AUTHENTIC . . . Framed in entrance-way to simulated grotto, this Nativity scene at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows near Belleville, Illinois features life-like figures carved of linden wood. Only the animals are painted, and they are positioned to lend depth to this familiar Christmas scene.

FUN TO LEARN . . . For the would-be scientist in the family, a chemistry set is almost always a welcome gift. Sets come with instruction book detailing many safe, interesting experiments.

South of the Border . . . . . .

It's Posadas at Christmas

Santa Claus, the Christmas tree and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer don't mean much south of the U.S. border. And because they don't, visitors to Phoenix, Arizona, and the Valley of the Sun can enjoy some unusual and delightful Yuletide treats.

The traditional method of greeting Christmas in Mexico is by means of posadas and piñatas. Both can easily be seen in the Mexican sections of communities around Phoenix or in border communities such as Nogales just a few miles south of the Arizona-Sonora capital.

Colorful Posadas

The posadas, [illegible] most colorful of all Mexican celebrations, commemorate the religious aspect of the air lady. They begin about nine days before Christmas. A [illegible] presenting Joseph and Mary usually accompanied by a donkey and pilgrims who are really guests, re-enact the search for lodgings prior to Christ's birth. Carrying lighted candles they sing beseeching songs, as kind folk shelter. The guests pretend for a while that they won't supply lodgings, but as all hope seems gone, they relent. The singers and guests enter and the party begins.

It's a festive time and usually includes a Piñata. This is especially so if there are children in the group. The piece de resistance is a large papier mache container which may take the form of a large animal, bird, person or other shape. Inside are candy, nuts, toys and other treats, and the entire thing is suspended by a rope able strung above the heads of the guests. Guests are blindfolded and one by one try to hit the container with a stick. Since the stockings are manipulated out of reach, there is much laughter at each wild swing. Finally though one of the guests manages to get a good whack, and there is a gay scramble for the goodies as they cascade over the floor.

Traditional Dish

Climax of the posadas is a midnight mass on Christmas Eve. It's an emotional experience cherished by many. Then to the tune of ringing bells celebrants go home to a traditional dishes of Red Chile, a dish consisting of pork, onions, garlic, [illegible] and whatever else the family can afford.

The festivities on the [illegible] may easily be seen by hopping a bus or rent-a-car for the three and one-half hour drive from Phoenix to Nogales. Not only do they form an integral part of the Christmas holidays but they add spice to the myriad of other events such as the Copper Bowl game and the Aztec sunbird days that make the Phoenix Christmas season one of the gayest times of the year.

BUY 'MOIST' TREE KEEP IT THAT WAY

A moist Christmas tree is a fresh one. A dry Christmas tree is a fire hazard.

These are the simple facts of Yuletide tree selection. Remember them and you won't go wrong on buying the family Christmas tree.

You can gauge a tree's moisture or dryness entirely by appearance. Some species retain their color fairly well even when dry enough to burst into flame at the first spark or short circuit.

Feeling not seeing is the answer. Feel the twigs and needles to determine if they are dry and brittle. Then bang the tree but against the floor. If a shower of needles results, look for another moister tree.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

Christmas Seals, the seasonal reminder of the [illegible] stamp and Tuberculosis [illegible] have been with us since 1904.

The idea was conceived by a Danish postal clerk in 1904 while mailing Christmas packages and letters. Einar Holboe mentioned the idea to his fellow workers and they thought it would be a great help to defray the cost of fighting tuberculosis. The idea reached King Christian, who approved and the image of Queen Louise appeared on the first seals in 1904.

A Danish-born American, Jacob Riis sold the idea to the American public in a 1907 magazine article and a Red Cross worker, Miss Emma Bond, started the first American sales that year.

Three Yearly Blood Clinics Possibility for Red Cross

The Georgetown and District Branch held their last meeting of the year at the home of the President, Mrs. S. N. Martin, on Monday, December 16th.

BLOOD DONOR CLINICS

A possibility to operate 3 blood donor clinics per year was brought forward by the Chairman, Mrs. John Ferguson. Plans are to be worked out and contact sought with the Canadian Cancer Society, which has offered to assist the Red Cross with this service as for cancer much blood is needed.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

As the Branch is in great need of assistance, anybody, male or female, interested in becoming an active volunteer, please contact the Chairman, Mrs. Ronald Lyttle, 877-2901.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Mrs Don Hancock, Chairman of this Committee reported that 300 gifts had been wrapped and with the Red Cross Christmas cards handed to the Georgetown Rotary Club to be given to each Senior Citizen attending the Annual Christmas dinner.

