

Peace unto you...

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace among men with whom He is pleased."

The message of the angels to the stunned shepherds as they watched their flocks stressed the promise of peace to that generation. To the countless descendants of that age the same promise has been perpetuated, yet we seem still to fail to qualify on a large scale with the basic requirement "among men with whom He is pleased."

Peace is not some state of "cease-fire" in a world torn at its corners with bombings and killings under various guises. Peace is not that limited term of time following a violence that engulfs the globe. No, surely the Peace the angels meant was the state individuals achieve when they have a faith so dominant it becomes a strength.

Before we can truly appreciate the Peace of the angelic host we must surely relate it to ourselves as individuals.

It is not enough to point it out for others, it is best transmitted by influence and when the radiance of peace is reflected from the depth of an individual it can begin its mission to others. When this ideal has become widespread it can be expected to effect the affairs of men and nations.

Our wish for you at this festive season is certainly for a Merry Christmas but even more we wish for you Peace... that inner peace which will reflect in your life and in your contact with others... that outgoing peace that will influence others in ways undreamed of.

Election aftermath...

The enthusiasm those in Nassage ways have for their municipal elections has often attracted our admiration, as we watch the apathy and low interest that are reflected in large communities.

Unfortunately the recent election has indicated one of the problems that develop when personalities — rather than issues — become involved.

Allegations have been made that the ancestry of one of the candidates for reeve was injected by a council contestant. It is charged this was discrimination and there have been references to affidavits and how the basis for the charge was first established.

This has all resulted in a march of protest on council and heated charges that discrimination was used in the pre-vote campaigning.

Councillor Ross Gordon has been charged with injecting this note in the campaign — a charge he denies. Allan Ackman, against whom it is alleged the discrimination was used, denies any knowledge of the instance.

Those who have taken up the issue have mounted an attack on recently re-elected Councillor Ross Gordon.

We would oppose discrimination in any election on the basis of race or creed. We would also oppose a tendency to charge and convict a person without the submission of substantiated proof of reasonable grounds for the charge. Despite our best efforts to determine the origin of the charge against Mr. Gordon, we have found only that it was always someone else who passed the story along. This hearsay evidence is mixed with innuendo and oblique references.

Discrimination can take many forms, and none are any more acceptable than another. If there is a substantial charge against Mr. Gordon it should be stated in no uncertain terms. A continuation of hearsay evidence and vague charges is in itself discrimination.

Democracy is many things to many people, but surely it carries with it the right to a fair trial. An assumption of guilt until innocence is proven is not in step with normal democratic processes.

Sugar and Spice

—by Bill Smiley

Christmas comes but once a year. In fact, it's just ahead. But have you heard the bad news? Santa Claus is dead. He didn't have a stroke. In fact it's difficult to say what made old Santa croak. Some say it was exhaustion. Some say it was a clot; but others seem to think he conked from smoking too much pot. Chimney-pot, that is, of course. He wouldn't touch the other. But what an anti-climax. For Santa just to smother. At least he could have fallen from his sleigh and made a splash. Or run into a satellite. With one almighty crash.

I know it's going to be hard to explain that to your kids, but that's your problem.

The revelation contained in the above doggerel is my personal campaign against the assortment of creeps going around smelling up the atmosphere with their God-is-Dead garbage.

There's just as much truth, and just as much common sense, in my report about S. Claus as there is in theirs about God.

I don't care whether they are eminent clerics or half-baked beatniks, the God-is-Dead crowd is dead wrong. He may be out to lunch occasionally, but he is not dead. He is very much alive. And you go tell that to the mountain, my folk-singing friends.

Sorry if I sound a bit heated at this time of peace and goodwill and four color ads for whiskey and perfume. But I've had enough of the complete absence of any sense for a bit. Quite enough of psychobabble sensations, and clever little chrysanthemums saying glib things, and young people with open mouths who swallow anything that files into them, and simple-minded, earnest "liberals" who bore the hell out of me trying to explain things far beyond them.

There, it's out. I'm just a ruddy old reactionary, after all. And I don't give a damn. Never in my life have I had a desire to be one of the "in" crowd, and I have no intention of starting now.

First of all, what is Christmas all about? Is it not a celebration, in the Christian world, of the basic tenet of faith; that God gave man the greatest gift in his power, a son, a living, breathing manifestation of His concern for the muddled, wrong-headed, two-legged creatures who make such a muck of things on their own?

He gave man this gift only once. But every year for 20 centuries, its celebration has renewed peace and joy and love in the world, even if only for a short time. That's quite a gift.

Now, Santa Claus is a little different. He's been in business for only about a century. He brings something different every year, and all his gifts can be broken, lost or worn out.

Already, a lot of people are getting a bit sick of Santa. We see him everywhere: on floats, in department stores, at Christmas concerts, in beer advertisements. He looks a little different each time. And he spends two months of the year leering at us from all directions and ho-ho-ing like the village idiot.

