

### Water Spirits Responded With Drenching Downpour

James Warren, recently of 17 1/2th St., is spending a year of a sabbatical leave from the government of Thailand. In the most recent of his interesting letters to The Herald he tells of a wet cruise during the festival of the waters.

December 30, 1964

Holidays in Bangkok are now over and we can all settle down in the serious business of breaking New Year resolutions. Like I must mail my Christmas cards earlier next year. It was not a simple matter to get in the proper holiday spirit in a land that is 84% Buddhist, and has a regular winter season. For us, it started in November with the colourful celebration of Loy Krathong, the festival of water in which hundreds of candle-lit boats made from banana leaves are launched in Thailand's canals and rivers. A yearly offering to the spirits of the waters, the tiny krathongs, decorated with flowers, incense sticks and flickering flames, are sailed out into the darkness by old and young, rich and poor. Our Thai friend, Vandl, invited us to join his family on a sight-seeing boat trip up river.

We climbed aboard the rocking craft at seven in the evening. It was already dark. Every inch of the deck was packed with relatives, pots of rice and curry, musical instruments and krathongs of every shape. The inboard engine burst into life in a cloud of black diesel smoke and we were on our way. The saxophone, trumpet, drums, and symbols of the Thai orchestra played folk songs and the voices of the happy crowd, clapping hands and improvising an accompaniment from pot lids must have been heard

across the river. Tina discovered castanets, David a drum, while Florie and I struggled to maintain our position, precariously balanced on the gunwales of the boat. It was impossible to move. Then the rain started. Not a light, misty shower. This was a deluge. Fortunately there was a sturdy wood roof overhead. The canvas side curtains were dropped quickly and the party continued. Well upstream it was possible to see our krathongs afloat. As the curtains were lifted, the rain seemed to be half the river seemed to be running down my back saturating my shirt and pants. As the little boats were placed in the water the candles immediately winked out. On the choppy surface they promptly overturned and disappeared into the pitch blackness. A group of boys on the shore set off sky rockets in our direction. The party continued. Even with the side curtains closed, a rivalet continued to course down my left arm. The low roof and the crowded deck made it impossible to move or to change position. Florie and I exchanged meaningful looks without altering our wooden smiles. The picnic dinner proved a pleasant surprise. Huge cauldrons of boiled rice, pots of multi-coloured curry and soups were ladled into metal plates and passed around the boat. Someone produced a yelcoms bottle of scotch. Tina and David, like their ravenous parents, gorged themselves. By ten o'clock the boat had made its way back to the jetty, and we climbed painfully out onto the slippery planks.

### Prodigal Son is Basis For New Year Thoughts

The U.C.W. held its first meeting in 1965 on Jan. 5th at the home of Mrs. Robert Cunningham with the President Mrs. W. Bird presiding and opening with the hymn "Standing at the Portal of Another Year" and prayer.

Home to his father. We must, like him, have the courage to face the facts. In conclusion she read the lovely poem "My prayer as a New Year begins." The Scripture reading by Mrs. Vera Pickett was the Prodigal Son from the fifteenth chapter of St. Luke. After a few items of business the Study chapter was taken by Mrs. Frank Wilson Sr. on Brazil which is four times the population of Canada. She mentioned a certain woman who with the aid of others halted Brazil's plunge toward Communism. Several missionaries and their wives have gone there to try and help in many ways, including Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd Strachan, Rev. and Mrs. Edmonds and Rev. and Mrs. Donald Raffin. Forty-seven percent are under fifteen, so there is quite a challenge for our people and we must support them with our prayers. She was assisted by Mrs. C. B. Dick, Mrs. Wilbert Cleave, Mrs. Frank Ruddle, Mrs. Cecil and Mrs. Clayton Wilson and Mrs. John Bellbody. The meeting closed with the benediction and a social hour followed.

### Scout, Guide Mystery Tour See Socks, Signals Produced

Some 60 Georgetown Scouts and Guides watched traffic signals being manufactured and socks being machine knit, roasting marshmallows over an outdoor fire and took in a performance of the pantomime "Dick Whittington during a check-out of interest mystery tour last Wednesday. The tour was sponsored by the 1st Georgetown Troop.

### School Pupils Carol For Hospital Patients

On Tuesday evening before Christmas, the senior pupils of Limehouse school with principal Mr. Balkind, teacher Mr. MacPherson and music supervisor Mrs. Kidney travelled by bus to sing carols at the corner in Ballinacraig, in Limehouse and at the Georgetown hospital. Later they were treated to refreshments in the hall at Limehouse.

### Cites Improved Farming Methods Triple Production

The Honourable James N. Allan, secretary for the Province of Ontario, outlined Canada's agricultural progress during the past few years, at the annual meeting of the Halton County Plowmen's Association on Monday, Jan. 4. Mr. Allan speaking at the meeting in St. Stephen's Church Hall, Horbury, noted that due to improved farming methods, one acre of land in Ontario can grow enough food for 30 others, while in 1941, he could grow only enough for 11 others.

### Guelph Granddaughter Weds Downsview Collegiate Teacher

Barbara Jean Thomas, a granddaughter of Mrs. George Henderson Sr., R.R. 1, Georgetown was married to John Elgin Wolfe in a ceremony in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, recently.

### Employment Figures Stay Consistent in December

During the month of December, 1964, 339 applicants were placed in employment by the National Employment Service. This figure is only 10 less than the previous month, giving indication that employment activity here is remaining fairly consistent.

### Bed, Stools to Hospital Gift of Town Institute

A bed and two bedside stools will be donated to the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital by the Georgetown Women's Institute soon with the Helping Hand committee purchasing the articles needed to complete two layettes. The W.I. members decided on the donation at a meeting Wednesday, Jan. 6 in Knox Hall.

### Important to Have Only One Insurance Number

Do you have more than one Social Insurance Number? The Unemployment Insurance Commission said today that quite a few Canadians have applied more than once, either accidentally or deliberately. Applications are still coming in at a rate of 5,000 per day, and Commission records show that many of these are from those who already have a Social Insurance Number.

### Notice to Creditors

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of Nelson A. Robinson, Gentleman, Deceased. DATED at Georgetown, this 28th day of December, A.D. 1964.

## Are you one of the thousands of Canadians to get increased dividends again this year from Mutual Life?

Mr. James: I'm happy to say I am. Interviewer: Did you know that this is the tenth time in the past twelve years that The Mutual Life has increased dividends? Mr. James: I haven't been keeping score—but I know Mutual Life's dividend record is tops. Interviewer: This year's dividends totalling \$17,900,000 represent an increase of \$1,400,000 over the amount paid in 1964. And the interest rate on accumulated dividends has been increased to 5%.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE JOHN T. ARMSTRONG, C.L.U. PHONES: TEL. 7-9621, OFFICE — TEL. 7-2434, RESIDENCE 39 MAIN STREET SOUTH — GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO

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