### SEND-OFF FOR A FRIEND

There was lots of sweet pink icing for Helen Ritchle Ezeard. The Smith and Stone Inc. employee retired Friday as forelady from the company's assembly department where she has worked since 1935. About 100 fellow employees gathered to present her with a lounging chair to make retirement comfortable and of course, lots of cake. A newlywed as of Dec. 28, Mrs. Ezeard and her busband Murray plan travelling to Vermont and Florida.

(Herald photo)

## School board trustees balk at tax refund

The Halton board of education Thursday night refused a Mr. Chatten a rebate," Mrs. "We don't have a moral Hills as part of the board's portion of an assessment error.

Board business superintendent Barb Moore said the board has no responsibility in the actions carried out by Halton Hills town council.

Council provided Ron Chatten of Halton Hills with a grant in the amount of \$1,016.37 to cover assessment errors for 1978, 1979 and 1980, and is seeking \$582.28 as the board's portion of the refunded taxes.

By JEAN LAYMAN

Herald Special

ers Club was held last Wednes-

day night (March 17) in the

District Commissioner John

Sharples opened the meeting

by welcoming the members,

guest speaker, Rev. Jeff Davl-

son of St. John's United

Church, who spoke on the

"Religion in Life Emblem"

which is open to Girl Guides of

Canada and Boy Scouts of

and Oakville at the meet.

Canada who wish to make the

Mr. Sharples introduced the

Limehouse Memorial Hall.

followed by roll call.

promise.

North Halton District Scout-

board's responsibility to make adjustments or give rebates."

She said that under the Education Act, municipalities are responsible for paying the board money needed to run its operations. The board doesn't concern itself with how the municipalities get the money,

Besides there not being any legal responsibility, Mrs. Moore said there is also no moral responsibility to give

importance of emblem

progressive stages. The re-

quirements differ in each faith

and denominations and are

prepared nationally by the

churches or religious bodies to

sull their particular needs. The

four stages may be carned, but

are recommended for the age

groupings for which the re-

This coveted Emblem may

be worn on the uniform, when

the boy moves on into Scouts

from Cubs. Clint Croswell

thanked Rev. Davison for his

interesting talk on this special

award, "Religion in Life Em-

The sections broke up into

quirements are made up.

Scouters discuss

The Emblem is in four groups with the Beavers dis-

Ballinafad's Kyle

a design ace

honors in a design competition for Kub Kars at a rally held

in Milton March 13. Jamle Hurstof First Georgetown, the

only North Halton district Cub to come close to winning one

of the heats, finished sixth in the race at the regional Grand

Prix. Cubs from North Halton joined others from Burlington

Cub Kyle Pinkerton of the First Ballinafad pack won top

"The town chose to grant back the money.

refund requested by Halton Moore said. "It isn't the responsibility because our bill would have been the same no matter what Chatten was charged in mill rates," trustee Betty Fisher explained.

The board budget is divided among the various municipalities according to a complex formula.

She said that because the money was given back in the form of a grant, it made vold any legal responsibility of the board to reimburse the town. "The town is stuck with the

cussing a Mini Olympic Day

May 29. The Beavers and

parents will adopt a tree and

plant it for Trees for Canada.

Planning for the Beaver Camp

is in progress with the camp to

be held at Blue Springs June 19

Update for Cubs is Trees for

Canada will be held April 24

with a rain date set for May 1.

A Cuboree to be held at Blue

Springs May 15 with the theme

of Lord Baden-Powell and the

75th Anniversary of Scouting.

The District Cub Camp will be

The Scouts will be taking

part in "Trees for Canada"

April 24. The Annual Explorers

Hike will be held May 7, 8 and 9

with the Rovers co-ordinating

the hike. Scogari will be held at

Camp Everton for all Scouts

and Guides of the District June

11, 12 and 13. The theme for

For all sections of the Scout

movement and the Girl Guides

the second annual parade will

be held June 6 from Cedarvale

Members of Scouters Club

extended sincere and heartful

sympathy to D.C. John Sharples in the loss of his father -

Arthur Sharples of Liverpool,

Park to the Fairgrounds.

this Camp will be Sierra

Western Theme.

held May 28, 29 and 30.

bill." Mrs. Fisher said.

