

Life Membership Certificate For Knox Auxiliary President

Knox Alert Evening Auxiliary held their Christmas meeting on Monday evening of last week at the church.

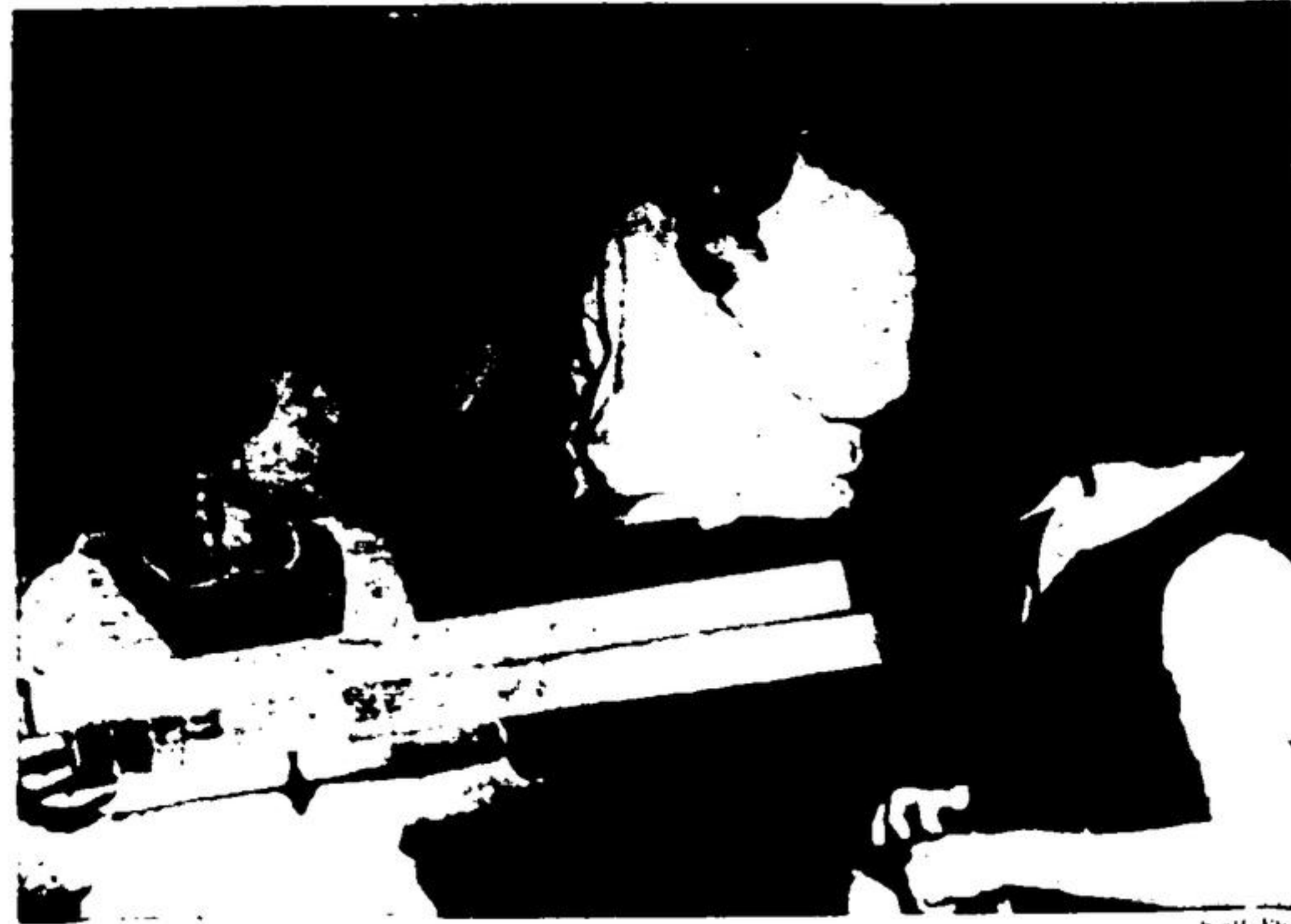
Twenty members enjoyed a delicious dinner served by Mrs. R. Adams, Mrs. J. Inglis and their committee. Then the members adjourned to the classroom where the president, Miss E. Cole, opened the meeting with the call to worship and prayer.

