

Wednesday, December 18, 1991

Movie Review

Christmas video plays to Actor's style of Comedy

By DAWN WOOD Herald Special

If trekking off into the cosmos is not your idea of holiday entertainment, then perhaps the video release of National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation starring Chevy Chase is more to your taste.

Christmas Vacation is one in a series of films featuring Chevy Chase as the head of the Griswold family. Earlier pictures included Vacation and European Vacation.

Basically, Christmas Vacation is a slapstick, sophomoric parody of the trials and tribulations that we all go through around Christmas time. Except with the Griswolds, of course, everything is magnified and done to excess.

In order to bring out Chase's comic style, the movie is broken up into a series of episodes. This allows Chase's style of comedy to blossom. He relies on the circumstances surrounding him, and his polite and sometimes not so polite reactions to draw out the laughs. Characteristics of his

style include the forced grin, total coolness in the face of absurdity, and his self-compromising nature.

The plot centres around the Griswold household, and the weeks leading up to the event of Christmas. As the day approaches, various factions of the Griswold clan arrive at the Griswold abode.

Against this influx of relatives all of whom have their own set of quirks and trying personalities, Chase is determined to excel in creating the perfect Christmas display, complete with lighting his house to the point that it would put any car dealership to shame.

Behind the yuks and slapstick is a comment on what Christmas has become. Everything is covered; the family, the extended family, and year end office politics.

If you're a Chase fan, or up to your armpits in cranberry sauce and scotch pine needles, then Christmas Vacation might just be the pre-Christmas life-saver that you need.



Dressed for success

Jessie Jacob models a new spring suit now available at Elizabeth's Fashions for diners, Maxine Linton (left) and Mabel Sanderson (right) at a fashion show in the North Halton Golf and Country Club Monday. Elizabeth's Fashions does monthly shows at the club during the winter months while guests enjoy lunch. The shows end in December but start again this spring. (Herald Photo)

Tis the season for book buying

By VINCENT EGAN

As Christmas comes closer and shopping days grow fewer, books become an ever more distinct possibility for the remaining names on your gift list.

A book, well chosen, is nearly always well received. Here is a roundup of notes on some of the 1991 highlights in publishing:

-Amazonia, by Loren McIntyre (Douglas and McIntyre; 164 pages; \$50). Much of the world's attention has been focused recently on a vast area that most of us have never seen: The Amazon River, its tributaries and particularly its fast disappearing rain forests, the loss of which could have almost incalculable consequences for the world's atmosphere.

McIntyre, now 73, has known the area intimately for 56 years, and in this memorable volume of personal narrative and color photographs, he opens our eyes to the beauties and terrors of Amazonia, where some tribes of natives are shot on sight by "hunters".

-Columbus: The Great Adventure, by Paolo Emilio Taviani (Orion; 273 pages; \$26). Prof. Taviani, probably the leading authority on the life and achievements of Christopher Columbus, has adapted his four-volume scholarly history of the great adventurer and his times into a one-volume, absorbing biography of this gifted and daring sailor - "a genius in the full sense of the word." This is just as much of a "page-turner" as any mystery or adventure yarn.

-Northwest Passage, by Edward Struzik (Key Porter; 152 pages; \$35). Subtitled The Quest for an Arctic Route to the East, this is a large-format chronicle of the explorers who, over a span of five centuries, battled the Arctic ice in their search for a commercial sea route from Europe to the Orient - a battle that was eventually won in 1906 by Roald Amundsen of Norway. Nearly 100 photographs and illustrations - some historical, some contemporary by Mike Reedell - supplement the gripping text.

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-Diary of an Arctic Year, by Stephen J. Krasemann (Whitecap Books; 192 pages; \$39.95). A talented photographer and observer of nature, Thunder Bay's Krasemann here relates some 150 episodes - grouped by seasons - in his life in the far north. Some are amusing, some serious - reflecting, for instance, his fears about the quickening pace of commercial development and the effect that such change is having on the young native people of the region, as well as on the wildlife. His photographs are fresh and unhackneyed.

-Cars Detroit Never Built, by Edward Janicki (Sterling; 224 pages; \$39.95). Antique cars are beautiful, of course, and can be seen in countless automotive museums. But there's no museum for those eye-catching "cars of tomorrow" that have been displayed at motor shows but never put into production.