# Owner going broke - accountant

By MAGGIE HANNAH

Herald Special There is no doubt the Dominion Hotel in Acton was making money; it just wasn't making it fast enough to meet long-term debts, a chartered accountant testified Thursday. Bruce Armstrong, an investigative accountant appearing before the second degree murder trial of hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri and two hotel employees, Michael Mc-Crystal and Leonard Cripps,

said that at the rate Mr. Mercuri was going he would have been broke sometime during the summer of 1979. The hotel was destroyed in

an early morning fire Aug. 19, 1979. One resident, Howard Gibbons, 58, died in the blaze. Mr. Armstrong said interest payments on loans and mortgages were eating up the

hotel's working capital. The accountant carefully differentiated between the Dominion Hotel, Acton, Ltd. and

Cosimo Mercuri as the sole shareholder.

Shareholder Mercuri loaned the hotel a sum of money known as the shareholder's loan as part of the hotel's equity. Mr. Mercuri would legitimately be entitled to write off payments on the money he borrowed to loan to

the hotel from hotel funds. However, Mr. Armstrong said, when Mr. Mercuri went to the Federal Business Development Bank in April, 1979.

seeking refinancing, the bank assigned or froze the money in the shareholder's loan account

\$200,000 mortgage. Mr. Mercuri continued to make mortgage and loan payments from that account even after it was supposedly frozen. By the time of the fire, the account had gone from \$24,000 to a deficit of \$1,400.

The refinancing of the first and second mortgages in April, 1979, put the hotel a

further \$5,000 in debt, Mr. Armstrong testified.

Between June 30, 1978, and as part of the security for a June 30, 1979, the hotel's working capital decreased \$19,800 and it was already \$11,000 in the red at June, 1978,

Mr. Armstrong said. Mr. Armstrong said that while the hotel's balance sheet prepared by a Hamilton accounting firm wasn't incorrect, it wouldn't give a prospective buyer a total picture of the hotel's finan-

> although such a move would increase costs. Halton Regional Police Constable Joseph Watson testified Thursday about the location of an object in photographs taken

cial situation because of the

way the mortgages were

Mr. Armstrong said Mr.

Mr. Armstrong admitted in

Mercuri wouldn't stand to gain

financially from such a situa-

cross-examination that Mr.

Mercuri could have increased

revenues by removing a pool

table and shuffleboard to

accommodate more custom-

ers; or that he might increase

the price of his beer and liquor; or by drawing larger crowds with entertainment,

entered onto the books.

tion right away.

following the fire. Both defence and Crown counsels are seeking to locate the remains of a valance in the area of Mr. Cripps' second floor room that may shed light on whether two fires burned in the vicinity or whether a second fire was ignited by the

Earlier Const. Watson testified that a piece of charred wood under the north wall under Mr. Cripps' room appeared to be the valance. Const. Watson identified the burned upright Thursday as being located beneath the south window of Mr. Cripps'

The valance, believed under

a wall located north of the north window in Mr. Cripps' room, has not been located in the photographs.

-Courtesy Guelph Mercury

# 'Nasty remarks' made to employees?

Dominion Hotel owner, Cosimo Mercuri, often made nasty remarks about his employees and co-defendents in a murder trial, the Ontario Supreme Court was told Friday by Mr. Mercuri's onetime girlfriend.

Gluria Eckstein, a divorcee who began an intimate affair with Mr. Mercuri in October, 1977, said Leonard Cripps and Michael McCrystal did "Joe Jobs" around the hotel.

"Sometimes he treated them okay and sometimes he made nasty cracks about them to me and to their faces." Mrs. Eckstein said.

seen Mr. Mercuri's plans for

Mrs. Eckstein said she had

reason for dropping them.

Mrs. Eckstein said one evening in June, 1979, when she visited the hotel, Mr. Mercuri spoke about feeling the best thing that could happen to the hotel would be for it to burn down.

She said she fell he was depressed but she couldn't determine whether he was serious.

Getting in Mr. Mercuri's car in the parking lot behind the hotel later that night, she recalled looking up at the third floor lights and saying if the hotel ever did catch fire "those old guys up there wouldn't stand a chance" of escaping.

She said Mr. Mercuri said

Mrs. Eckstein said Mr. Mercuri told her there were people who could be hired to do things like burn buildings and suggested they knew how to rig fuse boxes among other things in such a way that a fire resulted.

Mrs. Eckstein said her June conversation preved on her mind until she went down to visit Mr. Mercuri at the hotel site one evening to ask him whether he had set the building on fire.

After the Aug. 19, 1979 fire,

He got angry with her, she said, and accused her of blaming him as everyone else in the community was doing.

When Mr. Mercuri's lawyer Michael Muldaver characterized her as a trauble-maker who liked to stick her nose in Mr. Mercuri's business, Mrs.

collection methods.

Pay up, or else!

Eckstein denied it.

