

AROUND TOWN

with WIN PACKER

Throughout the Christian world, plum pudding is our traditional dessert for Christmas dinner. The origin of our plum pudding dates back to the time of the Crusades when on feast days, home-made cakes served "Frumenty", a pudding of boiled grains, eggs, yolks and milk. Over the years imaginative cooks added spices and fruits until the time of Charles Dickens when in his Christmas Carol, the Cratchitt family's plum pudding "was like a cannon ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half-a-quarter of ignited brandy, with Christmas holly stuck on top". How Tiny Tim would have relished a piece of delicious plum pudding from our own Stouffville Bakery. Oh so tender and good, so plump full of fruit! Well, we can! And I'm planning on sending a few to my folks too, along with some of Stouffville Bakery's famous pure butter shortbread... smooth perfection to the very last crumb.

Every young hopeful on figure skates dreams of skimming over the ice like a star of the Ice Capades... or scoring the winning goal with the Stouffville Clippers. Shod in perfectly fitted skates from Weldon's Shoe Store, they're on their way to attaining their dreams, for the ice skaters stars are born in the hometown rink. Weldon's feature both CCM and Bauer skating outfits in sizes tiny to tremendous... skates for everyone from beginner to professional. Everything for the skater... protective leather dressings, ankle supports and blade guards which would be ideal stocking fillers! If your boots get wet, stuff them with newspapers and dry them at room temperature, away from direct heat. Dry the blades after every use and they're safe from rust. Make this a happy AND healthy Christmas... get the family on skates!

It's the early bird who wraps the prettiest Christmas parcels with paper chosen from Houston's striking assortment of gay and gorgeous gift wrap while the selection is complete... packaged sheets with lovely Christmas symbols... sparkling foil in all the colors of Christmas... economical cutter-box rolls of gay prints, or traditional tissue... of course plenty of lovely ribbons, and in case you are a "butter-fingers", prepared ribbon bows... delightful gift "tie-ons", miniature Santas, candy canes, snowmen and many more. You'll find a grand selection of boxed Christmas greeting cards at Houston's Drug Store, some for children, a new line for teenagers, Canadian artist series, religious themes, as well as boxes of assorted cards including one huge economy box of fifty for 88c. The most beautiful packages are wrapped by Houston's!

If you have a Christmas list as big as your love, you're probably reaching that stage of not knowing what gift to choose, especially for loved ones away from home. What better gift could they have, one to keep them in close touch with the folks at home, than a gift subscription to our Stouffville Tribune? They'll know what's going on every week of the year as their paper arrives regularly in the mail. Subscription rates are \$3.50 anywhere in Canada and \$4.50 in the United States. An attractive greeting card, supplied by The Tribune will express your Christmas wishes and inform the recipient of your regular enough future. There's something so personal about a Tribune gift subscription, for those away will feel closer to old friends at home.

Santa's Toyland in Hendricks Hardware is a children's paradise. The young fry press their noses to the window, completely awed by the hundreds of exciting toys displayed. Little girls just ache to mother one of the beautiful dolls, (there's one baby that even sucks her thumb as you cuddle her close) and of course there are cribs and cradles for all. Oh the fire engines, cement mixers, rockets and steam shovels that really work... the road racers, trains and the projector with dozens of colored slides... and just the thing for the young M.D. Is Ben Casey's own Doctor's bag. Santa's mail box, located just inside the door is being filled with letters from boys and girls, and Santa is sending out his replies just as fast as he can. Bring Mummy and Daddy to Hendricks to show them what you'd like for Christmas... and remember to be very good.

For men only! Your wife may not really look like a movie star, but wait till you see her in one of the filmy shift gown and peignoir sets they have in the Marguerite Shoppe! You'll whistle! After a good look at Marguerite's window display, take a deep breath, march in, as easily as that, you can choose HER Christmas gift. YOU may prefer black, but SHE'll love the delicate tints of moonbeam or bluegrass... tone on tone of sheer and opaque nylon. Of course she may be the type who prefers a long-sleeve, to touching granny gown in cosy brushed arnel, cute and cozy as Grandma herself. Then, for a lady on anyone's list, there are the beautiful matched daytime lingerie sets of luxurious Satilene in fascinating new shades.

