

# Stores for Last Minute Shoppers!

## WITH THE ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND CONSERVATIONISTS

by G. H.

### THE MUSKRAT

The red fox is the only fur-bearer which can compete with the muskrat for the title of Canada's most widely distributed animal. But whereas the fox is rare in many localities the muskrat is found throughout most of our vast Dominion. It is absent from much of the Arctic tundra but does live north of the Arctic Circle and has reached the Arctic Ocean in the region around the mouth of the Mackenzie River. In earlier times it was unknown in some large dry sections of the prairies, but when these were opened up by irrigation projects the muskrat moved in and established itself along the canals

and the shore lines of artificial ponds and lakes.

Individually, pelts of the marten, fisher, mink, and lynx are much more valuable than the pelt of the muskrat, but in spite of this the muskrat is our most important fur-bearer. It makes up in quantity what it lacks in quality and in an average year 80 per cent of the wild fur-bearers harvested in Canada will be muskrats and they will constitute 20 per cent of the total cash value of our fur catch.

If the muskrat were a rare animal, its fur would be more appreciated. The hair is hard wearing, the skin makes a sturdy leather and the soft glossy brown fur lacks nothing in attractiveness. It is manufactured into many different "furs", one of the best known being the "Hudson Seal" of the fur-trade.

The muskrat is not closely related to the brown or house rats of ill

fame and it is unfortunate that the odious term, rat, was ever applied to our animal. Actually the muskrat is closely akin to the common meadow mouse and in general build suggests an overgrown mouse with some special adaptations for a life in the water. These consist of a long, naked tail flattened on the sides and partially webbed feet with a fringe of stiff hair along each toe as aids in swimming and a coat of thick, waterproof fur to protect the animal from cold water.

The muskrat is partial to the roots, bulbs and stalks of water plants but the leaves of almost any plant growing in the marsh are acceptable fare to the muskrat and claims frequently provide a change in this vegetable diet. His winter home is made out of rushes plastered together with mud. Selecting a suitable spot in shallow water, the muskrat scrapes together a pile of rushes and mud from the bottom. When this mound rises above the

water-level, it is hollowed out from underneath and fresh material plastered on top as the chamber grows. At first the structure is unstable and it requires freezing temperatures to harden it into a safe, warm winter retreat. By spring it is often in a state of near collapse, as during the winter the muskrats eat away the rushes from the inside.

Several litters of three to twelve young are born each year and this prolificness is part of the muskrat's success story.

But even an animal as widespread and abundant as the muskrat will not stand over-trapping or the destruction of the marshes in which it lives.

—From the Carling's Conservation Digest.

ADVERTISE IN THE HERALD! IT PAYS.

## ST. GEORGE'S CLUB

### PROMINENT CITIZEN OBJECTS TO WHITE CHRISTMAS

At St. George's Club Christmas party Tuesday evening one member was heard to express objection to a White Christmas. This was brought out during the playing of Bing Crosby's recording of the popular song. After questioning the gentleman further it was found that the reason for the objection was simply because it made his tires spin!

Seriously, the gentleman is just as hopeful for a beautiful and sacred Christmas as any of us.

At the Club meeting, following a short business session, the evening was turned over to Mrs. Bill McNally and Joyce Bedell, who ran off several very interesting games, while "Mother's Little Helper" operated George Walker's record player, providing some fine Christmas music, as well as a few "hot" numbers.

Mrs. Mary Bedell still seems to have the sea food taste in her eye; for she and her associates provided some excellent clam chowder as a part of the lunch. Coffee and cookies were also served.

The next meeting of the club will be January thirteenth when it is hoped all members will be present.

The Club extends to all Herald readers Best Christmas wishes.



### PRE-TEST QUESTIONS

Editor of Farm Forum Guide and director of research, National Farm Radio Forum, Ruth I. McKenzie has been pre-testing the questions for the Farm Forum meetings in advance of the regular schedule of broadcasts. Last year Miss McKenzie pre-tested all the broadcast questions with forum SS. 4 at Darlington, Durham County.

### SMITH & STONE BOWLING

Week ending Friday, Dec. 12, 1947

Press Line Pansies	30
Drafting Dipsy Doodlers	26
Tool Room Timber Topplers	26
Turning	25
Glazers	23
Ganarsky Rats	22
Possums	22
Baked Fins	20
Engineers	20
Punchers	20
Assembly Girls	20
Merry Pats	18
Stock Room	15
Pottery Girls	12
Bakelite "A" and "B"	11
Office Girls	10
Men — High Triple, D. Stamp, 761;	
High Single, D. Stamp, 314.	
GIRLS — High Triple, M. Patterson 650;	
High Single, M. Patterson, 256.	

