



(Photo by Stuart's Studio.)  
After bicycling to Victoria Square with more than 50 other students from Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic School, grade 8 students Paul Taalman, 13 (left), Greg Shearer, 13, and Anna Majury, 13 are shown at work preparing drawings and essays to describe their findings.

### Field Trip By Bicycle

Fifty-six grade 8 pupils of Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic School on Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, did not put much of a strain on the school's field trip budget when they took off one fine day in November for Victoria Square.

Accompanied by Teachers Craig Lee, Eleanor Horrigan, Noel Cooper and Ed McGuigan, they mounted their bicycles and set forth on the three mile jaunt to study the geography and history of the tiny village founded in the early 19th Century.

Purpose of the trip was to study the village as the centre of rural farming region, its industries, community facilities, and the shopping and occupational routines of residents of the village.

The students also studied the two cemeteries in the village and on their return to school, plotted geographical layout past, present, and future. Essays were written to describe the findings about the people and the industries that have kept the village alive and growing for more than 150 years.

ing the summer employs students to supplement the regular staff.

Rev. Martin Jenkinson, minister at the village's only church, Victoria Square United Church, also served as a guide and source of information. The church was built in 1830 and has a membership of 105 families. It seats 200 people. In addition to the regular Sunday morning service there are Sunday school classes for adults and children.

Through the week there are choir meetings, UCW and youth club activities.

Supplementing the essays, are a number of drawings and charts prepared by the students individually or in groups, after the trip. A breakdown of population 18 and over shows 9.5 percent farmers, 10.5 percent retired, five percent students, 31 percent housewives, and 44 percent with other occupations. Of the wage earners, 15 percent are farmers, 30 percent in service occupations,

25 percent employed in industry and 30 percent in commercial enterprises.

If the community grows, as the charts prepared by the children indicate they believe it will, it will in the future have a local school, hospital, office complex and shopping centres to serve people in many new houses.

Maps of Victoria Square, past, present and future, were prepared by Al Barnett, John O'Connor and Al Barnett, show the pattern of growth. A layout of the present community was prepared by Jeff Barber.

Large drawings of the exterior and the floor plan of the church were prepared by Aidan Killeen, Kevin Gibson, Craig Clack, Mike Roman and Kevin Bryan.

In her essay on the church and graveyard, Mary-Margaret Lavlor reports that there were ten weddings in the church last year and 17 funerals.

Charts showing the breakdown and occupations of Vic-

toria Square residents 18 and over were prepared by Greg Shearer and Paul Taalman.

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Working in small groups the youngsters visited Victoria Square United Church, the community hall, slaughter house and shopping facilities.

They found Herman Morton, 70-year-old custodian at the community centre a valuable source of information. A member of one of the community's earliest families, Mr. Morton took the group on a tour of the centre and surrounding park. They learned the large hall is used for sports and large gatherings, dances, banquets, auctions, card parties, wedding receptions, etc. It has kitchen facilities and a room for small meetings.

The children were told that the previous hall was too small and lacked parking space so the Women's Institute raised \$5,000 to buy land, and farmers got together to level it for the new centre which was built in 1960 and was originally a miners' mess hall for Denison Mines in Elliot Lake. It was donated by Denison Mines President Stephen Roman, a resident of Victoria Square, and erected by men of the community.

The students found the sleepy hollow atmosphere of the village appealing, with no apartment buildings and few shopping facilities. They were unhappy to learn that 56 new homes are to be built at the centre of the community at 18th Avenue and Don Mills Road. "This 'progress' may ruin this quaint village," wrote Cathy Verkuy in her essay. "Introduction to Victoria Square"

The only side streets, they found, were Victoria Street and Albert Street, named for Queen Victoria and her Consort Prince Albert.

Despite the fact that there are only about 280 people in the village, it is an active community with Junior Farmers, a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, Lions Club and other groups all meeting at various times in the community centre.

Boynton and Sons Butcher Shop and slaughter house were included in the tour. Rae Smith reports that the business has been in the family for three generations and the present building includes an anti-room, slaughter room, curing room, cooler room, packer room and offices.

