

Happy wedding anniversary greetings go out to George and Marion Williams of the Elizabeth Dr. apartments, who celebrate 54 years of marriage on Boxing Day. Their friendly smiles and cheerful hellos brighten up everyone's day.

On the Leavell



With Helen

500 Club winners this week were: 6, Don Lindsay; 85, Ed Laver; 97, Dave Allan; 361, John Goy Jr.; and 417, Bob Lazenby.

I just found out this week that Rotary Exchange student Alana Bowen receives the Acton Free Press in her temporary adopted home of Sweden.

On behalf of all of Acton, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. By the way, where's my letter Alana?

The downtown merchants' Moonlight Madness was a tremendous success last Thursday evening, with traffic jams reported on Mill St. at 9:30 p.m.

Apparently a lot of the shoppers were from out of town and someone surmised they may have been people at the Olde Hide House who saw the excitement downtown and stopped in.

Winners of the Acton Firefighters Christmas Log Draw held at the Acton Legion Saturday were: 1st prize, Gail Nowland, Acton, second, Seth Home, Acton; third, J. Bert Reid, Bracebridge; fourth, Frank Spielvogel, Acton; and fifth, L. Marchment, Guelph.

Do you find those spot-checks by police these days annoying. Well, look at it this way... it is more annoying to find yourself in a hospital, or even a grave, because some drunk driver hit you, or you hit someone else.

Lately I have sat through enough court cases where someone has been charged with impaired driving, to make me know I never want to stand before a judge and have everyone in the room know what I did when I was drunk. Even the mightiest of men are humiliated by the scene, and I have made a vow never to put myself in their shoes.

We went to a Christmas party in Georgetown a few weeks ago and on the way into town we passed a spot-check. I never got that picture out of my mind of the police pulling cars over for no particular reason, except to save a life or two. Over the course of the six hour evening, I had two drinks, each interspersed with straight pop. Sound boring? Not as boring as having to walk to all my assignments for three months.

So if anyone asks if spot-checks are a deterrent, I'll answer yes, at least for me they sure are.

About four years ago, I wrote a Christmas editorial about my memories of my Grandmother on Christmas morning. I received a lot of comments on it, and have re-read it many times, admittedly with a few tears in my eyes at how much I miss the old lady.

However time heals many wounds, and my family and I have become used to Christmas without her, just as we have become used to Christmas without my older sister and the kids since they moved out west. Things never stay

the same. But this Christmas, to me, will feel just as empty as those first few after our family circle was disturbed by Gramma's death. My sister and the kids are coming home on Friday for a few days. That's great, we love to see them. And my younger sister and her husband will be there so the entire family will be complete... almost.

My brother, also out west, will be unable to make it this holiday season. This is his second Christmas away from us, so we are almost used to having a friendly conversation on the phone Christmas night. But, this is the first Christmas someone in my family has had to spend all alone, with no one to go to church with the night before, no one to exchange presents with in the morning and no Christmas turkey.

Not having him around the dinner table this Saturday, eating all the food in sight is going to remind me he is all alone. We were never a very close family, but as we grow older, we siblings have learned to appreciate and love one another in spite of all our past differences, and in spite of our faults. I know how lonely I would be if I had to be by myself on Christmas, and I don't want my brother to feel that way.

Bob has traded his day off on Saturday with someone with a family who got stuck working Christmas day. He then plans to go skiing as soon as he gets off work, trying to make an ordinary day out of it. But the hurt will be there, just like it will be in my heart as I think of him.

There are so many lonely people out there, who will also be spending alone. Bob's one of the luckier ones, he knows he has family in Collingwood who is thinking about him.

To Bob, and all the other people alone on Saturday, may I wish a special Merry Christmas. There's always somebody, someplace who loves you.

Obituary

Cory van Merkestein

Funeral service was held Sunday for well known Acton businessman Cory van Merkestein, who died in Guelph General Hospital on Friday.