It's the wise homemaker who has the foresight to order her turkey now, for she can be sure of getting the size she needs for her family's Christmas dinner. Schell's Food Market, with their enviable reputation for their home-grown beef, also raise their own turkeys (capon and chickens, too) so you know you are getting the very best! What pleases most is that at Schell's I can have a FRESH turkey, which is far superior in taste and texture to any frozen bird. (I'm always wondering just how long that bird has been frozen!) They'll hold your order for delivery anytime up to Christmas. If you have trouble removing a turkey from the roaster, try this... lay out four pieces of string, twice the length of the bird. Cross with six shorter lengths, tying at each juncture. Place under turkey, with string ends rolled up in foil. After cooking, gather up the ends and lift the turkey in its cradle from pan to platter.

Christmas lights glow brightly on Main Street, and in Herb Krings Furniture Store I found an even greater glow, for their large stock of lamps has arrived! Lamps of every kind, and such beauties... dainty boudoir pairs for milady's dressing table... graceful shapes and styles to give a soft glow in the living room... practical study lamps for Junior's homework... floor lamps for Dad to read by... every one a bright idea for Christmas at your house. Did you know that one 100 watt bulb will give twice the light of four 25 watt bulbs? It's a fact! Krings also have a grand selection of mirrors, in sizes and shapes for every room in the house from a small "last minute check-up" hall mirror, to a huge PPG Peacock mantel mirror... beauty reflectors, every one!

When you take a prescription for your eye correction to an optician, do you know how your glasses are made? I do! For I spent a fascinating hour with Howard Mills who demonstrated how the lenses are ground and shaped, and the frames molded to fit the glasses in a heated glass beads. He showed me spectacle frames over a hundred years old as well as the most modern frames of aluminum. Mr. Mills is an ophthalmic dispenser who really enjoys his work and is happy to explain the "how" of making and fitting glasses to anyone calling at his office on West Main Street. Ideal for Christmas giving are his attractive holder chains for those who remove their glasses frequently, or the glamorous brocade glass cases, which he tells me the smart set are using as party purses!

I find myself irresistibly drawn to the china and glass section of Waggs' Jewellers... the beautiful Bohemian and Venetian glass... crystal chandeliers or subtly tinted and formed to hold all the sweets and relishes of Christmas entertaining... the Spode, the Royal Doulton and the Wedgwood china... such treasures to have if only a single cup and saucer, or a place setting to add to, or a complete dinner service. You know, although bone china is more resistant to breakage than pottery or "every-day" dishes, if you DO have a crack, it can be obliterated by boiling in a pan of milk for 45 minutes. Waggs have a fine selection of Doulton figurines, old favorites like the balloon sellers, as well as a new collection of lovely ladies, each one named of course... exquisite pieces any woman would love to own.

The Sherpas of Tibet were the carriers who made it possible for Sir Edmund Hillary to conquer Mt. Everest. Extreme cold was one of the most formidable obstacles to their success. Well, it gets pretty chilly in Ontario, but the gals tucked snugly into an Orlon pile of the "Sherpa" jacket will be cosy and warm. Sherpas are only one of the many styles of winter jackets at the Village Shop. There are quilted rayon reversibles, laminated poplin and jersey, suedes, corduroys, both quilted and pile-lined... warm and fashionable... in ski or walking lengths... for the winter freeze-up. If you're a ski enthusiast, a skater, or just a snow-shoveller, there's a jacket for you at the Village Shop... you'll be ready to climb any mountain too!

\$700 JUDGMENT AGAINST COUNTY

A judgment for \$700, without costs, has been handed down by Mr Justice Stewart of the Ontario Supreme Court in favor of Edward Taylor against the County of Ontario. The hearing of the action was at Whitby. The action was brought by

the plaintiff to recover damages from the County of Ontario. It was alleged he was cut off for farm business purposes from entrance and exit to and from his farm for a period of eight weeks as the result of the defendant's alleged negligence in its work on improving a road running eastward from the north-west corner of Lot 20 in the Village of Leaskdale, to a point in Brock township.

