

G. WELLS,
P.R. 1, GANGES, B.C.

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Serving the islands that make Beautiful British Columbia Beautiful

SIXTEENTH YEAR NO. 50

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

DECEMBER 23, 1975

\$7.00 PER YEAR IN CANADA, 20c COPY.

Christmas Greetings



*To readers of Driftwood: to people who don't read Driftwood [if there are any]:
to all Islanders, former Islanders, future Islanders: would-be Islanders: old Islanders
and new Islanders: with the hope that all Islanders may enjoy this season now and
throughout another year.*

They all hang in there together to survive

BY VALERIE RICHARDS
Ecology is the study of interactions between organisms and

their environment. "Environment" is used in a broad sense here. The environ-

ment embraces all things, extrinsic or external to an organism that affects that organism. Light, rainfall, temperature, humidity, topography and parasites, predators, mates and competitors make up an environment.

A population or a group of organisms of the same species live within an environment.

This population is defined as a species where gene-flow could occur. If one takes all the populations of a given area a community is composed which involves everyone and everything in the given area. A community and the environment, considered together are ecosystems.

Thus, the arbutus trees of Sunset Drive could be regarded as a population. The arbutus trees and the bugs within the arbutus trees and the grasses surrounding the arbutus trees could be considered a community. And the residents of Sunset Drive and the community around the arbutus trees could be taken as an ecosystem.

ST. MARY LAKE

St. Mary Lake is a body of water interacting with a number of factors such as temperature and rainfall, then it is an environment with a population of frogs, a community of frogs, lily pads, and fish, and an ecosystem of a lake, frogs, plant life, and marine life.

Various ecosystems are linked together by biological, chemical and physical processes. Inputs and outputs of energy, gases, organic compounds and inorganic chemicals can cross an ecosystem boundaries through wind or precipitation.

The inputs can cross the boundaries of an ecosystem by running water or gravity, and the movement of animals cross the boundaries of an ecosystem. The entire earth is an ecosystem, as no part is totally isolated from the rest. The ecosystem of the earth has a name. It's called a biosphere and forms a shell around the world extending below the ocean and a few miles above sea level. Except for energy, the biosphere is self-sufficient and all the other requirements for life like water, oxygen, and nutrients are supplied by the utilization of materials through recycling them or obtaining them if they already exist within the system.

Life in the biosphere depends on the sun. All forms of life obtain their high-energy organic nutrients from the sun, either directly or indirectly. The process whereby the life obtains the energy is called photosynthesis. Photosynthesis occurs when a plant obtains light and makes sugar from water and carbon dioxide.

FOOD CHAIN

In a community energy moves

through a sequence of organisms in numerous ways. The way that energy moves is called a Food Chain.

In most communities there are so many organisms that are so numerous and become so complex due to their abundant variety, that the way energy moves is referred to as a Food Web. One thing of a chain as being very organized and steady. A web infers something more complex and similar to a spider's web, tangled and netted, but always joining somewhere along the lines.

Every food web or food chain has basic characteristics. No matter how complex or intermingled the food web may be, these basic characteristics are forever present.

A food chain may begin in one's back garden.

Beginning from green plants as a food chain works it's way to the final level. Each morning as the sun rises F.G.R. wanders out to the garden to water his producers. F.G.'s producers are called parsley. He then goes over to the vegetable garden to water his cabbages and turnips. These cabbages and turnips are producers also.

PREDATORS

And during the night a primary consumer steals through the gateway and into the garden and nibbles at the producers. F.G. looks out and sees a young doe eating his turnips and cabbages and watches the primary consumer eventually eat up his whole stock of producers.

And on every noon, F.G. goes out to Tweedle, his rabbit and feeds him his watered producers. Tweedle hungrily feeds on the parsley.

Sometimes F.G.'s parsley dies from lack of water. And sometimes they die from bacteria or fungi. But when it dies it decomposes releasing valuable and simple substances re-usable by all the other adjoining, unaffected parsleys.

AT Christmas time, F.G. becomes a secondary consumer and eats Tweedle. Tweedle was

a primary consumer who ate up all the parsley that was manufactured by raw sunlight.

The young doe that stuffed itself in F.G.'s garden on producers is eaten by a predator, the crafty cougar of Mount Bruce also recognizing Christmas. So the plants of parsley and cabbage are producers, Tweedle and Bambi are primary consumers, and Crafty and F.G. are carnivores, scavengers or parasites, though F.G. denies the latter.

NOURISHING

The levels of the food chain are trophic levels. Trophic means nourishing or stimulative. From the bottom up, there are the producers, the herbivores that eat the producers, and the carnivores that eat the herbivores, that ate the producers.

(Turn to Page Fifteen)

Ahoy! **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
and a Happy New Year



Mike, Dave and Mike.
STACEY CHARTER SERVICE LTD.



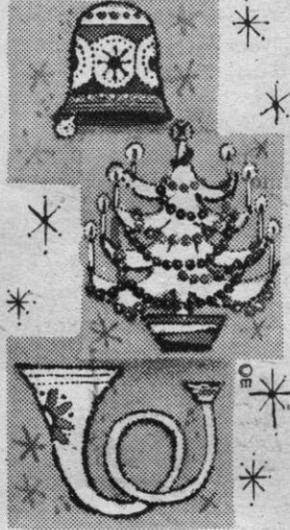
merry Christmas
Here's to a Christmas Holiday bloom with the very best. Thank you, all.

From Phil and Margaret
GULF ISLANDS FLORIST

Merry Christmas
AND
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

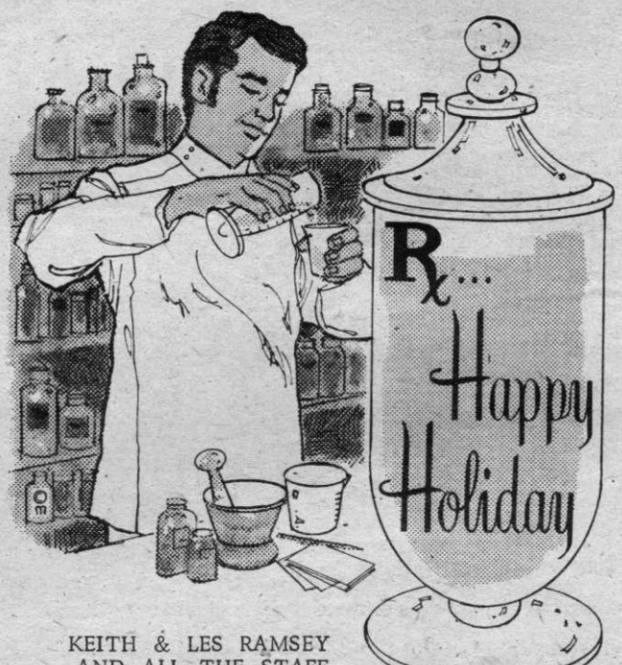


From
ALL THE GUESTS & STAFF AT
PARK DRIVE GUEST HOUSE
Edel and Karl Satermo



Christmas Greetings
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR
to
Customers & Friends
B.B. SERVICE

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Here's our special order for a very Merry Christmas . . .



KEITH & LES RAMSEY
AND ALL THE STAFF
AT
GANGES PHARMACY

Letters

THANK YOU

Sir,
This letter is to share with your readers our grateful thanks for the wonderful support given again to our annual campaign for funds to continue arthritis programmes and for the help from kind Gulf Island friends all through the year.

Again the Salt Spring Island Lions Club has conducted the mail campaign for C.A.R.S., and under the able direction of Phil Sawford, brought in more than \$400. over last year, and with other donations which came in during the year, the total represented \$2,400, which made this our most successful year ever in your area.

C.A.R.S. very much values the organizing ability, contribution of time, and community awareness represented by the Lions Club members, and would like through your paper to say thank you to them and to all the Gulf Islanders who have provided such wonderful support.

Mildred Jeffery
Public Information Director
Canadian Rheumatism and Arthritis Society
Vancouver, B.C.
November 27, 1975



Premier Bill Bennett and his wife, Audrey are seen during the recent election campaign. Both are well known to Salt Spring Island.

MAYNE ISLAND DECEMBER 22, 1937

The Mayne Island school concert took place on Thursday, Dec. 15, and was much enjoyed by the children and their many friends. The pupils sang and acted several little playlets, besides drills and the acrobats caused a lot of amusement. Later Santa Claus arrived and helped to distribute presents from the prettily decorated Christmas tree, where there was a present awaiting every child on the island. Miss Hawes is to be congratulated for her keen interest in the children and their success in their concert. Thanks are due to Miss Ware, who kindly accompanied on the piano, to J. Bennett and all who helped and to Ken Georgeson,

who came from Saturna Island to play his accordion for the dancing which followed.

PENDER ISLAND, DECEMBER 22, 1937

Pender Island School presented its annual Christmas concert on Thursday evening, December 16. The first play was entitled "The Cow was Painted Red", a comedy representing a scene in a courthouse, which was played by the senior boys. This was followed by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, fairies and elves played by the junior pupils. Followed an operetta, "The Christmas Bazaar", the stage being beautifully decorated with evergreens and laid out in booths for the event.

SALT SPRING ISLAND

Salt Spring Island Brownies under the leadership of Brown Owl, Mrs. Dorothy Hook, enjoyed games and refreshments at their Christmas meeting in the parish hall of Ganges last week. Entries were so good that special mention was given to Brenday Bonner and Freda Nobbs. Brown Owl assisted by Misses Madelaine Barber and Barbara Newman.

BEAVER POINT

On Thursday evening the residents of the Beaver Point district, under chairman H. Ruckle, turned out to enjoy the Christmas tree and entertainment organized by the teacher, Miss E. Morbey of the Beaver Point School, held in the Beaver Point Community Hall.

Merry Christmas

PRETTIG KERSTFEEST

Frans Beyk
537-5121

it's Christmas!

The world is bright and gaily decked ... Christmas has come. Spend it in joy and in peace.

