

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Fine Santa Parade...

Saturday's Santa Claus parade, the 33rd annual event sponsored by the Lions Club was one of the most outstanding in its history.

We've come a long way from the day when the service club started in a small way, with Santa's arrival and only a few of his elves on hand to help distribute candies to the children.

This year's show was, in its own way, every bit on a par with the larger cities. The floats showed originality and care in their composition and drew admiring praise from spectators who lined the highway route and thronged the downtown area to watch it pass.

Local and visiting bands and majorettes added their music and the Lions were helped particularly by other service clubs and industrial groups, as well as some public spirited individuals who paraded in costume.

As usual, Santa presided on Mill Street and handed out a total of 2,000 bags of candy, a record for the day.

And for the grand finale, a lucky draw, well patronized by the public, provided Christmas dinners for twenty lucky winners and a doll dressed in dollar bills for one local home.

The only sad thing about the parade is the brief appearance of floats which represent weeks of planning and work by the entrants. One wishes that they could be used elsewhere, or saved for another year. But of course, it's the originality which makes the day, so we must consider them like those night blooming flowers which bare their glory to the world for a brief few hours.

To all those who gave us an hour of pleasure Saturday, we say "thanks".

End of the Affair...

By the time you are reading this, Canada's pernicious flag debate should be a matter for the history books.

Let's hope they don't write in our lifetime, for it will hold us up to ridicule as a nation.

The sad fact is that whatever departure is made from the accepted Canadian flag, there will be controversy. Human beings resent change, and when there are political overtones, it can blow up a first-rate family feud.

The prime minister made his first mistake when he used a new flag as an election issue, his second when he introduced the subject for debate instead of choosing a flag and saying that's it, and his third when, with a chance to drop a hot potato in the pressure of other business, he brought it up again for a final parliamentary fling.

Much has been said about the new flag and its shortcomings. The debate will go on for years.

There are those who will accept nothing except a red ensign in modified version, and there are those who would eliminate all commonwealth ties altogether.

These people are understandable, and neither mountain will move.

But what about the vast majority of Canadians whose minds are flexible enough to accept some change?

Many people have never consciously thought of the flag. We accept it as we do our other evidences of national pride. Now we hear people who never thought of Canada as a bi-racial country sounding off about Quebec running the show. And even sadder, we hear people saying that at this stage they can't care less what kind of flag we have, or whether we have any at all, just so parliament will get back to business and sign off the debate.

Perhaps the best answer now is to do what any parent does when John and Mary both try to take the biggest piece of candy — let neither have it. Perhaps we aren't mature enough to have a flag at all, and until we grow up a bit, should be denied a national flag altogether.

Sharing Christmas...

Christmas, one of the Christian world's two major religious festivals, is a happy time.

It signifies the birth of a man whose philosophy has influenced the world for twenty centuries. It brings out the best in most men, imbues them with the spirit of sharing and, with the secular trappings of Santa Claus and Christmas trees, cards and gifts, is shared to some extent by people of other faiths as well.

There are many ways we can share the Christmas spirit outside the realm of our own families.

Some people make a point of entertaining a lonesome stranger for the day. Some send a greeting to someone who might not be receiving as many cards as you do.

Some provide little anonymous gifts to people who have had trouble and who can use a bit of assistance.

It is a time to attend church, to check on your financial support for maintenance of your church building and its broader mission field.

It is a festive time, true, but one which does not call for the type of festivity which has caused heartbreak in many a home.

Whatever man's failings it is one day in the year when happiness should prevail and when thought should be given to the year ahead and resolutions made to follow more closely a pattern of life which has proved itself a model which can make a better world.

DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

ERIN

Rabies has been reported in the Erin area. A dog owned by an R.R. 2 Erin family developed a confirmed case of Rabies. It was learned this week when the result of tests were made public. Residents of the area were advised to warn their children to stay away from all animals.

