



Christmas season folklore is fascinating. Whether true or not, there are innumerable tales on traditions of the holiday season.

Animals are prominently mentioned in many legends and customs.

One Christmas legend tells of the little gray lamb with a longing in its heart to be white. It wandered to the dwelling of the Holy Family, lingering at the door. The Christ Child, seeing the lamb, beckoned it in. He laid His hand on its head, and it became as white as snow.

Norwegians, Swedes, and the Swiss make it a special point to be extremely friendly and hospitable on Christmas, both to domestic pets and wild birds. A persistent Christmas legend is that bees hum a carol in honour of the Christ Child. In England, holly is placed on the hive to wish the bees a Merry Christmas.

Spaniards are taught to treat cows kindly; they believe that cattle breathed upon the Christ Child to keep Him warm. Tradition holds that cows and horses kneel in adoration at midnight each Christmas Eve. Among the residents of the German Alps it is believed that on Christmas Eve all animals can speak.

In Worcestershire, it was at one time the custom to give a touch of mistletoe to the cow that first bore a calf after New Year's Day, to bring good luck to all.

In Syria, the youngest camel which accompanied the Three Wise Men is called the camel of Jesus and it is this camel which brings gifts to the children.

In Bohemia a horse is taken into a river at Christmas and walked against the current. The rider tosses an apple into the stream and if it hits the horse it will be stronger during the coming year.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

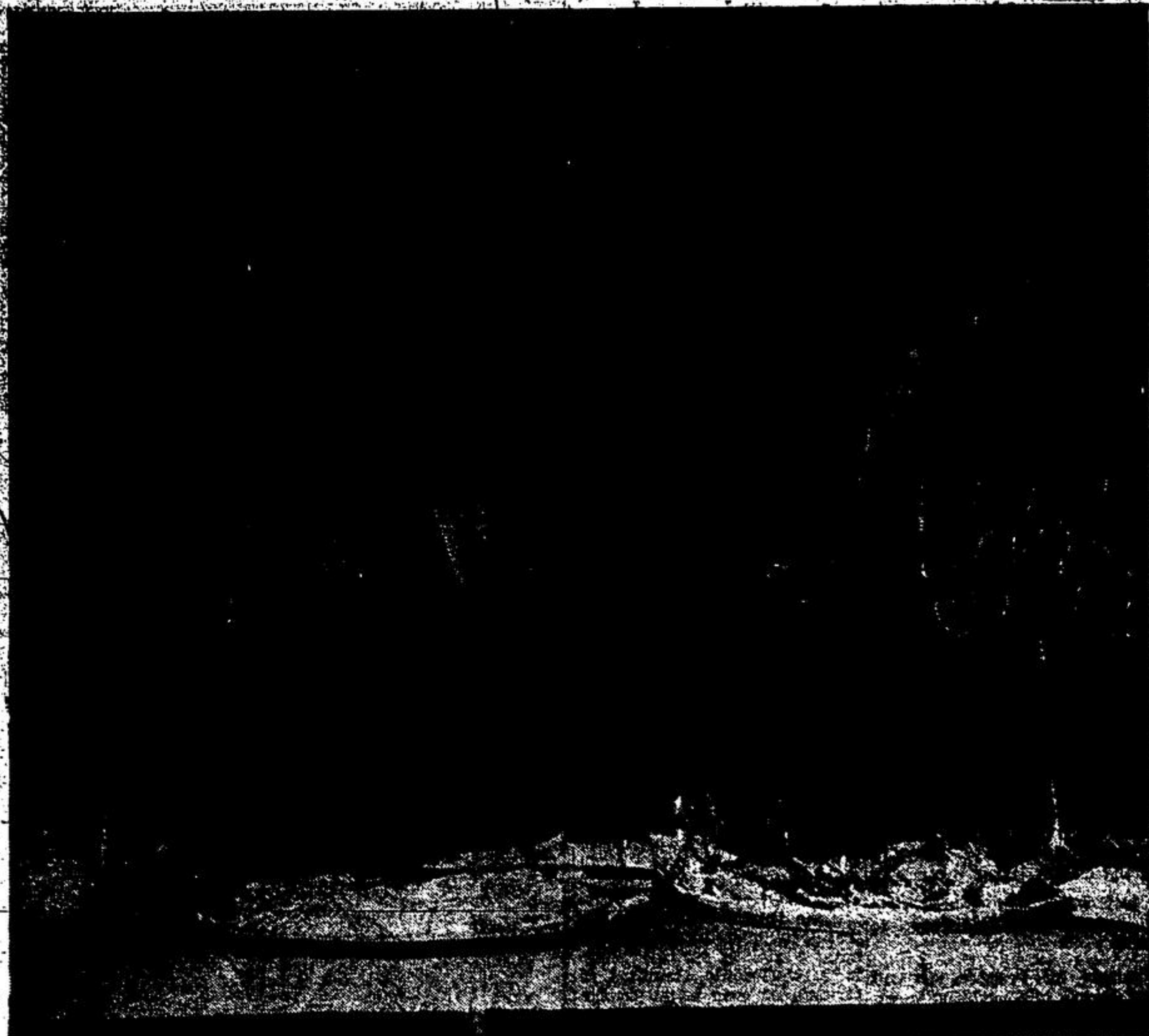
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Season's Greetings

