

Santa drops in at S.S. concert

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson
The annual Sunday School concert was held at Bethel Church on Sunday Dec. 16, following the church worship. Recitations, little plays, readings, piano solos and Christmas cards made for an enjoyable concert. Santa arrived to help unload the beautiful decorated Christmas tree of its many parcels. Santa as usual was very jovial and helped make everyone very happy. His helpers were John Bailey and Norm Flemington Jr. At 12.30 all adjourned to the church hall for a delicious hot pot luck dinner. More than 100 children and adults enjoyed this social time together.

A surprise birthday party was held for Stuart McMillan at his home Dec. 8 when friends gathered to honor him on his special day. Guests attending were Mr. and Mrs. G. Tyrell, Port Credit, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer McDowell, Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Talbot, Shelburne, Irvin Thompson, Brampton, Miss Carol Rustin, Bramalea, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Watson, Milton, and Mrs. Ossia Gummerson, W. Raine and Miss Lois Wilson of Churchville.

Euchre was enjoyed with prizes to Ken Wilson, Miss Eilson, G. Tyrell, Miss Rustin.

At midnight a buffet supper was served, with birthday cake and other goodies. We join in wishing Stuart many more happy birthdays with his wife and three children.

Club officers
The Hornby Snowmobile Club held its annual meeting on Sunday Dec. 16 with 22 adults and their families attending. President Norm Flemington welcomed the group. Russel Cole showed two films, Play Safe and Expedition to the Columbia Ice Fields. These were interesting and informative. Other films, Charge of the Snow Brigade and Kohler Engines were shown. Because of the poor snowmobiling in 1973 last year's members will pay only \$1 per machine for 1974. New trails are to be arranged and members notified. Many are interested and plans are underway for a weekend excursion by snowmobiles to the north country. Election of officers followed with the

following executive, President Norm Flemington, vice president Larry Workman, secretary Sally Harris, treasurer Elaine Workman, trail co-ordinator Ian Break. Refreshments were served. Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Tuck and daughter Joan of Kirkfield attended the Christmas dinner party for the Lister family at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lister, Trafalgar Rd., on Sunday Dec. 16. All five sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Lister of Bobcaygeon were at this happy event, along with some of their families, 21 persons in all. The parents of Bobcaygeon were unable to be present, but were contacted by telephone and enjoyed a brief chat with their family.

Birthday greetings to Mrs. Clarence Ford Sr. on her special day Dec. 24.

Kilbride

First grandchild for H. Gorters

By Mrs. P. D. J. Scoones
Dec. 4 was a day to remember for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gorter of Kilbride, as it heralded the arrival of their first grandchild named Jennifer Lynne, born to Alyce and Ken Gorter who reside in Mississauga. You can imagine the beautiful floral tributes grandfather must have sent along, as Mr. Gorter is a well known florist. Sincere congratulations go out to the family.

Mrs. I. Zwicker of Kilbride has been a patient for over a month at the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington after suffering a heart attack, and although back home for a week is now back in Joseph Brant Hospital, Room 466, fourth floor. Our best wishes for a speedy return home is our Christmas wish for you, Mrs. Zwicker. J. Pickett of Kilbride St., Kilbride, is at the Manor and hopefully will be home very soon.

U.C.W. Luncheon
Good food was one of the contributing factors which

Release folk choir record

By Roy Downs
A dream came true this week for the 70 members of Holy Rosary Folk Choir. Their first record came off the presses and went on sale and to date the demand for the record indicates it may soon be a sellout.

"Open Your Hearts" is the name of the choir's record and many of the buyers who open their homes to the choir's record are bound to "open their hearts" to the zestful singing group that in two years has made a fine name for itself halfway across the province.

The record, available in several local stores at \$4, was taped at Holy Rosary Church on Oct. 14 of this year—the choir's second anniversary. The congregation joins with the choir in the first eight numbers of "Open Your Hearts" and the choir alone completes the record with nine other favorite numbers.

Music is mainly religious folk type music and the record features everything from lilted tunes like "Try a Little Kindness" and "Kumbaya" through to the powerful "Be Happy" and the solemn closing number, "I Am The Resurrection."

See them smile
Folk music is fun and the choir operates on that theory—you can almost see them smiling as they strum and sing their way through the 17 numbers. Despite the day-long recording session and the necessity of repeating some of the numbers as often as eight times for the recording technicians, the choristers' freshness is evident right to the very end.

"Their spirit of joy is contagious. It permeates the large congregation which attends the 9.30 a.m. Sunday liturgy and bubbles beyond and about into the community," said parish priest Father J. J. Murphy in his introduction on the back of the record jacket. And it's true.

What's so special about "Open Your Hearts" is that it is not performed by some far-off star but by the girl or boy next door... your babysitter, your classmate, the boy who packs your groceries... it's as local as the mill pond and as current as today's news. And it's quality, too.

