

EXCEPT FOR SANTA CLAUS himself, the photographer was about the busiest person around at the recent opening of Santa Claus Village at Val David in the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal. Filled with the joyous spirit of Christmas, the enthusiastic cameraman recorded the following scenes showing (1) Santa Claus arriving at his new home via a modern helicopter rather than the proverbial reindeer; (2) nine year-old Marcel Thoun, grandson and official representative of Montreal's Mayor Camilien Houde, presenting the keys of the new Village to Mayor Beaulieu of Val David; (3) Santa Claus and some of his little helpers being welcomed to his new home; 4) a llama from the slopes of the Peruvian Andes, one of the many animals which roam freely through the Village, attracting almost as much attention from young visitors as Santa Claus himself; (5) Santa Claus' own house, one of the many attractions in the Village; (6) the jolly old gentleman himself entralling one of his many friends; (7) two of the bear cubs revelling in their specially-built pit which, when illuminated at night, resembles a giant birthday cake; and (8) the Chapel of Saint Nicholas which contains a crib reminiscent of the first Christmas.

### FIRE-SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR A MERRY FIRE-SAFE CHRISTMAS

Another Christmas season is here and again the public must carefully consider the dangers which lie in the careless and improper use of decorations. Many of these decorations are made of highly flammable material. However, Christmas, being the joyful festive season that it is, tends to make us forget the ever-present danger of fire in the gay tinsel and glittering lights so frequently used.

The Yuletide fire loss statistics for the past number of years form such a consistent pattern that we can almost predict the number of deaths and disastrous fires which will occur this coming season. Sadly enough, helpless children seem to be the most frequent victims; yet the decorations are put up for their particular benefit.

In choosing your tree, obtain one which has been freshly cut and not too large. Remember, the larger the tree the greater the potential hazard. Do not have the tree in the house longer than necessary. Keep it outside in the snow until you are ready to set it up. Just before setting it up saw off the trunk diagonally at least one inch above the original cut. Then support the tree in a good solid stand in such a position that the diagonal cut can be completely immersed in water. The tree will absorb the water rapidly; therefore, the water level must be checked daily. The tree should be situated in such a position that it does not block an escape route should it catch fire. Take it down as soon as possible after Christmas.

One of the most common causes of Christmas tree fires is the colorful lights that decorate the tree. These lights should carry the approval label of the Underwriters' Laboratories and each connection and socket should be checked for fraying and damage. There should not be more than four sockets on each house circuit and this circuit should be backed up with a fuse not over 15 amperes. All electrical decorations should be turned off before retiring or leaving the house.

Due to the use being made of celluloid and flammable plastics in the manufacture of gifts and children's toys, many of these items are found to be highly flammable. There are also many toys on the market which operate on alcohol or gasoline and the danger inherent in some of these playthings must be appreciated.

Only metal, glass, asbestos or other non-flammable decorations should be used to decorate the house and above all, allow no smoking near the Christmas tree. The fireplace must not be overloaded and a substantial screen should be placed in front of the open hearth to prevent the possibility of flying sparks. Each year the death of some good-hearted would-be Santa Claus is recorded because of his costume or simulated beard being set afire. Furthermore, many of the children's gifts include flimsy paper or cloth costumes which, when ignited, transforms the child into a human torch. Only flame-proof material should be used in these costumes.

Church candlelight services have ended in funeral services in past instances. Safety battery candles, if used in this type of service, are just as effective and are safer than open-flame candles.

Panic is just as responsible as fire itself for many unnecessary deaths. Pre-planning will assist greatly in handling an emergency should it occur. Keep calm, call the fire department immediately and walk, don't run, to the nearest exit.

I trust that you will do all in your power to make this Christmas a fire-safe one in your own home. Children are the usual victims when tragedy caused by fire strikes in the home. Let us all help to attain a Merry Firesafe Christmas for All.

### Boar's Head Feast On Christmas Day

Some 500 years ago, so the story goes, an Oxford University student was studying Aristotle while taking a walk when he was attacked by a wild boar. He calmly dispatched the brute by thrusting the volume down its throat. His feat is commemorated annually at Queen's College by the Boar's Head Feast on Christmas Day.

