

Happy New Year. I hope your Christmas was totally satisfactory, full of love and old friends.

For the first time in my life I had the thoroughly comfortable feeling that I didn't want a thing for Christmas-not even an extra dose of spirtual things-I had all I needed. It's almost frightening to feel that way. You keep wondering when the rain will fall on your parade.

Despite requiring nothing for Christmas, I did receive some delightful gifts, the most unique of which was five peacocks. Yes, FIVE!

The peacocks come back to Peacock Sideroad.

Magnificent in flight A mama peahen and her four almost-grown chicks (two of each sex) came to live with us a few days before Christmas and are certainly dressing up the barn. Mama was previously named Harriet but we had the fun of naming the babes. We call them Aaron, Gabriel, Ruth and Naomi-biblical names for biblical birds. So, now, we're learning all about the care and feeding of peacocks.

The other animals have adjusted to the addition of these enormous birds admirably well. By now, they are so used to a constant stream of various beasts the old horses just shrug and keep eating.

For the first couple of days, the birds flew around the barn a great deal. They had been used to the upper part of a huge old-fashioned barn, roosting in the tip-top beams and flying thirty or forty feet high.

What a surprise when they came to our little stable. The sight of five turkey-sized glorious birds in full flight around a 30 x 24 foot barn was quite something.

However, they've settled in now and we're keeping everything crossed hoping to raise them through till spring. Incidentally, out of the magnificent green and gold throat

of a peahen comes the most awful sound you've ever heard. Carrouts for hinny Speaking of that little barn, it was certainly full this Christmas. We have only three horses now, two old girls (one we've had for seventeen years), and a retired Thoroughbred

belonging to friends. The two donkeys and the hinny spent a noisy Christmas asking for carrots at every opportunity. Believe me, when a

hinny asks for a carrot, you oblige. There're also two-and-a-half cows belonging to Patrick and all the hens. I just wish we could train the hens to stand on a Christmas tree for decoration. The colour of their feathers would surpass any glass ornament. From the gold of the pencilled Harburgs, the deep mahogany of the brown Leghorn, to the gold of the Buffs, the cascade of colour on the banty rooster, the partridge coloration of the banty hens and the vivid blue faces of the Silkies. What a display they would make.

In the house live two guinea pigs, three persian cats tone's a Himalayan), one old dog, and four fairly new people.

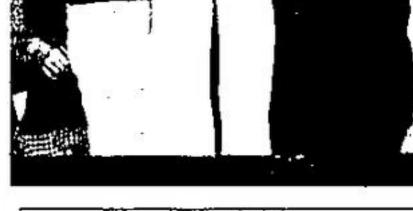
We spent most of Christmas replacing icicles on the treeone of the cats is a lively kitten. The tree is supported in a pail filled with rocks and Erica elected to fill that pail with water. When I noticed her trickling a few ounces of water from a teapot into the large water pail, I remarked she would need many many teapots full to provide enough water.

Looking from the teapot to the tree, she said, "Okay, tree, suck on the rocks." And it did.









DANCING **Every Saturday** 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Acton Legion

