

EDITORIAL

No New Way

There was a time when we have striven to find a new way to say "Merry Christmas." You'll find innumerable suggestions put forth by those who are apt with words to give new phraseology to an old wish. There is no new way to say "Merry Christmas." The spirit of Christmas is so simple it needs no new way to phrase it. It needs no sales effort, no advertising and no new glamour.

No, there is no new way to say "Merry Christmas." The trees you bedeck are the same as all trees that have stood on the hills since the world was young. The joy in a child's eyes on Christmas morning is the joy that has filled the eyes of children since Christmas became an institution. Back of the gifts and gaiety is an immemorial spirit of good will to men.

Christmas is still Christmas. The spirit of good will to others, the joy of making dear ones happy, has no new way of expression and needs no new way of expression.

In the old way it is our wish for one and all that this Christmas that dawns in a few hours may be a merry one for all. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

More Than Tradition

We know the turkey is traditionally the bird for the Christmas feast but we are not so sure of how long it has been on so many tables at the festive season. Our boyhood recollections do not include many turkey dinners at Christmas, not nearly as many as when geese or chickens were the main items.

We can readily recall when there weren't a hundred turkeys or more raised on the farms in this district. Today there are thousands of turkeys raised in Halton County alone and most of them not on a large acreage. They are finer and more meaty turkeys than were raised a few years ago.

It doesn't seem so long ago that most of our turkeys came from Western Canada. No doubt a lot of them still do come from that same source but Ontario grown turkeys are in every food store display in plentiful supply. You'll find more of them than geese, chickens or ducks and most often the price makes the turkey the best buy for the Christmas dinner.

Yes, the turkey is the big item on the festive board. It's not a rich man's luxury only. It's not a tradition alone, but in these parts a reality at most Christmas dinners where the gathering is large enough to require a plentiful supply of meat.

Always a Stampede

Somewhere in our reading of the week we ran across a heading "Stampede is now on for Holiday Travel." That was a week before Christmas. It seems that people start earlier and go further for holidays.

We can well recall when the stampede for holiday travel didn't start until a day or so before Christmas and what a stampede it was. Trains were late, winters seemed more severe and the facilities for travel at stations and in trains made the jaunt home not a stampede but a test of endurance. Everybody carried home their Christmas presents, and they were usually bulky and badly wrapped. There was only one way to travel any distance and that was by train.

We were glad to see that the stampede for Christmas was starting early. Like doing shopping early it makes more room for those who are tardy. But no matter how early it gets started it does seem that a stampede at Christmas time is one thing that is unavoidable and some place you get caught in one of the many stampedes.

Just a Note

Whatever you do to have a Merry Christmas make your plans to include the happiness of others and not yourself alone. Remember that Christmas marks the birthday of One who came to this world and gave His life for others. There was no selfishness in His life. Tomorrow we celebrate the birthday of Christ. If His spirit is kept uppermost in the thoughts of all it will be a Merry Christmas for all.

All in Short Order

It always seems too bad that Christmas and the year's end come so close together. There are so many things that seem so necessary to crowd in that go with both these events that it often taxes human capacity. Starting in October the church anniversaries and fowl suppers flow over past Thanksgiving.

Dinners so often mark the closing of the year's municipal work and we wouldn't for the world have this little social side excluded from the program. Then to top it all off along come Christmas and New Year's. It's well that the months that follow provide plenty of time to eat less extensively and get back to normal fare and that the bounty of the land in which we live is only scratched by the festivities of early fall and year-end eating.

Why More Power?

The new models of 1954 cars are now making their appearances in the showrooms. New designs and new features are very pleasing and make a strong bid for the buyers' money. Just why there is continued emphasis on more power however, is one of the things that is difficult to understand. It would seem that each maker is determined that his make will not be overpowered by any competitor and so that races goes on. Makers of motor fuel are prone also to play up more power for their product.

It's quite alright to have more power in any machine than is required as long as the operator of the machine makes judicious use of the power that is at his command. Trouble seems to crop up when humans ride with such ease that carelessness creeps in, speeds creep up without realization until an emergency is suddenly confronted and the gigantic power cannot be controlled.

Most of the cars offered the Canadian public today have more than ample power for the average driver. For the show-off they have too much power. Sometime soon we are going to have to limit the power put in motor cars or else prohibit those from driving who do not operate their vehicles at safe speeds. We just cannot go on putting more power into the hands of folks who aren't capable of good judgment in using it.

From Other Papers:

On legalizing lotteries, the Weyburn (Sask.) Review says some countries hold lotteries quite openly as a state institution and a means of public financing. In Canada where there is a law which makes it a criminal offence to take part in one, there is a great deal of winking at it.