TO FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS FROM

THE LITTLE GALLERY

Ron Cunningham
TRACTOR SERVICE
537-5310

Merry Christmas

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS

Thank You For Your Support

Connie & Ron Cunningham

FERNWOOD STORE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Flickering candlelight ... a scent of Christmas greens ... the nearness of dear ones make the holidays bright. We hope to continue serving you in the future.

Charles Bazzard & Staff at

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Joyful Wishes

May holiday blessings brighten your tree.

Many thanks for being able to serve you.

Hugh and Aline Porter
at
HUGH'S MACHINERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS to ALL!

Little parts add up to smooth driving. Little wishes add up to big holiday greetings. Hearty thanks to all.

FROM RON & STAFF

RON LEE SHELL SERVICE

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Serving the islands that make Beautiful British Columbia Beautiful

Published at Ganges, Salt Spring Island
In the Province of British Columbia, every Wednesday



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Tuesday, December 23, 1975

IT'S CHRISTMAS

Half the world is filled with Christmas spirit and the rest is too busy to notice.

Santa Claus has been hanging around the shopping plazas for the past several weeks, stirring up the zealous shopper to leave no stone unturned in the frantic search for gifts.

The liquor stores have been doing a sweeping business and everyone is wearing the happy, good-natured grin that he adopts on Christmas Eve and maintains until the morning after Boxing Day.

Because that's just half the world.

In Ireland...and Britain...the religious war is holding its own and a smoking revolver is as much part of Christmas as a smoking candle.

The same penchant for religious war is bearing fruit in Beirut, where an equal zeal is evident in the determined destruction of those who pray differently.

Outside the area of Christian influence, the season has no significance.

These are odd times, but it is, of course, an odd world. The Christians who celebrate the birth of Christ by bashing another fellow over the head are establishing a strange tradition.

Santa Claus is the relic of a saintly past. The good Nicholas was generous and loving. It is a fact of life that the warmth of today's Santa Claus can be rapidly re-directed into the heat of battle.

Nearer home, there is no reason to suppose that hatred and bitterness will disappear from the heart simply because the Christmas hearth is warm and inviting.

So it's Christmas? So what?

We all pay a fervent lip service to Christmas. We give in order to enjoy the satisfaction and pleasure of generosity. We eat for satisfaction and we exude all the affable virtues of christianity.

If Christmas were in the heart of all Christians, it would be a more real season of peace on earth and we might even evince some slight token of goodwill to men.



Christmas Celebrations

In Armenia holiday customs are primarily religious, with the week before Christmas devoted to strict fasting. The fasting ends with Christmas communion after which each young man gives his sweetheart a special gift to show he can provide her with the necessities of life.

In Bulgarian farm communities the man of the house makes wishes for good health and good harvests on Christmas Day.

Czechoslovakians go caroling in the streets on Christmas. It is a time for visiting and those who have quarreled during the year forgive each other publicly on Christmas Day.

In Lithuania a twelve course Christmas dinner is the highlight of the holiday season. Families spend the season at home or visiting neighbors. Before being admitted to a home, visitors must sing a Christmas Carol. Only children receive Christmas gifts.

In the Ukraine, Christmas begins with a 40 day fast ending on Christmas Eve. As soon as the evening star appears in the heavens, families sit at a straw cov-

is popular at this time of the year and young girls play games to foretell the kind of husband they will have and where he will come from.

Christmas Eve (or nochebuena) is a night of gaiety for the Puerto Ricans. The feast that follows midnight mass consists of roast pig or asopao — a chicken and rice dish.

In Rumanian villages one of the most charming holiday sights is the procession of boys with six-pointed revolving star lanterns. The children gather at dusk and go through the streets and along winding lanes. They



Children's Christmas scene ready for colouring

Letters to the Editor

SOUVENIRS WANTED

Sir,
The National Museum of Canada seeks to strengthen its collection of military artifacts and at this time especially wishes to acquire uniforms, weapons, medals, military books, insignia and photographs concerning the military history of North America from 1604 to the present. Artifacts relating to the allied and enemy forces from the First and Second World Wars are also of interest. These are for display, future

reference and research in the Canadian War Museum (National Museum of Man) in the national capital. The Canadian War Museum would be pleased to hear from any of your readers who may be able to assist in this requirement.

L.F. Murray
Chief Curator
Canadian War Museum
330 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0M8
November 3, 1975

A CHRISTMAS CAROL — PHILLIP BROOKS

Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine;
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright;
Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight!
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
Christmas where peace, like a dove in its flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight!
For the Christ Child who comes is the Master of all;
No place too great — no cottage too small.
The angels who welcome Him sing from the height,
"In the city of David a King in His might."
Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight!
Then let every heart keep its Christmas within
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred for sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light,
Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight!
So the stars of the midnight which compass us round,
Shall see a strange glory and hear a sweet sound,
And cry, "Look! the earth is aflame with delight,
O sons of the morning rejoice at the sight."
Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight!

THE NEW BORN KING

The little Drummer Boy was poor as the new born King.
He had no gift to bring in His honor
"Shall I play for you on my drum?" he asked, and Mary nodded. The ox and the ass kept time, while he played his best...
The Child was delighted.
He smiled at the little Drummer Boy and his drum.



CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

ANGLICAN:			
St. George's	Ganges	Family Eucharist	7:00 pm
St. Mary's	Fulford	Holy Communion	9:00 pm
St. Mark's	Central	Holy Communion	11:00 pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC Our Lady of G. Ganges Midnight Mass

UNITED Ganges Family Communion 7:30 pm
Dr. V. McEachern

CHRISTMAS DAY, THURSDAY DECEMBER 25

ANGLICAN			
St. Mary's	Fulford	Holy Communion	9:30 am
St. Mark's	Central	Holy Communion	11:15 am

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Our Lady of G. Ganges Holy Mass 9:00 am
St. Paul's Fulford Holy Mass 10:00 am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1975

ANGLICAN			
St. George's	Ganges	Family Eucharist	9:30 am
St. Mary's	Fulford	Morning Prayer	11:15 am
St. Mary Mag.	Mayne	Mattins	11:30 am

UNITED
Dr. V. McEachern 537-5817 Worship Serv. 10:30 am

COMMUNITY GOSPEL
Pastor Moe 537-2622 Sun. Sch. for all ages 10:30 am
Evening Serv. 7:30 pm
Thurs. Bible Study 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DEC 31, 1975

USE IT: DON'T ABUSE IT

SOME TIPS ON FESTIVE WINES

Christmas and the holiday period is a season linked for centuries with feasting and sharing the table with others.

It is the one season in the year when all families seek to reunite and to eat together at least once during the holiday season.

It is also the season when many

come together to enjoy their social dinner with wine.

The movement towards wine has resulted a far greater awareness today of the benefit of wine taken in small quantities as a means of enhancing a meal and helping it go down.

North American wines are not usually as aged as the wines of Europe but the niceties of decanting the wine without getting the bitter crust, or dregs are still encountered.

There are other aspects of wine-serving which are also frequently overlooked.

Wine is frequently decanted for the table, although many prefer to serve from the bottle and let everyone see what is being served.

If you prefer a decanter, and you are using a claret or a burgundy, warm the decanter first. The wine will benefit.

If you are serving red wine, it will be smoother and more pleasing to the palate when served at room temperature. Cold locks up the flavour and render the red wine harsh and rough to the palate.

Most red wines will come to the table very comfortably at a temperature of about 60 deg. But don't warm it for the occasion. Keep it in a moderately warm room for a few hours before it is served.

Wine should not be heated before the fire if you can avoid ill-treating it that way. Bear in mind that if the wine is too warm or heated up too quickly,

it would have been better left cold. You are more badly off than when you started.

White wines may be served a lot colder than red wines. This is customary in the case of champagnes. But no man who has a warm and friendly regard for his stomach could be caught dead with a glass of wine and ice. Ice is for Northern Canadians or a highball or for skating, but never never for wine.

Before you drink, open the bottle. It's easier that way. Best method of drawing the cork...if it has one...is to use a wire corkscrew. Cut steel screws are fine, but they tend to chew up the cork. Then the wine is decorated with little chips of cork, which don't improve the bouquet and add very little to the aesthetic value of the beverage.

If you can afford them, good wine glasses add to the appearance of the wine. But they contribute nothing to the flavour. Many wine drinkers enjoy the eye-appeal of the wine. They examine it, in the glass and through the glass.

But the fellow who examines it with the eye and the manner of a connoisseur is probably an anonymous teetotaler who is looking for somewhere to pour it without offending his host. Courtesy would urge you to help him out and drink it yourself. It's tough at that point if you find you were wrong and he was, in fact, admiring it.

Don't put wine in coloured glasses if you have any others. The connoisseur can no longer see it and your brother-in-law will assume that it's mostly ginger ale and you used coloured glasses so nobody could see for sure.

MORE IMPORTANT

If you are a serious drinker of wine; your own manufacture or proprietary brands, then the glass becomes more important. If it is thin and clear, the warmth of your hand will change the temperature of the wine.

You may have a cupboard full of Waterford crystal. Odds are you haven't. Then use any wine glass you like, for any wine. If you have tulip-shaped glasses, then use them. The real wine-bibber will enjoy them for the fact they funnel the fumes up his nose. And anyone else will figure you have good taste, and they must be right.

Don't be greedy when helping yourself to wine. And don't be foolishly generous.

(Turn to Page Six)

FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

How much do you know about Christmas? And about Santa Claus? Here are some questions developed with the help of the editors of the Encyclopedia International to test your knowledge.

1. The first known Christmas card was designed in 1843 by an Englishman named:
(a) Charles Dickens
(b) Sir Henry Cole
(c) John Calcott Horsley

2. The first Christian Nativity feast celebrated the birth of Christ, occurred in the fourth century on:

- (a) January 6
- (b) July 4
- (c) December 25

3. Christmas did not become a legal holiday in the U.S. until:

- (a) the Puritans arrived in New England
- (b) 1856
- (c) Santa Helper Union went on strike

4. The original name of the gentleman we know today as Santa Claus was:

- (a) Kris Kringle
- (b) Samuel Clemens
- (c) St. Nicholas

(Turn to Page Seven)



CHRISTMAS CHEER

We would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our friends, patrons.

