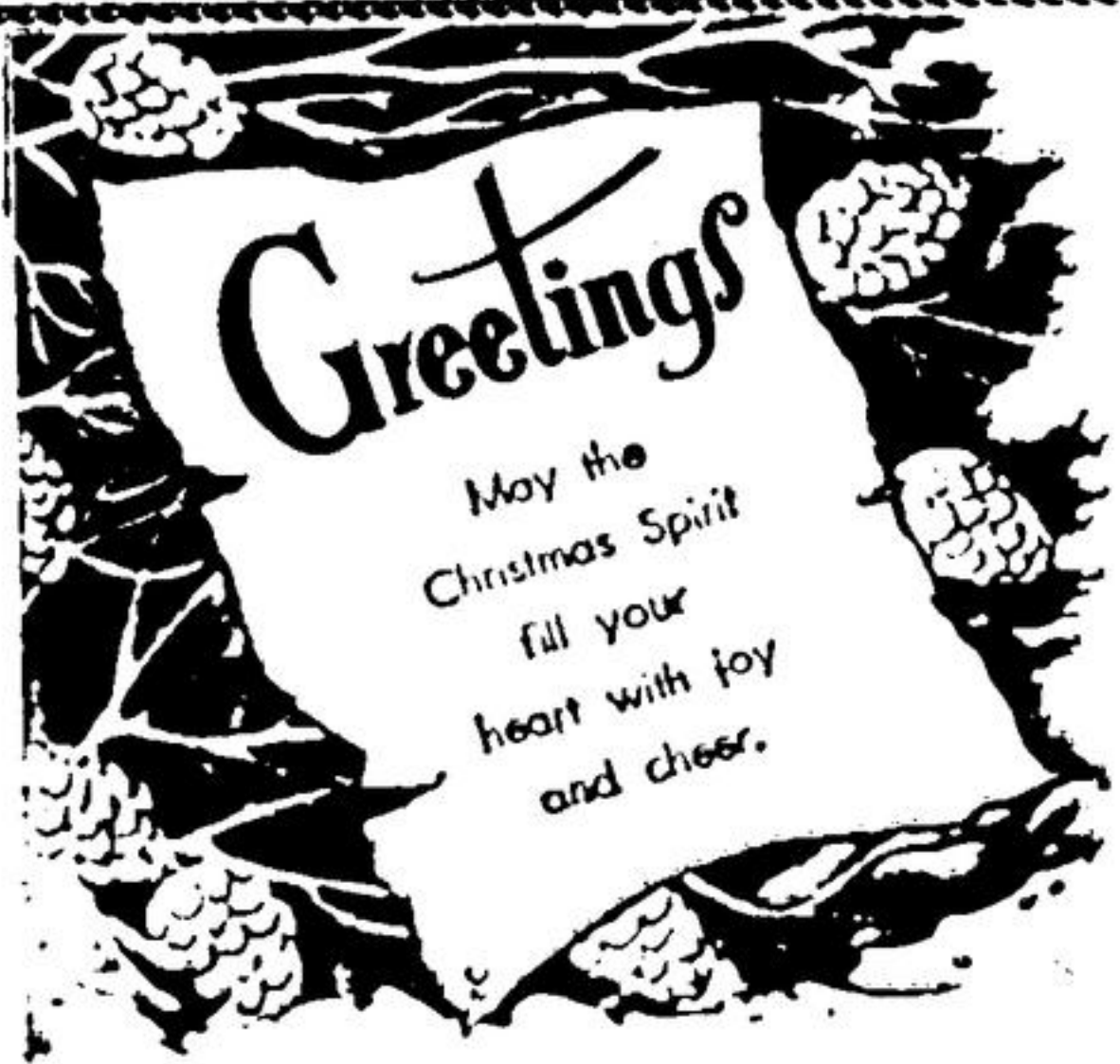


NOISY PASSENGERS
 Noisy passengers can drown out warning sounds of other traffic, such as the fire-wish of a car in the "blind spot." Entire families have been wiped out at level crossings because, presumably, the drivers did not hear the trains above the noise made by children in the car. Blaring radios, heavy rain, closed windows also reduce the audible warnings of traffic hazards. Drivers should be particularly watchful when they cannot hear clearly, says the Ontario Safety League.



RACHLIN JEWELLERS

OLD-FASHIONED Christmas Wishes

We wish you the happiest of holidays, filled with all the friendly warmth of a good old-fashioned Christmas.

S. K. LAMB REALTOR

Greetings to all

Here's a very special delivery of warm wishes for a merry Christmas.

