

Career began in 1942

Mary Irwin remembers when teachers were lucky to have textbooks for their pupils, when mathematics was old, and when science was the natural, not the laboratory kind.

It wasn't that long ago, she explains—only about 40 years. But rural schools, where one teacher taught all grades, were still thriving in rural Ontario when Mrs. Irwin began her teaching career in 1942.

Mrs. Irwin retires from teaching this year after several seasons in M.Z. Bennett school, where she teaches Grade Five... a nice age group, she claims.

"Education has changed drastically since those early days," she recalled in an interview. "We didn't have libraries, or even the variety of textbooks there are in schools today. We didn't have science labs, test tubes, beakers, or Bunsen burners. And we never went on field trips. Children today get so much more variety in their education."

And keeping up with the changing times has kept Mrs. Irwin going overtime, even though she managed to take 20 years off to raise a family, she has never been far from the action.

"I joined the army in 1943 until 1947. That's where you had to be if you wanted to be where things were happening back then," she recalled. In 1947 she married and came to the Acton area. Twenty years later, she was asked to return to teaching. "There was a shortage of teachers then, and being asked to return really made me feel needed," she said. She took up the challenge, returned to teaching part-time, and began taking university night courses. She took a degree in psychology by attending evening and weekend classes, while teaching part-time and then full-time at Robert Little and M.Z. Bennett schools.

"It took me seven years," she said. "It was marvelous being back in classes with younger people again."

It was also marvelous teaching in a modern education system, even though she had to take no less than eight courses just to catch up with the change in trends... new maths, etc. During the 17 years she taught several public school grades, settling finally on Grade Five as her favorite. She has some

favorite students too, people in the community of whom she can say she was proud to teach.

Modern education is different... books, machinery, teaching materials, trips to the art gallery or to the theatre... but Mrs. Irwin is still appalled that a student can't tell a Jack-in-the-pulpit when he sees one.

"I think on the whole, though, children should be getting a far better education than they got before. The system is so much richer than it was before."

Mrs. Irwin is looking forward to a summer of golf, a winter of cross-country skiing, and a travelling excursion in September... "just to prove to myself that I'm free!"

Mrs. Irwin was honored Thursday with a retirement party attended by colleagues from her years of teaching and former pupils.



Grade 5 teacher Mary Irwin, of M.Z. Bennett school was the guest of honor at a retirement party last week. She is retiring this month after 15 years in Acton, ending a 22 year teaching career.

Ospringle

4 girls get guide honor

by Doris Fines

Four Ospringle Guides received their all round cord at the mother and daughter pot luck supper, which was held at Knox Presbyterian Church on May 24. The all round cord, which is the highest honor in Guiding, was presented to Tammy Swackhamer, Nancy Dubeau, Jennifer McDonald, and Robin Ridley, by Karen Billings, who is the recently retired South Wellington Division Commissioner.

The Guides welcomed the guests and presented their mothers with corsages. After the supper, the four senior girls did a marvelous job of enacting an amusing skit on the life of Lord Baden Powell, from the time he was born until he died. The first Guide Pack began with 11 members, now there are a quarter of a million Guides in Canada alone.

Helen Dubeau gave badges and service stars to those who had earned them, and the girls presented gifts to her and the other leaders. The evening ended with Taps.

The McKinnon and community garage sale last weekend, was a roaring success despite the rain. The families involved did very well as usual, and the McKinnons have now decided that it will be an annual event.

Karen McKinnon has obtained employment in Toronto for the summer.



Brent Marshall, North District Supervisor, checks over a display last week at the North District Operation Centre for Halton Region, during Public Works Week. The centre, located in Milton was open to the public, with various displays showing the inner workings of the department.

Four cars have items removed

A series of car break-ins in Rockwood sometime overnight Friday to Saturday could very well have been committed by the same person, Guelph OPP say, after four cars had goods taken out of them during the same time period.

Raymond Alexander, 168 Gzowski St., told police the battery was taken from his car, while a CB radio disappeared from a vehicle owned by Glen Underwood, 382 Wetherald St. Eyeglasses and minor items were missing from the car of Elsie Schulte, Main St., and brief case and glasses were taken from the vehicle of Jerome Drexler, 287 Harris St.