He's like everybody's jolly old grandpa. But after two months of white whiskers, belly laughs and urgings to buy, buy, buy, even jolly old grandpa should be sent off to the funny farm.

How would you like to have God around for two months a year, every day and night, right where you could see him? And what's worse, where He could see you.

What we've got to do is stop treating God like Santa Claus. A visiting clergyman told us on Sunday the story of a family that wanted something very, very much. They prayed for it. And prayed and prayed, the whole family, as hard as they could, for a week. Nothing happened.

In despair, the father said, "Well, I guess God didn't answer our prayers." His little daughter piped, "Sure He did Dad. He said no."

That's faith. God is alive. Christmas is real. And if you have enough faith, maybe you'll find that the rumor about Santa's untimely demise is false, and that he's alive, too.



CANDLELIGHTERS AND READERS in the C.G.I.T. candlelighting service at the United Church Sunday evening were Donna McCabe, Kathy Cook, Peggy Wheeler, Linda Perry, Bonnie Jones, Julie Smith and Carol Masales. This year they were joined by the members of the Sigma-C for the annual service.

Can you keep Christmas?...

by Henry Van Dyke

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you... to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world... to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your changes to do a little more than your duty in the foreground... to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are... and try

to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy... to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are doing to get out of life... but what you are going to give to life... to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness... are you willing to do these things... even for a day? Then... you can keep Christmas!

CENTENNIAL REPORT

1867/1967

by John W. Fisher, Centennial Commissioner

The sound of a locomotive whistle in all its variations can produce waves of nostalgia in many Canadians, especially those who grew up in the steam generation.

A train's whistle has been a background accompaniment to life in small towns and cities throughout most of our nation's history. It played a tune for the frontier moving west, our growth and development and the bustle of a busy Canada at work.

In many Canadian communities, large and small, the railway whistle was an announcement — of news from the east or the west, of the arrival of needed supplies, of friendly visitors or new citizens or the departure of others on their way to greater adventures and new careers.

During Centennial Year 1967, a hoot from a diesel locomotive pulling into town with 15 special exhibition cars will herald the arrival of something big, unusual and exciting, at more than 80 centres in Canada. This will be the Confederation Train.

During 1967, the Confederation Train will move from west to east, starting at Victoria. Those who view the exhibits inside the train will face situations confronted by the early explorers and settlers of Canada.

As they pass from car to car, they will experience uncomfortable sensa-

tions of stercor passage to this new country, pause for reflection in the Chamber of Confederation and pass through periods of the last 100 years including the boom-and-bust twenties and the barren thirties, and the two world wars. Children will derive special benefits from the lively presentation of history.

For more than 700 communities not visited by the train, a blast from the air horn of a tractor trailer truck will announce the arrival of a similar exhibition in a huge Centennial Caravan. There will be eight caravans travelling across Canada each with eight 73-ft. tractor trailers made in Calgary — the largest trailers ever to travel on North American roads — containing exhibits similar to those of the train.

A caravan will be arranged on a community site in a specific quadrangle formation and its colorful, bold design will give the impression of a miniature fair. Travelling where roads permit, the caravans will be within the reach of the vast majority of Canadians. Many communities will stage local events in conjunction with the caravan's visit.

Be sure to watch for dates of the visit of the Confederation Train or Caravan in your area. Your newspaper and centennial organization will know the location and time.

Harley to Halton

by Harry Harley M.P.



This week has seen the continuation of debate on the guaranteed annual income for our senior citizens. I have previously detailed this in the last column which I will not repeat here. Everyone now drawing old age security will receive an application form for the new income supplement in the very near future. This form is, I understand, very simple to fill out. It does not ask for detailed financial information other than what is required on the income tax return. It is expected that this legislation will pass the House of Commons in the very near future and that it should receive Royal Assent before the Christmas recess.

One-day's debate was spent on the threatened strike by air control officers who supervise air traffic at our airports. The Government had appointed a Commissioner to enquire into this matter and his recommendations have been accepted by the air control officers' as what they wish to receive in way of further benefits. The Government has taken the position that this Commissioner was an adviser and they cannot accept

all his findings although they are willing to accept the majority of them. The Government has pointed out that some of the Commissioner's report is based on an inaccurate assumption and that in effect if the Government accepted the recommendations he has made regarding wages it would mean that the air control officers would receive over a period of two years a wage increase of 40 per cent.

The Government feels that this is not within the usual or justified range of salary increase. Here I might just mention that it is indeed strange to observe that the Opposition who so severely criticized the Government's handling of the Longshoremen's strike for a 30 per cent salary increase are now equally busy arguing that the Government should accept a wage increase for air control officers of 40 per cent. The Government has prepared emergency legislation for presentation to the House of Commons if a settlement is not reached which will ensure that no strike is held which would paralyze air travel at this busy time of year.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press, Thursday, December 12, 1946

A rather unusual shipment was made by an Acton industry last week when Ajax Engineers shipped from the plant here 23 cases in three carloads of machinery to equip a tannery in South Africa. It is unusual in the fact that tanneries in Acton are the oldest industry here and the largest in the British Empire and tannery machinery is usually brought into Acton and not exported.

