

St. Nicholas, Black Peter visit Rockwood family

Saturday, December 5, was an ordinary evening to many families but to countless Dutch children all over the world the date marked the birthday of St. Nicholas who was, according to authorities, a Spanish bishop, born at the end of the 3rd Century. He loved little children.

The Dutch traditional evening known as the Eve of St. Nicholas is celebrated one week after the children have left their shoes set by the fireside and, if they have been very good, Black Peter, (Zwarte Piet) who assists the Bishop leaves little tokens of love in the shoes. But, if they have been naughty, he leaves a spanking whisk so that their parents can spank them. Last Saturday's visit to the home of the lucky Schuller children in Rockwood was an exciting one when St. Nicholas and his little helper arrived mysteriously during the evening on his annual visit to meet some of the children he loves and watched them as they played with his gifts.

Black Peter danced about spanking playfully any of the children who misbehaved and then St. Nicholas and his prankster helper, disappeared into the night.

Although sometimes the bishop arrives by horseback, no one really knows just where he does come from except that its always on the celebration date of his birthday. This charming Dutch custom is not to be mistaken for the December 25 celebration of Christmas.

It is simply a Holland traditional evening which is being carried on in Canada to delight the children.



OLD ST. NICHOLAS, born at the end of the 3rd century, is tired after his trip around the world and is about to depart mysteriously after his Saturday night round of visiting Dutch children in the Village of Rockwood. — (Photo by Lorraine)

Free Press Rockwood

Full attendance at W.I. meeting

Holly wreaths and Christmas decorations in a warm country atmosphere made the December meeting of the Rockwood Institute one to remember. Mrs. Alex McPhedran was the hostess to the ladies whose 100 per cent attendance and enthusiasm only matched the holiday atmosphere of the McPhedran homestead. A delicious buffet supper with festive delights was prepared by the ladies, who for the organization of the occasion, split into two groups and one group planned the first course of the Christmas dinner and the other, the dessert. Cold turkey, hot potatoes, mincemeat tarts and Christmas cake moved the calendar date forward and the Noel season is well on its way for the Institute members.

Business meeting

Hot tea and coffee topped off the dinner which was followed by a friendly business meeting with Helen Bain chairing as president. The usual opening exercises with the opening ode and prayer followed in accordance with the regular meetings.

The roll call was then read and for that all members answered with their special Christmas recipes. Several of these recipes had been handed in at an earlier November meeting and compiled by Mrs. Lloyd Dyer into a holiday booklet. A speciality of the evening's celebrations was when copies of the booklet were handed out to each member as a favour. Mrs. Dyer was given thanks by the ladies and, afterwards the minutes of the last meeting were read and recorded.

Mrs. John Thomson of R.R. Rockwood gave a resume of the Achievement Day which she had convened and said that she was proud of the showing the 4-H girls had made.

Remembrances

A committee was formed to take charge of the Christmas remembrances for shut-ins after which a program of special holiday readings and contest were conducted by Mrs. McPhedran and Mrs. Dyer. Stimulating and exciting word games and tongue chasers kept the party rollicking for some time. It was further decided during business session that the next euchre to be held at the No. 8 school would be on the date of December 10 and on January 7, the Institute would hold their first one of the new year.

The special short course, to be conducted by Mrs. Bill Garner and Mrs. Margaret Nelson as demonstrators of "The main dish makes the meal" was postponed until January 18 to be held at the No. 8 Schoolhouse meeting place.

Parcels for all At the completion of the program Santa parcels were given out to the various members whose ticket matched the number of gifts in the two front

door barrels. Everyone received a present and, when it was time to leave, the members agreed that, although it had not been a long one it had a most delightful meeting and one which everyone had enjoyed.

Mrs. Cyril Titt of R.R. 4 Rockwood thanked Mrs. McPhedran, on behalf of the Institute ladies for sharing her home with them.



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School choirs present concert

The John F. Ross Collegiate auditorium was almost packed last Friday, December 4th, when the Eramosa Public School Choir the Rockwood Centennial School Choir participated in the Eramosa Choral Society Concert under the direction of Mrs. Roberta Hoy.

Helen Craigie of R.R. Rockwood took a solo part in the Choral Society's rendition of Born Free. Louise Fair played Shumann's Carnival Franks at Vienna in a piano solo and a medley from the Sound of Music was sung by a trio of the Merritt sisters.

Primary choirs

Rockwood's Primary Choir sang two selections, Kitty's Tongue and Indian Children as Susan Dunlop and Laurie Cargo sang the vocal duet of Where'er you Walk. Deborah and Cameron Burechalls played a piano duet and the combined choirs of Eramosa and Rockwood delighted their audience with songs such as Oh What a Beautiful Mornin', Oklahoma, God is Wisdom, The Bavarian Yodeling Song and others.

Heidi Merritt sang the Holy City and the Stokman sisters

gave a trio of Silver Bells. The Eramosa choir then sang two Christmas renditions and Christine Landolt of Guelph gave a piano solo of Winter Wonderland, after which the choral society summarized the marvelous evening with several musical specialities.

The Eramosa Choral Society is sponsored by Eastern Farm Machinery Limited and the proceeds derived from the evening's fulfilling entertainment are going towards the transportation costs to the Kiwanis Music Festival in Toronto in the spring.



ROCKWOOD YOUNG PEOPLE participated in a craft night last Tuesday evening and Don Griffin, Preston St., Guelph, is seen showing Sandy Root and Paul Clark some of his know-how in candle making. —(Photo by Lorraine)



BETTY LOU CLARK, adult adviser for the Rockwood Young People, is seen participating in the candle-making and craft night which was conducted in the St. John's Anglican parish kitchen. Driftwood sanding was another part of the instructional evening and a few pieces were transformed by cleaning, sanding and varnishing, into decorative ornaments, under the guidance of David Rowe. —(Photo by Lorraine)

Presbyterian team third

In the Hamilton Ministers' Annual Bonspiel, held last week at the Wentworth and Dundas Granite Curling Clubs, the rink of the Rev. Andrew McKenzie of Acton placed third and won electric clocks as prizes.

There were 22 rinks in competition from Sarnia, London, Niagara Falls, Kitchener, Oshawa, Toronto, Barrie, Brampton and other centres.

Other members of Mr. McKenzie's rink were the Rev. Forbes Thomson, Guelph, the Rev. Wally Little of Hespeler and the Rev. Leslie Nanson of Morrison, all Presbyterians.

"NOT ME SARGE" "Well," snarled the tough old sergeant to the private. "I suppose after you get discharged from the Army you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and split on my grave." "Not me, Sarge," the GI assured him, "once I get out of this Army I ain't never going to stand in line again!"

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