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

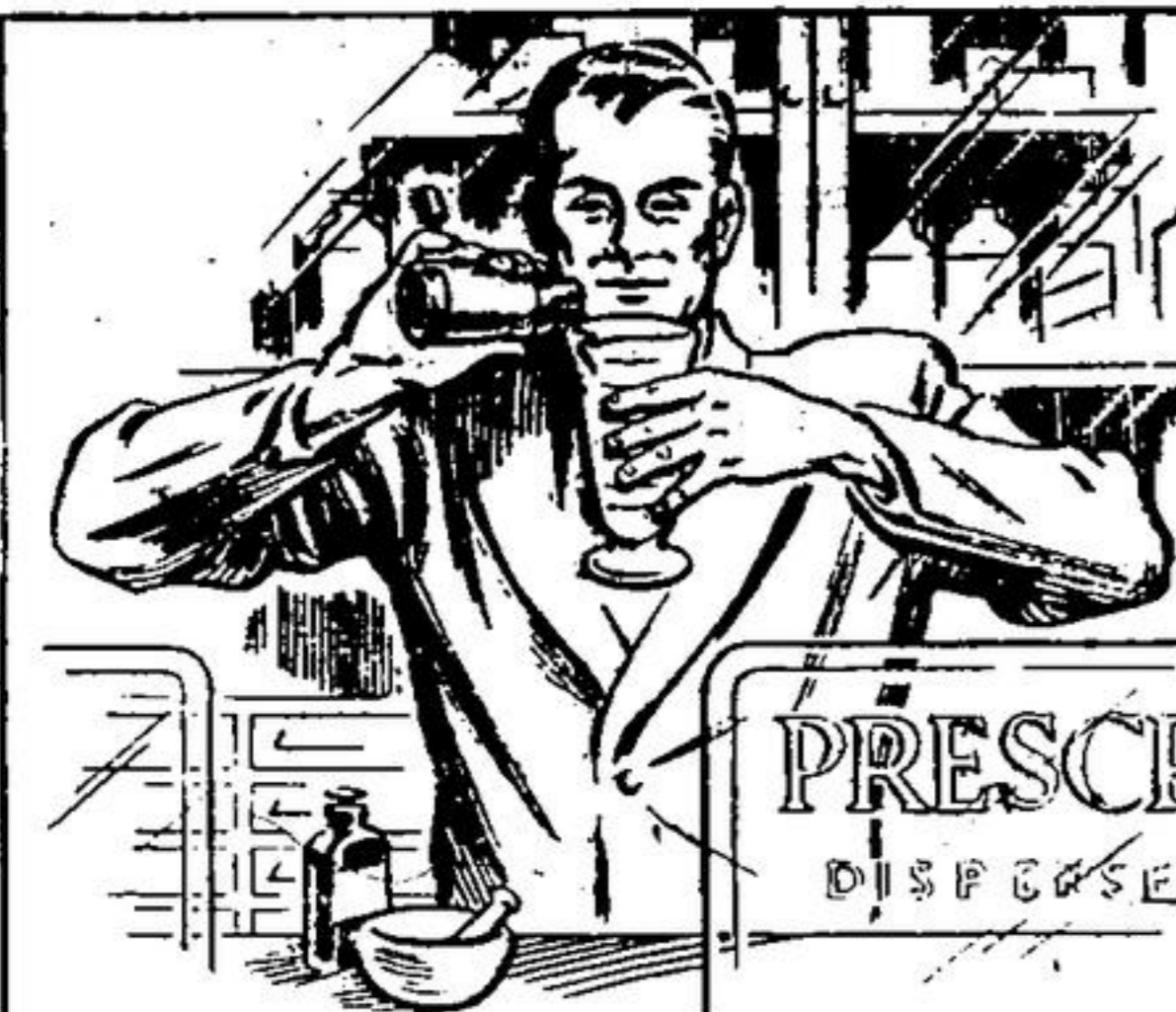
In the Estate of JOHN BOYD MACKENZIE

All persons having claims against the Estate of John Boyd Mackenzie, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, gentleman, deceased, who died on or about the Fifth day of October, 1947, are requested to file proof of same with the undersigned solicitor for the Executors on or before the Twenty seventh day of December, 1947, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims then filed.

Dated at Acton this Fifth day of December, 1947.

Samuel John Mackenzie,  
Kenneth Alexander Mackenzie  
Executors.  
By their Solicitor,

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### GROCERY FEATURES

- Fresh Ground As Sold
- RICHMELLO COFFEE** 53¢
- Picnic Sweet
- MIXED PICKLES** 18 Oz 27¢
- Velvet For Cakes or Pastry
- FLOUR** 5 lb 35¢
- Mitchell's
- APPLE JUICE** 2 20 Oz 19¢
- Clark's
- PLUM PUDDING** 18 Oz 43¢
- Chateau Plain or Pimento
- CHEESE** 8 Oz 25¢
- Coloma Choice
- APPLESAUCE** 20 Oz 21¢

- Booster Salted
- PEANUTS** 8 Oz 19¢
- Royal Manor Stuffed Manzanilla
- OLIVES** 4 Oz 25¢ 35¢ 43¢
- Fine Whole
- DILL PICKLES** 32 Oz 31¢
- Heinz
- "57" SAUCE** 8 Oz 25¢
- Heinz
- ASPARAGUS SOUP** 18 Oz 13¢
- Our Own Blend
- DOMINO TEA** 1 1/2 Oz 43¢ 18 Oz 85¢
- Royal City B.C. Pack
- PEAS & CARROTS** 20 Oz 19¢

### FRUITS & VEGETABLES

- ORANGES**
- 288's - 29¢ 220's - 39¢
- Grapefruit** 6 for 29¢
- Cranberries** lb. 52¢
- CELERY** 22¢
- TOMATOES** lb. 35¢
- MIXED NUTS** lb. 39¢
- BRAZIL NUTS** lb. 39¢

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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

TO ALL IN GEORGETOWN

— from the —  
United Church of Canada

If you are not a communicant of any particular Church, you are invited to the United Church services Xmas Sunday (and every Sunday). Worship and Christmas Communion at 11 a.m. All who confess the name of Christ are invited to sit at His Table. Carol singing and Dicken's 'Xmas Carol' at 7 p.m. There is a class for your child in the Sunday School at 10 a.m.

## Christmas Trees

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