

**FIRST CHRISTMAS** — Girls of 3rd Georgetown Brownie Pack made their contribution to the season of pageants and plays by presenting 'The First Christmas' for parents and other guests in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church last night. In the scene above are Brownies Jennie Hull, Evaughne Moffatt, Susan Carlson, Laurie Reed, Susan Beer and Anna Edwards.

## 45th Birthday Would Be 180 If Goose Was Human

One goose that won't spend Christmas flat on his back in the middle of a dining table is the venerable old chieftain of the barnyard at the farm of Frank Asbeck, R.R. 4, Georgetown.

Their big grey Toulouse gander, which may be the most ancient patriarch of all barnyard fowl in Canada, turned 45 not long ago, and according to Mrs. Asbeck shows no signs of slowing down.

In fact goose-gander is showing fewer symptoms of his rheumatism this winter and is much more active than he was during the fall and last winter.

According to Dr. Robert Williams, 45 years for a gander is the equivalent of 180 human years. He added "the usual life span of a gander in captivity is 18-20 years. In the wild it's up to 25 years."

The Asbecks received their durable pet 37 years ago as a wedding present from Mrs. Asbeck's parents. He came with three young geese, and the last of his mates died just five years ago.

Even when goose-gander and his three ladies joined the Asbecks he was considered to be getting on at eight years of age. Ganders are generally replaced every several years for production, but Mrs. Asbeck said she couldn't part with her gander.

The bird's longevity has made him something of a celebrity in the district, and on occasion he has attracted reporters to defend his privacy.

Rheumatism and old age have made him a bit wobbly on his big orange webbed feet at times but he still manages quite well by himself.

The novelty of having his pic-

ture taken has worn off but he still has enough spunk to warn any interviewer from approaching to close. A shivering "kiss-sis" quickly informs his visitors he prefers not to be crowded.

"He was an arrogant and hot-headed gander in his day" said Mrs. Asbeck. "He didn't think twice about attacking the big red milk truck when it came in the lane. And there were times when I thought his rashness would kill him."

"When the baker called we would have to tie him up before-hand. But he was fiercest when his geese were laying eggs, and if he'd grab you by the coat or trouser leg he'd really hang on."

Life is a little quieter now for the grand-daddy of them all. He has his own warm house, a straw bed, and is fed a half head of lettuce, some corn and cut up apples every day. Once in a while, as a special treat, he'll get oats or stale bread soaked in skim milk.

"I do the best I can to keep him warm and comfortable,"

### Medical Secretaries Help Two Hospitals

An informal evening of good fun and food was enjoyed by Brampton and District Medical Secretaries Association at a pot luck supper on December 11.

The association has recently made cash donations to Peel Memorial Hospital, towards purchase of an instrument stand, and to Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital, to be used in aid of buying resuscitation equipment.

### TREE LAND

Christmas Trees — According to the University of California Agricultural Extension Service — California produces about 900,000 Christmas trees a year.



A French Legend tells why the Christmas rose — the only rose that blooms at Christmas — sometimes has a bit of pink on its white petals. A small girl who was accompanying the shepherds on their way to visit the Christ Child, was unhappy because she had no gift to offer the infant. The Angel Gabriel appeared to her and was so impressed by the little girl's sincerity that he touched his staff to the ground, and a rose — more beautiful than any other sprang from the frozen earth. The rose was originally white, or so the story goes, but when the little girl gave it as a gift to the Baby Jesus, the Christ Child reached out His hand to touch the bloom, and its petals were suddenly tipped with pink.

### FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

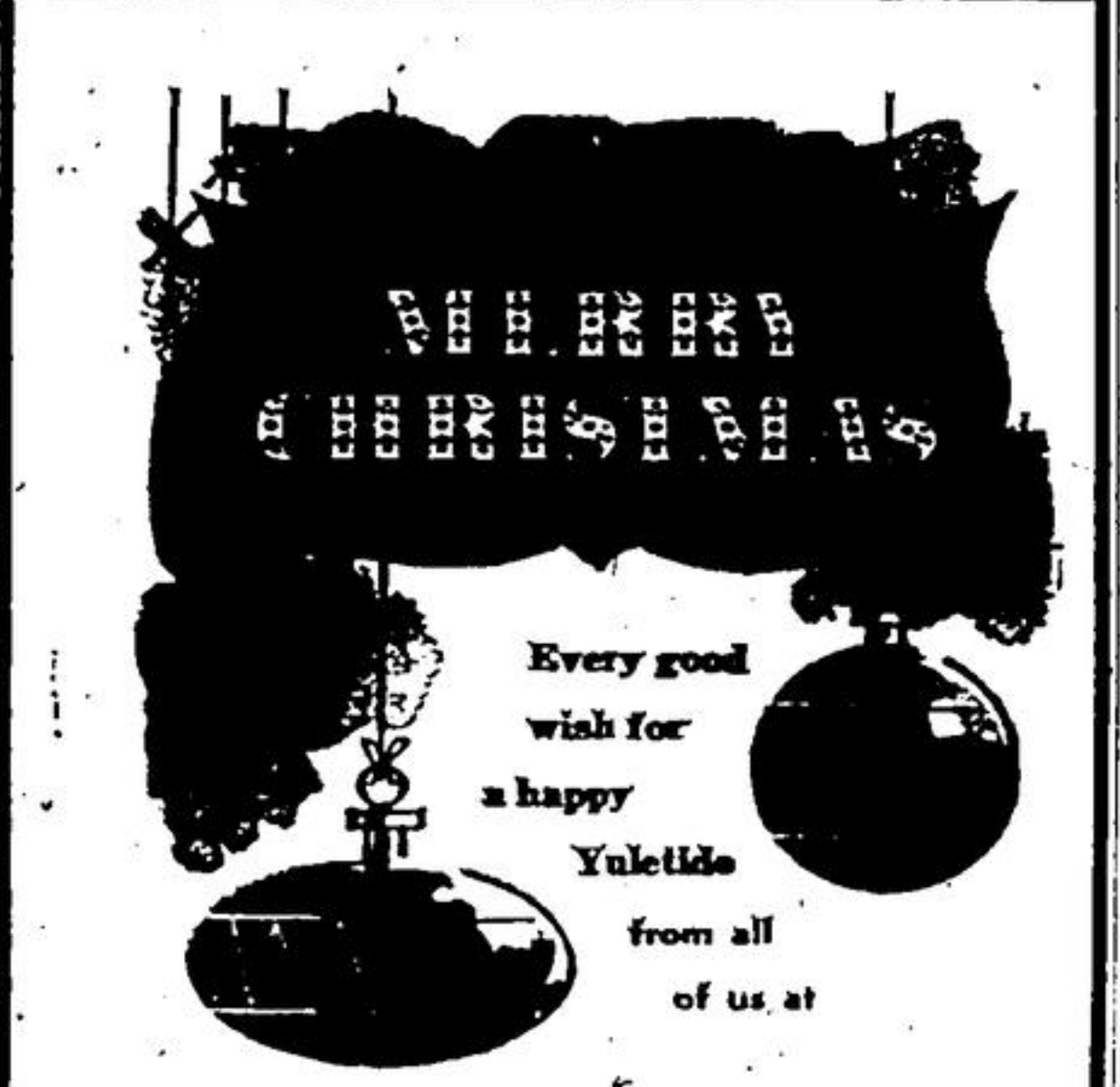
For those of you who get new appliances as Christmas presents remember the old railroad signs: "Stop, Wait, Listen!" Follow this advice before rushing to try out your new acquisition.

Even the simplest gadget has directions for pro-

per care and operation.

