



Merry Christmas one and all! Everything looks bright and now everyone looks happy and gay. It's Christmas! We believe the origin of this greeting stemmed from the land so long known as Merry England, whose people naturally celebrated a Merry Christmas. The Scots and French tend to reserve their excitement for New Years. Probably we owe much of the tradition to such writers as Herrick, Dickens and Shakespeare and to all those singers and players who have performed their works through the centuries.

**FESTIVE BUFFET IDEAS**  
Mixed Fruit Cocktails: 4 cups grapefruit juice and 1 cup orange juice; 2 cups sweet cranberry juice and 3 cups pineapple juice; 1 cup prune juice; 1/4 cup lemon juice and 4 cups apple juice.

**Relish Tray Suggestions:** Cheese crackers spread with olive mixture; salted soda biscuits spread with cheese and nuts; caraway bread sticks; tiny spice biscuits.

**Buffet Main Course:** A light party lunch served attractively will be a credit to the hostess after the Christmas Day meals. Select several of the following: Chicken a la King in toasted bread cups; feather-fine cabbage and nut salad; escalloped potatoes; jellied star turkey salad with sliced celery; potato and turkey dressing salad; pork parcels of sausage meat inside tea biscuits; yuletide salad

of orange, grapefruit and malaga grapes; double decker sandwiches; grated carrot, sliced orange and raisin salad.

**Garnish Tray:** Gherkins; dills; apple wedges dipped in pickle syrup; celery stuffed with cheese; prunes stuffed with peanut butter; carrot sticks and olives.

**Yuletide desserts:** Baked apples in red sauce and scones; Orange sherbet and cookies; Bavarian cream and hermits; Chocolate-mint layer cake.

**FESTIVE DECORATIONS**

1. To conserve electricity, use a minimum of ornamental or Christmas tree lighting.

2. To prevent candles from dripping, chill them in the refrigerator for a few hours.

3. Do not place candles near tissue paper, evergreen bows, cellophane or anything inflammable.

4. To keep balloons from breaking, fasten with twisted elastic band instead of thread.

5. To add a last minute festive decoration, hang a large calendar in the front hall and use Christmas tape to stick the Christmas cards on the back of it.

If you make a border of Christmas cards on the back of the calendar, use a red crayon to print Merry Christmas in the centre.

**COST OF WAR**

No one will ever know the exact cost of the last great war. Nobody can get a complete record because waste was as costly as weapons, waste of life more costly. Forgetting the pain and misery and disabilities that war brought to so many millions, there is the work and the welfare that might have come from hands that were stilled by death.

There are a few tangibles we can know with some accuracy. The war is over and these are its secondary costs. The minimum that the United States will have to pay, because she is among the few nations that can pay, and because enlightened selfishness tells her that no nation can continue to prosper in a dead world, is this:

1948	\$7,000,000,000
1949	\$5,000,000,000
1950	\$3,500,000,000
1951	\$1,500,000,000

Maybe sixteen billion dollars won't be enough just to keep the world from starving. Sixteen billion dollars just for sweeping up the crumbs. Yet we continue to talk of a third war.

If we're in a dying world it's because we set a dying pace (except where our own desires are concerned).

**MILTON**

Lead by an obstinate horse, a balky cow and several clowns from his North Pole Castle, Jolly old Santa Claus rode into town last Saturday afternoon to pay a visit to children in the community.

Many here will regret to learn of the tragic death of Mrs. Barney Marsh of Merlin who died Monday in Chatham Public General Hospital as a result of severe burns suffered in a bathroom explosion and fire which destroyed her home Sunday. She was admitted to the hospital late that day.

Parents unwilling to send their children to school are likely to find themselves charged under the School Act. Chief George Canning warned, following a conviction in County Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The Annual Meeting of the Milton Canadian Club was held Friday evening at the Milton Inn. The secretary J. E. Whitelock, gave a report of the year's activities which showed there was a paid up membership of 83, with an average attendance of over 50 at the regular meetings. Canadian Champion.

**BIRCH-BARK CANOE**

In the design and construction of bark canoes, Algonkian-speaking tribes of North America achieved a remarkable degree of creative skill. No craft ever made is more perfectly adapted for use in the regions of lakes, streams and forests where these Indians roamed. No craft combines beauty and utility more harmoniously. It has superb buoyancy, afloat and a gratifying lightness for easy carrying overland. When the first explorers and settlers came to the north-western regions of North America the birch-bark canoes commanded their admiration and adoption. And while in later days machine-

shaped wood or man-made fabrics have taken the place of bark in the making of canoes, the Indian design and his fundamental principles of construction to ensure speed and seaworthiness have been closely copied, from the lipper-turning prow to the roller-riding stern. Copper nails have taken the place of spruce roots for binding the parts and the ribs are no longer hand-hewn. But the Indian birch-bark canoe was the original model for the gayly painted, commercially made craft upon a thousand lakes; paddles familiar to these tribesmen for countless generations are still the approved design for maximum efficiency. With crude tools the Indians cut and fitted the bark of the white birch, bound the sections with fibrous roots, sealed them with spruce gum, fashioned the ribs and boards with grace and skill, and created a craft which was a priceless gift to the world—the canoe. Of all the countless examples of Indian skills at the Royal Ontario Museum, no display arouses or is worthy of greater interest or admiration than the Ojibwa canoes which reveal all details of construction.

