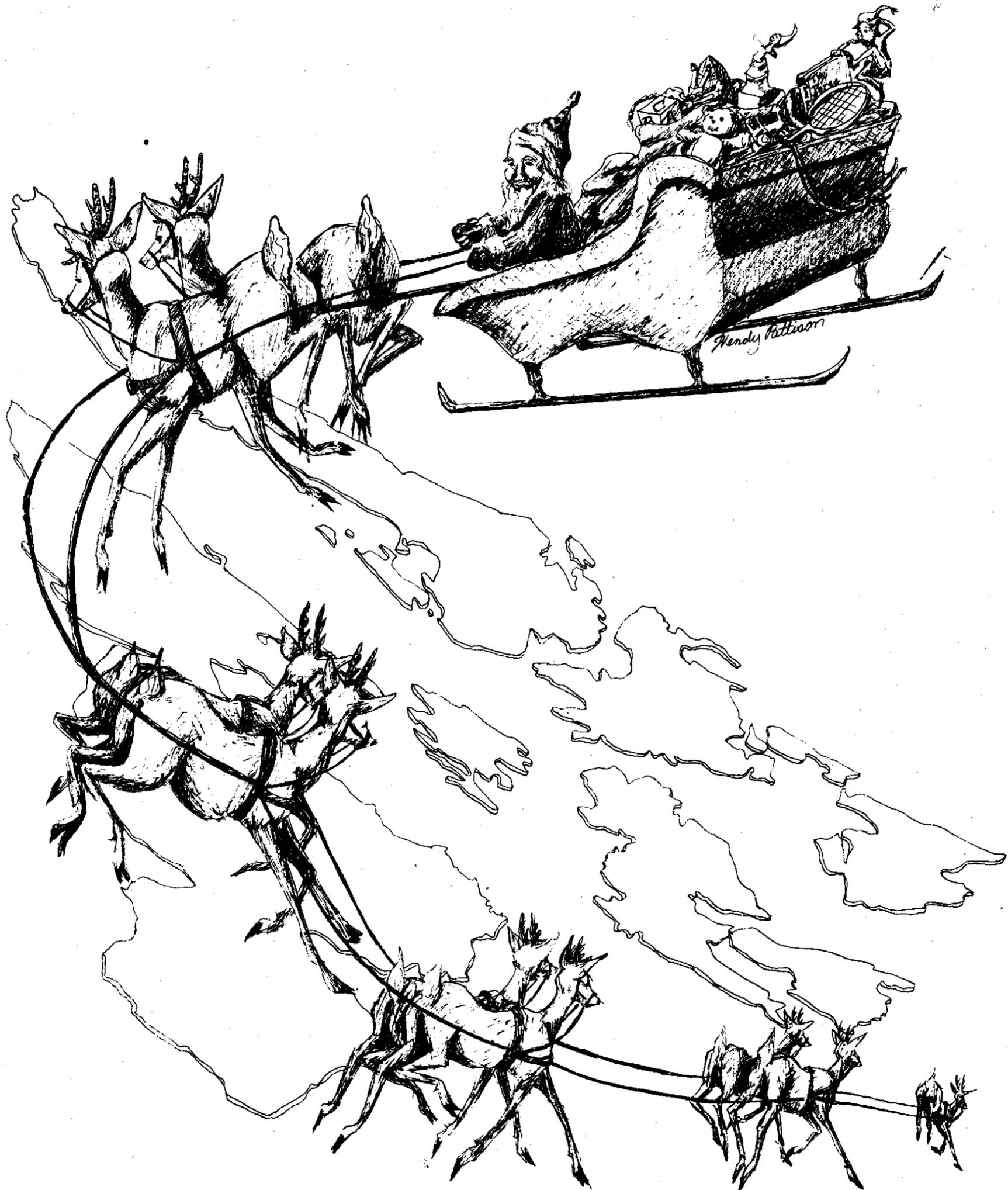


# GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS



History has effect

# Britain and Victoria have changed

BY FRANK RICHARDS

Britain is not the place it was. But neither is Victoria.

The plain truth is that they've messed up the Old Country so much that I can scarcely recognize the place I left.

And they've messed up Victoria until I can scarcely recognize the place I came to.

But I saw Victoria change from the city of the dead to a little bit of old something. And I never saw them change Britain.

The Brits went to town on the cities. They worked on the principle that everyone was in a hurry and they were right. The traffic forges on just like in Vancouver, but there always seems more of it.

Concrete was invented a long time ago, but some of the city architects rediscovered it and the cities are clothed in grey.

If you can get out of the city, then Britain just ain't changed a bit.

In Knighton, Powys, where I wed a Welsh wife decades ago, the legacy from the Tudor years. Better the legacy!

with less confidence than does the French gourmet of the Dordogne.

## Typical country town on English border



Typical Welsh border town, Knighton, in Powys, was a market town when Cromwell was

chopping heads off. Inn on the right is about 400 years old.

Picture was taken on a busy day as the crowds can be seen doing the week's shopping.

**WARM WISHES**

Hope your holiday is aglow with happiness.

Management and Staff

**S.S. Island Garage**

**SEASONED GREETINGS**

**Serving up generous portions of holiday happiness to our devoted patrons, adding a sprinkle of good cheer and thanks!**

Jackie, Beckey, Audrey, Gwen, Mitch, Pam, Anne, Donna, Barb, Geraldine, Joan, Malcolm and Al

at

**Kanaka Place**

advances of traffic haven't made a dent and the advances of concrete science have yet to show up. The pace is gentle, the chimneys still smoke and you could imagine standing with a visitor of a century ago watching the hounds setting forth from the Norton Arms on Boxing Day morning. The scene is but little changed in that century.

### FOX AND HOUNDS

Incidentally, the hounds are in pursuit of the unfortunate fox; great-great-great-and-then-some-grandson of the fox they hunted on Boxing Day of 1879.

The feature of every English village and every Welsh village from Monday to Saturday until after the second war is the pub. It may be the chrome and glass establishment of the brittle city or it may be the aged oak and brick

Eating and drinking are a pleasure in many a British pub. They are not the delight that the continentals make of them. The British rarely dine with the same degree of devotion that brings the German burgher to his table in the Black Forest. He selects his wines

But he eats well and drinks contentedly.

On a recent convalescent journey to Britain, our first encounter with the tradition of dining out in the country was in London and we went for lunch. In fact we were

Turn to Page Nineteen

**THE SPIRIT OF Christmas**

May the true spirit of Christmas fill your hearts and homes, our sincere thanks to all.

**Pattersons Store FULFORD**

**Greetings**

**It's Christmas, and time to greet good friends... time, too, to count our blessings. One of the greatest of these is the friendship of those whom we are privileged to serve.**

**TO ALL, OUR THANKS AND BEST WISHES**

From Walter & Lucia Fallot at

**W & W Electric**

# Salt Spring Island resident has a remarkable memory of days gone by in Saskatchewan

BY BRIAN SOBER

"There were a lot of Scandinavians there 25 miles north of Melford, Saskatchewan," said Oly Olson, a retired Norwegian gentleman who has lived off Sunset Drive, Salt Spring Island, for the past 25 years.

I was talking with Oly at his kitchen table which was piled high with books, letters and other things.

Oly is 96 years old, a little deaf without his hearing aid (which was away for repair), yet still retains a most remarkable memory of the days gone by when he farmed in Saskatchewan.

Oly lives in a neat little house, painted white with a white guest cottage out back, and from within one has a terrific view of Stuart Channel.

Oly is one of the original settlers of the northern prairies. Melford, he said, is 200 miles north of Regina and his homestead was 25 miles north of there.

### GOOD LAND GONE

"When we first arrived a government man took us out to look, and all the good land had gone in the big rush before us. We took what we could get and I took 160 acres which was largely slough," he said.

He and his wife had one child and spent their first winter in Melford with another settler, Oly said. That settler's house had two rooms and the Olsons slept in the kitchen.

The procedure at the time for the homesteader was to get timber, and a permit to get that timber, for a house. Olson convinced the Swedes with whom he had immigrated to get their permits together and start logging.

The Swedes agreed and the party of loggers left for a town 80 miles down the train track where there were considerable stands of timber.

### NEAR A MILL

It was relatively easy; the stand of timber they were logging was in the proximity of a sawmill which was near a railroad line.

"The next question," Oly remarked, "was unloading the tim-



OLY OLSON

ber and getting it home." Oly successfully contracted for a Swede named Nelson with a team of horses, "which was a big thing", to haul his timber from Melford to the homestead.

Olson had cut, logged, milled and transported by rail 20,000 board feet of timber (half of which was his) with three or four Swedes. The time of the year when they started was late November, so there was no time to begin building a house upon returning.

The man Nelson, who transported the lumber by horse team, refused to accept payment for the 24-mile trip.

### CARPENTER

Olson was a journeyman carpenter who had apprenticed in Norway and had worked for a couple of years in Michigan. His next job was to find himself, his wife, Hilda, and their child a place to live until spring.

Oly said that they stayed with an Englishman named Falk.

Early next spring Oly borrowed a tent from Nelson and set it up on his land. His family moved in with him and it was a difficult time for his wife, who had to cope with coyotes.

"Anyway, I built the house. I was very good with building al-

ready so it didn't take very long," Oly said.

Hilda, he said, was not enthused with their lifestyle, particularly with regard to the coyotes. The coyotes would approach the tent and sing and one morning Hilda had quite a scare on finding them outside the door.

### GOT HIM A JOB

Hilda had been with Oly in her home town and in 1907 had got him a job working for her father who was a Swedish contractor. The town's name was Kalamat and was located on a peninsula in Lake Superior. The peninsula, owned by the state of Michigan, abounded in copper.

"Hilda abounded in youthfulness."

She grew up in Kalamat, a small, well-cared for company town. Her life there was sheltered and her father, who was not a miner but a successful businessman, provided for her comforts.

But Oly, whom she presumably cared for, decided to go north to Canada for some of the free land that the Canadian government was offering.

He left with a band of Swedes but they all had to stop in Fargo, North Dakota, to wait for Hilda to catch up with them. They married in Fargo and landed in Canada in 1910.

