

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1957

On His Birthday

Wednesday next is Christmas. The day we pause throughout the Christian world to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

The past sixty weeks constitute possibly the most tremendous period in history. Almost constantly we have lived in fear, not knowing what the morrow will bring, not knowing what the future has to offer. Never has the future been so utterly unpredictable as we are not to much in a period of transition with belief in progress to push us on, rather we seem to be entering the realm of the unknown — The Satellite Age.

Have you ever noticed the striking fact that the political, economic, and social conditions of the world at the time our Lord was born were very much as they are today? Never before have two periods of history been so alike.

In those days there was an intense Nationalism in Israel, and a haughty Militarism in Rome. With Caesar there was a kind of dictatorship which absorbed individual rights. Economically the world of that day was disturbed as never before. Taxation was excessive and overpowering. Religion was on the decline; the Gentiles lost faith in their gods, and Israel had no prophet. Life was becoming a riddle, in which solitary hearts lost nerve, begot no songs and few children, became weary of old culture, afraid of new gods, of fate, of the stars above and all strange signs in the sky.

Christmas is the season of the stupendous mystery of Omnipotence wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Divinity is always where you least expect to find it.

At the time of the birth of Jesus, and again at the time of His crucifixion, many there were who felt certain the world was at an end because of what they witnessed in the sky and the elements. The ultimate destruction of the world has been a matter of concern for many years.

The events of the past while, seem to assure that man's destruction of the world is now more certain than ever. The means have been provided and nothing stands between us and the destruction except the irrational vagaries of human nature.

But this is not the time to despair. The real key to holiday happiness is the simple fact that a long time ago the Saviour came and arranged it so that we are to live with Him forever — His kind of life. Christmas is His birthday.

So, when we wish you — as we do — a Merry Christmas, we are wishing you the successful accomplishment of the destiny of the King of Peace.

The Meaning of Giving

"And opening their treasures they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

It may seem a far cry from the gifts of the Magi to the infant Jesus, to gifts beneath the Christmas tree in the Canadian home. It is a long road, indeed, yet the underlying motive of both acts is the same.

Love of this nature demands sacrifice. And love demands expression of itself to the beloved — by words, by deeds, by gifts and tokens of affection. The gift is a visible sign from the giver of his regard, his affection and love for the one to whom the gift is given.

Our modern and plentiful age has widened, and perhaps diluted, the habit of gift giving at Christmas time. But the true significance of the gift remains the same.

At times we place mental price tags on our gifts — both those we give and those we receive. The big gift, the expensive gift becomes our objective.

The best cure for that is to attend a school Christmas concert — any old school concert will do. Watch the little ones, the pre-schoolers and the first grade pupils, when they receive their gift. It may be a tin

whistle on a doll's apron, yet for the little ones there is as much pleasure in receiving that as in getting an intricate expensive toy.

From the wee ones, we learn anew the true significance of giving.

The Finest Gift of all

It strikes us rather odd that for more Canadians express concern over the latest development of outer-space age that they do over the rapidly increasing toll being taken in human lives through fires in the home and motor vehicle accidents on the highways.

Although not minimizing the ultimate threats which the advent of newer and more powerful atomic and hydrogen bombs, inter-continental ballistic missiles and globe-circling Sputniks may bring, let us have a look at the record to date.

So far, other than perhaps disrupting the elements somewhat or covering some waste-lanes with a coating of glass, post-war "A" and H-bombs tests have caused comparatively few deaths among human beings.

The score for intercontinental ballistic missiles is about the same.

And the death toll for the Sputniks so far is one little dog.

What about the other side of the picture? Last year fires cost this nation 572 lives. Canada's per capita annual fire loss for 1956 was the greatest in the world. The dollar was 12 1/2 per cent greater than that of 1955. Property loss amounted to \$110 million.

Claims paid on automobile insurance coverage for 1956 reached the staggering total of \$141,000,000, a record jump of \$28,000,000 over 1955.

In Ontario alone during the first nine months of the year 902 persons were fatally injured in motor vehicle accidents.

But startling as these statistics are, they fail to tell the full story of pain and anguish endured by those who lost loved ones, of the pain-wracked hours others spent in hospital, of the hardships inflicted on families through the death of a breadwinner.

A rather poor record is it not? Even more tragic is the fact that at Yuletide — the most joyous time of the year — quite frequently this needless loss of human lives increases.

Carelessness. Carelessness in mending a broken electric cord or faulty switch; failure to closely examine Christmas tree lights for defective wiring; leaving basements cluttered with trash and rubbish; matches left lying about where they are picked up by children; to mention a few.

On the highways it can be driving at excessive speeds when roads are hazardous, pressing on to that destination while over-fatigued, taking the "one for the road" or imbibing too freely at a Yuletide party and then aiming the car for home.

One of the finest Christmas gifts this nation could have would be an accident-free holiday. And it can have it. The onus is on us.

A Memorable Christmas

Canada's best-known novelist, Mazo de la Roche, reminisces in a recent article, about a memorable Christmas which she and her children spent in England when daughter Esme and son Rene (now grown), were seven and six years old.

They were living in Windsor, Miss de la Roche tells, and she had decided that Christmas should mean "something more to them than Santa Claus and presents". So she asked her chauffeur, who was "handy with tools and devoted to the children", to make a Christmas crib. Then, on a shopping trip to London, she chanced on a shop that displayed in its window "an exquisite group of the Holy Family that had been made in France". Included were the animals — "a little ass, a lamb and a benign cow".

Having emptied her purse on presents, Miss de la Roche asked the shop attendant to put the figures aside for her. "I will send them to you", he said, "and you may pay for them when convenient".

The next day the figures arrived in Windsor. Ready was the crib, "of light wood stained brown, open on one side so that you could see the manger. It had a sloping roof of thatch. The floor was strewn with straw".

When Christmas came, the children admired the crib "even more than the tree or their presents". In the first year of the war, when they came to Canada, the crib came with them. Each year, Miss de la Roche recounts, "it is a ceremony with us to set it up, bring out and arrange the figures. The children, now grown up and married, still feel a special reverence toward this crib. To them, as to us older ones, it is the true symbol of the Holy Season".

Brief Comment

The chances are that all but a handful of top Communists would gladly trade any number of artificial moons for decent homes, food and apparel. Under Soviet planning however no such choice is open to ordinary folk.

—Campbellton (N.B.) Tribune.



IT'S BEEN QUITE A YEAR A MERRY CHRISTMAS, ANYHOW!

G.A.D. About...

What is Joyousness at Christmas

Along with most everyone else, this is the last time I can join in wishing readers of the Free Press, wherever you may be, a Happy and Joyous Christmaside in 1957.

Maybe, if you are like me, you often wonder just what is implied in the greeting or just what do the age old words imply to you personally. If you are a small child, the meaning is quite different than if you happen to be 31 years old or 40 years old or maybe much older.

Joy and happiness at the age or stage at which you presently are means different things at different ages. If you are forty, you are not feverishly thinking about what will be in your stocking Christmas morning, if on Christmas eve visions of sugar plums do not dance in your head, maybe, however, recollections of those days are still part of a happy and joyous part of your life.

Perhaps you can still see and share with those of that age the things which make them happy. We have this year in our family group, three new grandchildren who are seeing this year their first Christmas. In later life they will not be able to recall any part of the Christmas of 1957. To them we might well say Christmas means nothing. But to us grandparents we would not exclude them from Christmas. Just how you include them in your Christmas greeting is only in your hearts and thinking even if they don't yet understand your words.

I've had many joyous Christmas-ides in Acton. Matter of fact, I can't recall that I spent a Christmas any place else in my lifetime. Some of them I had to travel quite a distance to make it home in time. Trains were always late. Snow storms, it seems to me, were heavier and not so well handled, but always it was home for Christmas. But Christmas are always different each year. Members of the family pass on and new members are taken into the family circle.

Yes, the age old greetings and wishes come from different people and take on a varied meaning as the years come and go. But most always they are centered around the home.

I am told there are some homes in which the children do not always enjoy the homecoming of parents. There are homes where

Christmas is a selfish time for the parents. There is no place for selfishness in any kind of Christmas observance. It's a time for giving of only the best that is in you. A merry Christmas has no time for getting drunk and bringing sorrow to the home and family in 1957 or any other year. It doesn't matter what the commercials play or sing about or what pretty pictures are shown extolling the merriment in the glass that really doesn't cheer anyone.

What does Merry Christmas mean to you? My wish to you all is that it may bring joy in giving and sharing the spirit of giving of the best that is in us with all that we hold near and dear, that there will be no remorse when you look back on 1957 in the after years.

These Christmas thoughts may ramble along and seem disconnected as I jot them down. For years I've tried to express them a bit differently to somehow they always seem to end up pretty nearly the same. This year we're going out for Christmas dinner at the new home of a son and daughter. There'll be folks around with whom we have never before sat down at Christmas dinner. It will be different and hold a new joy, no doubt we'll recall other people and other Christmas dinners of years gone by — but it will be a joyous one this year, we anticipate.