May your Christmas be as jolly as an old-fashioned sleigh ride!

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**MUSEUM PARTY GOERS SEE CHRISTMAS PAST**

Among the guests at the annual Christmas party at Halton County Museum were (from left) Tom Brotherton, Keith Barber, Mrs. Jean Barber of the museum board, Mrs. Barbara Brotherton, and Crown Attorney Douglas Latimer, all of the Georgetown area. The party is held each year for county officials, and county councillors and their guests. The museum was decorated to achieve the atmosphere of an old fashioned Christmas with holly wreaths and garlands on the old stone walls, antique paper decorations on the tree and toys from a by-gone era under the tree.

**IN THE MAIL BAG**

**Don't Object to Dragstrip ... If It's 50 Miles Away**

R. R. 3 Georgetown

Dear Sir:

I wish to reply to G. K. Thompson's letter about the dragstrip that is proposed for near Georgetown. I suggest that Mr. Thompson's obvious pre-occupation with car racing has blinded him to certain facts which he should get straight.

He claims that it is noiseless. If he believes this, he should have his hearing aid batteries replaced as it is obviously the only reason that to Mr. Thompson this calamity would be noiseless. I wish he would come out to my home on a pleasant summer evening when you can hardly talk or sleep for the constant and incessant noise from the local go-kart track. This disaster was allowed to be constructed by council (township) in a usual weak moment. I would also like to say that I reside over one and a half miles from the track. Of course, I suppose a high powered dragster at 450 h.p. would make less noise than a go-kart.

As far as Cayuga dragstrip is concerned, why do we have to subject ourselves to the unfortunate conditions that exist there. Has anyone thought to ask what happens to the residents that have given up their land and homes because of the harassment that they would be subjected to by the undesirable elements that would be sure to congregate. Please don't tell me that this would not happen — just take a run up to Mosport district when the races are on. The racing bums and hippies come and camp on their land and have to be ejected by force. They have no respect for people or their possessions. Sure, these tracks bring some prosperity but only to a select few people. The problems that the local residents have are

with wilful destruction of property and the wholesale scattering of tin cans, bottles and paper.

Why does a small group, in fact a very minor group seem to demand the privilege of polluting our ears with noise and air with reek of gasoline, the stench of burning rubber and exhaust fumes and the surrounding area with garbage. For any large group to submit to conditions like this for a few tax dollars would have to be insane.

Mr. Thompson claims that the sport is safe. With this I have no argument, but, how about the 50% that after the race meets are over, drive around the countryside trying to copy their track heroes, at excessive rates of speed and a constant disregard for human life. On second thought, there is enough of this being done now on our rural roads, so maybe we shouldn't worry about the extra traffic.

I will admit that it does attract the 1830 year old group, and that they do burn the midnight oil fixing their cars. This, however, is only a very small percentage of the people concerned, about 5% the other 95% are the ones to worry about. We will have a 5% group with a high mechanical ability. Wonderful Mr. Thompson. Come up with something equally commendable about the other 95% and you will have solved the problem.

I am not an unreasonable person, Mr. Thompson, I do not object to the dragstrip in any way as long as it is situated at least 50 miles from Georgetown.

Yours truly,  
Peter B. Snider

**ONE GOOD THING**

**ABOUT WINTER**

There is one good thing about winter — he brings Christmas. Through the bleak December the thought of the coming festivities is pleasant — like the reflection of a fire on our faces. We taste the cake before it is baked, and when it is actually before us we find that it is none the worse for the fond handling of imagination.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

The best creative writing is contained in the bits and scraps sent to Santa Claus. It will not win literary awards, but it contains the ultimate in excitement, drama and the poetry of the soul.

To the writer, Santa Claus is not a red frocked myth. He is as real and as vital as love, hunger, tears and passion full of imagination.

Glad Tidings

May the true glory of Christmas be with you and your loved ones at this time.

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Season's Greetings

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