

Dashing through the snow
in a one horse open sleigh at
Christmas time was alright for
the bashful boy and blushing
gal in the country, but the
younger gaffers enjoyed best
the old time Christmas tree
concert when Mother scoured
little Sammy and lovely Jill
in readiness for the Christmas
tree concert.

In the country somebody
built a row of seats on the pul-
pit platform and parently

proudly watched their offspring, decked out in bows and ribbons, rush out to the stage front when their names were called and the cutest verses were sung or recited. They laughed off their embarrassment when the boy or girl forgot their "piece" and perhaps shed tears; when the youngsters when through a drill the teachers had spent weeks in preparation for the one big night of the year — the Sunday School concert.

What a difference in the gifts! Today the youngsters will be receiving toy space ships instead of a string of

railway cars and a flashy engine, and the young lassies will play with a beautiful talking doll instead of a complete set of small dishes and a rag doll or a coloured doll, a set of hacks or a mouth organ.

Big picture books are not so popular and beautiful marbles and big striped alleys are seldom seen under the tree today. When once upon a time, mouth organs and tin whistles and beautiful story books were special gifts, today the presents are apt to include skis and ski outfits costing hundreds of dollars—yes, and even a small motorized runabout.

In the days gone by, children sometimes received copies of the Sacred Word, now they will likely receive copies of the "Queen of the Nudist Colony" or "Queen of the Amazons".

Yes, the old fashioned Christmas is fast disappearing and some will argue for the good of all concerned. . . .

This is a debatable question. However, to one and all, A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

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Main Street readers will read with interest the following letter from a consistent reader. All historical items are welcomed:

R.R. 2, Lindsay.

Dear Sir:

"You will doubtless understand that my purpose in writing was accuracy, not criticism. Many thanks for answering. Incidentally your mention of Senator McHugh reminds me that my mother was a schoolmate, being a year younger.

"You may be interested in some further history. Most everyone has heard of John Deyell from Monaghan, Ireland. He helped survey three townships, built a hotel on the Port Hope highway and a mill at Millbrook.

"A prominent settler, also in Cavan, was John Thorn, who

built the first brick house in Toronto. My father's first wife was a Thorn. He has many descendants as has Mr. Deyell. An excellent account of Mr. Deyell appeared in the Examiner some years ago.

“It may be pointed out that Donald Macpherson was the second settler in Ops and arrived here at age 90 from Scotland, taking up 210 acres in South Ops. He retired to Kelly's Tavern, after having

cleared 60 acres, some of it being pineland and it is said that he lived to age 120.

“It may here be stated that if I had been older much more pioneer history would have been recorded for posterity as no realization of its importance at that time was in existence. We are only now getting a maximum of interest in our ancestors and the privations they had to endure.”

E. W. Calvert.