Although the 90 pound specimen under whose weight two attendants used to stagger is today replaced by a papier mache model, the spirit of the ceremony remains unchanged. As the choir sings the last notes of a traditional carol, the head is placed on the table of the Provost. The Provost then presents the ornaments and embellishments one by one to the choir boys and visitors; the solo singer receiving the orange.

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### Propose Building 2,500 New Homes

A proposal to build 2,500 homes for industrial workers near Bronte was presented to Trafalgar township council at its meeting on Monday, December 14. The homes would be erected on 800 acres of land near the village.

R. H. Gale, of the Ford Insurance Agency Ltd., Hamilton, said the project would be built on land extending from the second line at Bronte to east of the third line between the Lakeshore highway and the Queen Elizabeth Way.

Emphasizing that Ford of Canada was not concerned with this project, Mr. Gale said he represented principals who are prepared to pay for the extension of Bronte's new waterworks system to serve the area and would finance installation of sewers.

On recommendation of Reeve Emerson Ford, a committee will be appointed to meet with Mr. Gale early in the year to discuss the project in detail. The plan will then be submitted to the Oakville-Trafalgar-Bronte planning board.

Mr. Gale said his company was negotiating with small industrial firms, not necessarily feeder plants, interested in locating in the area.

The way Trafalgar is growing council must look ahead to provide housing for industrial workers," he said.

Deputy-reeve Robert Marshall said council and the planning board had emphasized that large housing developments should not be established until industries came first. "We have been working hard to produce a balanced development," he said.

Mr. Gale gave assurance that only the number of houses approved each year by council would be built. He said the housing project was a long-term program.

Gore and Storie, consulting engineers, were instructed to prepare preliminary plans for a sewage disposal plant at Coronation Park on the Lakeshore highway, west of the fourth line. Specifications call for trunk mains to serve the area between Twelve Mile creek at Bronte and the ninth line, and Lake Ontario and the Upper Middle road.

In view of the widening of the Lakeshore highway, council decided to petition the director of inspectors of the Ontario Provincial Police to provide better police protection against speeding motorists on the highway east and west of Oakville.

### SEE SAW

"Begging, eh? Well, maybe I can help you. See that pile of wood?"

"Yes, lady, I seen it."

"What grammar! You mean you saw it?"

"No, lady, you saw me see it, but you ain't seen me saw it."

### Engagements

The engagement is announced of Elizabeth Joan, daughter of Mrs. Walter Bauer and the late Mr. Walter Bauer of Acton, to Reginald James Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Campbell of Barrie. The marriage is to take place in December.

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### Personals

Mrs. Ross Robertson and Stuart visited friends in Willowdale last week.

Mrs. G. Sires and Miss Mary Sires of Newtonbrook visited Acton friends during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gould of Toronto visited with Mr. and Mrs. M. Schroeder during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hunter and Mr. Ruth Course visited with Mr. and Mrs. J. Flynn and Miss Beryl Flynn recently.

Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Poole, who have been in Toronto with Mrs. Poole's sister, Mrs. Adams, who is ill, returned home on Monday.

Mrs. Agnes Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson, Donna Anderson and Mr. John Krapek visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Allen at Clarkson.

In non-agricultural industries which employ nearly 4,000,000 Canadians, almost one-quarter of the total working force is women.

### OSPRINGE White Gifts Given Junior Choir Sings

The annual White Gift service was held on Sunday morning at the local Presbyterian church with Rev. A. Vair in charge.

The junior choir contributed a Christmas number and a lovely message by Rev. Vair was enjoyed.

### Christmas Theme

Mrs. Byron Bruce opened the home for the Christmas meeting of the Ladies' Aid on Wednesday evening. The president was in the chair. The devotional taken by Mrs. E. Fisher and Mrs. Howard included the hymns "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Minutes were read and approved and the roll call answered with a Christmas verse. Cards of thanks were read by the secretary.

Arrangements were made for the white gift service to be held on Sunday.

