



The band sings in chorus



George Elliott directs players

## Replace Partridge

The Partridge in The Pear Tree is being replaced in popularity by Christmas cards with a religious motif. Of all the familiar and well-loved images that adorn the new Christmas cards, the favorite is one that recalls the Christmas story with its message of hope.

Whether a card is illustrated in the formal style of a Renaissance painter or with the simplicity of primitive modern art, the manger in Bethlehem strikes a responsive chord wherever it is seen.

Legends of the Christmas season from all over the world emerge from the themes drawn on Christmas cards. Their beauty is enriched with vivid, contemporary colorings and textures.

## Band's concert gift to its fans

We Wish You a Merry Christmas, played heartily by the members of Acton Citizens' Band and sung lustily by the audience of over 200 ended the annual concert of the band, held Sunday evening in the high school gym. The band was in fine form and played a well-balanced program which delighted the crowd.

Bandmaster George Elliott's interesting introductions added to the enjoyment of the selections which included marches, Christmas carols in special arrangements, a medley of Gershwin tunes, Ave Maria, Victor Herbert's Toyland, and overtures written especially for band performances.

The last part of the program was a Christmas singalong, and carol sheets had been distributed at the door.

Choir, too

Again this year the 50 red-coated members of the band, with a few talented friends, sang impressively as a choir. Jim Coles sang the basso-profundo solo in the very enjoyable Boar's Head Carol. Their use of their voices as instruments proved their versatility.

As usual, Chuck Wright took the baton for some of the

pieces. He is a regular player, brought up the British brass band tradition. Mr. Wright is leaving Acton this week to visit in England first and then proceeds to Switzerland where his business takes him for the coming year.

Classes open

Mr. Elliott announced the upcoming adult band classes, and asked his band members who had first been introduced to instruments in these classes to stand. The half dozen or so adults got a big round of applause. Many of the players graduated from junior band classes. Mr. Elliott also introduced Dave Sale, oboe player who is the leader of the high school band, and explained how they co-operate and share young players.

Mystery music audible in the back corner of the gym was traced to its source. Apparently the wire laid for the amplifier system was turned down to cut out the annoying competition from recorded music.

There's no admission charge for the concert and no collection. It's the band's Christmas gift to its fans, and it was one of the much appreciated gifts of the holiday season.

## Obituary

### Music director dies during concert

Art Hilliard, music director of George Harvey secondary school, Weston, died on Friday as he conducted the school band in the last number of the Christmas concert there. Mr. Hilliard has many friends in Acton and Georgetown; he was bandmaster of Georgetown Citizens' Band for several years and assisted Acton Citizens' Band in preparing for competitions at the C.N.E. for three years.

He brought the George Harvey band up to play at Acton fall fair on two occasions recently, with the band marching in the parade, playing in the fairgrounds and then enjoying a social time with the Acton band in the Music Centre afterward. Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard had been back to Acton for the band's social evening about a month ago.

Awards

When Mr. Hilliard directed the Georgetown Citizens' band, they won firsts at the C.N.E. several times. The council granted the band no money and, unable to buy instruments or raise rental fees, they were forced to disband.

(Acton Citizens' Band receives a regular grant from the town, assigned to them years ago by Acton council.) Mr. Hilliard and Acton bandmaster George Elliott got to know each other when some Acton players helped out in Georgetown for parades.

Then Mr. Hilliard, without obligations in Georgetown, agreed to come to Acton to work with the band occasionally, preparing them for competitions. In those years the band placed second, third and first at the Ex.

Competition

He took the George Harvey school band to the International Band festival in Vienna a couple of years ago. They placed first in playing but second in marching, giving them an impressive second overall.

The school band had considered returning to Acton fair this past fall, but didn't have enough players back from summer holidays in time to practise sufficiently. Mr. Hilliard had heart trouble, but had recovered and returned to his teaching position.

Long career  
Mr. Hilliard began his music career as a nine-year-old in the Cobourg Kiltie Band. During World War II, he played in military bands and in Canadian army shows overseas.

From 1945 to 1959, he played principal trombone with the Kingston Symphony Orchestra and Belleville Citizens' Band, and was in the dance bands of Trump Davidson, Mart Kenney, Art Snider, Ozzie Williams, Art Hallman, the Queen City Dixieland group and several others.

He was business administrator of the Ontario Youth Music Camp, and director of music for the Centennial Army Show's northern tour in 1967.