Mr. van Merkestein was born in Amsterdam, Holland on November 22, 1929 and came to Canada when he was 19. He moved to

Acton 10 years ago and has owned and operated the Acton Chicken and Pizza Spot for seven years.

He was a member of the Acton Lions Club, and the Chamber of Commerce and served a term on the board of directors.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife Elaine, son

Shawn, daughter-in-law Kathleen, and two granddaughters of Washago, his father, brother and sister in Holland, a sister in Luxembourg, and a brother in Australia.

A private family service was held at Shoemaker Funeral Home on Sunday followed by cremation.

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and
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to everyone

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The Third Acton Brownies held their enrolment last Tuesday and Lee Robinson, Melissa Sammit, Deanna Wilson, Heidi Dempsey, Marissa Fread, Pat Vince and Kimberley Owen were all enrolled.



Last week the Fourth Acton Brownies held their enrolment and Michelle Quiek, Patricia Krul, Melanie Cook, Erin Martin, Leanna Sargent, Julia Trendon, Candace Trenton, Jodi Archibald, Natalie Cameron, Carl Ann Chard and Michelle Pilgram were enrolled. Missing from photo was Jenny Flesch.

Bands delight audience

It wouldn't be the Christmas season unless the Acton Citizens' Band presented their annual Christmas concert. It's an event music lovers from the community look forward to each year. For the second season it has been a combined concert with the Acton High School Concert Band at the high school cafeteria.

The first part of the program was presented by the high school band and included the Huron Carol and a medley of Beate tunes including Eleanor Rigby, Yesterday and Michelle Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B Major and Praises a Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens, difficult pieces which the band executed well.

such spirited tunes as No Business Like Show Business, "Say it with Music", "Alexander's Ragtime Band," Easter Parade and the perennial favorite "White Christmas" they showed good versatility. They concluded with the Kate Smith favorite, God Bless America.

Dr. Elliott explained the band used Berlin's music for the concert because in the words of Jerome Kern, the composer "It's American music." He noted that every time God Bless America was played the Boy Scouts in the United States benefitted because Berlin gave them the royalties.

The band concluded the first half with the carols Good Christian Men Rejoice and the popular advent carol, O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

The final half of the program featured the combined bands on the stage with all Christmas selections. The two conductors alternated on the podium directing the bandsmen in such favorites as the Twelve Days of Christmas, O Holy Night (Cantique de Noel), Gesu Bambino and a Tribute of Carols where the audience sang their favorite carols with the combined band.

It was fine pre-Christmas entertainment but unfortunately it coincided with other events in churches and it kept the numbers who attended down. The slippery roads caused by a heavy fall of snow also reduced the audience.

Nevertheless, it was a splendid musical Christmas present for the people of Acton and district from both bands.

Go west young man...

(Continued from pg. 4)

either, though he's better liked than Pierre. People in Alberta seem to have the same desire I hear repeatedly in Ontario, let's have two new faces for the next election, and it doesn't matter what part of Canada the new choices are from either.

PetroCanada is another favorite topic over a few brews out there. It would seem to be a logical topic too since it represents to those people the National Energy Plan which Albertans feel forced them to share in our recession. PetroCanada has stations all over Alberta, but an awful lot are also restaurants and one sold just diesel gas and was also a truck wash. I found myself joining westerners in asking what our oil company was doing washing trucks and selling burgers.

Not many out there seem to have ever liked PetroCanada, but again they seemed more interested in hearing what Ontario now thinks of the national oil firm. I told them what I hear often is that people here now wonder what benefit there is in our company when their gas prices are as high or higher than the multi-nationals.

By the way gas prices are all over the board out there too. It varies greatly from area to area. For example regular leaded is 29 cents a litre in Edmonton and 33 in Calgary.

Mother runs over her son

An Acton woman who was manipulating her car in the driveway in order to back into her allotted parking spot at 115 Kingham Rd accidentally struck her three-year-old son Tuesday afternoon.

According to police reports, the mother looked back to see her son on the lawn away from the parking area, but he came off the lawn without her seeing him. The boy was taken to Guelph General Hospital.

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