Mrs. Ashley read the Christmas story from the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. All joined in singing a number of the well loved carols during the program. Mrs. Inglis gave a Christmas reading and Miss Cole led in prayer. Mrs. G. Young called the incoming president, Miss Mar

jay Hall, to come forward, and the retiring president, Miss Cole, presented her with a life membership certificate, while Mrs. R. Turner panned on her a life membership pin. Miss Hall expressed her appreciation and the singing of carols and the benediction closed the program.

The secretary and treasurer gave their reports and arrangements were made to remember shut-ins of the congregation with a gift at Christmas time.

Miss B. Roszell played the role of Santa and distributed a gift to each member. The close of the meeting Mrs. J. Agnew presented the thanks of the group to the committee in charge for the evening.



LIKE MOST BOYS, Pandy Van Fleet is undecided whether he likes his mother Sandra's present from Santa or his own. Acton Fire Hall echoed with shouts of joy Sunday, December 23, as Santa made his annual visit to distribute gifts to firefighters' children. These youngsters are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Don Van Fleet.



COOPER'S DRUG STORE
HAROLD G. MORRIS, Phm. B., Proprietor



A MERRY CHRISTMAS
The sounds and scents of Christmas fill the air with joy and merriment. May your Day be filled with these pleasures.

BRADLEY'S MEAT MARKET



Greetings for Christmas
MANAGEMENT
DOMINION HOTEL
14 MAIN ST. N. ACTON, ONTARIO

Our good wishes for a happy and healthy holiday to all our friends. We thank you for your most kind support.

LET'S PLAY BRIDGE

By Bill Coats

In last week's column I was writing about the problem besetting a declarer when taking a finesse. This week's hands illustrate another point — to finesse or not to finesse.

A subtitle to this week's hands could be "Winning a Finesse but Losing the Contract".

This is Board No. 1 from last week's duplicate game at the Acton Bridge Club.

Dealer — West
Neither side vulnerable.

North
S-10 3
H-A 3
D-9 6
C-K 9 8 4 3

West East
S Q J 9 8 7 S 4 2
H O 6 H 1 9 7 4 2
D O 2 D A 10 8 5 4
C-7 7 5 2 C Q

South
S A K 6 5
H K 10 8 5
D K 7 4
C A 10

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1N1 1N1
Pass 2N1 Pass 2N1
Pass Pass Pass

I have only one comment on the bidding. It would not be unreasonable for South, with a reasonably good six-card club suit to take North's opening bid directly to three no trump.

West's opening lead should be a spade and with the broken sequence O 1 9 the correct lead is the queen. South wins and plans his play. Most of the tricks must come from the club suit. South plays the ace of clubs and observes to the fall of the queen from East's hand.

Declarer needs only five club tricks to ensure the contract. This is no time to finesse. The fall of the queen of clubs guarantees that the club suit can be set up with the loss of no more than a trick.

Due to the shortage of entries in dummy, declarer should lead the club ten and overtake in dummy with the king. Now the nine of clubs is led and when West wins with the jack all of dummy's clubs are good. The heart ace is a sure way to return to dummy to cash the good clubs.

When the hand was played, I was defending in the West position. Declarer played the clubs and followed with the ten. However, instead of overtaking declarer finessed. The finesse worked, but the contract was doomed. Clubs could not be established and there just were not enough tricks elsewhere.

On behalf of the Acton Bridge Club, I would like to wish all my readers A Very Merry Christmas. Last week's winners were

Christmas Trees - Symbol of Disaster

Christmas trees, a symbol of joy and happiness, too often become a mass of flames and a symbol of disaster.

Tree decorations and special Christmas costumes should all be chosen with special care and protected from fire. Follow these recommendations for safety in the home during the Christmas season.

