theHERALD

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Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Tuesday, December 24, 1985

Why celebrate?

What does Christmas mean to you? To us, that's an easy question. It's the gathering of the clans - families travel miles to be with their relations.

It's watching the magic of Christmas on the smiles of playful children as they wait for Dec. 25.

It's hearing about the trials people go through in search of the perfect gift for their special person. Through it all, we see there is joy in gift-giving when friends and

family share their feelings of love and friendships. It's witnessing the time and generosity of charitable groups who work to make Christmas a special time for everyone. Volunteers for Good Neighbors, Kinette toy drive and Salvation Army know how hard it would be to celebrate Christmas without ensuring first that Santa doesn't play favorites.

For Christians, it's a reflection on the birth of Jesus; to sing praises in His name and rejoice in the message He brought to the world.

Whatever Christmas means to you, we hope your wishes come true on this very special day.

A Christmas card

This is a Christmas card to you, our readers. From one week to the next, as we struggle from one project to the next, we find friends who offer their encouragement and readers who voice their appreciation. This is a thank you to our weekly contributors and columnists, whose dedication to their work re-inforces a commitment to do our best.

This is an opportunity to tell our critics that we appreciate your comments - you make us a stronger newspaper for no one can learn without the help of honest critics.

From everyone - from our staff in the press room to our general office staff two floors above, we say thanks for helping us through 1985.

May the beautiful promise of Christmas bring happiness to you all.

Time for a woman

We think it's time for a woman on the Halton Police Commission.,, ...

Regional Councillor John Graham was shocked that

we've never had a woman representative. What's worse, he was told only one woman has ever

sat on an Ontario police commission. The region has already made their choice to replace

two representatives -- two men.

However, there's still a chance, because the province also has to make two appointments.

The opportunity is there, so let's use it. Women can

provide a different outlook to policing matters. Any new infusion of ideas should be welcomed.

Poem for Christmas

He dropped his patched sack, that went When on top of the bouse he crept quiet

Encounter in the snow

recognition.

Christmas.

cheers of his friends.

a way out.

heard the shout.

he needed;

short pause.

saw him quake.

Then, as you all know,

Father heard the shout so he looked for

He got out a rope, and with a little

He tried to make a hole to lassoo an old

So he could possibly get out to where he

So finally he succeeded in finding what

Some crazy glue, to stick to his shoe,

So he could climb, and find in time,

Till he found out who made the shout.

When he found Santa Claus, he gave a

For he began to shake, cause Santa

But when Santa was free, he filled up

With presents like trains and sweet

For parents, Jack, and sweet little

Santa went back to his world full of

expression for some gesture of appro-

val. I raised my hand and pointed my

finger. Then I snapped my thumb

forward, and his eyes flashed with

gunned down by a pretend .45 magnum

there is only one thing to do - clutching

delightedly at his chest, he arked back

through the air and expired in perfect

form, amid a cloud of snow and the

year-old boys, and goodwill toward

men, and realizing that there is more

than one wya to give a gift at

I drove away, rejoicing in ten

He knew the script by heart. When

The shout he heard from below

Such a very long time ago.

By BECKY RALPH

Herald Special

Christmas Poem

One Christmas Eve, Santa had some

For that Christmas Eve, Santa got

In a chimney you know, that was

For the night before that, he ate and

(It would be very queer if he was

With toys all in vain; For Jack, a toy

For little, sweet Jane, a doll and candy

When Father got up to drink from a

He heard a loud shout, so he looked all

The house was so still that It gave him

So he started a fire, and as the flames

Santa felt some pain and he yelped in

By PETER RALPH

ENCOUNTER IN THE SNOW

vault the fence and dash for the middle

of the lane. For a split second he

bounced like an ape on the crest of the

road, then dove over the fence and

righted himself, watching me intently

sion as the car crept slowly along the

fence. Then we were alongside in that

decisive moment, when, face to face, I

Would I scowl, scoll, berate, ignore

Eyes searched to know my expres-

Eagerly his eyes searched my

with his ten-year old friends.

would render my verdict.

them? Or would I pay the game?

Through my windshield I saw hlm

terrible luck.

really stuck

got fat

about.

a chill.

vain.

got higher

covered in snow.

skinny for a year).

tumbling back,



"Think they'll ever pull wines that contain a REALLY dangerous substance . . . like alcohol, off the shelves?"