KEN'S TAXI

221 MASON BLVD. PHONE 853-1430

GREETINGS for Christmas

We wish you a Christmas near your loved ones... a season of joy and good will.

RELIABLE SNACK BAR AND RELIABLE TAXI

Christmas Customs Around the World

From Canada to Spain

Christmas is the loveliest of all birthdays — that of the Infant Jesus. That is why Christmas is chiefly a day of worship in many lands. In French Canada, for example, everyone looks forward to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. To French Canadians, Christmas is a time for the family to be together. Gift giving and revelry belong to the New Year.

In Canada and the United States, the bringer of gifts at Christmas is Santa Claus, also called St. Nicholas. In England, he is known as Father Christmas.

Canada is one of the greatest suppliers of Christmas trees in the world. Hundreds of thousands of trees are grown just for that purpose every year. The great Christmas tree provinces are British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. Balsam fir is first choice in the Maritimes, and Douglas fir on the west coast.

Many Canadian families prefer spruce, Scotch pine and other evergreens, however. One out of every four Christmas trees in American homes comes from Canada.

Turning to the United States — one of the most charming Christmas customs may be found among the Pennsylvania Dutch. They make up their own model Nativity scenes and have great fun going from house to house to see the ones their friends have built. In a church at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, there is a remarkable "Paiz" or Nativity scene, which people come for miles to see. It tells the story of Jesus' birth in seven elaborate scenes.

Christmas trees came to this continent from Germany, in the sense of their becoming the centerpiece of a Yuletide custom. It is believed that Hessian soldiers, hired by King George III to fight the colonists, were the first to decorate a Christmas tree in the United States.

Largest Tree

One of the most unusual Christmas trees in the world is alive. It is a giant sequoia in California and is more than 3,000 years old. Another remarkable live Christmas tree is an oak growing in a North Carolina park. The Spanish moss festooning its branches weighs more than six tons.

Three famous carols were written by Americans. "I Came Up on the Midnight Clear," O Little Town of Bethlehem, and We Three Kings of Orient Are. The radio and television age has popularized such Christmas tunes as "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "White Christmas."

Across the Atlantic in Wales, carollers make their rounds very early on Christmas morning. Sleepy householders invite them in for refreshments in part for the privilege of being so awakened. Many English carols are centuries old. "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" goes back to the 14th century. "Joy to the World" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" to the 16th. "The First Nowell" is a medieval shepherd song claimed by both France and England.

Old Carol

"Back the Halls with Hoops of Holly" is not only an old English carol but also a firm rule in British Yuletide households. Holly branches, with their glossy green leaves and red berries, along with the "white" berries

mistletoe and evergreen boughs adorn the Englishman's "bush" whether it be a Mayfair flat or a Devon cottage. But all the Christmas decorations are taken down on Twelfth Night, January 6th.

The first weekday after Christmas is Boxing Day in England. That is the day when the poor man the milkman and servants receive a gift of money.

The custom of Epiphany is well known to the young boys of England on the twelfth night. In England it was of ash cake or posie on Scotland. It had to be lighted from the branch of the year before and it had to be kept burning all night. The Twelfth Night Yule log was an ancient Anglo-Saxon word for Christmas.

In the 17th century, Christmas customs came to the dark of mountaintops and plain. On Christmas morning, while it is still dark, candles light the way to early Mass. Epiphany is celebrated in Scotland, Ireland, and other parts of the world. The custom of Epiphany is well known to the young boys of England on the twelfth night. In England it was of ash cake or posie on Scotland. It had to be lighted from the branch of the year before and it had to be kept burning all night. The Twelfth Night Yule log was an ancient Anglo-Saxon word for Christmas.

The little children of Ireland put out their shoes on Christmas Eve, hoping that St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. James will fill them with toys and candies. In some French homes, Father Christmas calls on children on Christmas afternoon after tea when the tree is lit. How the kids cry out as he enters with his basket of toys.

In Australia, Santa Claus wears his traditional red suit and white beard, despite the summer heat of Christmas. Down Under, the department store Santa Clauses get so hot that they receive extra pay for the discomfort.

In Holland, St. Nicholas brings the children presents on December 5, his own anniversary. He is dressed in a red bishop's robe, rides a white horse and is accompanied by his servant, Black Peter. Men dressed as St. Nicholas and Black Peter visit homes to give the children candy and question them about their behavior.

Black Peter threatens to put them into his sack unless they are good. St. Nicholas promises to return later with presents, and the children leave out their shoes for him to fill along with a carrot for his horse.

