

# Choose Roy Thomson Man in the News

For its weekly feature, *Man in the News*, The Times of London chose Roy Thomson as the subject of the following article:

LONDON — A tough businessman he undoubtedly is, as anyone who has built up from nothing an empire of close on 800 newspapers and various television and radio stations on both sides of the Atlantic must be. But whether striking a hard bargain or giving instructions to his staff, Roy Thomson, who is now frequently closing down the Sunday Graphic and acquiring the Belfast Telegraph, is amazingly genial about it all.

The expansive smile and the glint of the equally expansive spectacles combine to present a picture of the friendliest and most cheerful of tycoons. The smile, it is true, never wholly relaxes the firm and vigorous set of the mouth and chin, and the eyes that beam through the glasses never miss a chance of a deal or of saving a few dollars that are being wasted.

But there is no false bonhomie about it. Mr. Thomson from Canada enjoys life and does what he wants to do with straightforward zest.

What he wants to do, as the newspaper owners and trade union leaders with whom he has been dealing have doubtless discovered, is apt to be tough. His approach at the same time, has the merit of being uncomplicated. He wants success and as he sees it, success in a world of private enterprise is measured by money, and it is for money that he is in newspapers, not for doing good or promoting causes.

Strings of unwhipped sayings to that effect accumulate on his record. "I am more interested in the sales than the contents." "I like writing, but there are easier ways of turning a dollar." "I would sooner take a balance sheet home to read than a book."

He believes in the salesman and thinks that salesmen make his best executives. He should know, for he laid the foundation of his own success by selling a pile-up of unwanted radio sets in northern Canada in the middle of the great depression — by the characteristically vigorous method of starting a broadcasting station himself.

Those who have been in the path of his incursion into this country — into The Scotsman, Scottish broadcasting, and finally the Kemsley group — have found no flaws in the reputation that preceded him from Canada. Vigorous, decisive and confident he has a great eye for financial possibilities and the drive to carry out his ideas quickly and firmly.

Those qualities have brought him far during the past 30 years. From his little radio station and his first paper, the Timmins Press (then a weekly) he has reached a place among the leading newspapers and broadcasting proprietors of the world. Much of what Roy Thomson says sounds like Arnold Bennett's newspaper magnate in

What the Public Wants, to whom newspaper business was without moral significance; not to be distinguished in principle from selling soap. But he is not always quite fair to himself. Judged on his record, he believes both in honesty and in the best policy, and finds that in newspapers there is no conflict.

Though he interests himself keenly in the make-up, presentation, and other features of his papers, he presides with gusto over the main Sunday Times weekly conference, he leaves the content and emphasis of views and news to his editors. He has criticized British newspapers roundly for not being objective and for slanting the news to suit the papers' pet causes. He has an eye for a good editor — and a nose to tell him when things are going wrong. But he never breathes over his editorial staff's shoulders.

He has made his way largely with regional newspapers, and his unswerving instruction to their staffs is to "serve the best interests of your community" and "if that community interest conflicts with mine serve them, not me." It is in the same spirit that he has said that he would like to own a left wing newspaper in this country — and, when once questioned about the policies of his papers in America's deep south, replied: "Who is to say that I would not agree with their ideas on segregation if I lived there myself?"

