



CHILDREN OF ROCKWOOD nursery school enjoyed their own Christmas party Friday morning at St. John's parish hall. Highlight of the morning was the nativity pageant. Gifts were distributed and the poppets had great fun with balloons issued by teacher Mrs. Cynthia Luckman.—(Staff Photo)

Christmas pageant at United Church

"Wasn't it great" and "We must not let these pageants discontinue" were only some of the comments made by the delighted audience who attended

the United Church annual Christmas pageant last Sunday evening.

Gladys Hanna directed the entire event assisted by Marilyn Brace and Marg Cox. She chose as her lead play performer in the introductory playlet to the actual Nativity, Mrs. Truesdale, of Harris Street, who, as a grandmother in a rocking chair was having great difficulty in getting members of her family to listen to the biblical story of the Nativity. Everyone was simply too busy. A children's choir sang throughout the entire production and, in some cases audience participation was encouraged.

John Benham was the narrator as the St. Matthew text as the story of the Saviour's birth was

pantomimed. Barbara McLaren played the part of Mary, and Joseph was Charlie McRae and with angels and arch angels they created a picture of pageantry with shepherds and beautifully attired kings bringing their gifts to the manger throne.

According to spectators it was an exceptionally well received endeavour and the directors and co-ordinators of such productions should be well commended along with participants, choir members, and organizers in restoring for another year the depiction of what Christmas really is.

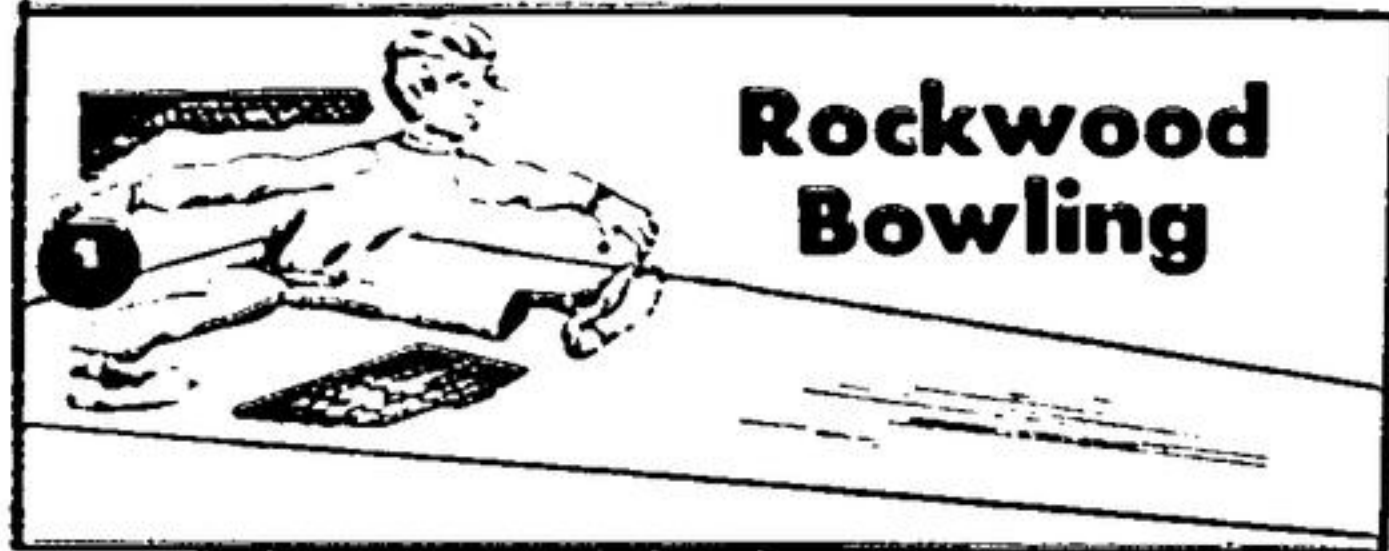
Refreshments afterwards served by the Unit three ladies was an added touch of hospitality and festivity.



Silent Night

Kiss cheeked carriers carry our glad message of love greetings to everyone

ROOT HARDWARE
ROCKWOOD, ONT.