OAKVILLE

Culminating many years of struggle and work Oakville Mayor Allan Masson last week officially tossed the first shovel full of earth opening construction of Oakville's \$757,807 new town hall.

CAMPBELLVILLE

Mrs. Maurice Newton who harassed Nassagaweya Township council with her opposition to their plans for a \$40,000 township building was seen by Reeve William Coulter. "We've never had such interest in community affairs as this year," he commented.

STREETSVILLE

A Streetsville man died instantly when crushed between two large trucks. Glenn Pollard, 52, of R.R. 3 Streetsville, was transferring ever-green

boughs from his truck to a tractor trailer when the truck rolled ahead.

BRAMPTON

A Brampton police was credited with saving a child's life last week. Constable Campbell rushed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Robson when no doctor was available to attend 14 month old David Robson who went into convulsions. He used St. John Ambulance training to save the infant.

ACTON

Fifty-two percent of Acton's voters went to the polls Tuesday Dec. 8 to elect H. H. Hillman Reeve and Dr. F. G. Oakes, Ray Arbie, Albert Irwin, Bob Drinkwater, Mrs. George Fryer, and Bill Williams to council. Mayor Les Duby was acclaimed.

ROCKWOOD

The Erasmus School Board has added its support to the Ontario Teachers' Federation's proposal to purchase the historical Rockwood Academy as a centennial project. It would be converted to an educational museum.

Christmas Rose Famed in Legend

Blooming in the heart of winter and sometimes even in the snow, the Christmas rose is a plant famed in legend.

According to an old story, a poor little shepherdess had no gift to offer the Christ Child, and so she wept. When her tears touched the ground, flowers sprouted.

Delighted, she plucked an armful and hastened to the infant. The caress of his fingers turned the petals pink. Botanists class the Christmas rose as a member of the buttercup family. Native to Southern Europe and western Asia, it has leathery, dark green leaves and large, saucer-shaped flowers with white or rose-tinted sepals, according to The Encyclopedia Americana.

HEARD IN APRIL

'Handel's Messiah', often heard at the Christmas season, was begun in August, finished in September and first performed in April.

IN BETHLEHEM, GA.

A 60-foot star lights the countryside around Bethlehem, Ga., at Christmas. A carol service is held beneath the star on Christmas night.



SNOW BECOMING TO OLDER HOMES

The residence of Mrs. Thomas Lyons, 51 Edith Street, wears winter's mantle well

Holly Holds Sway

The holly tree and its brightly berried branches hold an important place not only as holiday decorations but as legends and lore of Christmas. An old belief in England and Germany was that there are "le" and "de" hollies — the "le" hollies with spined leaves, the "de" hollies smooth-leaved. The varieties brought into the house at Christmas supposedly showed who would head the household for the coming year — "le" or "de".

A variation on this custom said that if the holly was brought into the house in fair weather, the wife would rule, but if the weather was bad, the husband would be master. Holly was credited with many magical and medical powers. It was believed to cure toothaches, banish rickets, and even forestall to girls the names of their future husbands.

staff to lean upon. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods. He puts His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over. What I tell is true. I lie not. These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life and after, and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Longhouse and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever.

Only six more shopping days until Christmas... so consult the pages of the Herald for last minute shopping ideas!