1. Don't use indoor lights out of doors.
2. Keep the base of the tree in a container of water. The water will be absorbed and keep the tree moist.
3. Keep trees away from stoves, heaters and fireplaces.
4. Use good quality electric lights on the tree, not candles.
5. Avoid the use of extension cords whenever possible.
6. Be sure that Christmas lights do not overload the electrical circuits in your home.
7. Keep papers, gifts and other inflammable articles away from the base of the tree.
8. Do not use paper, gauze like material or other highly inflammable cloths for children's costumes.
9. Check carefully for hunting, cigarette, butts after every party or gathering in your home.

"Silent" Night

"Silent Night" was first sung at Christmas 1818.

The church organ in an Austrian village had broken a down, so the organist, Franz Gruber, composed the music.

The congregation, which had been reduced because there could be no organ, for Christmas sang "Silent Night" in a quiet accompaniment.

First, George Solby and Bill Coats, second, Mrs. Gloria Coats and Glenn Banks; third, Gary Ellis with Lou Bettesson and Miss O. Logan with Mrs. M. Hooper.



Cheerful Christmas Wishes
Here's wishing a really wonderful holiday season for you and yours.

RON'S BARBER SHOP
ACTON PLAZA



Christmas Greetings
Let us journey in spirit to the manger, that its message may inspire us anew.

ACTON BOWLING LANES
RUTH, KEN HULFORD AND STAFF

A Christmas Parable

The Day Santa Went For Automation

By E. C. Corneah, Editor
Toyland "Toylandian"

"What this place needs" said Santa Claus, "is automation." With that he set to work to mechanize the North Pole toy factory.

"After all," he argued to Mrs. Claus as he discussed the plan that night, "today's children are a sophisticated lot. So my advisers tell me and they no longer go for all that magic stuff."

So Santa called in his toy factory E.L. Manager and told him what he proposed to do.

As he listened the plans for installing automatic toy-making machinery and mechanizing Santa's methods of delivery, the E.L. Manager's face lengthened.

"What with all the elves that he asked? And what about the fairy wizards, gnomes and all the other magic creatures and toys he had people?"

"All that must go," said Santa firmly. "This is a scientific world, and we must get up to date. After all legends and all that sort of thing are quite unscientific."

He thought for a moment.

"We must begin a program of re-education of the population of Toyland," he said. "We'll build schools and have classes to train them in modern skills."

The E.L. Manager nodded.

"Then," he said slowly, "from them to do what? If we automate the toy factory and automate the delivery system, what will they be able to do?"

"Well," said Santa bruskiy, in a businesslike tone, "we'll work out details later. Now let's get on."

So they set to work and feverish activity marked things at the North Pole for a long time. Computers were brought in, and even the North Pole post office was equipped with modern processing machines, so that the staff was cut by four-fifths.

After several months of this, the big new factory was ready, and the E.L. Manager, with two assistants, one to push the control button on each of the two floors of the factory, set the machines in motion, and automatic production of toys began.

Meanwhile the elves and fairies and all the rest attended a special school set up in the old factory building. There they were taught suitable hobby crafts, to which, away from factory time, they could turn their hands. A staff of experts worked on a program of training at some kind of work which elves, fairies, and the like could do in a technological world.

Finally, a day came when the E.L. Manager came to visit Santa in his great big office, filled with filing cabinets. Instead of the usual mouse, boxes, and toy instruments, playing Christmas carols, Santa had a hi-fi set playing, and the music was A Symphony on The Rhythm of a Data Processor, played by electronic machines.

"So," said the E.L. Manager in a businesslike tone, "your new plant is ready. Would you like to see it?"

He noticed a certain press-cupied an about the old gentle men who seemed thinner than he had once been, and whose cheeks were not quite so rosy, but he dismissed that as part of the effects of staying inside an air-conditioned office all the time.

New Staff

Santa followed the E.L. Manager to the loading platform door, where there stood something thin and new.

"What," demanded Santa in a rather shrill tone, "is THAT?"

Somewhat taken aback, the E.L. Manager said, "Why that's your new sled sir."