LOAN CUPBOARD

As some articles are missing, persons, who are in possession of borrowed Red Cross Loan Cupboard equipment as wheel chairs, etc., are kindly requested to phone 877-3551, 877-3227 or 877-6553.

IMMIGRATION

Mrs Martin informed the group that she has now received the first notifications about newly arrived immigrants and will inform the ministers of the different religious denominations in Georgetown.

WINTER WATER SAFETY

Posters have been distributed over the schools in Georgetown and District and the rural areas. Parents of small children are warned to keep them away from "thin ice".

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Chairman, Mrs. Jack Nieuwhof, attended the November 26 meeting of the Ninth Browne Pack on request of the Brown Owl, Mrs. T. D. White. Mrs Nieuwhof explained the purpose and services of the Red Cross to the girls and warned them to stay off thin ice.

On December 2 at the St. John Ambulance investiture in Acton the Branch was represented by Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Nieuwhof. They were very impressed by the talk of the guest speaker Mr. Ralph F. Finkle, President of the Canadian Medic Alert Foundation of Toronto who explained their goal. This organization deals with safety bracelets or necklaces, with a protective warning engraved on the back to be worn by persons with drug allergies or rare blood types, epileptics, diabetics, skin divers, etc. Mr. Finkle urged the audience to spread the word about this most necessary service in Canada and all over the world.

About the December Ontario Division Executive meeting Mrs. Nieuwhof stated the following:

The Red Cross again received a Nobel Peace Prize, subsequently it has been won three times by the organization. In 1901 Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, was the first person to receive a Nobel Peace Prize.

Retirement courses are going to be introduced to the factories, etc. Brantford has the first service "meals on wheels" for their senior citizens. A Senior Citizens Home Aid Kit can be borrowed for display from the Ontario Division.

Brampton 26,000 people will have a Red Cross Homemakers Service in co-operation with the town. Up till now the Brampton Red Cross Branch only had Blood Donor Clinic and Water Safety services.

DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

BRAMPTON The Brampton Public School Board voted last week to ask council for $1,994,682.00 to finance its operations during 1964. Two new schools are planned for construction this winter.

CHINGUACOUSY A 67 year old Chinguacousy man was killed when a car driven by a Mono Road man collided with his light panel truck at the intersection of No. 10 sideroad and 1st Line E. Jesse McLean, R.R.1, Brampton, was pronounced dead on arrival at Peel Memorial Hospital.

OAKVILLE Twenty building contractors engaged on projects in the town have been summoned to a "toe the line" meeting called by the municipal construction safety inspector. They will be told "Obey the safety rules or face a magistrate".

BURLINGTON a former Burlington policeman appeared in court last week charged with assault causing bodily harm to a local businessman. The ex-PC resigned from the force last Friday after being charged.

MILTON Three employees of Canadian Meter Company Ltd have offered to submit to lie detector tests in connection with the death of their fellow worker whose body was found in a Hamilton lane in October.

NASSAGAWEYA An anonymous letter directed apparently at all the voters of Nassagaweya took citizens to task for their poor voting record in the recent election with 25.7 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots. The writer called Nassagaweya "the Northern Nothing of Halton County".

FERGUS Fergus council gave first and second reading to a by-law to raise $200,000 by debentures to finance the construction work in the addition to Groves Memorial Community Hospital, Fergus. The addition will go on the south end of the present building.

BALLINAFAD

Churchwomen Get Greetings From African Missionaries

The December meeting of the United Church Women was held in the church on Tuesday evening. As this was the last general meeting of the year, Mrs. F. J. Shortill presided. Following the opening hymn, several matters of business were discusseed, including the election of officers for the coming year. They are President, Mrs. Don Smith; Second Vice President, Mrs. T. Gibson; Secretary, Mrs. J. McEnery; Treasurer, Mrs. Roy Swindlehurst; leader of the Evening Unit, Mrs. Archie Lawr. Two offices were left vacant for the present, 1st Vice President and leader for the Afternoon Unit.

Mrs. Lawr and Mrs. Fleming conducted a lovely Christmas worship, using three old familiar carols. The rest of the evening's program was in charge of Mrs. T. Given and the Afternoon Group, who went back into childhood days, with recitations and singing and enacting the "Legend of the Christmas Tree" in pantomime.

