

The Women's Nook

JOAN SELKIRK

BEST LETTER

Joan Selkirk welcomes letters from the children, and each week a handsome Eversharp pencil will be given to the boy or girl writing the best letter, of 100 words or less on any subject. The winner for last week was North Batty, Richmond Hill.

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On Christmas Eve

Aunt Madge and the twins were driving down to the bush to get the Christmas tree. It was the first cutter ride the children had ever had and they loved the smooth motion as the runners glided over the sparkly snow. There had been a heavy snowfall the day before and the pines and cedars were drooping their branches beneath the heavy load they carried.

"They look as if the fairies had spread big rolls of cotton batting on them to keep them warm," laughed Jeannie. "Oh, Jock, Jock! There's a bunny" Sure enough there was a little grey rabbit right at the foot of one of the big pines. He sat quite still and watched them as they drove past as if he knew they wouldn't hurt him.

They drove away into the centre of the silent, sleeping woods. It was so still that it gave them a solemn feeling, "It's sort of like church," Jock said.

They chose a pretty little spruce tree which Jock insisted upon cutting down himself. Every blow of the axe brought a shower of snow down on his shoulders and he looked like a snowman before he was finished. But finally the tree was down and they loaded it in the cutter and started for home. It was late in the afternoon and as they drove slowly homeward the first stars appeared.

"Look, Auntie," said Jeannie, there's the Bethlehem star. Tell us the Christmas story again."

So once more they heard the old story, the story that children love especially on Christmas Eve, of the Baby Who was born in a stable and of the star which guided the shepherds and the wise men to worship Him.

Then Aunt Madge told them another beautiful story though this one isn't in the Bible.

When Jesus was a young lad He worked with His earthly father, Joseph in his carpenter shop. How He loved the smooth wood with its beautiful satiny grain and delighted in fashioning useful things for His father. The village children would come to watch Him at His work and with His sweet, gentle smile he would give them the bright, curling shavings and odd little bits of wood to play with. One day a stranger passing the shop asked Him what He made. "Why, now this, now that," he answered, "to-day because it is the eve of my birthday I have made gifts for the children—little birds and animals of wood."

"And what says Thy father, the carpenter? Is he content that Thou shouldst waste thy time in making playthings for the children?"

"Nay, my Father, (meaning His Heavenly Father) hath no greater pleasure than to fashion playthings for His children," he answered, "His sorrow is that they who are so busy and worried over many things have forgotten how to play."

And so, because Jesus loved little children and gave them gifts on Christmas Eve right down to the present day people have tried to make children especially happy on His birthday.

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WE HAVE A LARGE STOCK OF VARIED LINES OF NOVELTIES AND USEFUL ARTICLES WHICH MAKE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS—FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

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LETTERS FROM OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

Langstaff, Dec. 18, 1926.

Dear Miss Selkirk:—

I thought I would tell you how our farm got its name. The name of our farm is Walnut Grove Farm.

More than forty years ago Mr. Wm. Gohn planted walnut trees along the lane and down the front at the second. To-day they have grown until many of them are twenty-five feet high and more than a foot thick.

So because of these walnuts we call our farm Walnut Grove.

I am glad he planted Walnut trees because in the fall I gather the nuts. Then in the winter I sell them at York Market and so have extra spending money.

Yours truly,
EDGAR R. JAMES.

Richmond Hill,
December 14, 1926

Dear Joan:—

I am glad of having the privilege to write a letter in your valuable paper.

I have chosen for my subject "Winter in Ontario."

Winter in Ontario is healthful and invigorating. Ontario in the winter time is very picturesque.

We can have skating, tobogganing and snow shoeing. It is very joyful in the winter time to go for a sleigh ride, and hear the merry jingle of the bells. Winter is my favorite season of the year.

We Canadians should be very proud to live in the Province of Ontario.

Yours sincerely,
MARY KIRKLAND.

A Merry Christmas

We take this opportunity of thanking you for your generous patronage during the past year and extend best wishes for A Merry Christmas

AND A

Happy and Prosperous New Year

Hall's Service Station

Richmond Hill

Ontario