### BUILT SCHOOLS

Things didn't stay bad for the Olsons for very long. He secured a contract to build a school in a neighbouring district and then one in his own area. In the meantime he planted wheat, flax and barley and raised pigs, chickens and turkeys.

He became the secretary-treasurer of the school district until he and his family left in 1928.

He said they sold all their farm equipment and household furniture and opened a restaurant in Winnipeg. "The timing," Oly said, "was wrong because in 1929 nobody had any money to spend on meals."

The restaurant business failed and a two-year job in Churchill only made their hearts yearn for the farm.

The year was 1934 when they returned and that same year they began to farm right from the start again. All the equipment had been sold.

### TWO OXEN

"To begin with I had two oxen that I farmed with. I then got a team of big horses to handle the plough. I quickly got two more to make the work go faster."

Later, he said, he bought a tractor and just let the horses enjoy themselves until they died of old age.

With regard to banks, he said he only went to one once in his life and that was the one he had dealt with while handling the school district account. The manager wasn't prepared to lend him \$100 so from that time on, Oly said, "I paddled my own canoe."

In 1944 Oly came to B.C. with a neighbour and got work in Ucluelet fortifying the beaches against the Japanese fleet, which was rumoured to be off the west coast. They constructed wooden pilings and wooden fortifications where Pacific Rim National Park is now.

Oly Olson must have let his Norwegian blood and that race's taste for the sea get the better of him because after finishing the job he went back to Saskatchewan, sold the farm, and moved his family to Vancouver.

They lived there for 13 years. Oly and Hilda raised four sons and four

daughters before Hilda died of cancer in 1952. Before she died, Oly worked a lot at Holberg on Vancouver Island building houses and commuting to Vancouver.

In 1954 Oly decided to move to Salt Spring Island and retire.

This coming January he is moving back to Vancouver where he will reside with his son.

**BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

May every day of your holiday be filled with smiles.

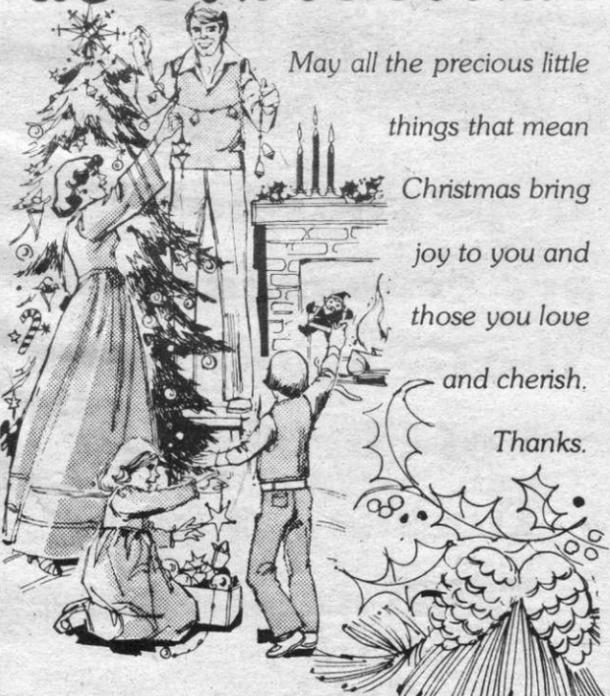
**LaFortune Contracting**



The members of the Auxiliary to the Lady Minto G.I. Hospital would like to thank everyone for their support through the year.

**A Merry Christmas & Prosperous New Year to all**

## at Christmas



May all the precious little things that mean Christmas bring joy to you and those you love and cherish. Thanks.

To all customers & friends  
Ron and Bev at

**Gulf Island Trucking**



Here's hoping that Santa's jolly spirit embraces your holiday and that everyone around your tree shares its special delights!

Cheers and thanks.

**Gulf Island Window Cleaners**

# Mandarin oranges make easy to prepare Christmas treats

## Mandarin Oven Baked Spareribs

3-4 lbs. lean spareribs  
 1 3/4 cups Mandarin Sweet and Sour Barbecue Sauce  
 Cut spareribs in 2-rib sections. Arrange in single layer in shallow baking pan. Pour barbecue sauce over ribs, cover and bake at 375° for 45 minutes. Continue baking uncovered, turning and basting occasionally

Juicy, easy-to-peel Japanese Mandarin oranges have been part of the Canadian Christmas scene since 1885.

Readers may be interested in these recipes for easy-to-prepare taste treats made with Mandarin oranges.

until ribs are brown and tender, 45 minutes to one hour. Makes four to six servings.

## Mandarin Sweet and Sour Barbecue Sauce

1/3 cup salad oil  
 1 clove garlic crushed  
 1 clove garlic crushed  
 3/4 cup brown sugar (packed)  
 1/2 cup tomato ketchup  
 1 tbsp. vinegar  
 1 tsp. pepper  
 3-4 Japanese Mandarin oranges (chopped into chunks)  
 1 large onion chopped  
 1 small green pepper (chopped)  
 1 cup orange juice  
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 1 tsp. salt  
 2 tps. dry mustard

Saute onion, garlic and green pepper in oil in skillet until onion is golden brown. Add rest of ingredients and simmer 15 minutes.

## Candied Japanese Mandarin orange peel

Cut peel in 1/4 inch strips. Place in saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil, then drain off water. Repeat this process twice.

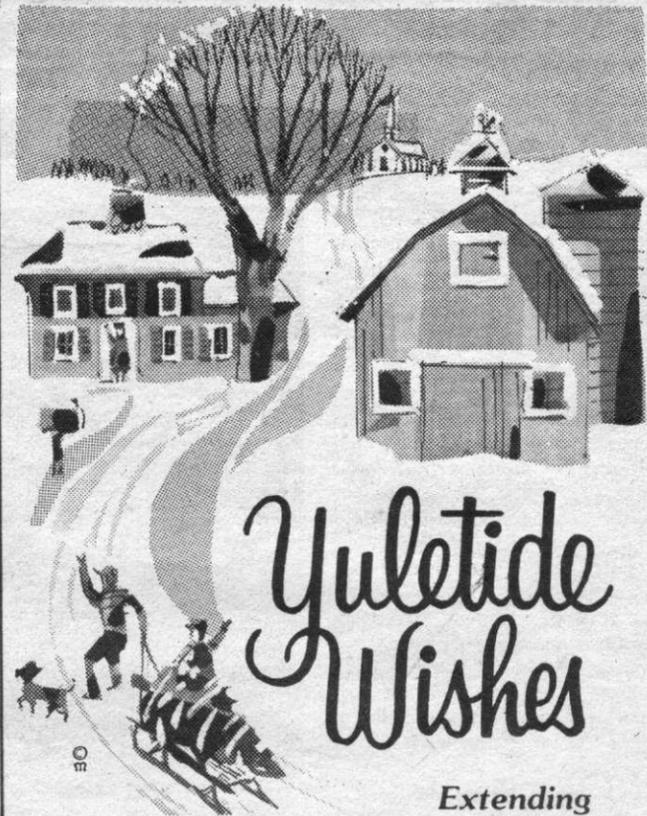
Measure the peel. Combine in saucepan with an equal amount of granulated sugar. Add water just to cover. Bring to a boil and cook to 230° F., or until syrup drips from a fork to form a thick thread about two inches long.

Remove peel and drain on rack, separating strips. Allow to cool slightly. Roll in granulated sugar. Store in air-tight container.

Fill a candy dish for holiday nibbles or pack in attractive jars for gifts.

## Christmas Seals

It's a matter of life and breath.



# Yuletide Wishes

Extending special thanks and hoping that the treasured moments you share with those you love will bring you much happiness and joy.

Cecilia, Arlene, Barbara at

## The Hair Shoppe

# Merry Christmas



When the cold winds blow  
 And the soft snows fall  
 We're wishing good cheer  
 To one and all!

Shirley, Marlene, Margaret & Brenda at

## DUTCH BEAUTY SALON

**Happy YULETIDE**

Hoping your home and hearth will shine with the bright hopes and joys that are Christmas.

Sincere Greetings from  
 Dale Neilson, Mgr.  
 Ann Foerster  
 Arvid Chalmers  
 Kelly Nemeth  
 Lilian McNulty, Secretary

**Pemberton, Holmes Ltd.**  
 GULF ISLANDS BRANCH



Hope your holidays are crammed full of the treasured gifts of Christmas.

Thanks for your faith and trust.

Management and Staff

## Cubbon Building Supplies

### The library

# A magic room with a wealth of information

BY BARBARA PERSSON

The library, particularly the school library, is more than an encounter between the intellect, the imagination and the printed word. It is a learning centre, a resource centre, a magic room, a meeting place.

Salt Spring Elementary School views the library as the focal point, or the root, or the mother lode from which the student population may draw to fulfil numerous needs.

Even the youngest child becomes involved in the magic room, the library, from the very start. These small people are initially introduced to the world of books or are freed to pursue the exploration of books already nurtured in the home. These small beings listen and respond with a wide-eyed and somewhat total enthusiasm.

What greater confirmation of the richness of a story than exuberant voices begging to take the book out upon its completion? And the dessert of the library time is the browse through the shelves to select their own books to be enjoyed in the classroom or at home.

#### GUIDED

At the intermediate level students are guided in library skills so that they will be better equipped to use the entire scope of materials available efficiently and to their own greatest advantage.

The student has a wealth of information at hand if he or she knows how to locate it and how to use it. Students have access to tape recorders, film strips and film strip projectors, video equipment, slides, pamphlets, recordings and excellent periodicals, all to be integrated with information gathered from reference books giving depth and completion to projects.

The library is a place for students to sample a variety of literary forms and hopefully a vehicle for broadening their personal reading. It is in this area that the librarian can be a prime mover.

Many get hooked on one type of book to the exclusion of all else, thus limiting so much of what could be for them. When a relationship exists between librarian and child



the latter can be helped to become more aware of his own interests, more in touch with the self, more likely to take some new risks with books.

Seeing it happen is a genuine joy. We take pride in our junior library aides at Salt Spring Elementary. Some 15 - 20 students from grades two to seven are the oil that makes our library run smoothly.

