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ACTON

Acclamations Fill Wellington Posts

David D. Gray was acclaimed Reeve of Eramosa township, and Harold Griffin Reeve of Erin township as a result of nominations held Friday in Wellington county.

Reeve Gray is a former warden and served continuously as Reeve of Eramosa for nearly 15 years prior to his retirement four years ago.

Erin township Reeve Albert Wheeler announced he had decided not to seek re-election for next year. He had previously served as deputy-reeve and was reeve since 1952.

Harold Griffin takes his place, moving up from deputy-reeve to receive his acclamation. George Wallace, a veteran member of the township council, was acclaimed as deputy-reeve.

Rockwood Trustees In Rockwood, the three trustees' positions were all filled by acclamation. Those in office there are Clifford Meadows, James Milne and Frank Kelso.

There will be an election for deputy-reeve and for council in Eramosa township. Fred Cox and D. H. Storey both qualified after being nominated for deputy-reeve. Those who elected to contest the three council seats are Franklin Armstrong, Charles A. McNabb, Joseph L. Oakes and Frank Osterlander. Although Max Storey was nominated he did not qualify.

Eramosa trustees are Hugh Brown, Thomas Gellatly, Alex. Kingsbury and Duncan McPhedran.

All positions in Erin township were filled without an election. With reeve Harold Griffin, on council will be George Wallace as deputy-reeve and councillors George D. Scott, Jack Baldwin and Robert Rowan.

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Plymouth for 1955 is lower, wider, and more than 10 inches longer than last year. All three Plymouth series (Plaza, Savoy, and Belvedere) offer improved PowerFlow six-cylinder engines while the Plymouth Belvedere also offers the 157 horsepower Hy-Fire V-8 engine which incorporates the exclusive Chrysler-designed dome-

shaped combustion chamber. Among the many new features this year is the full wrap-around New Horizon windshield, the PowerFlite selector lever mounted for ease of operation on the dashboard and a complete range of power-assist devices including power brakes and Coaxial Power Steering.

Christmas Customs Vary Widely In Many Countries of the World

So many traditional customs have grown up about Christmas in Canada that it hardly seems possible that the main feast of the year should vary so much from country to country. Here, for your entertainment and enjoyment in this special pre-Christmas issue of the paper, are thumb-nail accounts of Christmas in different parts of the world.

Perhaps some of the many new Canadians in Halton will be celebrating in one of these ways. In Poland, the tradition of Christmas has been handed down through the centuries. The breaking of bread among the family members takes place immediately before the elaborate meal, called postk, when 12 different lentils are served on a white cloth to resemble the stable where Jesus was born.

Norway—Preparations for Christmas in Norway begin about the middle of November. The house must be cleaned from top to bottom, and all kinds of fancy cakes must be made. The celebration starts on December 24, the main meal is served. Roast ribs of beef and rice pudding, or "Lutefisk" (codfish soaked in lye-water) form the basis for an elaborate and hearty meal. We wonder how many Canadian housewives would be content to cook a roast or boil a piece of fish instead of stuffing and roasting the traditional bird?

Every member of the Norwegian family tries to get home and mother and father are the central figures in the family group. At 5 p.m. on Christmas eve gifts are distributed from under a decorated tree, and each family spends the evening at home, visiting and making merry.

Early Christmas morning, the family arises first. Carrying a tray with Christmas biscuits, excellent wine and several glasses he calls on each person in the house to wish them "ladelig Jul". This is just about the time, in Canada, when children are scurrying to peek into well-filled stockings. The rest of the day and December 26th, which is also a holiday, are spent visiting friends, skiing and attending church services. Many families continue their celebrations until the 13th day of Christmas, just as we, too, often prolong our celebrations throughout the Christmas week.

Holland—The real Dutch Christmas is celebrated on December 5 and 6—with St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas) and his black servant "Black Peter" (Swarteplet) as the central figures. According to legend, they arrive on their horse from Spain. They distribute gifts to "good" children and use their switch on the "bad" ones.

About two weeks before December 5, when Canadian children are just beginning to turn their thoughts to Santa Claus, Dutch children put their shoes under the chimney with a list of presents they desire, and with bread and straw for St. Nicholas' horse. The next morning the bread and straw are gone and the Christmas season is officially welcomed.