Rockwood Bowling

The Tuesday, December 16 bowling scores will well set the pattern on who wins the turkeys which, by the time the Free Press is printed, will already have

been won and consumed. However, the following is the league standing and team shape ups as they stand at this time:

Number one is the turkey motivated team of Stratton's with 63 pts; Queen of Hearts and Norton's will scrap it out for second place with 57 points; third place Carneys have 55 points; the Begoodorbegones share fourth position with the Neighbours with 48 points; fifth spot shows the Elmer's Alley Cats with 47 points; sixth place has Four Corners and the Whitewashers with 41 points and the Untouchables on th bottom rung with 33 points.

Vic Wilms ran up 638 and Dick Hannan 680 for the Begoodorbegones making the 7 to 0 score show up against Elmer's Alley Cats.

The Queen of Hearts made 5 vs 2 for the Untouchables, and Stratton's Shirley Salmon's score of 736, accompanied by Dick Dupuis' 724 played a major roll in the final team scoring of Stratton's 5 and Carneys 2, with the latter's Bob Lilley scoring a 622.

The Whitewashers took five points from the Neighbours who had two points, and Clarence Hilton ran up a mean 650 points with Dunc McPhedran of the Neighbours scoring 613 points.

Top scoring Fred Nightingale's 741 points, along with Mary Stahlbaum's 733 and Vivian Nightingale's 649 scoring gave the Norton team a victory of 7 to 0 against Four Corners as Marg McKersie ran up 566 points.

Three congregations choirs for service

An enthusiastic congregation participated in the Christmas service in which the choirs and members of St. John's Anglican, the Presbyterian, and the United Churches, sang together last Sunday evening, December 21. Rockwood United Church was crowded to capacity, the choir loft was packed, and the voices of the combined choirs rang out with resounding volume as they

sang together with audience participation in some of the more familiar carols.

Rev. Peter Rucker conducted the service with various members from each church reading lessons and participating in special areas.

General feeling of the congregation that it should be done more often will be considered for future services.

Rockwood News



TRIMMING THE TREE. Rockwood Centennial School primary students opened the program at the Rockwood Combined Christian Educational Project Christmas concert last Tuesday night.—(Staff Photo).

Rockwood travellers are satisfied with CNR freight, passenger service

A few neck muscles flinched in Rockwood when, a week ago, a local newspaper suggested that, although Acton was fighting for its need for the regular Canadian National Railway services, other places were not, giving the impression that this Village was unconcerned and apathetic about the whole matter.

A general poll revealed that apathy was not the reason for the acceptance of such a decision however, but that, as far as Rockwood is concerned it would plainly be poor business to think otherwise.

Just common sense economics, said one local resident who considered that the railroad station had been shut down a year ago as far as he was concerned.

"At one time" said Bob Leslie, a good thinking Village resident, "it was absolutely necessary that coal be freighted here by the C.N.R., and it was the one means of redistributing livestock, but right now it's much more efficient for most things to go by express."

"It's been proven over the years" continued Mr. Leslie, "that there just aren't enough passengers using the train to necessitate the expense of making this a regular passenger stop-off and, even as it is, if passengers wish to utilize the railway facilities it's just a matter of phoning in to Guelph and officials are happy to accommodate." He referred to an instance where a local citizen wanted to board the train for Toronto in Rockwood recently. He had phoned to make the arrangements and the stop was made at the Village C.N.R. station.

Bob Leslie feels that this is a very sensible move on the part of the C.N. authorities and, as long as the tracks remain intact, a Company which is smart enough to make such a move in the first place will be just as sensible to adjust their thinking when conditions warrant another change.

He was referring to the possibility of future needs of Go Train possibilities and further said that, the present station house has long been outdated and not properly equipped with modern conveniences anyway.

He felt that, if such times should come when train operations once more were a necessity that, at that time, a newer and more efficient building would have to replace the old one.

More recent Villagers had always just accepted the fact that there never had been any transportation via the C.N.R. since they had moved here and felt that if a train should stop off at a little place like Rockwood it would have to be a very slow one which would make several stops along the way, thus making the trip to Toronto unnecessarily long and tedious, whereas bus and automobile accommodation was much faster.

