



Champion Photo

1965 Executive of the North Halton Association for Retarded
1965 EXECUTIVE of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded pledged at the Association's annual meeting to increase their efforts to help the mentally retarded in the area during the coming year. Shown seated are recording secretary, Mrs. Irene Randall, president Mrs. Peggy Treahy and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Lena Hazlett. Standing are second vice-president Harry Isham, treasurer Jim Sproat and education committee chairman Fred Bickers.

Santa Claus Pays Annual Visit to Halton Manor

On Saturday evening, December 19th, Santa Claus came to the Manor to pay his annual visit to the residents. He visited them in the four dining rooms of the Manor and in the infirmary and presented a gift to each one. The women residents received very attractive brush and comb sets and the men received boxes of cigars or chocolates.

As was the case in all of Santa's activities that afternoon, Santa's visit to the Manor was sponsored by the Milton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The firemen who assisted Santa at the Manor were Fire Chief A. E. Clement, V. Coulson and H. Coulson, and Legionnaires Bill Ferguson, L. Elwood, M. Black and A. Matlual.

The residents appreciate this annual visit of Santa Claus very much and are grateful to the firemen and to the Legionnaires for their generosity in presenting these gifts.

On Monday night, December 21st, fifteen ladies and gentlemen who are members of the South Peel Choral Group paid their annual Christmas visit to the Manor. The auditorium presented a very striking appearance for this first event of the Christmas season. An imitation fireplace with a mirror above it had been placed against the rear wall of the stage. A decorated Christmas tree at the front of the auditorium and small Christmas trees affixed to the walls added another seasonal touch. The ceiling lights had been decorated with evergreens and Christmas balls.

The president of the group, Mrs. G. Good, was among the fifteen members who came. Mr. Jerry Salmers was the music director and Mrs. L. Hill was the accompanist. Mrs. June Cook did all the announcing in very gracious fashion.

The group sang nine choral numbers ranging from secular songs like My Hero and Winter Wonderland to sacred numbers as O Holy Night and The Carol of the Drums. In A Star Was His Candle a lovely solo was sung by Mrs. D. McGlashan and in O Holy Night another lovely solo was sung by Mrs. Velma Jones. The last number sung by the choir was Silver Bells.

There were a number of instrumental numbers alternating with the choral selections.

FOR CHRISTMAS ENJOYMENT President Sought "Good Old Day"

At Christmas time, nostalgia for the good old days is as prevalent as turkey and trimmings, decorations and gifts. Everybody had more fun — so the feeling goes — during those good old fashioned Christmases when life was simpler and, according to tradition, the snow drifts were always piled high, the foods for feasting were always home-grown and home cooked, the gifts and decorations always lovingly handmade and the tree itself always chopped down by the head of the house on a personal foray to some hillside or lot.

Christmas nostalgia has even been known to affect heads of state — to be specific, a President of the U.S. It was everyone's duty, the President felt, to make Christmas merry. He and his family, he declared, were going to have an "old-fashioned" Christmas tree.

It happened in 1891. A search through recent newspapers, or even through recent history, would provide no details, however, about this resolve. For the President was Benjamin Harrison, who, on December 22nd in 1891, announced to reporters his plan for a "good old fashioned Christmas."

Most people today whose thoughts turn to Christmases of yore would certainly settle for a date much later than 1891 as the time when the "good old fashioned Christmas" had ceased to exist.

But if the spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas didn't vanish as early as President Harrison feared it had, when did it go? Or has it really disappeared forever?

Most of all, an "old-fashioned" Christmas is made up of traditions. Even in northern climates, only hope, luck and the weatherman can say, each year, whether the traditional snow drifts will be forthcoming. Other traditions, however, may not necessarily belong only to the past.

Not All "Store Bought" Preparing foods for feasting was doubtless fun — and hard work — in the good old days. But not all Christmas cookies, candies and fruit cakes today are "store bought." Many a family cherishes the tradition of having the children "help" Mother as the holiday cookies are concocted.

Even the ready-prepared foods have their traditions. For instance, some families deliver gift packages of cakes or candies to friends when they make Christmas calls; others set forth a table of treats in the home, ready to share with callers.

The same is true of that "good old days" habit of making gifts. In this "new day" of increasing interest in sewing, many lovingly home-crafted gifts are found under Christmas trees — and yesterday's mom would no doubt have been glad to trade her treadle sewing machine for one of today's electric models.

