

The Liberal



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The New Year 1963

(By Rev. Ralph Williams, Maple United Church)

Engleberg Valley in Switzerland, we are told has a place called "The End of the World". A huge mountain closes the pass, the road stops abruptly. It is the terminus — and there, at the end of the world — is a little inn.

We have come, not to the end of the world, but to the end of another year — 1962, with its joys and heartaches, with its pleasures and pains, with its successes and failures, all so mixed and interwoven with each other as to leave us bewildered in drawing to a close. We are wise if we pause for a little to consider this past year, and seek to bring some order out of what may seem to be chaos — before we take our first step into the year 1963.

While this same thing has been said time and time again, we are facing now a most crucial era in history. Our world is passing through a period of catastrophes and crises when every thinking individual must make decisions. If our lives are to have any real meaning to ourselves and to our community, we must develop a faith with convictions. To enable us to maintain our convictions on so many and such varied issues as — nuclear armaments, death sentences, racial issues, care for the underprivileged, the mentally retarded children, the aged and the infirm, management and labour, and our own faith in God, we must be willing to

make sacrifices. These sacrifices include the giving of our time and of our intelligence to enable us to understand at least some of these vital issues which are in the forefront of the problems of our shrinking world. And when we do understand, and have the courage to take a stand, and still allow for development in our own thinking.

Our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see through the confusion something of value, a purpose and a promise which can make a tremendous difference in our whole outlook on life. And if we dig deeply enough we discover the strength and the courage sufficient for a victory each day. There is also a challenge to share with others what we treasure most of all.

We are facing another year, 1963. What will happen during this time we do not know. No man knows. That is part of God's plan for which we may be thankful. But there are some things that we do know. 1963 will be a year in which we shall have to fight against sin and evil in all their modern forms. There will be some mighty decisions that we shall have to make. And there will be sorrows and misgivings. But throughout this coming year the opportunity will be ours to climb to greater heights than we have ever known before, and to plumb the depths in the dedication of our lives to worthy causes which will demand all that we have to give.

"Let us walk softly, friend:
For strange paths lie before us all, untrod,
The New Year, spotless from the hand of God,
Is thine and mine, O friend."

Let us walk quickly, friend;
Work with might while lasts our little stay,
And help some halting comrade on the way,
And May God guide us, friend."

— Author Unknown

The Good Community

Canadians enjoyed a delightful program last Sunday when CBC-TV presented Christmas in the country as a holiday edition of the popular country calendar. The feature was especially significant and enjoyable for people of York County as scenes shown centred around Zion Lutheran Church near Maple and district York County farms.

Rev. A. C. Forrest, of the United Church Observer and his little daughter Diane were seen on a return visit to Mr. Forrest's childhood home in Vaughan Township. There were scenes showing the Zion Lutheran Church, a familiar Keele Street landmark with nostalgic flashbacks to Christmas concerts of the past. Also seen on the program were Deputy-reeve Jesse Bryson, his father William Bryson, Mr. Roland Keffer and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Orr. The flashback scenes of Christmas concerts of yesteryear must have brought back fond and pleasant memories to viewers all over Canada who were fortunate enough to have roots reaching back to a childhood spent in the country or in a village or small town.

Rev. Forrest in his observations recalled his own boyhood days in the district and spoke of his fond and treasured memories of the Christmas season. He recalled that his father

often remarked, "we live in a good community." It was a good community, he said, and the best of that good community was the church and the best of church was Christmas.

The reverend gentleman is so right. It was a good community and any boy brought up under such conditions inherited a rich heritage. In the days so interestingly recalled in Sunday's program the church was the unquestioned centre of the community and the main focal point in the lives of all the people, young and old. In the changing times when this picture is somewhat different in modern living it would seem we have somewhere along the way lost something which was really fundamental.

The good community recalled by Sunday's program was built on the firm and solid foundation of the church. It was the centre of life and living. Does the Christian Church occupy the same dominant place in our community life to-day? It is doubtful if in many communities we could answer in the affirmative.

In planning the good community today and for the future we should be mindful of the importance of the church. The testimony of the years is that it is a sure and safe foundation on which to build.

Christmas Cheer

Through the kind efforts of the Richmond Hill Co-ordinated Welfare and Counselling Services no needy family was forgotten at Christmas. Under the guidance of Welfare Chairman Harry Thomson the members of his committee packed and distributed 44 Christmas baskets on Sunday. Each basket contained Christmas cake, food, candy and toys for the children.

Mr. Thomson is the immediate past president of the Kinsmen club. The executive of the co-ordinated welfare and counselling services is made up of 12 members representing all the local service clubs and the senior citizens.

Through the interest of Rev. W. W. Patterson the Sunday school children at St. Matthew's United Church donated everything collected at their White Gift service for the baskets.

A major contribution was made by the aristocrats rod and custom

club who during December collected and repaired used toys for needy children at Christmas. Mr. Thomson has a special word of thanks for these young men and their most worthwhile project. He also expressed thanks to the East Elmwood YWCA for their contribution of toys.

