

Tinkerbell tots enjoy Christmas



A TOY color TV set made Tinkerbell tot Margaret Barrett a happy little girl. Mother Audrey enjoys the new toy with her daughter. (D. Gibbons photo)



CHRISTMAS will be happier for some little girl this year, when she sees a pair of Raggedy-Ann dolls underneath her tree. Tinkerbell Nursery School student Allison Strudwick (left) helped director Jennie Kuiken draw the lucky ticket at the school's Christmas party Thursday morning. Lucky winner was Mrs. Diane Rainbow, 7 Irwin Crescent, Georgetown. (D. Gibbons photo)



TINKERBELL TOT Lisa Keane gets some help from nursery school volunteer Tricia Van Soelen in opening her Christmas gift. Inside was a miniature telephone, just right for making those special calls. (D. Gibbons photo)

Past Christmases memorable

For the children, this is the very best Christmas that ever was. The adults agree — but still, they look back a little wistfully at the Christmases of yesteryear, with nostalgic thoughts of "a good old-fashioned Christmas".

or of a special Christmas memory.

Memories enhance the seasonal joys, and with good reason, for Christmas is a memorable time. Since the first Holy Night, some of the most important events of both religious and secular history have taken place at the Christmas season.

A look at the past reveals momentous occasions, joyous or poignant, as well as many of the little things that give bygone times living meaning — and all taking place on or about Christmas Day.

DECEMBER 24, 400 A.D.
In Italy, in the fifth century A.D., church bells rang on Christmas Eve to call Christians to worship.

This seemingly simple event had great significance, for it meant that Christians could worship in freedom, instead of in secret, as earlier suppression of Christianity had forced them to do.

DECEMBER 25, 600 A.D.
Traditionally, the first Christmas feast in England was held at the Round Table of King Arthur. The actual date is unknown, but references to this legendary king have been traced to 600 A.D.

DECEMBER 24, 1223
St. Francis of Assisi set up the first creche or crib on Christmas Eve, 1223, in the mountain village of Greccio, Italy.

DECEMBER 25, 1492
Christopher Columbus and his crew celebrated the first Christmas in the New World in 1492. They were dinner guests of an Indian chief, ruler of the island of Haiti.

DECEMBER 25, 1535
Beset by cold and hunger, in fear of hostile Indians, the French explorer Jacques Cartier and his band of 110 settlers observed an early Canadian Christmas at a fortress near what is now the city of Quebec, in 1535.

The most precious of the scanty food supplies were set forth for a Christmas "feast" — in the courageous spirit that enabled the tiny band to hold out till spring.

DECEMBER 24-25, 1620
December 1620 marked the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock. A site for the first home in the new settlement was selected on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day construction began.

Time to construct a backyard rink

With cold weather and snow on ground, it's time for outdoor skating and hockey. You can construct a backyard skating rink on lawn areas without damage, if you're careful, says R. F. Gomme, horticultural specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

It is preferable that the ground be frozen in the location you choose. Start the rink after the first heavy snowfall. Select a level area and outline the rink by mounding extra snow around the perimeter. Be sure to tramp the area around the rink to prevent water from draining away.

Boards placed on edge will make ideal hockey cushions. Level the rink surface by dragging it with a snow shovel or a toboggan.

Spray light layers of water to build a base, letting each layer freeze before adding the next. A garden hose or lawn sprinkler is excellent for this. Sometimes large plastic sheets can be used to help retain the water.

Holes in the rink or rough areas can be patched with snow, then soaked with water.

Once a good base has been established, each layer of water will begin to level the ice surface. When the rink is in perfect condition, the only upkeep is to brush off light snow and apply another fine spray of water.

Famous verse has very early origin

"In the Twelve Days of Christmas
My true love said to me..."

The verses are among the most popular of the Season. They date back to 567 A.D., when the Church proclaimed the period of 12 days, from the Nativity to Epiphany, a period of celebration.

It is in fact the big holiday of the year in most countries where Christianity exists.

Festivities
In medieval England festivities ranged the calendar, day and night. There were jousts, with knights in armor pennants flying, and lances flashing in the sun,

and dimpled ladies watching from the stands... There was banqueting, caroling and also "mumming" which originally was a pantomime dance performed by groups who were both costumed and masked. Minstrels and jugglers plied their arts, made music and mirth.

In the middle ages, when few people could read, and entertainment as we know it did not exist, a minstrel was of necessity a many-talented fellow. One of these, in listing his accomplishments, after noting the many instruments he can play, says: "I can sing a song well and make tales and fables. I can tell a story against any man, I can make love verses to please young ladies, and can play the gallant to them if necessary. Then I can throw knives into the air and catch them without cutting my fingers. I can do dodges with a string most extraordinary and amusing. I can balance chairs and make tables dance. I can throw a somersault and walk on my head."

English minstrel
This English minstrel, of course, had his counterpart in Europe, where the 12 days were celebrated too, with feasting.



GREETINGS at Christmas

We're wishing you all the pleasures of an old-fashioned Yule, complete with long-lasting peace and joy.

Dr. Robert Steen D.D.S. and Staff

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
In the happy spirit of the holiday cheer that abounds, may we offer sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas to all our friends.

Nielsen's Clothing

Christmas Wishes
Jolly old St. Nick is coming to help us thank all our patrons, friends, ... you!

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Greetings at Christmas
To our friends, a hearty holiday wish that you may enjoy all the best the season offers.

JACK HOLMES REAL ESTATE

GREETINGS
We bring good tidings and glad greetings to you and your kin, with wishes for happy holidays and a Merry Christmas.

B-P SERVICE STATION AND ACTON AUTOMAT CAR WASH

Silent Night
Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright. We wish you the great gifts of friendship, love and peace.

THE HOLLAND SHOP

Christmas Wishes
At this wonderful time of the year we wish you and your families the merriest and happiest Christmas ever.

Management & Staff Bank of Nova Scotia