"He saw you as nothing but a pest and a nuisance," Mr. Muldaver said, "and at that time you're the last person he'd have perceived as someone to be trusted, aren't Mrs. Eckstein said sho

didn't know.

She also admitted to wearing a body pack tape recording device provided by Halton Regional Police the night she met Mr. Mercurl's brother to discuss the fire and the charges against Mr. Mercuri. She said she was afraid and had gone to the police for advice before going for a ride with Mr. Mercuri's brother.

Gary Hyde, a former Dominion Hotel resident said he had moved into the hotel the week before the fire. On the Saturday ofter-

noon, he said he heard people coming and going from the north end of the second floor hallway.

He looked out and saw them carrying things but didn't get a good enough look at faces to identify the men. One was carrying a typewriter and the other had an object with a cover on .it which he couldn't identify.

He said he fell asleep during the evening and awoke because someone was beating on his door. The door flew open then and Len Cripps stood there telling him the hotel was on fire and he should leave. The north end of the second floor hallway was full of smoke at the time, Mr. Hyde sald.

Mr. Hyde said he couldn't remember hearing the fire alarm ring but he wasn't saying it dldn't ring.

## **PROCLAMATION**

The Town of Halton Hills has proclaimed the Month of April as Cancer Month in our community.

## **APRIL** is **CANCER MONTH**



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#### a hotel expansion in 1978 but it didn't matter because they nothing ever came of those were "only drunks, anyplans and she never heard a way."

About the Hills

## Levy hits school budget

More than a little miffed at the Halton board of education's budget increase for 1982 (which will show up as a 19 per cent increase in the region's mill rate), town budget chief Harry Levy stressed Monday night that the town has no control over the board's budget-making process and is not responsible for any increases in it. Coun. Dave Whiling added that board education director Wally Beevor will be at the Acton drop-in centre April 2 during the afternoon and invited councillors to attend the session to find out more about the increase.

### Music Hall returns

Following the success of last year's Music Hall theld in conjunction with Summerfest and Pioneer Days), Halton Hills Arts Council is inviting the trio of Director Ron Hill, Musical Director Ralph Ursel and Producer Dorothy Hunt to once again combine their efforts in launching another exciting evening of dinner and entertainment June 19 at 7 p.m. in Sacre Cocur Hali.

Profits will be donated to help defray costs on the purchase of a piano for the John Elliott Theatre.

Local citizens who act, sing or dance, and like to have fun, are invited to bring along their material and audition in the Band Room of the Georgetown and District High School April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals will initially be held Tuesday evenings. However, additional times will be announced as the show progresses. Backstage help will also be required and interested

parties should attend a Production Meeting April 21 at the home of Dorothy and Ron Hunt, 5 Elizabeth St. in

For further information, call 877-2321, after 6 p.m.

#### next year, Globe has announced that this fund-raising event will feature a special "May Modness" cabaret and a disc jockey will provide music for dancing later in the evening.

Globe dinner-dance

Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets available by calling Ring stolen from home Perhaps in search of matrimonial bliss, a thief

Halton region plans to get tough on residents and businesses who have not paid bills for regional services. In a

recent announcement, officials said that Halton has been

intensfying "its pursuit of overdue accounts", adding that

individuals who have not paid fees for such things as water

are more likely to receive a call from the region's collection officer, Dian Casselman. The region also said that increased

use is also being made of small claims court and other

Globe Productions will hold its first annual dinner-dance

May 1 at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in

Georgetown. Buoyed by the success of its first musical-

theatrical production, "Anything Goes" and planning a

production of Roger's and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma"

entering through a rear window of a John Street home Thursday during the day stole a wedding band, a radio and pop. Total value of stolen goods came to \$300.

DID YOU REALIZE that the Red Cross can take a few dollars and muliply them into help for many? Volunteers give their time to make Red Cross programs work economically. So remember when your Red Cross canvasser calls. Your donation will go a



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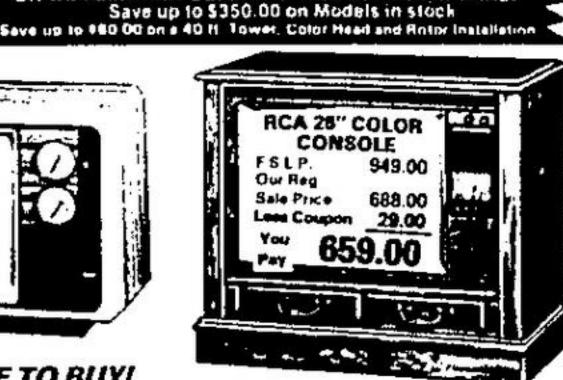
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