The night of December 5 is "the night in Holland". All generations of families gather together, and presents are exchanged. In most cases the gifts are wrapped like surprises in packages, and often hidden in far corners of the house. Each time someone gets a parcel, the door-bell is rung to signify that Sinterklaas and Swarteplet have just passed by. Special "spiced" cakes and hot chocolate are served to conclude the happy occasion.

Greece—Christmas in Greece is mainly a religious celebration. St. Joseph is the patron saint. There are no Christmas trees, no wreaths, no Santa Claus or reindeer, and no exchange of gifts. Midnight Mass is celebrated on Christmas eve. Oil lanterns and incense burn in each home through that night and the next day.

The dinner on Christmas day would seem more like real Christmas to us in Canada. It is indeed a feast, with roast sucking pig, and a special pudding.

Peeta, a special pudding, features of the menu. Almonds, chestnuts, spices, raisins, currants, figs and honey are the chief ingredients of the Peeta pudding, which probably resembles our traditional plum pudding. Wine flows generously, and special breads with crosses designed on top, are an important part of the meal. The evening is spent visiting and singing carols. Serenaders vie for money, sweets and candies, as they move from house to house.

Canadian children spending Christmas in Greece would be glad to welcome New Year's Day. Presents are exchanged that day—with St. Basil, the legendary piper "shark" as the gift bearer. It is told that he won money from the rich so that he could give gifts to the poor. His winnings were generously distributed to the delight of every child!

Syria—In this far-off land of warm climes and polygot religions, Christmas is not the most exciting time of the year. Much of Christmas day is spent in prayer and religious ceremonies. There is no tree. The only similarity to our Christmas is that some visiting is done and rich and exotic Syrian foods are enjoyed. Mother, it seems, must provide special foods for Christmas in every land!

Easter, in contrast, is the day of real celebration in Syria. Gifts are exchanged and new clothes are proudly displayed. The Easter feast is what we would call a real Christmas dinner! The children enjoy Easter eggs, pastries and candies.

Nigeria—The great Mohammedan feast, which in Nigeria, corresponds to our Christmas, takes place at the time of a new moon, usually in November. Before the feast, the people must fast for a month. When the moon is seen at the end of the fast month, the drums beat all night and the next morning the feasting begins.

The week of "Wassa" (play) brings the people of nearby villages, with their chiefs, to the town for celebrations. After the colorful ceremony of slaying a lamb for the sins of the people, the chief on his white horse, leads his followers to visit the government officials and the white people of the town. Next, the villagers visit friends and relations and exchange gifts of kola-nuts. These nuts are large, red and very bitter, but the natives like them very much.

After all this comes the feast. The meat is either chicken or goat. We doubt very much whether either of them is stuffed like our Canadian turkeys would be! A rich, green gravy is made from leaves of the "Kuka" or monkey bread tree, saltless but hot with red pepper. The eating of the meal would surprise us here in Canada. A large bowl is filled with boiled rice and a small one with meat and gravy. The meal is eaten with the fingers and enjoyed to the full. Elaborate table settings just don't seem to be necessary!

South Africa—Although the celebration of Christmas in South Africa follows our traditional Canadian pattern, the environment differs in many ways. Hot days and pleasant nights characterize the summer season and flowers, green grass and bright sunshine are everywhere.

Labor is plentiful, and cheap by Canadian standards. Thus much of the preparation of the festive meal is done by servants in many households. With exchange of gifts before breakfast, a game of tennis or a cool swim before tea, the family gathers for Christmas dinner. The meal, served on well-laden trestle tables, consists of roast sucking pig, roast turkey with raisin bread stuffing, potatoes and many green vegetables, followed by trifle and flaming plum pudding. Crisp grapes, raisins and nuts join the coffee course to finish a superb meal.



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VETERAN'S LAND ACT

A MEETING WITH MR. J. CRANK, OF V.L.A., WILL BE HELD IN ACTON LEGION ROOMS

Tuesday, December 8th, 8 p.m.

TO GIVE DETAILS ON CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE V.L.A. SOME OF THESE ARE:

- Maximum mortgage raised to \$8,000, with a down payment of \$800. You can be your own "contractor" under expert V.L.A. supervision. More progress payments made free of interest until house complete
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- Construction classes starting in January. HOMES MAY BE BUILT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF TOWN. All veterans interested are urged to attend next Tuesday's meeting with Mr. Crank in the Legion Rooms.

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