All-day job
Bill "Doc" Wright, who with his wife Jean serves as directors and managers of the youth choir, reports IPS Recording Studios brought in \$75,000 worth of recording equipment to tape the choir's numbers. They set up on a Saturday afternoon, listened through a Saturday night mass to check the sound levels on the 12 microphones, started again at 8 a.m. Sunday, taped the 9.30 a.m. mass, gave the choir an hour off for a communion breakfast, then went back to work taping and re-taping until five o'clock.

Shirley Connell, Diane Connell and Shirley Daly have solo numbers on the record but the rest is strictly a group effort—the way Holy Rosary Folk Choir has been since it was founded on Thanksgiving Sunday in 1971.

Doc Wright recalls the young people at Holy Rosary were inspired by the folk choir from St. Andrew the Apostle Church in London which had visited here in

June of that year. So Father Murphy and a group of interested adults collected 22 high school students, formed a choir and prepared them for singing one folk mass each month. "The choir was to be formed for the prime purpose of promoting congregational singing, making the liturgy more meaningful to everyone," Bill recalls.

Originals
But the choir went over so well and provided such an inspiration it was soon singing every Sunday at 9.30 mass. It has grown to 70 members and proof of the youngsters' dedication is shown in the fact that 17 of the original 22 are still active.

The choir has 12 guitarists and six members who are capable of directing. It's a self-run group with its own executive, committees and even a discipline committee. Only those of high school age are accepted and once in, they can stay in as long as they want.

Wright says the choir has been given three priorities. First is your family and home life, second is your school work, and third is the choir. Should hockey, baseball, members of the opposite sex or any other attractions get in the way the member is disciplined out of the group. And several good singers have been asked to leave, not by the directors but by their peers.

A little cramped
The Wrights had the choir practicing at their home until it grew to over 50 members and things got a little cramped in their extra large family room. Doc says he spends five nights a week and most of Sunday on choir work, not counting the extra work when the choir goes on a trip.

They have performed at masses and concerts in several other churches around Ontario and are in great demand for weddings. They also sing at funerals. Last year they gave a special concert for Marian Vanderheyden, a chorister who was badly injured in a car accident. And they visit hospitals, schools and other institutions to spread a little cheer.

The choir works from a Folk Hymnal they had specially printed so congregations could follow along and join in many of their songs. It contains the words to 74 numbers

the choir presently performs but that total is changing weekly. It has been distributed far and wide—a Blackfoot Indian Reserve in Alberta has bought up over 200 copies of it.

Shines through
Singers work from the words only, they have no written music or harmony and make up their own as they go along. Yet their harmonizing shines through on the record in the choir's own inimitable way.

The title "Open Your Hearts" was selected from the words of one of the record's songs, "Stand Together for What You Believe." Father Murphy's introduction says "our exuberant teens have opened the hearts of all who have heard them. May they 'open your hearts' to a more joyous and meaningful worship of God."

Records became available this week at the church, the Wright home at 48 James St., Boughton's Barber Shop, Country Kitchen Restaurant, McCuaig Insurance and The Champion office. And the jacket of the record features a full color photo of the choir in Holy Rosary Church, taken by local photographer Jim Burgoyne.

Juniors celebrate Christmas

The Knox Junior Church School reached the peak of their birthday party for Baby Jesus Sunday. Preparations for the party began three weeks ago.

The church school made decorations, sang new and old carols and tied the Christmas story into their Bible lessons.

The school enjoyed a film strip Sunday, as well as a message from Rev. John Murray. Children also joined in a sing-along with Mr. Kennedy.

A lunch was prepared by teachers and with Mrs. Santa's help each child received a gift and a treat. The children will join their parents in the church this Sunday.

Mercedes damaged

A '68 Mercedes driven by Ethel Gudgeon, R.R. 2, Milton received \$1,200 damage early last Wednesday evening when it left the road on Bronte St. near the CPR tracks. Mrs. Gudgeon suffered minor cuts and bruises. Milton police investigated the accident.

Cars crash in Mac's lot

A '72 Olds belonging to Douglas Currie, 471 Kingsleigh Ct., and a '66 Dodge belonging to Harvey J. Budd, 122 Bronte St. received \$400 and \$150 damage respectively following a collision in the Mac's Milk Store parking lot Sunday afternoon.

Milton Police report the Currie car was parked in front of the building while the Budd vehicle slid on the ice while approaching the building.

Inflation

Inflation is caused by people who believe in the romantic theory that someday wages will catch up with prices.

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The Council of the Town of Milton

Extends its grateful appreciation to the members of the various municipal groups that have contributed to the welfare of the town in the past year and over the past century. Many hours of personal effort and interest are extended by these public spirited citizens who serve on the Boards, Committees and Commissions and it is only fitting as Milton expands at the year end, that the past contribution of citizens to the operation and administration of the town, be publicly recognized.

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WE EXTEND A VOTE OF THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL STAFF FOR A JOB WELL DONE

THE COUNCIL TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING ONE AND ALL THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN 1974