

ROCKWOOD

Sunday School, Vesper Services Visit Of Santa In Busy Week

The monthly meeting of the United Church Men's Club held Wednesday evening of last week in the Sunday school hall was well attended. George Day, president, presided over the program and also played the piano for two Christmas hymns, O Come All Ye Faithful and Silent Night, Holy Night, followed by all repeating the Lord's Prayer. Ross Gordon led the singers of the last meeting. Gordon Harris and John Benham were conveners for the evening and some musical numbers were contributed by the men's quartette from Acton, which were well received.

A very interesting item on the program was talks by two members of the Guelph Detachment Provincial Police, which proved interesting. Further numbers by the men's quartette were contributed, followed by refreshments and a social time.

Awards
Sunday morning at the Presbyterian church, the children of the Sunday School had the place in the way of church service, when the young folks occupied the choir platform. The usual form of church service was observed, with members taking part, and Mr. John Freeman, superintendent, read an Old Testament portion. An anthem by the children was contributed.

Following announcements and offering, Mr. D. Black conducted a presentation of awards to members of the Sunday school, assisted by Mrs. J. Freeman; one year attendance pins to E. Hammond, G. Freeman, S. Kelso; two year attendance pin to W. Freeman; junior memory course certificates to E. Freeman, E. Hammond, M. Hanna, F. Keel and G. Gray; primary memory course certificate to Brian Hammond; three gold stars to G. Freeman and S. Kelso for memory work; and two gold stars to W. Freeman for memory work.

Vesper Service
Sunday evening at the United Church, the National Christmas Vesper Service of the C.G.I.T. was observed with a good attendance. Misses Pearl Hamilton and Gladys Hanna had charge of the service, which was very impressive all through. Hymns that were sung were in-keeping with the Christmas spirit and reading matter referred to Him who came to be the Savior of the world. In connection with the candle lighting ceremony, five girls took part and repeated their C.G.I.T. purpose. During the service, Miss Gladys Hanna read a lengthy paper dealing with a White Christmas.

Baptismal Ceremony
Sunday afternoon at St. John's church, Rev. E. H. Jones officiated at a baptismal ceremony for the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hamilton. Mr. and Mrs. George Waller of Listowel were present and had a part in the ceremony.

Santa at Concert
Monday evening, the congregation of St. John's church and young folks of the Sunday school sat down to well laden tables provided by the ladies of the congregation in the parish hall. Following supper, with Mrs. Cecil Meredith at the piano, the young folks enjoyed the singing of Christmas hymns previous to a brief program of short songs and recitations. A large Christmas tree occupied a prominent place in the hall, all lit up with colored lights. At the conclusion of the program, Santa Claus (Mr. Langley) came in with his bundle of gifts and was assisted in distribution of numerous gifts.

Schools close this week for the Christmas and New Year holidays. A Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to the Editor and staff of the Acton Free Press and all readers of the weekly paper.

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NOEL F. L. WRIGHT

District Loyalties Strengthen Nation

HALIFAX (CP) — Regional affections and the distinction of local environments are threads that strengthen the weave of nationality, Charles Bruce of Toronto said in an address to the Nova Scotia Weekly Newspaper Association here.

The speaker, a Nova Scotian now general superintendent of the Canadian Press, said that people who see the bogey of "provincialism" in any sign of regional loyalty have missed the fact that great nations are combinations of diverse qualities.

"It will be a sad day for Canada when the imprint of the Rockies and Selkirk on the soul of the British Columbian, the sweep of the high plains in the mind of the prairie-dweller, the salt in the blood of the Nova Scotian, are erased by some fanatical effort to label such differences as heresy toward a national ideal," he said. "It is only juvenile nations that bow to the god of uniformity."

Just What Was Star, Bethlehem?

If the Star of Bethlehem was a natural phenomenon and not a miraculous apparition, was it a planet, a comet, or an exploding star?

