



**AND WHAT DO YOU WANT** for Christmas? Adele and Karren Sommerfeld chat with Santa Claus at the German-Canadian Club of Halton County party. Santa made his way to many different parties around the county last weekend. (Staff Photo)

## Dolls, dolls, more dolls each has a story to tell

"It's fun to get a doll for Christmas." This statement comes from a real authority, who is a world traveler and international airline executive—and who is also a man who has more dolls than almost anybody except Santa Claus! Collector Samuel F. Pryor is the founder of the International

Doll Library in Greenwich, Conn., where more than 8,000 dolls are gathered in fabulous variety. Begun in 1953 when he inherited 300 dolls from a friend, the still-growing collection includes hundreds of dolls searched out by Mr. Pryor himself, and it has also been

augmented by gifts from some of the thousands of visitors to the Doll Library—hence Mr. Pryor's personal knowledge that a doll under the Christmas tree is truly a source of delight.

The Doll Library, so named because every doll has a story to tell, is attractively housed in a 1792 barn, remodeled to provide appropriate settings for the dolls. Visits to the Doll Library are by appointment only.

Here, there are antique dolls, historic dolls, craft dolls, religious dolls, dolls of every land and every era. The dolls indeed have much to tell to the serious student of world history and world civilization.

But to Mr. Pryor, the important thing about the dolls

is that they are objects of affection—cherished by little girls waiting for Santa, and by everyone who loves dolls, to play with and admire. Along with their legacy of mankind's ingenuity.

Among the antique dolls in Mr. Pryor's collection is a 19th century beauty who turns her head, flutters her eyelids, heaves her bosom and plays a lyre, to the tune of a hidden music box.

Many other dolls in the Pryor collection make it plain that mechanical accomplishments are by no means limited to the dolls of today. For instance, a group of early American dolls includes the "Autoperipatetikos"—a walking doll patented in 1862.

Another kind of ingenuity is shown in the craft dolls, lovingly fashioned by thoughtful hands from virtually any and every convenient material—pen wipers, shells, newspapers,

wishbones, sponges, corn cobs, pine cones, pipecleaners, clay pipes, even an old potato masher.

Among them are "Mr. and Mrs. Crab," dolls with faces made from crab claws. These do-it-yourself dolls were featured in "Godey's Lady's Book" for May 1867, with illustrations of Mr. and Mrs. Crab and "how to" instructions.

Among the Library's little inhabitants, dolls of other lands form a miniature United Nations. A turbaned Brazilian dancer, a Spanish matador with cape and sword, a Japanese geisha, a Belgian lady, a German tourist, an Arabian desert prince, an Argentinian gaucho—the list is seemingly endless.

Differences may divide nations—but not in the Doll Library. Mr. Pryor's dolls get an opportunity to enact the holiday spirit of peace and good will, all year.



**FOUR-YEAR-OLD** Andy Schicht sizes Santa up, and he is just not sure what to think about the whole idea. Santa visited the German-Canadian Club of Halton at their Christmas party in the Pine St. Union Hall. (Staff Photo)

**IN RUSSIA** Russian children hang up their stockings on New Year's Eve, in anticipation of Grandfather Frost's visit. Though Communists eliminated the religious celebration of Christmas, they allowed the children's festivities of the season to remain.

### Albert of Germany introduces evergreen custom

The practice of bringing an evergreen tree into the home as part of the Christmas celebration originated in Germany, as early, it is believed, as the eighth

century. Prince Albert introduced the custom to England shortly after his marriage to Queen Victoria, and German immigrants are credited with bringing it to North America.

The Christmas tree is a firmly established Canadian tradition. The most popular evergreens used are balsam fir, Douglas fir, white and black spruce, and Scotch pine, with the order of popularity varying from region to region. Douglas fir is the favored tree in Western Canada, while balsam fir is preferred in the East. Fast rising in popularity in Ontario and Quebec is the plantation-grown Scotch pine. White and black spruce are valued for their foliage and density and shape, but have poorer needle-holding qualities. Other frequently used Christmas trees are lodgepole pine, Norway spruce and red spruce.

The average Canadian will have little trouble distinguishing Scotch pine from the firs and spruces; in any case, this plantation species is usually marketed separately. The difference between spruce and fir can be more difficult to detect. Here is a sure and simple way: Remove one or two needles and examine the twig closely. Spruce needles leave raised bumps on the twig; fir needles leave a smooth twig with small, white scars.

**FROSTED AND FRINGED** Christmas cards of 1870 were frosted and fringed with heavy silk. The folder-type card, so much in evidence today, was not popular during the 19th century, when single cards were more frequently seen.



**CY HILSON ENTERPRISES**

**DECEITFUL MYRRA** According to an old legend, Adonis, a beautiful youth, originated from a myrrh tree. Myrra, daughter of Theias, king of Syria, deceived her father and was exiled to the barren deserts of Arabia, where the gods transformed her into a myrrh tree. After a time, the legend says, the tree burst asunder and Adonis sprang forth.



### All the Best for CHRISTMAS

The treats of the Christmas season are many and varied, and our wish for you, our customers, is that you and your families may have the good fortune to enjoy them all. Thanks for your patronage!

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**HENRY & EDNA GORTER**  
KILBRIDE ONTARIO

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

A happy home — that is our wish for you and your family at this very special time of year. And for the real pleasure of serving you, our thanks!

**GIBSON WILLOUGHBY LTD.**  
ANNA AND ARCHIE CAIRNS CHARLES MARTIN

**GREETINGS**

At this joyous time of year when every heart is kindled with the warmth of good cheer... when sweet carols sound in the crisp night air and the church bells in the steeple ring out with the wonder and glory of Christmas... we pause to share in the fine tradition of extending greetings to all of our friends. May you and your family enjoy all the blessings of this happy holiday season... peace, good will and abiding love. We are pleased to express our deepest appreciation for your loyal support.

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