#### GIVE GENEROUSLY

These youngsters are committed and give generously of their time before school, throughout the lunch hour and at times after school.

You will see them busily carding and shelving books, setting up the listening centre, preparing a story to read to the young ones, organizing book displays to lure the reluctant reader or creating posters to brighten up this special place.

They are the blood hounds after the scent of misplaced volumes, the monitors of negligent book

borrowers, and very often the vital link between a floundering peer and a much sought after book.

Their involvement in service to their library gives them an invaluable apprenticeship and they give

A junior library aide reads a story to a group of young elementary students at the school in Ganges.

us a gift of service.

The library is a hideaway (retreat

centre) and a meeting place. It is an escape from the crowds of the day, a space to be into a book, an arena for a chess challenge, a chance to play Star Wars or work through a maze from the Maze Craze box.

It is a place to meet with the soccer coach or the house captains. It is a teacher's place to convene for meetings and work shops.

#### OPEN DOOR POLICY

And the parents' council comes together here with teacher and student representatives to raise concerns, study issues and to take action to make our school community a better place. Our library has an open door policy. It welcomes support and assistance from parents and the community.

A very positive support group joins the library staff twice weekly. They are the residents from Greenwood's personal care facility. With their presence comes an important link between youth and the aging community.

Our library staff then includes the community, the students, an excellent library clerk and the school librarian. We encompass an age range from five years to 93 years and each group is an essential ingredient to our service and program.

**Happy Holiday**  
 Surrounded by the warmth and love of an old fashioned holiday we send wishes for a simply wonderful Christmas to our loyal friends.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF  
**Gulf Islands Trading Co.**

**An Old Fashioned Christmas.**  
 Thinking of you with thanks and hoping your holidays are filled with good friends, happy times and much love.

**Salt Spring Petroleum Products Ltd.**  
 (Ganges Marina)  
 The Frasers and the Foerstes

# Is there any other?

## FROM THE BAHAI'S

Once again the carols of "peace on earth, good will towards men" ring out, re-echoing the hope that lies in waiting hearts - the hope that peace will come and come quickly.

It is both astonishing and wonderful that man seems never to weary of beseeching Almighty God to realize his hope for peace. As we survey the world around us at this moment, we are acutely aware that great efforts are in fact being made on the part of many toward that long-sought-after goal of peace.

Such efforts are proof that hope does, indeed, spring eternal, and that the spirit of man is endowed with a faithfulness and tenacity that overwhelming trials cannot extinguish.

As if to offer fresh promise to the faithful in a stricken world, these words of Baha'u'llah, spoken near-

ly 100 years ago, seem even more timely today:

*"We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations; that all nations shall become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men shall be strengthened, that diversity of religion shall cease and differences of race be annulled. So it shall be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the Most Great Peace shall come."*

These words were spoken in the year 1890 to the distinguished Orientalist, E.G. Brown of Cambridge University, when Baha'u'llah, Prophet of Universal Peace, was imprisoned in Akka, Israel. As time passes, they become more meaningful to ever-increasing numbers of seekers, and millions are now familiar with those universal principles the world is

# She has 600 pairs



Bev Saunders of Vesuvius Bay, Salt Spring Island, holds the first pair of salt and pepper shakers which she bought with her first pay

check 27 years ago. She has over 600 pairs in her collection. She said she met a woman from Victoria who had 400 pairs, so they

compared collections and found only four pairs that were similar. Bev said she can't recollect why she started.

## Season's Greetings



**John Mika**

Director, Capital Region District Board  
477-1372

striving to embrace, however painfully.

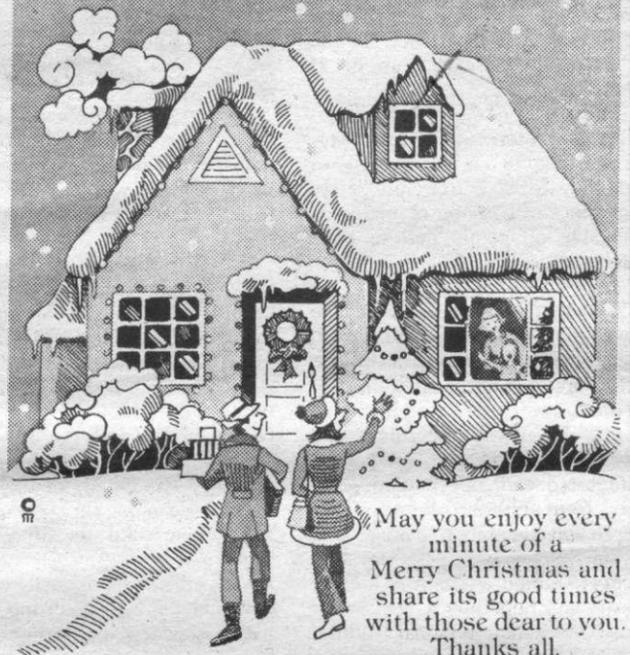
And embrace them it shall. **IS THERE ANOTHER?**

Is there any other direction to take? Only the speed with which it is accomplished remains a question. That depends, of course, on the response of each individual to the spirit of the age in which we live and on the willingness of each of us to strive to develop that supranational consciousness which can help us, beyond measure, to bring us to our by-no-means impossible dream of peace on earth.

As we increase and exercise our sincere desire for real international co-operation and understanding, pray for it, work for it, we may then begin to catch a glimmer of the reasons for this thought-provoking utterance of Baha'u'llah: 'I have consented to wear these chains that the chains of all mankind may be broken.'

At this Christmas season, the Baha'i Community wishes to lovingly share with friends and neighbours in the Gulf Islands its heartfelt good wishes and prayers for renewed faith so that the true Christ spirit will encompass all the people of the world and the Kingdom of God on earth will at last become a reality.

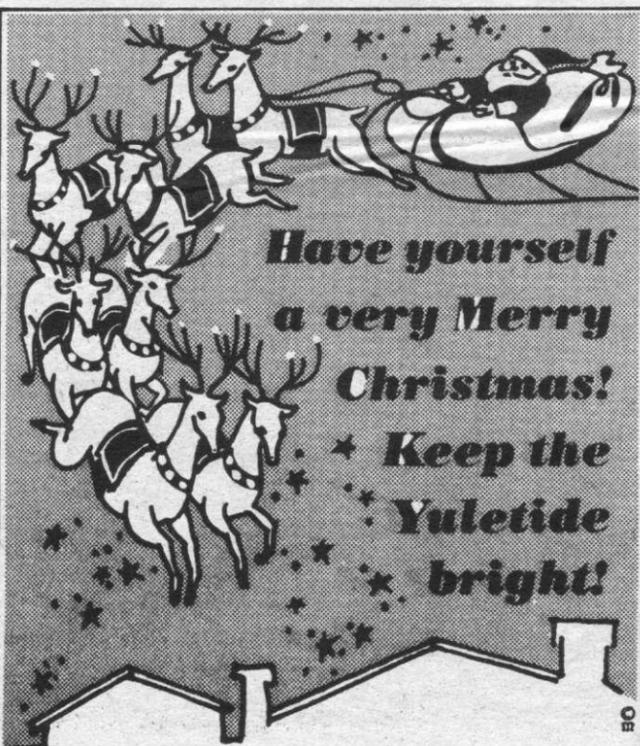
## GREETINGS



May you enjoy every minute of a Merry Christmas and share its good times with those dear to you. Thanks all.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruynse & family

**Cedar Beach Resort**



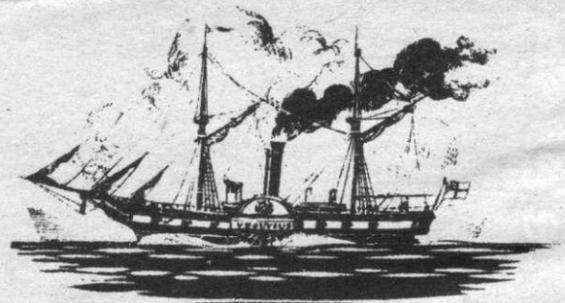
**Have yourself a very Merry Christmas! Keep the Yuletide bright!**

Best Wishes from Ben at  
**Taylor's North End Plumbing**



**Greetings**

The magical season of Christmas is here. Our best wishes to all. Donna & Bob Lang  
**Little General Store**  
Port Washington



**Season's Greetings**

from Don & Mary, John, Jean, Louisa, Charlie, Sue

**VESUVIUS INN**

# Christmas dinner in the navy: mouldy bread and sardines

Christmas in the navy is a very broad subject but to limit it somewhat we can look at the experiences of two Salt Spring Islanders who spent several wet Christmases at sea.

The most memorable experience of one, who wished to be anonymous was the Christmas of 1943 on a Corvette escorting an empty convoy across the Atlantic from Londonderry, Ireland, to Newfoundland.

He was the petty officer aboard the *Woodstock* and remembers that they were on continuous watch for the German wolf packs troubling the seas at the time.

For Christmas dinner they sat down to mouldy whole wheat bread and sardines.

The former sailor recalled that a lot of tears came to the eyes of the crew, whether they were young or old. "It wouldn't have been so bad if they hadn't played *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* over the intercom. That really broke everyone up," he said.

"Two weeks later, we tied up in Newfoundland and some of us had

our turkey dinners there."

### ON A DESTROYER

Another Christmas he recalls is the one he spent aboard the destroyer *Prince Robert*.

"We had just finished dropping off 5,000 grenadiers at Hong Kong. We headed back to Victoria for fuel and then up to Alaska."

He said they usually tried to tie up at port for Christmas but that year they spent it aboard the ship. He couldn't remember what they had for dinner that day.

The Christmas that Ivor Gillen remembers most was also in 1943. "I was in a Canadian corvette spending a few days in Gibraltar. It was between convoys and we were in for minor repairs."

"In harbour also were a Royal Navy cruiser, eight or 10 Royal Canadian Navy corvettes, a troop ship loaded with U.S. army men en route to Malta and various other allied ships," recalled Gillen.