The December meeting of St. Alban's Guild was held at the home of Mrs. W. Wolfe with 18 members present. After a short business discussion, the following officers for 1947 were elected: President Mrs. G. Nelles; Vice-President Mrs. G. Townsley; Secretary Mrs. B. Anderson; Treasurer Mrs. E. Currie; Bulletin secretary Mrs. H. Jolley; Press secretary Mrs. B. Footitt; Altar guild Mrs. S. Jones.

From the issue of December 10, 1946 the Dublin school report with A. C. Warren as teacher gives the following names: W. Somerville, A. Arthurs, G. Wallace, H. McIsaac, M. Kaley, C. Wallace, W. Stalker, G. Elliott, A. Mulholland, W. Mullin, B. Mullin; H. Storey, M. Somerville, J. Kaley, B. Arthurs, C. McPherson, A. G. Scott, Jos. Kaley, C. Carty, J. D. Keith, J. Carty, J. Smith, C. Gibbons, Jos. Mulholland, L. Mullin, A. Keith, E. Sprawl, E. McPherson, M. Storey, John Stewart, John Arthurs, D. Carty, E. McArthur.

Ice making operations at the Arena were halted last week by the mild weather.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, December 21, 1916

A welcome surprise was given Mr. Torrance Beardmore when he was presented with a silver cigarette box beautifully engraved, by the employees of the sole leather tannery.

The 350 readers at the Acton Free Library borrowed 7,441 books during the year.

On Tuesday evening Acton I.O.O.F. Lodge tendered a splendid reception to their brother Sergt. W. J. Gould. A programme of merit was rendered. There were selections by the Leishman Orchestra, Miss Laura Akins, Mr. Wildgust, Mr. Benton and a male quartette. On behalf of the Lodge Mr. D. M. Henderson presented Sergt. Gould with a handsome electric reading lamp. Mr. R. M. McDonald was the chairman of the evening.

Sleigh driving is being enjoyed these days. The merry sleigh bells; the good sleighing; the bracing atmosphere all lend their quota to these enjoyable outings.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, December 17, 1891

The C.P.R. train with its load of blue jackets reached Halifax from Vancouver in less than six and a half days and without an accident. The first part of the experiment in transferring the Pacific Naval reliefs has been a success. There is no question that equally satisfactory results will attend the movement westward of the men to take the place of those just arrived at Halifax; and that will be to follow by the adoption of the Canadian route for general use for naval transport, as it has to an extent been adopted for rapid passenger service.

The Fancy Fair which was in progress in the town hall from Thursday of last week until Tuesday evening of this week under the auspices of St. Joseph's Church was a great financial success. The entire proceeds of the fair netted the handsome amount of \$1000 over and above all expenses, which will not only liquidate the entire amount of indebtedness on St. Joseph's Church but will leave a handsome balance for contemplated improvements. Father Devlin presided each evening with great acceptance.

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Free Press Church Notices

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Founded 1842

Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon  
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1966

11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Sunday School and Church combined. "His Birthday."

There will be no Evening Service that families may have Christmas together.

Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study 7:30 Thursday — Choir Practice, 7:30. Thursday — Explorers at 6:30.

Friday — B.H.F., at 7:00 p.m.

Text: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name (but Jesus) whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1966

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.

11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.

7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer meeting.

Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE

P.O.A.C. 33 Churchill Road

Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1966

CHRISTMAS SERVICES WITH SPECIAL MUSIC AND SINGING

11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship message: "Altar of Incense."

7:00 p.m.—Evening Service. "Christmas Message."

Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayed and Bible Study.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 8 p.m. — C.A. Service at parsonage.

Friday, 6:45 p.m. — Crusaders.

BETH-EL

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Acton, Ontario.

Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk. Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1966

10:00 a.m.—English Service.

2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service.

3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.

Dec. 24, 7 p.m. — Bible School and Sunday School Christmas Program.

TRINITY CHURCH

(The United Church of Canada)

Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.  
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1966

10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Service at Trinity. Presentation of our pledges, tithes and offerings.

11:15 a.m.—Christmas Day Service at Church Hill.

Church School is cancelled and children are urged to attend service with their family.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7:45 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service begins with prelude by a brass quartet.

Christmas Day Evening, at 8 p.m. — A modern filmed presentation of the Christmas story, presented by the young people.

All Welcome

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

KNOX CHURCH, ACTON

Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. Minister

Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:45 a.m.—Church School and Membership Class withdrawn.

11:00 a.m.—Family Christmas Service. Special music by Choir. Sermon on: "Stories and Legends That Enshrine the True Meaning of Christmas."

Everyone Most Welcome.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

ANGLICAN

Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive

Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

11:00 p.m.—The First Eucharist of Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 a.m.—The Second Eucharist of Christmas.

10:30 a.m.—Carol Eucharist.

Thursday, December 29, 7:30 p.m. — Children's Pageant. Refreshments will be served afterwards.