Can't Chop Tree While dad may not be able to chop down a tree for the family (conservationists of our "good old forests" wouldn't approve), a look at any place where trees are sold in the days before Christmas reveals that choosing the tree is still a personal, all-family matter, involving plenty of old-fashioned fun.

Almost every nostalgic dream of Christmas long ago seems to have its counterpart in the present. And all the while new traditions are building up, as each family, each community creates and treasures its customs.

In another 70 years, perhaps, some public figure may say, "It's time to get back to the good old ways of celebrating Christmas." So have an old-fashioned Christmas, now!

Jingle Bells

"Dashing thro' the snow, in a one-horse open sleigh, O'er the field we go, laughing all the way, Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright, What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight! "A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride, And soon Miss Fannie Bright was seated by my side. The horse was lean and lank, misfortune seem'd his lot, He got into a drifted bank, and we, we got upset. "Now the ground is white; got it while you're young, Take the girls tonight, and sing this sleighing song. Just 'geL a bobtailed bay, two-forty for his speed; Then hitch him to an open sleigh, and crack! you'll take the lead."

REFRAIN:
'Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
O What fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!'

Lithographer 'Fathered' American Greetings, Encouraged Artists

To Louis Prang, a native of Hirsland, Germany, goes the credit for being "father of the American Christmas card."

Prang, a lithographer who began a greeting card business in Roxbury, Mass., exhibited his own cards at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. He then had the idea of holding an annual competition to obtain the best of American art for cards.

Hundreds of paintings were entered in Prang's contest, for prizes from two hundred to one thousand dollars. Winners, with two exceptions, were artists born in the U.S.

Women artists were well represented among winners. Rosina Emmet was the mother of the late author and playwright, Robert Emmett Sherwood. Others were Dora Wheeler, Anne Morse, Libeth Humphrey and Florence Taber.

The group of 20 Prang prize cards is owned by Norcross Inc., greeting card publishers.

Pagan Feasts Are Source Of Customs

Most of the customs now associated with Christmas were originally pagan or non-Christian, according to The Encyclopedia Americana. Saturnalia, a Roman Feast celebrated in mid-December, provided the model for many of the merry-making customs of Christmas. From this celebration, for example, were derived the elaborate feasting, the giving of gifts and the burning of candles.

Lights also played an important part in most winter solstice festivals. An obscure figure in the early mythologies of the East emerged as a sun god. From the 1st century B.C. this figure, Mithras, was adopted by an increasing number of Roman soldiers and others. Mithras' greatest festival was that of the winter solstice, the time when the god began to return to his worshippers.

In the 5th century the Western church ordered a feast celebrating the birth of the Saviour to be observed on the day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun and at the close of the Saturnalia.

Among the German and Celtic tribes the winter solstice was considered an important point of the year and to commemorate the return of the sun they held their chief festival of Yule, which, like other pagan celebrations, became adapted to Christmas.

The Teutonic Yule feast also provided customs for the Christmas festivities, such as the Yule log and wassail bowl.

IN NORWAY
Norwegians hide an almond in the Christmas pudding. Tradition says the finder will be married in the next year.

for
Christmas
CUT FLOWERS
AND PLANTS
AT OUR GREENHOUSE
ROSEDALE
FLORAL
32 Albert St. - 877-2952
'We Wire Flowers'

MERRY
Christmas
May your day be bright with the joys of Christmas.
THOROCLEAN
JACK COX

LINCOLN
MOTORS
AND BODY REPAIR
199 Guelph St., 877-2862

May holiday happiness shine brightly in your heart. Our best wishes for a Christmas glowing with cheer.

Greetings
DICK HAWES & NORTON NELSON
Building Contractors
877-3372 877-3392

Best Wishes for Christmas
Credit Valley
Bottling Works
85 Mountainview Road

Hi! and Merry Christmas to Everyone!

W. H. KENTNER & SON
BLUE COAL FUEL OIL
45 Queen Street 877-2851

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

We've good wishes galore for everyone at Christmas! And if our wishes come true, you'll enjoy the merriest holiday season ever.

NORVAL BODY SHOP
JOHN SCHWINGSHANDL
374 Guelph Street TR. 7-3241

MAY CHRISTMAS GLOW WITH JOY FOR EVERYONE!
EXCHANGE HOTEL

May we wish you a very Merry Christmas...

THE KINSMEN CLUB of Georgetown thank you for your support throughout the year and extend, to all our very best wishes

KINSMEN CLUB

Greetings to all

Here's a very special delivery of warm wishes for a merry Christmas.

BILL GARBUTT
PLUMBING AND HEATING