### MAJOR ENGAGEMENT

"The reason I recall that Christmas was because I was involved in one of the major

engagements of the war there.

"The town's most popular pub was a large one called the Trocadero, and it was full of British, Canadian and U.S. servicemen at the time," he continued.

"They carried only beer, and as all their glasses had long gone it was served in large bottles with the necks removed. One could get a cut lip there in more ways than one.

"A minor skirmish began in the men's between one of our crew and an RN rating and before long nearly everyone in the place was taking part. Hundreds of men were thumping others - always someone in a different uniform and quite a lot of blood was drawn.

### SORRY LOOKING

"Some of us got away before the shore patrol arrived and we were a sorry looking lot next morning. The crews of our ships, though vastly outnumbered, thought it a good idea to go ashore that night and clean up on some of the cruiser's crew.

"Her chaplain came aboard each one of our ships in the morning with a message of peace and good will, which was not too well received. Fortunately for all concerned, his ship sailed in the early afternoon. Oddly enough though, the U.S. Army men were drawn into the scrap. No one bore them any malice."

"A dull Christmas story perhaps," said Gillen, "but it does point out one of the perils of war."



**In the glow of the holiday spirit we wish one and all a happy, hearty Christmas!**

JOHN AND GLADY LEE  
**Blue Gables Resort and Campsite**

God wouldn't have given us feet if he didn't mean for us to use them.  
Walk.  
participation Walk a block Today.

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

And to all our sincere wishes for a great holiday.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from

**Ralph's Meat Market**

Hope your holidays are framed with the special joys of the season!

Thanks to our many loyal friends.

**Leisure Lanes**

**A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us**

Norman, Carolyn, Brenda, Barbara, Susan, Karen and Kathy Mouat  
Bruce, Connie, Russ and Mike Hardy  
Dennis and Marie Wood  
Freddie and Peter Cartwright  
Chuck and Vera Longueay  
Janet Simpson  
Brud McKenna

**Salt Spring Insurance Agencies (1972) Ltd. & Travelworld**

**A Peaceful Christmas**

May the spirit of Christmas light your lives and bring you joy.

**VILLADSEN CONSTRUCTION**

# New islander delights French students

BY BRIAN SOBER

"Being on the move all the time makes me happy; I don't enjoy being passive."

"When I teach kids, it is like having different experiences all the time. With the children I can achieve a high level of awareness."

The academic qualifications and the unique life of Jack Maartman, a newcomer to Salt Spring, have made him the delight of young French students at Salt Spring Elementary School. Maartman has been assisting the regular

French teacher, Mike Hayes, by tutoring grades one through seven.

Each grade has had the opportunity to learn a bit of Quebec culture along with regular French linguistics. Maartman has been working as a volunteer in the school for over a week and spends 20 minutes with each of seven different classes every day.

Maartman, who has been blind since birth, said he believes that the major importance of teaching children French is that it must be

"palatable". He said, "What makes it difficult for the children here to keep their interest up is that they are so far removed from French culture."

### NOT A FRANCOPHONE

Although Maartman isn't a francophone he has studied French linguistics in Quebec universities and has also travelled extensively through Quebec and New Brunswick.

"If a child is taught a second language," Maartman said, "then

schools he attended weren't like that, he added.

Concerning his blindness, he claims that if only he had had one year of sight at some time in his life it would have made a major difference. "Being without sight since birth," he said, "is horrible."

After four years at Overbrook boarding school, Maartman finally entered a day school. He was 11 years old and Friends Select was the name of the Quaker-run college-preparatory school in

said that among the students were Acadians, French Africans, and French Vietnamese.

### ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

Following the program he travelled on his savings to the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. "The whole time I spent living on those two islands," he said, "I thought of the similarities there were with Salt Spring, where I had spent my summers off while attending university."



**WARM WISHES**

As the sweet sounds of Christmas echo round the world, we wish you all the blessings of a joyous holiday season.

**Miller & Toynebee**

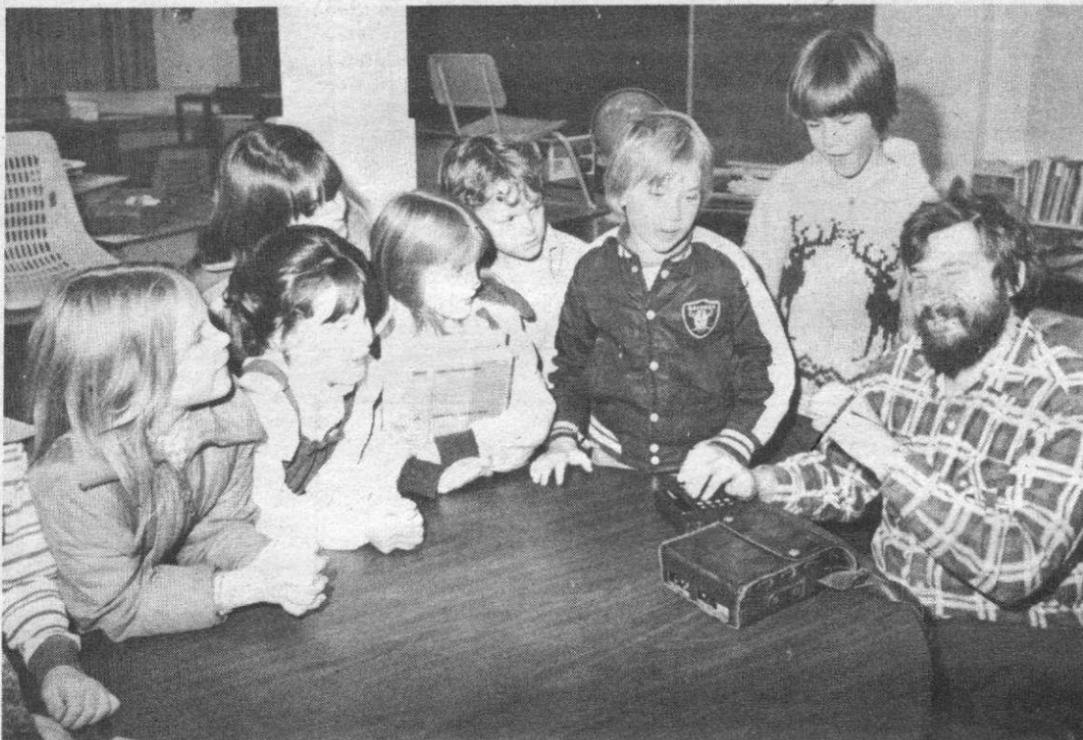


**GREETINGS**

Santa's come by to help us wish our good neighbors and patrons a very Merry Christmas. We're mighty glad we're able to help fill your barnyard needs.

Special thanks!  
Tom Gossett,  
Patrick, David & Jo Ann

**Foxglove Farm & Garden Supply**



it will be much easier for that child to learn a third." If he is travelling the world with his parents, as a young person of leisure, or as an adult businessman, the importance of language cannot be overstated.

Maartman's post-secondary academic qualifications include 3½ years at Simon Fraser University where he studied English linguistics, a six-week immersion course in French at l'Universite de Chicoutimi, Quebec, and a further year at Laval University in Quebec studying French linguistics.

### SPOKE IT AS A CHILD

He said also that his mother, a professor and writer from Philadelphia, came from a French-speaking family and that he had spoken the language as a child.

Because of his handicap, Maartman entered school at the early age of three years, presumably to get a head start on other children.

In 1956 he entered a boarding school in London, England, where he was born. The name of the school, he remembers, was the East Grinstead Sunshine Home for the Blind.

In 1960 his parents moved to Philadelphia, partly, Maartman said, to spare him from the "11 plus" examinations. Those exams were highly competitive and were designed as an answer to the high demand for the limited number of seats in England's high schools.

### NOT AS FRIENDLY

From grades one to five in the U.S., Maartman attended a boarding school for the blind called Overbrook. He said that the boarding schools in Philadelphia weren't as well organized as their counterparts in England and the children were not as friendly.

He said that when a child cried in bed at night because he missed his family, an English child would come and sit and talk at his bedside until the crying stopped and sleep came. The blind kids in the U.S.

### Philadelphia. TO PARKSVILLE

He left Friends Select four years later after completing grade eight. A major turning point was about to occur in his life; an event which brought him to Parksville on Vancouver Island.

The break-up of his parents' marriage presented him with a choice of remaining in private schools in the U.S. with his mother, or entering a public school in Canada, where his father was living.

He decided to enter public school and completed grades eight to 12 in three years.

Following high school he travelled across and around Canada by bus and by hitchhiking. For three years, he said, he lived to enjoy life and people and do the "crazy things" that he had missed as a child.

After that period he settled down to a further 4½ years of serious studies. After finishing at Laval he worked in Fredericton, N.B., as an instructor in an English language immersion program. He

Jack Maartman of Vesuvius Bay demonstrating his "talking calculator" to a group of elementary school students in Ganges. The calculator speaks only English but Maartman, who has been tutoring French in the schools, is bilingual.

He said he realized then that he liked Salt Spring more than any other place he had lived and decided to return here to settle down, and if possible buy a piece of land and eventually marry.

After making several "erratic" trips back and forth between Fredericton and Montreal, Maartman finally caught a plane in Montreal for Vancouver. After spending a few days visiting his father and step-mother there, he came to Salt Spring.

That was last summer, and if his astounding amount of physical and mental energy are utilized here somehow, then perhaps Jack Maartman will have found his place and "niche" in life.



**Merry Christmas**

Wishing you all the blessings of a joyous holiday season.

Manfred and Gayle Burandt  
**PACIFIC COAST LANDS LTD.**  
Pender Island

### Christmas in the army:

## Singing carols in the trenches

Col. Peter Bingham of Ganges was commanding his infantry regiment in Korea during Christmas, 1952. His first Christmas overseas was in 1939 when he was aboard a convoy ship headed for England from Canada, but his most memorable Christmas was the one spent in Korea.

Col. Bingham said that the Canadian government was very generous in making sure that all the Canadian men there had a Christmas dinner. He said the government flew in enough turkeys to ensure every man had a piece with his dinner. Canadian brewery companies also air-lifted beer into Korea so the men could have a bottle with their meal.

