

Welsh choir's visit enthralls

by Hartley Coles
Before the South Wales Burma Star Choir, Cory Seren, left, Wales for Canada and the United States the choir received a letter from Buckingham Palace from the private secretary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales extending his "warmest best wishes" for their forthcoming tour. The Prince also expressed confidence the choir will be in even better voice "on the far side of the Atlantic than you normally are in Wales."

Their first engagement in Canada the choir's itinerary includes performances in Guelph, Niagara Falls, Syracuse, New York, Montreal, Ottawa, and Willowdale before they return to Wales. Choir members are from the area of Wales around Swansea in South Wales and includes a sprinkling of men of all ages. Peter Morgan, the master of ceremonies with a voice not unlike the dulcet tones of Richard Burton, noted they felt right at home in Acton and perhaps it galvanized the choir to excel for the warmth they felt from the audience.

Some of the choir's early selections were sombre but the fine blend of voices inspired reverence and feeling. When they changed the mood with a gypsy song and Evelyn White's sparkling soprano voice trilled Villia from the Merry Widow, the program took on a new dimension. Down among the Dead Men showed how well they could handle almost any type of harmony. Their voices showed a vigor and strength, at which they previously had only hinted.

Welsh choirs excel when they interpret hymns and Cor Y Seren's rendition of When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, a departure from the program, was majestic. They kept the spell in the next number combining with soloist Evelyn White for Thanks Be to God. Probably the most emotional part of the program came in the second half when at the instigation of the director, choir and audience blended their voices in the magnificent hymn, Guide Me Thou Great Jehovah, a favorite requested by a representative from Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.

For almost 300 people who attended the first concert in Canada of Cor Y Seren at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, on Friday night the 32 male voices and soprano soloist Evelyn White weaved a spell many will never forget. They had never heard the choir before, but in their enthusiasm for the performance they would not leave the church sanctuary until they were positive the choir would not sing again.

Among the audience there were several with roots in Wales and this emotional tie produced tears in several eyes. One lady had to leave as the choir sang an encore with an invitation to visit Wales. "It was the first and the last one which got me," she confessed.

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The choir also showed its versatility with a spiritual De Old Ark, the Soldiers' Chorus from Faust and the military ballad Comrades in Arms. It was evident ballads and majestic hymns were favorites of the audience. Accompanists Jean Peace and Rev. Barrie Petterson were also warmly applauded. The audience did not want to let the choir go. Even a stirring rendition of O Canada did not satisfy their appetite and the choir obliged with a haunting Welsh melody to end the evening.