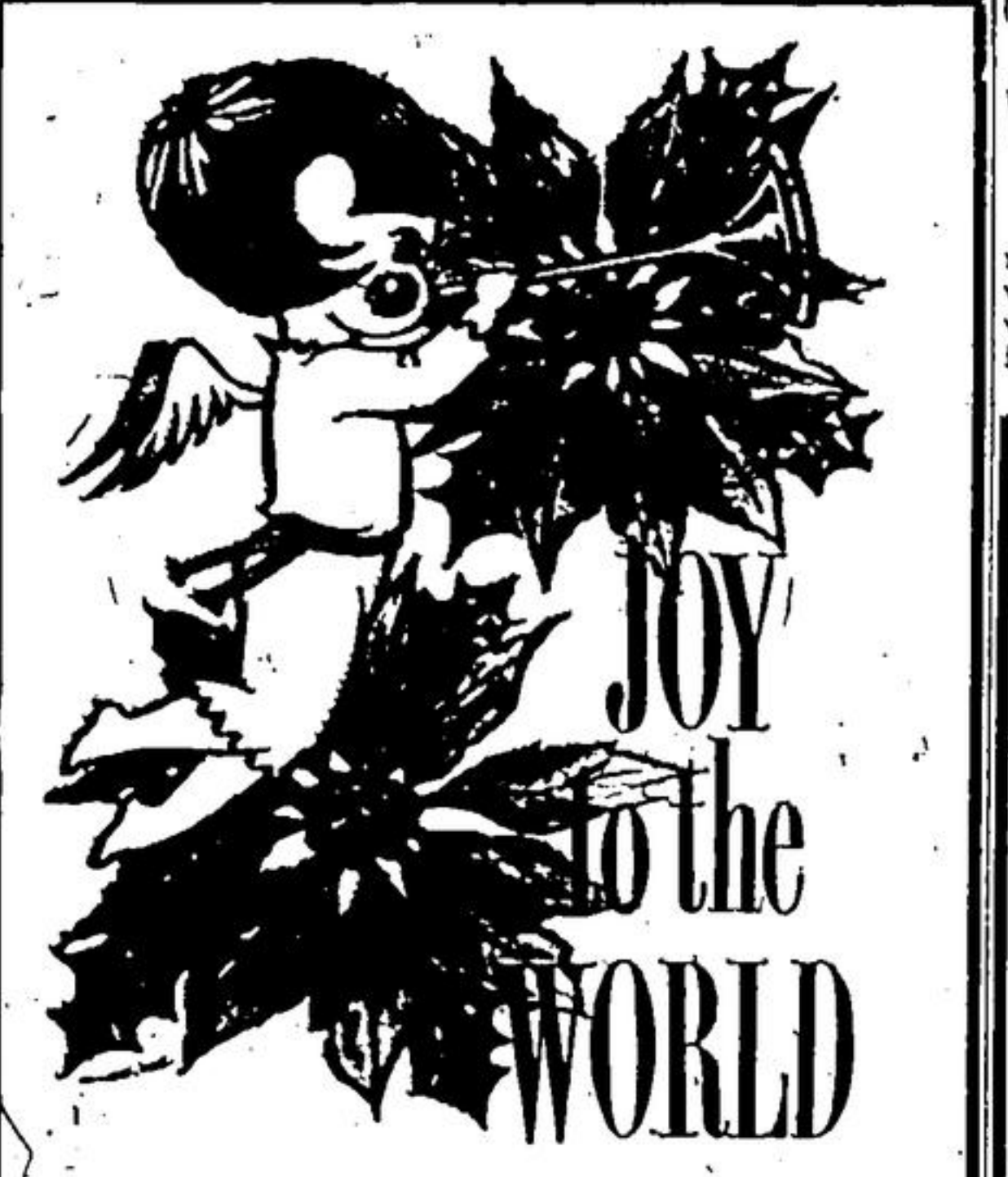
So after unpacking — "Stop, Wait — and Read." It's also good idea to keep the warranty or sales slip, or both.

Take down your Christmas tree when the needles start falling and dispose of it where it won't cause litter or be a fire hazard.



## G/S TELEVISION

GEORGETOWN MARKET CENTRE



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## ... TO OUR FRIENDS!

Best wishes for a Christmas that's both merry and bountiful — from all the folks at

Bob, Glad and Ed Caldwell



BILL BARBER AND ALL THE STAFF