Popular AHS teacher honoured by colleagues

BY DOUG HARRISON The Acton Tanner

Just call Keith Black the travellin' man.

The Acton High History and Geography teacher of 22 years, who has whisked students along 63 trips across the world, is on the road again — however, this time, it's into retirement.

The 57-year-old Black began his teaching career in 1957 at Robert Little Public School. He later moved to Milton District High in '65 until June of '71. From that time until today, he's been instructing at Acton High.

"It's incredible; a human signature day," said Black prior to his retirement party at the school last Wednesday. "All my colleagues from 36 years ago to last year. People coming as people, leaving their thanks. It's really precious. Very moving and delightful."

The ardent traveller figures he's been outside North America over 100 times with 80 per cent of the excursions involving students.

"Travelling is a real learning experience for the students," said Black, who added that his longest venture included 320 kids and 21 teachers. "The students wanted to

learn and were really stimulated by what they saw. I think it rekindled their love of learning."

Some of the memorable trips included: a visit to Berlin in 1990 as the Acton conglomerate took their own hammers and chisels to help knock down the wall; Rome, where they touched Michael Angelo's pieta; and Vienna to hear the opera, visit the palace and travel the circular streets.

As for his immediate future, Black will be visiting Ireland in August and has already set aside August, 1994, for a trek to Australia and New Zealand. He also

plans to play his piano and pipe organ that he began in 1982, when he worked his way to a Grade 4 level. He's now aiming for a Grade 8 equivalent.

The former driver education instructor of 27 years would also like to dabble in writing, photography, art, carpentry and become part of the community.

What will the elementary and secondary school teacher take with him as he leaves the Acton High grounds for the last time?

"The strength of the people in good times and bad — and the joy and passion of the young stu-

dents," Black explained. "Also, dealing with the students as they grow up and the good times with the staff and the students."

And they won't forget him, either. "He's probably one of the most giving men I've known," offered Head of Science Dr. Paul Tamblyn, who has worked with Black since Day 1 in '71. "I don't think I've ever heard any critical remarks from the staff or students.

"He also saw education outside the four walls of the school, in terms of innovation and travel. He enriched the students' lives in a way the school system can't."

