

Here's a final look back at 1981

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The occasion itself was a scene out of an old Bing Crosby movie. The priest having injured himself earlier in the day was upstairs in the rectory when he heard music coming from the church next door.

Upon entering the famed Hugel Avenue edifice, Fr. Somerville was stopped in his tracks for there before his very eyes were members of the famed St. Michael's Choir he had directed for many years.

The choir was in town to pay tribute to the priest during an evening mass that day.

St. James-on-the-Lines Church, Penetanguishene, marked its 145th anniversary complete with lots of hoop-lah befitting the occasion.

A blood donors' clinic in Penetanguishene failed to meet its goal. Poor weather attributed to the lower-than-expected turnout of donors.

May was the month members of Midland Y's Men's Club and local music teachers team up to host their annual music festival.

And 700 people attended the Sound of Music at Elmvale District High School.

Midland's Alderman Bob Jeffery was instrumental in having the town's public safety committee look into the structure of the town's fire department.

May also had its tragic stories such as the three Midland children who were left homeless after their parents died from an apparent murder-suicide.

June

Penetanguishene's Rhodes Scholar Michael Albert was awarded an alumni gold medal by the University of Waterloo's faculty of mathematics.

Midland's Block Parents' program was going strong while this area's Hire A Student Week got off to a super start complete with an official ribbon-cutting no less.

A tractor pull in Elmvale attracted 700 folks back in June.

A total of 403 pints of blood was collected at a blood donors' clinic in Midland. The target was 325. Organizers were pleased volunteers had "rolled up their sleeves" to give "the gift of life."

A rip-roarer of a rain storm dumped close to four inches of water on this part of Huronia during a one-hour period early in June.

It was the kind of downpour that only strikes about every 25 years, weather forecasters told us.

We took their word for it. Down Flos Township way, taxpayers were advised they'd be

paying more this year. Midland council cleared the way to buy a new \$96,000-plus bus for Midland Transit. The 30-foot, 31-passenger bus is here now and in service and is doing a yeoman's job, bus riders tell us.

The circus came to Victoria Harbour in June. Eldale Structures offered to build a new French high school in Penetanguishene for just over \$1 million.

Two twisters raced through the west end of Midland and \$100,000 was the price tag to build a new community centre in Port McNicoll.

Bernard Leclaire died during the month. The long-time Penetanguishene resident was respected by his peers.

This writer in particular grieved at Bernie's death in that he was one of the members of the Knights of Columbus who had spear-headed a presentation to this

scribe several years ago.

July

Huron Airport had its night licence pulled because of faulty runway lighting. It was later corrected but late in the year the area airport was plagued with more problems after Garrison Aviation announced plans to pull out as managers of the tri-municipal airport.

The French centre in Penetanguishene announced plans to raise \$130,000. Lt. Gov. John Aird was in Penetanguishene helping to mark St. James on-the-lines Church's anniversary (145th).

Midland Rotary Club staged their annual bar-b-que and dockside garage sale.

Police Chief Dennis Player was sworn in as Penetanguishene's new police chief.

Midland BIA announced plans to give King Street a new look to the tune of \$205,000 of which \$150,000 would come from the province and \$55,000 from the town.

During June, Knox Church in Midland said farewell to their long-time pastor Rev. Robert Little and his family.

The French high school saga continued on several fronts as did Midland's bid to annex a portion of Tiny.

Meanwhile Tiny and Tay still continued their fight to pull out of the area planning board.

And construction officially started on building Le Caron high school. Just before Christmas it opened for business.

Meanwhile inside postal workers in this area joined other postal workers in a national strike.

What would any year

be without a postal strike?

August

A Con. 5 barn was gutted in Tay Township during the month after fire raced through the vacant building.

Freshmen members of Midland council were getting their sea legs during this period of time.

Screen meshing in the ceiling of Midland's Chief Librarian's Office at the public library is credited with saving Eileen Goodburne from serious injury after weights in the bell tower of the library became unbound and came crashing down.

Local and area firefighters took part in a top-notch extrication course put on by O. B. Streepner.

Construction continued on expanding Midland's water pollution treatment plant which came on stream later in the year.

Balm Beach Chamber of Commerce held its rained-shortened annual Summerfest.

Mail resumed after a 43-day hiatus. Hattie English marked her 102nd birthday.

Fox Street reconstruction in Penetanguishene got rolling.

There was an oil spill in Midland. Awenda Park announced plans to expand.

SCBE was assured by the province that the school board's share of building Le Caron would be just \$25,000.

Midland's Corrine Schmidt was picked as the first finalist chosen

in a field of 35 for the Miss Bikini Contest in Toronto.

