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Chronicles of ... Ginger, Farm

Written Specially for

The Acton Free Press GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Happy Christmas, Everybody! an't that just the lovellest greet ng? If it comes from the heart what more could one wish even for

one's nearest and dearest? There are different ways of expressing one's Christmas wishes just as there are different ways of colebrating the Yuletide-season, but if it all adds up to "A Happy Christmas" then it covers all that we could possibly wish for one another

doesn't it.Y

Several weeks ago a friend asked me this question-"What is your first thought in connection with Christmas?" It was one of neveral on a questionnaire which she had been asked to have completed. The query intrigued me and I in turn put the question to several of my friends. Now I am asking you-What is your first thought in connection with Christmas?" Give will know just what Christmas who read this column. Perhaps it is

given to me. him Christmas and carols were synonymous- Carols ... a lovely bolic to us of what Christmas thought . . . It would be hard to ought to be. think of Christmas without them, wouldn't it? Remember, as child- if we can remember Christmas in ren how we loved to sing-"Away our homes as a happy time - a in a manger . ". That lovely little time of loving and giving; of con-

lovely carol. I remember lying in and our homes. If we have such bed, alert and listening, in my lit- memories then we have much for tle room across the Atlantic, wait- which to thank our parents. ing for twelve o'clock on Christmas Eve. The big clock in the Church thing for a grown person to be able on the market square would strike to look back to a happy childhood, the hour, then almost immediately symbolized by many happy Christfamiliar carols. Sometimes it goods to do with.

would be the town band, sometimes the Salvation Army-then as of your life before you, and with the last strains from the musical little children in your home, then Instruments faded into the distance carol singers would carry on, ories ... memories of Christmas to apreading the glad tidings with treasure through the years. If you their joyous and willing voices. are in doubt as to whether you are Once again the challenge would giving your children the right kind

. . O come Let Us Adore Him." this time by the father of a grown family. "My first thought in connection with Christman is the get- on YOU. ting together of one's family, and the remembrance of other Christmases past and gone. To me Christmas has always been a landmark in my life-I can look back and Memories. now and recall every Christinasat home with my father and mother; in France during the war; in

Christmas to me is just that - a family circle as complete as we can Possibly that answer will be repented many times overy by those

hospital and later with my wife

and children around me. Yes,

means to you. In the meantime the simplicity of that Christmas so perhaps you would like to know many years ago - of Joseph and some of the answers that were Mary and the Infant. Jesus - a complete family picture - perhaps One young fellow said that to it is that which seems to make a family gathering so exactly sym-

Looking back through the years, carol is still the same, isn't it—but sideration for the old and undernow we watch and listen as anoth- standing for the young; then we er generation carries its message can be quite sure the Christian message of Peace and Goodwill

"Joy to the World . ." another definitely had a place in our hearts]

Yes, it is surely a wonderful away in the distance I would hear mases, even though there might "the Walts" playing well-loved and not be too much of this world's

But If you are young, with most whatever you do, give them memring out-"O Come All Ye Faithful of Christman, ask yourself this question-'When my children are Another answer to my question, grown up what will their first thought be in connection with Christmas?" The answer depends

And so again-"A Happy Christmas" is my wish for you-a Christmas abounding with carols, good fellowship, family gatherings

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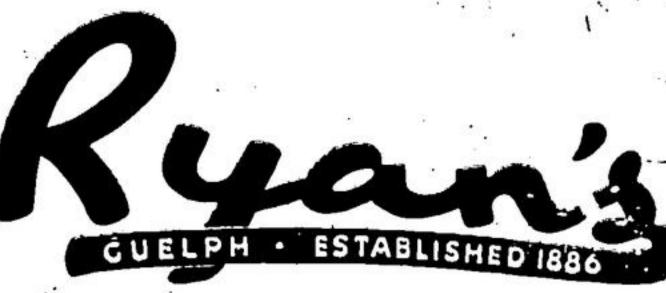
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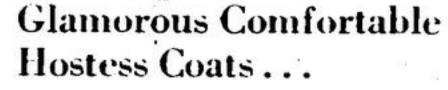
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