#### NO CEASE-FIRE

But the fighting continued, and there was no cease-fire with the communists. Bingham said the Canadians would take turns at the front line, where he was with his regiment, allowing part of a company to retire for their meal. During the entire day this went on with the Canadians launching attacks on the enemy and making patrols of the lines.

The men who were in the reserves were the only ones there who had a regular meal at proper tables. The rest had to take their Christmas dinners when they could, Bingham said.

He recalled that Christmas was always the saddest time of the year in the forces and it didn't matter if you were a private or a general. It was automatic for you to think of your family sitting comfortably at home while you were fighting, he said.

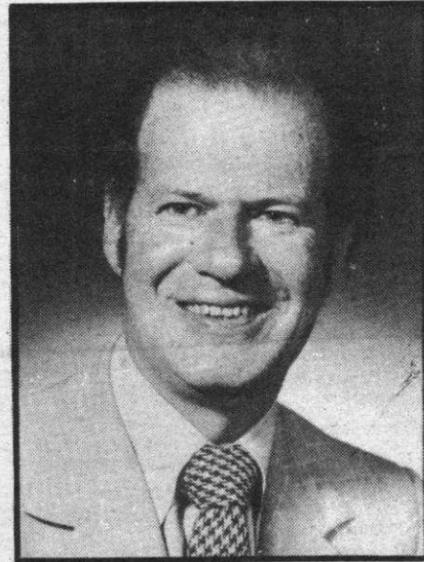
#### IN SIGNAL CORPS

Paul Layard is another Salt Spring Islander who spent Christmas overseas during the war. Layard was in the signal corps and remembers one particular Christmas in Holland in 1944.

He said it "made no difference whatsoever" that it was Christmas day, the fighting went on as usual. Layard was on the unoccupied side of the Rhine River in Holland and the Germans were on the other side. The whooting and shelling continued and the stories of both sides putting down their weapons to sing Christmas carols didn't happen in that instance.

Col. Bingham remarked that during the First World War soldiers would be singing carols in the trenches and when they stopped they could hear the Germans singing carols in their own language in their trenches.

## Season's Greetings and Best Wishes



From the Honourable  
**HUGH CURTIS**  
MLA, Saanich & The Islands  
& Family

I wish to extend my thanks to all constituents for their confidence and pledge continued effort for the constituency in the new year.

Our constituency office  
(phone: 656-6232)  
reopens after New Year's

† Help Fight RESPIRATORY DISEASE †

**for Christmas**

A special thanks to you... our good friends throughout the community

**Rita's Inn**

**MACAULAY NICOLLS MAITLAND & CO. LTD.**  
Marine Drive, West Vancouver  
926-6811 any time

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
Thank you for your patronage

I service the Gulf Islands, specializing on the "Penders" North and South, situated to the south of the B.C. Gulf Island chain. We have a continual inventory of properties ranging from low priced lots, homes and large acreages. When you wish to buy or sell please call:

**TED DEVER: 629-3434 collect**  
for fast, efficient service.

**greetings**

Reaching out with thanks for your patronage. You can depend on us for service and for the sincerest wishes of this happy season.

Bruce, Laurie, Malcolm and David  
Danny, Barbara, Charlotte and Michael  
Stan, Bev and Brandy  
at

**Bruce Fiander Esso**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

A very special "thank you" for your patronage and friendship.

Reg Ashwell  
of  
**Pegasus Gallery**

**Peace on Earth**

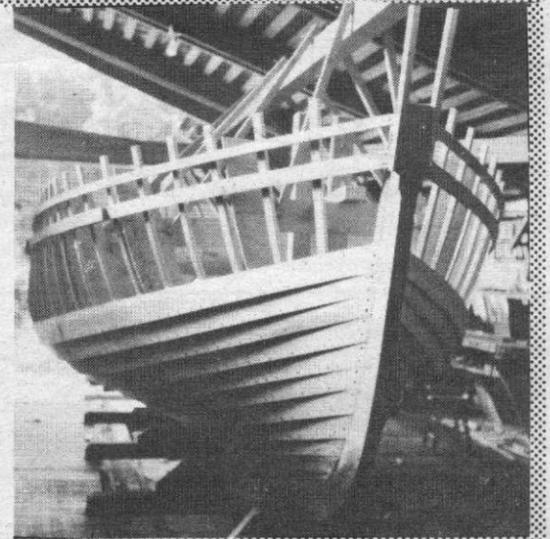
**Good Will Toward Men.**

May the true spirit of Christmas be with you this holiday.

From John, Sharie, Ardie and Eve at  
**GULFSTREAM SUPPLY**



# Sail, oar power being revived at Galiano



BY BRIAN SOBER

Whaler Bay Boat Yard at Whaler Bay on Galiano Island is a family enterprise that has been operating for 10 years.

The Foster family, Gregory, Shay and their two daughters, Megan and Arwen, use labour intensive methods to produce traditional wooden sailing craft.

The largest boats produced so far are a 30-ft. traditional boat christened *Nanoose* in 1979, and a 30-ft. Isle of Shoals ketch.

Some of the types of boats made there are Labrador dories, Nantucket double-ended sailing craft, Providence ship's boats and Hampton whalers.

Greg Foster, who is the only member of the family working full-time on the boats, said that the designs being built at Whaler Bay are primarily seaworthy types from the 1800's: ship's boats, whalers, shallows, pinkies and dories.

**FROM 900 A.D.**

The oldest design they have built was a viking faering from 900 A.D. Years of research into historical boat types, their building and use, underlie Foster's work. He maintains a collection of traditional boat plans numbering in the hundreds, plus a large library of information stretching back to the dawn of man's voyaging on the water.

Next year Foster, with the help of his wife and children, plans to build a 44-ft. clinker planked vessel



modelled on the Biscay shallop, or Labrador whaler, one of the first and most influential boat types employed in the New World.

All the boats produced by Foster come without engines but instead carry oars, or sweeps.

"For eight years now we have been using sailing boats for fishing, firewood, supply trips, as well as beachcombing for natural crooks used in boat construction," Foster said.

**SAILING SCOW**

The first boat he built was a large Dutch sailing scow called the *Ark*. Foster said that he never intended to make more boats after the *Ark*, which was to haul supplies for a furniture-making industry.

Since completing the scow, 15 other boats have been launched off

the slips at Whaler Bay Boat Yard.

All the boats are rigged with masts and sails and carry one or two pairs of sweeps, depending on the size of the craft. A large vessel will have 12-ft. sweeps and is rowed by standing and walking forward with an oar in each hand.

Foster said a 28-ft. vessel from his yard can be rowed at four knots if there is no wind for sailing.

**FROM MUSEUMS**

Foster said that most of the plans he follows come from museum collections in the United States and Britain. "In Canada," he said, "we have done very little to preserve our maritime history. The Dutch people and the Scandinavians have done a lot to keep their maritime past alive."

Foster mills all his own lumber: old growth fir, red and yellow

cedar and spruce, using an Alaskan (chainsaw) mill. He said the job of sawing is noisy and physically hard but, he added, "something very enjoyable can occur when you open a log and begin to take planks off the face edge.

"Then you begin to see the type of timber each log can give. You learn to follow the life of each individual log in order to get the best from it," Foster explained.

"That attitude is the best one to have to get you through the long hours of chainsawing," he added.

**PLANED BY HAND**

The rough-cut timbers are then planed smooth by hand, using an old plane inherited from Foster's grandfather.

Ribs and planks are steamed in a wood-fired water tank, which renders the wood pliable for bending to the required shapes. Planks and frame fastenings are copper nails, riveted with roves on the inside of the hull.

Fine-grained saplings are used for masts, while spars and oars of spruce are worked to the required shapes with drawknife, spoke-shave and planes.

Shay Foster sews the sails for the boats, mostly gaff, lug and sprit rigs, using a high-quality treated canvas.

This year the Fosters have launched a 30-ft. Isle of Shoals ketch for Galiano farmers Ken and Mo Fraser, three Labrador dories (two of which were commissioned by the Bamfield Marine Station on Vancouver Island), and they are now planing a 28-ft. Hampton whaler, of 1805, for a Courtenay family. The 30-ft. ketch took the Fosters four months to build.

**A SPECIALTY**

Clinker planking is a method which has become a specialty of Whaler Bay Boat Yard. Many of the old boat types were clinker planked, a method which uses overlapped planks riveted or clinched along the laps. The method was perfected by Norse boatbuilders over 1,000 years ago, and has not been improved upon since.

Foster said that the designs he follows are for boats that were normally used for fishing and transportation of people or cargo. The designs are named after the locality where the boats were used.

He said that the boats were designed by the people who used them. The fishermen of the late colonial days were remarkably resourceful people, Foster said.

Each was a fisherman, farmer and carpenter, who relied on all three practices for a living.

**PILING, MOVING WOOD**

The Foster children, Megan and Arwen, do a lot of the wood moving and piling and janitorial work. "Their greatest usefulness," Foster exclaimed, "is in the amount of housework the girls take on in order for their mother to help on the boats."

Over 300 logs have been floated into Whaler Bay and hauled up on to the slips for milling by hand. They use an old ship's capstan to haul the logs from the water into the boathouse.

The iron base of the capstan, Foster said, he found up the coast, buried in sand and probably all that was left of some wrecked ship.

**WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**

May your blessings increase and may your home be filled with happiness. In appreciation... thanks.