Some years ago in Regina, Saskatchewan, the Netherlands Society gave a parade. St. Nicholas rode his white horse, accompanied by two Black Peters. An age-old belief in Sweden held that, in the long nights of the Yule season, trolls and witches came out of their hiding places. At midnight, it was believed on Christmas Eve, the animals could talk. Long ago in Norway, people believed that, when the wind was high on Christmas Eve, the old Norse gods were sweeping down to make war on Christians.

The Finns do not use evergreen for Christmas decorations. They consider it a sign of mourning. But they cover the roofs of their houses with straw for the children to sleep on, in remembrance of the manger.

The Danes eat a Christmas dinner of roast goose, not turkey. Gifts are brought by the Yule Man. Little girls sing the "Seven-Play" psalm.

In 14th century France, the monks of Mont St. Michel had a special custom for the 6th of January, Twelfth Night or Epiphany. They ate cake that had a hidden gold coin in it. The finder became Epiphany King. He sat on a golden throne at Midnight Mass and Vespers.

To this day in France, the Epiphany cake is called "the cake of the kings." This custom is also found in French Canada. Germany, Holland and Belgium children receive their gifts on Portugal is different. The King Cake is very large and lasts from Christmas till Twelfth Night. Whoever finds the hidden bean must pay for next year's cake.

In Spain, a Nativity scene is the centre of the Christmas celebration on the home. The child-rearing girls are brought by the Three Kings. In Italy, La Befana takes the place of Santa Claus. She is like a good fairy and brings the children presents on Epiphany Eve, January 5. Greek St. Basil's Day, the first day of the New Year.

Tree of Light
 Over in Asia, the Chinese Christians call Christmas Holy Birth Festival. The Christmas tree is the Tree of Light. The Filipinos begin their Yule festival nine days before Christmas and end on Christmas Eve with Midnight Mass. At church, drums and gongs accompany the choir, while a band plays in between.

The Mexican home at Christmas will often be decorated with little Spanish moss and evergreens. To the south in Costa Rica, the Nativity scene is often arranged as to fill a whole room in the family home. Still farther south the Peruvians set their Nativity scene on their patios. Christmas Eve is usually hot, but the people make merry, wearing masks, playing guitars, gongs and castanets.

The Book of Knowledge

Now It's Santa's Turn

Machine Fails Aunt Agatha

By Dorothy Barker

It was a beautiful happy Santa Claus scene in the living room of Aunt Agatha's home. The room was filled with the warm glow of the Christmas lights and the happy hum of the record player. Aunt Agatha was sitting in her favorite chair, watching the television set. The screen showed Santa Claus and his reindeer flying through the sky. Aunt Agatha was smiling and humming along to the music.

And when the television set stopped, Aunt Agatha was surprised to find that the record player had stopped playing. She looked at the record player and saw that the record had stopped. She looked at the record player and saw that the record had stopped. She looked at the record player and saw that the record had stopped.

I was told when I printed down the story promoting this new kind of Christmas spirit, that it took months to get the 400,000 machine on display before it was even paid. It kept playing records when asked what to give Aunt Agatha. I was told when I printed down the story promoting this new kind of Christmas spirit, that it took months to get the 400,000 machine on display before it was even paid. It kept playing records when asked what to give Aunt Agatha.

I was only when I marked my card for Aunt Agatha and excitedly in my excitement over such a service, I had made instead of "female" that I was bewildered. The machine suggested that Aunt Agatha might like a gold-headed cane, Zippo pipe lighter, corkle socks, bonny drums or a set of hot tools. These all within the price range I had stipulated fairly difficult. Aunt Agatha is a wonderful lady. In the smell of pipe smoke and is proud of the fact she can still stumblle around without the aid of a cane.

By now the machine was tired of making such demanding selections and with a twist of knobs and flashing of lights, it belched



CHRISTMAS CHEER

Here's hoping Santa's reindeer delivery comes through with your special wishes, including all of the joy and cheer that goes with Christmas.

