

The Liberal



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The Christmas Spirit

Christmas is the season of kindness. Christmas celebrates the coming of Christ into the world, and the heart of the Christmas message is love — love expressing itself in natural channels of friendliness and goodwill, love that "suffereth long and is kind". If we have kindly emotions, let them have their way and blossom into kindly thoughts and kindly deeds. Let the free child spirit of open-hearted friendliness prevail. For this is the Child's festival, celebrating the birth of a Child, the wonderful Giver, who gave Himself for mankind. Let us carry the Christmas spirit through all the following days that come and go with all their measure of care or pain or pleasure, and bear in our hearts the inspiration and love, hearing above all the sounds of earth and sense, the song of the angels heralding the birth of the Saviour of mankind.

Good Losers Win Respect

Mayor James Haggart of Richmond Hill, defeated in his bid for re-election, at a meeting of town council suggested that Chairman W. S. Cook should resign from the hydro commission because he failed to declare an interest when accounts from this newspaper were passed for payment.

Hydro Commission Chairman Cook is the managing director of this newspaper and he held this position when elected to the commission and during his term of office. His name appears every week on our masthead and his connection with this newspaper is well known to everyone including the other members of the commission.

It seems more than coincidental that Mayor Haggart who sat on the commission for two years suddenly after his defeat realized the omission of a declaration of interest in the passing of commission accounts. If there was anything wrong in Mr. Cook's omission it does not reflect much credit on the defeated mayor

that it took him twenty-three months to make the discovery.

We have done business in the municipality, and with the municipality for thirty-six years, and if there was any question about our accounts we would have thought it only common courtesy to have mentioned the matter to us. However, we are not complaining and we regard the incident more in pity than in anger. Mayor Haggart has been defeated and is understandably disappointed. We have been active in political life for a long time and we know how it feels to win and we are not unacquainted with the experience of being on the losing side. The record is ample evidence that many good men have been defeated, proved themselves good losers, and lived to fight another day and enjoy victory.

In sport, in politics, in life it is important to win. It is equally important to take defeat gracefully. From the record we learn that the retirement of poor losers is generally permanent.

Municipal Election Day

The turnout of voters in municipal elections leaves much to be desired and the poor showing is not confined to any one municipality but unfortunately seems pretty general throughout Ontario.

Many suggestions of ways to interest more people in the duty of casting a ballot on municipal election day have been made from time to time in the press but no success formulae has yet been devised.

Municipal business is important to every citizen and certainly if we are to have the best in government people must take an interest and cast a vote on election day. In every election there are a certain few

who find it impossible to go to the polling place and cast a ballot. Always there are some away on business, some unfortunately are ill and for those people there is legitimate excuse for neglecting to vote. However the great majority who neglect the duty do so because of complete lack of interest or the flimsiest of excuses.

One suggestion heard recently we think is worthy of some consideration. It was suggested to us that there would be more general interest if all York County elections were held on the same day. The suggestion has some merit and anything would be an improvement.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

THE HIGH COST OF GOVERNMENT

Dear Mr. Editor:

Another election in Richmond Hill is now past history; and yet recent enough to have caused anyone living here to give close attention and serious thought to what has been accomplished by those defeated and those returned to office, i. e. mayor and council. I find myself hard pressed to see any great strides made during 1962 under the leadership of Mayor James Haggart.

It would seem to be normal to square the gains made with the cost to each taxpayer of Richmond Hill and because my work gives me an opportunity to study at first hand just what other towns of comparable size are doing I have wondered if our citizens are aware that during the year now drawing to a close we have been paying our mayor a salary of \$4,250.00 which was arrived at by an increase of \$2,750.00 per year or roughly 64%. And further our councillors granted themselves \$16.00 per meeting with absolutely no limit to the number of meetings to be held during the term or year.

These figures become more interesting or alarming when compared with the City of Oshawa where as recently as last week the writer found the mayor is paid a salary of \$5,000 and council members receive \$1,200 or \$100 per month.

The cost comparison seems even more pronounced and out of line when one is aware of our population being somewhere around 16,700 as compared to approx. 65,000. In short we have been paying our mayor within 15% of what Oshawa's mayor receives and yet the percentage in population is about 74% less than Oshawa.

I will remember when these gentlemen sought support they all talked about the need for

economy and sound administration but the above figures make one wonder just how sincere they were or were not.