Sandy, Rich & Staff

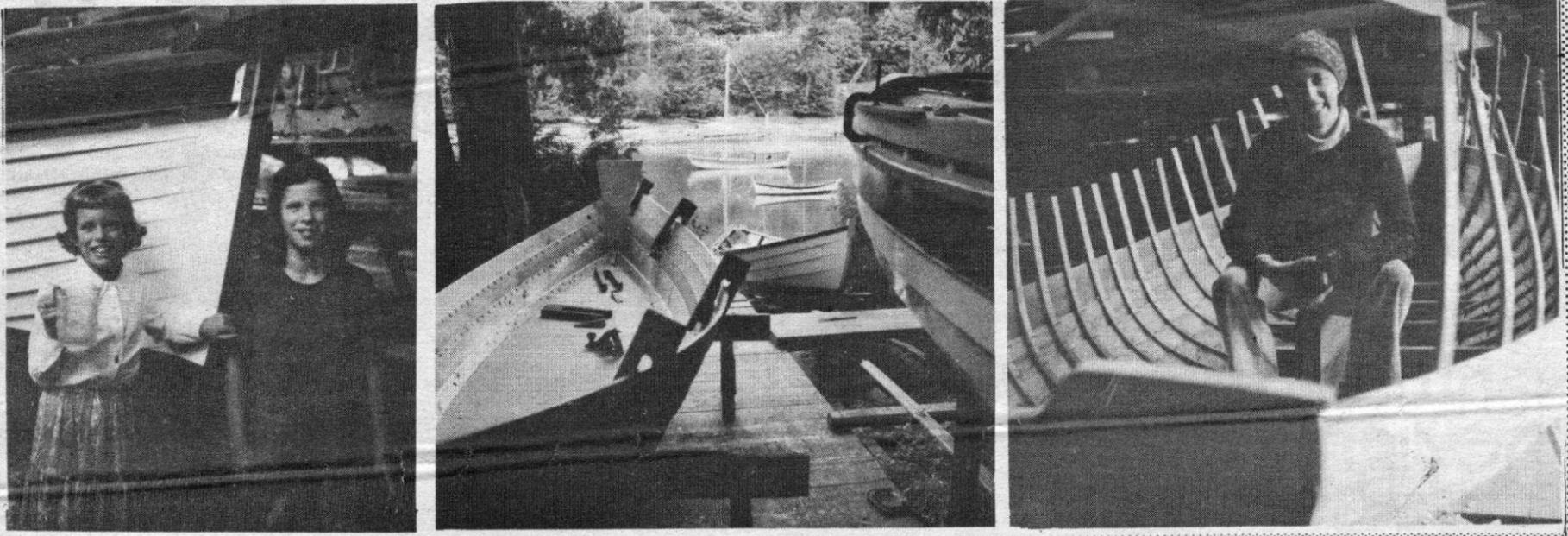
**Bank of Montreal**  
Ganges Branch

We're overflowing with thanks and warm wishes for our many good friends. Have...

...a very merry Christmas

Wayne and Connie

**Miner's Bay Trading Post**



*Foster family produces traditional, wooden sailing craft*

They transported it home in the Ark and repaired and installed it with a gum-wood centre-post which coils the cable and a 16-ft. spoke to turn the centre-post.

The facilities at Whaler Bay Boat Yard consist of the main building which measures 20 ft. by 50 ft. with launching ways operated with the capstan. Foster has a 24 ft. by 30 ft. lumber drying shed with a small tool shed built alongside. The family house is attached to the main building.

**A CRAFT**

Foster said he regards the enterprise as a craft endeavour rather than an industry. He said the local planning commission considers the boat yard to be a cottage industry because the Foster family dwelling is attached to the building.

Foster and his family are originally from California, and moved to Galiano from Washington state in 1970. He made banjos when they first arrived and sold approximately 40, he said, before he stopped. He still has several banjos in the making but has no time to finish them.

Foster said his career before leaving Washington was in public relations with a large school district. This, he said, came as a result of three years work as a writer for a small weekly newspaper.

**CANT DO ALONE**

His wife Shay was a school teacher, but now finds her time taken up between being a mother, teaching Sunday School and working whole days on the boats. Foster said some of the jobs he can't do alone, such as steaming the planks and riveting. When riveting, Shay stands on the outside of the hull holding the riveting iron while he is inside hammering.

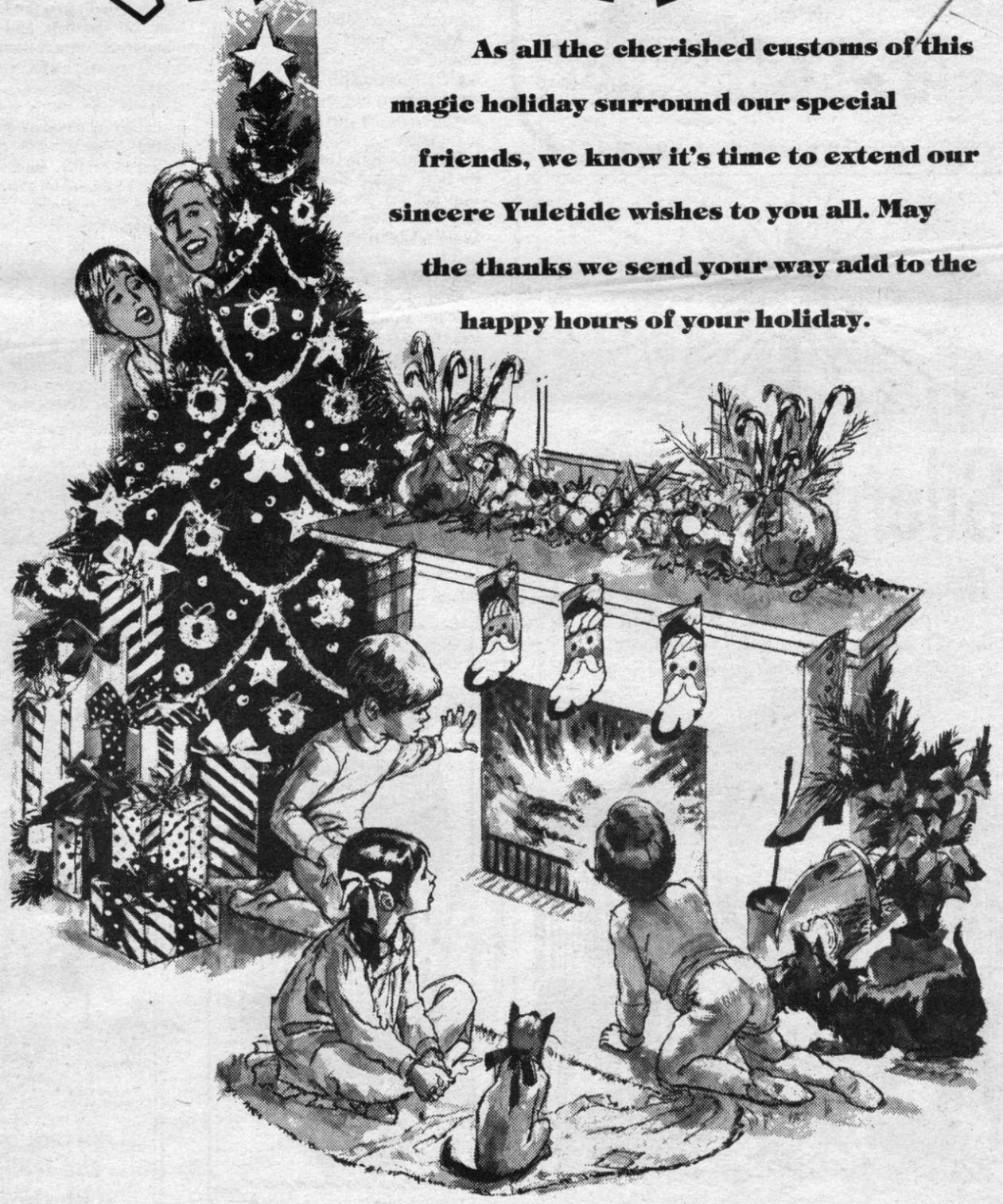
Foster said that meager financial resources can explain some of the reasons why they chose to build the type of boats they build and why they build them in the traditional way.

He said he believes many of the boats they have produced over the last eight years were threatened with extinction. He also describes the boat-building venture as "keeping alive an age-old alternative in the face of an uncertain energy future; to revive the use of sail and oar power for transportation, cargo carrying and fishing.

"At least in a small way this method of working on the water has a place in our present day. We merely seek to re-establish an alternative in the event that fuel shortages become extreme."

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**As all the cherished customs of this magic holiday surround our special friends, we know it's time to extend our sincere Yuletide wishes to you all. May the thanks we send your way add to the happy hours of your holiday.**



From your friends at

**WINDSOR PLYWOOD**

*Ben, Carole, Don, Ray and Paul*

# That wonderful year, 1964!

It was the year 1964, and with the Christmas issue of the *Gulf Islander* appeared a review of the past 12 months.

By this time it's history.

In 1966, the *Gulf Islander* was merged with Salt Spring Island *Driftwood* to introduce *Gulf Islands Driftwood*. Publisher of the Galiano based *Gulf Islander* was Jean Lockwood.

Here is the *Gulf Islander's* review of the year 1964 as it affected the Outer Islands.

"The moving finger writes," said old Omar, couple of thousand years ago, "and having writ, moves on; And all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears wash out one word of it."

We've been listening to various telecasts of events of 1964 - the big world-shaking things - in the past week or so since the snow has kept everyone housebound, and it has given us a strange feeling as we looked over our own notes of events on the Gulf Islands over the past 12 months.

Of course our own paper has been concerned with strictly local happenings, and our events are pretty small in comparison to the other big affairs. But they have been important to us and to our little communities - and so, just for the fun of it, here is a brief history of our Island life as it was lived in that wonderful year 1964.

**CARE TREE**  
Our first issue, January 3, reported that our friend George Pearson of Pender had collected \$320 for his CARE campaign for the needy.

Big news for Galiano that month was the announcement of the gift of acreage at Burrill Point by L. T. "Thorney" Bellhouse and family to the people of Galiano and the province for a public park.

Mayne Island held the first annual meeting of its Restoration Society, electing Mrs. Kay Carpenter president, but initial plans for a credit union on that Island did not materialize.

Galiano's Fire Department held its first annual meeting, electing Don Robson president and asking that all householders pay a fee of \$2 annually to support the department.

**NO POWER**  
Beginning of February, Hydro officials came over and met with folks from North Galiano to discuss the power question, there being no power there. Results: nil.

Also at North Galiano Fred and Joy Vey handed over operation of the Porlier Pass fishing station to Les and Jackie Jackson.

End of February, the *Gulf Islander* was hollering about litter-bugs along the roads.

