

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Wlarton Echo

Is there anything in this world quite as silly as the annual Christmas card binge, in which otherwise intelligent, sensible people indulge? I doubt it.

I'm afraid it's another manifestation of twentieth century soft-headedness for which we have the ladies, bless and praise them, to thank. You can say what you like about men, and it will probably be true, but I doubt very much whether they would ever get into the Christmas card jungle if left to themselves. They simply wouldn't bother sending cards to anybody, and everybody would be a lot happier.

Every year around our place, we hold Christmas Card Night. After the kids are in bed, we get down to it at the kitchen table. I enjoy this, because it gives me a chance to exercise that ham-handed elephant-footed wit in which the male animal delights at such times.

With ponderous glee I survey the list. "Who in the name of all that's baffling," I ask, "is Lulu Butterworth, and why are we sending her a card?" I never heard of her in my life. "My wife removes a stamp from her tongue and uses it on me. 'It just so happens,'" she says, in measured tones, "that Lulu Butterworth is that dumb blonde with the big bust that you thought was so terrific in your philosophy lectures twelve years ago and she sends us a card every year with her apartment address and phone number in Toronto, and I'd like to know why."

"Oh," I say.

There is a brief silence after this. She has twelve cards, all the same, left over from last year, trying to figure out from all the tick marks, X's and hen scratches who it was she sent the cards to last year, with the red Santa Claus on them. It would be just simply dreadful if someone got the same card two years in a row. Awful. A gross breach of etiquette.

With icy logic she replies: "Because she is a member of the Chapter and we were on the Ways and Means Committee together two years ago and they sent us a card last year."

"Oh," I say.

Silence, while I lick the glue on envelopes and she writes addresses on them. I think gloomily of the millions of dollars spent on Christmas cards and the stamps to mail them. Wouldn't it be much finer if everyone just donated the cost of their cards to a central fund? The total would probably mean two weeks in Florida this winter for every old age pensioner in Canada.

I'm not completely an old crank about the Christmas card business. It has many things in its favour. For one it tells me once a year that my two brothers are still alive. They have wives who send us Christmas cards. If they weren't married, I'd never hear from them, wouldn't know where or whether they lived, or how many kids they had.

And I must admit it's kind of nice to hear from old friends. Every year I get a card from Clancy Muligan, a bow-legged little digger from Woolla-Worra, Australia. An old air force sidekick, all he wanted to do was go back to Austrayler an draise "???"!! pigs and he wished this "!!" (???) war would finish so he could get at it. His card each year reads something like: "My oath, Smiler, these "!! pigs are sending me fair &? "!! wild. I wish I were back in the b-? (? air force."

I always get a nostalgic smile out of Clancy's card. Of course, there's another type of old friend you get cards from. Couple of years ago, I brought home a batch of cards from the post office. I never read them, just throw them on the table for my wife to check through and make sure we got a card from everybody we sent one to.

She usually reads them aloud to me while I sit and read the paper. But this time, after she'd read a couple, there was a shattering silence. I looked up and said "Aren't you going to read me the rest of them?" You learn these little cour-

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tous gestures after a few years.

She gave me a look that chilled me right down to my tail-bone, and read: "Bill, cherie, You will believe this not, but I have meet your small brother who has arrive in France with the Air Force de Canada of occupation. He me present with your address. Ah, Bill, why did you not send for me apres la guerre, as you tell me? Why you not write, send me the money for

passage, like you say? I wait so long, cry so much. You forget so soon our great love? Me, never. I have yet one pair nylons you give, made in scarf. I wear all time, for memory. Toujours your Lisette."

"Oh," I say. "Not"