Powell River (B.C.) News: The principal difference between a young couple setting up house keeping today and 50 years ago is that the pioneer couple's first big splurge after getting out of debt was to acquire a piano. The modern first acquisition is a car. There was something about a piano that sort of anchored the family to the home and placed a stamp of genteel security on the whole household.

Commenting on the superfluity of organizations the Melville (Sask.) Advance says in part: "A good many of them exist only because for business reasons. Dad, because he should and mother because one of her friends is taking part in the usual result is that Mother and Dad are seldom home the same evenings, family life goes to pot, everybody belongs to everything, and because of all the meetings nobody has any time to actually do much work for the organizations he or she belongs to."

Judges criticize each other. Every time the appeal judges upset the decision of a judge they tell him in effect that his direction of the jury was all wrong or that he needs to go and study his law book again. Comments the St. Thomas Times Herald. But the layman says the same thing verbally or in print, there is all quietness and an aged but on the way, why is it always represented as a model of legal finesse and exactness. If an appeal court can criticize a judge, we see no reason why an outsider should not have the same to say. It is made a mockery.

Reading Between The Lines HAPPY CHRISTMAS IS THEME AS FESTIVE SEASON ROLLS AROUND

by Jim Dills

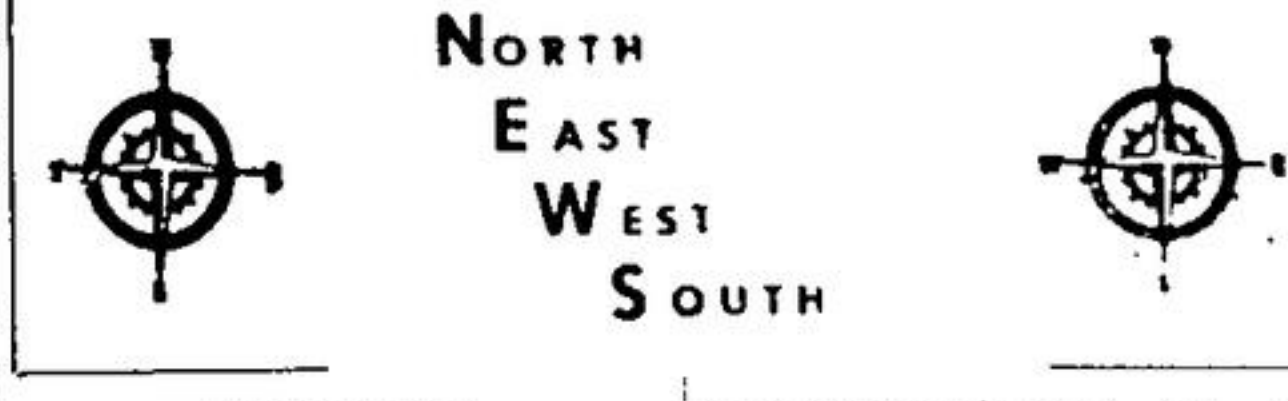
Two aspects of the happy holiday season of the Christmas feast are uppermost in the thinking of Canadians as they contemplate this important event. According to a public opinion poll, more still think of the religious aspect of the season than of the closely following gift aspect.

It was an important message that came to the world, those hundreds of years ago when the Bible tells us, a Heavenly Host proclaimed, "Peace on earth to men of goodwill." It's a message that today bears a significance as it did in the troubled times of the New Testament world when the Roman regime was much feared. But the message is one that must have inspired confidence down through the ages to those who had lost faith or were tempted to acknowledge spiritual defeat. The words are encouraging because first of all, they are easily understood, lacking ambiguity in any part of the phrase. "Peace on earth to men of goodwill" is an unlimited assurance that if we, all of us, live up to our charge to be "men of goodwill," the balance will follow. There is no limitation that poor men of goodwill or rich men of goodwill can achieve the desired peace. The phrase is the all-inclusive "men of goodwill," stretching out a hope and promise to all, indeed it was the humble shepherds who were "watching their flocks by night and the Angel of the Lord came upon them and

the glory of the Lord shone round about them." The second aspect of the annual religious festival most thought of by Canadians is the giving of gifts symbolized earlier by the precious presents of the three wise men. Giving of gifts at Christmas is an old custom and one that has mixed blessings.

Exchanging gifts with friends and relatives stimulates interest in an old phrase that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." But beyond the close circle of friends and relatives with whom gifts are exchanged, there is a whole vast area where we can all give gifts to those who deserve and may not receive. The sacrifices in giving is what counts, because it is the sacrifice which makes one feel the better for having given. And He was a poor widow put in the copper count. And He said, Truly I tell you this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for they all contributed out of their abundance but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had."