March 3 we reported on the disastrous fire which destroyed the lightkeeper's home on Prevost Island and took the life of James Heanski, keeper of the Portlock Light Station.

Galiano was the first community in B.C. to go over the top in its Red Cross drive (again!).

On Pender Capt. C. Claxton was elected president of the Gulf Islands Branch of the B.C. Historical Association, and Les Armstrong was re-elected president of the Pender Chamber of Commerce.

Pender Credit Union reported another successful year and re-elected John Freeman president.

Easter came early in 1964, but due to the very mild winter there were a great many flowers in bloom early, and the weather was glorious.

The first campers of the season, complete with four children and two dogs, moved into Montague Park. Saturna had a fun fair and Galiano Fire Department held an auction, both highly successful and profitable.

**MAYNE DINING**  
On Mayne Joan and Al Drummond opened their new "Cedar Dining Room" and accommodated a whole passel of mainlanders who got stranded when the Little Queen went on the fritz and the newly inaugurated reservation system of the Ferry Authority went out the window.

There was much weeping and gnashing of teeth by Mainland-Islanders, but all was peaceful by Easter Monday, and the system worked (off and on pretty well) the rest of the summer.

Mayne Ratepayers were raising cain about the ferry system, and discussing fire department and garbage disposal.

In April St. Peter's Guild held their annual spring tea, and Mayne Islanders held a working bee to clean up the grounds around the old church rectory. Galiano got its first fire call of the year - brush fire at the Gladman's, which they put out promptly and gave the brigade

its first work-out. Week or so later had another good work-out when we held a working bee to clean up the old shipyard shacks at Whalers Bay, and in the process had the fire blow away on us. Lots of excitement!

### BIRTHDAY

Saturna's grand old man, George Copeland, celebrated his 101st birthday on April 19 at a big party at Hope Bay, put on for him by the Historical Society and the Legion, and the next day Saturna got all lit up - Hydro turned on the power for the first time.

April 24 we noted the Pender Women's Institute held their annual spring flower show, and the kids at Saturna held a giant car washing bee to buy shorts and sweaters for the annual sports day.

June 1 they started the long wait to catch a male blackfish off East Point for the Vancouver Aquarium.

They didn't get one for weeks and weeks, then they got a girl whale and Moby Doll became famous before she died in a pool at English Bay.

Galiano Lodge opened its gift shop, and Galiano ladies won the Georgeson Trophy for inter-island golf. On June 20 the Islands approved the school board referendum so that a new high school could be built at Salt Spring, and a new teacherage at Galiano.

Oops! We missed May: Restoration Society gals on Mayne opened a Thrift Shop, and 75 members of Vancouver Natural History Society came to Galiano to inspect our wild life!

Linda Allan was elected Pender's May Queen, and Donald New was re-elected president of the B.C. Historical Association at its annual convention.

### PRESIDENT DODDS

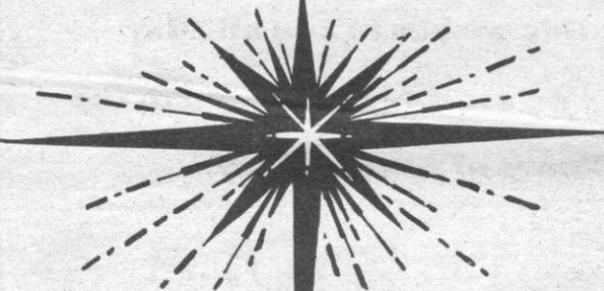
May 16 Mayne Ratepayers held their annual meeting and re-elected Fred Dodds as president, and discussed fire protection, garbage disposal, ferries and speed limits.

**Nantucket Designs** call 537-9539 for information

"We wish all our special friends and clients a very... Merry Christmas!"

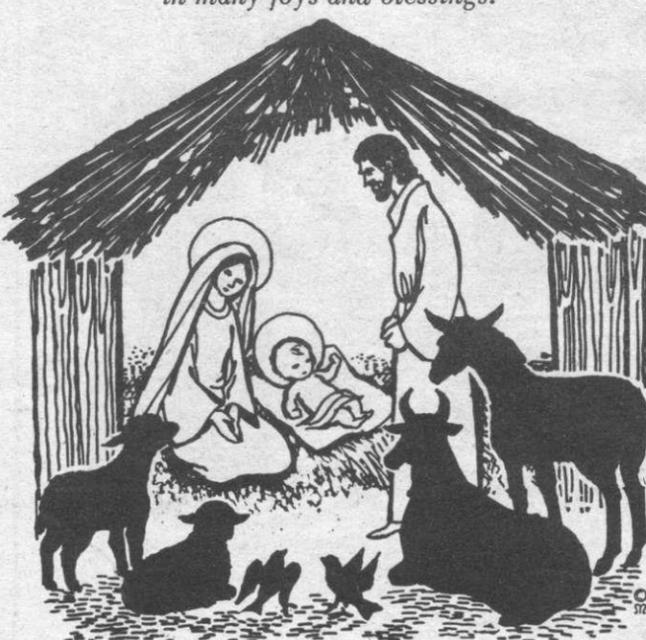
Chip, Ken & Richard

promotion · design · management



## Silent Night

*Christmas comes, and renews the glorious inspiration of that Holy Night long ago. To all, we wish a holiday season rich in many joys and blessings.*

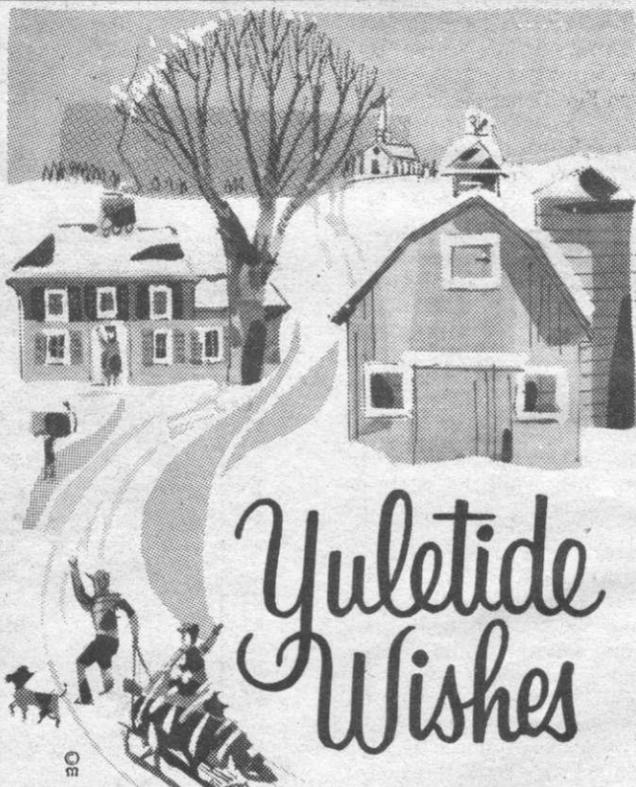


**Valcourt Business Centre**



**Christmas Greetings**

**L & L News**  
Dot & Dick Valcourt Centre



## Yuletide Wishes

Extending special thanks and hoping that the treasured moments you share with those you love will bring you much happiness and joy.

From all the staff at

### Ganges Auto-Marine

# As Gulf Islanders saw it

End of May, the Gulf Islander was hollering along with Saturna about foreshore rights on Cabbage Island going to private interests.

Mid-June a party of archaeologists under Don Mitchell started digging up the middens in Montague Park - and Mayne helped Jimmy Neill celebrate his 90th birthday. South Pender held its annual parish picnic.

July 1 saw the Saturna Lamb Barbecue, the Mayne Old-Time Smorgasbord and Dance and July 4 the Galiano Salmon Fiesta.

On July 21 we reported on the first Gulf Islands Handicraft Show at the Hudson's Bay in Victoria, under convenership of Mrs. F. Robson, sponsored by the historical group. A terrific success, and we were all very proud!

### CONSECRATION

St. Peter's Guild held its annual garden party, and His Grace, Archbishop Harold Sexton, consecrated St. Christopher's Church, Saturna.

August 15, Mayne had its big Fall Fair and the Telephone Company took away our party lines and operators from Mayne Island and put us on a modern efficient system with seven digits. We sure miss our old operators.

### REUNION

The two Island Legions held a reunion on August 4, commemorating W.W.I day, and in August memorial chimes were dedicated at St. Peter's.

The salmon derbies were held and after Labour Day the kids went back to school, and the churches held their harvest festivals.

The Harry Richardsons at Montague celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, Art Ralph at Saturna was 80 years old, and George Slinn was elected president of Branch 84, Canadian Legion.

Thanksgiving; and a turkey supper at the Galiano Golf Club where everybody had a good time. The same weekend Mayne had another ratepayers meeting and discussed speed limits, fire protection and garbage disposal.

Galiano Fire Department held a Fun Fair, and the Chamber of Commerce Garden Contest wound up for the year. Hubert Lawrence made his 1500th voyage down the

Pass to Bambrick's Store in his little boat. Mayne had a terrific Halloween Party for old and young, but Galiano only had one for the kids.

Armistice Day - and Galiano again first in number of poppies sold and funds collected for the Legion. Annual school meetings were held and trustees elected for the coming year. Golf Clubs and Rod and Gun Clubs held annual dinners and presented trophies, and folks started winter badminton in community halls.

November 14, the Gulf Islander was hollering about city hunters. Christmas bazaars were the order of the month, and turkey shoots held on various islands.

Steve Riddell was elected president of the Galiano Club, and David Weatherell of the North Galiano Community Club. Our gal Devina Baines became a great grandmother.

In late October MacMillan Bloedel and P.R. Company carried out a reforestation program on Galiano, putting in 32,500 new trees on burned and logged-off areas. Then they held a reception at the Lodge in November to tell residents all about it. Most interesting and enlightening - we had been getting worried about increased logging activity on this island.

### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

One more election: J. R. Clarke was elected President of the Mayne Agricultural Society in November.

