

Merry Christmas

The holiday season is a happy time. Decorations are put up in almost every home and gaily dressed Christmas trees light up windows all over our country and for that matter, throughout the year.

Children are busily engaged in peeking into cupboards and other likely hiding places and gazing in wonderment at tinsel-clad trees under which are piled brightly wrapped, mysterious parcels. Grown-ups are doing a little last minute wrapping; and hoping that that almost forgotten card will reach its destination before Christmas day.

There is a happy, bustling spirit of good-fellowship in the air and total strangers are surprised to find that a cheery smile doesn't cost them anything and yet brings warm dividends indeed. The well loved Christmas Carols are heard again after a year's silent absence and even preoccupied business men are surprised to find themselves humming these well known Yuletide hymns.

There are the smells of Christmas too,

the glorious aroma of the plum pudding, which everyone in the family must stir for luck; and the delightful scent of fruit cake, shortbread and cookies.

All of these things are as familiar to us as are the brightly lighted store windows, and the gaily wrapped Christmas gifts. All of them mean Christmas to us and sometimes we are inclined to forget the real reason behind Christmas.

Who among us can deny the tug at the heart we feel when we spot a ragged, shivering little figure with his or her nose pressed tightly on the breath-frosted window of a toy shop? That little tug at the heart you feel is the true Spirit of Christmas, trying to force its way into a busy, modern world once more.

Resolve now to share your happiness, all year-round, with others, secure in the knowledge that Bob Cratchit, his-wife and Tiny Tim will live again, as once more around the world echo those wonderful words — "Merry Christmas".

Lest We Forget

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria). And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a

manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod, the king, had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born, and they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the princes of Judah; for out of thee, shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said Go search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod they departed into their own country another way.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, December 22, 1938.

Martin's pond is frozen over, there is a fine sheet of ice in the Milton Arena.

Milton children gave Santa a royal welcome, on his arrival in Milton. Santa Claus was met at the east end of Main Street by the band and escorted to the town hall, where 500 happy children gave him a royal welcome.

The annual Christmas Sunday School Concert of Grace Anglican Church was held on Friday evening last. Feature of the evening was the presentation of a gold watch to the retiring superintendent, John Maxted, who has served the Sunday School for 30 years.

The Community Christmas Tree has been erected in front of the town hall and adds a decided Christmas atmosphere with the beautiful colored lights covering its branches.

Thieves broke into the garage of M. E. Nixon Monday night and stole his car which was filled with dressed turkeys and chickens. The car, minus the fowl was recovered near Drumquin, in Trafalgar township, yesterday morning.

When D. C. Hunter of Campbellville, was hauling logs for the Crawford Lumber Company last Thursday, he had the misfortune to lose his grip on the canthook he was using and it slipped and lacerated his thumb badly.

When J. A. Pettit, clerk, presented Nelson council with a bill for \$113.30 for the death of nine sheep and injury to four others by stray dogs, the councillors were a bit vexed. Councillor Lawrence Bell declared that the stray dogs had cost the township close to \$700 for damages this year.

Art Crawford narrowly missed death recently when his car stalled on the C.P.R. tracks at Campbellville station.

Ministers everywhere are in favour of the use of zippers instead of buttons. It is hard as the dickens to put a zipper in the collection plate without getting caught.

Messrs. Arnold Pickett and Harold Douglas of Milton visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. S. Bennett of Zimmerman.

Hair Raising News . . . Brush-up Hair Coiffure for the New Year's Dance or Party . . . Shaws Hair-dressing.

Two wolves were seen chasing a deer along a sideroad east of Caledon last night, according to Thos. McArthur and Alex Raeburn.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, December 24, 1908.

Joseph Martin, K.C. has closed out some of his large real estate interests in B.C. and is giving up his law practice, preparatory to taking up his residence in England. Mr. Martin will argue Canadian cases before the Privy Council, but has not yet decided whether he will seek admission to the English bar. It is certain that he will take a hand in Old Country politics in the Radical and free trade interests, and may soon be heard of contesting a seat for the British House of Commons.

This week we had the pleasure of a visit to the picture gallery of C. P. Chisholm, ostensibly to have a look at two portraits recently hung. They are the work of Miss H. E. Bastedo, of Milton. These portraits are painted from life, the subjects being Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Chisholm. Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm are very pleased with them, and the artist feels satisfied she has done justice to herself, and these attributes are generally considered a fair test of good work.

Sheriff Clements has made a quick recovery. He was at his office at the court house on Monday.

Crown Attorney Dick made a quick trip to Chicago and back this week, leaving Toronto on Tuesday evening, and returning to Milton this morning, Thursday.

The managers of the rink have been disappointed in their efforts to get the ice ready for tomorrow. The weather has been too mild. A little more frost will do the trick. While waiting for ice for practice, the members of the O.H.A. team are getting into condition by running on the roads.

A meeting of the electors of Milton will be held at the Town Hall on Monday evening for the discussion of the By-law No. 409, to guarantee the bonds of P. L. Robertson Co., screw manufacturers, to the extent of \$10,000, and other important matters.

Municipal election matters are very quiet in town this year. So far few candidates have been announced. We understand that R. E. Harrison will again be a candidate for the school board for the South Ward, and Thos. McDowell for the East Ward. Mr. Dick who now resides in the South Ward, will likely stand for the vacancy caused by the resignation of A. McKay in the South Ward, and J. M. Bastedo will be candidate in the North Ward.

Jim's Jottings

● EVERYBODY loves getting mail it seems and those Christmas cards are certainly a fine idea. Mind you, it's sometimes difficult getting them off but each one that comes in seems to have a little different message that so often re-establishes a friendship with those we meet and lose touch with over the years. Had one from a chap I went to school with eight years ago and who now lives in California. He religiously refuses to note his address and I just can't seem to get in touch with him. That's one of the problems with friends who move around but his card is most welcome.

● DECORATING the Christmas tree is always one of the signs that heralds the fast approaching holiday season. Its brightness seems to add some magic spell to the atmosphere of a home. Just so there isn't too much spill, though, this year we decided to decorate our Christmas tree with paper decorations and omit the lights. Last year two small boys managed to spill it once or twice, so this year caution has got the best of us. The lights are outside where they aren't quite so accessible.

● SNOW ALWAYS seems to be necessary to spread the contagious Christmas atmosphere and this year the weather man has been extremely co-operative. It arrived with December and except

for the occasional mild spell, it has stayed right through. There's something about a white Christmas, though, isn't there?

● SURELY one of Christmas's biggest problems must be choosing the right gifts. It doesn't seem to matter whether you're in cahoots with Santa Claus or not. You always want to choose something different yet practical and yet without ties at Christmas. I know what a fix I'd be in. It really wouldn't be much fun, though, if there wasn't some challenge to the choosing.

● YES, CHRISTMAS is a thousand things. Again this year it will be celebrated and observed in many different ways, by different races of different color, in different climes and in different tongues. The significance of the Nativity Story after more than nineteen hundred years is just as vital and just as relative today as it was on the first Christmas morn. In the final essence, it is the expression of the most fervent hope that dwells in the hearts of men today, that the nations of the world will somehow, someday, achieve a real and lasting degree of Peace on Earth and that individuals the world over will acquire the courage to extend a fuller measure of Good Will toward their fellow man.

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G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief
James Dills, Managing Editor
David R. Dills, Production Manager

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