Article Seven History of the Old Order Mennonites

P. S. Bauman

These people have many unusual customs and qualities, which due to lack of space could not be told in the preceding articles. This article tells about some of these characteristics. They do not own cars, telephones, radios, television sets or musical instruments because these are considered unnecessary; worldly inventions, as they firmly believe to be separate from the world. They do not have the regular forms of insurance such as life, fire, etc., yet they have a very practical form of fire insurance themselves. When a member's house or barn is destroyed by fire, they replace it and collect from their members usually enough money to pay for all of the new building. By this method a person gets the maximum benefit, yet pays only the minimum premium as they only pay for actual losses and not for reserves which ordinary insurance premiums cover.

Baby bonuses and old age pensions are not accepted as they are conscientious objectors or pacifists, and should war break out, they feel that they don't owe the government anything so they won't enlist in the army. Also, the British Government promised them exemption from military service as long as they lived on British soil, when they moved into Canada. However, some of their young men were forced to serve (hauling munitions with their four horse teams and wagons) in the War of 1812-14 and also in non-combatant areas during the last two World Wars. They also worked for very low wages (50c a day) in conscientious objector camps in Canada during World War II.

These people appear to have an affinity for the soil and farming in general. Farming is a tradition with them and very few leave for other work even if they leave this group. Parents encourage their children to stay on the farm by giving them generous help, maybe financially, or by buying an adjoining farm so that they can take advantage of the help situation etc.

Frills and luxuries are also avoided. They never had them, are considered worldly, and avoiding them is probably a carry-over from pioneer days when they were fortunate in having the necessities of life. Similarly with education, an elementary schooling seems sufficient for them, as both boys and girls learn the art of farming as apprentices while working at home or for neighbours which gives them direct contact with their future work.

Their mental and physical health compares favourably with people outside of their group. Doctors and teachers in their area say that such is the case despite the fact that a considerable number of them intermarry. Teachers say that their pupils as a rule are the easier ones to control in school, likely because they are disciplined and are made to work regularly at home.

Regarding their courtship customs, I'll quote two sentences from the famous novel about these people, The Trail of the Conestoga, by the late

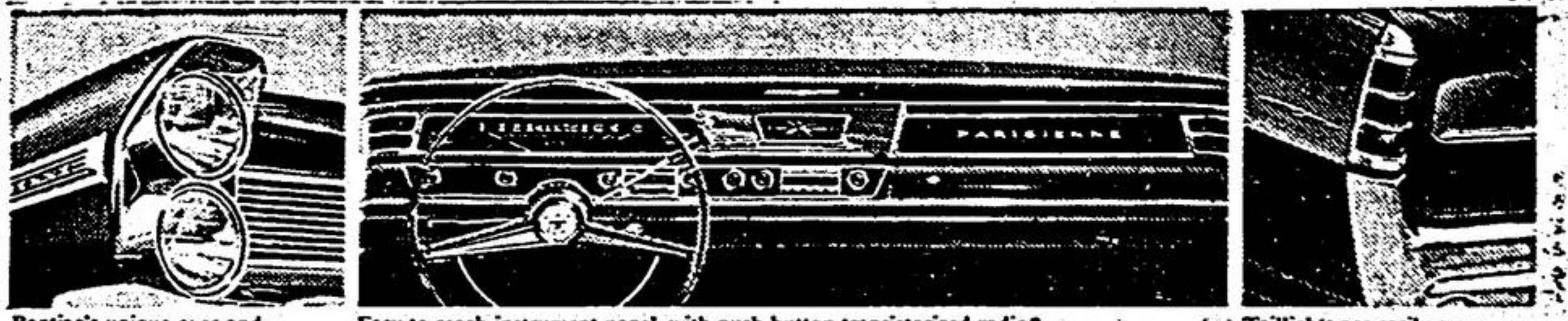
Mabel Dunham, which expresses very aptly their attitude towards this practice. She says that "Among such industrious people as the Mennonites, it is not to be thought of that the precious working hours of the day should be devoted to the billing and cooing of lovers. If they must do it, they must do it at the expense of their sleep." (pages 49-50). The only opportunities that their young people have in getting acquainted with each other is at their Sunday evening gatherings commonly called "Singsings". A young man in his late teens may take a girl, who, appeals to him, home in his buggy or cutter on a Sunday night. He may also meet one that catches his fancy at a wedding or maybe he comes to get his sister at a quilting. In any case if they are interested in each other, the young man will then follow the old tradition of the church which is to call on his girl friend once a month on a Saturday night and court her in the living room of her home or the place where she works. This "setting up" in the living room of the girl's house may be considered a pleasant recreation in an otherwise uneventful existence and helps to break the dull, monotony of their life. He will of course see her at singsings, maybe at weddings or quiltings when he takes advantage of the chance to take her home. Considerable secrecy pervades the entire period of courtship. Usually young couples "court" each other in this manner for about two years before they get married. Young men normally marry between the ages of 21 and 25 and the young women a year or so earlier.

