

"Kung Fu" or "Sweet 16"—That's the choice

By Celia Saxon
What to pull out of Santa's sack this Christmas is a real mind-boggler for parents torn between mass-media advertising and common sense. They're being bombarded with catalogues, flyers and TV commercials. Kids are being brainwashed and Mom and Dad are in for the annual round of arguments—"We don't need it. We can't afford it. It isn't worth

it."—as they recall the useless junk they wasted their money on last Christmas. Well, Mom and Dad, you can relax. There is good news awaiting you in Georgetown this Christmas shopping season. Battery-operated toys are out, and have been replaced with friction powered toys, according to Jim Hancock, manager of Georgetown's

Canadian Tire Store. Toys are better made and more durable even though prices are pretty much the same as last year. The trend is away from war toys and leaning towards TV-oriented, super heroes and adventure dolls. Both Zellers and Georgetown Hobbies and Crafts have found the basic theme this year is learning. Educational and do-it-yourself toys are high on the

list of best sellers, as Hans Langedyk of Georgetown Hobbies and Crafts puts it. They're not really toys, but things to keep their interest all year round. Hans, a model railroad buff who works in his father's craft and hobby shop on Main Street, says HO and N scale train sets are their biggest seller not only at Christmas time, but throughout the year. "Mostly for age ten

and up. Little tots have more fun with plastic cups, pots and spoons, a roll of toilet paper and toilet bowls. They can find more games to play with a toilet bowl than any toy on the market." Candle kits, macrame supplies, needlework and crochet kits are big sellers. Mrs. Langedyk finds more and more people have returned to the old homespun idea and are giving handcrafted Christmas presents or do-it-yourself kits. "People are tired of mass-produced plastic things and are seeking an individual and personal touch to the things they buy. Everybody's doing their own thing. Even the boys are crocheting," she says. The newest craft item is Icomage, a newer and simpler version of decoupage.

The hottest item on the toy market this season is Evil Knievel, "King of the Stuntmen," "amazing action super stunt cycle." The tiny vehicle can jump, wheelie, race at top speed and shoot over a Scramble Van "bought separately" to transport his equipment. Although the manufacturers have steered away from batteries, and made the toy durable and long-lasting, they have packaged the hand-sized toy in a box that's nearly as big as the kid, to justify the price of \$13.99.

Mrs. Pat Bell, Zeller's toy department supervisor, says her biggest sellers for boys are dolls. "There are as many dolls for boys as there are for girls. The big trend this year is to TV-oriented, super heroes and adventure series dolls. Everything is Kung Fu. Big Jim, who comes with every adventure outfit imaginable is



MODEL RAILROAD sets are the biggest seller at Georgetown Hobbies and Crafts on Main Street, at Christmas time and all year round, according to model railroad buff, Hans Langedyk.

SEIKO presents new facets on design.

Seiko's new jewel-like faceted crystals provide a brilliant new dimension to watch design.

- MODEL 54326M (left)
- mar-resistant Hardlex crystal cut with nine facets
 - self winding
 - instant set day date calendar
 - water tested to 98.2 ft.
 - yellow top case
 - black dial, gift minute track
 - \$140.00

- MODEL 54115M
- mar-resistant Hardlex faceted crystal
 - self winding
 - instant set day/date calendar
 - stainless steel case
 - blue dial
 - adjustable bracelet
 - \$110.00



SEIKO
THE AUTOMATION AGE WATCH



CREDIT ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE
LAY AWAY FOR XMAS NOW
GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE
877-1230

One of the world's fastest take-out services.

The gas dryer.

There's nothing like it for instant service. Because there's nothing like it for instant heat.

And isn't that what drying clothes is all about?

So if your present gas dryer just isn't warming up to the job any more, maybe it's time to replace it with a new natural gas dryer.

The instant-heat feature of the new gas dryers means your clothes start drying instantly.