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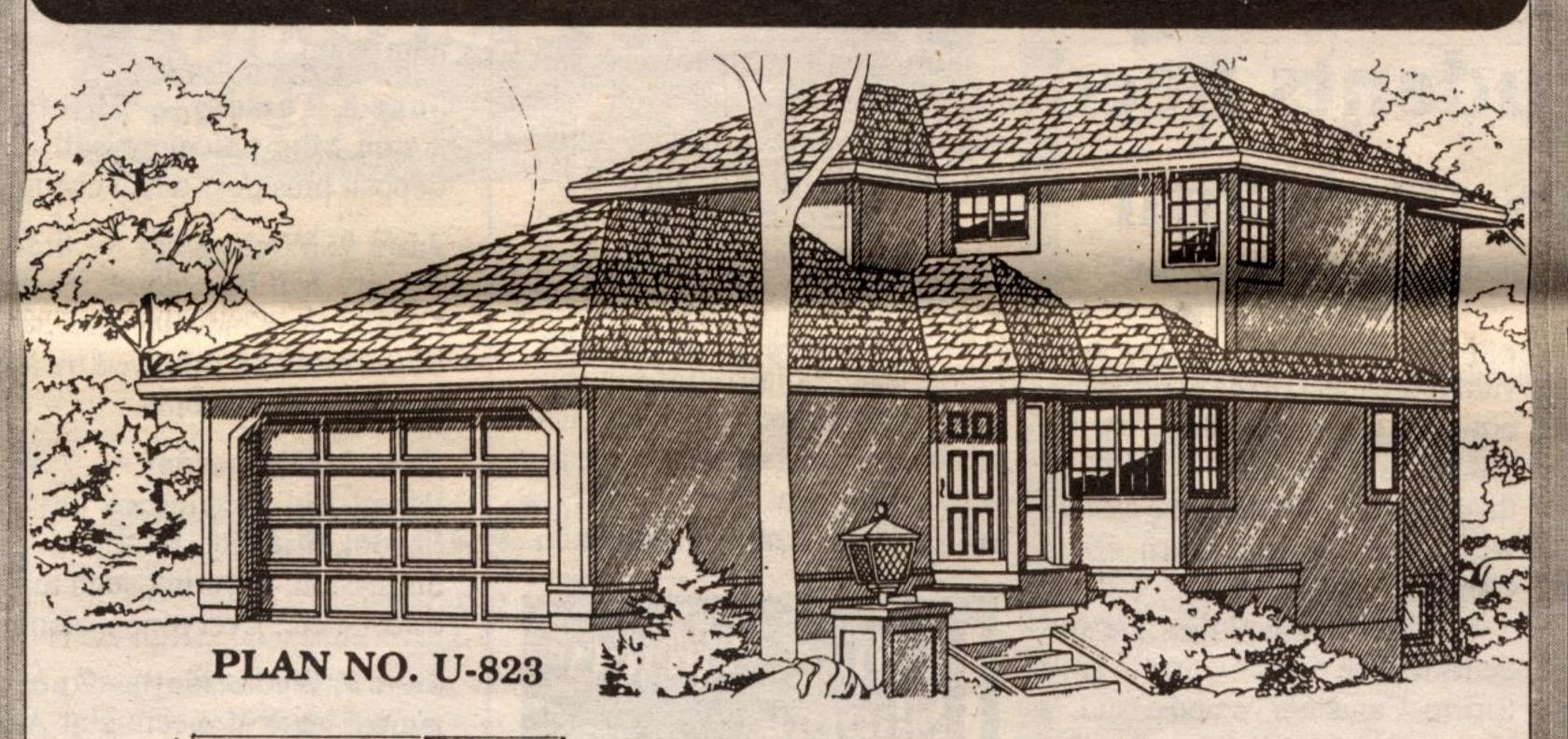
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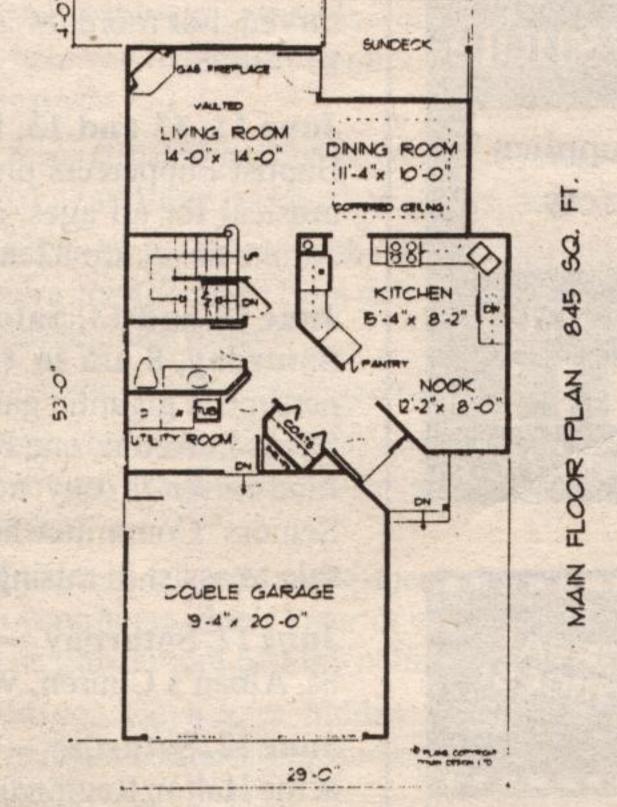
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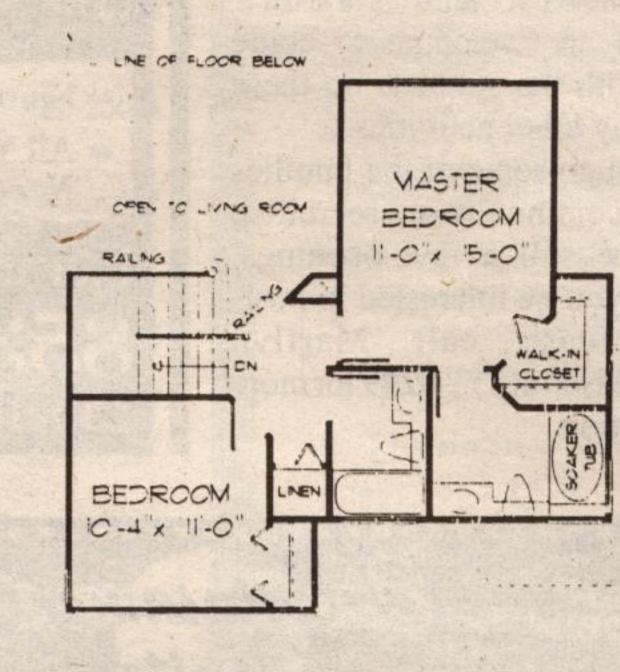
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