FARM NEWS

GARRY AND RODNEY PREFERRED AS SEED

J. E. W.
At a recent meeting of the directorate of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, when they were making plans for their annual meeting, which is scheduled for the Milton Fair Building on December 27th, we were interested to hear from W. E. Breckon that two thirds of the oats eligible for registration in Canada, are either of the Garry or Rodney varieties. Certainly these two varieties gave an outstanding account of themselves in Halton in 1956 — and this despite the very late date of seeding. Some forty-two 4-H Halton club members had the Garry variety in 1956 and the average yield was slightly over 60 bushels to the acre. In variety tests conducted by the county soil and improvement association in 1956, yields on the Brock Harris farm were 73 and 71.5 bushels per acre for the Rodney and Garry varieties respectively. In contrast with this in the same test Beaver yielded 54.6 bushels and Simcoe 48.6 bushels. In another test with W. H. Biggar and Sons, Garry and Rodney both outyielded Simcoe and Beaver by approximately 50 per cent. We were also interested to note in a report just released by the Field Husbandry Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, that here again Garry and Rodney were at the top. In the regional variety tests conducted on some fifteen farms across Ontario, Garry is given an average yield of 75.7 bushels per acre and Rodney in second place with 64.2 bushels per acre. In the same report we note in a three-year summary for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956 that Garry is given an average yield of 71 bushels — Rodney 66.9 bushels and Beaver 61.4 bushels. Certainly in Halton this year Garry and Rodney excelled Beaver by a much wider margin but we must remember that the season of 1956 was a most unusual one.

FARM NEWS

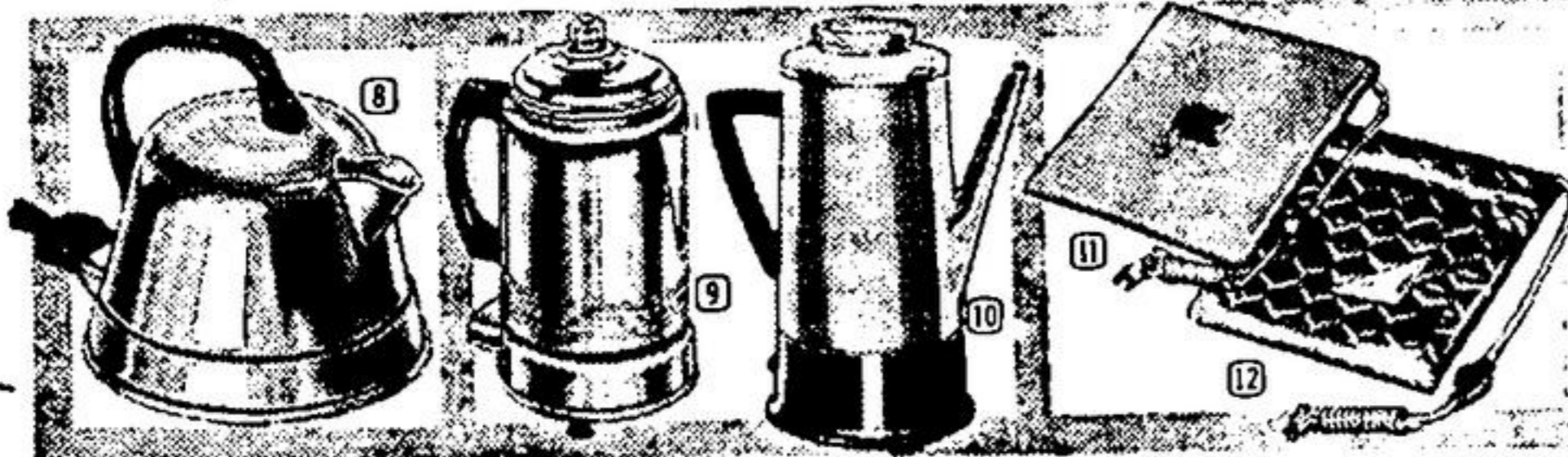
HALTON DEBATORS MOVE INTO SECOND PLACE

J. E. W.
Halton Junior Farmer debating quartette is scheduled to meet the Wellington County Junior Farmer debaters on Friday evening, December 21st, states Jean Peterson, president of the Halton Juniors. Halton's affirmative team of Bertha Watson and Jack Black will meet the Wellington negative team in the Milton high school. At the same time, Halton's negative team of Bill Marshall and Howson Ruddle will be meeting Wellington's affirmative team some pace in Ermosa Twp. Halton folk, both young and old, will be out to support the four Halton young people who are carrying the torch for Halton Junior Farmers.