The plain clothing of both their men and women is another symbol of their non-conformity to the world. They also take seriously the scriptural prohibition against the wearing of gold and pearls and apply it to all jewellery including wedding rings, and as a result do not use any of them.

Old Order Mennonites emphasize the separation of church and state. Office holding which would infringe on the life of love and non-resistance is not permitted. None of their members therefore can be a councillor, a reeve in the township or hold any other public office, except that of public school trustee which they seem to accept.

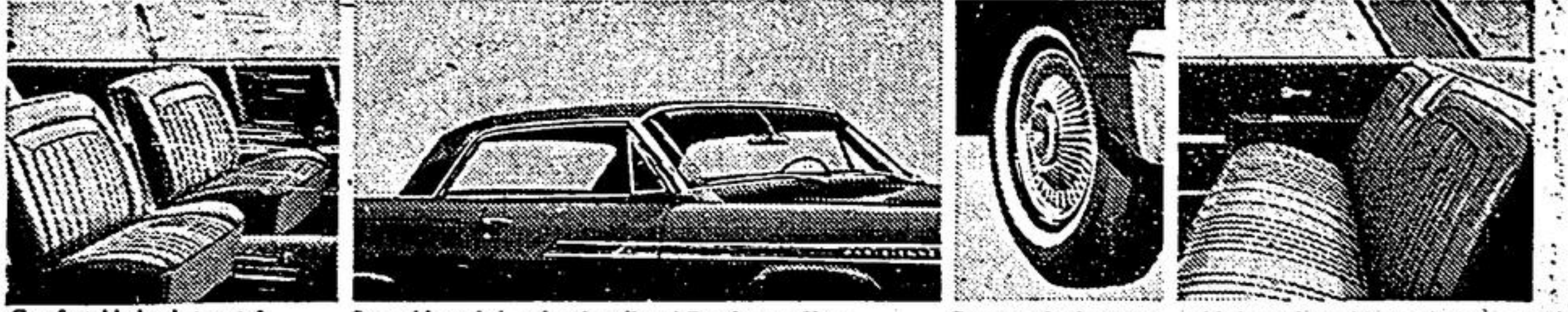
They send no cards to anyone at any time such as at Christmas, Easter, or for birthdays and anniversaries. Children never have any birthday parties nor do they receive any gifts or presents on their birthdays. Card parties, dances, service clubs and lodges, are considered as worldly, unnecessary, time wasting and expensive activities and they do not patronize them. No medals, pins, badges or trophies are ever accepted or worn by these people, and they never hold any church suppers or banquets.

Their churches are not named after Biblical names or places but mostly after local geographical areas. Their present churches are known as — Martin's Conestoga, West Wool-



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with, North Woolwich, South Peel and Fourth of Peel. A new church is at present being built 2 miles north-east of Linwood, Ontario.

A noted Mennonite historian of the Progressive group, uses the following adjectives to describe the early Mennonites of Europe, and most of these words would describe the Old Order group of today — tranquil, quiet, reserved, industrious, peace loving, faithful, temperate, well-mannered, benevolent, kind and plous. They avoid law suits and settle their disputes within the church. Gifts of any kind are never exchanged or received during the lifetime of these people, except a few useful inexpensive ones given to a bride on her wedding day. These people don't consider it a sacrifice or self-denial to practise such a strict way of life. It is the only way they know as they associate mostly with their own class of people. Not one of their people was on relief during the depression of the thirties, a rather outstanding record for those times. There are no orphans or illegitimate children among these people as the church is very strict about these matters. Relatives raise children if one or both of the parents are taken by death when the children are young. Despite the fact that these people have many commend-

able qualities, one can't help but point out a few weaknesses in their system. First of all they do not allow any of their members to study for the "professions" such as teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses etc, yet they need and use these services. Most of them don't vote which is hardly conducive to a good citizen. A country could hardly function satisfactorily if everybody adhered to their principles.

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