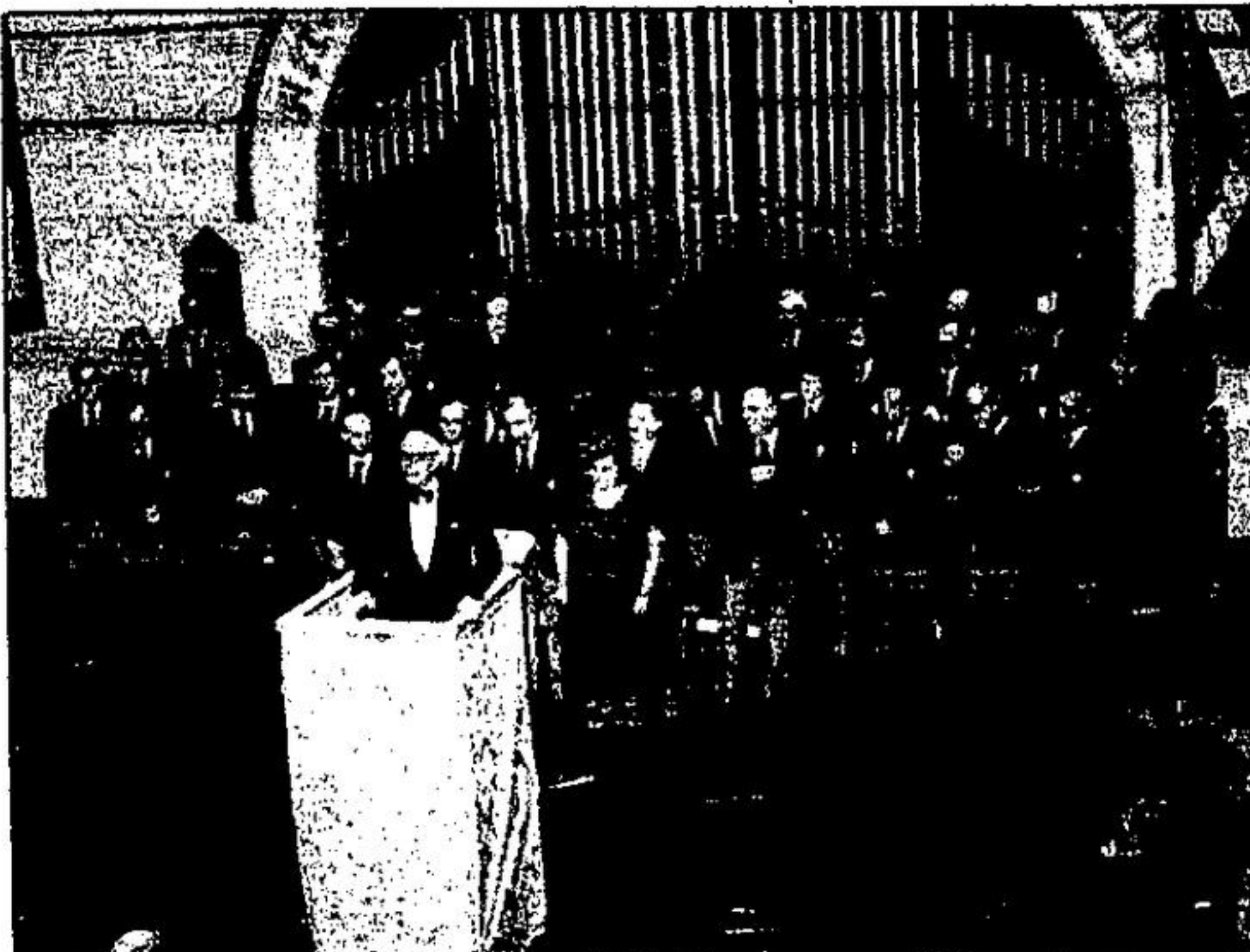
Car stuck in ditch

Under the baton of musical director C. Owen Goss, who is celebrating 50 years as a musical director, they showed why Welsh choirs are famous the world over for their excellence. They sang melodies in both Welsh and English. The audience hung on to every nuance as the choir weaved a magic spell.

Last Monday at 8.30 p.m., an Acton driver lost control of his car, mounted a cement curb across a grass median and struck a fire hydrant. According to Halton Police, William Beasley was going east-bound on Storey Drive, 23 metres east of Kipling Rd. when he lost control of his car, causing \$500 damage.

There were other favorites among the varied offerings of the choir and tenor soloist Vivian Morris, a transplanted Englishman who has been adopted by the Welsh. His fine tenor enthralled the audience with The Lord's Prayer and an encore. Evelyn White's contributions including Cherry Ripe, The Story of the Sparrows, the Waltz Song from Tom Jones and Oh My Beloved Father, showed why she is held in such esteem. MC Peter Morgan's description: "Delightful voice, delightful lady."

Previously Cor Y Seren toured Acton and visited the old Hide House before their performance. By the time they departed for quarters in Guelph they had a confessedly warm feeling for Acton and its people. Those fortunate enough to hear them Friday night have developed a warm spot in their hearts for Cor Y Seren.



Musical director C. Irwin Goss, Cor Y Seren choir and soloist Evelyn White weaved a musical spell at Knox Church last Friday in the Welsh choir's first appearance on a tour of Canada and the U.S.

Simmons seeks Separate Bd. seat

T.A. (Tom) Simmons, 254 Delrex Boulevard, will try for the Halton Hills seat on Halton Separate School Board. His entry makes it a three-way race, with incumbent Irene McCauley and Irene Wood. Simmons, a chartered accountant, is vice president and general manager of HCL Leasing Inc., Burlington. Since moving to Georgetown in 1969, he has been active in Holy Cross Church, as secretary-treasurer of Halton Hills Columbus Club, and in running the Knights of Columbus weekly bingo. He says in today's

secular society it is difficult to equip children with the skills and knowledge needed in a complex society and emphasized the curriculum must be taught from a Catholic perspective, a fact both teachers and parents must not forget. He contends his background in finance and administration will be an asset in ensuring the maximum return for every dollar spent on education. He is married with two children, who attend Holy Cross School. In 1976 he ran for the same spot but was defeated by Hartley Sherk.

Erin Twp. reeve in

Bert Wheeler has been acclaimed to another term as Reeve of Erin township.

separate school board seat. In the police village of Erin, incumbents Jim Phillips and Bert Rodgers, and newcomer Gordon Lynn were all acclaimed.

Driver injured

An RR 4 Acton man suffered minor injuries and there was an estimated \$4,000 damage to his vehicle when his car flipped over in a ditch on Highway 25. Raymond Balkmore was the driver and the mishap occurred 3 km. south of Acton.

Incumbent deputy reeve Jo Schneider finds herself in a race with former councillor George Root and council incumbents John Holder and Duncan Armstrong are in a fight against newcomers Cecil Chambers and Roger Clark for the three available seats. Ronald Walton, Connie Bielby and Sandi DeJong are vying for the one board of education seat, and Clarence Boubreau has been acclaimed to the

Harsher measures for bikes

Halton Hills has joined Etobicoke in recommending the Province enact harsher restrictions for trail bikes in prohibited areas. At last week's regional Administration and Finance Committee meeting, members passed a recommendation endorsing the resolutions from Halton Hills and Etobicoke. The recommendation goes before council today (Wednesday) for approval. Burlington councillor Joan Little added Burlington to Halton

Hills and Etobicoke and the recommendation as amended was passed. Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin wanted committee to defer the recommendation until Oakville and Milton decide, but the recommendation was passed. Mayor Peter Pomeroy said he was "very happy to include Burlington to the recommendation." Perlin cited criticisms from the Agricultural Committee which met with him last August. In a report to comm-

ittee on Wednesday, trespassing, damage to crops, damage to property and invasion of privacy were some of the concerns listed. He added that snowmobile restrictions have lessened the complaints and believes the same would be true of trail bikes. A 21-year-old woman rolled her car over once on Fourth Line, south of 22 Sideroad, causing \$2,000 damage on Friday at 4.48 p.m. According to Halton Police, Lynn Christie of Acton was driving southbound on the Fourth Line when an animal ran in front of her car, she swerved to avoid contact and hit the shoulder of the road. Police say she lost control of the car, pulled to the left hitting the east shoulder, then turned to the right sharply, causing the car to roll.

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