



Acton's annual contribution to Princess Margaret Hospital, in the form of Christmas bales was sent out this week by the local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. A variety of goods were sent, with many of the handicrafts being made by, left to right, Ellen Lawson, Anna Miller, Truus Veldhuis and Elsie Reed. They are shown here with bed jackets and afghans.



Wisemen, Shepherds, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were portrayed in front of the Nativity scene at the Knox Church cantata held Sunday. The children sang hymns and recited Christmas stories. Money raised at the cantata was sent to foster child in Bolivia, as part of the Kim Petty memorial fund.

Obituary

Margaret West

Funeral service was held October 22 for Margaret A.K. West, who died at Halton Centennial Manor on October 19. Mrs. West was born in Erin Township on November 6, 1891, the daughter of William Near and Susan Scott. On June 29, 1921, she married David Frederick West in Erin Township.

For many years Mrs. West lived at RR 3 Acton, before moving into Acton, where she lived for 15 years. Seven years ago, she moved to Halton Centennial Manor.

The couple had three children, all of whom mourn her loss. They are Wilma, Mrs. J. Chapman, RR 2 Rockwood; Helen, Mrs. Lylal McCutcheon, Preston/Cambridge; and Ernest F. West, Waterloo. She was predeceased by three brothers, Ernest, William and Richard Near.

A member of the Acton Baptist Church, Mrs. West was a quiet person who was very caring towards her home, family, church and music.

Rev. Jean Stairs officiated at the funeral at Shoemaker, Funeral Home, assisted by Rev. William Wood, Highland Baptist Church, Kitchener and former pastor Rev. Stanley Gammon, Thornbury. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery.

Palbearers were William and Ernest L. Near, nephews, William Landsborough, Wilmer Fryer, church friends and former neighbors Calvin Aitken and Donald Milton.

On the Leavell
With Helen



Anna Arnold won \$267 in the Fire-fighters 50/50 draw recently.

Birthdays go out to Catherine Roszell, formerly of Acton and now of Englebert Nursing Home in Fergus. She turns 94 on December 15.

Can't get your hands on a Cabbage Patch Doll for that special Christmas gift? Well Kathy Johns has the answer to your problems.

Kathy recently did a high school project which involved several adorable (that's her word, not mine) rats. Now, however, she needs to find good homes for them. Anyone interested can call her at 856-9692.

The following meditation, written by Ria Huisman Kroezen should make us all stop and think about our lives. The former Acton resident is dying of cancer, but her strength and courage are a testimonial of her trust in God and the love of her family.

The Night Before
February 3, 1982
It's almost midnight again; funny how

I always seem to be writing at midnight. I can't believe that in seven minutes I'll be 36-years-old. Thirty-six! I say it out loud just to hear the sound of it. Is it possible that another year has passed by? A year I thought would never be. I've always lived like there would be no tomorrow and I'm glad, because I've packed in a whole lifetime already.

Tomorrow is so vague for me. Today is all I have for sure, but then, isn't that all anyone has for sure? And yet—it is different—different if you've actually been told you're going to die—and soon. My husband has become more loving and handsome. My children are more beautiful. The sky is bluer and the snow more brilliant each day. Each day is more precious than the last. I have loved fiercely. I have experienced holding three beautiful babies in my arms. I have enjoyed the friendship of many true and loyal friends. I have shared my husband's dreams. I have been blessed by a great family—mother, father, sisters, and brother. Thank You God, for these blessings. I have seen a trillion diamonds in a pitch black sky. I have seen beautiful faces all around me. I've seen golden fields of ripened grain. I have seen my son's dimples. I have sat on the shore watching God paint the sunset above the horizon. I have watched the sun rise over a river and climb through the misty morning to break in full glory into the sky. Thank You God for my eyes!

I have listened to the crickets giving their concerts in the fields. I have heard the lonely cry of the loon, the hoot of an owl and the beating feathers of a partridge. I have heard the roaring waves

dash against the shore on a windy night. I have heard the glorious Handel's Messiah. I have heard a sleepy child murmur, "I love you, Mom." Thank You God for my ears!

I have smelled the earth in the spring. I have been intoxicated by the smell of wild flowers—and a rose. I have smelled your pine grove just after a rain. I have smelled a cake baking and a roast of beef in the oven. I have smelled my husband's cologne. Thank You God for my nose!

I have tasted the first strawberry on a fine June day. I have tasted a good cup of coffee. I have tasted gingerbread with whipped cream. I have tasted crystal clear water on a hot day. I have tasted chocolate. What can be better than chocolate! Thank You God, for my mouth!

I have made many diapers, sewed many clothes, I have cooked many meals. I have stuck on many bandages. Piles of crafts I've made, refinished many pieces of furniture. I have written many poems and letters. Thank You God for my hands!

I've travelled out west, down east, down south, over the U.S. border and across the ocean. I've been on an ocean liner, a plane, a train, a bus, a subway, street car, taxi and I've skated. I've skied, swam, danced, climbed and walked endless miles. Thank you God for my feet!

I've sung, I've cried, loved, hated, screamed, shouted, whispered, giggled, prayed, laughed and smiled. I've had a glorious life. I've never experienced war. I've never experienced the loss of a loved one. Can you believe that! I've never known what it's like to be hungry. I've never been homeless. I've never not been loved and now I have cancer! It's obscene, it's ugly, it's devastating. It will consume me if I allow it to, but I won't.

It may kill me, but nothing will separate me from the Love of God in Christ Jesus. And, that's the beauty of the whole thing. Thank You God for this time to get closer to you. Thank You for all the beautiful years you have given me. It's already my birthday again and truly I have already lived a lifetime.

Eramosa Council raises are put on hold

Eramosa Township town fathers will have to wait until the budget is set in the spring to see how much of a raise they will be getting. Councillors decided Monday to postpone their raises until the 1984 budget is considered. Last year they gave themselves a five per cent raise, putting them at \$7,700 for the reeve, \$3,850 for the deputy reeve and \$3,900 for the councillors.

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