

Lions in winter - and tigers, too!



ANGELA YAWORSKY seems more interested in the photographer than in Santa Claus at the Honey Pot Nursery school Christmas party last week.

Honey Pot nursery has visit from Santa

The children of Honey Pot Nursery school had an early visit from Santa Claus during their various classes last week.

Santa made his rounds of the two classes and presented each child with a small gift and candy. He also had goodies for visiting brothers and sisters. Moms and dads were also invited to attend the party and join in the sing songs, stories and games.

Santa left as quickly and as mysteriously as he arrived, to go to his hideaway and rest up for his long journey Saturday night.



PARENTS AND YOUNGER brothers and sisters were invited by students of the Honey Pot Nursery school last week to their Christmas party. There were presents and candy for everyone, given out by Old Saint Nick himself.

"Lions and tigers and bears, oh my," whispered Dorothy on her trip through the woods to the Land of Oz. But, had she the opportunity to visit the African Lion Safari in Rockton, she'd have seen more wild and exotic animals than she could ever shake a stick at... and in greater safety too.

Located within an hour's drive of most of Central Ontario, the Rockton African Lion Safari is open every day except Christmas offering an around-the-world tour of the great wild kingdom. The compound brings you face-to-face with those lions and tigers and bears... and elephants and rhinos and zebras and ostrich and much, much more.

In the comfort of your own car or in one of the Safari's wide-windowed tour busses, youngsters, adults and ardent shutterbugs alike will thrill to the close-up view of the world's most legendary beasts. And the snowy winter months, if anything, add to the fun.

Snow and cold temperatures prompt the animals (particularly the big cats) into animated activity. More gregarious than in the warm summer months, the lions in winter seem to bellow their notorious aura of ferociousness and playfully frolic with frosty Ontario as a backdrop.

But, cute and cuddly as they may seem, keep your car windows closed tight. A sign at the entrance to the Safari warns that trespassers will be eaten.

Of the more than 1,000 animals in the Safari, only a very few are housed indoors during the winter months.

For the children, the Safari offers a Pet's Corner. Here, youngsters are encouraged to feed the animals... something that is distinctly frowned upon on the Safari trails. Vending machines dispense a mixture of grains, nuts and corn that children can feed to wallabies, penquins, llamas, sheep, goats, deer, rabbits, donkeys and even zonkies... a cross between domestic donkeys and zebras.

While visiting the Safari, guests are invited to visit the 200-seat cafeteria, the native bazaar (stocked with authentic imported African artifacts), snack bars, the camera shop, scenic railway and the water safari. For those who want to return to the Safari in summer an inexpensive and interesting 150-acre campground is available at a nominal fee. An added bonus is waking to the sounds of Ontario's biggest alarm clocks... the big cats.

For more information on the Lions in Winter, contact the African Lion Safari, Rockton, Ontario L0R 1X0, or phone (519) 623-2620. For information on other winter vacations, write: Ontario Travel, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2E5 or call collect (416) 965-0008.

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Cross-country skiing economical family fun

Cross-country. It doesn't mean an angry nation... anything but.

Over the past few years, cross-country skiing has gained popularity in Ontario and no wonder! Cross-country necessitates a modest cash outlay, little training and reaps a wealth of benefits including exercise, fresh air, solitude (if you want it) and a chance to enjoy the province's scenic beauty.

Invented by the nomadic tribes of Northern Asia, its purpose was to transport people up mountains, across plains and down valleys. In Ontario, its purpose is to provide one of the most enjoyable forms of winter recreation available.

The biggest selling factor in cross-country skiing is that it can be done almost anywhere that there is snow cover.

Though municipal parks and open fields are suitable for some cross-country jaunts, perhaps the best way to enjoy the experience is at one of Ontario's more than 100 cross-country ski resorts.

Trail use fees are nominal at most cross-country resorts. Prices range from \$1 to \$3 for a full day's skiing and, at Molson's Park in Barrie, trail use is free if you provide your own equipment.

For first-timers, ski rentals are available at the ski areas or through sports outfitters in most larger towns.

The prime advantage to both first-time and accomplished ski tourists at a bona fide resort is the well marked, machine groomed trail. Parallel tracks outline trails to make for easier, trouble-free skiing. At most resorts, rest stops are placed at regular intervals to prevent over-tiring and the skier can choose his or her own trail length.

Comfortable clothing and a knapsack are important to every cross-country skier. Though you may be cold when you begin, within a few minutes you'll be quite warm. The knapsack will help in both shedding clothing and in carrying some energy foods like chocolate, nuts and raisins.

The only clothing taboo is wearing denim jeans. Providing too little leg room along the thigh and knee and too much material around the ankle, denim jeans can trip even the best skiers, absorb moisture and freeze readily. Almost any other type of slacks will do, but woolen knickerbockers and long socks are the best.



