

# Thousands Flock To Wallacetown For Last Day of Fair

WALLACETOWN (Staff).—Centennial celebrations at Wallacetown's Fall Fair Saturday provided just about something for everyone—and fun for all—with its color, parade, presentation of awards, contests for the youngsters and merriment unrestrained at the grand closing dance in the evening.

And in addition the day's activities marked the return to the fold as a special speaker one of Elgin County's most distinguished sons. He was Dr. Kenneth Galbraith, a native of Iona Station. Now a professor at Harvard University in the United States, Dr. Galbraith was one of the top economic advisers who helped prepare the presidential campaign for Senator John Kennedy, the Democratic Party hopeful.

Dr. Galbraith is also a former St. Thomas newspaperman, having specialized in writing an agriculture column for The Times-Journal.

## Kenneth Galbraith Speaks

A former Dunwich resident, Kenneth Galbraith, professor of economics at Harvard University, spoke at the special centennial observance on Saturday afternoon. Introduced by a classmate at O.A.C., A. V. Langton, Elgin agricultural representative, Mr. Galbraith mentioned some of his recollections of Wallacetown Fair.

"The community fair," he said, is perhaps the most uniquely North American event that we have. In these materialistic days it deserves to be preserved and nurtured. Let us be sure that we pass it along as such."

He praised the foresight of the early settlers of this area who saw the importance of education in farming.

Mr. Galbraith also urged the farmers to beware being walked upon. "Farmers' problems will increase as farmers decrease—and they are decreasing. Do not hesitate to let your needs be known—you can make up for in energy what you lack in numbers."

Mr. Galbraith came here from Michigan where he was campaigning in the interests of John Kennedy, U.S. presidential candidate. "The people in Michigan were amazed when I told them I was coming to Canada," he said. "They knew there are no presidential votes up here."

F. A. Lashley, secretary-manager of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, presented a gift to Mr. Galbraith on behalf of the local Agricultural Society.



**DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER**—A main feature at the Wallacetown Fair on Saturday was an address by Prof. Kenneth Galbraith, a former resident of the district. Now a professor at Harvard University Mr. Galbraith received his early education here and several relatives still make their home in the Wallacetown area. In the above photo he is shown addressing an overflow grandstand crowd.

"Nothing is more agreeable," he said, "than to be present on occasions like this and find the interest high and vigorous."

Notwithstanding the deep roots of the theatre, music and other arts, Dr. Galbraith said, "I suppose that the community fair is perhaps the most uniquely North American event we have. It combines education and entertainment, a particular mixture of activity that should be preserved."

Fairs and agriculture Societies, he said, were not young institutions but something that had survived for more than 100 years. "They have depth of roots, nurtured, protected and handed along, they will continue to be something that is essentially our own."

## EDUCATION, EMPHASIZED

The importance of education in the field of agriculture was realized early, said Dr. Galbraith, and an intensity of purpose helped to develop societies to the present high standards."

That education with its research and extension work must continue, he said, because a well-informed farm population make up the things that in this hemisphere serve us well.

The speaker was thanked by F. A. Lashley, Toronto, secretary of the International Plowing Matches to be held next week. He presented Dr. Galbraith with a volume of portraits by the noted photographer Karsh, noting at the same time that neither the speaker's picture, or that of Prime Minister Diefenbaker appeared. The comment brought a chuckle all around.

# 'Round the Grounds

Mrs. Diefenbaer proved as gracious a person as she has been reported. She had a pleasant word and a handshake for the many with whom she came in contact. She poured at the Centennial table along with Mrs. Jas. McBain and complimented Mrs. Peter Love and Mrs. Clare Blue on the success of the pleasant event over which they had supervision.

Fair officials were a bit doubtful as to the turn-out for the Saturday show. But they need not have. The interesting program and fine day attracted nearly as many as on Friday.

Incidentally, the fair was blessed with good weather, the only rain of the four days falling on Sunday morning when it couldn't do any harm. For this the officials were most thankful.

While the special features naturally gained the most publicity the usual fair attractions shouldn't be overlooked. Sleek cattle and horses, fine sheep and hogs were on display. The Junior Fair drew many on Friday, but, unfortunately, all exhibits were removed by Saturday.

In the drill shed, the Women's Institutes had displays in keeping with the centennial. Ladies' handcraft, baking and other products were there in goodly measure, too, and the array of vegetables was perhaps the largest in the fair's history. Prizewinners in these events will be carried in subsequent issues of The Advance.

The Sarnia Lionettes trumpet band, consisting of 60 girls under 21 years of age, played both Friday and Saturday. They received a big hand for their smart drill work. Other bands present were the R.C. A.F. group from Aylmer and the 2R.C.R. trumpet band of London.