Santa Claus was unable to be present to give out the gifts from the tree, so he sent one of his elves, Susie Snowflake. This part was played by Mrs. Fleming who looked just like a character from a story book.

A letter of Christmas Greetings and other interesting news from Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Kirkwood in Africa was read and at the close of the program a delicious buffet lunch was served by the Evening Unit.

. . .

On Wednesday night the Cubs and Scouts were together in the community hall for their annual Christmas Party to which all the parents were invited.

The entire Cub pack were taken to Brampton for a sight seeing tour of the Christmas lights and decorations. A program of singing of Christmas Carols and skits was put on by the Scouts and lunch was served by the Scout Mothers' Auxiliary. Gifts were presented by the boys to their leaders, Scouter Fred Roden, Scouter Bud Snow, Akela Mrs. J. Wood and her two assistants, Mrs. Don Cudney and Mr. M. LaRose. The Ballinafad Scouts are hosting a Troop from Scarborough for the week-end between Christmas and New Years.

There was a good representation of parents from this community to attend the "Open House" at the Georgetown High School on Tuesday night.

. . .

Mrs. Elwood Snow and Mrs. A. Keir attended a 4-H Club luncheon in Toronto recently. They are the leaders of the Ballinafad Group.

. . .

My sincere Season's Greetings to all the readers of this column and to the staff at the Herald office.

SURROUNDED . . . This lad is surrounded by a typical selection of battery-operated toys. More than ever this year, the prosaic flashlight battery will bring animation to toyland.

Milady of Guelph

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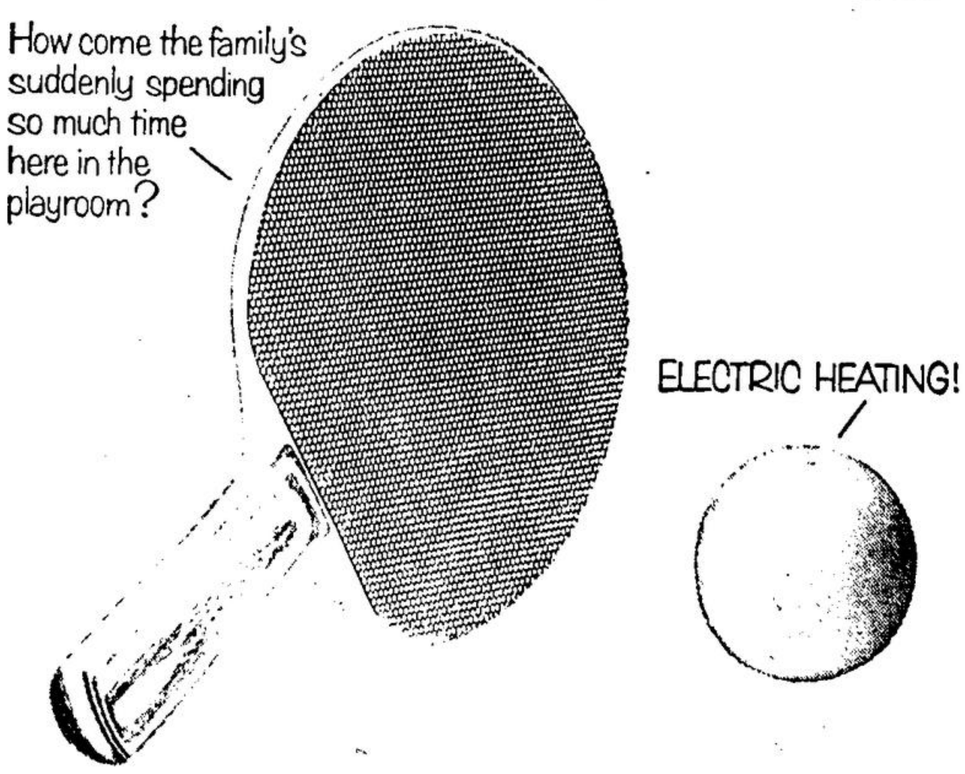

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NOTICE

NOMINATION MEETING

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING TRUSTEES

TO THE R.C. SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

BOXING DAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1963

Holy Cross School

NOMINATIONS — 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

ELECTION will take place New Year's Day, January 1st, 1964, Holy Cross School from 10.00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All Those Interested Are Asked To Attend