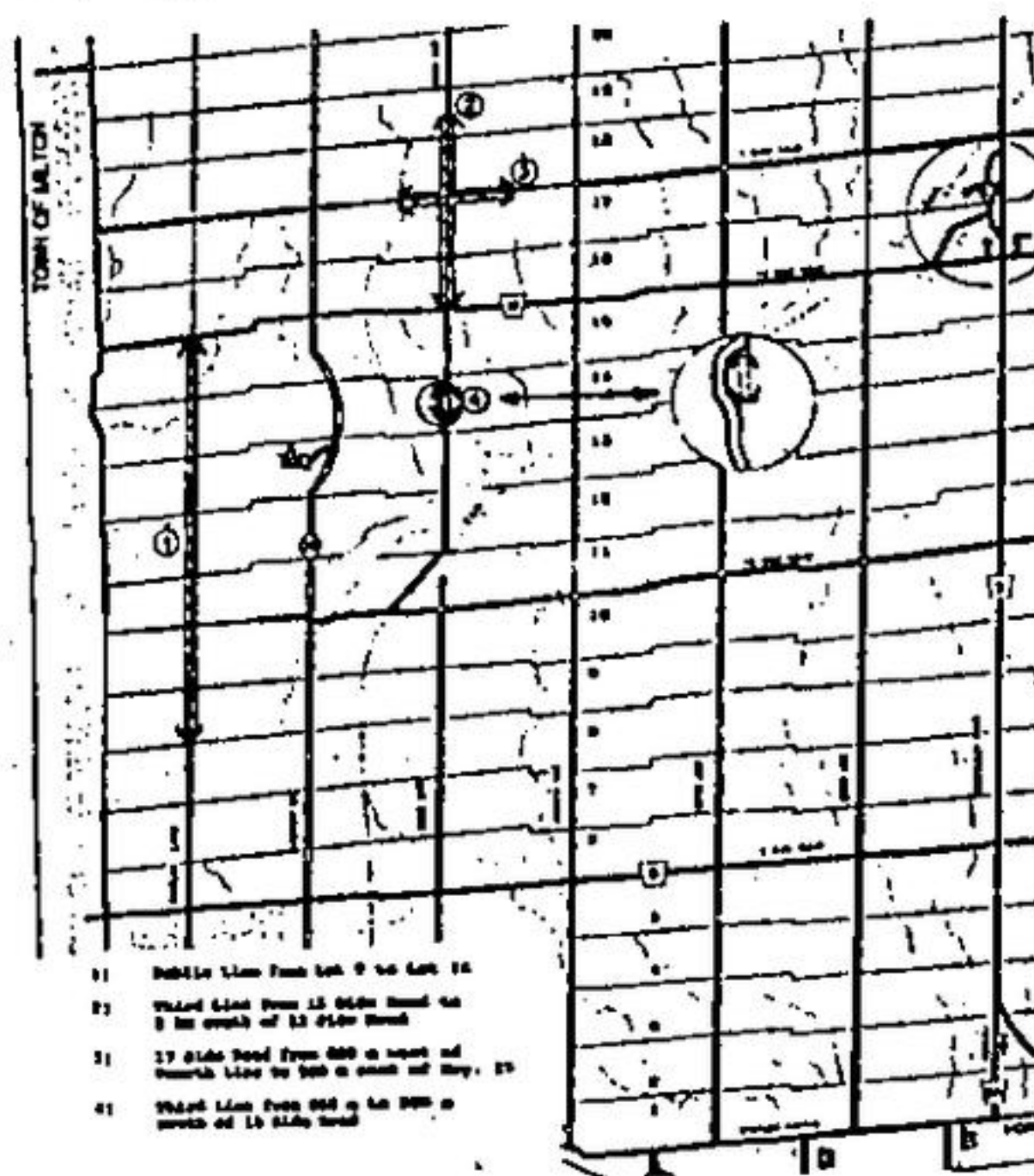
Georgetown Cinemas advertisement listing movies: "AMERICAN TALE II", "LITTLE MAN TATE", "HOOK", and "THE ADAMS FAMILY" with showtimes and prices.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and in the Coming New Year are heartily extended from all of us to all of you. The Mayor, Councillors and Employees of Halton Hills.

Nell's Driving School advertisement for a Special Christmas Course on December 23, 24, 30 & 31, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Town of Halton Hills advertisement with logo and contact information: 1 Halton Hills Drive - P.O. Box 128, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 5G2, 873-2600.

Notice of an intention to stop up and close a portion of the Dublin Line, the Third Line, and Seventeen Side Road, the Town of Halton Hills, in the Region of Halton.



Notice is hereby given that the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills intends to enact several by-laws to stop up and close the following unopened road allowances:

- 1. Dublin Line from Lot 9 to Lot 15.
2. Third Line from 15 Side Road to 2 Km. south of the 22nd Side Road.
3. Seventeenth Side Road from 650 m. west of the Fourth Line to 500 m. east of Highway No. 25.
4. Third Line from 650 m. to 800 m. south of Fifteen Side Road.

The Council or a Committee will hear any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected by the By-laws, and who applies to be heard at its regular meeting to be held in the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre, located at 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, the 20th day of January 1992, at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

This Notice was first published on the 18th day of December, 1991.

Janet Lunn Stewart, Clerk for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills.