

Dec. 9, 1987

## Museum notes

**TRIMMING OF THE TREE:** For families in North America, Germany and other parts of Europe, the Christmas Tree is the symbol of the festive season. The evergreen was a symbol of hope and joy, long before it became part of the yuletide celebrations. To the Vikings, the evergreen was a reminder that the darkness and cold of winter would end and spring would return.

No one knows exactly how or when the Christmas tree tradition began, but there are several legends surrounding it. One legend tells of how Saint Boniface came upon a group of Druids (magicians or wizards) who were about to sacrifice a young child at the base of a great oak tree. To save the child, Saint Boniface flattened the oak with one blow from his fist. In its place a small fir tree sprang up. Saint Boniface told the pagans that the fir was the Tree of Life and represented the eternal life of Christ.

The Christmas tree tradition became popular in Germany in the 16th century, and soon was popular in other countries. In 1841 Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, decorated a tree for his family with a variety of sweets and fruits, candles and gingerbread. In 1850, Charles Dickens described an English tree with having been decorated with dolls, miniature furniture, tiny, musical instruments, costume jewelry, toy guns and swords, fruit and candy.

The first known record of a decorated Christmas tree in Ontario dates back to 1854 in Hamilton.

Can you remember your first Christmas Tree?

Our Gift Shop is open Monday to Friday 9-5 and Sunday 1-5, so come in and do some of your Christmas shopping. We have a wide variety of gifts and souvenirs or if you would like to treat yourself, we also have books on history and crafts.

So come into the Bruce County Museum, who knows, you may find the exact gift you have been

looking for. While you are here you can view the many new exhibits and have a taste of CHRISTMAS PAST!!!

Admission to the Museum is \$3.75 for family, \$1.00 for student or senior, 75 cents for child, \$1.50 for adult and preschoolers are free.

Christmas countdown is 16 days. Bye for now.

## Gateway Haven

The members of Gateway Haven Auxillary were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Judith Abel, the Assistant Administrator to our last meeting, and to hear of the many ways in which the Auxillary will be able to assist the Residents in the future. We were also pleased to meet Mrs. Connie Smith the new Director of Nursing. In view of the proposed renovations to the Home, the plans for the Greenhouse have been put on hold until the extent of these alterations and additions are known.

The Residents' Tea and Bazaar was held November 24th, with a good turnout and a fine display of articles for sale. A draw for an Afghan, made by resident Alma Potter, was won by Pat Dunn and the food basket was won by Mary Deakins.

The Auxillary will be meeting at the Home at 10 a.m. on December 11th to put up Christmas decorations and finalize party to be held Dec. 15. Donations of Christmas Decorations would be very much appreciated and any Christmas cards for which you do not have envelopes

would be helpful. This will be the last meeting for 1987 - our next meeting will be in March.

New flags for the Chapel are being donated by Branch 208, Royal Canadian Legion, and a special dedication service will be arranged at a later date.

Mrs. Eileen Lingen will be responsible for the Residents' shopping, with assistance from Mrs. Phyllis Edgar and Mrs. Bernice Pew.

Volunteer help is often needed for such things as bringing wheelchair residents downstairs for special occasions, etc. bingos, crafts, etc., and we are compiling a list of anyone willing to give a small amount of time occasionally when needed. If you are able to assist will you please call 534-1038 or 534-0414, we will be pleased to hear from you.

The Auxillary meets the second Monday of the month from March to June and September to December at 1:30 p.m. at the Home and new members are always welcome.

Iris Coyne

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