

# CASTOR REVIEW

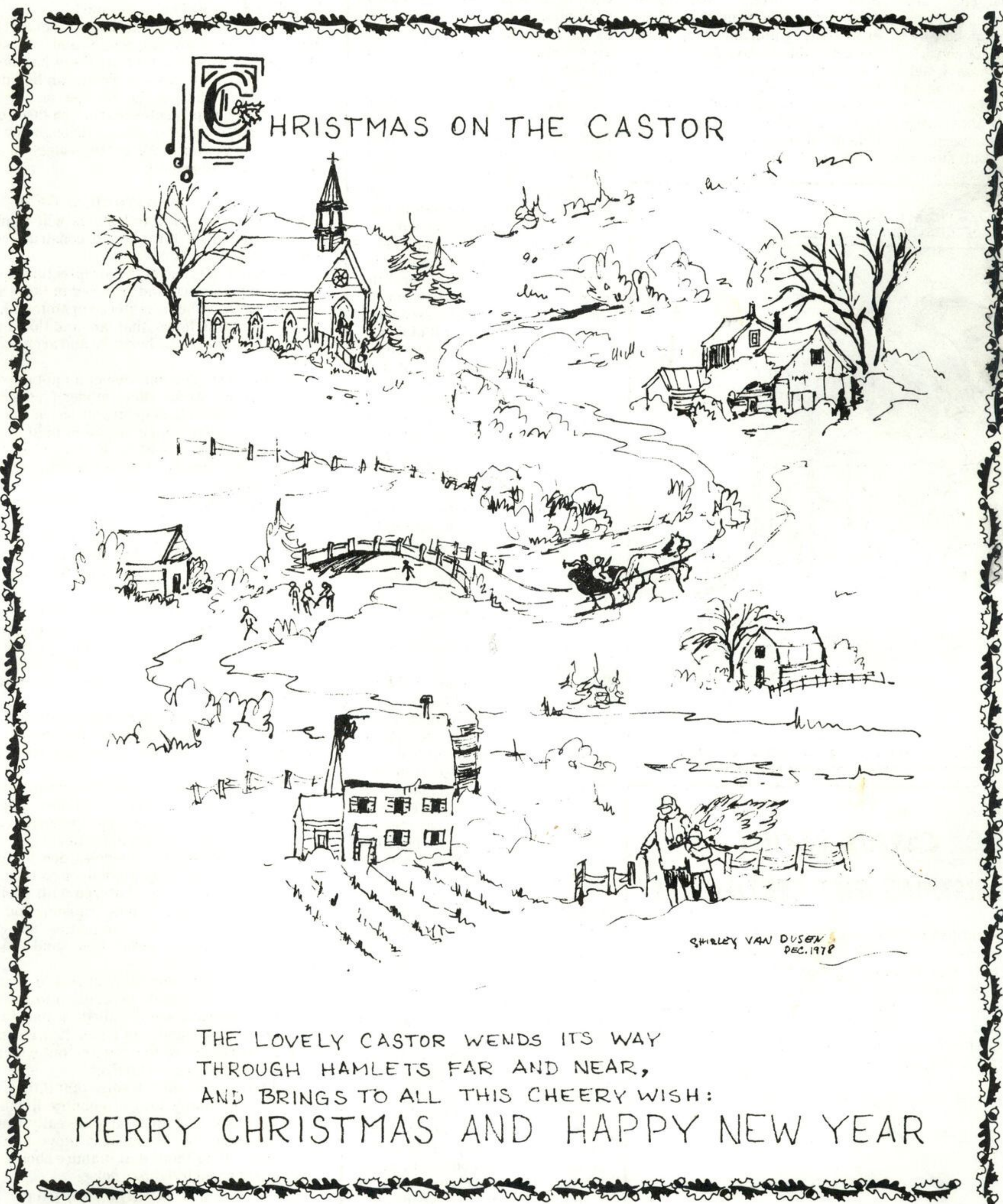
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## Christmas package

In a special 14-page edition, this month's Castor Review attempts to capture the Christmas spirit. From Shirley Van Dusen's sketch below to Castor Earl's lament on page 14, and the whole tied together with Mary Rowsell's photographic glimpses of Castor area residents doing their own things in preparation for Santa's visit, the issue hopes to bring the spirit to those who haven't found it and to heighten it for those who have. Meg, Mark, Suzanne and our contributors from the clergy contemplate the special time of year, Beaver Bob offers a touching short story, and Rhita Harrison reveals how to make a Christmas wreath. All this and more; even a recipe for a Christmas feast with a difference, with guarded thanks to our editor, in Castor Cupboards.



THE LOVELY CASTOR WENDS ITS WAY  
THROUGH HAMLETS FAR AND NEAR,  
AND BRINGS TO ALL THIS CHEERY WISH:  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



## Sidewalk Talk

By Mark Van Dusen

### No excuse for Christmas blues

Every Christmas, the same people sing the same blues: Christmas is too commercial, there's no Christmas spirit anymore, Christmas is for kids.

Unfortunately, these same people are content to wallow in self-deprecation, feeding on the very things about which they complain. They buy \$100 worth of Betty Burps and GI Jerks (with maybe even a Homo Herman thrown in), eat the same plastic turkey dinner, throw a string of lights on a synthetic tree and wonder why Christmas has no special meaning for them.

They — among them, Castor Earl whose Scroogy views on

Christmas are set down in this issue — should recall when it did have a special meaning for them, if indeed it ever did. They will realize that it was so because they were not satisfied to go through the bare motions of Christmas, they got involved. If Christmas is to be a personal thing, it must be made so. It will take a little effort but it will make Christmas more than just another date on the calendar, guaranteed.

"Waddya mean?"

Well, Sloucho, put down the beer and the butt and get to work. Here are just a few ideas:

String some outside lights (not too many, you don't want to turn

people off), hang some boughs with red bows from the porch pillars, make a wreath for the front door, snow-stencil the windows, build a snowman, cut your own tree (where you can do so ecologically).

Bake gingerbread cookies (don't forget the colored Royal frosting), Christmas cakes, plum pudding, a gingerbread house, minced meat pie or tarts, tourtières, a turkey, mix a wassail, brew mulled wine, bake a yule log cake, glazed yams, make cranberry sauce, egg nog, sugar plums.

Build a manger, make salt-dough ornaments, string cranberries and popcorn for the tree,

wrap the bottom of the tree in bright paper, make pine-cone decorations, hang a stocking by the chimney with care, leave a snack for Santa Claus Christmas Eve, hang boughs on your banister, play Bing Crosby's White Christmas, hang holly, light a yule log, roast chestnuts, make a Christmas candle, a centrepiece, a wooden toy.

Go to a midnight church service, go carolling, send a Christmas card, visit a neighbor, throw a party, have a sleighride, read Dickens' Christmas Carol, make a rink, go skating, skiing, snowshoeing, hang sleigh bells, tinsel, send a letter to Santa for a child, play

Santa for a children's party, go home for Christmas, participate in Christmas charity campaign.

Oh yeah! Hang a mistletoe and wait for your first Christmas kiss, you'll deserve it.