Gifts for the festive season don't have to be socks and ties, books and pens, sweaters and skirts. To some the gifts received may be better health, the fellowship of family reunion, peace of lost friends or a simple but lasting renewal of hope. May Christmas continue for all as a happy festive season, serving to renew faith. Merry Christmas!



County Aglow
Christmas trees from Living room windows and wreaths from front doors. The county is all ready for Santa tonight.

Acton, Milton and Georgetown, all have strings of colored lights across the streets. Milton and Georgetown have decorated grand and lit trees. Acton has a huge tree aglow in front of the post office.

Building Permits
From January to November a total of \$3,151,851 in building permits was issued by the town of Oakville, reported Fred Shaw, building inspector at council. The largest portion, \$2,042,569 was residential, commercial \$825,992, industrial \$168,000 and industrial was only \$85,300.

View of Falls' Mist
Those who like driving around the countryside will likely have seen McLaren's castle, a famous Peel county landmark at Caledon. The castle now has a new owner, Toronto architect J. D. Ross, who lives at Oakville. Last owner was William Sinclair Low of Toronto.

On a hill the castle has a splendid view on a clear day. It has been said that the mists rising from Niagara Falls can be seen from one of the towers.

Consultant Confers
Trafalgar township residents would enjoy hearing Dr. Faludi, planning consultant on "Pres. Con-

ference" on television last week. Dr. Faludi, referred very briefly to his planning duties in the township but talked most about Toronto's problems.

Assessors Meet
Trafalgar assessors' committee, Ed Dunham was elected chairman of the Halton County Assessors' Association at a recent meeting in St. Catharines. Sam Porter, assistant assessor of Oakville, was named secretary.

Exchange Greetings
George Tudy, Emerson of Georgetown, whose birthday is on the same date as Prince Charles, sent him a card this week. She had an acknowledgment of that card from the prince with best wishes for her own birthday.

Santa in Milton
Over 4,000 greeted Santa Claus in Milton on Saturday, December 12. The event sponsored by the fire brigade and Legion began with a parade when Santa followed more than a dozen locally-sponsored floats. The children then followed Santa to the arena where a skating exhibition was another highlight.

Dart Challenge
We read in one of the Oakville papers after news of the seven team Legion dart league that Acton has challenged the southern team to a match. Acton Legionnaires will likely be excited down to demonstrate their skill in January.

AT THE Churches

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Acton, Ontario
A FRIENDLY CHURCH
Rev. E. A. Curry, B.A., B.D., Minister
Parsonage: 29 Bower Avenue
Phone 66
Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.C.M.
Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1953
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Evening Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

BAPTIST CHURCH
ACTON
Ray H. Colwell, Pastor
Parsonage: 115 Bower Ave.
Phone 2064

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1953
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
8:30 p.m. Bible Society, Friends
Knox Presbyterian Church
Thursday, December 31, 10 p.m.
Watchnight Service

KEEP TREES MOIST
Keep your tree fresh and moist by placing it firmly in a bucket of sand. Wet the sand generously and water every day. This reduces the hazards of fire and keeps the needles fresh.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
M.A., B.D., Minister

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1953
9:45 a.m. Church Service
11:00 a.m. Daily Worship
7:00 p.m. Preparatory Service
8:30 p.m. Bible Society, Friends
A Warm Welcome Awaits You

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH
(Anglican)
Rev. Ralph E. Prior, B.A., B.D.
Rector

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
10:00 a.m. Church Service
11:00 a.m. Daily Worship
7:00 p.m. Preparatory Service
8:30 p.m. Bible Society, Friends
A Warm Welcome Awaits You

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Rockwood
The Rev. Ralph E. Prior, B.A., B.D., Rector

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Festival
Choral Communion with "The Star Carol"
ALL WELCOME
O come Let us adore Him

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1903

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 24, 1903

The glad day has come once again. One thing we have lost that no future Christmas will ever bring back to us again, and that is the sense of leisure possessed by our forefathers. They took time for it. Steam and electricity had not yet come to banish slow motion forever from this earth. People took time to think, to pray and to rest.

The annual banquet of the Methodist Sunday School was held Monday and proved thoroughly enjoyable. The tables accommodated 100 at each sitting and were thrice filled. The Sunday School orchestra played a generous number of selections during the banquet. A program followed, and sweetmeats were distributed.

The entertainment given by St. Alban's church Sunday School in the town hall last Saturday was a success from all standpoints. The cantata was bright and merry. At the close of the entertainment Santa Claus distributed presents and candy.

The Christmas examinations at Lorne School were very entertaining and the students acquitted themselves very creditably to their teacher, Miss Dancy Nicklin. The day's program concluded with the plucking of the fruit of the Christmas tree.

At the convention of the Liberals of Halton, J. S. Deacon, our public school inspector, was the choice as candidate for the House of Commons.