Goes beyond job creation



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Until we get all the details of the transaction which places de Havilland Aircraft into the hands of an American company, who's to say whether, on balance, the sale is in Canada's best

But when the Canadian government finally consumates its deal with the Boeing Co. of Seattle to buy the Toronto-based de Havilland, it had better be prepared to present an airtight case in this respect. There are a lot of Canadians out there who may not be easily convinced.

It goes far beyond job creation and "economic renewal", subjects which understandably preoccupy the Mulroney government. And, for that matter, it goes beyond the sale of a major Canadian industry to foreigners, no insignificant issue in itself. What we are dealing with is the almost-casual sale of a famous Canadian aircraft company which we taxpayers had propped up, at enormous cost, just to keep it in this country. And now, by all accounts, it may soon turn the corner and perhaps even begin making

Not only is this difficult enough to deal with by itself, but the sale raises all sorts of painful memories of how a previous Tory government killed the Avro Arrow aircraft and virtually! Mulroney that this fulfills a campaign destroyed our world-renowned aeronautical expertise.

There is no parallel. The objective here is to create jobs, not eliminate them, but that doesn't discourage the on-going comparisons.

And there are many other reasons why the Mulroney government should be prepared to face a highly skeptical public on this issue. We're not dealing

with a shoe company here. PRIDE INVOLVED

Canadians have always had a certain love affair with airplanes, a situation often attributed to the unique role they have played in opening our vast northland.

And on a per capita basis, we've always been great flyers. More than a quarter of the pilots who flew in the Battle of Britain were Canadians. And the development of Canadian airplanes, ranging from the Otter and Beaver to the Arrow, was always a source of unusual pride.

There is a widespread belief that Canada now is a world leader in the development of short-takeoff-andlanding planes, largely because of de Havilland's Carlbou, Buffalo, Dash 7 and Dash 8 models. And it was mainly because of confidence in these planes that the previous Liberal government funnelled some \$800 million of our money into the firm.

The timing of the sale, for Boeing, is near perfect. With the major development costs out of the way, the Dash 7 and Dash 8 could easily become an enviable inheritance.

It's the government's view that the sale of de Havilland will accelerate potential profits, largely because of Boeing's reputation, skills and massive marketing network. Far from giving away a Canadian industry, says Treasury Board President Robert de Cotret, the government is bringing in "a good corporate citizen" which will be beneficial for the entire country.

And it's the view of Prime Minister commitment "to privatize Crown corporations to the advantage of Canadian taxpayers." But, to be absolutely accurate,

there was no suggestion during the campaign that these corporations would be privatized into foreign hands.

And with the prime minister in the process of trying to establish a free-trade arrangement with the Unit-

ed States, it's little wonder that the de

Havilland sale would raise nationalistic hackles. GOOD BARGAIN

what makes the transaction so

susceptible to initial criticism is the price. Everyone seems to agree that Boeing struck a very attractive deal, getting the whole de Havilland operation for \$155 million which, as someone pointed out, is roughly the price of one Jumbo jet. And, providing Boeing spends a certain amount in Canada, it will earn a \$65 million reduction in this price.

Obviously, no one has suggested the company got ripped off. The opposition partles, to the surprise of no one, talk of a "giveaway" and "fire sale" and while the government is convinced the deal will bring us a flourishing alreraft industry, the Liberals and New Democrats perceive disaster. And with one group of potential Canadian buyers crying foul, the deal is likely to rekindle many nationalist sentiments.

As mentioned earlier, there is clearly something special about aircraft industries in Canada.

Not only must the government present a very convincing case when the details finally come out, but it must brace itself for one unholy outcry if de Havilland doesn't flourish under Boeing's control. If just one Canadian project is transferred to the Seattle headquarters, watch out!

On the other hand, should de Havilland planes become world beaters, there will be many who will say this was inevitable even without Boeing participation. And this will prove to the critics that the firm should have remained entirely ours.

