



Yule Party at Sydenham:

Christmas Is for Old Folks Too

By REG WHITTY
Staff Reporter

SYDENHAM — So often in the Christmas season it seems that children are in the limelight more than anyone else with Santa Claus parades, school concerts and other entertainments for them.

In Sydenham and Loughboro Township these events will all be held too, but in addition, this season of friendliness and goodwill has been chosen to honor the senior citizens of the surrounding area.

The first Thursday in December has been designated as "Senior Citizen's Day." On this day all township residents 75 years old and upwards, are invited to a Christmas party and turkey dinner in the Town Hall.

The idea originated with

three public service organizations, the Women's Institute, Red Cross and Sydenham Board of Trade. These three groups share jointly in the cost and preparations of this festive occasion for the community's older folk.

The invitations read: "The members consider it a great privilege to be able to recognize publicly the many contributions which the senior citizens (75 years or over) have made to our way of living.

"The years have given you many things to share with us, your rich memories, your increased powers of wisdom and understanding, your experiences in accepting the joys and sorrows of life, your ability in growing old gracefully, and lastly your spirit of courage in facing the many changes in our modern

way of living."

At this year's Christmas dinner, the prize for the oldest guest in attendance went to Mrs. Richard Harris of Perth Road, who is looking forward to celebrating her 97th birthday Jan. 7. Mrs. Harris contributed to an unique combination of a mother and son team, both senior citizens. She travelled to the party with her son, Barton Harris, 76 years old and Mrs. Harris, jr.

Last year's oldest guest prize winner, Mrs. Alma Amey, 90 years old was again present. Mrs. George W. Davey, sr. was serenaded with "Happy Birthday" in honor of her celebrating her 89th birthday. Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Amey and Mrs. Davey all received bouquets of flowers.

A flood of nostalgic mem-

ories were revived for the jolly group of oldsters when the perennial entertainment favorite, Jack Elder of Kingston appeared on the program to sing his lively songs. Several were heard to comment that Mr. Elder didn't look a day older than when they first heard him sing and joke in his rich Scottish burr, in local entertainments many years ago.

Mr. Elder was accompanied at the piano by Harry Birchall of Kingston, who proved to be a humorist as well as a musician.

Mrs. Russell Wolsey returned to her hometown to play the piano for her daughter Judy and Judy's partner, Cathy Woolgar, when these two young girls tap danced in colorful costumes. Particularly pleasing was their

Highland fling number, dressed in Scotch regalia.

A young boy, Freddie Maybee, entertained with piano solos.

One of the senior citizen guests, Frank Anglin, displayed a remarkable memory and a love of poetry by quoting selected poems, entirely from memory.

C. H. Maybee was master of ceremonies and songleader. He led the gathering in singing the beloved Christmas Carols and folk tunes, with Mrs. Wolsey at the piano.

Reeve Alfred Martin, who with Mrs. Martin, was a special guest at the party, extended a warm welcome to the senior guests.

Mrs. James Thomas was official greeter, assisted by various members of the Women's Institute.