

# Yes Virginia, Midland does have a Santa Claus

by D. Gmar Kanzler  
The ringing of reindeer bells grows louder and louder - twenty cherubic heads turn expectantly to the door. There's a booming "ho-ho-ho" on the other side of the door, suddenly it's flung open and a robust figure in red and white stands framed in the doorway.

A very real thing for this fatherly gentleman. Barely five minutes into the "exclusive" interview and out comes the

pearances at kindergartens, elementary grades, the YMCA, company Christmas parties...the list goes on

season is literally expected to be everywhere at once. With the faithful assistance of Mrs. "Claus" he does however

believe his fatigue. And there are the memories. Recollections of tugs at the beard snuck in when cherubs presumed Santa wasn't looking, innocent gazes fixed on a story-book character that had suddenly come to life, the little girl who gave Santa a nickel (her only money) so he could buy himself something for Christmas.

And then, just last week, the little girl who asked Santa to pray that her grandfather, hospitalized with a stroke, would be better by Christmas.

"If that doesn't bring tears to your eyes..." says Santa and I can see that it did.

With only a few days left in his agenda of visits, the 5,000 lollipops purchased at the beginning of the Santa season are dwindling, as is Santa's stamina. But his knowledge of what toys are in hot demand this season is at its peak. As early as September or October Carpenter makes sure he has the department store catalogues on hand so that he can start acquainting himself with this year's flow of new products.

unquestionably more than a two week job. "I'll stop when I don't enjoy it any more," says Santa in closing the interview.

Judging by the gusto and dedication of this Santa Claus a few more generations' faith in Santa will be kept intact.



Is it really Him?

The nursery school class at the YMCA had a surprise visitor last week. You guessed it, it was Santa Claus. Games were quickly discarded as Santa entered the room and all eyes turned his way. Staff photo

headgear, the 100 year old bells and chimes which originally belonged to Carpenter's mother's farm, and the throaty, all-too-familiar Santa laugh. "I'm really the biggest clown in the world," comes from behind the cloud of white. Carpenter's eyes twinkle - yes Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus.

There's no doubt that this Santa puts all he has - and then some - into reaffirming the belief of Midland's young. You get to the stage where you don't mind doing it at all, the more you get into it, the easier it becomes, Carpenter admits. And after 16 years, it has become second nature.

The usual Sunday school circuit is how it all started sixteen years ago. "My kids went to Sunday school, it fell to someone to be Santa and I was it."

Now Santa is "in such demand for ap-

and on...that bookings are taken as early as July or August.

The week before Christmas is though the busiest and the omnipresent spirit of the

manage to accommodate all requests. "By the time (Christmas rolls around, I'm usually too beat to move around much," Carpenter admits but the contented smile almost



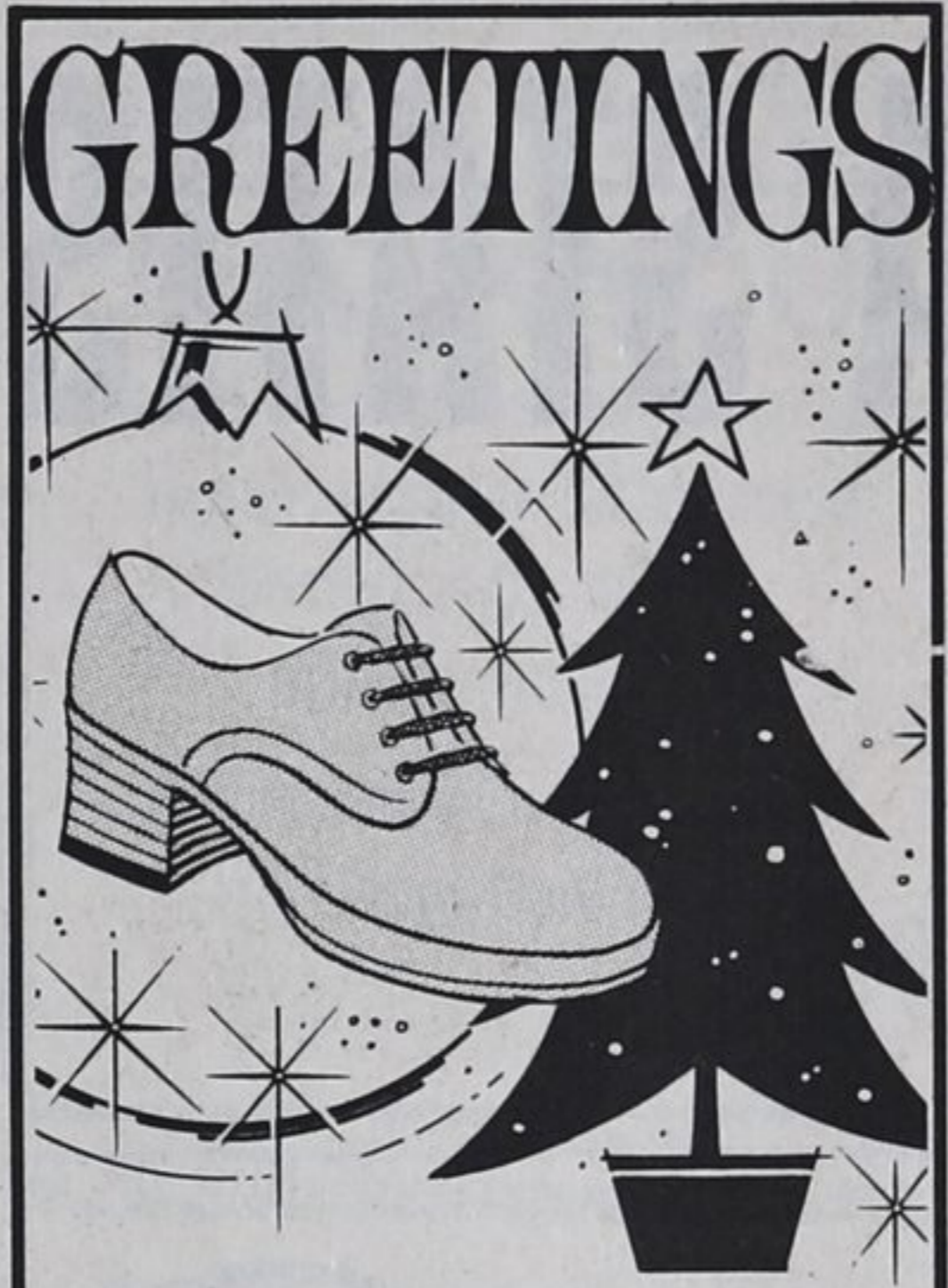
May the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace fill your hearts with love and contentment this Holiday Season

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Let the Divine Light that shone brightly upon the shepherds on the day of our Saviour's birth bring joy to you and your family this season.

T. R. MCKENZIE  
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**AN INVITATION**

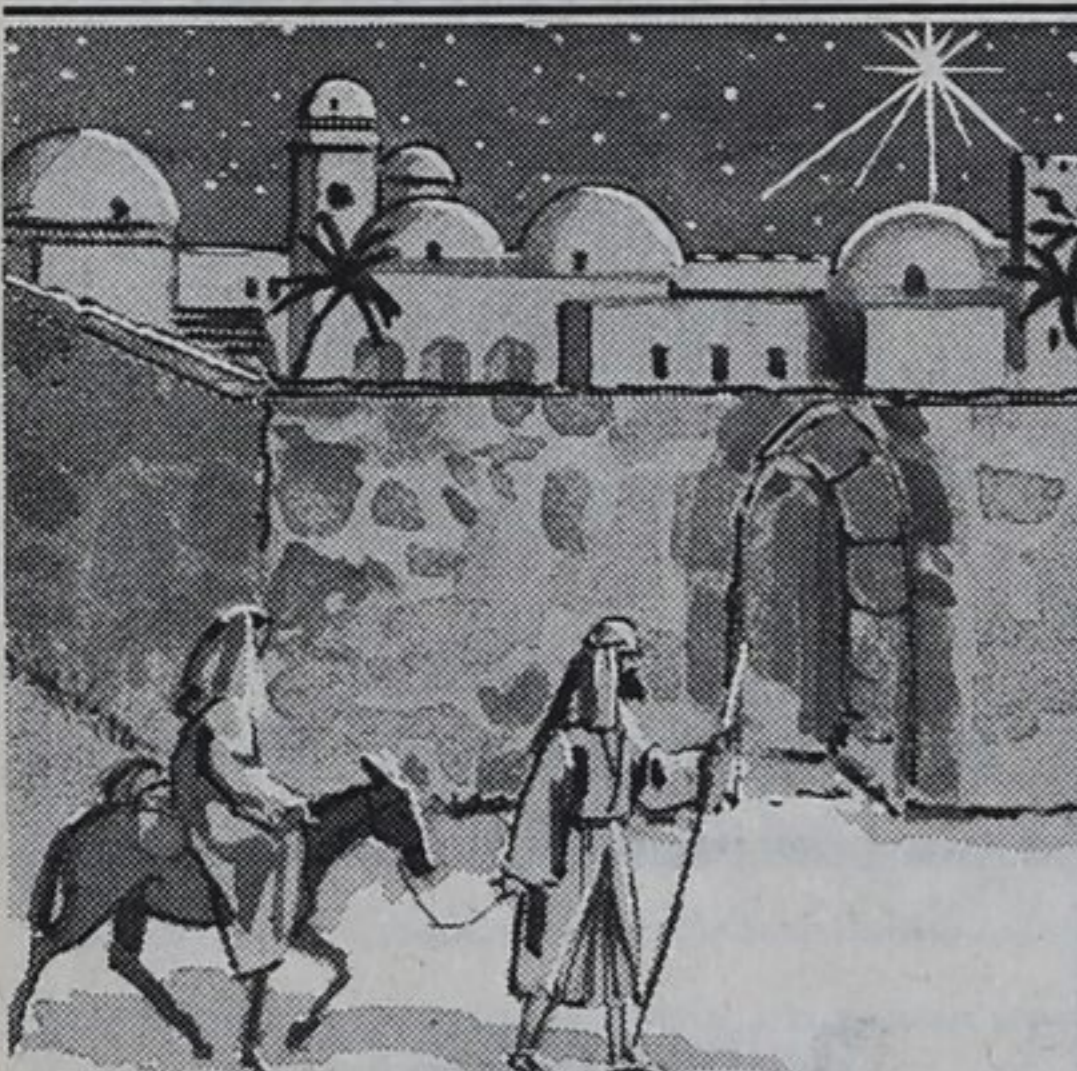
Members of the Midland Municipal Council will be considering appointments to its various Boards and Committees early in the New Year. An invitation is extended to those citizens, except employees of the Municipality, who are interested in serving on any Board or Committee to so signify by notifying the undersigned on or before January 3rd, 1977.

Wm. A. Hack,  
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