The government keeps talking about Boeing's marketing skills. But it might need some marketing skills of its own if Canadians are to be convinced that this transaction is in our best interests. At the moment, this is far from established.

from our f THIRTY YEARS AGO-Police Chief Roy Haley reported the holiday weekend was accident free. There was only one minor accident which resulted in a

scraped fender. Wynn Dunbar who fell 40 feet off & scaffold three weeks ago will be home for New Years. The Rockwood man is a

foreman working on the new Co-op building in Guelph. The Raiders are leading the league with eight wins and five losses. They are also now at full strength as Daire Joyce rejoined the team after missing

seven games. Mr. and Mrs. N. Nienhuis of Sarnia announced the engagement of their daughter Tineke to Lourens Wierenga of Glen Williams. Mr. Wieranga moved to Sarnin after emigrating from Holland and later moved to Glen

Williams. FIFTEEN YEARS AGO--Collette Telller of Georgetown High won the Georgetown Insurance Agents Trophy for her first standing in a driving instruction course. Ted Scott taught

the course. Four Georgetown Tri-County leaguers will be part of the Midget and Juvenile all-star teams, Brad Butterworth and Brian Beaumont will play for the Georgetown Midgets and Benny Heppes and Dave Irons will play for the Juveniles.

Ray Roberts announced the selling of his Gulf Service Centre on Highway 7 at Delrex Boulevard. The new owner of the station is Ray Whyte.

John Ramson of Centennial Senior Public School won the 13 year old division of the Halton County cross country finals. John won the event last year too.

TEN YEARS AGO-Rev. Harold Martin of St. John's United Church is leaving Georgetown for Richmond Hill where he will be minister of St. Mathew's United Church. He has been in Georgetown since 1972.

Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill was selected as one of two regional representatives on the Halton Region Police Commission. Mayor Hill was one of three trying for the job, Mayor Harrington of Burlington was not appointed.

Mike and Ann Hurst of Mississauga re-opened The Country Gallery in Terra Cotta. The gallery will feature oil paintings and pastels by Mrs. Hurst and string art and stain glass art-by

Drummer Graydon Hillock, son of Mrs. Dorothy L. Hillock of King St. West, is writing the music for a TV video play produced at Boston University's School of Communications, Mr. Hillock is working on a degree-in composition at the Berklee College of

FIVE YEARS AGO-The Georgetown District High School wrestling team placed fifth of 12 teams from Ontario at the Bishop Ryan Invitational wrestling tournament. Doug Gillespie had the best finish for Georgetown. He finished second in the 112.5 pound class.

Police Chief Harding announced Acton will get 12 police officers. The officers will be patrolling permanently which will allow residents to get-to

know them. Plans for the Georgetown Mifor Hockey Support Group's 15th Annual Midget Tournament are being finalized by Chairman Bryan Turner. Teams

from the Toronto area are entered. Poets' Corner

It's free trade posturing



Queen's Park

By Herek Nelson

TORONTO - We'll be seeing interesting times if Ontario and its fellow provinces really are in charge of negotiating free or freer trade with the United States.

This province's negotiating stance will have the Americans rolling in the aisles with laughter. Its essence seems to be that we'll

support free trade as long as it is a one-way street in our favor. How else to interpret the on-going musings of Liberal Premier David

Peterson? For months now he has projected an over-all aura of hostility toward the whole concept of free trade talks.

His government has released studies and he himself has emphasized the number of jobs "threatened" by free

He never speaks about the wealth of jobs that might be created by such an arrangement.

He also had gone around warning that such-and-such industry or items is off-limits, from the auto pact (which, ironically, is a free trade agreement) to our so-called cultural industry (it is the duty of all good Liberals to protect the monopoly they gave Maclean's magazine years ago).

Yet Peterson rejects walking away from the whole free trade business as not sensible - "at this point". The assumption underlying the

need for free trade with the U.S. is that we can't compete with Europe, let alone the Third World, so we'd better secure our access to our biggest trading partner - the U.S. - while we can. We need them much more than they need us.

There does seem a gilmmer of awareness on Peterson's part of this reality (he has spoken of certain jobs being in "tenuous areas anyway" during the on-going "industrial restructuring" we're facing), but he normally hides it in his anti-free trade political rhetoric.

And it was certainly the negative aspects of his vision that shone at the first ministers' conference in Halifax, where Peterson boasted that Ontario and the other provinces were now ultimately responsible for free trade negotiations.

Assuming that's true (is Prime Minister Brian Mulroney really such a malleable patsy?)', what will be the aim of the veto-wielding premier of Ontario?