In 10 years of competing at Kiwanis Music Festivals, his pupils at George Harvey School won seven first-place and 12 second and third-place awards.

He leaves his wife, Jeanette and son Robert. He was 53 years of age.



Best wishes for old fashioned Christmas joys... and thank you for the pleasure and privilege of serving you, our valued friends.

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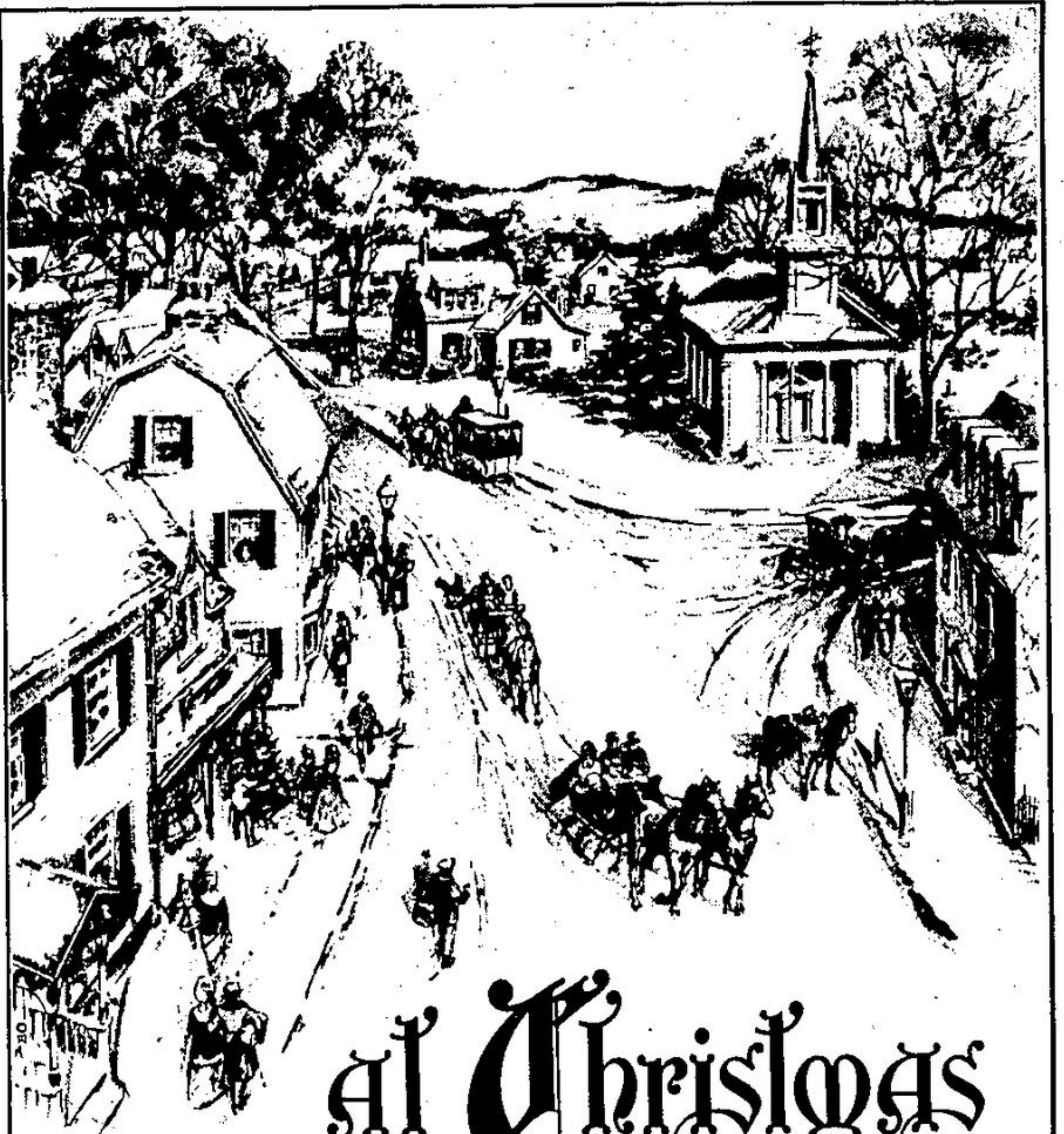
Christmas wishes and perennial thanks to all our fine patrons and friends. May joy brighten and fill your homes. Merry Christmas.

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## At Christmas

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