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 helios brighten up everyone's day.

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 eveing, 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.

Vince and Kimberley Owen were all enrolled.

Christmas season un-

less the Acton Citizens'

Band presented their

annual Christmas con-

cert. It's an event music

lovers from the com-

munity look forward to

each year. For the se-

cond season it has been

a combined concert

with the Acton High

School Concert Band at

the high school cafe-

Under the batons of

Dr George Elliott, con-

ductor of the Acton Citi-

zens' Band, and Dave

Sales, head of the music

department and band

director at the high

school, some of the best

music of the season was

presented for a small

appreciative

torium.

audience.

The Third Acton Brownies held their enrolment last Tuesday and Lee Robin-

son, Melissa Sammit, Deanna Wilson, Heidi Dempsey, Marissa Fread, Pat

Last week the Fourth Acton Brownies held their enrolment and Michelle

Quick, Patricia Krul, Melanie Cook, Erin Martin, Leanna Sargent, Julia Trenton, Candace Trenton, Jodi Archibald, Natalle Cameron, Carl Ann Chard and

Bands delight audience

It wouldn't be the The first part of the such spirited tunes as

program was presented

by the high school band

and included the Huron

Carol and a medley of

Beatle tunes including

Eleanor Rigby, Yester-

Bach's Prelude and

Fugue in B Major and

Praises a Christmas

Oratorio by Saint-

Saens, difficult pieces

which

executed well.

the

Acton Citizens' Band

showed their skill with

both Christmas and pop

music in the second half

of the first part of the

program with Farewell

to Nova Scotia and a

"Sleepers Awake" by

Bach. When the band

swung into an Irving

Berlin medley including

Prelude

and Michelle.

No Business Like Show

Business, "Say it with

Music". Z "Alexander's

Ragtime Band," Easter

Prade and the perennial

satility. They concluded

with the Kate Smith

favorite, God Bless

Dr. Elliott explained

the band used Berlin's

music for the concert

because in the words of

Jerome Kern, the com-

poser "Is American

music." He noted that

every time God Bless

America was played the

Boy Scouts in the United

States benefitted be-

cause Berlin gave them

The band concluded

the first half with the

carols Good Christian Men Rejoice and the

popular advent carol, O

The final half of the

program featured the

Come

the royallies.

Come. ()

Emmanuel.

ver-

favorite

America.

Christmas"

showed good

Michelle Pilgram were enrolled. Missing from photo was Jenny Flesch.



With Helen



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 deterent, 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 1 4 1

Cory van Merkestein

Funeral service was Acton 10 years ago and eld Sunday for well has owned and operated held Sunday for well businessman Cory van Merkestein, who died in General Hospital on Friday.

Mr. van Merkestein was born in Amster-Holland on November 22, 1929 and came to Canada when he was 19. He moved to are his wife Elaine, son

the Acton Chicken and Pizza Spot for seven vears.

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

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

service was held at Shoemaker Funeral Sunday followed by cremation.

YEAR

to everyone

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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

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 awfully 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 seiling burgers. Not many out there seem to have ever liked PetroCanada, but again they seemed more interested in hearing what (Intario 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.

combined bands on the stage with all Christmas selections. The two conductors alternated are from either. 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 line pre-Christ-

mas 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 reduced the audience.

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

DEST WISHES

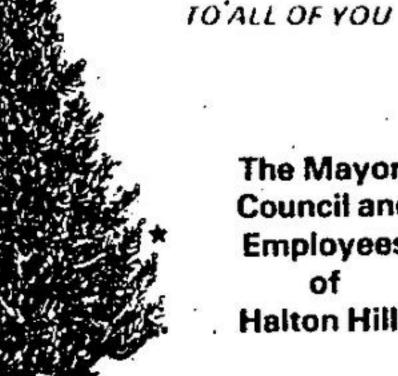
for the HOLIDAY SEASON

BEST WISHES

and in the COMING NEW YEAR

HEARTILY EXTENDED

FROM ALL OF US



The Mayor, Council and **Employees** of **Halton Hills**

のなる

Mother runs over her son

An Acton woman who was manipulating her carin 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 tooked 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.



Sunday, December 26 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Monday, December 27 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Tuesday, December 28 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Wednesday, December 29 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Thursday, December 30 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

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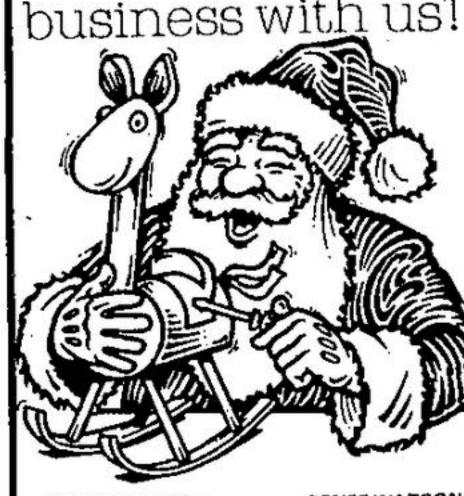
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