

# The Oldest Pine ?

(Arthur W. Leman, Dept. of Lands and Forests)

What is possibly the oldest and largest White Pine tree in South Central Ontario has recently been brought to the attention of the Department of Lands and Forests. The tree is located in a 100 acre hardwood bush on the 6th line of Whitchurch Twp., belonging to the Ratcliff Bros. of Stouffville.

The age of the tree has been estimated at about 350 years, and it has a d.b.h. of 45 inches. When the big White Pine were first cut in this country, this tree was passed over probably because of its small size, but it has since grown to a height of 130 feet. The top has been dead for the last 20 years, unfortunately, thus putting an end to any further height growth. The tree has, however, approximately 80 feet of clear stem to a top diameter of between 24 and 30 inches. It is estimated that such a tree would produce between 2500 and 3000 f.b.m. of lumber, or enough wood to construct about 2 1/2 houses, but Mr. Howard Ratcliff estimates the volume at around 4000 f.b.m. based on his experience with a similar tree which was cut down some 20 years ago.

The bush in which the tree is found has been in the Ratcliff family for several generations, and consequently the tree has been known about for quite some time. Mr. Howard Ratcliff recalls the tree when he was a boy and remembers that it was not cut because his father thought it should be preserved. The Ratcliff Bros. still feel that the tree should be preserved and in time they hope to construct a nature trail so that all interested people will be able to see the tree.

This is considered a very realistic and worthwhile approach by this Department. We have all read and been told by the "old-

timers" how Ontario was once covered in forests of huge White Pine. The era of these trees has long since passed and it is of great interest to us when one of these forest giants can be preserved. Only then are we able to realize what our bountiful forests of the past once yielded.

**Park Improvements Underway**

Plans are now well underway to have Mara Provincial Park in operation for the 1965 season. This new park fronting on Lake Simcoe south east of Atherly, should prove to be very attractive to visitors and help relieve some of the pressure for camping and bathing facilities experienced at Sibbald Point and Bass Lake Parks.

Boat launching, car parking areas, a good beach for bathing and campsite area are some of

# Christmas or Jerusalem Cherry

The Christmas or Jerusalem cherry is a cheerful berried plant for the Christmas season. Most strains have red berries; some have yellow berries. The plants should be placed in good light in a cool temperature, horticulturist with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The plants should be given adequate water to prevent wilting; otherwise the leaves may drop off. After Christmas when the berries drop off they may be saved and dried. The seed may then be sown in February or March. When the first true leaves appear prick out the seedlings about 2 inches apart in flats. Later, when the seedling are large enough, they should be transplanted to 3 inch pots. During the early stages, keep the plants cool (55 to 60 degrees F.).

In spring, after the danger of frost is over, transplant the young plants to the garden for summer growth, but they must be brought inside before frost.

**Cheerful Christmas Wishes**

*Here's wishing a really wonderful holiday season for you and yours.*



**HAROLD'S GRILL**  
BOY ING AND SONS

TRIBUNE Classified Ads Are Tops



## OLD-FASHIONED Christmas Wishes

With thanks for your many favors and friendship, we extend our heartfelt wishes that your holidays may be rich in the joys of a real old-fashioned Christmas.

**NEVILLE APPLIANCES**  
640-3395 — Stouffville



## Hark the Herald Angels Sing...

*Wishing you happiness and peace this Christmas Day and forever more.*

From all of us at **Stouffville Bakery**



**PEGGY RAPPED** on the dishpan with the broken broom handle. "Hold it, everybody. Hold it."

They held it, Jimmy droning on in his almost-bass monotone and Susie's creaking soprano as creaky as ever.

Peggy rapped again. "I didn't mean hold the note. I meant to be quiet. Everybody's off-key. Jimmy, Susie, Ann, Billie, all of you. Settle down and let's practice right or we'll never be ready for Christmas caroling tomorrow night. Come on, now, quiet in the clowning, please."

Jimmy stopped abruptly. "O.K. We'll quit the clowning. But, let's rest a minute. And, let's be serious. In fact, let's have a meeting. Meeting is called to order. First order of business: the case of one Winkie, male, U.S. citizen, nine years old. Charge: wishes to



The Carolers made their rounds on Christmas Eve.

become a member of the Montrose Valley Carol Club. Fact No. 1—too young, too young; fact No. 2—can't sing, can't sing; fact . . ."

Peggy threw her broom handle aside in disgust. "Stop it, Jimmy, will you? We've been all through this before. We've got nothing against Winkie, you know that. But the rules do say that a member has to be at least twelve years old and be able to at least carry a tune. Winkie doesn't qualify in either category. Why don't you just forget it?"

"I'm a crusader, that's why," Jimmy said. He retrieved the broom handle, stuck it in his belt, sword-fashion and struck the pose of a cavalier. "I cannot bear to see injustice, particularly during the happy holiday season. I will fight for the right of this young lad to join the carolers, to stand in their midst and be recognized, albeit he is acknowledged no budding Caruso." He, too, tossed the broom handle aside. "Now, I ask you, all of you. What harm can it do? Where is your Christmas spirit?"

