

### Distinguished scholar had doubts about poem

"Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring not even a mouse."

With these lines begins the familiar poem: "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Today, this poem is a treasured part of the lore of Christmas, often quoted and published at the Yuletide season.

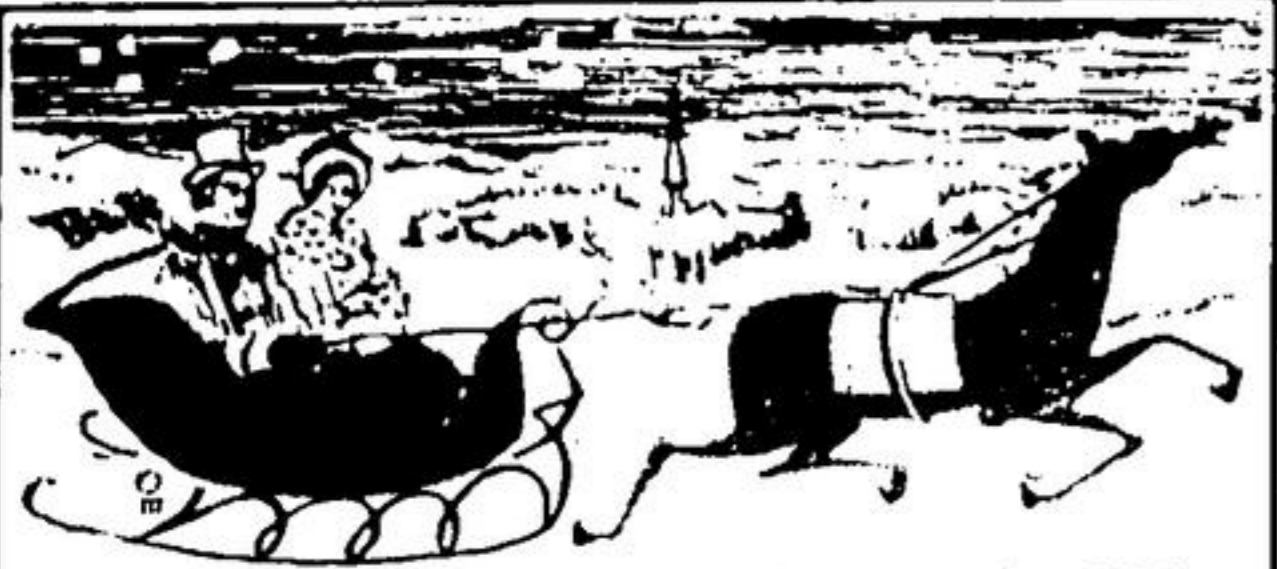
Surprisingly, the poet who created it was far from proud of his work.

A distinguished Biblical scholar and professor of divinity, Dr. Clement Clark Moore wrote

the poem for the amusement of his children at Christmas in 1822. A visitor in the home at the time copied it and had it published a year later in the Troy, N. Y., Sentinel.

The poem appeared anonymously, because Dr. Moore felt that he, as a professor of divinity, should not be associated with such undignified work.

For more than 20 years, he refused to take credit for the poem. In 1844 the poem was published and for the first time credited to its creator, Clement Clark Moore.



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On this wonderful holiday of Peace and Joy we send our heartfelt greetings, and wishes for your Christmas to be merry and bright.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF  
**THOMPSON FUELS LTD.**

Christmas spirit is singing out all over the land. We add our voice, wishing you and yours the finest of holidays! Have the Merriest Christmas yet!

**Christmas Greetings**

**DUNCAN'S VARIETY**

**Merry Christmas**

AND A

**Happy & Prosperous New Year**

TO

**ALL CITIZENS OF ACTON**

**TED TYLER, JR.**

**merry christmas**

We wish you, one and all a joyous, fun-filled holiday season.

**Canadian Tire Corporation**  
ASSOCIATE STORE  
ARY GORDON, Prop. ACTON, ONT.



WISTFULLY WAITING for the sound of Santa's bells are pretty sisters Connie and Beverly Taylor. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. Taylor, Willow St. The event was the annual party for children of Legion members. (Photo by Esther Taylor)

### Historical fact maybe conjecture

Everyone knows the story of Jesus Christ, and is particularly aware of it at this time of year. More study has been given to this subject, and more has been written about it, than on any other single subject in the history of mankind.