Isabel & Spencer Marr

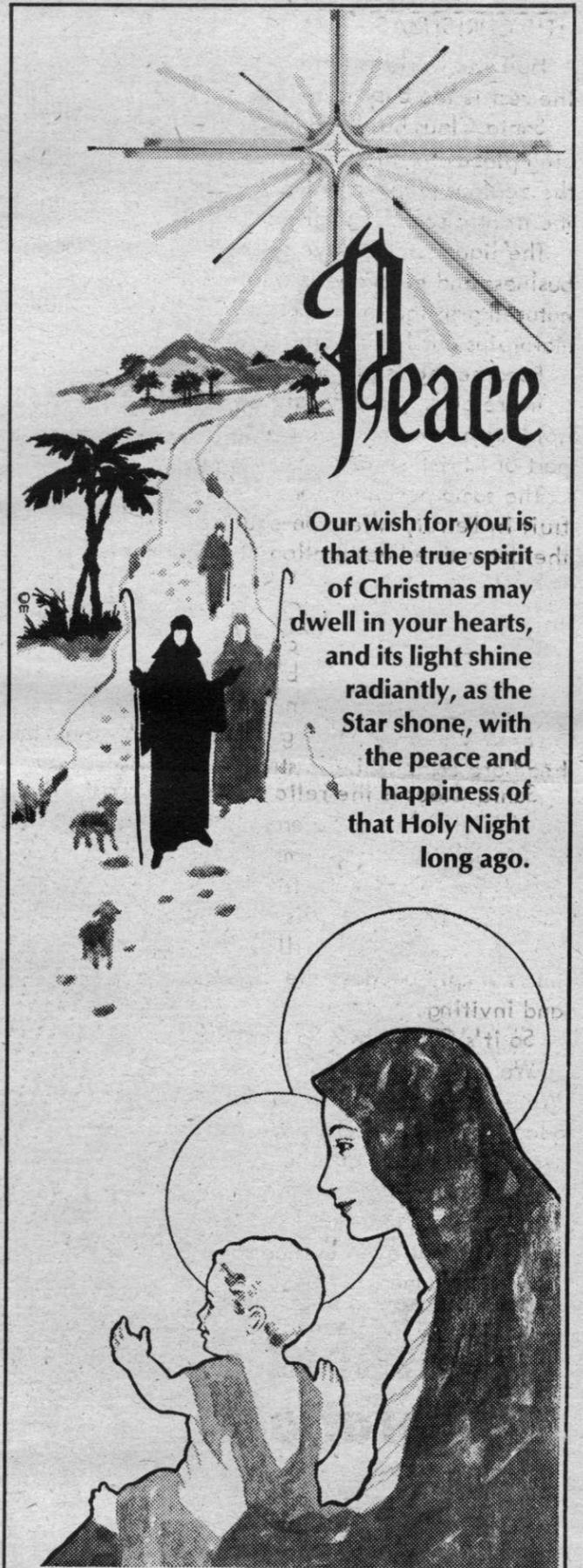
MARR ACCOUNTING

Merry Christmas AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
AT
EMBE BAKERY

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL
and a BRIGHT & HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL THE STAFF AT

THIS MAGNIFICENT MODEL IS MADE OF SPUN GLASS

NELSON MARINE



Our wish for you is that the true spirit of Christmas may dwell in your hearts, and its light shine radiantly, as the Star shone, with the peace and happiness of that Holy Night long ago.

Merry Christmas
and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Salt Spring Islanders
FROM THE STAFF OF
HARBOUR GROCERY
G.I. PROPANE GAS & ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
Connie Nelson, Diane Nelson
Brian McGregor, Robert Whistance-Smith
Robert and Edane Blundell & Chico

CHRISTMAS FOR WRITERS AND READERS

Christmas has held the attention of writers since the first appearance of the Gospels,

with their tale of the first Noel. The first monk who lifted the first quill to pen the Latin

words of the first recorded Christmas hymn was setting the pattern. Writers for centuries were destined to focus on Christmas.

The later years brought more writing, more writers and more Christmas tales. Early Yule legends were set in to words during the late 19th century.

The most notable of all Christmas tales is the Christmas Carol, by Dickens. The name of Scrooge is as well-known to the world at Christmas as was Wenceslas.

It is 120 years and better since the Christmas Carol

made its appearance. Dickens had the flair for creating living characters and the story of Christmas which has survived more than a century shows the personification of miserable parsimony in the character of Scrooge.

Dickens showed him an unscrupulous miser, converted to an awareness of his fellow man through a series of dreams. It is a sentimental tale, as were most of Dickens. It is a striking story around a seasonable theme and all the world has loved it.

Dickens led the way. Since the mid eighties there have been innumerable plays and simple stage presentations built around Christmas.

Every newspaper and magazine, for a century, has published a Christmas edition, featuring special material relating to Christmas.

The Christmas edition became a significant part of the publishing world shortly before the turn of the century when more and more magazines published an ambitious selection of stories and articles on Christmas.

General-reader publications women's magazines and children's papers all came out at Christmas with a significant, seasonable edition.

As more and more people

were taught to read, so more and more fiction was written with a Christmas theme. The popularity of the Christmas edition led to an increasing demand for commercial announcements in that edition and the modern practice of publishing greetings advertisements in combination with references to Christmas is the result.

WINE AND GLASSES

(From Page Five)

A wine glass, full and overflowing is evidence of your ability to buy enough wine to drown in. It means nothing else. The glass should be a little more than half full. The wine-bibber needs that space above the liquid. That's where the bouquet of the wine will gather, for his added enjoyment.

Last comes the liqueur. Liqueur. Liqueur glasses are traditionally small, but if you don't have small glasses, use bigger ones, but don't over-do the liqueur. If you are serving a reasonably good cognac use a glass big enough to let someone taste it. If your cognac is like pork gravy, use a liqueur glass.

There is a lot in drinking wine. There is also a lot of superstition; a lot of status and a lot of ignorance.

All you need remember is serve it, enjoy it, but don't abuse it!

For all my friends and customers



Merry Christmas
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Gerry Coers - PAINTER



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

Let's celebrate this Christmas season with sincere wishes for a simply wonderful holiday. To all our friends and neighbors go many thanks for your continued patronage and goodwill.

FROM ALL THE STAFF AT
S.S. ISLAND GARAGE



Greetings at Christmas

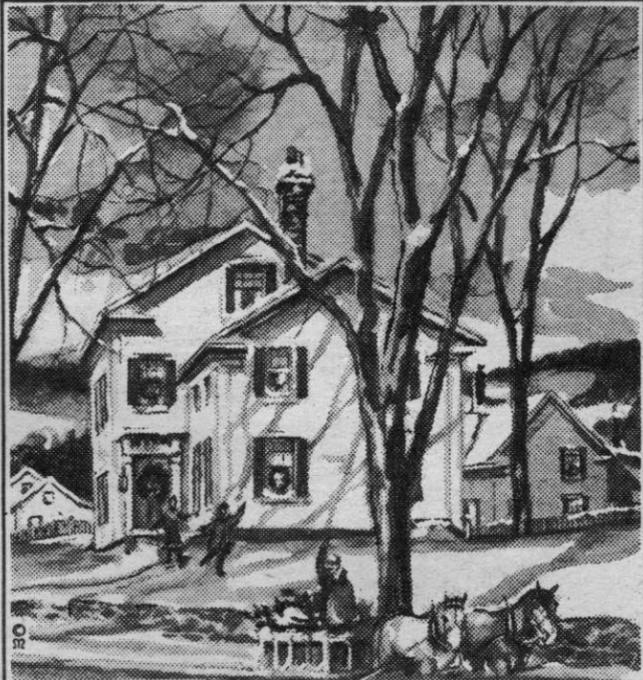
May each moment of this joyous holiday season add up to an abundance of lovely memories.

Dick, Bert, Harvey, Gordon, Tom, Eve, Dorothy & Roma at

MILLER & TOYNBEE REALTY LTD.



A HERD OF REINDEER cross a large body of water while roaming for grazing areas over the subarctic regions of northern Europe. The reindeer has been a semi-domesticated friend to man for centuries. Reindeer are traditionally associated with Christmas as pullers of Santa's sleigh. Photo courtesy Swedish Information Service.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS

WORLD HANDCRAFTS & GIFTS
Mouat's Mall

FACTS OF CHRISTMAS

(From Page Five)

1. John Calcott Horsley is correct. Artist Horsley designed the first known Christmas greeting card for his friend, Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy London gentleman. Charles Dickens had his share in Christmas 1843 too. His book, "A Christmas Carol" was published that year.
2. January 6 is correct. At first, January 6 is the Epiphany and was observed as the feast of Jesus' baptism with a secondary emphasis on his birth. It was not until the fifth century that Christmas was generally celebrated on December 25.
3. -1856 is correct. New England states outlawed the celebration of Christmas until the middle of the 19th century.
4. St. Nicholas is correct. Kris Kringle is the German name for Santa while Samuel Clemens was Mark Twain's pen name. St. Nicholas was a real person, a fourth century bishop and the first Santa Claus.

There's something special about Santa Claus in a small southern Indiana town where the famous Christmas legend has become somewhat of an everyday reality.

This town with a population of about 300 year-round residents, and a family of deer, is the jolly old gent's

namesake home — Santa Claus, Indiana — as well as the home of his helpers, and the location of his overflowing mailbox.

A unique landmark at Santa Claus is the U.S. Post Office near the intersection of Indiana highways 162 and 245, and next to the entrance to Santa Claus Land.

There is nowhere in the world where you can find a post office like this one. Its architecture is that of a stone-fronted fairyland castle in design and while the community has but slightly more than 300 year-round residents this post office each year is flooded with about four million pieces of mail. The bulk of all this mail comes around Christmas time to receive the cherished Santa Claus postmark. Still others arrive addressed simply to "Santa Claus, 47579."