The harness races drew a fine entry and some exciting heats were run off under direction of Tory Gregg on Friday. Local fair-goers

had an introduction to go-karts, the latest craze among speed-minded youngsters on Saturday. These low-slung machines, piloted by little guys who looked as if they should still be peddling tricycles, kicked up an unholy roar but they attracted an excited throng.

Many favorable comments were heard regarding improvements made to the grounds for the centennial. Besides the handsome gates which were financed by a \$1,000 grant from the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, new fences had been erected, buildings re-sided and other repairs made.

The collection of antiques gathered under the supervision of Mrs. R. H. McNeil attracted a large number. Older fair-goers could be heard explaining to youngsters the use of the many articles used in by-gone days. An old White steam engine, once the pride and joy of the late Dr. M. G. Graham, was displayed and its smooth-perking amazed many.

Cliff Reid and son, Jim, had a merry time driving about the grounds in an 1860 stage coach from Fred Hurst's museum at Iona. They were liberal with rides, Prime Minister Diefenbaker being one of those given a lift.

## Wins Prize for Oldest at Fair

The prize for being the oldest person to attend the Centennial Fair went to Mrs. L. K. McCallum, Iona Station, who is 94. Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, 95, is believed to have been the oldest person to register at the fair but she was not present when the award was made on Saturday.

Other venerable ladies attending the show were Mrs. Chas. West, Ridgeway, and Mrs. Annie Cobban, both 91, and Mrs. George Lidster, 89.

## Stratford Man Wins 100 Silver Dollars

C. Brunner of Stratford won first prize, 100 silver dollars, in the draw sponsored by the Fair board. Other winners were: Carey Holland, Sarnia, \$50; John VanderAa, Wallacetown, watch; Beverly Allen, Southwold, centennial cake; A. Prestage, R.R. 2, London, clock and Sid Harvey, St. Thomas, a radio.

The draw was made at the dance Saturday evening which attracted one of the biggest crowds ever to attend a dance at the fair grounds.

Prize Winning Float



Mrs. Ted Lamb  
Mrs. Morley Page  
Mrs. Clarence Small  
Mrs. Wm. McKillop  
Mrs. John E. Pearce  
Mrs. Mae Graham  
Mrs. Allen Crawford

**The Parade**

Under direction of John S. Cameron an excellent centennial parade was seen on Saturday. Local people had gone to considerable effort to prepare floats and other exhibits that rounded out a fine display.

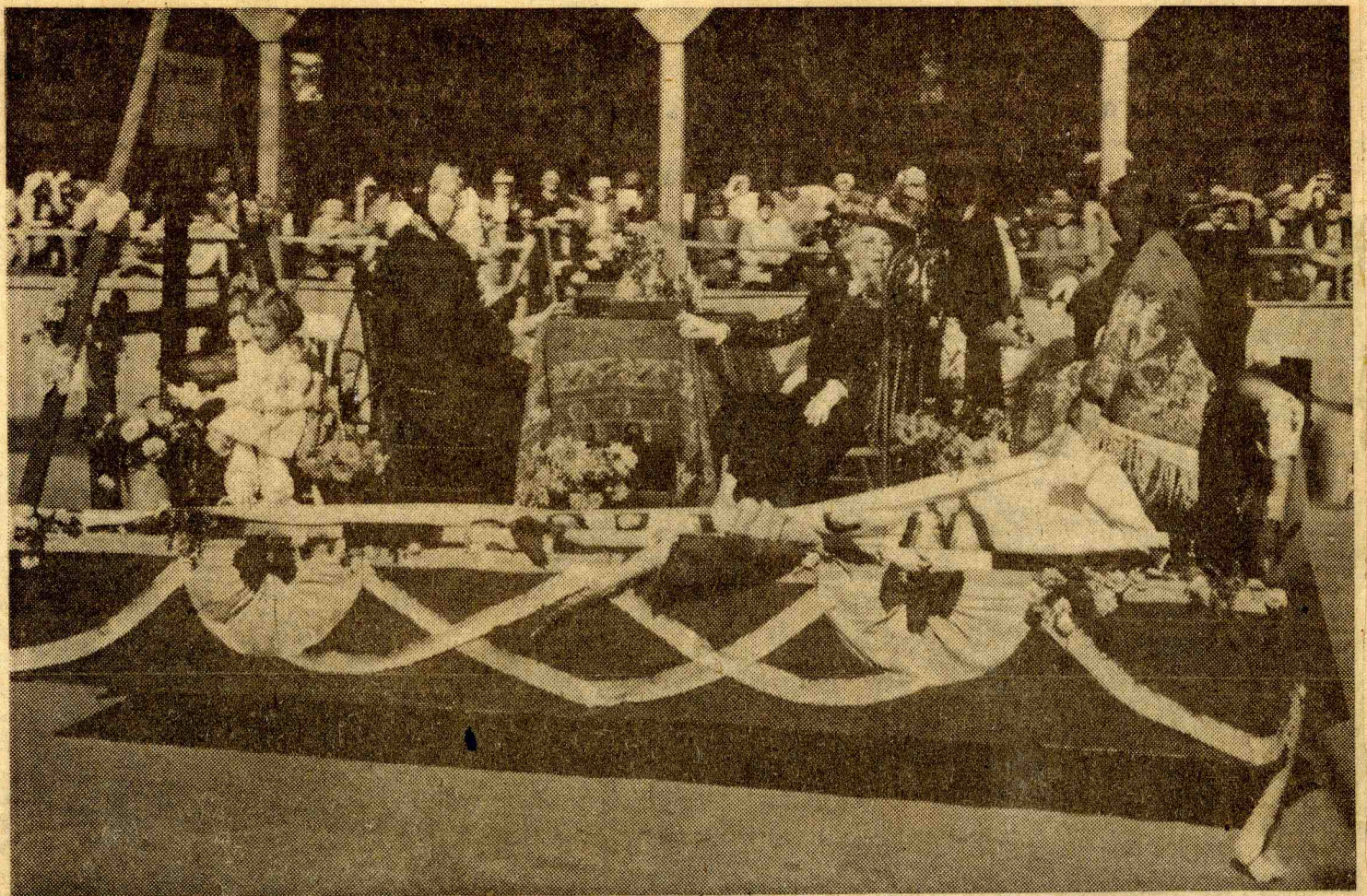
To Wallacetown Women's Institute went the award for best centennial float. It consisted of eight ladies dressed in old-time costume, surrounded by articles of other days and singing songs popular in bygone years. Adah Chapter, Eastern Star, won first for club or organization. It depicted the five-star emblem of the order and represented a good deal of work. Wallacetown W.I. al-