The study book, a continuation of "When the Sun" was read by Mrs. W. Bruce. Carols were sung and a solo "Samson and You" sung by Mrs. Bruce was very much enjoyed. Scripture questions on the

ninth chapter of Matthew were asked by Mrs. Sinter.

The meeting closed with prayer, followed by a lovely luncheon served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Southers and Mrs. Sinter.

### December Happenings

Recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Maud McCutcheon included Mr. R. Van Norman and Mrs. F. Shannon of Acton; Miss Myrtle Orr and Mr. Smith McCutcheon of Galt.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bulch, Reg and Nancy spent the week-end with friends at Aurora.

Mr. A. McKenney flew to Quebec where he is spending a few days on business.

Mrs. Gordon Aitken and Gordon Robertson are driving fine new cars.

Mr. and Mrs. Maud McCutcheon and Muriel spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. George McMillan and Mr. and Mrs. Murray McMillan in Toronto.

The teachers and children of the local public school are busy practicing for the Christmas concert.

Canadian railway fares are comparable with those of any other country in the world, despite the fact that there are so few people to support the vast systems.

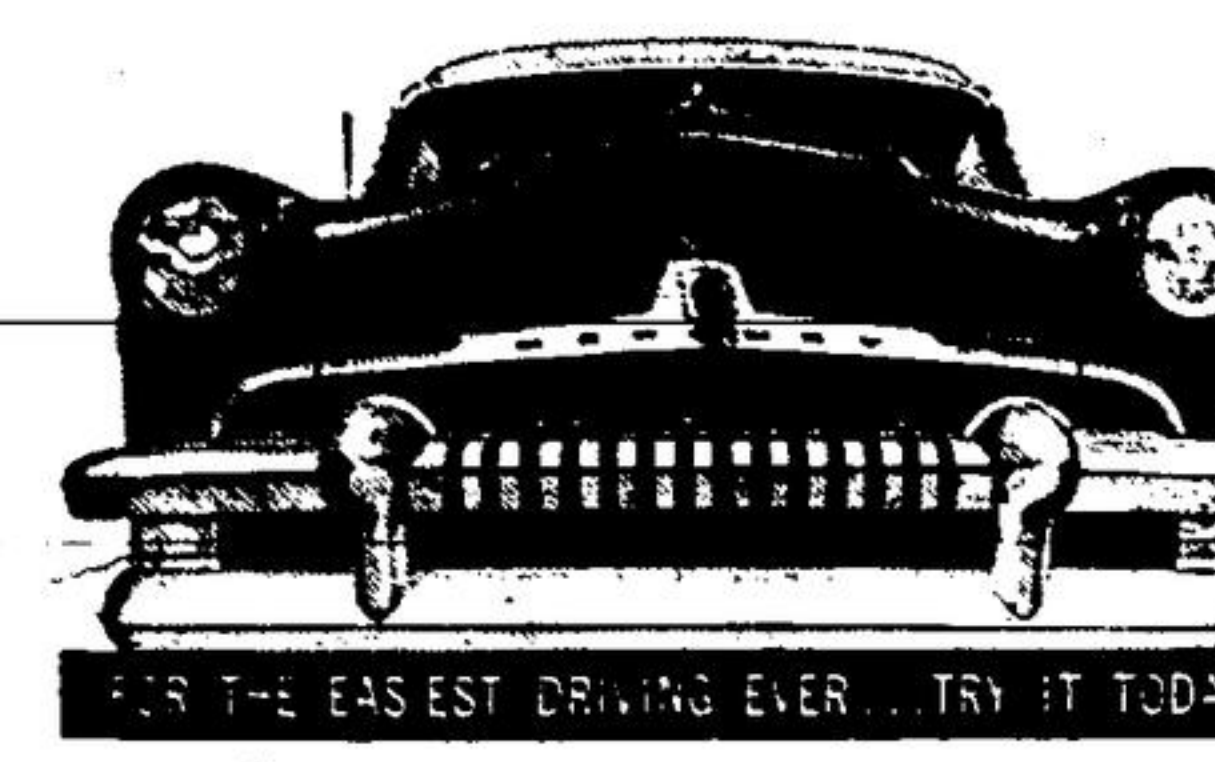
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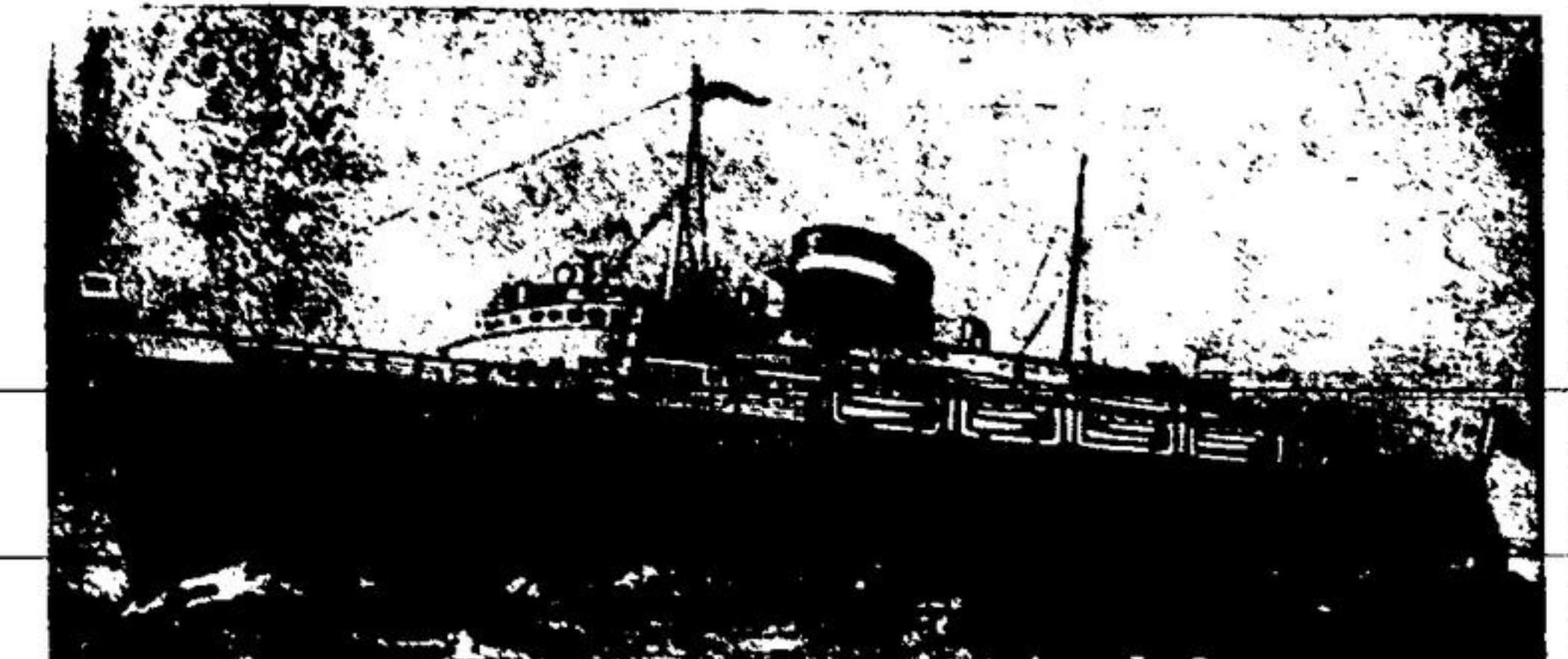
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NEW INTERNATIONAL FERRY — This artist's sketch shows the new car ferry which will ply between Yarmouth, N.S., and Bar Harbour, Me. Now being built for the Nova Scotia and Federal Governments by Davie Shipbuilding Limited at Lunenburg, Que., it will be operated by the Canadian National Railways. The vessel will have six decks and will accommodate 600 passengers and 150 vehicles. Propelled by six twin-screw diesel engines, its speed will be 18 1/2 knots, permitting a round trip in daylight hours. Overall length of the ferry will be 345 feet and the main deck moulded breadth 65 feet. Passenger accommodation includes day cabins, main, observation and ladies' lounge, children's playroom, dining room seating 114 persons, a lunch counter and news stand.