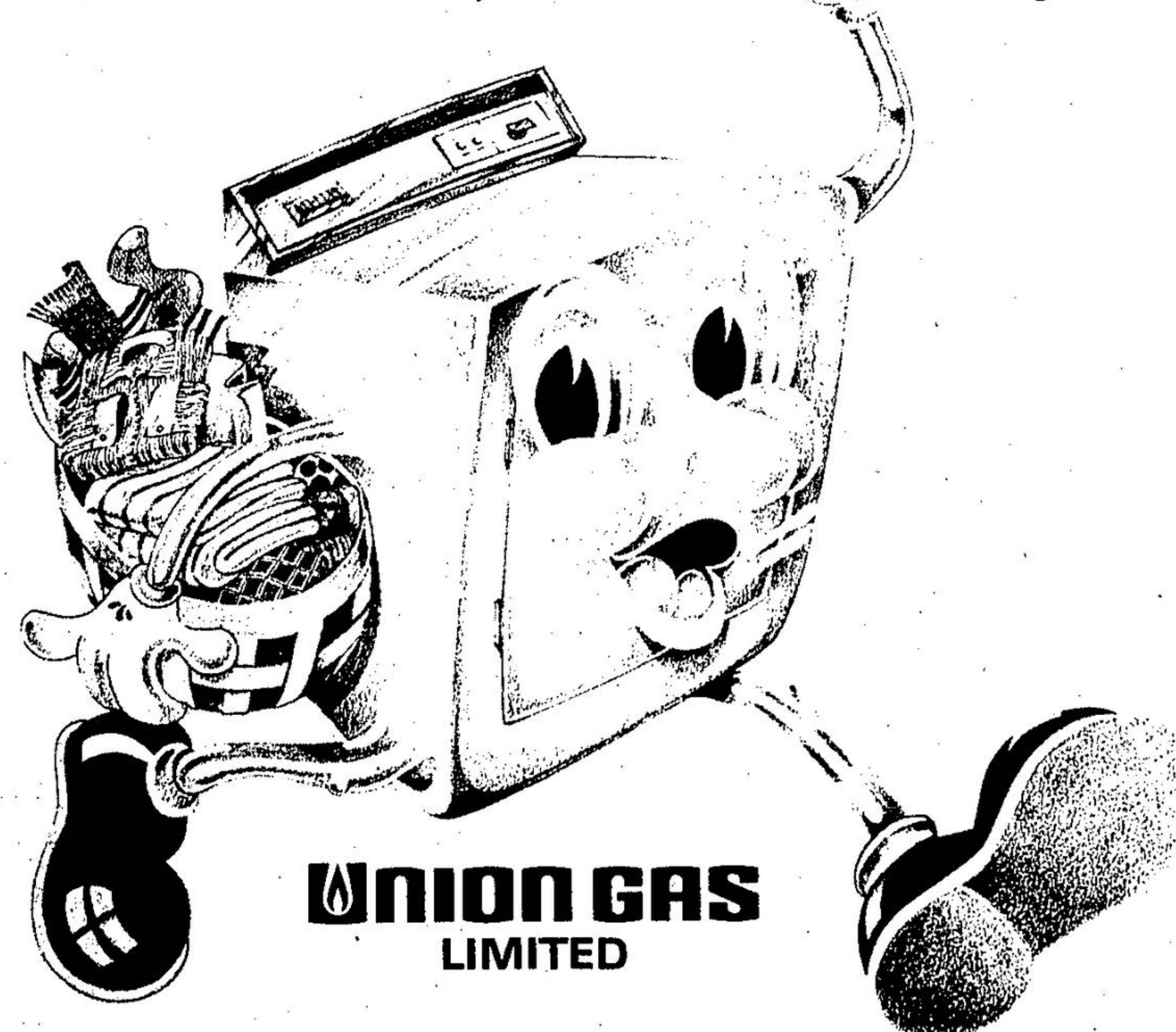
But not all fabrics are created equal. And therefore, shouldn't be treated the same. So today's natural gas dryers give you a choice; a setting for time dry, a setting for permanent press, and even an automatic setting that doesn't shut off until your clothes are completely dry (special sensors measure the moisture).

Natural gas dryers come with lint screen, vent on the side, or vent on the back, electric ignition spark or continuous pilot. All come in the

latest colours, and the latest styles. And operate for just pennies per load.

You see, natural gas is efficient. There's no refining or generating involved, you're getting fuel energy right from its source. Now that's a wise and efficient use of energy.

