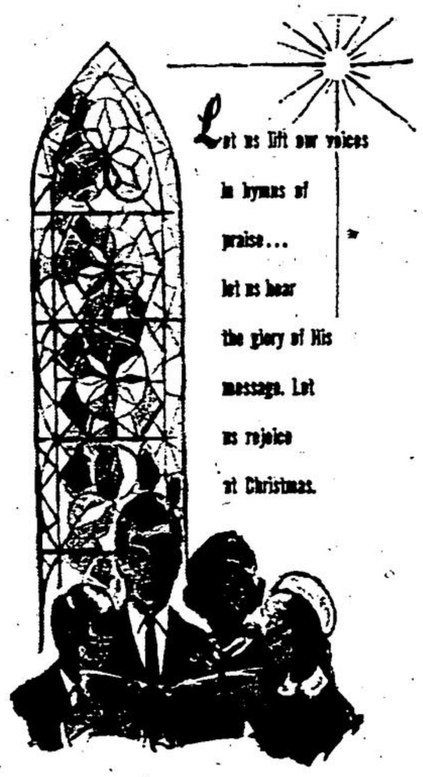
Whole Town is Aglow With Splash of Color

The town is aglow with a splash of Christmas color! Life size Santa Claus figures, strings of gaily colored lights, candles, wreaths, Christmas trees, decorated store and home windows and floodlights have transformed the town into a picture of Christmas.

Some streets in town are resplendent in their blaze of electric lights, while on others, a twinkle here and a glow there, point out that Christmas spirit is prevalent in at least some of the homes. Congratulations are in order for all those who have decorated their homes — the display seems to grow bigger and better every year.

Dressing table accessories such as perfume bottles or comb, brush and mirror sets delight the teen-age miss at Christmas time.

FRANK TOTH SR.
SHOES and SHOE REPAIRS
ACTON



CUSTOM CLEANERS
5 MAIN ST. N. ACTON, ONT.

Or Start One

Key Your Gift to His Hobby

Help the gentleman extend his participation in the world about him, deepen and enrich his daily experience! If he hasn't already a hobby or two, start him on one this Christmas.

There are hobbies of creation such as painting, photography, woodworking and hobbies of collection which can be just as rewarding. One needn't possess a special talent in order to reap the fun!

The scope of collection hobbies has broadened extensively from the familiar and engrossing subjects of stamps and coins.

Within Budget

Art lovers have found the collection of lithographs particularly exciting. They are signed and numbered by the artist and fall within everyone's budget.

Autographs, manuscripts and documents of political luminaries, composers or writers are often simple to obtain.

Rare old books or phonograph records space a preoccupation with music or literature with historical significance . . . in fact almost any interest can be enriched by a collection.

Creative hobbyists often find that they need to replenish their materials; therefore, extra supplies would make an appreciated gift to them.

The photographer may like darkroom equipment, an attachment to his camera indoor and outdoor films; the artist—paints, canvasses, an easel or a book covering his particular phase of art. The sculptor would welcome tools or a block of wood or marble; the hifi addict some new components or stereo records; the musician, an addition to his library of sheet music; the model builder, one of the many exciting new ship, auto or plane kits.

The "landscape architect" would certainly appreciate an electric hedge cutter; the do-it-yourself builder, a new drill.

Artful Thinking

Hand printing has begun arousing new interest. One can begin a modest "shop" inexpensively using wood or linoleum blocks. All that is needed is an aptitude for carving and some feeling for graphic art . . . the hobbyist may well find himself printing his own Christmas cards next year!

Silk screen printing is admired by moneyearners who enjoy working with a diversity of colors. A complete silk screen kit can be obtained for a surprisingly modest sum.

In Case of Fire

AT HOME:

Quickly get everybody out of the house.

Call the fire department. (Be sure everyone in your family knows how to call the fire department.)

AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS:

Walk, do not run, to the nearest exit. Call the fire department immediately. Keep calm.

CHANCE COLOR

Legend has it that before the Crucifixion the berries of Christmas Holly were white instead of red as now.

Greetings and best wishes for CHRISTMAS

ACTON JERSEY DAIRY
R.R. 2 Acton, Ont.

Christmas Spirit

Overflowing "Cheerfulness"

Christmas and New Year's are times of hospitality. More than at any other time of year, friends and acquaintances drop in for a visit and the spirit of peace and good will is rampant. Thousands of people who entertain infrequently at other times suddenly find their homes filled with friendly and joyful guests.

"The thing to do" seems to be to present the cup that cheers to every visitor. Some visitors manage to accept several "cups" and their cheerfulness is overflowing.

Your Fault

Host and hostess are warned that hospitality, overdone, can be harmful. Host and hostess are responsible, personally, if a too well entertained guest departs in over-high spirits and is killed in traffic, or injures or kills someone else. By permitting a guest to either reach a dangerously befuddled state or to allow him to get into traffic if such a state is reached, is one of the most dangerous things a host or hostess can be guilty of.