JAN. 8 - NO DANCE

JAN 15 - Wheels

22 - Country Syde

FEB 5 - Persian Market 12 - Wheels

29 - B.J. Wright 19 - Country D's 26 - Guardsmen

Happy New Year

Admission: \$4.00 per couple

ENTERTAINMENT IN LOUNGE EVERY FRIDAY

NIGHT 9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

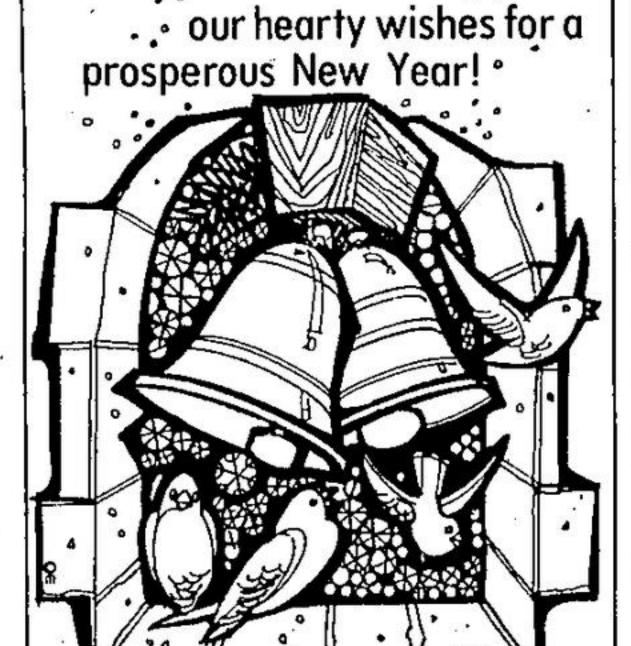
BARBARA DUNN tells Santa just what she wants during the M.Z. Bennett School concert last Wed. nesday. Santa's helpers are Lisa Near and Karen Glenn.

## History of Alton

The history of the village of written for grade six stu-Alton is included in a new

school textbook. The World of The part about the village People. The book was pub-

lished this fall by McGrawHill and is written by Mrs.
Susan Kiil. The book is study their own communities. The New Year bells ring out "



VAN'S WELDING

Visit the Friendly Merchants

# MILTON MALL

Milton Mall is open today and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday Dec. 31, From 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

> Beginning Monday, Jan. 3 Milton Mall will be open 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.



Milton's only enclosed shopping area. Shop in climate-controlled comfort. Acres and acres of free parking)

# M.Z. Bennett school Christmas concert highlights



# Plan course on farm management out all night Monday during

By Henry J. Stanley

A special eight session course on farm management and income tax is being scheduled for the Agricultural Office early in the new year. This course is open to the first 35 applicants from Halton and vicinity and will be held every Tuesday evening from 8 to 10.00 p.m. in the Agricultural Office, 181 Main Street, Milton.

Staff from the local Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, assisted by special guest speakers, will discuss the following topics- Farm Accounting and understanding of terms (Net Farm Income, etc.); Cash Flow and

Statements: Succession Budgeting; Duties, Gift Tax; Capital Gains Tax: Income Tax-Livestock Inventory, depreciation, etc.; Transferring Property, Life Insurance.

The goal of this course is to provide farm people with a better basic knowledge of the topics so that they might avoid problems in the future and be more successful in their farm business.

## Office closed

The Free Press office will be closed Friday and open again Monday.

## Road reports at 637-5625

Road condition reports can be obtained by phoning the Ministry of Transportation and Communication offices in

Burlington. Milton OPP report they have received a number of calls for road conditions and people interested in this information should call 637-

The service is available 24 hours a day for any part of the province, between November and April.

Milton OPP are supplying the above number to motorists asking for road reports and they suggest all motorists make a note of this number.

### Renovation

Work will begin soon on renovations to the Erin arena. A tender for \$34,200 has been accepted. Ice could be provided within a couple of

The arena will be brought up to the Ontario Department Labor standards. Erin Society Agricultural president Ken Leitch said that the Society feels this is the only possible course, since it needs a building for the annual fall fair and other society-related functions.

The public is being asked for financial support.



Sanders out

Region sand trucks were

all night

AT THE RE-OPENING OF THE OLD GEORGETOWN

THURSDAY DECEMBER 30th

FREE ADMISSION FOR AFTERNOON ONL

- PROGRAM INCLUDES -

12 NOON TO 1:30 P.M.-PUBLIC SKATING 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.-HOCKEY GAMES-ACTON vs GEORGETOWN GIRLS' HOCKEY ALSO ON PROGRAM

— EVENING PROGRAM —

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$250 : CHILDREN \$100 : STUDENTS \$150 DOORS OPEN 6 P.M.

6:45 p.m.—BROOMBALL GAME 7:15 p.m.—GEORGETOWN FIGURE SKATING CLUB

8:30 p.m.-"OPENING CEREMONIES"

9:00 p.m.-Hockey

JNR. "B" GEMINIS

THE HOT STOVE LOUNG

EXTENSIVE REPAIRS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON THE OLD ARENA - - COME OUT AND SEE THE WONDERFUL CHANGE