What has been spent or mis-spent during 1962 we can do nothing about, however, perhaps we should take a long hard look at what is being planned for 1963 and what it will cost for the service these gentlemen are offering. Certainly I do not feel any one should expect these services free but I do NOT think that the above figures are justified.

Yours truly,
M. H. Cunningham,
48 Trench Street

CHRISTMAS TOYS

Dear Mr. Editor,

The Aristocrats Rod and Custom Club wish to express our appreciation for your good services which have assisted our club effort by using your offices for the collection of toys which we are now repairing for gifts for underprivileged children.

At this time also we would like to express our appreciation for all the people who gave used toys so that this could be such a success.

Also our thanks to "The Liberal" for past services to our club in presenting us to the public.

Yours truly,
James L. Pollard
Secretary.

"PUT CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS"

Dear Mr. Editor:

This year, many people, sickened by a materialistic attitude towards Christmas, have instituted a "Put Christ Back Into Christmas" campaign, aimed at reminding people that Christmas is a glorious and joyous religious feast throughout the entire world and should be treated as such.

In particular, we need to be reminded that many of our Christmas customs have a de-

The Music Box

Busy, Busy Christmas Season

... happening just about this time that it is virtually impossible to keep tab on each and every musical activity here in Richmond Hill, so we have decided to do our best and speak a little about whatever we happened to run across or where someone invited us along for the affair.

Saturday, December 8th

This of course was the Santa Claus Parade in Richmond Hill and by all appearances this could grow into a big deal if so desired. The Hilltoppers led off the parade and the many floats were attractive and effective. The Richmond Hill Majorities strutted their very best out in front of the 411 Squadron Band of the R.C.A.F. brought in from Toronto for this parade. Santa was there of course and everyone saw him so we will not dwell on the "old boy" who gets more than his share of publicity.

The addition of a fine marching band such as the 411 Squadron Band led by P/O Bernard Clark shows that for once someone is thinking

along the right lines. If you want a good parade then it just can't be done without good bands to help out the young bands with the show. This 411 Band by the way was of more interest since it was the very same band which played for the Half Time Show at the Grey Cup Game and our own Majorities performed to their music.

A few points could be mentioned about the parade in general, and for those who dream up parades but seldom have the 'honour' of walking in one, please note. The march from Walter Scott School though not long by any means is a cold one, and facing into the west winds from across the open spaces before coming to town is no fun for those girls in bare legs and summer outfits. Also the Hilltoppers were noticeably perished at the end of the trip. The date seems to be dragged out to the very last minute and it is, or was only by an act of Providence that the weather was not colder for December. A few more degrees of cold and

there would have been no band music for the valves were just on the point of freezing.

Sunday, December 9th

I visited St. Matthew's United Church on Crosby Avenue and was very impressed with the spaciousness of the interior of the church. When I arrived Bob Madeley was busy rehearsing about 35 boys and girls for the Christmas Pageant taking place the following week. It's a pleasure to see such activity with the youngsters and from all appearances Bob could produce some real good productions with the children of the Sunday School. Victor Pilger was at the piano although I felt that he would have been happier with an organ to fill out the parts.

Then the Senior Choir started work on the evening's Carol Service with Mrs. Norma Jackson doing the choral leading. I could see that the choir was well rehearsed and that Mrs. Jackson pays rigid attention to expression marks, something not too often appreciated.

This particular point of musical effectiveness has been passed along to the choir with lovely results and their pianissimo singing was truly well balanced. Always I seem to notice some distraction. Perhaps it comes from attending so many affairs that to me certain things tend to distract. This is a very beautiful church to be sure and in the planning everything must be considered but why in the name of all acoustical creation should the choir be facing the side wall and singing smack bang into the other side of the pulpit.

This of course stems from 'tradition' without too much wrong in the first place but continues to dominate choir lofts simply as a part of 'tradition' without too much thought given to common sense. Every church is the same, or at least most of them are. Many churches do not give the choir this consideration at all and many are constructed without a choir loft only to realize the fault when it has been completed.

Another point where the 'educated' architect eventually should have some apprec-

iation of music. The traditional placing of the choir in two separate sections facing each other was never done for the purpose of better acoustics but simply as a means of splitting the pulpit area into a satisfactory section with dominance on the main feature which of course is absolutely correct so it therefore must remain the tradition. Or must it? An organ is vitally needed here to round out such a charming interior.

