloway. See story on page 2.

Testifying in his own defence

Mercuri didn't know arsonist, or set blaze

by Helen Murray

Cosimo Mercuri denied setting fire or having anyone else set fire to the Dominion Hotel, and he also denied ever having met self-confessed arsonist Cecil Kirby.

As the second degree murder trial of Mercuri and Michael McCristall entered its fourth week on Monday, Mercuri spent all that day and part of yesterday (Tuesday) on the stand in his own defence. He and Michael McCristall are charged with second degree murder in connection with a fire which levelled the hotel and claimed the life of Howard Gibbons, August 19, 1979.

A third accused, Leonard Cripps, was acquitted Monday in a directed verdict from Mr. Justice Coulter Osborne. (See story page B1).

Kirby took the stand last week and told the court he met Mercuri in August, 1979 at a Toronto restaurant and set a \$10,000 price tag on the burning of the hotel. The witness said he presumed Mercuri was a good friend of the Mafia family for whom he worked, as they only introduced him to friends. Mercuri this week denied knowing the family or even having met them. (See Monday's testimony on Page B1).

Yesterday (Tuesday), in his cross-examination of Mercuri, Crown Attorney Paul Stunt pointed out to the defendant his monthly payments on the hotel, a house to the north of the hotel and his personal home mortgage along with daily living expenses totalled more than he was taking in. Mercuri had to keep dipping into the till just to stay afloat, Stunt charged. Mercuri denied this.

Stunt pointed out to Mercuri that on August 9, 1979, The Liquor License Board of Ontario (LLBO) suspended one of their two licenses for two weeks beginning the end of August. Monday, Mercuri testified this would only mean a loss of \$200 or \$300 a week. Stunt contended the suspension would close down the entire lounge area and would indeed cost the hotel owner more than that. Mercuri said he believed the license was for only a portion of the lounge and did not include the beverage room.

"At the time of the suspension," Stunt said, "all you really owned was the licenses, all the debts, mortgages, loans and personal debts, and the shares of the hotel." Mercuri denied knowing anything about shares.

Stunt charged Mercuri was dipping into the cash register to stay afloat. Mercuri said it wasn't true.

Mercuri was under the understanding if he appealed the decision to suspend his license, the

suspension was revoked until the appeal. Stunt said this was not correct.

Mercuri said he thought he had licenses for the three drinking areas, but under questioning by Mr. Justice Coulter Osborne admitted he did not know how many licenses he had.

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More trial stories also on page B1.

inside

Halton Hills Hydro workers have earned a safety award. Details on page 2.

Local groups have bid for the town hall. Turn to page 5.

Heller's are the industrial hockey champs. See page B2.

The skate-a-thon is this Sunday. Details on page B5.

Heart fund raises \$4,674. More on B8.



Rev. Chuck Beaton

Acton's Citizen of the Year



See story page 5.

Welsh choir may perform here

A famed Welsh choir which has played for royalty and will be touring Canada and the United States this fall may play a concert at Knox Presbyterian Church in October.

The Cor-Y-Seren has informed Tom Watson that they will be in Guelph during their tour and think they could perform in Acton tentatively on October 15.

Watson is one of only two local residents who is a member of the International Military Music Society

and read in a newsletter about the upcoming Cor-Y-Seren tour and learned they had a few dates open on the calendar and the choir was looking for places to play.

Never really thinking the choir would come here, Watson wrote to them anyway. He was quite surprised to receive an affirmative reply.

The Cor-Y-Seren wrote the tour runs from October 14 to 28 and they have been invited "by some good friends" in Guelph to visit there and they are awaiting word from the friends that October 14 to 28

and they have been invited "by some good friends" in Guelph to visit there and they were awaiting word from the friends that October 14-17 will be a good time to visit. Choir official Jeff Peace wrote "if our plans materialize we shall be accommodated in Guelph, but as Acton appears to be close to Guelph the choir would be able to give a concert for you. I would tentatively suggest a concert on Friday 15th October, but this date will be confirmed with Guelph."