Environment week

June 5 to 11 has been proclaimed Canadian Environment Week by Halton Hills.

Council last Tuesday evening approved the proclamation after receiving a letter from P.L. Ferguson, Environment Canada who noted the week is celebrated to promote and emphasize the importance and value of environmental awareness and participation by citizens, industry and all levels of government.

Signs damaged

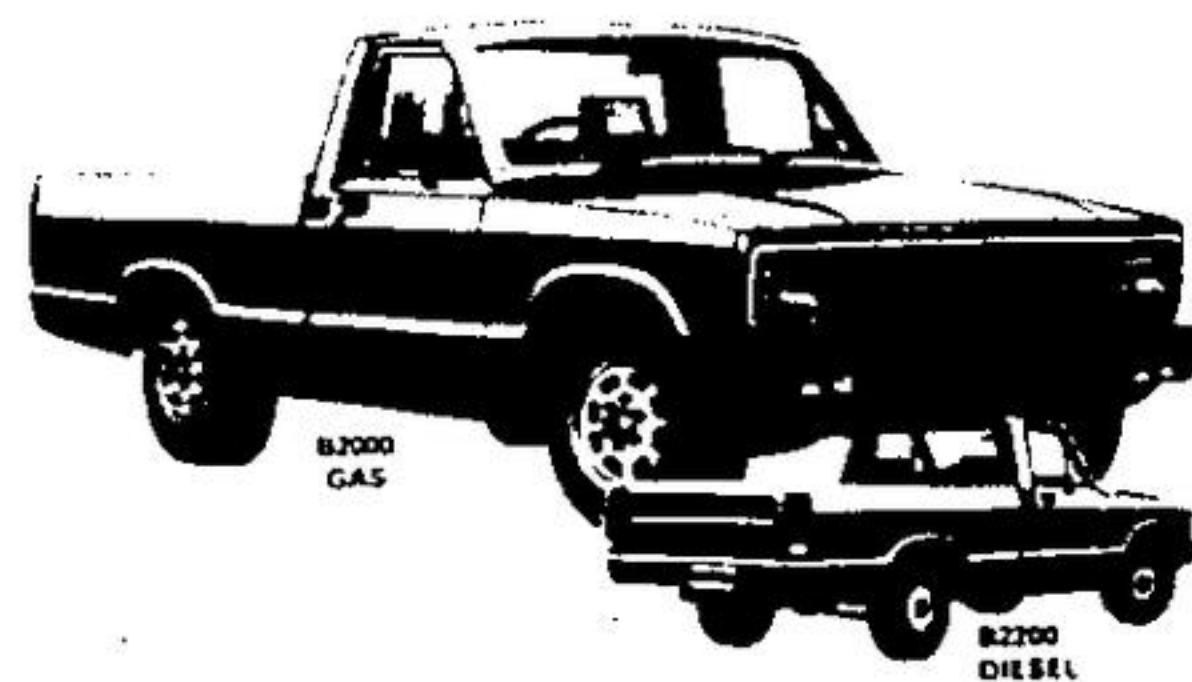
Vandals damaged 12 no parking metal signs on Main Street South between Kingham Road and Agnes Street sometime overnight last Monday, police say.

All the street signs were bent over and about \$200 damage was caused.

A 19-year-old Acton male has been charged with trespassing on two separate days at the Acton High School. Police say the youth was reported on the property last Wednesday afternoon and then again on Thursday.

Two red industrial carpets worth \$150 were taken from the entrance corridor of an apartment building on Mill Street, sometime last week.

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With Helen

Jessie Coles, of the olde Hide House received a nice surprise Sunday in the form of a short visit with a former governess of the Beardmore children.

Jessie was approached by an elderly lady who started asking her questions about Acton. Turns out it was Miss Hardy, now Mrs. Walton, who lived in Beverley House and helped raise Martin, Joan, Alfred and Gordon.