But what, actually, is known? The fact is that the investigations of centuries (still going on as if they had just begun) have produced only a small body of knowledge on which most, but not all, scholars agree.

The general outlines of Christ's life are clear. He was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, spent most of his ministry in Galilee, north and west of the Sea of Galilee, and died in Jerusalem. The centre of his ministry was at Capernaum, and he is known to have lived or worked in perhaps a dozen other cities and towns in Galilee.

Jesus travelled up and down the land which is now Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. At that time, most of this area was the eastern outpost of the Roman Empire and the civilization, particularly along the coast, was Hellenistic. For that reason, Jesus avoided the coast and spent most of his time in the inland Jewish centres. His ministry and teaching appears to have deliberately omitted Gentile centres. The spread of Christianity to the Gentiles was left to the apostles.

The most important Greco-Roman cities of Jesus' day were such places as Samaria, Jericho, Tyre, Sidon, Scythopolis, Tiberias and Caesarea Philippi. Jesus visited them rarely or never. When he did, he went most often to the Jewish section of the cities, or stayed in semi-seclusion on the outskirts.

For today's tourist, the Holy Land is a rich storehouse of treasures. It should be remembered, however, that much historical "fact" is conjecture. For example, the site of the Sermon on the Mount is

**GREETINGS**

In the Miracle of the manger, mankind finds joy eternal. May your Christmas be blessed.

**ACTON WELDING**  
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### Animal's friend wrote prayer

St. Francis of Assisi is remembered as a great friend to animals. Traditionally, he gave extra food to domestic animals because he wanted "all creation to share in Yuletide happiness."

He is also given credit for authorship of this Christmas prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood, as to understand.  
To be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.



### Girl's tears grow Christmas flowers

Blooming in the heart of winter, and sometimes even in the snow, the Christmas rose is a plant famed in legend.

According to an old story, a poor little shepherdess had no gift to offer the Christ Child, and so she wept. When her tears touched the ground, flowers sprouted.

Delighted, she plucked an amful and hastened to the Infant. The caress of His fingers turned the petals pink.

Botanists class the Christmas rose as a member of the buttercup family. Native to Southern Europe and western Asia, it has leathery, dark green leaves and large, saucer-shaped flowers with white or rose-tinted sepals, according to The Encyclopedia Americana.

Symbols of the holiday are as various as joy and peace. All mean the spirit of Christmas.

**We wish you a Merry Christmas!**

**THE FAMILY STORE**

"PAT AND BILL"

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

In the happy spirit of the holiday cheer that abounds, may we offer sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas to all our friends.

**FRANK CARNEY & SONS**  
PLUMBING AND HEATING LTD.  
MAIN ST. ROCKWOOD, ONT. 856-9501



HOT DOGS, DOUGHNUTS and chocolate milk employees' association sponsors the annual event at Macro Plastics Christmas party. The (Staff Photo)

### Practical view in early Rome

"Christmas is getting too commercial."

This modern complaint, while it may have force, is somewhat lacking in originality.

"I hate the crafty arts of giving presents," said the witty Roman poet Martial, who lived and wrote from about 40 to 104

A.D. "Gifts are like hooks."

His complaint was expressed in a series of poems written for a wealthy patron, at the time of the Saturnalia, the pagan festival from which came many Christmas customs.

Martial, however, was not always averse to presents. After listing a large number of small gifts, such as toothpicks, figs,

napkins, which has been delivered to him, he pointed out that it would have been much easier for the messenger to bring him "five pounds of silver plate."

Insulation of Christmas lighting strings should be checked for damage and possible short circuits. If buying new lights, be sure they are CSA approved.

**Our Christmas wish that your heart shares the blessed joy of the shophords.**

**K. ROSZELL SHOPPE**

**To Greet You at Christmas**

With fond hopes that all your holiday dreams come true, we send you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF  
**THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**Greetings**

It happens every year at about this time. Somehow, hearts are lighter; friendships are warmer; a new spirit of good cheer is abroad in the land. You see it in every face, hear it in every voice, sense it everywhere in a hundred different ways. We would like to pack all of this Holiday spirit into our Christmas greetings to you!

**Tyler Transport Ltd.**

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