(Continued on page 2)

Murder suspect remanded in custody



Scene of the crime

Donald Joseph Berriau, 30, was murdered last Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning in this farmhouse on the Sixth Line of Erin Township. A Georgetown man was arrested and charged with second degree murder early last Wednesday evening while a second suspect shot himself as police closed in. Neighbors have described Berriau and his family as not being typical country folk. See story on page B4.

Bradley James Fendley of Georgetown, who is charged with first degree murder in connection with the shooting death of Donald Joseph Berriau, 30, RR2 Acton, last week, appeared in Guelph Provincial Court yesterday (Tuesday) and his case was remanded.

Fendley, 21, was in court for a continuation of his bail hearing which began Thursday. He was remanded in custody to the Wellington Detention Centre and his next court appearance will be April 13.

Within the short space of 17 hours from early morning until early evening last Wednesday, one man was killed with a 20 gauge shotgun, one suspect lay dead from a self-inflicted shotgun blast, and other suspect was charged with first degree murder.

It all began when Guelph OPP and Halton Regional Police responded to a call to a farmhouse on the Sixth Line of Erin Township, 1.3 miles north of the Halton Hills-Erin Township boundary, at 12:59 a.m. last Wednesday and found a man dead.

Within 12 hours the OPP had obtained Canada wide arrest warrants for first degree murder for two Georgetown men.

Less than four-and-a-half hours later, at 5:20 p.m., suspect Fendley was in

custody while the other man police sought, David Stanley McClean, 22, also of Georgetown, was on the way to Georgetown Hospital after shooting himself in the abdomen.

After checking several well-known haunts of the two suspects, routine investigation led Halton Regional Police to Silvercreek Towers, 62 Park St. Georgetown. While Bradley and another occupant of the apartment were being arrested, McClean grabbed a sawed-off shotgun and shot himself in the stomach. Rushed by ambulance to Georgetown Hospital, he died shortly after admittance.

The third man who was in the apartment, who wasn't identified by police, was held in custody, but released Friday following questioning. The eighth floor apartment was rented by a young woman whom police refused to identify. Police say she was unaware of the warrants out for the two suspects.

No police weapons were fired at any time. Halton Police Inspector Kent Laidlaw emphasized, nor did the suspects fire at police. Six Halton policemen were involved in the arrests and more were called in afterwards.

Inspector Carl Manneke of the OPP, who headed the team of 10 OPP officers involved in the investigation, said

police received an anonymous call from another house and found Berriau dead in the living room when they arrived. Manneke declined to say which part of the victim's body had been blasted at close range.

The warrants for Fendley and McClean were obtained shortly before 1 p.m. last Wednesday and Manneke noted earlier in the day the OPP had asked Halton Regional Police for assistance in the case and the Halton police "were actively attempting to find" the suspects. At that point, Manneke said, he and a Constable Carpenter returned to Guelph and the investigation "moved forward."

He wouldn't say if Berriau, who had moved with his family to the farmhouse late last summer and is a former Georgetown resident, had been killed before midnight last Tuesday or between midnight and 1 a.m. last Wednesday.

Manneke said police have no motive for the crime and added he didn't know if drugs were involved in the incident.

There were four other adults in the house at the time of the shooting as well as two children. The other people in the house apparently were sleeping at the time and Berriau had been sleeping,

but was awake when killed. Others in the house included Berriau's two children, his common-law wife and his brother.

It appears, Manneke said, the suspects simply walked into the house and the victim had more than a casual acquaintance with his assailants.

He said OPP know which suspect pulled the trigger, but won't reveal that information. The OPP wouldn't comment if they have the suspected murder weapon.

Manneke confirmed there had been a previous incident at the house involving police, but wouldn't elaborate. At the time of the incident, Guelph OPP reported a Bramalea man was slashed across the face with a knife at a New Year's Eve party. Police had difficulty investigating the matter when neither the victim nor anyone else at the party would even answer police questions, let alone identify the attacker. Someone at the party had called police, but everyone refused to co-operate when police arrived and the victim didn't want the matter pursued further.

Manneke said the OPP determined who their suspects were through standard police investigations and interviews with people.