About 30 cows are slaughtered weekly, and 70 percent of the carcass is sold for meat, the rest used for fertilizer, cattle feed and other purposes. For humane reasons the cattle are shot between the eyes with plastic bullets fired from a 22 calibre rifle. Owner James Boynton cuts his own meat and sells it to Canada Packers, Country Place and to townspeople. He has eight regular employees, and dur-

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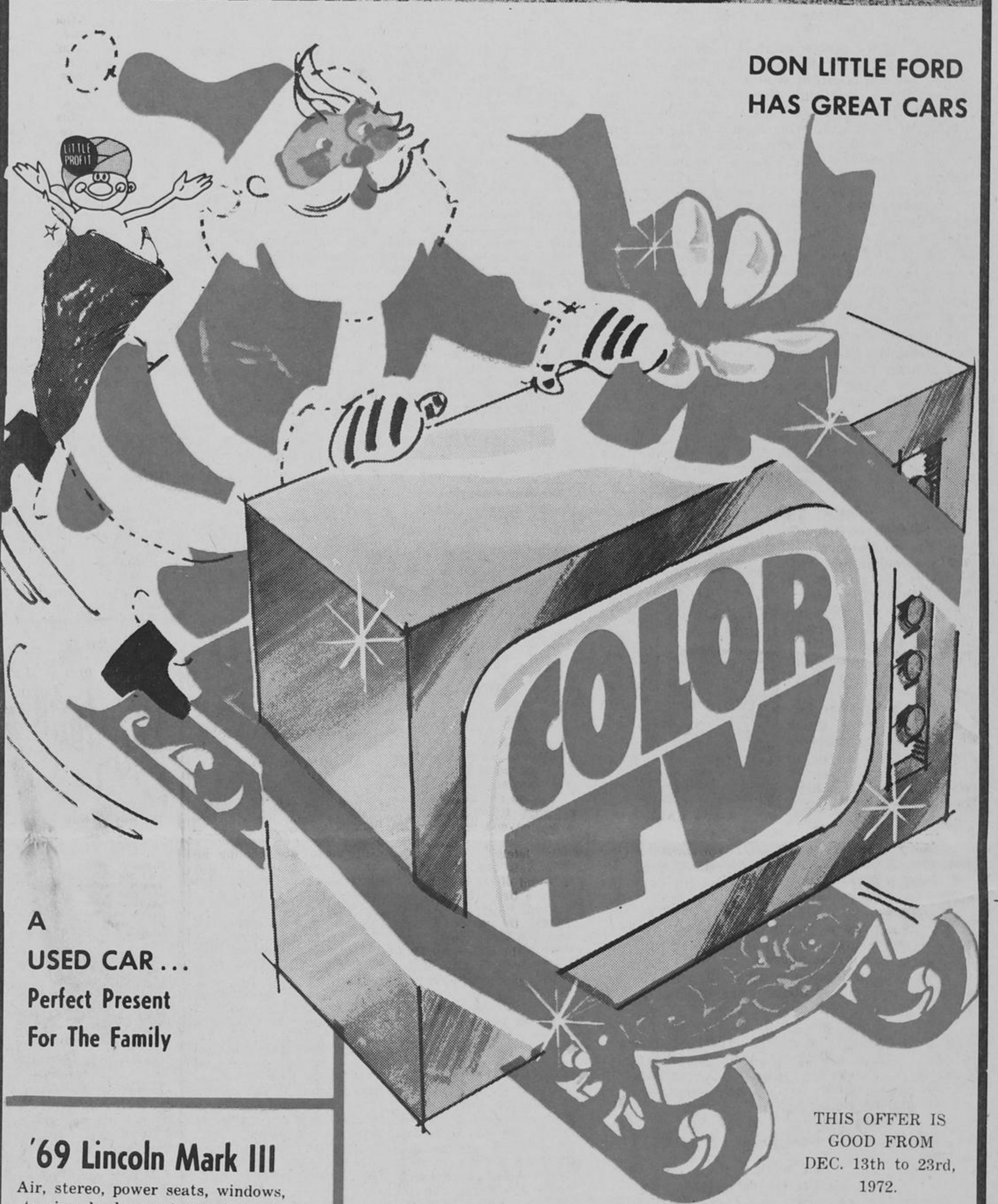
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