Looking Back or; it wasn't-as-bad-as-it-seemed-at-the-time.

Acton Library was a noisy place this year—there is no argument about that. Not only were we competing with the road graders and the high pressure pumps but we managed to create quite a bit of commotion ourselves.

We started out with the thud of discarded books, the turfed out duplicates and deadwood. Puffing in our wake Esther Taylor juggled mounds of catalog cards as she struggled to keep up with the de-filing, the in-filing and the re-filing. If this sounds confusing, it was. Esther did a lot of talking to herself in spite of dire predictions we all survived and even got the mess cleaned up enough to welcome Lynne Simioni, our Experience '77 summer student who settled down with our shelf list and started an inventory. Lynne not only uncovered most of our old sins, she also managed to give us an idea how much had gone AWOL. (ouch). In keeping with our over-all reorganization plan Mrs. Merrin started selecting the junior non-fiction that would be moved into the new Junior Library.

On top of all these internal rumblings and cobweb clearings the carpenters, painters, electricians and landscapers busied around, and after the dust had settled we had acquired: two planters abloom with a riot of petunias; two birch trees; a shiny coat of paint on our soffits and doors; an elegant sheathing of panelling in the Watson room to highlight Mrs. Watson's portrait; and, a special set of steps, a fire exit door and a supply of bulletin and peg boards for our bright and cosy new Junior Library. As the crowning glory Mrs. Merrin created a gorgeous felt tapestry of the Pied Piper leading the way to the Junior room.

As soon as our Jr. Library was ready for occupancy the library staff moved into top gear and carted tons of books up and down the stairs. All the junior fiction moved downstairs and about half the non-fiction (ages 9-9) while the line going up the stairs hauled the reference collection out of the basement into the midst of the main collection. All this heaving and panting was accompanied by the clang of steel shelving crashing as we trimmed and fitted our shelves to suit our collection. About two months later and a collective 25 pounds trimmer we opened the doors one day to a quiet library — cureka! Everything more or less in its place. Phew!

Early on in the year it became obvious that our circulation figures for the year were going to be substantially lower than the previous year's. We don't know whether to attribute this to the cursed road reconstruction, the vile weather or our own abstraction due to the continual upheaval and re-organization. Whatever it was we've set our sights on another goal for 1978. Better service and more of it. We have lots of bright new books, significant additions to our record collections, music and stories on cassette, numerous new magazine subscriptions, and an exciting line-up of program ideas.

With the assistance of a special grant from the South Central Regional Library System Mrs. New will be contacting other community agencies to publicise the library's home visiting service and some of our other less well-known programs, such as the talking books, large print books, foreign language materials and 16 mm films.

So, if you got discouraged this year and gave up on us... come back, all is forgiven. Our road is paved, the dust has settled and you'll find it lots easier to find things. As a special bonus we'll let you in on a secret. The Board has decided to try an experiment in fine-free operation. That means as of Jan. 1st, 1978 you can return your overdue books and pay no fines, because really and truly—we don't want your money, just that awfully overdue book!

As a last word there is R-2 D-2. Right now he's laid up for a re-fit, but one of these days we'll have him wired for light and sound and programmed to zap giggling teenagers and find lost books. In the meantime come in and visit him in the Junior Library. He's a bit lonely since he lost C3P0.

Early '78 Cable TV in living color

When Halton Cable Systems Ltd. go back on the air with community programming early in the new year, it will be in living color.

The order has been placed for equipment which allow both mobile and studio productions. A former Carling-O'Keefe special events caravan has been bought by Halton Cable Systems Ltd. to cover events around the area.

The new equipment includes two cameras and special effects equipment that permits switching between cameras. The package has been kept as simple as possible so volunteers from the community, from teenagers to senior citizens, can operate it with a minimum of supervision.

John Ollivier, program director, said many people have expressed interest in producing or appearing in local programs, and working on the technical side of production. He pointed out that Rud Whiting will return with the popular talk show, he hosted last season.

The familiar studio and technical building at the top of Norval hill has gone. The 10

year lease on the land expires at the end of this year. The system is now operating from the expanded new site at Speyside.

A new studio will be built in the company's premises on Armstrong Avenue, George-

town, where 2,000 square feet has been set aside for this purpose. It will house programming controls with the capacity for future services such as data channels and pay T.V., which may be added to the system.

Planning a wedding reception, anniversary party, afternoon meeting? Bookings are now being accepted for the rental of the new...
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The Rockton African Lion Safari, near Hamilton, features an around-the-world tour of the animal kingdom. The lions enjoy Ontario's snowy winter landscape.

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