WHY NOT JOIN US IN THE NEW YEAR?



CASUAL CAMARADERIE

The CBC (Coffee, Books and Conversation) club wrapped up its first successful year last Friday with a large gathering of regulars and newcomers. Among those who attended the Christmas party were (left to right) Ann Beaton, Esme Ball, chief librarian Betsy Cornwell, CBC host Norman Elson, Ronald Stevens, Richard Forster, Tove Lonbro and Richard Whetter. The

club meets regularly Friday afternoons and provides an opportunity for people to come by for a chat, not just about books but anything that happens to come to mind. It's a vey casual organization without an official member ship (anyone can stop by) and is a warm, receptive place for people to meet each other.

Ben Case's 92 Christmases

Continued from page At Over the years, the presents have included lots of books, games and warm clothes.

"I remember getting a hand sleigh with iron runners to share with my brother," Mr. Case re-called. "It was made by a local carpenter."

He also remembers getting a pair of spring akates, which he put to good use on the mill pond ice. Unlike bookey skates, which hadn't been developed yet, the spring skates fastened onto snow boots with clamps.

HOMEFUN "If there was ice Christmas, we would be skating. If not, we'd be sleighriding," Mr. Case

Without radios or televisions, children and adults in the 1890s kept themselves entertained with homemade fun, Mr.

"We had our own garies, you know, like card games and bowling games in the long hall, checkers or crokinole,"

he said. It was a special treat every Christmas when the Case family would make the trip out to visit the paternal side of the family, 30 miles distant.

"It was a long trip and it was quite an occasion to drive there," Mr. Case recalled. "We'd go by horse and cutter and it would take about three or four hours to get there."

Once there, they would atay overnight and celebrate with cousins, aunts

and uncles who would all gather.

Each Christmas, there would be a Sunday School concert held in the church, Mr. Case recalled, peppered with skits between the choruses. TONE DEAF

"My brother and I were tone deaf and weren't much of an asset to the church concert," he laughed. "Our family made up in numbers what we lacked in talent," They were three sons and one daughter.

Christmas dinner at grandmothers always featured turkey with stuffing, mince meat pie

and plum pudding, all home-cooked, of course, Mr. Case said.

The turkeys had to be plucked by hand before they went into the roast-

ing pan. Later, during the first world war, Mr. Case spent four Christmases abroad, in the artillery

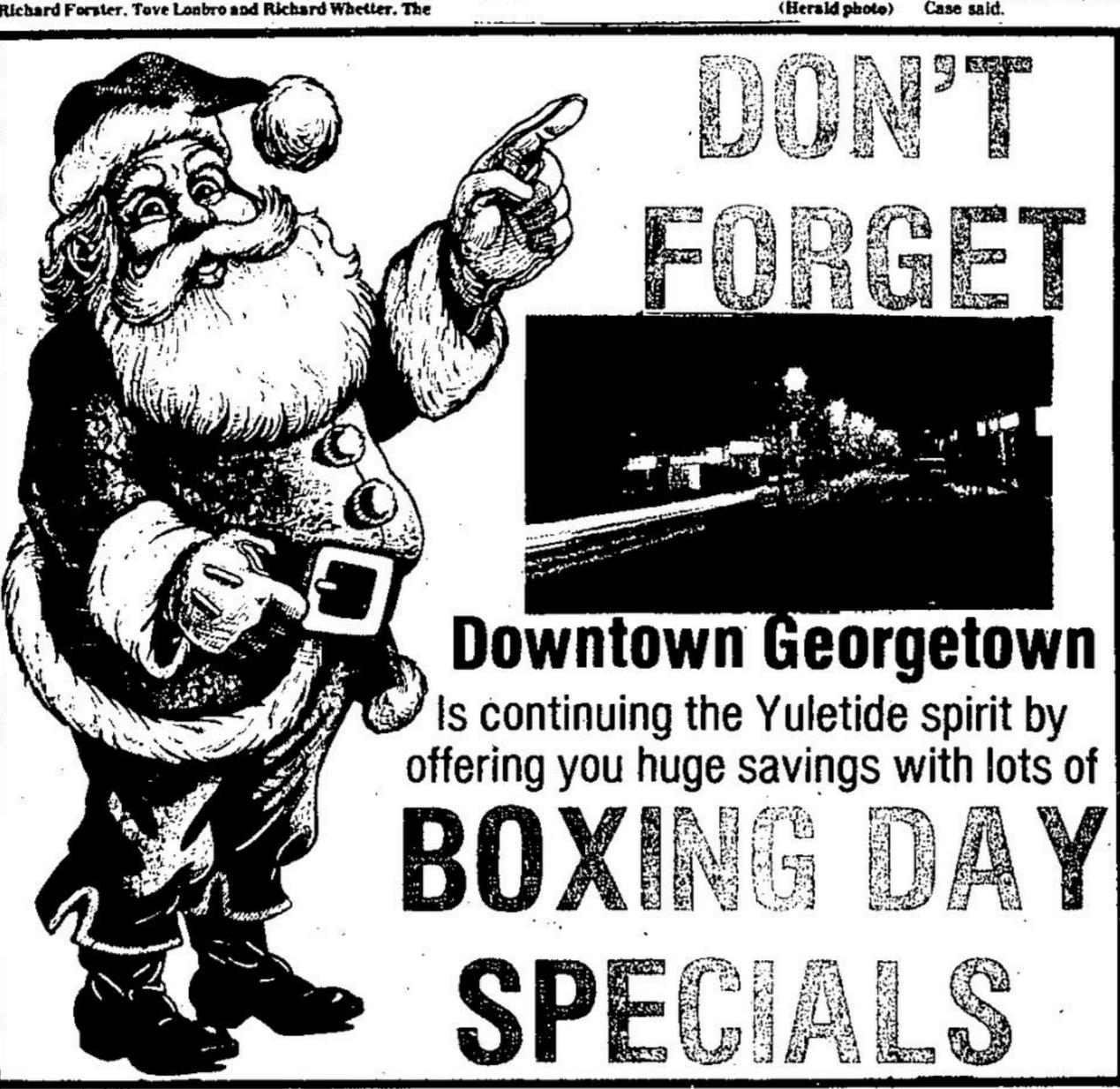
division. "We'd start with an extra rum issue on Christmas morning, then there'd be a concert in an old barn, village hall or abandoned French ammunitions pit," he remembered. "The cook would have a special