Mrs. Walton has been gone for over 50 years now, and is currently living in Willowdale. Relatives brought her back to town to reminisce and as coincidence has it, she just happened to start talking to Jessie, who was always "hanging around" Beverley House and knew Miss Hardy years ago.

Jessie was so pleased to see her, she forgot to get the visitor's first name.

And earlier in the same week, two former Acton residents also dropped into the olde Hide House.

Misses Margaret Hodgins and Mary Redman dropped in for a visit from Barrie, where they are now living. Margaret used to live on Agnes St., and Mary used to be the Bell Telephone manageress. Both moved away over 30 years ago.

A Roseford Terrace resident has proved the Free Press doesn't always end up lining the bottom of the bird cage. This man used the recent editorial on stoop and scoop and accompanying cartoon to send a message to people walking dogs in the Glenlea area. This resident used the editorial and cartoon to make a sign for the front of his lawn clearly showing his thoughts on the subject. Better stoop and scoop on that street for sure.

Frankly, between you and me, I personally find a lot of what Gord has to say (at least to me) more suitable for the bird cage.

The High School held their annual Athletic Banquet and Awards Night last Thursday night. But this year, a few of Acton's finest made the evening just a bit different from other years.

Al Higgins and Jamie Lawson rented tuxedos complete with tails, canes and top hats to wow the crowd. And just in case the apparel didn't catch enough eyes, they even hired a limo to drive them to the banquet.

The City of Welland will be celebrating its 125th anniversary July 21 to Sunday 2. A special invitation to former Wellanders to join in the celebration has been extended.

For further information, call: June Gluch, 735-5340 or Peter Bradley, 734-7028.

The Acton Library is going have something for everyone June 11.

For the garage sale buff, who also likes to read and eat, there will be a giant book sale plus bake sale beginning at 10 and running until 4. For the sports and flying enthusiasts, an ultralight aircraft will be on display, and for the kiddies, clowns will be in action. A super raffle for grownups and kids will top off the day.

Those of you who enjoyed the Royal City Ambassadors (barbershoppers) from Guelph will be pleased to know there is a female version of the group, The Over Tones. They will be presenting In The Good Old Summertime at Ross Hall, Meyer Drive in Guelph on June 17 and 18.

Featured guests will be from Guelph, Maryhill, Massachusetts and Scarborough.

For further information call 823-2702.

SALE STARTS Wednesday, June 1 9:30 a.m.

Located at: 11 MILL ST. E. (ACTON, ONT.)

GRAND OPENING SALE

CONTINUES

Items on sale while quantities last.

WEDNESDAY 9:30 a.m. DOOR BUSTERS!

<p>'WHITE SWAN' 2-PK. PAPER TOWELS</p> <p>SALE .91 pkg.</p>	<p>CAPRI 2 ROLL BATHROOM TISSUE</p> <p>SALE .48 pkg.</p>	<p>POWDER DETERGENT</p> <p>Tide</p> <p>SALE 3.99 6 litre</p>	<p>LIGHT BULBS</p> <p>Pack of 2-40, 60, 100 BUDGET</p> <p>SALE 1.00 2 PKGS.</p>	<p>IVORY</p> <p>4 Personal Bars Savon's</p> <p>SALE .96 pkg.</p>
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<p>MEN'S WORK JACKETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Colour Full Zipper Canadian Made <p>Regular \$24.99</p> <p>SALE 11.99</p>	<p>PLASTIC TABLE COVERS</p> <p>54" x 72"</p> <p>Assorted Patterns</p> <p>Reg. \$2.49</p> <p>SALE .96</p>	<p>SHOES</p> <p>All Makes Including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubber Boots Soccer Shoes <p>1/2 PRICE OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES</p>	<p>GIRLS' PANTS</p> <p>Size 4-6X</p> <p>100% Polyester</p> <p>Reg. \$6.99</p> <p>SALE 3.00</p>	<p>CHILDREN'S AND INFANT T-SHIRTS</p> <p>Sizes 3 mos. - 24 mos.</p> <p>Sizes 2-3X</p> <p>Assorted Styles</p> <p>Reg. \$5.99</p> <p>SALE 3.00 ea.</p>
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