"Sled?" roared Santa. "Where are the shafts for the reindeer?"

"Shafts?" said the E.L. Manager feebly. "Why, Santa, that's the modern purpose. I've had you ordered. It needs no reindeer."

"No reindeer?" Santa fairly screeched. "No reindeer?"

Then he turned and stamped furiously back into the building back through the rows of computers and automatic machines, and past the school where the elves and fairies were taking hobby training, and back into the big air conditioned office.

Then he picked up the hi-fi set in both hands, and dashed it to the floor, where it emitted an electronic shriek and exploded.

"No reindeer!" he roared again. The E.L. Manager, standing with the door open, ready to run, noticed that Santa's cheeks had taken on a very ruddy hue again.

"Summon the elves!" roared Santa again. Then he picked up the telephone, and still spluttering, gave certain orders.

Shortly afterward the old gentleman, dressed now in his legendary red uniform instead of the matte business suit which he had worn for the past several months, stood in front of a great rally of all the residents of the North Pole's Toyland. There were elves, fairies, wizards, and all manner of walking and talking toys, and storybook characters, including Jack, who was munching nervously on a piece of the beanstalk.

"Friends," said Santa in a loud, clear voice, which trembled just a

little. "Friends, I have made a decision. Not until I saw that thing there — that terrible prop sled, did I make it. But NO REINDEER! No Donner, No Blitzen, No Dancer, No Prancer! Why bless my soul, what is this? Christmas without reindeer and a good old fashioned sleigh? No one would know me!"

He stared at them and seemed troubled by some deep concern.

"No friend," he roared, "have the old sled and the magic that takes it around the world in one night, and as some apparatus began Santa held up a hand for silence.

"Wait, I have only begun. Perhaps my experts were right and today's children are sophisticated and understand a lot of things. But it must not be so. No, No. For the first time Santa's voice faltered a little.

"So," he said more strongly now. "We must try to keep the old sled. We must try to keep it in my factory and use it and magic. There must be some standard and trust and toys that talk, and storybook characters that come alive, and all the things that are a part of the Christmas legend. Why bless my soul," he roared suddenly, "the are still children, and they are still stars in their eyes, and dreams in their hearts! We can not turn Toyland into something automatic."

As he spoke the biggest truck in the world drew up loaded with hammers. There were big hammers, small hammers, wide hammers, and just about every size.

"You could think of Santa as the Toyland residents surged forward, cheering, "Take them, my friends," cried Santa as the Toyland residents surged forward, cheering, "Take them and smash the turbo-prop sled and get out my old one! And smash the computers! Break down the desks and get the old factory all fixed up with colorful lights and trim and sprinkle the magic dust and let's do it the old way!"

The E.L. Manager swung his hand in horror as the gleeful laughter of the North Pole did Santa's bidding. And when all the new machines were broken, they got the old factory going. And when there were elves swarming over the benches and fannies forming and iron and stockings with a flying motion, and toys and sled and stars and colored lights, and all the things that make for Christmas magic, the hammers were running to and fro in practice, and the old sled was brought out and put ready for the run.

And Santa and Mrs. Claus walked to and fro and saw it all, they smiled, and Santa said, "Now that's the way it will stay, just as long as there are children. For my experts like all other child experts are full of their own opinions, and don't really KNOW anything. For children are well always be children, and they will always be a place for magic and imagination. We must not let anybody persuade us again to try to make adults out of them."

And that is why Christmas will be much the same again this year.

About you, glad?



Silent Night
May the manager and the adults live in your heart. And to you, Christmas joy.

DON S. BEXTON
"YOUR JEWELLER"
Acton
56 Mill St. 853-2550



Happy Holiday
The holiday season is here... and in the midst of all the merry-making, we'd like to extend best wishes and greetings to our friends.

CANADIAN TIRE CORPORATION
ASSOCIATE STORE
Art Gordon, Prop. 853-1040



peace on earth
"Peace will be all men." In the message of Christmas, there is hope and promise for all. To you and yours, happy holidays.

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