so won the special for best Dunwich float.

An old-time bank, prepared by The Royal Bank staff was another prize-winner as were the West Elgin Junior Farmer square dance team, victors at the fair, and Alexandra Lodge, I.O.O.F. Fred Hurst had three cars of yesteryear that won him an award and Cliff Reid took the prize for best old-fashioned horse-drawn vehicle. The best clowns were Lee Innis and Norman McAlpine, Glencoe, and Glenn Rivers, St. Thomas. The best old-fashioned couple contest resulted in a tie between Mr. and Mrs. John S. Cameron and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hurst. Joethe and Ebba Pedersen had the best national costumes.

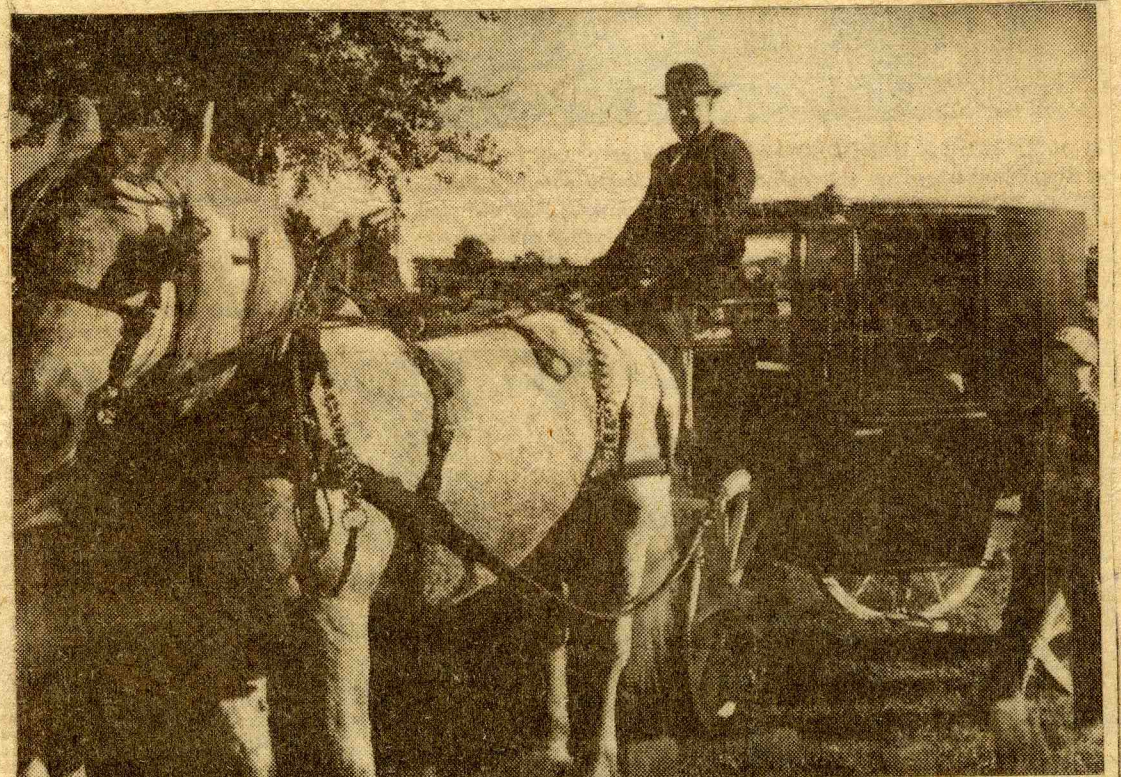
Prizes for child's vehicle went to Joan Cornwall, Mary Grace Graham, Helen Shipley, Diane Schultz and Keith Shipley. Best pony rider was Brian Cornwall.