When it comes time for a new dryer, order a natural gas dryer. And get an order of dry clothes to go.



now complete with the "Kung Fu Grip". War toys are out. Guns are almost unheard of, except cowboy guns. For the preschool set, Mrs. Bell finds Fisher-Price toys still the number one best seller. Fisher-Price is the favorite of parents and little ones, because of the durability of quality and interest. A cuddly rag doll with vinyl head and hands has been added to the long list of this popular line of long-lasting playthings. The popular doll, which comes in four variations, features "velcro" fasteners

instead of buttons and the shoes and socks are part of the unit so they can't come off.

A Fisher-Price castle has been introduced for hours of fun for the little ones.

Celebrating the sixteenth anniversary of the ever-popular and top-selling Barbie fashion doll, the manufacturer has introduced "Sweet 16" a birthday Barbie.

Games are slow moving this year. "Our fastest moving items are whatever they're pushing on TV," explained Jim Hancock, manager of Canadian Tire. "We stick to name brands and best sellers. This year we have the largest variety of toys we've ever stocked."

"Prices are much the same as last year, but profits are much lower, and the quality of the product is much better." He noted a steel doll stroller selling at the same price as a plastic one three years ago but he says this one is better constructed and more durable.

But he maintains hockey equipment is the predominant factor. "This town is hockey crazy, and because Christmas falls in the middle of hockey season, parents lavish the kids with everything imaginable in the hockey line."

Ballinafad news

We welcome two new families to the community. Mr. and Mrs. Bates and family who resided in Georgetown not so long ago, have moved into a new home on the Seventh line, north of the village. A family just moved into the Rafter home on the Eighth line.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shortill and family are now living in their lovely new home.

Mrs. R. B. Kirkwood, and Mrs. William McLean who have been faithful workers among the young girls of the 4-H Homemaking groups and who have been leaders of many clubs, were honored last week when they were guests for two days of the Department of Agriculture and Food. They met other leaders in Toronto and enjoyed some time at the Royal Winter Fair.

We are happy to report that Robin Matthews is recovering nicely from an operation for

appendicitis at the Georgetown and District Hospital.

At the hall board meeting held recently, it was decided tickets would be sold for the December 17 dance and they would be available at the store a week previous to the dance. As the spring dance was so successful, it was decided to have a buffet, pot luck lunch.

Dan O'Connor and John Loughlan were participants in a bowling tournament at Georgetown over the weekend.

Mrs. Smith and daughters Ruth and Doris Burt were visiting in St. Catharines on Sunday. It was a surprise visit for Joyce and Norman Swann, who celebrate 25 years of marriage on November 26.

There have been several accidents in the village of late. No loss of life involved but an occupant of one car was rushed to hospital.

—By Winifred Smith

Lower cost housing is one of our greatest needs.

This is what Ontario is doing to help provide it.



and the up-grading of plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

2. **Community-Sponsored Housing Program** supports the development of reasonably priced housing through non-profit housing corporations operated by groups or municipalities. Grants to these groups—which may include labour unions, churches, welfare agencies, educational and charitable institutions, and service clubs—cover up to 10% of the value of a housing project. In return, the group makes available up to 25% of the project units for Ontario Housing Corporation's rent supplement program.

3. **OHC's Assisted Rental Housing for Families and Senior Citizens** provides accommodation for the elderly and for families, on the basis of rents geared-to-income. Its purpose is to subsidize rental payments for people 60 years of age and older and for low-income families.

4. **Home Ownership Made Easy (H.O.M.E.) Plan** brings home ownership within the reach of many moderate-income earners. Houses are built on serviced lots which are then leased by Ontario Housing Corporation to new homeowners who have the option of buying the house after five years. This combination makes lower-than-normal down payments possible.

Ontario today has more houses and more new housing programs than ever before. We are, unquestionably, among the best housed people in the world.

But the cost of housing, for both owners and renters, has increased sharply in recent years.

With this in mind the Ontario Government has developed many programs to ease cost pressures and help make more housing available. Four such programs are:

1. **Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP)** offers grants and loans for home improvement through local municipalities to low and moderate income homeowners. It is particularly directed to the rehabilitation of sub-standard dwellings, with emphasis on faulty structural and sanitary conditions,

If you would like more information or free literature on these four housing programs, write:

Information Services,
101 Bloor Street West,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5S 1P8
Ministry of Housing
Donald Irvine, Minister



Government of Ontario
William Davis, Premier