Letters addressed to "Santa Claus" represent the tens of thousands of children's "want lists" that foretell visions of Christmas morning, promise cookies and milk, and extend best wishes to Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Rudolph. And, to the delight of children everywhere, all of these letters receive an answer from Santa Claus.

This unique practice dates back to the late 1920s when Robert L. Ripley popularized the town by featuring it in an article in his "Believe It Or Not" column. After the article appeared, mail began to mushroom, especially letters addressed to "Santa Claus."

Tourists with children also started to arrive and make visits to the post office with their Christmas mail, following in the steps of Ripley who also sent his Christmas cards through the office here as proof that there was indeed a Santa Claus — as verified by the postmark. For over 40 years, children have met Santa himself, played by Raymond Joseph "Jim" Yellig.

Besides taking up the role of Santa Claus at the Santa Claus Post Office in the early 1930s, Yellig also embarked on a project that now involves much of the community of the Santa Claus, Ind. area. He noticed that the incoming letters were being stored away because there were too many for the postmaster of the day to answer and took pan in hand, along with his wife, to make sure children who cared enough about Santa Claus were answered.

Letters to 'Santa' Overflow Mailbox



THE MOST FAMOUS RESIDENT in the town of Santa Claus, Indiana, population 300, is Santa Claus himself who receives well over 100,000 letters annually from children across the country and around the world. As Santa Claus in costume and Jim Yellig out of it, a 42-year career has been devoted to making sure letters are answered.

GREETINGS

We couldn't ask for a better audience.
Thanks for your support.

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Wallace
YOUR
Your ZENITH DEALER

Salt Spring FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS Wish everyone a fire safe Festive Season

Remember to keep your tree wet, away from curtains and heat ducts. Check your light strings for wear and please turn them out when not attended so you may have a happy 1976.

Merry Christmas

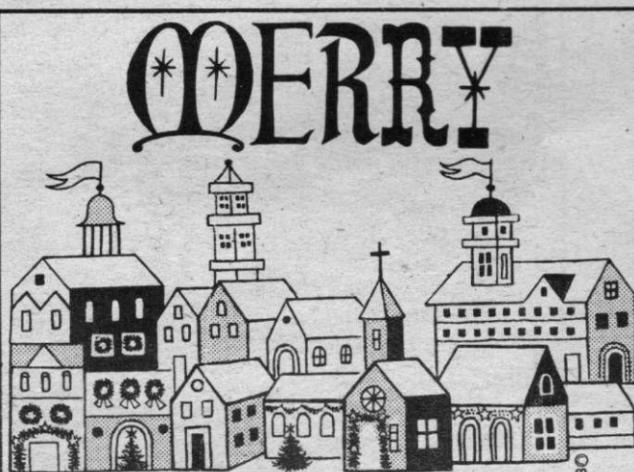
S. S. I. FIRE DEPT.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

As joy and laughter fill the air during the Christmas season, we wish to take a moment to add our best wishes and thanks.

Village Team



MERRY CHRISTMAS

May the sweet joys of Christmas fill the hearts of you and yours, now and evermore.

H.J. CARLIN INSURANCE

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On the way to all our customers, neighbors and friends, good wishes for a warm, wonderful holiday. Our "thanks" to everyone.

From Grant and Binda Carignan
& All The Staff

GULF ISLAND TRADING CO.



Merry Christmas
 At Yuletide, we extend to you
 our wish that merriment may brighten your
 happy home, all season long.

HANMOR EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Greetings



May the joys of this
 Christmas season rekindle
 cherished memories, and fill
 your heart with great happiness.

VILLADSEN CONSTRUCTION



Christmas Greetings
 We wish you an old-fashioned Christmas . . .
 one that glows with the good things in life: a
 happy family, good friends and lots of
 good fellowship. Bruce & Laurie Fiander
 Bev Sage
 Dan Akerman

Bruce Fiander
YOUR IMPERIAL  AGENT

A GHOST STORY

BY MARTIN CLIFFORD

The house was a well preserved relic of the reign of the first Elizabeth. It had been built at the period in English history when the castle and the fortified mansion were giving way to the new appeal of soft living. The internal strife of England had been eliminated for a time and an Englishman's castle was fast becoming his home.

That was three centuries ago and who knows what lay in the minds of the family who had commissioned this very attractive mansion so long ago?

Family after family: generation after generation had occupied it and lived in it. The fabric had been well kept up and the owners had not stinted in their husbandry.

The old house was falling on poorer days. My father, who was an impoverished man, was moved to purchase the house and by some means, known only to himself, to keep it up as it would have to be kept. Even as I accompanied my father and other members of my family on a tour of the house I was puzzled as to how he might be planning to run the place.

If you didn't like the blending of oak and stone and history, then the house would be no more than a draughty barn. The oak staircase, with its heavy and ornate balusters would be merely ostentatious...a mail order catalogue version of that vague dream, gracious living.

I couldn't find it so. The massive hall, with its own fireplace and recessed window seats invited the visitor to enter. The drawing room was a dream. Today, its furnishings were a mite too sparse, but we assum-

There were two

BY A FRENCHMAN

ed; at least, I assumed; that the present owners had been disposing of the more attractive and the more valuable movables before offering the house, furnished and ready for occupancy.

The house salesman was quiet and, while we wandered through the ground floor, I paid him little heed. In my mind I was busy living back through the centuries of the house.

FAMILIAR

I could almost see the past years as if they were depicted in front of me and I paused once or twice to feel amazement at my familiarity with the place.

Although we had, in fact, lived close to the old mansion for several years, it was not until my father made his startling proposal that I had given the shrinking estate any thought. All I had known for certain was that the land on which our own simple, modern house stood, had originally come from the Lodge property.

The ground floor rooms were mostly panelled in oak, aged and stained by the passing centuries.

It was notably well maintained. I was surprised that this was so evident to me, because I was not an habitue of panelled rooms and mullioned mansions.

The feature of the house that thoroughly endeared it to me was the curved oak buffet built into the wall of the dining room. It was a work of art. Some artisan, several hundred years ago, must have enjoyed that piece of work. It was not simply a nice carved piece, it was massive and every detail was beautiful. The face of the wood was more reminiscent of mahogany and I did wonder why the craftsman would have designed and executed it in that continental style.

"Carved by a Frenchman," explained the agent, who was standing at my shoulder. It was as if he had read my mind and I didn't like it. Yet, it was quite obvious that no Tudor workman had done it and I moved away, still glancing back at the piece.

I can see it now, dominating the room, yet complementing it, a masterpiece of wood and glass, all fashioned into a utilitarian structure with so much more to commend it.

Why I should see it so clearly is less than clear, but if left a strong impression on me.

The whole house was of a like style. It was magnificence in the form of a legacy from a wealthy family. Nothing had been left out and nothing had been neglected in the centuries.

That was the slightly disturbing feature of the tour. The house was almost too real. It was like buying an antique and going back with the vendor to the day it was new. Yet, there was no substance to such a thought. The house was old, and it was beautiful.

We examined pictures and cornices, worn oak floors and carved ceilings.

I had suffered a loss, I felt. A severe loss in that I had never previously entered the house, I was caught in a delightful but, at the same time, fearsome spell.

We had climbed the curved staircase, rising from the sombre hall, lighted with its deep windows up to the main landing, where the light was dimmed and only one window brought light to the upper hallway.

The house was not large enough, perhaps, to boast an open gallery giving on to its upper chambers. The bedrooms were passing interesting, but there was nothing to hold the

Merry Christmas



We're tuning in to
 a season full of fun
 during the Christmas holiday,
 and we're wishing the
 best of it to all
 our good friends.
 Thanks for your
 many favors
 and good will.

Don & Lois

**DON'S
 RADIO & TV**

Talent Show is Singamajig



Part of the entertainment program of the recent Singamajig in Ganges is seen in this picture.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
THE HAIR SHOPPE



Merry Christmas
and
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
To all our Friends and Customers
NELS DEGNEN - BULLDOZING



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
Happy New Year
GANGES REC CENTRE
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

We're sending our warm holiday wishes your way!

keletons

attention as the main floor had done.

My mind wandered and I was lost in speculation of various, quite pleasurable kinds, until the agent referred to the stairway at the end of the hall.

The previous owners had discovered, he explained, a priest's hole. They had had the stairs removed, he explained, in order to gain access to this hiding place.

CHURCH WARS

When the noble families of England had been united under the sovereign, and forays between loyal subjects of the King had been eliminated, there was nothing much to fight about. So the English had adopted religious intolerance as a cause and a crusade and a bloody fight.

The new religion murdered adherents of the old faith and the older christians murdered their new rivals to keep the spirits up. Everyone knows all about it today. The same pattern goes on all over the world even now.

During the religious upheavals of the Tudor kings, and queens, the old religion was in bad odour and a Romish priest forfeited his life upon discovery in England. Because persecution rarely succeeds, there were priests galore from end to end of the kingdom.

To house a priest was an evil act in the eyes of English law

and the harbours faced the same penalty as the priest so harboured. They would be stretched a little, burned a little, torn apart, butchered and generally ill-treated.

So there came into being the "priest's hole". It was a secret hiding place in many old houses, constructed to hide, and

even to house, the priest if word should get around that he, also, was around. Many of the finest old houses have them.

Incidentally, there is no doubt but that many of the earnest men of the cloth housed in such holes were left by the arrest of

(Turn to Page Twelve)



Merry Christmas

Our warmest wishes for happiness at this Christmastime go forth to you.

GULF ISLAND WINDOW CLEANERS



There's no happier time than Christmas, because it's a time for sharing all the happiness we feel with those we care about most. That's why we'd like to share our joy with you, wishing you a Merry Christmas and saying "Thank You."

FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

SALT SPRING LANDS LTD.

Story of past Christmas Seasons in old files

Christmas was once celebrated without television.

In those days the life among the islands was slower and

quieter than it is today. There are still a lot of island people who remember those days. Most who do remember them do so with nostalgia and a little sadness. Part of the fabric of living has gone.