"We have the Christmas spirit," Ann challenged. "What do you think we are practicing these carols for?"

"Ha," Jimmy responded. "You're here, all of you, because you like the spotlight. You think you're somebody 'wh' folks come to their doors to listen to your song and when they invite you in for a cup of hot chocolate. It's great—you're in the spotlight. Don't get me wrong. I like it, too. But, I think we're being pretty snooty. Little Winkie is the only kid in the neighborhood old enough to walk that isn't in this carol club. If he had a voice like a bullfrog, and would drown out the rest of us, I'd say keep him out. But, all he wants is to tag along, just to be part of the group. I'd say we had made a good start toward a happy Christmas if we let him."

Outside the garage door, little Winkie busied himself making a snowman.

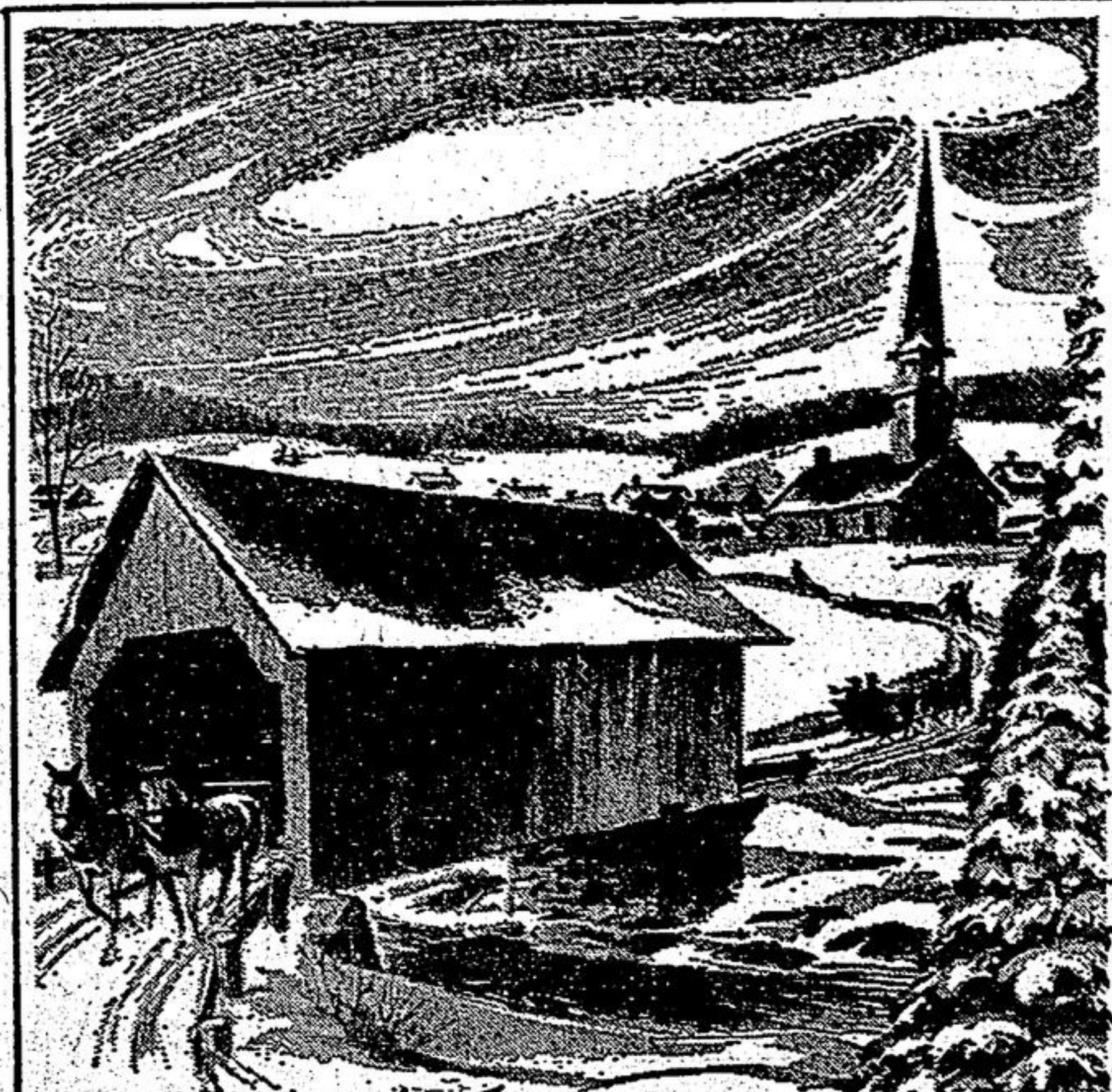
### Welcome

And then they were all in the garage doorway, beckoning. He ran toward them and was resoundingly welcomed. They appeared gay, laughing and shouting. He couldn't hear what Jimmie said, but he knew it meant he had been accepted.

Christmas Eve and happy carolers made their rounds, everywhere happily welcomed and received. Winkie kept the honored spot—out front—and his eyes rolled happily as he attempted to imitate every movement and gesture of the other singers.