Gleaming Chrome ELECTRIC TOASTERS

- 1 REVERSIBLE TOASTER—2 slice model in gleaming chrome plate; cool black handles. 660-watt area heat element. \$3.49
- 2 TURNOVER TOASTER—Gem-like chrome, black bakelite handles. Toast lips when doors are lowered. \$3.98
- 3 DE LUXE 2 SLICE TOASTER—Special "blue-white" chrome with cool black handles. Ni-chrome ribbon element. \$5.99
- 4 AUTOMATIC TOASTER—Mirror chrome with rich, dark brown cool handles and brushed copper-plate base. Toasters slide off and pop up when toast is ready. With cord attached. \$15.49
- 5 AUTOMATIC TOASTER—Gracefully styled in gleaming chrome with contrasting black controls. Set colour control lever for toasting time wanted. Automatic shut-off when toast is ready. Cord attached. \$15.49
- 6 SILENT AUTOMATIC TOASTER—Design-forward styling—in high lustre triple chrome plate and ebony black handles and controls. Hinged crumb door; fibre-glass insulation. Silent thermostat control. Cord attached. \$17.95
- 7 THERMO-CONTROL AUTOMATIC TOASTER—With "colour selector" and "pop-up" control. Fitted with crumb tray. Super chrome finish. Cord attached. \$24.95



2-Qt. ELECTRIC KETTLES

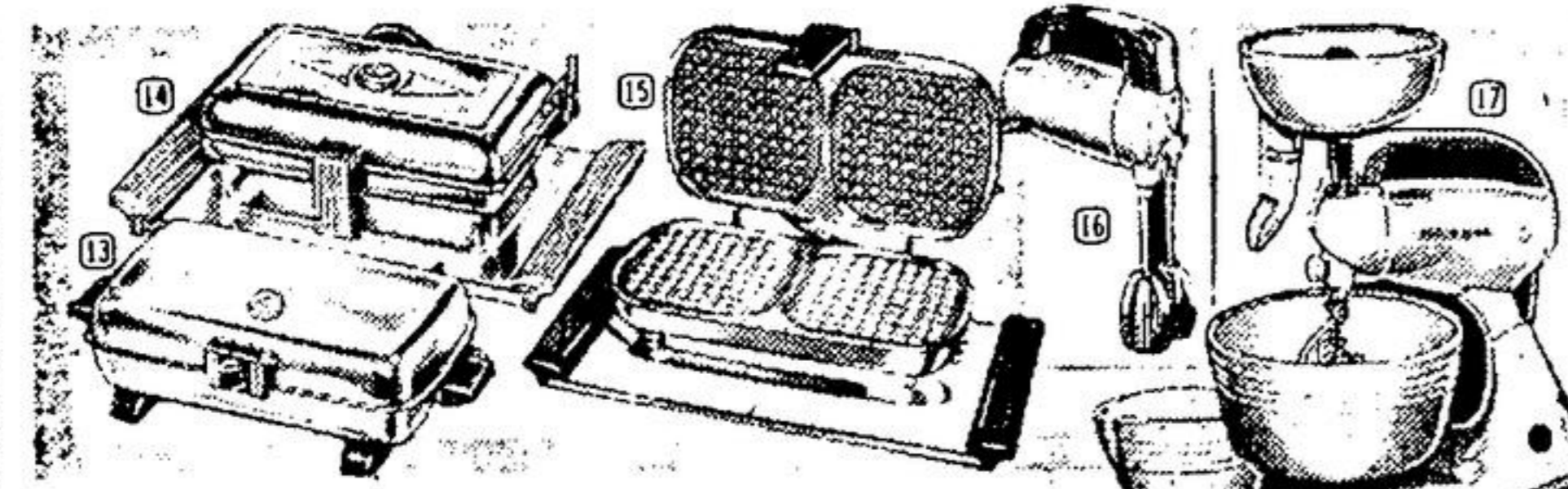
- 8 Chrome plate on copper bakelite handle. 900-watt element with automatic safety shut-off. Complete with cord. NEW LOW PRICE. \$9.98
- Electric Kettle—in polished aluminum complete with cord. Price. \$8.79

COFFEE PERCOLATORS

- 9 8-CUP ELECTRIC PERCOLATOR—High polished aluminum, with cool black plastic handle. Detachable 450-watt base has many other uses. \$4.95
- 10 AUTOMATIC PERCOLATOR—Brews up to 8 cups of flavoured coffee—starts to percolate in 30 seconds. Stops automatically when coffee is brewed. Keeps coffee warm. \$11.98

HEATING PADS

- 11 ELECTRIC HEATING PADS—Features rubberized, damp-proof inner shields and removable washable covers in pastel tones. \$4.79
- 12 3-HEAT PAD—With multi-thermostat safety-control on each heat. Zipper fastener. Cord attached. \$5.98
- 13 DE LUXE 3-HEAT PAD—Pink-peach quilted extra cover. Cord attached. \$6.95



