



ARRIVAL OF SANTA CLAUS at Rockwood nursery school Friday morning was a happy event for children and teacher

Cynthia Luckman. Santa had gifts for all young tots in his bag of goodies. (Staff Photo)

Seasonal phenomenon

# Bell means elves are checking

Reportedly several little green cloaked elves fell from a large snowflake recently and, according to Mr. Ude Bettebe Lieve who saw the incident on the Fifth Line of Eramosa, they were on their way to spot check some of the local children's behaviour and good sleeping habits.

Throughout the past month of December and citizens say that they are often no visibly discernable but can be heard by tinkly bell noises.

Although the elves are apparently quite harmless and it might be considered pleasingly delightful to make their acquaintance, if one is to apply

the wishes of the National Society of Folklore and Fairytales, it would be best to avoid their discovery. Over a period of several years many youngsters have been known to have had their Christmas stockings filled with coal or alabaster as the reward for attempting to capture the elves.

Authorities claim that these little men are Santa Claus' only way of calculating the correct

number of worthy youngsters and also, their December visits are necessary so that children will not get an over or under exaggerated supply of Christmas presents which could upset his economy considerably and also develop greed symptoms in the minds of too many young children.

It is expected that, once the date of December 25th has expired, such reports will cease.

## Let's have Christmas more often! says cub

Wednesday night was Christmas party time for 22 green sweatered cubs who took time from their regular scheduled work outs to sit around on the floor of the Rockwood Town Hall to play games and sing carols.

"Wow" said one of the kids, "We should have Christmas more often."

And Akela, May Swackhammer agreed that such nights are special ones for the young boys who are usually participating in learning and preparing for new badges.

Mrs. Swackhammer has been involved in cub work for 20 years now and

she has been the Akela for the Rockwood youngsters for five of them. Her son Gary, is the assistant cub master whose cubbing name is "Baloo". Both Baloo and his mother enjoy working with cubs and feel that it is a most worthwhile and constructive part of any young boys life.

At Wednesday's party, Sylvia (Green) Jameson helped to organize and serve the sandwiches, Christmas goodies, and candies which the auxiliary mothers had prepared. At the end of the evening's fun the Cubs sang taps together and took Santa Claus home in their hearts.

## 30th anniversary marked

Mr. and Mrs. Art Diamond celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at their home, R. R. 2, Rockwood on December 6. The surprise party was arranged by their family.

About 80 called during the Open House to extend congratulations. Mrs. Ed Wilson, R. R. 2, Rockwood, made a special cake like a wedding cake for the occasion.

Free Press **Rockwood**

**Joy**

Our Christmas wish: that your heart shares the blessed joy of the shepherds.

**Petty's Garage**  
ROCKWOOD

## News and views

by Lorraine

It has to do with Christmas shopping, a lecture-type sermon from a well known writer, and a week of hurry toward accomplishment. All things wrapped in the facade of living behind which is the true meaning of Christmas.

Last Saturday, what with the possible visit of Santa Claus, I spent a day in the city in an effort to catch up to the whimsies of that bearded old gent. It was, as everyone knows, a hustle and a bustle; crowded streets and jammed elevators; hurry, hurry, pushing and shoving, with credit cards flashing merrily, merrily, all over the place.

Whisper to Santa  
Christmas carols, sickly grins pasted on the faces of scared little kids as they sat glued to Santa's knee and, as they shyly whispered what they hoped to find in their stockings for Christmas, mothers frantically waved in the background in an attempt to get little Johnnie to

beam happily while the store photographers ensured themselves of yet another \$2.50 on a picture for some lucky grandmere.

It's a wonderful time and it's called Christmas. Some people hate it but few of us reach down underneath to find what else is there.

The following day, Sunday, I attended a sermon at St. James' Anglican Church in Guelph at which the celebrated Globe staff writer, Richard Needham presented his depiction of the seven deadly sins. He was witty and fun, cryptic and sad, all wrapped into one brief sermon. He was eloquent and humorous, but very general and broad in some of the things he said.

Now, as Richard Needham is considered to be one of the most imaginative writers of our time who can question why many in his audience commended his every word, few of us would dare to question the judgment of someone whose weekly salary must absorb at least seven digits in our monetary system.

Hope a sin?  
But, among other things, he talked about hope and said it was a sin because too much hope makes one envious and that envy is wrong and hope, too often, cannot be fulfilled, so that reality then would be better.

From where I sit, hope is to dream and to dream is human. Too often the final accomplishments are not as rewarding as the working to their end. One only has to visit some of our elderly citizen sanctuaries throughout the country to know what life is without hope. Hope is life and without it we'd be dead.

Roll with punches  
He said that no one should live in the future and look ahead but that we should accept our daily lives as moment by moment, doing the best we can under all circumstances. But would it not be better to live for the moment

taking the best we can from every situation but roll with life's punches and look forward for better things? It's the dreams of youth that create and build and we must enjoy the mental future as we do the living moment.

### Curiously deadly

Mr. Needham further felt that curiosity is the deadliest of all sins, referring to it as the cause behind the atomic bomb. But surely that phase of accomplishment could be better classified under progress.

Curiosity is the stimulus of all learning; take away curiosity and the why's from the mind of a small child and there would be no learning. Take away the curiosity from the scientist and there would be no cures for disease; take away the curiosity of the economist and there would be no answers to poverty.

### City wicked

Mr. Needham referred to Toronto as a city of wickedness but felt that any highly populated city with too much money could not possibly expect to be anything else but wicked.

He forgets, or perhaps does not realize, that many of the people in Toronto do not have too much money; that, in that big and vastly populated conglomeration of citizens there are hearts and souls whose only ambition is to love and to give of themselves. Greed will always exist and envy is a way of life which can only be erased by understanding.

### Share goodness

If we, in generalizing, condemn everyone as being consumed by such vices, that, then, would be the greatest sin of all. No one is all good but neither is everyone all bad and, whatever goodnesses we do possess must be shared, to wipe out whatever badnesses exist.

Behind the hustle and bustle of Toronto shopping lies a tremendous need for communication. Many of those lurching alone wished that they had someone with whom to converse. Accepting the street corner Evangelical Bible Society literature were those who already knew that Christmas means that Christ is here. In the packed elevators there were those who loved the cute little kids who couldn't wait for Santa Claus, and, behind the hostile facade of the sophisticated sales girl was a personality wanting to respond to the "thank you's" and the "Merry Christmas's".

### We make it

It's all Christmas and it's all fun. Like everything else, we make it what it is - whether it's Christmas or life itself. Christ came into the world to give us hope as a way of life.

I say to Mr. Needham that his sermon stimulated me to the point of refuting that the world has too great a degree of evil and suggest that he needs to climb from his tower of intellectual abilities to find the hearts of the people. He, in denying the need of hope is denouncing the need of Christ and what Christmas is all about.

Christmas is appreciation of everything about us, it's the understanding of human needs, it's giving, enjoying, participating, and, with all these things, it's the inner fulfillment one receives with the awarenesses of all our blessings. That is Christmas, and may it be a merry one for everyone.

### WORD PLAY

A popular pencil-and-paper game is called "word play." The object of the game is to see how many words can be made from a phrase such as "Merry Christmas to All". A time limit is set, and the rule is that no letter can be used in any word more often than it appears in the phrase.

## Parks arrange for snowmobiles

Snowmobiles may soon be welcomed officially in some Grand River Conservation Authority parks, including Rockwood.

The authority's development advisory board has recommended that the executive committee adopt a policy which would permit snowmobiles to use specified conservation areas subject to certain conditions.

The authority previously had no real policy regarding the snow vehicles, said Ilmar Kao, operations director. They were permitted in some areas but they had to follow conservation area regulations which say all vehicles must stay on the roads.

"The machines were really more tolerated than anything else," said Mr. Kao. "But we must face the facts of life that there are more and more of these vehicles around; that they are a valid form of recreation, and that we have the land where they could be used."

### Season permits

The recommended policy suggests \$5 season permits should be issued for snowmobiles and only vehicles with these permits would be admitted to the conservation lands.

Other conditions are that all vehicles and operators shall comply with the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act and with any provincial regulations and local by-laws; that conservation area regulations of the authority shall apply; that all vehicles be operated by persons holding operator's or chauffeur's licences, and that unless otherwise posted, the vehicles may be operated on, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The advisory board also recommended that marked, supervised trails for snowmobiles be established.

## Attend Mass

The Holy Rosary Church in Guelph was packed last Wednesday morning when the grade two children, composed of many from Eden Mills, Rockwood, and Guelph and district, made their first Confession as students of the St. Patrick's Separate School and then attended the Holy Rosary Church to join in with that congregation as they sang the High Mass of Christmas.

Father Joy from Holy Rosary Church celebrated the Mass in which a few parents of the children also participated. During the offertory the various grades went to the altar with their gifts of food and clothing which they had been collecting since the beginning of the season of Advent.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

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May your hearts be happy and your Christmas merry.

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