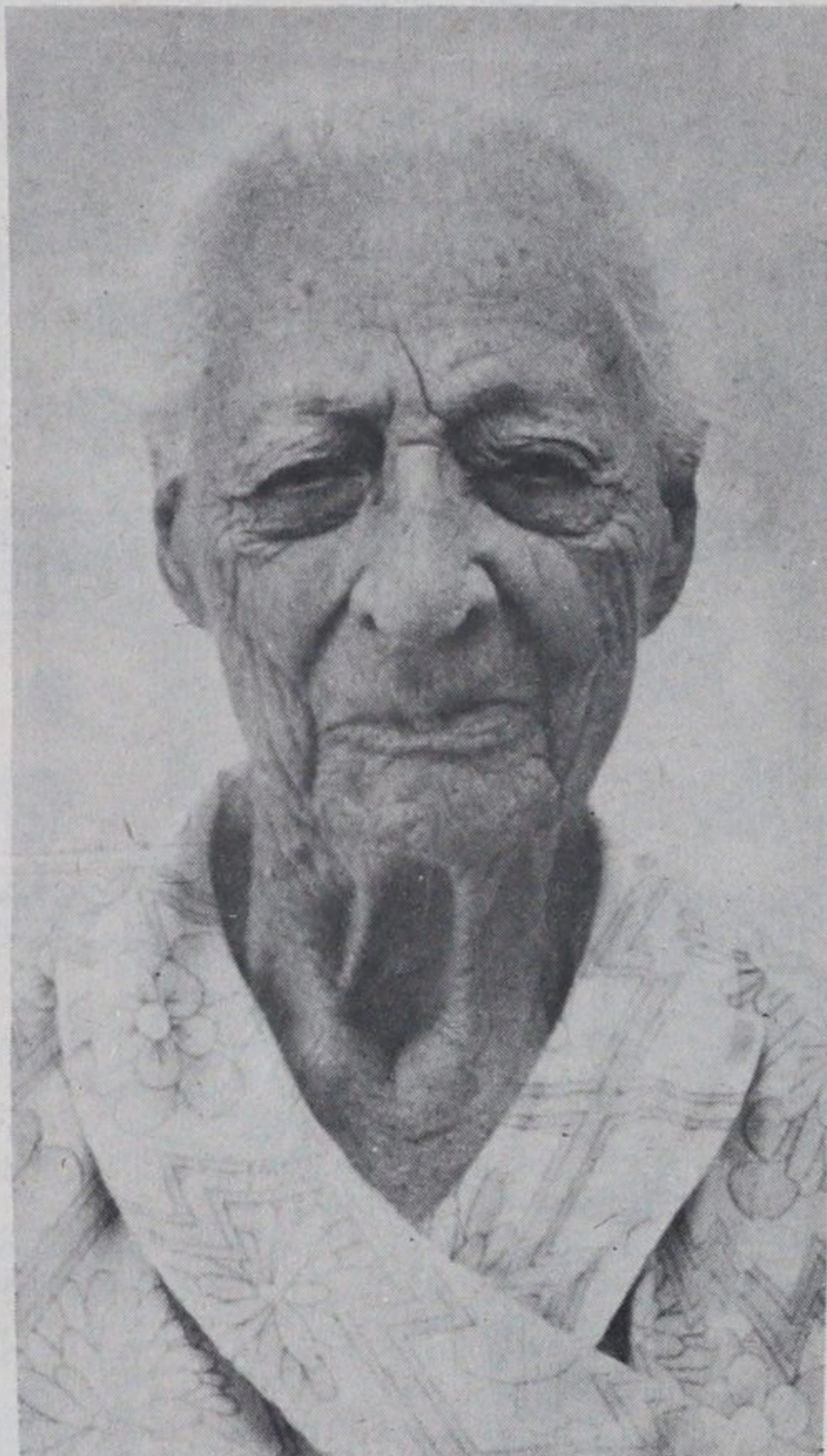
Midland Indusmin Bantams Baseball Team was well on its way to winning the all-Ontario finals..which it later did.

There were rumblings that outside workers would go on strike in Midland. Turns out they finally did in the early fall.

Sixteen members of Local 976 of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks struck the town house

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Hattie English at 102



THOSE CRAZY Christians are still turning the world upside down

HOLY CROSS
Evangelical Lutheran Church

ATHENIAN HALL
10:30 a.m.
Rev. Paul A. Schult
Pastor

NEW ALLIANCE CHURCH
Yonge St. West
Pastor, Rev. James Frost, Phone 526-2505

Celebrate the New Year with Us

Watch night Service, Thursday, Dec. 31
11:00 p.m.
Come any time after
10:00 for Informal fellowship

First Services in our New Church this Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
7:00 p.m. Evening Service
with a great Hymn Sing,
and a study of the Bible
Nursery facilities
Children's Church in the a.m.

Coming: January 10th-11:00 a.m.
Rev. Melvin Sylvester, President of the Alliance

3:00 p.m.
Dedication and Open House
YOU ARE INVITED

**Midland & District Community
NIGHT SCHOOL
WINTER REGISTRATION**

Thursday, Jan. 7, 1982

7-8:30 p.m. at

Midland Secondary School

50 COURSES • 20 NEW

See List of Courses in the
Wed., Jan. 6 Times

Courses start the week of Mon., Jan. 11

Enquiries: **526-2274**

BEST OF LUCK!

May good fortune reign throughout the New Year.

 **McDonald's**

McDonald's Restaurant
Highway 27
Midland, Ontario