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**Merry Christmas**

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**Long Branch Lady Reeve Warden's Dinner Speaker**

Many Georgetown and district men were guests at the annual Warden's Dinner, this year held in the Pine Room of the Arena, in Oakville. Warden William Card, of that town, is the 1958 head of county council and entertained at the conclusion of his term of office. Mr. Card is reeve of Oakville, and is well known in this district, being regimental sergeant major of the Lorne Scots regiment.

Among those present from Georgetown district were Leslie M. Clark, Mayor John T. Armstrong, reeve Doug Sargent, deputy reeve Walter Gray, deputy reeve of Esquesing, Campbell Sinclair, Henry Shepherd, magistrate Kenneth M. Langdon, county clerk Bob Shortill, and ex-wardens Geo. Currie, present reeve of Esquesing, and George Cleave, George Leslie, former reeves of Esquesing, who also served as wardens, and Stan Allen an ex warden when he was the reeve of Georgetown.

Master of Ceremonies was Howard Caine, managing director of Oakville radio station, who introduced the guests as they were piped to their places at the head table by the Lorne Scots pipe band.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Marie Curtis, reeve of Long Branch, and president of Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves, and one of the best known and controversial figures in the Metro Toronto council. She was introduced by mayor Bill Anderson of Oakville, and thanked by George Currie.

Mrs. Curtis, in her speech, gave some indications of the problems now facing Metro Toronto, and said how fortunate that Halton had had planned growth and could more readily avoid the many pitfalls encountered by Toronto. She paid tribute to Fred Gardiner, and said that in her humble opinion, regardless of criticism, there was no one to take his place.

She complimented county council on their handling of the many problems facing them, particularly the tremendous growth in the southern part of the county between Oakville and Burlington as well as the neighbouring parts of Trafalgar and Nelson.

The toast to the warden was proposed by reeve Alex Phillips. Trafalgar, responded to by Mr. Card, County Council was proposed by the county clerk Garfield Brown and responded to by reeve Tom Millward, of Bronte. "Our Past Wardens" was proposed by reeve Doug Sargent and responded to by Tom Blacklock on behalf of the wardens.

A presentation was made to the Ont. champion debaters, by reeve John Milne, Nassagaweya, and responded to on behalf of the team he coached by George Elliott, QC. Miss Barbara Maxwell was given a prize for winning the county essay contest. Mr. Stanley Hall, Halton's provincial member, presented

ex sheriff Bill Robertson with a cheque from the Ontario government for his thirteen years service to the county, and presented Mrs. Curtis with a bouquet of roses on behalf of the warden.

Deputy Reeve Fred Tilley, Oakville presented the warden with a silver salver on behalf of the county council and the gavel that he'd used this year.

**Americans Popularized Present-Day St. Nick**

It's little wonder that St. Nick is especially generous to the American people. History proves that the Americans have done a lot for St. Nick!

According to Donald Ludgin, editor of the Holiday articles in World Book Encyclopedia, the Americans have given St. Nick a new name, a new face and figure, and a new means of transportation.

The original European version of St. Nick was a tall, angular man who rode on a bony, gray mare. Both the horse and St. Nick looked as if they hadn't had a good meal in some time. The Saint had deep sunken eyes, and wore a flowing, threadbare cloak and a black skullcap.

The early English settlers in this county started giving Saint Nicholas his "New Look." The English children adopted the legendary Christmas figure from the Dutch, but they had trouble pronouncing "Saint Nickolous." Somehow the name changed to "Santa Kalouf," and finally it was corrupted to "Santa Claus."

However, this was only the beginning. In 1809 Washington Irving, in his "Knickerbocker's History of New York," wrote of the Saint as the guardian of New York City. Irving described Saint Nick as a jolly fellow with a broad brimmed hat and huge breeches. He taught Saint Nick to smoke a long pipe, and, in the story, replaced his shuffling hay-burner with a trim wagon that floated over New York house tops.

A short time later, Saint Nicholas' transformation was aided by Clement Moore in his famous poem, "The Visit from Saint Nicholas," written in 1822. Moore, a professor of Divinity in a New York theological seminary, gave Saint Nick a sleigh, twinkling eyes, cheeks like roses, nose like a cherry and a round little belly.

Today's Santa Claus is by no means streamlined, but he is a far cry from the lean, ascetic, somberly dressed fellow who, for centuries, on Christmas Eve, guided his mare through the streets of Europe.

—New Year may be best for you; Drive carefully and see it through.

**Don Cleave, Joanne Reid Alloa Jrs Presidents**

Don Cleave and Joanne Reid were chosen as presidents of Alloa Junior Farmers and Junior Institute when elections were held at a meeting on December 12th at the home of Mary and Joanne Reid. They will take office at the January 2nd meeting at the home of Heather Ann Hutton.

Speaker at the meeting was Rev. G. L. Royal of Norval and Union Presbyterian churches, who presented an interesting speech on character building, his main points being: dare to be different, do what is right to the best of one's ability, stand up for friends and have the capacity to admit being wrong.

In the junior farmers' meeting, Jim McCullough, Peel Ag-Rep was assisted by Mr. Royal in officiating at the election of officers and Mr. McCullough briefly outlined the duties of each office.

New officers are: Don Cleave, president; Roy Thompson, 1st vice president; Robert Macdonald, 2nd vice president; Jim McKane, secretary; Tom Leslie, treasurer; and directors David Anderson, Lorne Campbell, Tev Von Zuben, Norm Shackleton.

Grant Bailey and Bill Hunter were placed in charge of making arrangements and forming a hockey team.

Roll call for the junior institute was an exchange gift, which was later collected to be given to the Salvation Army.

Mrs. Boves of Alloa was guest speaker and she presented a Christmas message and conducted the installation of officers, who are: Joanne Reid, president; Heather Ann Hutton, 1st vice president; Isobel Macdonald, 2nd vice president; Joan Smith, secretary; treasurer; Joan Wedgwood, press reporter; and directors Deanna McKechnie, Joan Sysma and Betty Jean Anderson.

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