In the first place, many a holiday punch bowl can be robbed of its "punch" without in any way detracting from its pleasantness. Many a host can concoct a brew that is pleasantly sparkling and tasteful without the slightest danger of sending the visitor away with a bewildered brain. But if the guest does get into a condition that makes him both menace and prey in traffic, the host must see that he neither drives nor walks where there can be danger. Send him with friends or in a taxi.

Safety is the most important ingredient in any food or drink served during the holiday season. Serve safety and let your guests survive.

ACTON HOME FURNISHINGS
47 MILL ST. ACTON, ONT.

We greet you with a friendly note of thanks for your good will and kind patronage.

J. BERT WOOD
Insurance Agency

TOTH MOTORS
12 GUELPH ST. W. ACTON PHONE 853-1840

Celebrating Christmas in Halton's Early Days Far Cry from Today Gifts, Feasts and Glitter

With Christmas quickly approaching, many parents and grandparents recall with a touch of nostalgia, the Christmases of their youth. Some may wonder how Christmas was celebrated by the first settlers of this area. In the following story, taken from Gwen Clarke's Halton's Pages of the Past, some pioneer Christmases are described. The author mentions the crude living conditions of the pioneers of this county, then continues:

What, then, would Christmas be like amid such surroundings? No gay and colorful Christmas cards; no gifts from the home folk; no church bells ringing out their message across the frosty air. Life was still a struggle for survival. Celebrations were impossible; Christmas Day would be marked only as a date on the calendar.

Sit Before Fire

Yet the pioneers would undoubtedly remember it as the day on which the Christchild was born and it might be to their comfort to recall the humble surroundings of the Infant Jesus. In some of the rude log cabins a mother, with her little ones gathered around her, would sit before a pine log fire.

The children would listen eagerly as Mother told them the story of the Nativity. And then she would tell them stories of Christmas as she remembered it in the land of her birth; of the little village church, the Christmas Sunday school concert, the good food and the exchange of family Christmas gifts. Santa Claus would not be a part of her story as she would remember that Santa Claus did not have the children of the pioneers on his Christmas list.

Christmas dinner . . . what would it be? With luck, it might be wild turkey, duck or venison, although it was more likely to be the mainstay of the pioneer diet — potatoes, corn, salt pork, flour or bran. Hemlock tea and burned Indian corn would suffice as substitutes for tea and coffee.

Milk A Luxury

Fortunate, indeed, was the family who owned a cow to provide milk for the children. Letters describing pioneer life refer to "barrelled beef and turnips as luxuries reserved for guests and for such great occasions as Christmas and New Year's Day".

By the middle of the 19th century, conditions had changed considerably. It was possible for immigrants and second generation settlers — if they could afford it — to live off the fat of the land. Officers and their families in garrison towns enjoyed comparative luxury. Whiskey flowed freely. In farm families, tables at Christmas time groaned with the weight of good food.

As the years progressed, scarcity had been replaced by plenty. The pioneers had learned ways of drying the wild native fruits for winter use so there was more variety in their diet the year round. Mrs. Anna Jameson, who, in 1837, visited in the Gore district, of which Halton was a part, speaks well of the food served at that time.

Table Well Filled

"Our table," she wrote, "is pretty well supplied. Beef is tolerable but lean. Mutton, bad, scarce and dearer than pork. Pork is excellent, being fattened principally on Indian corn. Fish is delicious. During the whole winter, we have had black bass and whitefish caught in holes in the ice and brought down by the Indians. Venison game and wild fowl are always to be had, quails caught in immense numbers near Toronto are most delicate eating . . . the higher classes of people are supplied with provisions from their own lands and farms or by certain persons they know and employ . . . some raise poultry and vegetables for their own table."

As the years passed, the celebration of Christmas took on definite shape and form. Treasured traditions from the lands of their birth became a part of the Canadian Christmas, introduced by incoming immigrants. As the population increased, family gatherings became the main feature of the Christmas celebrations.

Typical Story

We have been given several first hand accounts of Christmas was back in grandmother's time. Here is one that is typical:

"We always went to Grandmother's for Christmas. Grandma Aunt Mary and Aunt Liz would be busy for weeks past getting ready for Christmas. The table load up the sleigh and head for grandmother's place. Bells would jingle merrily as the prancing horses carried each party swiftly over the glistening snow. Sometimes we had to battle deep snowdrifts and occasionally there would be an upset and some of us would land in a snowbank.

"But eventually, we would all arrive at the farm and grandfather would tell us to hurry and bed the horses before all them vittles at the house got eaten up! We children were told to keep out of the way and amuse ourselves until we were called. And that wouldn't be long, because the womenfolk had dinner on the table in short order.

(Continued on Page Four)

Our very best wishes to everyone

LITTLE MOTORS
NO. 7 HIGHWAY ACTON, ONT.

To all...
We extend our warmest Christmas greetings

COOPER'S
DRUG STORE

ACTON TV SALES and SERVICE
92 GUELPH ST. ACTON, ONT.

We've but one wish for you this Christmas—that it be better than any you've ever had before.

EDNA - MAY
LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S WEAR

WATSON'S DAIRY BAR

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

SYMON HARDWARE
43 MILL ST. ACTON, ONT.

May this Christmas be one of resounding joy and good cheer for you and all those dear to you.

F. L. WRIGHT