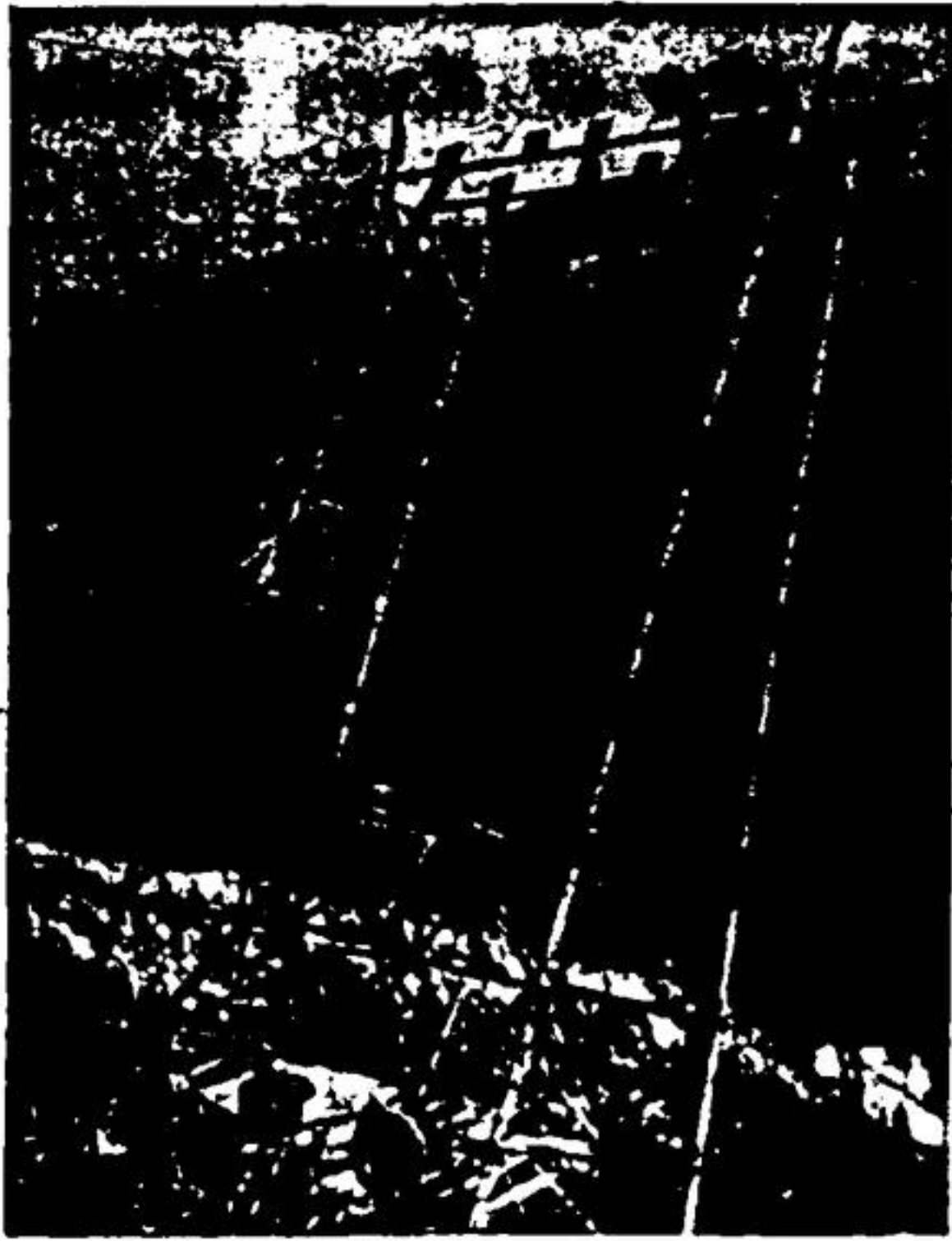
In his middle sixties, he has lost none of his drive and works from a punctual 9 a.m. to a late dinner hour. An abstainer from alcohol and tobacco, he enjoys good food but, combating a tendency to put on weight, indulges that taste sparingly. For reading, other than balance sheets — he prefers detective stories.

Though it is supposed that certain financial institutions have helped largely in his major purchases, he is a wealthy man and has had in full measure the success he wanted. It is a stage at which power might have its appeal. But he shows little interest in political power or influence over the minds of men.

## Local Bankers At Party

Local Bank of Commerce staffers were among the 2,000 who attended the annual Bank of Commerce Christmas party in the Royal York last Thursday night.