Sunday watching television

Caught a few minutes of Channel 11 and saw the young dancers from Midmer's Dance Studio of Richmond Hill. And let me say that the boys in particular were so outstanding that I was amazed at their capabilities. We must see more of these fellows up here in Richmond Hill. They will most certainly surprise one and all.

Sunday evening

The Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra rehearsal. Getting ready for a concert at St. Matthew's Church sometime in January. The final rehearsal for 1962 Sunday the 16th saw a general get-together of the husbands and wives of the musicians for a 'cup of tea'. Mrs. Ruth Rabinowitch was convener for the affair.

Monday evening

I had planned to hear Fred Chapman at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Maple give the organ recital (a very rare treat at the best of times) but the cold germ put me out of action, however our good friend and fellow musician Ray Thompson of Maple was kind enough to give me some details. In all appearances it was a good recital using the pipe organ of the church (another rarity - a real organ). Numbers on the programme included the works of Bach and Handel, and the contemporary English composers Thiman and Armstrong Gibbs plus our own Canadian Willan. It would be nice to see more of this type of recital supported by the various local church organists and students. This could be made into an annual clinic for choirmasters and organists of the district.

I See Where . . .
— Anne Stephenson was

By Ray Stephens

surprising just how some singers take things for granted. Mr. John Younger, organist from Brantford tells me that only last week he had to accompany a soloist for a wedding reception and the song was of course 'Because'. The rehearsal went along fine until Mr. Younger stopped in a puzzled way and asked the singer to explain this 'Roses Walking Round Your Feet'. The singer replied that he had always sung those words. After a few corrections the song continued with the proper 'Roses Walking Round Your Feet'.

Closing Chord

Kirsten Flagstad, one of the world's greatest Wagnerian Opera sopranos, died in Oslo December 9 at the age of 69. She was a leading highlight at the Metropolitan Opera Company for many years having first appeared there in 1935 when she was 39.

— Cecelia Anderson, also a Richmond Hiller, is scheduled to play the Prokofiev 3rd Piano Concerto with the CBC. This news came to me only at the last moment so if any more information is available we will get hold of it. Prokofiev, who died almost quietly a week after Stalin, is perhaps better known for his Peter and the Wolf, Love of Three Oranges opera and the Classical Symphony of ballet fame. The 3rd Piano Concerto was written in 1917 and is perhaps one of the best examples of the kind of physical exhilaration produced by the music of this Russian composer.

Because — This is a very good old chestnut sung at nearly every wedding but it's

Rambling Around

(By Elizabeth Kelson)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY MUST NEVER DIE OUT

Never! The Christmas story must not die out! Nor must the singing of Christmas carols in the churches, on the streets, or in the homes! May the end never come to the merry Christmas greetings! If anything must come to an end, let it be our over-commercialized way of expressing Christmas. Eliminate the empty, useless and insincere phrases and actions that are spread about more for profit than good will!

Christmas isn't just a time for getting. It is a time for giving. It is not just a time for buying presents and cards . . . it is a time for worship, good old-fashioned thankfulness, and kindness of heart. It is a time for the good clean ring of happy laughter and song and the willingness to share our good fortunes with others.

The Christmas story is not real in the lives of many today. Could it be because they have failed to grasp the meaning of its message? The Birth of the Saviour at Bethlehem was a very significant event for mankind. In our day, it is still the miracle of a Saviour's Birth that causes so many jaded and weary lives to become renewed again. And to the Wise Men, the Shepherds and the people who came afar to worship at His feet, the Babe was Love. He was Wonder. He was the Promise of Hope and Peace. And He still represents all these blessed intangibles of life that are beyond price.

Perhaps we must endure this very commercialistic and materialistic world where the lines of right and wrong seem to be almost blurred at times, but at least we can do this. We can help not to blot out the things that fill our imaginations with awe and mystery. Let not the sweet strains of "O Holy Night" ever fade from this earth, nor the story of the Christ Child, nor the fellowship of good people everywhere during the Christmas season. Let us keep the real meaning of Christmas in our hearts forever! Merry Christmas to you all!