We'll be having turkey and all

Trade Grows Bigger With Belgian Congo

VANCOUVER, (CP)—An ever-increasing flow of Canadian goods into the Belgian Congo is reported by Koenraad Nyenhuis, Canadian trade commissioner to the Congo.

He said in an interview here that the predominantly native population is slowly raising its standard of living, assisted by an enlightened colonial government.

Canadian imports now total about \$6,000,000 annually, mainly flour, wheat, airplanes, refrigerators, storm lamps and fish products.

Soon he and Mrs. Nyenhuis will return to the Congo. "I like the idea of going back," he said. "It's the kind of place where there is plenty of work to do."

the trimmings but we will know better than to stuff ourselves. In having like was used to do when we had gone for Christmas. We don't want to go sleigh riding or skating like we did in boyhood but will be content to sit around and visit. Every Christmas is different. It will be all over in a couple of days. May it be the kind of Christmas that will live in the years ahead as the best Christmas you ever had.

Christmas comes day after tomorrow for 1957.

The BIBLE TODAY

The peoples who read the Bible are, today, undeniably the most advanced people in the world," said the Hon. P. Freire, chairman of the Federal Chamber of Representatives in Brazil, as he reported to the United Bible Societies in Rio de Janeiro.

"Politically," he went on to say, "they place themselves among those who have the greatest love of liberty, and we may even state, without fear of contradiction, that it is a proven fact that modern democracies are exclusively found among those people who read and study the Holy Bible."

In Brazil alone, actually more than a million copies are distributed at a price below cost, for reading and meditation.

The United Bible Societies of Brazil, which forms a part of the United Bible Societies of the world, has enrolled in our country more than 50,000 associates, who maintain their contributions to the service of spreading abroad the Holy Bible.

"In an epoch of gross materialism in which worldly interests seem to dominate mankind, it is comforting to see that there are still in the world persons who care for the spiritual welfare of the people."

Suggested readings for the week: Sunday, John 1: 1-18, Monday, Hebrews 1: 1-14, Tuesday, Matthew 1: 18-25, Wednesday, Matthew 2: 1-12, Thursday, Matthew 2: 13-23, Friday, Acts 2: 51-60, Saturday, Matthew 23: 1-22.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Rev. Ray H. Cooper, Pastor Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave. Phone 308-W	UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Minister Parsonage—30 Bower Avenue Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choir Leader 76 Bower Ave., Acton, Phone 6
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship 7:00 p.m.—Religious play by B.V.P.U.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957 9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.—Junior Church and Church School 11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship
PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA ENOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew McKenzie, P.A., B.D.	THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont. Rev. Evan H. Jones, P.A., L.Th. Rector, 105 Jeffrey St., Tel. 365
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957 9:45 a.m.—Church School 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship 7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957 CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday, December 31 11:30 p.m.—Christmas Communion CHRISTMAS DAY Wednesday, December 31 9:30 a.m.—Holy Communion SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957 9:30 a.m.—Holy Communion 9:45 a.m.—Church School and Bible Class 11:00 a.m.—Bible Classes 11:00 a.m.—Matins
ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Pastor: Ray E. J. Reid 81 Cook St., Telephone 688-W	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship 7:30 p.m.—Evening Service Worship, Bible Study, Prayer-meeting and Bible study.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907
Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 26, 1907.

Married—McPherson-Dilla—At the parsonage, 10 Orange Ave., Toronto, on Tuesday 17th December by Rev. Johnstone, pastor Queen St. Methodist Church, Robert James McPherson, to Edith Blanche, third daughter of George Dilla, Park Ave., Acton.

A pretty wedding took place at Wingham at the home of Mrs. Tully Nixon, sister of the bride, on Wednesday, 26th inst., when Miss Julia Tankler was joined in holy wedlock to Mr. Neil McHale, youngest son of Arch McHale, Park Ave., Acton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Perry, Presbyterian minister. The bride presented a charming appearance in her travelling suit of blue Venetian cloth with hat to match. After the honeymoon the happy couple will reside in Acton.

It is stated that fourteen of the young lady operatives of the Canada Club, which have been married since May last, Messrs. Stacey & Son, will surely have no difficulty in getting female employees in the future.

As next year is Leap Year eligible bachelors should be very careful of their behaviour and do the masculine thing for Christmas.

One of the largest saw logs seen in Acton for many a day was landed on the G.T.R. yards for D. A. Dickson on Saturday. It is an elm, measures six feet in diameter, the butt is twelve feet long and contains 1400 feet lumber measure.