Banks from all over the province were represented at the ball in which three orchestras entertained and played for dancing. The party occupied three main rooms. Attending from here were Mr. and Mrs. Don Wingrove, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Garland, Mr. and Mrs. Lee King, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Clayton, and Mr. and Mrs. Heinz Richter.



**TRAMWAY IN THE SKY**—The steel framework of an aerial tramway tower juts boldly from a Yukon mountain peak. It is part of a system to haul men, food and fuel to mountain-top sites on the 1,200-mile Canadian National Telegraphic microwave network between Grande Prairie, Alta., and the Yukon-Alaska border. When completed late in 1961, the network will be a vital defence and civilian communications link between Alaska and the United States and will improve telephone and telegraph communications throughout the Canadian northwest. For most of the route, the microwave towers follow the Alaska Highway.

## BALLINAFAD

### Evening Auxiliary Christmas Program

The Ballinafad Evening Auxiliary meeting this time was a combined meeting and party attended by the members and their husbands. The singing of Christmas carols opened the meeting in the church after which Mrs. Jamieson had charge of a devotional period. She chose for a reading the Christmas story

from St. Luke and followed it with prayer.

Mrs. Ernie McEnery gave a humorous Christmas reading to conclude the business part of the program and the meeting adjourned to the church basement for games and contests. A lunch was served after which the men did their part by washing the dishes. Mrs. Elwood Snow and Mrs. Jesse McEnery planned the evening.

**WORDS OF THE WISE**  
Humility, like darkness reveals the heavenly lights. — Henry David Thoreau.

# S & S and Plax Staffers Party at North Halton

Office personnel from Smith and Stone and Plax Ltd. and their wives and husbands celebrated the season with their annual party at North Halton Country Club Friday night.

Johnny Tocher and his Debonaires supplied the music for dancing and the evening was concluded with a turkey buffet. The party was arranged by Ian Presgrave and Goh Collier, who also acted as emcee. A number of Toronto office personnel and their wives were also on hand.

Dick Kynnersley was the winner of the door prize and other prize winners for lucky draws and spot dances were Mrs. Ron Kitchen, Barbara Lacey and Bill Weir, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hinesley, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Powers and John Doherty and Mrs. Len Murdoch. Goh Collier made the draws and presented the prizes which were Christmas products.

When dancing terminated the party guests were entertained at the piano by Ben Matthews.

## Over 500 Farmers Taking Short Course

More than 500 farmers in the province will begin the new year by attending the winter short courses held at the Ontario Agricultural College from January 3 to 6, 1961.

An annual event, to which many farmers have returned year after year, these courses

provide an opportunity for the farmer to increase his knowledge of the latest techniques and methods of modern agriculture.

The courses include: farm shop and farm engineering; commercial livestock production in Ontario; soils and land use; milk production; and a marketing and co-operation conference for directors and officials of farm organizations, co-operatives and commodity groups.

A new development this year will be a course in rural leadership which will include lectures and discussions on human relations, communications, social problems, etc.

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PAGE 15

The first cross was erected on Montreal's Mt. Royal when the city was founded in 1642.

CHRISTMAS VISITING?  
take along...  
**Jenny Lind CANDIES**  
Kentner's Pharmacy  
12 MAIN NORTH



As we stand on the threshold of a new year it is good to pause and express appreciation to those whose friendship and pleasant relationship we enjoy in the course of our business.

It is our sincere wish that your Christmas be a very happy one and that the New Year will bring you a full measure of Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