It does no harm to look back a few decades and either remember or think how the island people once lived and the penalties and the benefits of island life.

In the late 30's Hitler was menacing Europe, although many Europeans would not believe it. There was no television; majority of cars were big sixes and prices were rock bottom. Only trouble was there wasn't enough money to take advantage of the bargains.

Here are some reminiscences of pre-war years culled from the early files of the Sidney Review and from other sources.

From the diary of Beryl Weatherell; news and notes of Ganges:

JULY 11, 1916

Miss Ashton's Private School had its break-up today with a concert. About 50 parents and friends were present.

JULY 14, 1916

The "Wynamac" took 40 Salt Spring people to a garden fete at Port Washington today. A good concert was put on and many side shows were held. About 400 people were there.

From Salt Spring Island Church Monthly:

JANUARY, 1902

A green Christmas, no snow and scarcely any frost hitherto.

MAY, 1906

Mrs. H. Stevens, just before Easter, collected eggs from the farmer sufficient to fill two boxes, (60 dozen) and sent them as an Easter gift box to the Childrens Home.

SEPTEMBER, 1906

Llewellyn Wilson, who is working as a mate on board a river steamer on the Yukon, writes word that typhoid fever has broken out and that Frank Westcott, of Salt Spring Island and two other men on the boat have been sent to hospital.

GANGES, DECEMBER 30, 1936

On Friday evening the large schoolroom at Formby House Private School was prettily decorated for the annual Christmas breaking-up and prize giving party. The principal, Mr. L. Cropper, in his short address to the parents, dealt principally with the work done throughout the term.

He stated that the number of prizes had been greatly reduced to enhance the value of those given. He spoke of the great assistance he had received from Mrs. D.K. Crofton during the term in reference to the musical tuition of the pupils.

Following the address, the vicar of the parish, Rev. C.H.

Popham spoke a few words and presented the prizes to the following successful winners: Winifred Calthorpe, who received three prizes, one each for Mathematics, English, and highest percentage in exams, and Joyce Robinson who received the school prize.

GANGES, DECEMBER 30, 1936

The pupils of the Salt Spring Island High School presented a good play entitled "It Pays to Advertise", at the Mahon Hall. This was organized by principal Mr. Foubister and assistant teacher, Miss Florence Groves. The hall was filled to capacity with 350 to 400 present. The juvenile leads were taken by Eileen Cearley and Mary Grayson, and Douglas Parsons as Rodney Martin. Ivan Mouat kept the audience happy with his amusing portrayal of Ambrose Peale, an American whose ingenious talents for advertising were the motive force of the play.

GALIANO

DECEMBER 30, 1936

Miss Ida New and her sister Miss Freda New, of Vancouver, spent Christmas with their father Arthur New, on Galiano.

Miss Stella Shopland, of Vancouver, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Shopland.

Boxing Day was celebrated in the Galiano Hall with a dance, given by the Hall Club. It was well attended, many coming from Mayne Island as well as visitors on the island. Supper was served by Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Stevens, while Victor Zala was master of ceremonies.

SOUTH PENDER

DECEMBER 30, 1936

The Hodgson's Store celebrated its first anniversary on December 10 and Red and White tea was served to all the visitors to the store on that date, together with the various samples of Red and White groceries. The children were all presented with toys.

Andy Georgeson has been spending the Christmas holidays with his family and will return to Nanaimo shortly.

A quiet wedding was celebrated at Hope Bay on Saturday, Dec. 19, when Miss Kathleen (Kate) Georgeson became the

bride of A. Martin Stallybrass. The Rev. Richardson officiating and the ceremony took place at the manse...The happy couple left on the Princess Mary for Vancouver, visiting also New Westminster and Nanaimo, returning to South Pender to spend Christmas with the bride's family.

SATURNA ISLAND

DECEMBER 22, 1937

A very nice Christmas concert was held in the hall at Hope Bay. There was a good attendance and the children all did very well. There were games but naturally, Santa Claus was enjoyed most of all.

FULFORD

DECEMBER 22, 1937

Mrs. J. McEachern, who has been spending the past month in Victoria visiting her daughter Mrs. Harold Blakey, returned to Fulford on Sunday.

Mrs. A. McLennan has left Beaver Point to make her home for some time with her daughter, Mrs. M. Lee, Burgoyne Valley Road.



Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Goodie & Isabel



NORTH PENDER ISLAND
GOLD STAR CASH & CARRY
Lorraine Dever Schooner Way 629-3434
Wishes You The Very Best For The Festive Season and The Coming New Year
Watch for our monthly sales and specials from time to time.
— WE DO PHOTO COPIES —



Hi! Merry Christmas
Have the cheeriest holiday ever.
From Gladys and Vic at the
CORNER STORE GALIANO ISLAND



Aye, aye, mateys!
Season's best to all along with our thanks!
Nigel & Jean
PHILLIPS MARINE TRANSPORT

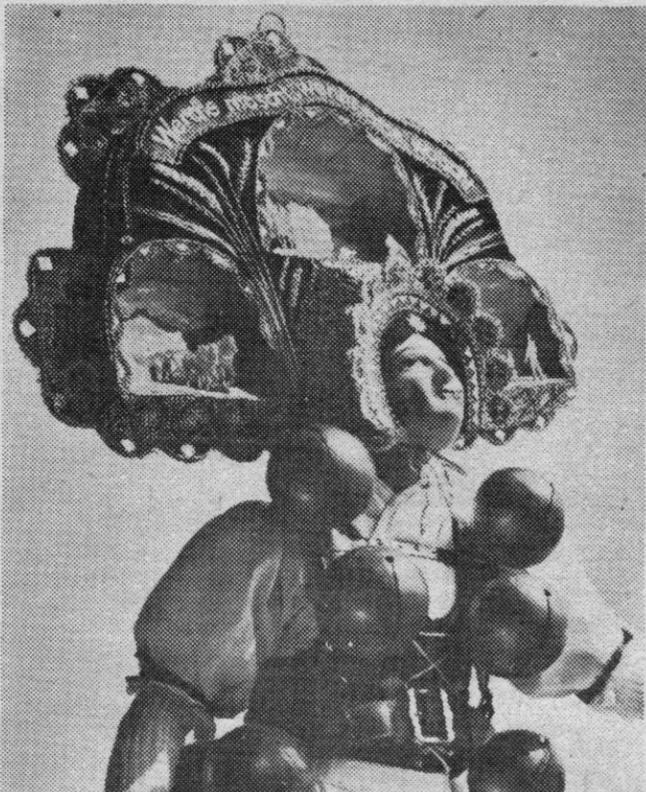


Warm Christmas Wishes
We're wishing that you'll enjoy warmth and peace at your hearthside this Christmas.
JOHN TAYLOR — ELECTRICIAN



A MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS
Dietrich & Conroy Schultz
THE GENERAL STORE
Port Washington

MERRY CHRISTMAS ☆
&
A Happy & Prosperous New Year
To All Our patrons and friends
PEG & JIMMY STEWART
MAPLE GROVE RESORT



A "SILVESTERKLAUS" of Canton Appenzell-Ausserhoden, Eastern Switzerland, such as this one is among the most striking of the figures which clang bells and wear magnificent headdresses and masks as they frolic around in large or small groups demanding money from onlookers. Wearing artists headgear often resembling filigree work or depicting houses or entire landscapes, their name, "Silvesterklaus," is an allusion to St. Nicholas. Photo courtesy Swiss National Tourist Office.

ASS ESSENTIAL TO EVERY DOMAIN
Although the ass, such as the one ridden by Mary, is sometimes described as a lowly beast, fit for those of humble station, there is considerable evidence that the docile and useful ass was ridden by many rich and prestigious people as well as the poor. The Bible often mentions the ass as a common part of many households.

To keep living is no longer a moral victory. It is a miracle of modern chemistry and surgery.

THY WILL BE DONE
Lord Jesus, as thou wilt if among the thorns I go,
Still sometimes here and there let a few roses blow,
Now thou on earth along the thorny path has gone
Then lead me after thee my Lord!
Thy will be done!



It is our warmest wish that your holiday be filled with peace of mind, good health, and much joy.

SALTSPRING CABLEVISION
(1972) Ltd.



Merry Christmas

That you and yours be gifted with a glorious Christmas, is our wish. Thanks and best cheer to all our friends.

Elizabeth Lake at **MOD'N'LAVENDER** YOUR SIMPSON SEARS AGENT

Thy Will Be Done

BY BEATRICE SAUNDERS
Before putting away my fur coat - there was a button or two to sew on.
Before I was finished, I found all the buttons needed a repair job. - (they were made of cord). I found the centre was coming loose and stitches were needed.
As I was doing the repair job; I thought, as we go

through life we have a good many repair jobs done by the doctors.
We go on and on, and at last the repair jobs are at an end - our whole body structure breaks down and nothing more can be done for us.
Life is not permanent... like the leaves that fall from the trees, nothing endures. There is always change and death.

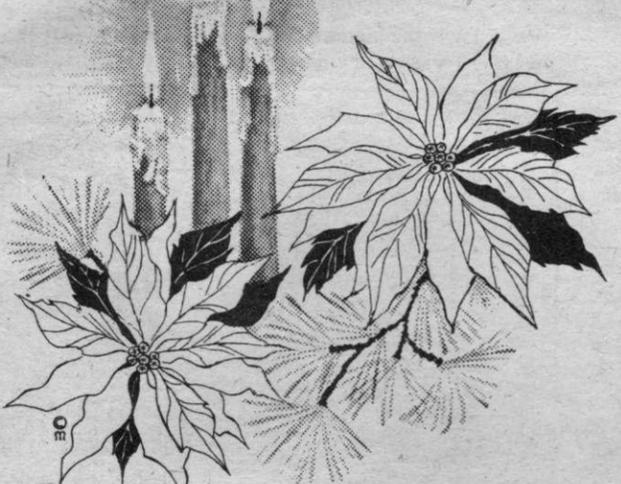
A Very Merry Christmas

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From all of us

Norman, Carolyn, Brenda, Barbara, Susan, Karen and Kathy Mouat
Bruce, Connie and Russell Hardy
Dennis and Marie Wood
Freddie and Peter Cartwright



at
SALT SPRING INSURANCE AGENCIES (1972) LTD.
& **TRAVELWORLD**

Skeleton in the Closet

(From Page Eight)

their helpers and remained unfed, unwatered and forgotten to become, each, a skeleton in his own closet.