**MILK PRODUCTS UP**

Milk by-products continue to show increased production, says the Current Review of Agricultural Conditions in Canada. Skim milk powder was up nine million pounds, or 25 per cent, for the first nine months of 1947. Condensed skim, evaporated skim and powdered buttermilk showed increases for the same period. Stocks of all milk by-products are substantially higher than a year ago.

**VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTION IN AFRICA**

Twenty new locomotives from Britain, together with fourteen more from Canada, are being sent to West Africa and will be at work early in the New Year. They will mainly be used for hauling the groundnut crop to the coast for shipment and will overcome what has till now been the main difficulty in obtaining the maximum benefit from this crop—the shortage of necessary transport facilities.

**THE PLANNERS ARE IN TROUBLE**

"This is not a party matter, in the sense that one party is right and the other party wrong, and there are few if any, sections of the public that can afford to point the finger of scorn. But since the Labor Party is in office, it is the fate of the Labor Party that is primarily at stake. Ministers and members are beginning to realize, as they have often been warned here, that a storm is brewing that could blow them out of the pages of political history. But something more than the Labor Party is at stake: the fate of an experiment to which many people who are not Socialists had attached their hopes, the effort to assert man's control of his economic environment. For unless the planners make haste to plan for realism, the blind forces of economic nature will take over—either because something snaps and the people revolt against controls, or through the massive growth of black markets. It is the planner's last chance. The Economist, London.

**DRIVE AND LIVE LONG**

Winter adds measurably to the hazards of driving, and some of us, who have not yet satisfied ourselves with a promised new car, have those hazards somewhat increased. But reasonable care is still the best safeguard whether your car be new or old.

For instance, Winter increases the hazard of carbon monoxide and aging cars co-operate to make it worse. Still a little handwork may offset these disadvantages. The National Safety Council has offered some suggestions. Open the garage door before starting the motor. Resist the impulse to warm the motor up in seclusion. Such a practice tends to make seclusion a permanent matter. Never crawl under a car while the motor is running. See that combustion is as complete as possible by frequent inspection, adjustment and repair. Remember manifold, exhaust pipe or muffler may leak. So never drive with all the windows closed and don't follow another car too closely. It is wise to keep in mind too that snow and ice increase the distance needed for braking three to twelve times over that needed on a dry pavement, so give yourself that margin. Chains will offset this but only to a degree. The wise motorist will carry some sort of flare as a protection in case of possible breakdown. Remember 65% of accidents happen on snowy or icy roads. Joseph Lister Rutledge.

To remove scum, grease and dirt from wash bowls and bathtubs, sprinkle baking soda on a damp cloth and rub thoroughly.



**BEST WISHES FOR A RIGHT MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR**

**Acton Home Bakery**

J. F. WILDS

Phone 116

Mill Street, Acton



CHRISTMAS CHEER

We join good old Saint Nick in wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Toth's Shoe Repair**

ACTON



Bright as your home fire... sincere as a child's smile are our wishes of Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours.

**Kendrick's Hairdressing**

ACTON

**Robt. R. Hamilton R.O.**  
OPTOMETRIST  
will be at  
**Dr. G. A. Surr's Office**  
TUES. EVEN., JAN. 13  
COMPLETE EYESIGHT SERVICE

**A. Floyd Smith**  
Jeweler  
WATCHES — CLOCKS  
JEWELRY  
75 Quebec Street, West  
GUELPH ONT.

**Joyous Christmas**  
With each beautiful note of the organ as it peals forth Christmas music, goes our best for a Happy, Happy Yuletide.

**Bradley's Meat Market**  
MILL STREET, ACTON

**Greetings**  
May the warm glow of Yule logs burning in your fireplace be symbolic of our warm wishes for the Yuletide and the New Year

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CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

**Denny's Taxi**  
Phone 260 Acton

**The Star - Our Beacon of Faith**

The Star of Bethlehem which guided the Three Wise Men to the manger where the child-Jesus lay, still casts its gentle beams on this troubled Earth. Let us lift up our eyes unto this beacon—this symbol of Heavenly guidance. Let us enrich the lives of our fellow-men this Christmas with a new understanding of the brotherhood of Man.

**ELLIOTT BROS.**

**Merry Christmas**

The familiar Christmas Carols we sing every year, and never tire of... Silent Night  
Oh, Come All Ye Faithful... The First Noel  
all the lovely songs rendered in church, at home, and wherever free people are gathered, these things are Christmas.

The Child-like traditions which young and old enjoy... the stockings at the fireplace... the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas"  
Dickens' Christmas Carol... the tree gleaming in the parlor... the secrecy and expectancy of bright faces, these things are Christmas.

The last-minute rush in everything we do... rushing to meet the mailman... rushing to meet the train... rush to get more multi-colored lights that glitter and reflect the beauty of the most beautiful-of-all-seasons, these things are Christmas.

The beautiful spirit of giving... giving not only presents, or money to the poor... but giving our love, our willingness to help, our benevolence, our friendship to all... these things are Christmas.

**Lovell Bros. Meat Market**  
MILL ST., ACTON