## FARNELL'S

17 MAIN ST. SOUTH GEORGETOWN

# Season's Greetings

from

## BIURNS' TRANSPORT LIMITED

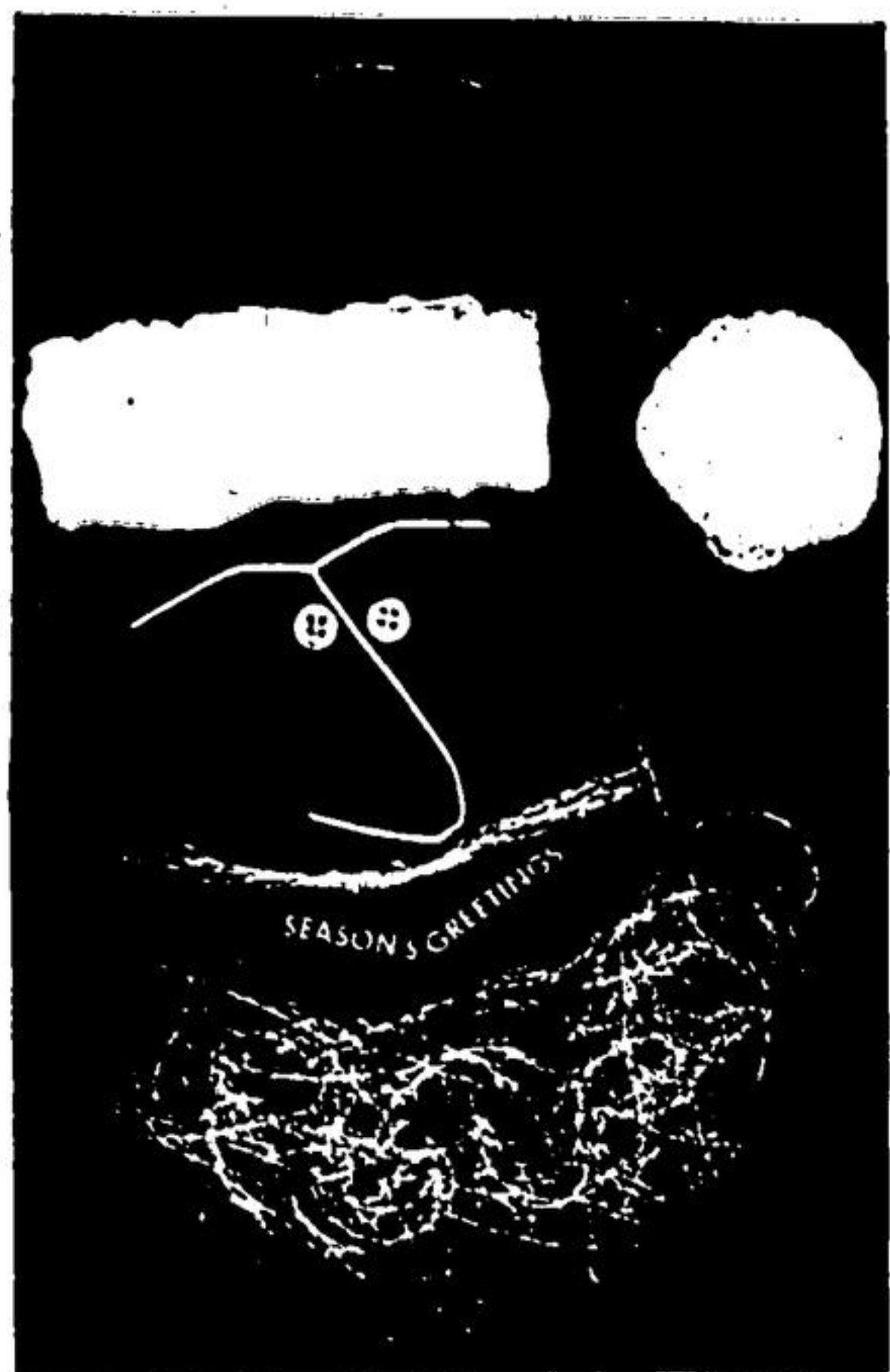


May the joys of the Holiday Season bring a friendly glow into your heart and home.

THE STAFF  
**STONEHOUSE** SALES LIMITED  
51 GUELPH STREET



We echo the prayer of millions throughout the world at this Holy Season... that soon there will be peace for all men. And, we pray that each of you will have a most joyous Christmas Holiday.



**Battington's**  
DELREX MARKET CENTRE  
GEORGETOWN TR. 7-4852