When the agent told us that they had recently discovered a priest's hole in this house I pricked up my ears. My forebears had usually been among those who harbour the priest, rather than track him down and priest's holes were not unknown in the unchronicled story of their days.

I LED THE WAY

As we entered this ancient hiding place, I led the way. Walking through what was now a normally-sized doorway, we

found ourselves in a room measuring about 12 feet square. The ceiling was low and the walls were of stone, except for the opposite wall, which was lined with rough-hewn boards. The floor was heavy with dust and I was surprised that no effort had been made to clean the place of its three hundred years' accumulation of dust and cobwebs and dirt.

There was a doorway opposite and I walked through.

The change was astonishing. I stood at the end of a very long library.

Well-stacked shelves ran up to the ceiling and a long, very heavy wooden table ran the



length of the room, perhaps 25 or 30 feet.

To find the library after so many years seemed not only surprising, but not quite credible. The books appeared authentic. They wore the familiar faded leather of the period and the gold lettering so popular with the ancient bookbinders, was not completely disguised by the dust.

A very large book was near me and I took it down. My family were all examining the books and making some comment about their discoveries.

The book I took down was a bound edition of early copies of the London Daily Mirror. I looked at it and I looked at the agent.

"This had only must been discovered?" I checked.

He assured me that it was so.

Then how could these newspapers have got there? The agent was apparently as nonplussed as I was. The illogicality annoyed me and I walked away from him.

MATCHING DOORWAY

At the far end of the library was an opening in the wall to match the doorway and I was interested to find that the dust was so deep. It had apparently drifted to the end of the room so much that it was like walking in snow. I was wholly into the small room before I looked around.

I froze.

In the centre of the room was a table and on either side stood a chair. The table was thick with this layer of dust which appeared everywhere. There were dust-covered utensils of a primitive nature.

But seated in each chair was a skeleton.

Both skeletons bore the ragged decayed remnants of a monkish garb, still covering the bony heads.

I had disturbed them. One of the skeletons lurched in the chair and fell to the ground into a heap of dry bones, covered with the bits of cloth trailing them and stirring a small requiem dust cloud.

I rushed out of the room and grasped my father by the arm. And I used a word quite foreign to me. It was the sense of horror and shock that had gripped me.

"In that room," I shouted, "There's a couple of stinking skeletons!"

There was a movement towards the small room and my father and I entered. As we did so the second skeleton twisted around. These alarms after three centuries of peace were disturbing. Its empty skull stared at us and I wanted to faint, but I couldn't.

The skull was of bone except for the eye sockets. They were dead white, as if still clinging to a last vestige of putrid flesh.

The movement of the bones gave the impression it was

CANDLES WERE ALWAYS PART OF CEREMONY

Candles have been a part of the Christmas season for as long as records go back although there is no suggestion that any were in evidence in Bethlehem, 2,000 years ago.

Biblical references to lighting at the period emphasize oil lamps, but it is unlikely that candles as we have them were known to the community of Bethlehem.

The candle is historically the product of the later centuries. From the 10th century to the introduction of gas and electricity candles were the alternative to oil lamps everywhere. They required no attention and they could be transported from room to room or one place to another without spilling.

The earlier candles were possibly cleaner-burning than oil.

Tallow candles were the standard candles during those centuries. They were made of a coarse, soft animal fat and burned with a distinctive, sour odour. The church candle was usually of beeswax because the wax was pure and clean and the candle burned with a steady flame and little smoke. Beeswax candles were for the

upstairs and below stairs were the tallow candles.

The pure wax and its lack of spluttering, as well as the cleanliness of the beeswax brought them into constant use in churches when more modern fuels had overtaken the wax candle.

Candles were associated with worship from the days of the Christians in the catacombs. The Roman underground tunnels were devoid of light and the Christians were obliged to use candles to conduct their services. This association with services continued through the ages and each century and each land brought more conventions and traditions associated with the candles.

In the 18th century, the unfortunate whale contributed oil and fat for lighting purposes; cheaper than beeswax and better than tallow.

During the next 100 years the introduction of petroleum products brought the candle of paraffin wax, which is the standard candle today. The advent of piped gas and electricity spelt the end of the candle industry except for special purposes and church services.

Revival in the popularity of candles has been seen in the past 10 years or so and ornamental candles now in general use will decorate a table without a candlestick and the size of such candles enables them to continue to burn for long periods.

In churches, the beeswax candle is still in demand for its traditional advantages.

looking at us and I gripped my father's arm tightly.

"Not...stinking corpses..."

muttered the skeleton slowly and deliberately, "died...a natural death...blood poisoning..."

Very slowly the bones fell apart and there was dead silence.

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

to all my friends
along R.R. 2.

Sam & Elsie Cochrane

Merry Christmas

We're banking on you to have the happiest holidays ever, and we want you to know it's been a real pleasure to serve you. Thanks

Manager: Jerry C. Stennes and Staff

Bank of Montreal

Ganges Branch

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a Prosperous New Year
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS
Barbara, Keith, Cheryl and Michael Veltman

Keith's
Salt Spring Upholstery

Down Through The Years With DRIFTWOOD

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Nearly 200 people were on the dock at Ganges to welcome Santa Claus last Saturday evening as he arrived on the good ship "Karlac" from Bellingham. 125 bags of Christmas treats were handed out by Santa to the children. Later Santa went to the hospital and visited three little girls who were there plus the grown-up patients who seemed mighty pleased to see Santa. He also visited the United Church Sunday School Party. The S. S. I. Chamber of Commerce entertained the crew members of the Christmas ship at the Harbour House Hotel with food, tea, coffee and films shown by Mr. Doug Dane. Two boxes of apples were donated by Mr. Des Crofton for distribution by the Christmas ship in the U. S. Islands.

Today the Cy Peck is going up in the world. Owing to an accident to one of the ferries, the Black Ball have asked the local ferry company for use of the Cy Peck ship for the holidays. This request has been granted and she sails today for Horseshoe Bay on the mainland. There she will augment the service between Horseshoe Bay and Langdale.

H. M. S. Ganges Chapter of the I. O. D. E. met last Sunday to pack Christmas parcels and to have the draw for the prizes. Miss B. Beddis of Ganges won the 20 lb. turkey for first prize, the Christmas cake was won by Mrs. Gordon Best of Vancouver and the box of chocolates was won by Miss Renee Dobson of Ganges.

A cow at the Cunningham dairy had twin bull calves the other day; a rarity they tell me.

Mrs. A. Stevens made off with top score at the cribbage tournament in the Beaver Point Hall last Saturday. Supper was served by Mrs. G. Ruckle and Mrs. J. Fraser. The 500 game at Beaver Point will be on January 7.

TEN YEARS AGO

About 300 people parents, children, large and small, and others braved a raw, wintry southeaster blowing up Ganges Harbour Saturday evening, to welcome Santa Claus and the Christmas ship from Bellingham, Washington. The people of Beaver

Point community got together in a real oldtime Christmas party on Friday night. Every game they could think of was played and "I never laughed so much in my life" said Gran ny Bennett. Everyone had a good time, delicious refreshments and fun. In the Fulford Hall the children flocked to see Santa and receive their gifts and candies from the very busy white bearded gentleman. Except on special occasions, Santa's reindeer are out-moded.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Salt used on highways has been blamed for a school bus break-down. On Wednesday afternoon last week, Chairman George Heinekey told the board of trustees of Gulf Islands school district that after a bus broke down, with damaged break drums proved to be filled with salt. George Lampier stated that either the buses were falling apart or an investigation should be made of their history.

Director of adult education, Mrs. Don Layard, has been commended on the "splendid job" done during the fall session of night school. Mrs. Barbara Toynbee introduced the recommendation. She was supported by the chairman, George Heinekey who agreed that the fall session had been a tribute to the director.

Dark cloud of gloom lifted the islands sun when Saanich MP David Anderson recently proposed that the Gulf Islands become a national park, with property rights withdrawn. Last week the gloom lifted some when the Vancouver Sun shone brightly over the archipelago. Les Way, former B. C. publisher who has a retirement home on Mayne wrote of the hostility among islanders towards Mr. Anderson's suggestion. Writer Way interviewed Driftwood. Top man on the Sun way totem pole was at the bottom of the page when Salty's classic recommendations, that the government go park somewhere else, was the featured curtain line in Way's presentation.

It was Christmas for Bob Sauerberg on Tuesday. Big boat for a big load... must be some good parties coming up on the outer islands.

Men's was lagging last week when Mrs. Shipley Bayless was laying down the law about men in kitchens. They can cook if they set their minds to it, she agreed, grudgingly, but it's the housewife who always has to clean up.

Pender players party at The Glade, Thursday was a groove, comme d'habitude. Hostess Olive Auchterlonie had brewed a brain straining, laff making quiz: hidden names of local roads. An easy was a pioneer merchant, Corbett Road, natch. President Auchterlonie gave \$10

Christmas Trees For Ecology...

Many people believe that the cutting of trees for Christmas "robs" nature and destroys a portion of our forests each year, but the truth is that nearly three-quarters of such trees are raised specifically to be cut at Christmas-time. Most of the remainder are "thinings"—young trees cut in forests to improve the growth opportunities for other trees.

Forestry experts and nurserymen point out that young, growing trees give off more oxygen and absorb more carbon dioxide than mature ones, so that the cultivation of Christmas trees actually helps the ecology. In contrast, they say, the manufacture of artificial trees uses up valuable energy and natural resources, which are not recoverable.

