

Christmases come and go, seeming to merge into one another, forming shadowy images that blur in memory's cogs. Yet almost everyone, young or old can remember a few Yuletides that are unforgettable for one reason or another.

I will never forget the

Christmas of my twelfth year, which thanks to a wonderful Entrance teacher and two books was one of the most beautiful and happy celebrations in my whole life. Kids of my generation were immeasurably fortunate to learn the Three R's and English under Miss Minnie Z.

## Library loose leaf

by Esther Taylor

Bennett, who treasured the English language and loved nature so fervently that most of the little angels??? in her charge were influenced for life by her example.

The week before Christmas, Miss Bennett read every afternoon from Dickens' Christmas Carol and Henry Van Dyke's The Other Wise Man. Even the most hardened monsters in her Fourth Book class (now Grade Eight) were spell-bound, eagerly awaiting each reading session. Miss Bennett read beautifully from the works of two master craftsmen whose Christmas stories have never been matched.

Probably for the first time we began to understand the magic of words, written and spoken. Dimly we recognized the splendor of our native tongue, and its power to interpret the beauty and

drama of living. No one who listened to Miss Bennett would ever forget The Christmas Carol or the hauntingly lovely Other Wise Man. For me personally, those afternoon story sessions set the mood for a matchless Christmas. I remember vividly the sheer rapture of being alive in an old world that still celebrated the birthday of the Baby in the manger. I remember

lying awake that week of Christmas listening to the chime of sleigh bells in the frosty night. Their music, although long since vanished, would always belong to the most blessed festival of the year.

On Christmas Eve, a snowy moonlit night, I was unable to sleep for excitement. Tip-toeing over the cold floor, I went to the window to see a picture that capped the magic of my twelfth Christmas. I could almost believe I was dreaming the hushed scene: a ring of cotton-tails dancing in the blue-dappled snow. Never since have I seen a lovelier sight.

Yuletides come, and

until his lost moments on earth. Whatever else happens, words still retain their magic, and good books continue to influence and enchant. Your library staffers wish all Actonites, readers or not, A joyous blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May sleighbells chime in your dreams, while bunnies dance in a frost ring!

## Mountsberg offers winter enjoyment

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is again offering winter enjoyment every weekend from January 5 to March 2, as well as December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and January 1.

Old-fashioned horse drawn sleigh rides carry visitors through the stillness of trees laden with snow, while a farm pond offers outdoor skating. Bonfires are there to warm cold hands and feet, and hot drinks and food are available at the interpretive centre.

Cross country skiing facilities have been by Halton Regional Conservation Authority, and rentals are available.

A new wildlife exhibit with a number of wild animals on display, should be included in the skiing trip and bird feeders are scattered throughout the area. The barn is open every weekend for children to view

the farm animals.

In the interpretive centre, slide presentations and films highlight the program that includes topics for children and adults on conservation, resource management, natural history and winter recreation.

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre south of Highway 401, exiting at Campbellville and along Five Side-road to the Town Line.



## GREETINGS at Christmas

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

Dr. Robt. S. J. Steen DDS, A. Mikolans DDS and Staff

As you greet this wondrous season we send warm wishes and thanks for the gift of your continual friendship.

from the staff at  
**The Book Nook**  
Acton Mews 853-2130

Getting down to brass tacks we say thanks for your patronage and wish you every joy of this bright season.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes from the staff of

**CANADIAN TIRE**

We have enjoyed serving you through the years.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends and customers who supported us in our first year of business.

**J-T SPORTS**  
5 MILL ST. E. • ACTON • 853-3740

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

May your holidays be trimmed with an extra measure of old-fashioned joys!  
It's our pleasure to serve you.

To allow our staff to have an extended Christmas and New Year's we will be open December 24 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. then closed until Jan. 2, 8:00 a.m.

Anne, Don and Charlie

**Lakeview Centre**  
MAIN STREET NORTH, ACTON

LIVE... LOVE... LAUGH... because it's CHRISTMAS! Thanks to our friends.

**Jug City**  
99 Main St. N. 853-0590

Thanks good friends for your loyalty and good will. Hope your holidays will be filled to the brim with old fashioned Christmas cheer!

**Bill Toth Shell Service**  
QUEEN ST. ACTON 853-0660

**Holiday Fare**

Blending all the right ingredients that make this holiday special and serving them up for your Christmas pleasure. Thanks.

**Acton Restaurant and Tavern**