The singing seemed to improve, house to house, and when the last carol was sung, the town mayor invited all the children in for hot chocolate and cookies, and when they had finished eating, a round of carols concluded the evening.

As they filed through the doorway, the mayor thanked each personally, and each returned the thanks, except Winkie. Winkie smiled. The mayor, a man accustomed to each slight counting his blessings, later remarked to his wife that little Winkie exuded a great amount of charm and personality for a lad born without the ability to speak a single word.



## GREETINGS

*Here's wishing you an old-fashioned Christmas, filled with all the joys of fellowship and good cheer, and a holiday season brightened by many merry moments for your entire family.*

**SHELL LUMBER and STAFF**

Stouffville, Ont.



Schell's Red & White Store & Staff

STOUFFVILLE

ONTARIO

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a

# Merry Christmas

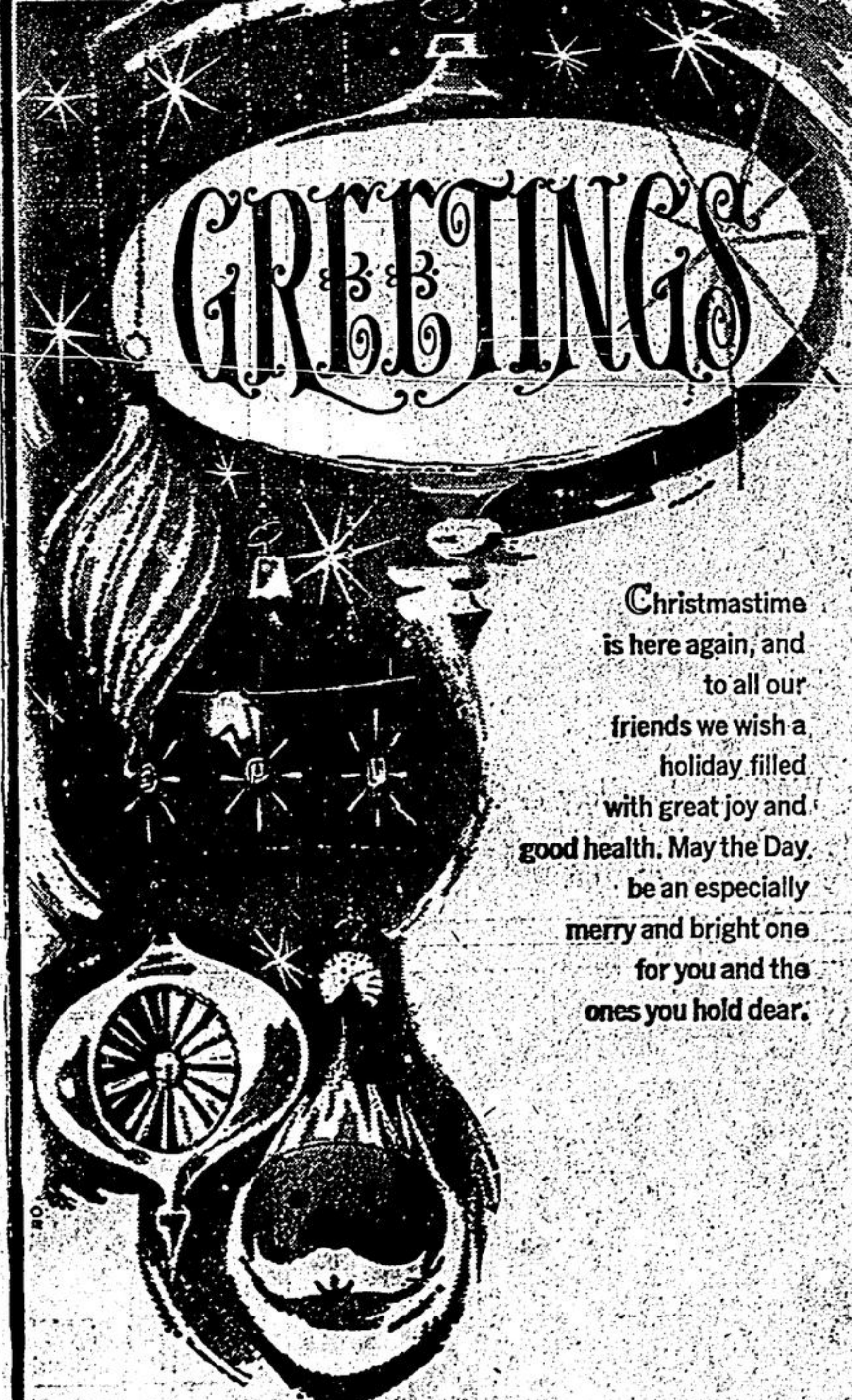


Hope your Day is a happy one, filled with all the special joys of the holiday season.

**STIVER BROS. LTD. & STAFF**

Stouffville — Ontario

# GREETINGS



Christmastime is here again, and to all our friends we wish a holiday filled with great joy and good health. May the Day be an especially merry and bright one for you and the ones you hold dear.

**Neil PATRICK MOTORS Limited**  
and Staff

STOUFFVILLE — ONTARIO