

EDITORIAL COMMENT

School Concerts Disappear

Consolidated rural schools have many modern advantages but they lack one important facet of the little old red school-house.
Since pioneer days the Christmas concert was a highlight of the school year.

Fine Holiday Fare

The concert presented Saturday by the Citizens Band and Gloria Patri choir was an outstanding musical treat for those who attended.
It was a cleverly devised performance, combining some of the lesser-known carols with the familiar.

Staring Revelations

Allegations of bribery in government circles, and evidence of political intercession on behalf of notorious criminals shook Canada on its heels last week.
One must be careful not to interpret charges as fact and to wait for a calm assessment of matters until a commission specially appointed to get to the root of the charges completes its assessment.

HARLEY TO HALTON

WEEKLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

THE MAJOR PART of the flag battle is over. It finished off approximately 2 a.m. on Tuesday morning, with the concurrence in the flag report recommending a single red maple leaf on a white background with red bars on each end as the national flag of Canada.
THE GOVERNMENT brought the matter to a vote by moving closure, a parliamentary device rarely used, to prevent a minority from preventing the will of the majority to carry. To compare this to closure as used in 1900 it was brought about before debate, at the present time it was brought about after almost 200 speeches and to suggest it had prevented debate is ridiculous.



"ALL IS CALM... ALL IS BRIGHT..."



FROM ALL OF US WHO PUT OUT YOUR NEWSPAPER

to prevent the Prime Minister from speaking at the deadline of 1 a.m. had passed. The Speaker ruled that the Prime Minister had risen before 1 a.m. and should be heard. The Prime Minister had 20 minutes to speak and offered ten minutes to Mr. Diefenbaker in a sporting gesture but the Leader of the Opposition rejected this rudely. The Prime Minister, noting that the flag would obviously pass, asked the opponents of the flag to not register a vote against the flag to be Canada's, if they could not support it, at least not vote against it. This vote was rejected and the final vote was recorded 183 to 78, more than two to one for the new flag. As the vote was called out, the House of Commons led by the 'Proponents of the new flag stood and sang 'Oh Canada' followed by God Save the Queen.' The galleries which were jammed to over-capacity also rose to pay homage to O Canada and God Save the Queen. It was a stirring and memorable night in the House of Commons and I was pleased and honoured that I was a Member of Parliament on this historic occasion.

Season's 'Firsts' Are Traced

Shepherds watched, angels sang and wise men travelled far to behold the miracle of the first Christmas.
Since that holy night a multitude of legends and customs, both religious and secular, have developed as part of the holiday. Each legend was once told, each custom observed for the first time, and though origins of many traditions are now lost in time, other Christmas 'firsts' have been recorded for posterity.
There are historical Christmas 'firsts', attested by church records and by scientific research into the early years of Christianity, as well as 'firsts' of later history and 'firsts' that blend fact with myth.
Setting the Date
December 25 was first assigned as the date for the celebration of the Nativity in about the year 330 A.D. Since the New Testament was written as religious instruction rather than history, the exact date of Christ's birth is not known. The present day was selected as a means of unifying the observances of Christmas, 'the mass of Christ.'
TRIMMING TREES
Trimmed Christmas trees first appeared in the United States probably during the American Revolution. Hessian soldiers with the British forces started the practice to relieve their homesickness for their homeland. An early diary, written at Fort Dearborn, Ill., in 1804 relates the practice of trimming the Christmas tree with ornaments of the time.
Hanging Stockings
Story of the first Christmas stocking is associated with the real St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop known for his many kind deeds. Wishing to present an anonymous gift to help the daughters of an impoverished merchant, he threw a bag of gold down the chimney, where it fell into a stocking hung up to dry.
The legend is reflected in today's custom of tucking 'gold' — an orange or tangerine — into the toe of a Christmas stocking.

NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1954 and 1944

- 10 YEARS AGO
Rev. Fr. V. J. Morgan, pastor of Georgetown and Acton Roman Catholic churches was at Cap de la Madeleine near Three Rivers, Quebec, last week to attend ceremonies connected with the Marian Year.
Muskoka Lodge, an ultra-modern summer resort on Mary Lake near Port Sydney has been sold by Samuel and Israel Ginsburg to a Detroit syndicate. Mrs. Ginsburg, the former Pearl Saxe is a former Georgetown girl and both she and her husband are well-known locally.
A lawyer here for the past four years, James F. McNabb, has moved his law office to Toronto. Mr. McNabb had his office in the Norton Building on Main St. N. since coming here in June, 1950.
20 YEARS AGO
Georgetown is experiencing a building boom at present with a new factory and fourteen new homes under construction. The new factory on the former site of the Richmond Hosiery Mills on King St., which was partially destroyed by fire, will house the Federal Sales & Engineering firm which is moving here from Toronto.
Credit Lodge met in the lodge rooms last Friday evening, December 8th, for their annual election of officers. The following were elected: Worshipful Master Bro. Ross Thompson; Senior Warden, Bro. Denney Charles; Junior Warden, Bro. T. Wold; Chaplain, Very Wor. Bro. W. G. O. Thompson; Secretary, Wor. Bro. W. Ford; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. E. Cole; Senior Deacon, Bro. Howard Wrigglesworth; Junior Deacon, Bro. T. Eason; I.G., Bro. W. Cleave; Tyler, Bro. C. Sinclair; S.S. Bro. Elmer Dron; J.S., Bro. A. Hunter.

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SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

Social, But Not Sociable!

There is little use in complaining about the rigours of putting up my tree, the horrors of trying to find a present for my wife, the stress of debt into which I am plunging. I know how much sympathy I'd get. We're all in the same boat.
But, with the holiday season coming up, accompanied by its usual parties, I thought it might be a good time for your friendly old uncle Bill to pause and examine that phenomenon of the second half of the 20th century — Social Drinking.
Social Drinking is one of those beautifully vague terms we are so fond of these days. They cover a multitude of sins, and yet, somehow, they sound respectable.
It's like 'Neurotic'. The lady who 'neurotic' as a fruit cake will inform you with some pride — 'I'm terribly neurotic, you know.' Fifty years ago, she wouldn't have announced so freely that she was lousy.
Social Drinking is similar. The fellow who is so hung over the blood is running out of his eyes, will tell you, 'I'm strictly a Social Drinker.'
Everytime I hear the term Social Drinking, I utter a couple of short, barking laughs. Social Drinking is a misnomer. Social Drinking is just an excuse for getting plastered in public, instead of quietly and discreetly at home, or out behind the barn.
Social drinking and the Cocktail Party go hand in hand. A Cocktail Party is any gathering of Social Drinkers, sipping free liquor into empty stomachs at a rate which suggests prohibition is about to become law within the hour. They make a gesture toward the social end of it by sating a cracker, with a dead sardine on it, with every fifth drink.
Don't confuse sociable drinking with Social Drinking. Sociable drinking is a quiet glass with an old friend, by the fire, a couple of bottles of cold beer, out fishing, a hot noggin, in company, after a winter's day outside.
But Social Drinking is a horse of a different hue. Ask the housewife who comes down in the morning after a Cocktail Party, head thumping like a bongo, and is confronted by the following a cigarette burn on her new coffee-table; a purse of whiskey-and-ashes on her white linen tablecloth; a purple blotch on her lemon carpet; 28 dirty glasses; a lady's handbag; a man's hat; 14 empty cigarette packages; and her husband snoring on the chesterfield.
Ask the chap who drops in for a drink — just one — before facing the spouse and 'spaw', after work. He gets 'kink' with the boys, arrives home an hour late. He's a little high spirited, but scarcely a reeling drunk. Know what he gets for dinner?
Cold shoulder and hot tongue. Yet all he was doing was a little Social Drinking.
Actually, Social Drinking was fine, to worse to many other things, before women got into the act.
But when women started boozing, and things have gone from bad to hopeless. Mixed drinking developed. And the only thing worse than mixed drinking is mixing your drinks.
Social Drinking has all the potential destructive power of The Bomb. It leads to broken promises, broken diabet, broken noses and broken homes.
The only good thing about it, and the only reason it is so popular, is that it enables one to put up with all the horse and boore, the knuckleheads and knotheads, with which society seems to be infested nowadays (except for the sparkling people like you and me).
Now I hope I haven't thrown a wet blanket on your plans for a wet holiday season. But just to end this little homily, may I remind you the lines written in eleven-year twenty-seven by that great Welsh poet, Hugh Dunitt:
If you get stinking
From drinking,
It isn't Social;
It's atrocial.

KEN NASH

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