After Christmas, discarded trees can be used in various ways to benefit the environment. Even if you live in a city, ecologists suggest, you can help by getting in touch with a local conservation organization or commercial nursery.

SPIRIT MARKS SEASON

Christmas is a religious feast, yet it is celebrated by everyone, whether they acknowledge any religion or any church.

It is a religious feast, but it is also an important feature of the year in commerce.

Christmas gifts, Christmas cards, Santa Claus and his gifts, these are the things in Christmas which we grow up with.

It's the Christmas spirit

to the Man of the Hour, Pender's Partridge in a Care Tree. The total was \$1154 at supper time, George Pearson explained thanking members. The mail brought \$104 today. Edith attends to the money, George added.

George began collecting 11 years ago. Play directed by Gertrude Bennett helped with party preparations. Enjoying themselves in their simple-minded way: Maude Adams Baird, Jack Bridge, Shack and Helen Claxton, Jessie Cornaby, John Copley, Percy and Jaime Scott Corbett, Mrs. Addie Davidson, and Jean, Alex Gary, and Neptune and Dorothy Grimmer, Elfriede Hoffmann, Marion McKechnie, George and Edith Pearson, Frank Plunkett, Blanche Smythe, Daphne Stevens and Connie Swartz.

that marks the season. The spirit that drives people to give and to show a warmth or a regard or an affection that at any other time is suppressed or carefully tucked away.

The reward of Christmas and the Christmas spirit is

not an extra box of cigars or a few candies for the evening.

The reward is the warmth and the light in the eyes of small children and the delight in the eyes of old children.

Christmas is giving, not getting.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

To All My Island
Friends & Clients

WARREN
OF
CHURLEY MORN

CONTACT - Mrs. 'Liz' Sneyd
at 537-2312

WARM Christmas WISHES

We join Santa in wishing you unlimited mileage of holiday joys. Many thanks for your confidence.



& A Happy New Year

FROM ALL THE STAFF AT

GANGES AUTO-MARINE



MERRY CHRISTMAS

'Happy Holidays to you' — that's in tune with our wishes.
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

A. B. CONSTRUCTION

Merry Christmas

In the true and hearty spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas, we wish you the best, and thank you warmly.

RAIPH'S MEAT MARKET



AT Christmas

May your Christmas bloom with good feeling to last through the holidays and always.

Flowers & Wine

Mouat's Mall

MERRY CHRISTMAS
 To our friends and neighbors, all best wishes for holiday happiness.
 John & Gladys Lee
BLUE GABLES RESORT & CAMPSITE



Driftwood will not be published on December 31 or January 7

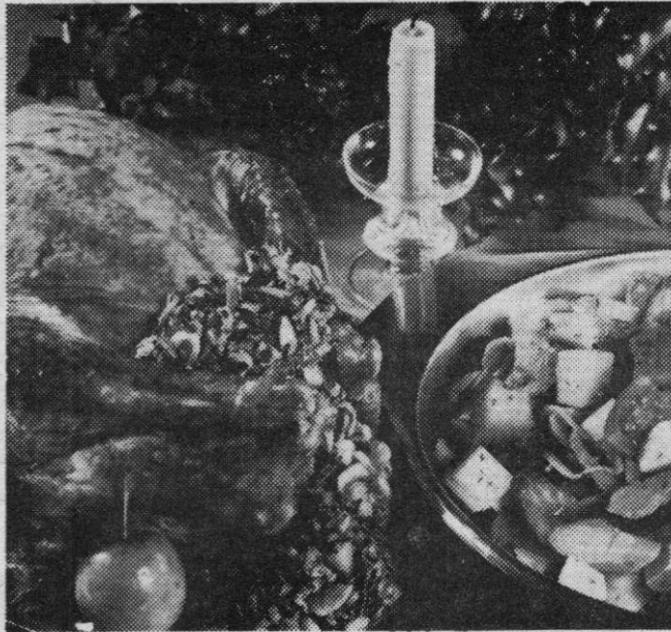


Greetings to all Here's wishing you lots of joy and laughter to remember all year.
 Jack and Pauline Kenton and family
Cedar Beach Resort

Merry Christmas



May the gaiety and glee of this holiday season brighten the hearts and homes of our friends and guests.
 Gunter & Ursula Burger
ARBUTUS COURT MOTEL



Season's Eatings

EASY GOURMET WILD RICE STUFFING —
 1½ cups Wild Rice
 sufficient for 10 to 12 lb. turkey

Wash rice in cold water. Stir rice into 5 cups boiling water. Parboil 5 minutes only. Remove from heat. Cover. Set aside for one hour. Drain. Wash. Then, cook drained rice in boiling salted water for 25 minutes. Drain. Set aside.

- 6 tablespoons butter
- ¾ cup (2 medium) onions, chopped
- ¾ pound small mushrooms, sliced (4½ cups)
- ¾ cup chopped toasted almonds (3 ounces)
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 can (10 ounces) beef bouillon
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- scant ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup chopped fresh parsley

Melt butter in a large skillet, saute onions, mushrooms, almonds, on high heat, for about 5 minutes. Stir in flour, cook for one minute. Add bouillon, cook, stirring until

smooth and thickened. Add seasonings, parsley and rice. Toss gently.

Stuff 1 ready-to-cook turkey

Yield: 8½ cups

Stuff and truss the turkey. Brush with butter or oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast breast side up on a rack in a shallow pan. Cover with foil, leaving open at the sides. To finish browning turkey, remove foil 1 hour before end of cooking time and baste with drippings.

ROASTING TIMETABLE*
 (325 degrees F. oven)
 for Whole Turkeys

Weight (Pounds)	Time (Hours)
8	3¾ to 4¾
12	4¾ to 5½
16	5¾ to 6
20	5¾ to 6½
24	6¾ to 7

*Stuffed, unstuffed and self-basting type turkeys require the same time to cook. Begin testing for doneness at the shorter time within the range.

TESTING FOR DONENESS

Whole turkey: Press thick part of drumstick; if it feels soft the bird is done. The leg should move readily when you twist it. If using a meat thermometer, roast stuffed turkey to 165 degrees F. in stuffing and unstuffed turkey to 185 degrees F. in the thigh.

CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING

Traditionally the plum pudding is made early in December — partly to let it "ripen" — partly to get you in a festive mood — mostly to lighten your burden as December days get busier with a round of social events.

- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¾ teaspoon mace
- 1½ cups finely cut raisins (¼ pound seedless)
- 1½ cups currants plumped (washed in hot water, then drained)
- ¾ cup finely cut candied orange and lemon peel
- 1½ cups coarse soft (fresh) bread crumbs
- 2 cups ground suet
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 6 tablespoons red currant jelly
- ¼ cup brandy

Sift together flour, soda, salt and spices. Mix in raisins, currants, candied peel and bread crumbs. In another bowl mix suet, sugar, eggs, jelly and brandy. Add to dry ingredients; blend well.

Pour into two 1-quart greased pudding molds, (2/3 full). Lay waxed paper loosely over mold to prevent steam which collects on cover dropping into pudding. Cover with mold lid. Place on a rack in a steamer or large kettle where water will reach up to the mid-point of pudding mold. Bring water to a simmer, cover and steam pudding 6 hours. When done, remove from kettle. Cool. Wrap in aluminum foil and set it to ripen in a cool place. To serve, steam, then loosen sides and turn out on a hot serving dish.

Flame with warm brandy. Serve with Brandy Sauce.

BRANDY SAUCE

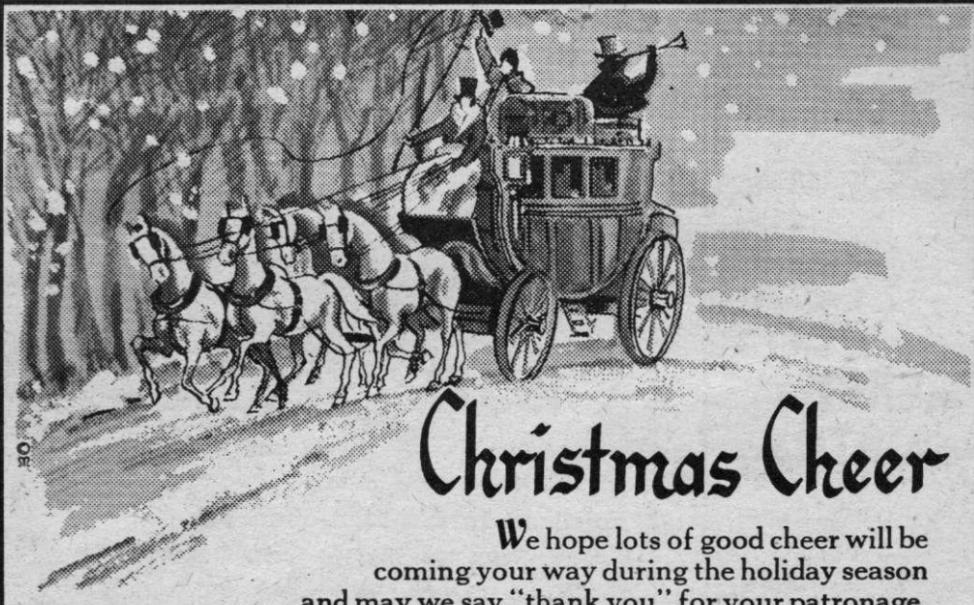
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup flour
- 2/3 cup lightly packed brown sugar
- 1½ cups milk
- ¼ cup brandy

In a saucepan, melt butter, blend in flour. Cook a few moments; remove from heat; blend in sugar and milk.

Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thickened.

Stir in brandy. Serve hot over steamed pudding. Makes 2 cups.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR
 TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND GUESTS
 Gerry and Jeannie Haarbrucker
THE COTTAGE RESORT ON ST. MARY LAKE



Christmas Cheer
 We hope lots of good cheer will be coming your way during the holiday season ... and may we say "thank you" for your patronage
 Gerry Bourdin **Lancer Contracting Ltd.**

Yule Customs of Europe's Laplanders Related to Lifestyle and Early Culture

There are today some 30,000 Laplanders of which approximately two-thirds live in Norway, one third in Sweden, and smaller numbers in Finland and Russia.