Principal T. T. Moon, who for 25 years has been the esteemed principal of the public school was presented with a handsome leather covered chair and a richly upholstered easy chair at the close of the examination exercises at the school.

Municipal elections Monday noon. Now, citizens, don't leave your neglected pavements in their present condition over Christmas!

BACK IN 1933

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 21, 1933

On Friday afternoon a group of friends of Mr. W. Nisbet, who has been accounted at the Bank of Montreal for the past four or five years, gathered at the bank after closing hours and presented him with a cigarette lighter and case. Mr. C. B. Harrison read the address and Mr. E. J. Hassard made the presentation. Mr. Nisbet is moving to Alliston.

Miss Jessie MacPherson, B.A., has been chosen to succeed Miss Margaret Addison as dean of women, the appointment being made at the recent executive meeting of the Board of Regents of Victoria University. She is the daughter of the late Rev. Hugh Macpherson, who for many years was the rector of Knox church, Acton. Miss Macpherson was born in Acton and friends here join in congratulating her on her preferment.

The friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold McEnery met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Anthony on Thursday for a presentation in honor of the bride, who was the former Kathleen Evans. A good program was rendered which included an instrumental by Miss Margaret Brown, a number by the Bannockburn quartette, solo by Mr. W. J. McDonald and a number by the Bannockburn orchestra.

Miss Edith Huxell and Miss Edith Anthony have presented the couple with a \$96.00 gift set.

The distribution from the Acton Community Christmas Tree will take place December 29. Distribution will be to the children of Acton under 10 years of age only.

Knox Sunday school concert presented over by Mr. R. N. Brown was a splendid affair. Santa Claus was impersonated by Mr. W. M. Cooper. Mr. Ernest Coles in the role of Santa Claus at the United Sunday school concert, was true to legend. Mr. A. T. Brown was in charge of the merry gathering.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL	LEGAL
DR. W. G. C. KENNEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block, 43A Mill St. E., Acton Office Phone 78 Residence 115 Church St. E. Phone 150	C. F. LEATHERLAND Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturdays by appointment only. Office 22 - Phone - Res. 151 ACTON
DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River Street Acton, Ontario Phone 238	LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants Successors to JENKINS AND HARDY 1305 Metropolitan Bldg. 44 Victoria St., Toronto Em. 4-9131
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office - Leishman Block, Mill St. Office Hours - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. X-RAY TELEPHONE 148	GERALD A. CANDLER Chartered Accountant Monday to Friday 7-9 p.m. Saturday from 9 a.m. 27 Acton Blvd. Phone 561, Acton
DR. H. LEIB Dental Surgeon Office - Corner Mill and Frederick Streets Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. TELEPHONE 19 - ACTON	CHIROPRACTOR D. J. ARMSTRONG Doctor of Chiropractic 6 John St. N. Acton PHONE 550
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F. G. OAKES, B.V.Sc. Veterinarian Office and Residence: 24 Knox Ave. Acton - Phone 130	OLIVE M. LAMPARD A.T.C.M. R.M.T. Teacher of Piano Studio United Church Thursdays 14 PARK AVE. GUELPH Phone 296
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE WRIGHT REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE F. A. WRIGHT, N. B. WRIGHT 27 Water St. - 60 Macdonnell St. Acton, Ont. - Guelph, Ont. Phone 102 - Phone 493-57 Valuators, Realtors, Insurers Members: Agricultural Institute of Canada Members: Group and District Real Estate Board Members: Group and District Insurance Agents Association	TRAVELLERS' GUIDE GRAY COACH LINES COACHS LEAVE ACTON Eastbound 10:30 a.m. - 11:33 a.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:23 p.m. - 8:35 p.m. - 9:46 p.m. Westbound 10:30 a.m. - 12:52 p.m. - 2:57 p.m. - 4:57 p.m. - 7:27 p.m. - 9:12 p.m. - 11:22 p.m. 11:22 a.m. - Sun to Kitchener only Daily except Sunday and holidays Saturday, Sunday and holidays
W. R. BRACKEN Real Estate Insurance Phone 26 - Acton	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Standard Time Eastbound Daily 6:40 a.m. Daily except Sundays 9:55 a.m. 7:10 p.m. Sunday only 8:16 p.m. Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:02 a.m. Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m. Westbound Daily 1:25 a.m. daily except Sunday 8:48 a.m. 8:50 p.m. (flagstop) 7:44 p.m. Daily except Saturday and Sunday 6:10 p.m. Saturday only 2:36 p.m. Sunday only 9:45 a.m. (flagstop) Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 p.m.

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The Only Paper Ever Published in Acton

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G. A. Dills, Editor and Publisher

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