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
From Arthur Lennie, B.A.
Executive Secretary to 69 Baptist Churches

Arthur F. Lennie, 31 Woodward Avenue was born in New Westminster, B.C. He is a descendant of four pioneer grandparents. His grandfather, the Reverend Robert Lennie, B.D., was the first Baptist minister in the lower mainland of B.C., and he was responsible for the beginnings of the Baptist work there. He started and ministered to Olivet Baptist Church in New Westminster, and while there initiated a branch or mission which became the First Baptist Church in Vancouver. He conducted the formal service of worship in what is now called the city of Vancouver.

"When I was eight years old," said Mr. Lennie, "my family moved to Ottawa where I completed my primary and secondary school education. Thereafter, I proceeded to McMaster University and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1937. After University I settled in Toronto. I'd like to add that I have a charming wife and four beautiful daughters."

Mr. Lennie said that he served as an officer in the Navy from June 1940 until 1945. Then he was transferred from Canadian Service to Royal Navy in July 1940, and remained in the senior service for five years. After his discharge, he went into business for himself until June 1958. It was during this time that he served Markham Township as councillor for 1952-53 and 54.

"After that," continued Mr. Lennie, "I became actively engaged in committee work with the Toronto Association of Baptist Churches, which is affiliated and very closely tied to the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. In 1958, the council of the association of 69 churches resolved to seek the services of a layman to be their full time secretary and called me to assume the office. In response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, I accepted the challenge."

Mr. Lennie said that the purpose of this office seeks to effect a close and harmonious liaison between the churches of the Association, and the various departments of denominational work. And it operates on a budget of approximately thirty thousand dollars.

"Christmas is a joyous time of celebration," declared Mr. Lennie. "We have good reason to be joyous at this time, because the angels proclaim the arrival of a King with their Heavenly songs. (Now we know that God is with us.) The Babe, born at Bethlehem, 'of whom Moses, in the Law and the Prophets did write,' has arrived. He is God, Creator of the Universe, the Source of all Power and Wisdom. He has come down to earth to be with us forever (Now we know what God is like). He loves people, especially children and humble folk. He is long-suffering, temperate, gentle and kind. And he will receive all people . . . except the self-righteous . . . the proud . . . and those who play at being God. God is with us. This is the Message of Christmas. If we receive Him and do our best as children should . . . to obey His command and to do His Will . . . Who can be against us!"

(Continued On Page 16)

Santa Claus

Santa Claus is twinkly-eyed,
Fat and round and jolly,
Youngsters linger by his side
Mid the toys and holly.
Driving many reindeer, he
Comes from northern spaces,
Bringing smiles and jollity
On young and eager faces.

Down the crowded aisles he goes,
Where rapt children mingle;
Frost has nipped his scarlet nose;
Hear his sleigh bells jingle!
He is such a jolly host,
It is not apparent
Who's enjoying him the most —
The children or the parent!

— Robert D. Little

Second Thoughts . . .
by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker was presented with a pair of snowshoes to mark his sixth anniversary as Progressive Conservative leader . . . All set for another snow-job, eh?

A new service station complex planned for North York would have frozen dinners heated in a minute while a car was being serviced. With this gulp-and-go feature it could really be a "gas" station!

The Hill's Library Board wants to have parking spaces behind the library marked with signs reserving them for library patrons . . . Like, book marks?

A Miami motorist was charged with watching television while driving on the Florida State Turnpike. We've never heard of an actual law against this, but maybe the turnpike is a non-commercial road.

What a situation for a cartoonist: President Kennedy and Prime Minister MacMillan meeting this week in the Nassau villa of E. P. Taylor — and Prime Minister Diefenbaker inviting himself to the meeting. Just show Dief in the doorway with an apron and a napkin-covered tray . . . And caption it: HEY, MABEL!

A Liberal MPP from Sudbury doesn't like Ontario's cheap wines, and — if his party were in power — he would press to have the 75-cent brands taken away from the low-income group . . . This is fine talk for a man from the land of the nickel-belt!

Canada acquired the world's hand-shaking record when a University of Saskatchewan student recently shook 10,292 hands in nine hours. The previous record was held by an English student who shook hands with 10,291 persons in 10 hours and 10 minutes. We understand the Canadian campus contestant cut his time by dressing in a Mountie uniform to get a shorter shake.

A bill introduced into the Ontario Legislature will allow people to donate their bodies — or any parts of them — to medical research . . . We just thought we'd mention it as something to think about on the morning after the office party.

. . . and wouldn't it be nice if little girls who hang their stockings by the chimney with care didn't grow into big girls who hang them in the bathroom to get in our hair?

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