

# Seniors Kindred Spirits Club and L.M. Montgomery

By RUTH FORGRAVE  
Ever heard of the Kindred Spirits Club?

I was introduced to this fan club by a friend who had heard about it through the C.B.C. A group of people, headed by the Schulte family of Vermont, U.S.A., had organized this group about five years ago - the only requisite for membership being an admiration for the Canadian authoress, L.M. Montgomery, and a desire to learn more about her and her writings.

Kindred Spirits, published quarterly, contained all sorts of interesting data pertaining to Lucy Maud and her books. My first reaction was, "An American publication to honour our very own Canadian writer?" Something didn't seem right about this. However, I am happy to tell you that Kindred Spirits has now been taken over by a Canadian company. The address is "Kindred Spirits of P.E.I.," Box 491, Kennington, P.E.I. COB IMO.

There are still a few people in this area who fondly remember this gracious lady back in the late 20's and early 30's, when she was the Presbyterian minister's wife in Norval, Mrs. Ewan McDonald. Much has been written about her, often with emphasis on the negative part of her married life. It is good to read something which dispels this notion.

Her husband, Ewan, was the highly respected minister in the Leaksdale, Zephyr churches in 1910. He asked for leave of absence to go and be married to Lucy Maud Montgomery of P.E.I. (Already her fame as a writer was well established, Anne of Green Gables having been published in 1908). Leaksdale friends have put together a delightful pamphlet on their memories of the McDonalds in their manse 1911-1926.

They tell of the warm reception

## Seniors for the Future

for the newlyweds - the dapper bridegroom and the lovely bride in her white satin wedding gown, radiating graciousness to all.

At Leaksdale, three sons were born, one of whom died in infancy. Here most of the Anne sequels were written, so, understandably, this was a very important period in the life of L.M.M. They write affectionately of all facets of her life as a mother, a homemaker, a devoted minister's wife and a writer.

Those who lived in the manse as housekeepers speak of her sense of duty, her love of pets and of flowers, her busy fingers at her needlework, her humour, and her consideration for her help. They were always treated as equals. Others write of her contribution to the church - especially with the Young People's Guild.

Fortunate indeed were the young people under her tutelage as she directed plays for them, encouraging them to develop whatever talents they had. Her dressmaker remembers how she loved pretty clothes - lace and fancy little velvet bows and how particular she was about her appearance as she moved among her people. Happy family incidents are told about the boys growing up years and of the visiting they did in the home of the families of the two churches.

"Queen," the faithful mare, was a familiar sight in the community as the McDonalds drove for a day's shopping in Uxbridge or for short drives among their people. One lady refers to Mrs. McDonald as a queen among women - a perfect balance of pride and humility among old and young alike.

As I read this tribute from the folk at Leaksdale, among whom

she lived for 15 years, it gave me a warm glow as I thought of the happy years she had shared with her husband, her sons and the dear people of that community.

The McDonalds moved to Norval in 1926. Is there someone reading this who remembers her then? Perhaps he or she would like to write to Kindred Spirits of P.E.I. and relate some of the highlights to which are remembered of Lucy Maud as the minister's wife in Norval.

Nowadays, with so much media coverage - audio tapes, video tapes, etc., etc., my fear is that the magic of her writing may be

lost to the present generation of young readers. Megan Follows did a superb job of depicting the character of Anne in the TV presentation of Anne of Green Gables and in the sequel to it.

However, in my opinion, there is nothing that can compare with the beautiful language used in the descriptive paragraphs of the P.E.I. countryside, and of the characters in the original, unabridged editions of her books.

Let's hope that teachers and parents will continue to encourage today's children to develop an appreciation for the literary talent of one of Canada's most beloved writers.

For all of us there is always "the bend in the road" and the assurance that "God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world."

## Seniors and medicine

OTTAWA - Canadian seniors, who make up approximately 11% of the population, consume 40% of all prescription medicines in the country. Studies show that they are particularly prone to the dangerous effects of the inappropriate use of medications.

The Canada Safety Council has joined forces with the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada to hold a National Senior's Safety Week, November 12th to 18th, to encourage a more cautious and informed approach to the use of medication. Health and Welfare Canada, and The Seniors Secretariat among other organizations have officially endorsed the Safety Week.

The safety week, Safeguard Your Best Years: Medication, Safety and You, involves thousands of self-help and community action groups across the country. Information kits and workshops tips will be used to in-

volve an estimated 3 million seniors in the program.