The tree made logs measuring 1000 feet. It shows 212 growth rings indicating its age at that number of years. The tree was perfectly round. It will be sent to a saw mill in Georhup to be cut into barrel hoops.

At an enthusiastic meeting in the Acton House reading room last Thursday night the Acton Hockey Club was reorganized for the coming season. The following officers were elected: Hon. President D. D. Mann, President A. C. Beardmore, Vice-President W. A. Storey, Captain E. Hyden, Sec. Treasurer N. H. Gardner, Managing Committee C. O. Beardmore, J. Lucky, N. Patterson.

The Paper Mills at Georgetown have closed until after New Year's.

BACK IN 1937
Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 26, 1937.

Last Thursday the Welfare Board and representatives of various organizations in Acton, distributed from the Town Hall, baskets of Christmas good things, to make it possible for every needy family to have a Merry Christmas. There was a good response from the citizens for the appeal and as a result the baskets were well filled.

Acton tucked another game on the bag on Monday night when the intermediate A team went to Preston and brought home a 3-1 victory over that team. The last period saw some pretty rugged hockey but after that Preston was out and were outclassed and outplayed by the Acton team.

Jack Geer in the nets for Acton turned back the Preston invaders from and later again at a 2-1 score. With the defence line of Milton Walters and Frank Colburn, Acton Junior Hockey team, won a hard fought battle over the five-man team when in the first minutes of the overtime period Acton produced a home goal that put the final score at 3-1.

The game was rough and fast with the Acton boys showing a tremendous display of leading line play. The third period was rough and fast and was around when the referee refused to check the rough stuff.

Acton Jump as follows: Fred Holmes, Defense Saunders, Harry Jones, Jerome, Walter Taylor and Jones alternates. Daily Clark, Martin, Rober and Pauline. Santa Claus took time off from his Christmas preparations to visit the children of St. Albans Sunday School last Thursday night. He handed out prizes and bags of candy to the many children on hand to greet him.

The regular meeting of the Bismontary Literary Society was held in the school on Tuesday evening when a fine variety program was given after which the crowd enjoyed playing progressive cards.

OCEAN MYSTERIES
VANCOUVER, (CP)—The CBC has started a series of Sunday afternoon television broadcasts explaining some of the mysteries of the sea. Theories on ocean currents, weather and the nature of undersea life.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL DR. W. O. C. KENNEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block 434 Mill St. E., Acton Office Phone 78 St. E. Residence: 115 Church St. E. Phone 130	MISCELLANEOUS RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME Phone 690 night or day Buce R. Shoemaker, Mgr.
DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River Street Acton, Ontario Phone 238	OPTICAL E. L. BUCHNER, R.O. Optician ACTON OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEDNESDAY
DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Phone 679 Office Hours 9-4 p.m.	AUDITING - ACCOUNTING LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants 51 Main St. N. 312 King St. W. Toronto 1 Phone: OL 1-4823 EM 4-9111
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE F. L. WRIGHT 30 Wilbur St. Acton, Ontario Phone 96 Appraiser, Real Estate and Insurance	NEVILLE STOLLER & CO. Public Accountants and Auditors Trustees in Bankruptcy, Comptrollers for Oshawa, Etc. Branch Office: 100 Queen, corner Mill and Main Sts. Toronto - Brampton - Georgetown LE 5-5889 OL 1-4823 Head office: 130 Bloor St. West, Toronto
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J. BERT WOOD INSURANCE AGENCY Life and General Insurance Phone 585 134 Mill St. After hours TA 4-3050, Georhup	TRAVELLERS' GUIDE GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time Eastbound 6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Holy); 8:58 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 4:33 p.m.; 6:53 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Holy). Westbound 10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:37 p.m.; 5:07 p.m.; 7:37 p.m.; 9:13 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Holy).
DENTAL DR. H. LEIB Dental Surgeon Office—Corner Mill and Frederick Streets Telephone 19 - ACTON	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Standard Time Eastbound Daily 6:46 a.m.; Daily except Sunday 10:08 a.m.; 1:13 p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday 11:59 a.m.; 1:59 p.m.; 4:59 p.m.; 7:59 p.m.; 10:59 p.m. (Sun. and Holy). Westbound Sunday, 8:39 a.m.; 1:08 p.m.; 7:46 p.m.; 11:59 p.m.; Daily except Sunday 6:46 a.m.; 9:46 a.m.; 12:46 p.m.; 3:46 p.m.; 6:46 p.m.; 9:46 p.m.
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office—84 Mill Street Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 148	LEGAL C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C. Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Saturdays by appointment only Office 23 — Phone — Res. 131 ACTON
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