"The thing we have to do out of this

is make sure we get better deals for our exports and at the same time not give away the store," he told Assembly

He leaves the impression free trade is a winner-loser game: that if we win, the other guy must lose. There is no sense that enhanced trade benfits everyone.

"If out of these discussions a better deal can be made for our steel, cement

and timber industries that does not threaten our other industries, then obviously it is in Canada's interests," he sald.

And what are the Americans expected to gain in return, a people whose Congress seems feady to slam the door on our existing exports, never mind the new ones Peterson dreams we can have without risking anything?

On that Peterson is silent, just as he is allent on how to protect our existing \$20 billion trading surplus with the U.S.

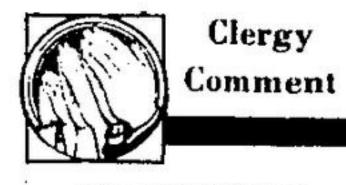
Well, as he says, he and the rest of the camel-creation committee are supposedly in charge now.

REALITY I can always tell you

that is doesn't mean a thing It might make me feel better but it would be a dreadful lle You matter Like spring rain summer sun fall leaves you cover me with life For now I'll cuddle the essence of your reality in my heart.

> -By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Becton

God gives lasting joy



By Dr. John M. Drickamer Immanuel Lutheran Church

Santa Claus is loosely based on St. Nicholas of Ancyra, a fourth century Christian paster in Asle Minor. The modern name and the modern idea are both corruptions of St. Nicholas.

Legend says that St. Nicholas gave money to a needy family by throwing it down their chimney. He chose that route as a way to give anonymously. It would be better to follow that example than the modern myth of Santa Claus. Today we usually give what no one

needs to those who need nothing or lack little. It is fine to give tokens of love to those we love. It is better to give privately to those in need, who cannot return the favor.

Anonymity is also good. We should give without needing people's praises in return. Self-congratulation is also vain. If we give because it makes us feel good, we are doing it for ourselves. not for others. It is selfishness disguised as generosity. We all prize praise.

being prone to pride.

Then what of the modern myth of Santa Claus? Santa is really just a tame, little, false god, an unnecessary god who gives little, takes nothing away, and asks only a brief, superficial cleaning up of one's act one month a year.

The true God is no Santa Claus. There is no comparison. God in infinite. Santa is infinitesimal. Santa gives a few unneeded, short-lived toys. God gives life and all things.

Santa gives only to those who are nice, not to those who are naughty. God gives to the unjust and the evil. To His enemies He gives countless blessings in this life (Matthew 5:43-48). God makes Santa look like Scrooge.

Santa does not ask much. A slight improvement in one's behavior for a fraction of the year easily satisfies him. God demands perfection in attitudes as well as actions all the time. Santa requests niceness. God demands goodness.

And when little boys and girls are naughty, Santa does not take it seriously. There is no actual punishment. Even the threat of withholding gifts is seldom carried out. God's threat of hell had to be carried out.

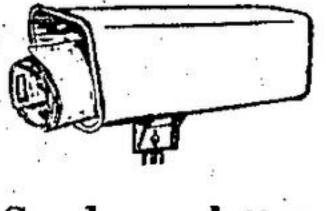
Christians believe that God's threat of punishment, the sentence to hell, has already been fully carried out. It was executed when Jesus !was executed. God the Father gave His own natural Son into death, the death that we deserved, to buy our way out of hell and damnation.

God's real bounty and generosity are in His grace for Christ's sake; the forgiveness of sins, salvation, eternal life because of Jesus. He died for sinners (saints would not a Savior). His love and grace easily dwarf the present, prosperous, preposterous world's idea of Christmas giving into significance.

Santa gives trashy, trivial trinkets. God gives eternal life for Jesus' sake to those who have deserved it at all to those who have deserved the opposite -to us! Jesus deserved, earned, eternal life for all people by His life and death in our place.

What a tragedy that unbelievers refuse to open the real Christmas present, purchased and delivered; by

Compared to God, Santa Claus is a piker, a small, meager caricature of real generosity. Santa Claus is hardly good for a laugh. The true God gives lasting joy.



Send us a letter

Got a gripe, or a reason to praise? Then send The Herald a letter to the editor. All letters must be signed and include your address and phone number because we need to verify

The Herald reserves the right to edit, condense or reject letters. We have found the most effective letters are those that are concise and to the

point, no more than 250 words. Send letters to: The Herald, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ont. L7G