The burden of the sick, the suffering and the less fortunate is with us always. However at this joyous time of the year it is most fitting to assist those who through no fault of their own find themselves in difficult circumstances. Christmas is an important milestone in the Christian year for it marks the birth of our Lord and Saviour. The great theme of the Gospel is love, understanding and compassion for our fellow man. The co-ordinated welfare and counselling services deserves a warm thank you from all of us for remembering our less fortunate neighbours at this festive season.

The Music Box...

By W. Ray Stephens

Christmas Day in Italy, 1944
'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the land,
Not a soul was stirring,
(Except the band).

No this isn't exactly a war story, neither is it exactly a music story but it is about musicians and the war.

I was a member of the R.C.A. Band, a staunch group of musicians or what was commonly referred to as "bandmen, music - for the use of". We were 27 all told plus one British bandmaster type known as Reggie (a pretty good bloke), and two transport drivers (Bert, from Edmonton and George, from nowhere at all). It was the duty of this band in particular to cover the whole of the 5th Division in Italy therefore we were known as the 5th divisional band. We had many such titles according to our posting. Reggie had 'written' a band march in honour of the 5th and it was named 'The Maroon

Patch'. Before this it had been called 'Bull of the Woods' for a very special sergeant-major who looked after us in one of the base camps. It had several other 'special' dedications before the war concluded. We performed whatever duties befell the task of military musicians and were greatly loved by all padres and chaplains since we aided considerably in the voluntary church services where all were obliged to attend. Music for the hymns, music for burial services when time allowed, music for the army in general. Abide with Me and Last Post added some final touch of respect whether we stood ankle deep in some muddy field amid tanks, guns or what other form of aggressiveness was present, or shivered in the ruins of an old church or opera house whilst the O.C. read out the latest list of boys left behind on the last advance, and the padre paid

the respects of the church. There weren't any parades to speak of. They were all too busy sitting on top of each other, the enemy (Tedeki) and the Canadians, around the badly gashed town of Ravenna, burial place of Dante and birthplace of Enzo Pinza. This was Christmas 1944. Plenty of snow, lots of cold weather and no place to get warm. Things were actually very quiet and the troops would come in for a day from the front line about six miles up the Adriatic coast just to stretch the head up without some lone sniper making a turkey shoot out of it. The town's folk were almost as cold as the weather and I don't think they knew the difference between the Canadians or the retreating Germans who left

the area just a while before. At least it seemed to make no difference to the Italians. On Christmas day we did two rather hurried church services in two different sections and made another two army chaplains happy with the hymn singing. We seldom got around the same place twice since in order to cover the whole Division we kept on the move from place to place. In the afternoon we played for several hours in the maroon club for service men. (The officers had the big 5 club, but that's another story). Now don't for a minute think that these clubs were a social highlight. Oh dear no! The maroon club was simply two huge dirty and barren rooms of a downtown build.

(Continued on page 10)

Rambling Around

(By Elizabeth Kelson)

SHARE-A-LOAF CARDS ARE DOING THEIR JOB

People in the Richmond Hill and Thornhill districts who have been filling out Share-a-Loaf cards will be glad to know that last December 6, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom presented their first cheque for \$1,000 to Mr. Joseph Hulse, of the Canadian Institute of Food Technology and Chairman of the Mysore Project. And the Mysore Project is one of the Canadian Projects within the World-wide Freedom from Hunger Campaign launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Its objective is to establish a training centre where men and women from Far Eastern countries will be taught processing, packaging, and storage methods by which essential foods can be preserved and distributed among hungry peoples in underdeveloped Asian countries. The funds raised for the project will be used to provide equipment, qualified teachers and to support students at the training centre which will be located at Mysore in India. According to the recent report of WILPF, they had a surplus of \$1,100 to date before giving the cheque to Mr. Hulse, and this represents only some 250 cards in circulation. They still have 2600 cards in circulation. These outstanding cards represent clear surplus when they come in, because the full cost of designing, photography, die-cutting and printing has been absorbed. Those who would like Share-a-Loaf cards may phone Mrs. Ann Beckwith at TU. 4-5767 or Mrs. Mollye Brown at TU. -1740.

'DROP-OUTS' MORE SERIOUS THAN 'FALL-OUT'

Last spring, Mr. Michael Youle-White, head of the English Department of Thornhill Secondary School was the subject of a biographical sketch in this column. This past term he has been busy helping the new members of his staff to feel at home in the teaching of English. Mr. Youle-White says that the new teachers are definitely making a good contribution to the work of the school. They include Mrs. B. Bell of Richmond Hill, Miss Jane Bastedo, Mr. J. Curtis, Mr. G. Brown, and Mr. D. Cavin. Mr. Youle-White's interests extend well beyond the classroom. His booklet "The Secret of Studying For Higher Marks" is selling strongly at Cole's. In addition to his own writing, he is compiling an anthology of Canadian writing as well as doing some other editorial work on a consulting basis for Collier-MacMillan, Canada Ltd.