GRILLETTES and WAFFLE BAKERS

- 14 SANDWICH TOASTER—Makes delicious toasted sandwiches—five broom and extra grille chrome, makes appetizing griddle cooking. Styled in lustrous chrome, walnut finish air-cooled plastic handles and legs. Equipped with handy temperature gauge. 600-watt element. \$7.99
- 15 DE LUXE SANDWICH GRILLE—For convenient toasting, broiling, frying or cooking featherlight pancakes. Heat indicator shows when ready for use. Gleaming chrome with black maple handles and built-in tray. 600-watt element. \$8.49
- 16 WAFFLE BAKER and GRILLETTE—Has all the features of the above number, plus removable waffle grids. 600-watt element. \$12.49

FOOD MIXERS

- 17 HAMILTON BEACH "MIXETTE"—3-speed, one-hand operation. Baked extra-wide body chrome plated beaters. Cord attached. \$22.45
- 18 HAMILTON BEACH FOOD MIXER—Complete with two erecting Pyrex bowls, juice extractor and strainer. Mixer speeds for every need. \$49.45



FRY PAN With Lid

- 19 Flipper-top temperature control provides complete heat range for cooking or frying your favourite foods. Square shape gives more cooking power; rounded corners for easier cleaning; built-in deep. Equipped with Signal Light complete with lid. \$16.95

CORN POPPER

- 20 For TV snacks, children's parties. Big 2-qt. polished aluminum bowl, glass cover, walnut handles. Complete with 450-watt stove. \$4.29

Electric HOT PLATES

- 21 SHEET ROTARY SWITCH HOT PLATE—"Porcelain-glass" backed-on enamel finish; inside sprayed. Equipped with extra-long life elements for fast, economical cooking. \$8.75
- Others from \$1.59 to \$9.58



A wide range of ELECTRIC IRONS

- 22 STREAMLINED ELECTRIC IRON—Designed for wring-sorry ironing. Large sole plate; convenient notch back-rest; neutral grip handle. Lightweight. \$9.99
- 23 "GLIDE-O-MATIC" ELECTRIC IRON—Control gives accurate heat. Designed on the back, not weight down the work—serve effect. Only 2 1/4 lbs. \$9.95
- 24 "JUSTO-CORD" AUTOMATIC IRON—With "dial-a-heat" control for each fabric. Lightweight, with extra large ironing surface. Mirror-bright chrome. \$9.98
- 25 STEAM AND DRY IRON—Guaranteed by "Good Housekeeping". Fully automatic. Uses ordinary tap water. Accurate fabric dial indicator. Cord attached. \$17.95

ELECTRIC HEATER

- 26 PORTABLE ELECTRIC HEATER—660-watt quick heating element. Mirror polished 11" reflector fitted with safety guard and carrying handle. About 15" high overall. Cord attached. \$4.98



- SPECIAL VALUE 8-LIGHT INDOOR SET
Gaily coloured bulbs on long cord extra outlet to attach additional sets. SET \$98c
8-LIGHT SET—With genuine Mazda bulbs. Extra Mazda bulbs, 2 for \$1.18
- MULTIPLE INDOOR TREE LIGHTS
Each bulb burns independently. Long cord with extra outlet plug and on-on connector.
7-Light Outfit \$1.79
15-Light Outfit \$3.69
Set with genuine Mazda bulbs.
7-Light Outfit \$2.29
15-Light Outfit \$4.69
- NOMA BUBBLE LIGHTS
8 sparkling coloured candles daily bubble on the tree. Same type, 8 Mazda bulbs, long cord and on-on connector \$3.69
Extra Mazda Bulbs, each \$0.25
Noma Plastic Candle-Lamp Set—of 8 bulbs. Complete \$2.95

- GAY OUTDOOR TREE LIGHTS
Weatherproof Outdoor Tree Lights—Each lamp burns independently. Long cord fitted with on-on connector. \$5.79
Outdoor Set with genuine Mazda bulbs.
7-Light Set \$3.19
15-Light Set \$7.95
Extra Mazda Bulbs, each \$0.18
- ILLUMINATED MUSICAL VILLAGE CHURCH
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PLASTIC SNOW DECORATING KIT—Push-button spray snow with 20 Christmas stencils. Set \$0.98
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11" dia. Large size with ribbon bow, silver holly spray and candle. \$1.59



- OLD ENGLISH LANTERN—Disassembled, in full colour. For front door or entrance hall. With 7 cord \$2.49
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