"We all need to take a more positive approach to a healthy aging, and the proper use of medicines is very much part of this," Canada Safety Council president, Imile Therien, said.

National Senior's Week was officially launched in Montreal on November 9, and in Toronto on November 12, 1990.

The Canada Safety Council is a national, not-for-profit, safety organization dedicated to the reduction of death, injury and economic loss caused by accidents and health hazards.

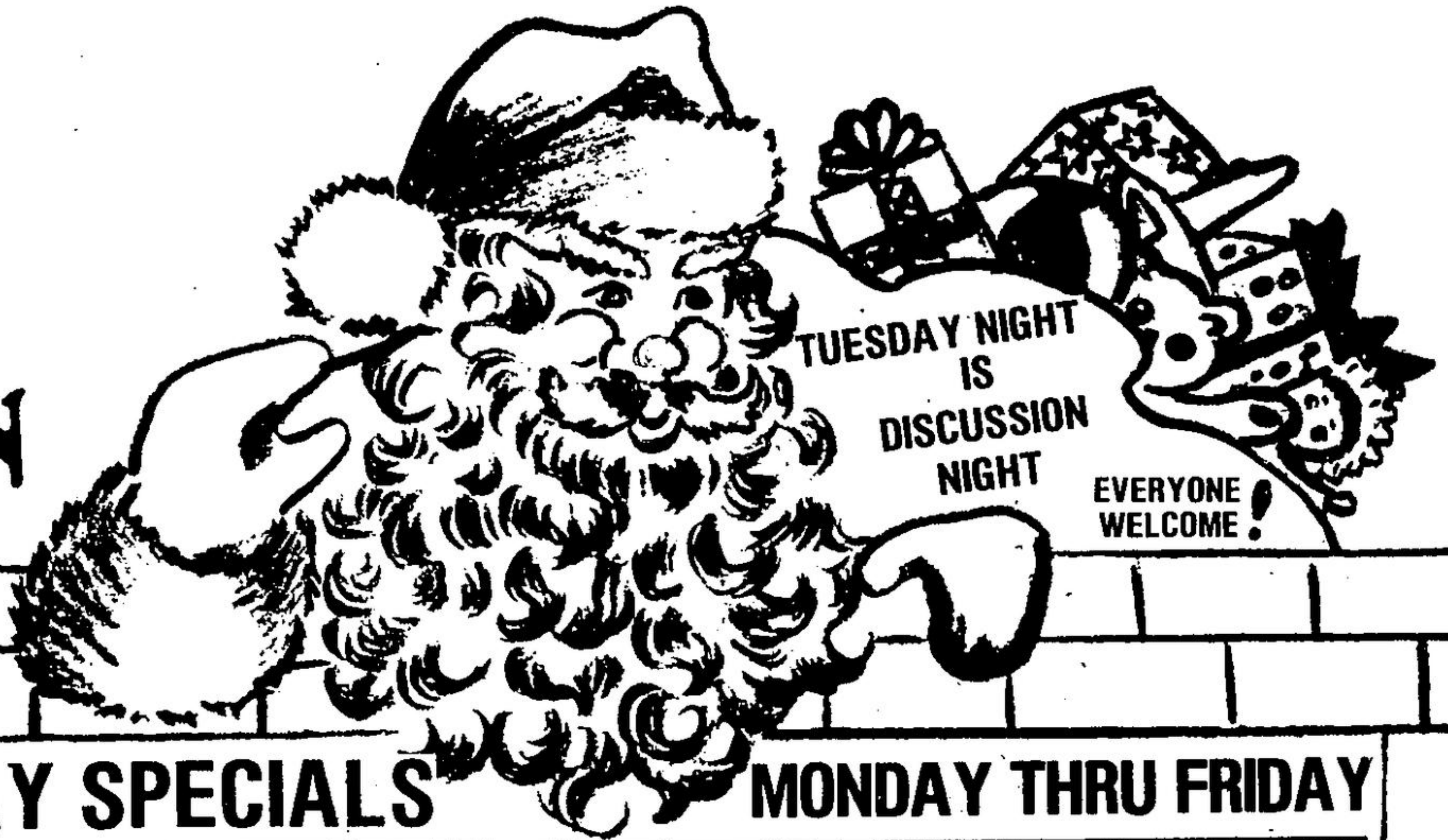
The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada is a national, voluntary trade association representing 66 companies engaged in the research, development, production, marketing and servicing of brand-name prescription pharmaceuticals.

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