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bil. Smiley

How to Live with Christmas

Thirty days before September, April, June and Christmas. At least it seems that way. About the middle of November, the partying swings into high gear. We are implored to buy a gift to enchant her — like a dainty electric shaver. Or something 'be really needs' — like a tastefully-wrapped bottle of dandruff remover. Around the same time, the 'Christmas music' begins. We are warned that Santa Claus is coming to town. We are reminded 18 times a day, to listen, through the hubbub of traffic and the snarl of aircraft, for those jingle bells. We are told, for 20 days before Christmas, that somebody saw mama kissing Santa Claus last night. It makes you feel all sort of sacred and... well, you know, Hatty? Women start getting that harassed look about the first of December. They spend hundreds of hours of their Christmas chores: ruthlessly hacking off the list of people who didn't send in a card last year; desperately wondering what to get Uncle Dad, who is in an institution, frantically trying to get their husbands interested in trees and trimming and turkey. Well, cheer up, chaps. It comes every year, but it lasts for only 30 days. Perhaps something to get your mind off the whole thing... With Christmas in the offing, perhaps you'd be interested in a new party game. Any number can play. It is guaranteed to increase the spirit of goodfellowship and jollity at any Christmas party. Called 'Conjugation of Irregular Verbs', it was invented by Hartrand Russell. It goes like this: the player is given an irregular verb, he conjugates it. Example: "I am firm; you are obstinate; he is a pigheaded fool." Get the idea? Let's try another. Ready? "I am witty and sparkling. You are unusually talkative. He is drunk as an skunk." One more. "I day dream. You are an escapist. He ought to see a psychiatrist." This sort of thing is certain to get a dull party off the ground. Now, how about some Christmas definitions, so that you won't be misled by a lot of cliches that have sprung up around the sacred and joyous occasion. Christmas list — mes acquire a heavy list to starboard from reaching into their hip pockets for wallets so frequently. Women acquire a different type list; pelvis thrust out, back tilted badly to the rear from the waist up, acquired from carrying parcels piled up to their noses. Christmas pudding — closely allied to Christmas list. It is more noticeable in men — a type of paralysis that comes from puddling their hand in their pocket so often. Christmas carols — girl child born on Christmas Day and named Carol. Far better to call them May. Christmas tree — any coniferous tree which falls over the moment it is placed in a stand. Christmas cookies — people who think they are going to spend less on Christmas than last year. Sometimes pronounced 'kooky'. Christmas spirit — what the kids have and you don't at 8 a.m. Dec. 25. Yams! Christmas — you cook the turkey and are stuck with the dishes while the relatives sleep it off. Christmas punch — the recipe is simple. Take one husband, and wife, decorating tree on Christmas Eve. Mix one set of lights which doesn't work. Throw in trip downtown for extra set of lights, by husband. Stir in a few short calls on friends on way home. Put husband gently inside door at one a.m. Christmas morning — and you get your Christmas punch, right between the eyes. It is considered only sporting, if you feel like retaliating, to wait until Boxing Day. WANDERING OFF WITCHES LED TO CANDY CANES One of the most popular symbols of the Christmas holidays, candy canes, began with an old superstition during the Middle Ages. Europeans of that period carried glass canes filled with colored candies to distract evil witches. Belief was that the evil ones become so interested in sorting the candies that casting of evil spells was forgotten, reports the Candy, Chocolate and Confectionery Institute.

NEWS DESK EXTRAS

by Terry Harley

- Among our holiday-greeting cards there was one that especially intrigued us. It carried an Indian version of the 23rd Psalm, illustrated and lettered by two full-blood Indians, Victor Red Bear and Gibson Davis. The version follows: The Great Father above a Shepherd Chief is. I am His and with Him I want not. He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied. Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road. His name is WONDERFUL. Sometimes, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time, He will draw me into a valley. It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not, for it is in between those mountains that the Shepherd Chief will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart and all through life will be satisfied.

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BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
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NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1954 and 1944

- 10 YEARS AGO A processional cross which will henceforth be carried as the choir enters and leaves the church, was dedicated at St. George's Anglican Church Sunday morning. The cross was presented to the church by the Men's Club in memory of W. F. Bradley who died last year.
25 YEARS AGO Men and women of Georgetown and district who are considering joining the armed forces are invited to get in touch with Mr. William Roney who has been appointed the local Recruiting Officer for Georgetown.
At a special convocation to be held on Friday the Rev. Charles C. Cochrane, B.A., of Knox Presbyterian Church will receive the degree of Bachelor of Divinity from Victoria University, Toronto.