One early theory suggested that the Star of Bethlehem was Venus, which appears in the morning sky every 19 months and is 10 times brighter than the most brilliant star. The peoples of the Eastern world, however, have long known Venus. To the "Wise Men," who knew the movements of the planets, there could have been nothing remarkable about this familiar object.

The 16th century astronomer, Johannes Kepler, believed that the Star of Bethlehem was actually a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. Later calculations have shown however, that this conjunction was not very close. Furthermore, the Biblical account indicates that the Star was visible for several weeks, whereas the conjunction of two planets lasts only a few hours.

Attempts have been made, without success, to discover whether any of the known comets were visible around the date of the birth of Christ. A comet would have appeared morning after morning in the same place. This "dramatic and attractive" picture may be the correct explanation.

Yet the theory that most astronomers today would probably accept is that of the "nova" or "supernova." The nova, or new star, suddenly exploding, may increase a hundred thousand times in brilliance within a few hours, and dominate the sky over though it was too small to be seen before exploding. The much rarer "supernova" may multiply its brilliance a thousand million times in a few hours. Supernovae were reported in A.D. 1604, 1572 and 1054.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

This jolly snow man is helping us say: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our patrons!

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Timely Hints For Carving Yule Turkeys

The advantage of carefully carving a roast turkey is that the whole fowl can be served—without bones. But when the traditional dish is being served on a family table, there's always someone who wants to pick a drumstick or a wing.

Timely advice, then is to first slice off the bird's right leg. You can carve it—if it's not already requested by a diner—by holding on to the drumstick and laying it flat on a platter. Start by carving the meat off the tender second joint first and the rest will slice off easily.

About five per cent. of dining car patrons make specific requests for drumsticks, but generally he can use the trimmings from a carved turkey for croquettes or in stuffing for other birds.

The right leg attached to the breast is next on the list. The carver should hold the left leg to steady the birds, then carve towards oneself. This system produces fine slices that don't fall apart. You strike the grain when slicing in the other direction and it is harder to keep slices thin.

The rest of the bird can be carved in this fashion. When the wing is reached, it can be cut off and the tasty, popular meat around it sliced—always with the knife drawn toward the carver.

In this way the "head of the table" can avoid crumpling, clumsy pieces of meat and produce clean slices that look attractive on every Christmas plate.

Flight To Freedom Gains Citizenship

VANCOUVER (CP)—An Estonian surveyor took the oath of allegiance with 100 other New Canadians as the last stop in a flight for freedom which began in the Second World War.

Alec Kalbus, 49, fled to Norway as the Russian armies overran his country. Then in 1948, without visas, Kalbus and 347 other Estonians sailed the Atlantic in an old trawler to Sydney, N. S.

Public clamor, spurred by newspaper stories, led the government to admit all but two as immigrants.

He worked first in Montreal, then moved west to Kitimat, B.C., where he became a member of the engineering party that laid out an 80-mile transmission line. Now he is settled here, working for an electrical firm.

People buy the Free Press to read and read the Free Press to buy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HOTCHEN'S BAKERY

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Repeat Familiar Yule Warning As Holiday Accident Season Starts

Christmas is almost here. With Christmas comes that festive holiday season. And with the festive holiday season can come death. Shocking as it may seem, it is true. Every year around Christmas and New Year's, hundreds of persons are killed, the majority of them in traffic accidents.

This year, officials are predicting a high death toll on Canada's highways around the holiday season. Only YOU can prevent this.

To once again repeat a time-worn but true quotation, "If you drive, don't drink; if you drink, don't drive." You hear this on the radio and television; you read it in newspapers. But you must understand and heed this saying to derive any benefit from it.

Police all over Canada have received orders from head offices to really "clamp down" on drivers over the coming holiday season. Worst offenders, the drinking drivers, will receive maximum penalties. Local police are warning drivers they will be on the lookout for offenders.

Canada's and United States' Safe-Driving Day held recently proved that accidents can be prevented, partially at least, if everyone tries his best. Why not do your part by making every day

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