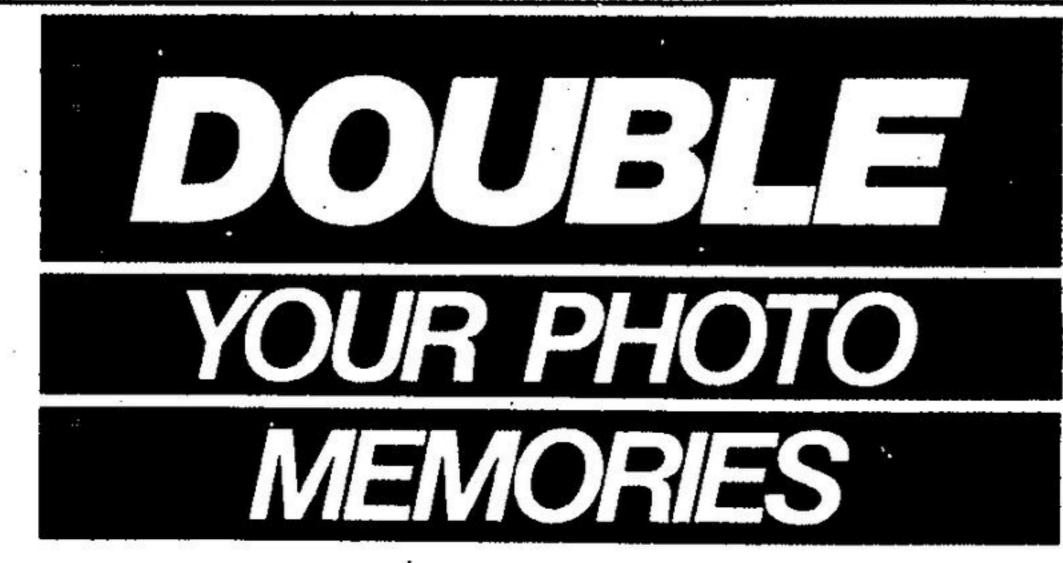
dinner for us, which often

wasn't very special." The day would be spent quietly visiting each other in the dugouts, and the guns would be silent as a rule, Christmas Day, be

said. Now, Mr. Case spends Christmases quietly in his home. He used to go to a niece in Kitchener but finds the trip too much, especially now that he doesn't drive. His 66-year old sister comes up to

visit from Toronto. As for eating turkey, Mr. Case says be im't keen on it. It makes for dry eating, he says, and plans to roast lamb or



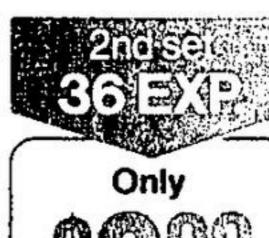


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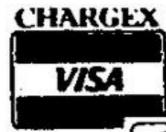






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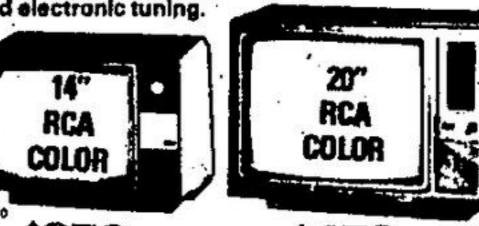
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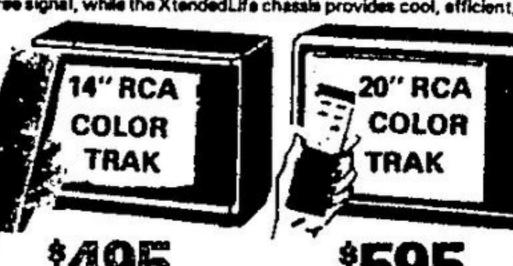
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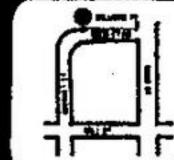


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