When I called Mr. Youle-White, he told me that he was deep in a fascinating new book, "The Drop-Outs", by Lichter, which is published by the Free Press of Glencoe, a division of the MacMillan Co., of New York. Mr. Youle-White recommends this book to teachers, administrators, supervisors, trustees and parents. "The Drop-Outs" is a treatment study of intellectually capable students who drop out of high school owing to the interference of their emotional problems with their studies. Though written to describe the Chicago situation, this book has a much wider application. Forty per cent of all the children in the United States fail to complete their high school education, and there is reason to believe that the same proportion drop out of Canadian high schools, though the precise figures are frequently disguised.

Mr. Youle-White feels that, in spite of the "Robarts Plan", the Canadian "drop-out" problem is vastly more serious than the so-called "fall-out" problem. As he expressed it, "insofar as the Robarts Plan furnishes courses and facilities for the training of many non-matriculating students (as well as for the continued education of continuing matriculants) it is a step in the right direction; but even the new courses and expensive facilities will not prevent many intellectually capable people from dropping out of high school. Why not? Because so few educators and parents possess any genuine understanding of the problem... usually emotional... that erect barriers between the adolescent and his environment and that includes school. Until now, there were few sources of information relating to these problems and their solution. There is now such a source of information... "The Drop-Outs". Its ten complete case histories illustrate how adolescents and their parents can be approached and helped in typical "treatment situations." This book should be in every public and school library.

DR. HELEN HOGG PRAISES LECTURES AT ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE

I was glad to read the article, concerning our distinguished scientist, Dr. Helen Hogg in the Globe and Mail of Saturday, December 8. Subject of the article was a Saturday night lecture at Convocation Hall by the Royal Canadian Institute. Dr. Hogg is vice-president of this 113 year old institution. According to the Globe and Mail report, Dr. Hogg said that if more people realized their opportunity to learn the latest developments in science in layman's language, Convocation Hall would be packed every Saturday night. These lectures which are free to all interested people provide a splendid opportunity to hear the most distinguished scientists on the continent who have been invited to speak because of their reputation for interpreting their science in a popular lecture. I hope many of our readers had the opportunity to read this article by Mary E. James.

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

... on some of the year's Second Thoughts. In January, we idly suggested that the SAFETY PAYS imprint on the new motor-license forms could be akin to the old story: "... and when MacTavish pays — everybody pays!" ... And look at the new car insurance rates.

In February, the Prime Minister opened a Canadian physical fitness campaign with an expression of doubt over the condition of his colleagues in Parliament. Well, they DIDN'T run so good; but look who broke his ankle!

In March, we scoffed at the name of "Amber Compact" for the new look in beer bottles, fully expecting they would become known as Little Brown Jugs... So what are people calling them? Beer bottles!

In April, Fidel Castro was awarded the 1961 Lenin Peace Prize and we April-foolishly prophesied that 1962 might see him getting the "Rest In" to go with it... Only expecting it to happen on a local basis.

In May, Ellen Fairclough opened a Burlington meat plant by cutting a string of weiners — qualifying for her later appointment to postmaster general by the way she handled their envelopes.

In June, we noted the TV prediction that more Americans than Canadians would see the Grey Cup game, which turned out to be right — since only the players actually saw it.

York County's EMO has been operating from part of a Newmarket gas station since last July. We're repeating this because people keep coming around and asking them, "Is it open?"

In August, a left-out hyphen caused a blow-up of the first U.S. Venue-probe... And when the Superior Propane tanks exploded there were a lot of dashes out of Maple.

In September we suggested that, with Cuba a member of the Soviet Block, Fidel Castro could be called a block head... Which would make President Kennedy a blockbuster.

In October, we blamed the bus service when Magistrate Hollinrake complained that the Hill's new court wasn't getting any genuine criminals... Inexcusably overlooking a comment on sin-thetic crooks.

In November, our remarking on the basic decency of the Toronto bank robbers, who blindfolded the bank janitor before locking him in the women's washroom, proved to be well founded. The two men, now charged with the crime, naturally turned out to be Irish.

And earlier in December we complimented Richmond Hillers on picking a council without the Toronto-type assistance of three newspapers... All they needed was a little help from two County Court Judges.

All in all, it was a Happy Old Year!

Tuesday, Wednesday - January 1, 2

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"ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"
starring BETTY HUTTON HOWARD KEEL
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

- plus -

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Please Note: Tues., Wed., last complete show 8.30 p.m.

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Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues.
Dec. 26 - 27 - 28 - 29 - 30 - 31 Jan. 1
Wednesday, Thursday - December 26, 27

SON OF SINBAD
starring DALE ROBERTSON - SALLY FORREST
LILL ST. CYR - VINCENT PRICE - MARI BLANCHARD
color by TECHNICOLOR SUPERSCOPE
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Tristie
MOLLYE BROWN - HELMUT SCHMID - KAI FISCHER - BUDDY BAER - JEFFREY THE DOG - VALLE THE DOG
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Please Note: Wed., Thurs., last complete show 8.30 p.m.

Friday, Saturday - December 28, 29

"Some of the greatest fun Hollywood has ever produced!"
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Sunday, Monday - December 30, 31

THEIR NEWEST RIOT!...
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SCREENPLAY BY ELWOOD ULLMAN - BASED ON A STORY BY NORMAN MALBERG
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THE GREAT DIAMOND ROBBERY
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