Other entries in the parade were: Ripley Furniture, West Lorne; Canadian Red Cross, I.O.O.F., Rodney; H. Wilson, Glencoe; Dutton Orange Lodge, McMillan Accounting, O. Tinney, Rodney, Bennett Motors with a '61 Ford, Dutton's fire trucks, old and new and Jack Bobier with the oxen Carman Lyons purchased for the centennial.



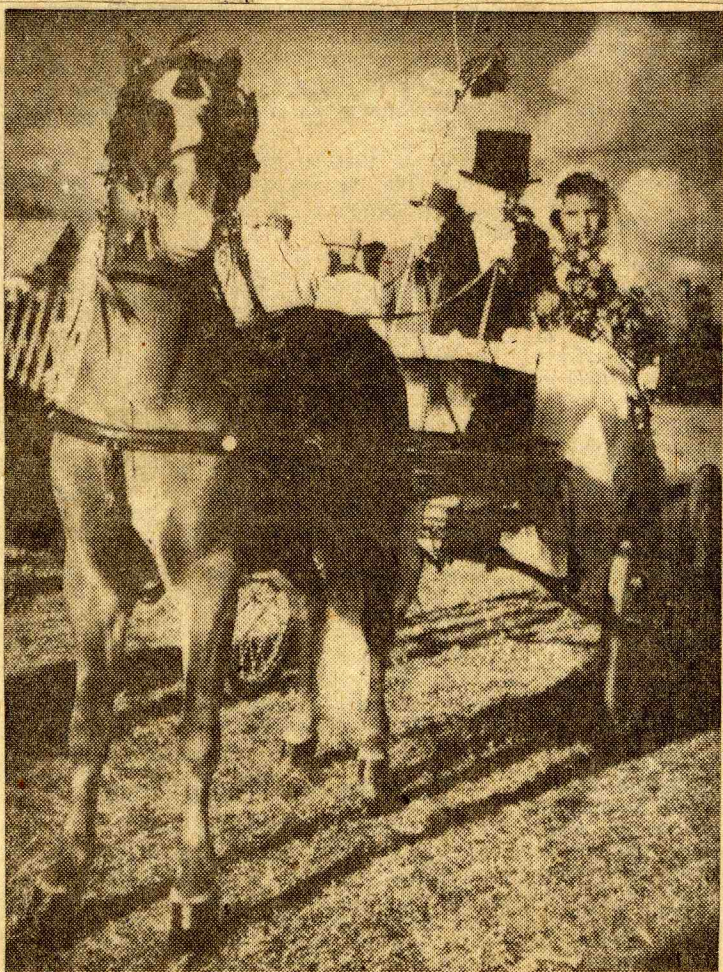
**WINNING FLOAT**—The prize winning centennial float, decorated by the Wallacetown Women's Institute, is shown in the above photo. The float was one of many in a huge parade marking the Centennial

Fair at Wallacetown. The ladies on the float were dressed in the garb common one hundred years ago. The presentation of the first place prize was made by John Spence, M.P.P. for Kent East.—(T.-J. Photo).



**OLD STAGECOACH**—Pictured above is a stagecoach that was used in the district 80 years ago. The stagecoach was one of the features of the centennial parade at Wallacetown Fair. James

Reid, of Dutton is shown driving the vehicle and Ronny St. John, of Windsor, is an interested on-looker. Joe Bujak, of Eagle is the passenger. (T.-J. Photo).



**WEDDING BELLS**—Peter Caldwell, 11, and his sister, Nancy, 10, both of Shedden, attired themselves as a bride and groom to tour Wallacetown fair grounds in a horse and buggy yesterday. Their part in centennial fair program was admired by many.—(T.-J. Photo).