Lapps are closely associated with reindeer, on which they have depended for a large part of their livelihood since prehistoric times.

The early Lapp religion was shamanistic, featuring a priest, or shaman, who divined the secrets of good hunting, fishing, reindeer grazing, and other matters of importance to the people, while in a state of trance. Beautifully decorated "magic drums" were a means of inducing the trances and are characteristic of early Lapp culture.

CHRISTIAN CONVERSION

Large scale conversion to Christianity did not occur among the Lapps until the 17th Century. This fact combined with the excessively tough conditions of the northern winter tended to prevent the development of Christmas customs as we know them — the church gatherings, decoration of homes and trees, the giving of gifts, and elaborate feasts. The Lapps' chief festivals came in spring and autumn with the occasions of marketing, when the products of the reindeer herds and furs from hunting were exchanged for other products.

However, 17th Century manuscripts describe one Lapp Christmas custom which has a parallel in many lands and which reminds one of putting out cookies and milk near the chimney for Santa Claus. The old documents tell of a "sacrifice" to the "Yuletide People," spirits which were believed to fly about over the earth and which may have originated in a pre-Christian observance of the Winter Solstice.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

On Christmas Eve there was a fast, and the food which would have been eaten was set aside. On Christmas Day this food, including samples of everything to be eaten on Christmas, was packed in a small boat-shaped basket of birch and hung upon a tree. In this manner the Yuletide People could partake of the feast like everyone else.

In modern times, with many Lapps living a more settled life in permanent communities, the observance of Christmas is becoming indistinguishable from that of other northern Scandinavians. Today's Christmas tree among the Lapps had its forerunner in the tree-hung sacrifice to the Yuletide People.

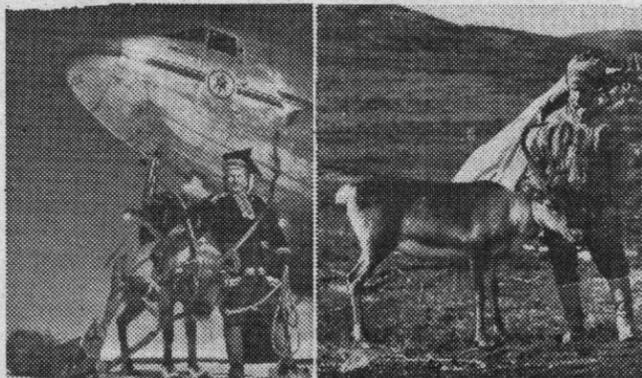
CHAIN OF LIFE

(From Page Two)

Like the house that Jack built the food chain becomes much more complex.

To allow the trophic levels to exist and succeed the amount of producers must be greater than the amount of herbivores and the amount of herbivores must be greater than the amount of carnivores or F.G.'s.

Once one of the levels becomes unbalanced and there is no longer a balance of nature the trophic levels die and decompose perhaps to begin again and perhaps to decompose to such an extent that life will take



LAPLANDERS AND REINDEER, their lives intertwined by nature for hundreds of years, provide an economical balance in northernmost Europe's subarctic regions. Lifestyle of Lapp with sled-pulling reindeer is contrasted by prop-driven airplane, while another Lapp affectionately pets a reindeer upon which he so heavily depends. Photos courtesy Royal Norwegian Embassy Information Service.

NOT ALWAYS

The first Christmas may have occurred in December, but it is certain that it did not come on December 25.

The date was forgotten in the events that led up to the death of Christ on a cross and the establishment of the Christian religion.

For several hundred years after his death, men were marking the notable events and incidents of the life of Christ. In the early church the year was divided into seasons coinciding with the life of Christ. His birth was marked at the close of the year and his death was at the beginning of spring.

About the fifth century there was some active speculation and dispute over the exact day on which the Christ child was born.

That is how December 25 came to be chosen.

It was a feast-day many

years before Christianity swept over Europe. Bede, the early British chronicler recorded that "the ancient people of the Angli began their year on December 25, when we now celebrate in their tongue, modranecht, that is, the Mothers' Night."

It was an arbitrary choice when those who selected it decided that the importance of marking the birth of Christ was far greater than the detail of the specific day. And for 15 centuries, December 25 has been the day.

During the religious tumult of Britain in the Stuart times, Christmas was abandoned. Under the Cromwell government in 1644, it was forbidden.

When Cromwell went out and Charles II came in, the annual feast was reintroduced.

And December 25 has been Christmas Day ever since.

SEASONS GREETINGS

From

L.S. BROWN CONSTRUCTION

Christmas Greetings

A winter landscape of yesteryear best expresses the peace and contentment of Christmas. May that peace, contentment be yours.



FACCA CONSTRUCTION LTD.



We
take this opportunity to wish every one of you a truly beautiful holiday.

MERRY Christmas

from Carol

RAINBOW BEAUTY SHOP

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year



Happy holidays to our friends. We're sending this message of thanks to all.

et cetera
book & stationery

Christmas Greetings

A winter landscape of yesteryear best expresses the peace and contentment of Christmas. May that peace, contentment be yours.



FACCA CONSTRUCTION LTD.

SEASON FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

One needn't be young to love Christmas, all one needs is a joyous young heart; If we're born with, or develop one, we're off to a goodly start. The generous sharing at Christmas time; giving for humanity's sake... This is the essence of Christmas; the rest, just icing on the cake. But to have a true, bubbling joy in this, this is a rarer thing... To know there are such people on earth, must make the angels sing. One Christmas when I was much downcast, Dad came to spend the day. He arrived like a jolly St. Nicholas, laughing, bright and gay. Later he stood by the Christmas tree, planning a children's surprise... There I found the glow of all Christmases; it shone from my father's eyes.

-Celia Reynolds.

Tips to Make Yule Brighter

The Christmas card made from a photograph of children or family group is highly popular as a means of bringing a sense of togetherness to relatives and friends when geographical separation makes the real thing impossible.

The best time for such

pictures, naturally, is when presents are being opened and the family group is together, sharing and showing their joy in Christmas surprises.

A good second opportunity may be found when the family is gathered at the table for Christmas dinner. Other possibilities include "stockings hung by the chimney with care" and children playing, indoors or out, with new gifts.

Whatever subject you choose, better do it today — tomorrow may be too late to capture the best "shots" to share with others.

* * *

In most cases, Christmas cards become waste paper. Before you consign this year's cards to the trash can, consider removing personal messages from them and turning them over to a church or other group whose members devote their time to creating attractive scrap-books with the cards. Many beautiful and col-

orful cards, carefully selected and arranged in these inexpensive and easy-to-make scrap-books, provide hours of enjoyment to older people and others whose activity is curtailed for one reason or another.

You might enjoy making a scrap-book for yourself. Whatever the case, the second life given these Christmas and greeting cards can be rewarding and useful.

People are celebrating with more non-electrical decorations, such as ornaments made from household items, glass decor which reflects the usual home lighting, and candles, homemade or bought.

The trend represents a return to home living, a more provincial way of life. This resurgence of a country-type lifestyle and family togetherness becomes most obvious during the holidays.

CHRISTMAS IS
CHRISTMAS IS A JOY,
AND THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS IS HOPE
CHRISTMAS IS A PROMISE
AND THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS IS PEACE
CHRISTMAS IS A SPIRIT,
AND THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IS LOVE.

A Lasting Christmas

I keep a part of Christmas
For it helps to add a glow,
To the January darkness
And the February snow.
If March is cold and blustery
And though April brings us rain,
The peace and warmth of Christmas
With its happiness remain...

There's a beauty when it's Christmas
All the world is different then,
There's no place for petty hatred
In the hearts and minds of men.
That is why my heart is happy
And my mind can hold a dream,
For I keep a part of Christmas
With its peace and joy supreme.

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Merry Christmas

Holiday greetings are always in style. We've enjoyed your goodwill and confidence throughout the year.

Shirley, Bev & Cindy

DUTCH BEAUTY SALON

Open Monday, Dec. 29
Closed December 25 & 26; January 1 & 2

FULFORD TIDE TABLES

23	0105	2.5
	0900	11.7
TU	1525	7.2
	1930	8.0
24	0145	3.6
	0935	11.7
WE	1625	6.1
	2110	7.5
25	0230	4.9
	1005	11.8
TH	1715	4.9
	2320	7.5
26	0330	6.4
	1030	11.7
FR	1820	3.8
27	0305	9.3
	0605	8.8
SU	1145	11.5
	1955	1.9
29	0400	10.3
	0740	9.5
MO	1230	11.3
	2040	1.3
30	0455	11.0
	0900	9.7
TU	1315	11.0
	2120	1.0
31	0535	11.4
	1010	9.7
WE	1405	10.8
	2155	.9



Season's Greetings
From
PATTERSONS

Harbour House Hotel



BOX 99 GANGES, SALTSRING ISLAND, B.C.
TELEPHONE (604) 537-2133

Dear Patrons,

The management and staff at this special time of the year would like to take this opportunity to express their warm appreciation to their patrons, and others in this community and beyond.

To each and every one of you a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Our menu for Christmas Day will be traditional turkey with savoury dressing or honey glazed ham with all the trimmings. For your added enjoyment of Christmas Day, Bryan Smith will be playing the piano.

In order to give our staff time to be with their families over the holidays, the hours that our Dining Room will be open are:-

Christmas Eve 6 - 8 p.m.
Christmas Day 4 - 8 p.m.

New Year's Eve 8 p.m. - ?
New Year's Day 12 - 8 p.m.

It would be appreciated if you made your Christmas and New Year reservations early. December 20 is the deadline for reservations.

On New Year's Eve we will be having a Smorgasbord with all the trimmings. Please watch the paper for further details.

For your dining and dancing pleasure, we are pleased to announce that our weekend entertainment consisting of Bryan Smith on the piano and Deg De Groot will continue during the winter months.

Yours sincerely,

A. Jonker
General Manager