"In my estimation there is no sense in creating more debt," said Chas. O'Brien, the local Hydro secretary. "Progress never goes backwards, it always goes ahead" and he also felt, that, as long as the tracks were not removed the potential of future railway accommodation was always assured.

"One thing, though," said Mr. O'Brien, "I do feel that, because originally the government deeded the property to the Railway Company as an encouragement for passenger service, we should consider the slogan "No service, no property" and that all properties not used should be returned to the Villages and Towns from which they were deeded."

Lloyd Hindley's personal views on the matter could be summed up in his concern about the future of ten, fifteen or even twenty years when, with the

tremendous growth and automobile ownerships reaching such capacities in Toronto, out-of-town drivers could be prohibited and not allowed access to that City, necessitating the greater need for "Go Trains" and felt that too often when things are pulled or removed it is more difficult to get them back again which could happen in the case of the C.N.R. station.

"It's happening right across Canada," said another local resident, "and I'm afraid that, if we ever need the C.N.R. in the future because of automobile congestion, Rockwood is too small to fight to get back any services it had previously lost."

We must agree with the aforementioned business men in the area. Rockwood, because of its situation and its close proximity to the city of Guelph, is better off than places such as Acton and Georgetown.

Actually, since the transportation by truck from the C.N.R. warehouse in Guelph, deliveries have improved as far as Rockwood is concerned. This, of course, would be accepted as because of mileage relativity. However, if, due to the cancellation of former methods, there's a saving to the Canadian National Railway, which indirectly affects all taxpayers, it would only be practical that there be no complaints from this area.

There is a public meeting being held on this very topic at the Acton Council Chambers Tuesday, January 13, at 10 a.m. for a hearing for those interested in maintaining the status quo.

Cold cash for Santa for Biafra, classes

It was cold cash that was turned over to the co-ordinators of the Rockwood Christian Education Project after Santa Claus collected monies for Biafra and the Sunday School. He deposited his bag in the freezer for safe keeping at the John Thompson home, R. R. 1, Rockwood, on his trip northward last Tuesday evening.

The Christmas program included participation of some 40 or 50 Saturday morning Church School children and teachers. Carols, playlets, and film strips, involved parent and child participation alike. Highlight of the evening was when old Santa Claus himself arrived in a 1969 snowmobile to gather up the envelopes slated for Biafra and other collections which will be used to cover costs of equipment and materials required for the use of the Sunday School children. Envelopes totalling \$26. were

collected by the happy gentleman and \$28 in coin.

Rev. D. Sinclair, chairman for the evening, expressed his thanks to the parents and friends of the children present for the performance saying he hoped that although the future of the co-ordinated churches Sunday School looked promising the parents would continue to encourage their children to come to the regular once a month Saturday sessions and also other children to attend.

Refreshments were served at the end of the evening to the children and coffee and cookies for the adults.

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Telephone 824-3071

Season Greetings
From
TOM & JESSIE GELLATLY
of the
ROCKWOOD MILL END STORE
"MAY YOU SOAR INTO THE '70'S"



HAPPENINGS OF ROCKWOOD CENTENNIAL SCHOOL

WINTER

I like the snow best of all, Because you can make it like a ball, In winter time we always play, And have fun everyday. All the boys gather on the hill, With lots of laughing we have a spill. I like the toboggan and also ski-doo, They fit together like a pair of shoes. Best of all is Christmas you see, With lots of gifts piled under the tree. After the snow has come and gone, I think of all the fun we had all along.

Gerald Barden,
Grade Seven Student.

CHRISTMAS MORN

I looked out my window this morning and found, That old mother snow cloud had covered the ground. I ran from my bedroom to find under the tree All sorts of presents from Santa to me.

The stockings were filled to the brim with great care, Which caused my eyes to open in a wondrous stare. I returned to the tree where the presents were stacked, And I could hardly wait until next year when Santa would be back.

Janice Perry,
Grade Seven.



Petty's Garage
ROCKWOOD



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Let us wish you a joyous and prosperous year, and express gratitude for your past favors!

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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.

MEADOWS BP SERVICE
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Manufacturers of
HIGH GRADE MEMORIALS
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62 Water St. North

Good Tidings of Great Joy
Let's, too, come to adore the Child lying in the manger... and to ask His blessing upon all those near and dear.

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