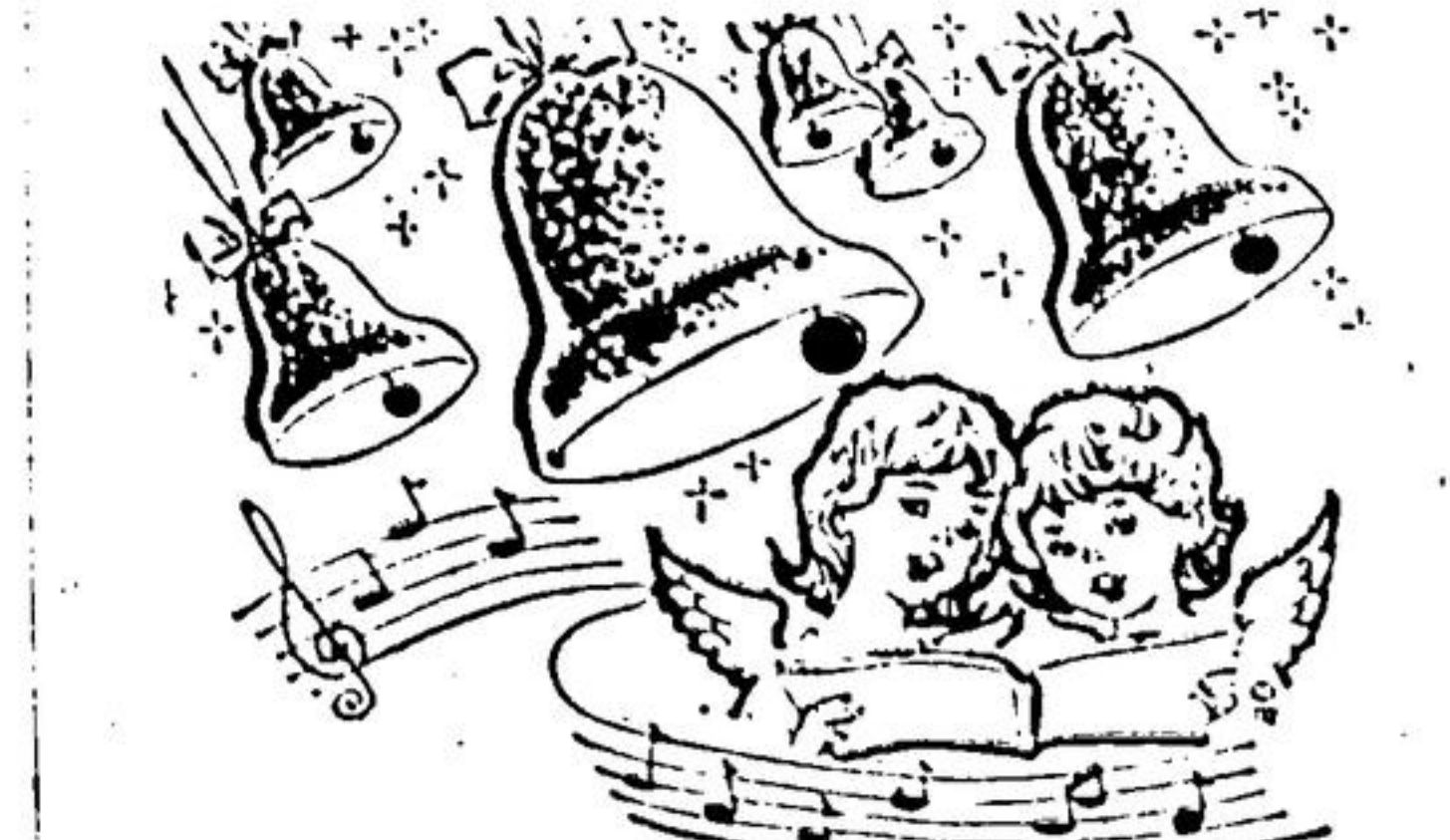
MAIN VARIETY and SMOKE SHOP



May the miracle of the Christ Child be upon your home and in your hearts this Christmas Day. May the good Lord bless and keep you and your loved ones.

JOYCE BEAUTY SALON

32 CAMERON ST. 853-1820



Silent Night, holy night...

Hope your Holiday begins and ends on the happiest of notes, with joy and peace for you, your family and friends. Merry Christmas!

THOMPSON MOTORS ACTON LTD.



Christmas GREETINGS

With the hope that your Christmas will be a joyous one, go our very best wishes.

ACTON TV SALES & SERVICE



It's Christmas

Hope you're endowed with all the joys of the season!

LITTLE MOTORS



B & C DEPARTMENT STORE



Friendly

wish to you for the Yuletide, hoping you and yours have a Merry Christmas!

PAUL NIELSEN'S CLOTHING



Merry Christmas

Our heartiest good wishes for a happy and joyous Yuletide go to you and yours.

ACTON HOME FURNISHINGS

47 MILL ST. E. 853-0820



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Warm and sincere greetings, from all of us to all of you, and many thanks, too.

FRANK TOTH MOTORS

12 GUELPH ST. ACTON