As it happens in all communities, we had our sad moments when we said farewell for the last time to friends and old-timers who passed on. During the year we lost: Mrs. Mina Menzies, 97, of Pender, on January 6; George Goodwin, 77, of Galiano, on January 20; Thomas Lowden, Pender, on February 26; James Maiden, Mayne, on February 25; Mrs. Ada Miller, 89, of Pender, on March 17; Jack Stafford, North Galiano, on April 8; Dr. J. A. Street, Galiano on April 9; Mrs. Mabel Appleby, 75, of North Galiano, April 2; Mrs. Joan Kieller, 93, of Pender, June 29.

Mrs. Florence Patterson, 86, and J.D. "Doug" Moore, of Galiano,

passed away June 19 and 21 respectively.

Mrs. Sophia Roberts, 82, late of Mayne, passed away October 17 and on November 6 Mayne lost Mrs. Mabel Foster at the age of 88.

Norman Wilson, 55, of Saturna died on November 14, and Pender's Hughie Steele on November 22. Mayne's Mrs. Bay Georgeson passed away just before Christmas.

**RED CROSS**  
means   
**People Helping People**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Santa is busy spreading Christmas cheer, and once again it's our time to thank friends and customers for their loyal patronage.

**Gerry Coers Painting**

## The Staff at Turners



wish all their customers a

# Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Mrs. Florence Patterson, 86, and J.D. "Doug" Moore, of Galiano,

**GREETINGS**



Merry Christmas, and many thanks to our loyal friends and customers.  
Yolanda & Fredericka

**Delicia Pastry Shop**



*Greetings*

At this beautiful and joyous time of the year, we would like to take the opportunity to say "Thank You" for your patronage. Have a Merry Christmas.

From Yvette, Carol, Joan, Dan & Jack Clements

**Sunshine Farm Foods**

# Early memories of Christmas: bright lights, giving, getting and going to church

BY FRANK RICHARDS are part of the traditional Christmas. Coloured lights and Santa Claus

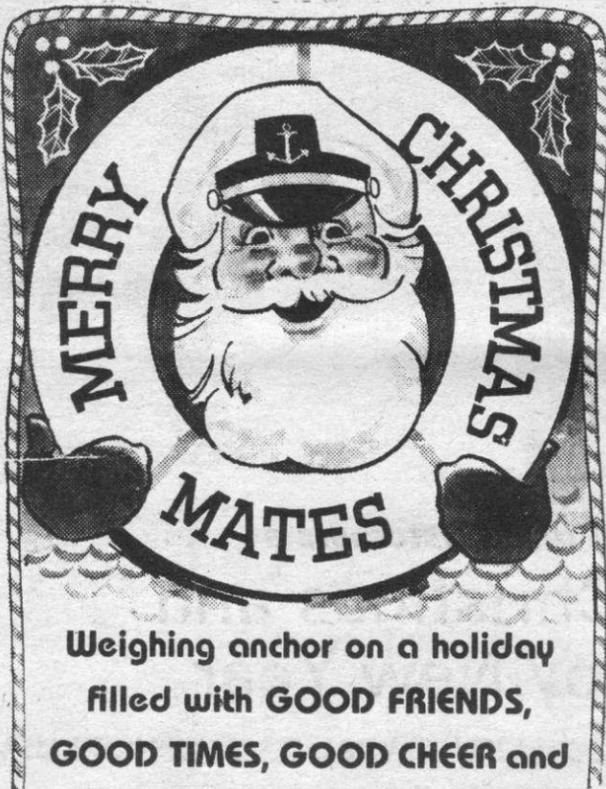
## Salt Spring Fire Department Members wish everyone a Fire Safe Festive Season

- 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 1980.



## Merry Christmas

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



Weighing anchor on a holiday filled with GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES, GOOD CHEER and

our hearty thanks.

From all of us at

**Harbours End Marina**

Closed Dec. 22 — Jan. 6

There is no way out of it, giving and getting are tied up with the season for almost everyone.

My early memories of Christmas are of toy shops with model railways running in the windows; steamy street-car windows and bright lights.

It's a long time ago, but when I was a small boy my family took me to church but I went to the foot of the Christmas tree without any coercion.

Dickens wrote of gifts and feasting and as a small boy I read his descriptions with relish. The feasting left me cold. I was happy to stay with the candy and the wine, non-alcoholic, but the gift-getting was the big event of the day. There's nothing new about Christmas and there's nothing new about Christmas gifts.

It all started in the weeks before Christmas. And the worst of it all was the preparation of Christmas puddings. We all ate plum puddings, but so did half the community who couldn't otherwise enjoy one. So my mother had to make puddings by the dozen, both to eat and to give away. It was a two-day job. The kitchen would be in a state of upset completely unrecognizable. Everything would be everywhere and the only real satisfaction was in licking spoons and other utensils.

The next day was worse.

### ALL DAY LONG

The puddings were all placed in the clothes boiler and boiled all day. The house was filled with steam and the doors were open for a damp and chilly ventilation. The plum pudding has been a feature of the English Christmas for so long that even the French know the word. But the odour of a long-steaming greasy pudding started out as a pleasant savory smell. By dusk on steaming day the odour had lost its novelty and the cook, my mother, had lost her patience. There was only one relief to the monotony and that was the privilege of having a small pudding as a test run.

The first pudding was tested like a newly opened bottle of champagne in the board room of Moet et Chandon. The exterior was examined carefully before any incision was made. The nose was used with great application to detect foreign matter. Eyes and nose were the first sensors.

Mother was a basin cook. She

didn't make a ball out of the pudding and boil it in a cloth. She was probably scared of the cloth coming adrift in mid-steam. The basin was capped with a sheet of greasepaper and a cloth and both were held in place with a tightly tied string around the basin's edge.

By the time it reached the table the string was cut and the covering gone. It had been examined and sniffed carefully. It came to the table naked and unashamed, brown, black and glistening. Not for Mama the indignity of flame. The pudding was rarely flamed on Christmas Day and never at any other time.

### TO THE LARDER

When it had been thoroughly examined and eaten, its fellow puddings were stored in the larder for their turn. They usually joined the end of the row of last year's puddings, because a Christmas pudding was much better for having been kept for 12 months.

Less solemn was the mincemeat ritual. Mincemeat had to be made at home for two reasons. First, if it wasn't, then you had to settle for somebody else's inferior recipe and second, you might end up by buying a commercial product and who knew what the manufacturers would put in it? It was long and slow, the actual making, but it entailed no cooking and that reduced the burden.

Once those two ceremonies had been completed with all the rites of a century or more, Christmas was waiting. It was having a party at school with more food and more gifts and games. It was the opportunity of eating and drinking in a room normally used for learning. It was being late in the classroom with the lights on. It was Christmas.

### INTOLERABLE

If we didn't go to my grandmother's house they came to ours. That was part of Christmas.

Christmas Eve was a day of intolerable waiting, great excitement and deep depression.

It was the day that wasn't Christmas.

It was always the day that lasted too long. We would play desultorily and we would complete the preparations for the morrow, but it was never a day of great joy because tomorrow was Christmas Day.

In our early youth we went to church on Christmas morning. As we grew older we were permitted to go to midnight Mass and either lie in later on Christmas morning or

be up the earlier to find out what was happening.

Santa came to our bedroom with regularity until I was about five and I woke in the night to see my father leaving the room. After that we were no longer prepared to accept the mystery of Santa and the stocking moved downstairs, where such incidents couldn't influence the convictions of the rest of the family. I never resented my parents for that deception. And I practiced it on my own children.

There was always an orange, often a Japanese orange, and a bar of chocolate. Another essential for a stocking was a sugar mouse. We could lie in bed and eat foolish fattening food while we looked at pictures even if we couldn't master all the words in the children's comic papers.

### THEY HAD TO WAIT

When we went to church in the morning, we would get up and get out before breakfast. Eating and opening presents had to wait until after church. While the system resulted in some very impatient children taking part in the service, it also cloaked the whole routine in the single red robe of Christmas. Gifts, feasting, the joyous Christmas message were indivisible in our minds.

Breakfast was always a pork pie, of the Melton Mowbray style. It saved cooking as some nutty doctor had told my father he must never eat tomato seeds. As he was very fond of tomatoes, his breakfasts tended to take rather a long time eating.

The gift opening took place after the breakfast dishes were put away and all knots on all parcels had been untied.

Which brings me back to the Christmas puddings: after presents, playing and Christmas dinner.

But the thing about Christmas that has me curious is the number of people who are convinced that the various advertising media invented Christmas gifts. The gifts were there long before the media.

**Fight the lung cripplers**

Use Christmas Seals



# CHRISTMAS

Bringing wishes for lots of old fashioned joy and abounding good cheer to everyone

To all our customers from Bill, Joanne and staff

## Bill's Engine Repairs

### Shell Service

## "Love Came Down at Christmas"

We Wish You Love ...  
We Wish You Joy ...  
We Wish You Peace ...

**The Williamsons**  
HARRY  
MARY  
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MEGAN

R.R. 1 North End Rd.  
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537-2322 or 9422

"And there was no room for them in the inn"

# Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh . . . Gifts For a King

"They (the wise men) saw the young child with Mary his mother, and . . . presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Matthew 2:11

St. Matthew tells us that the Wise Men selected these exotic treasures, above all others, as their special offerings to the baby Jesus. They were the first Christmas gifts of all.

The gifts brought by the Three Kings all had magical associations: gold for the sun mystery, frankincense as the smoke-maker, and myrrh, the healer. The Wise Men were also believed to have had occult powers.

The Magi, kneeling in tribute, express the love and awe Christ evokes in all who believe in Him. The Bible names the gifts . . . gold, frankincense and myrrh. Each has its obvious worth; there are rich, symbolic meanings as well.

Church scholars consider the gold to mean love or Christ as King of the World; the frankincense, prayer or Christ as the King of Heaven; the myrrh, suffering or a symbol of Christ's approaching sacrifice.

The Bible does not mention containers for the gifts, artists over the centuries have created them. A casket

holds the gold coins, a vessel for the frankincense, an urn for the myrrh.

Today we easily recognize the value of the gold, but we are not as familiar with the value of frankincense and myrrh. These two aromatic resins, used in making incense, were very costly at the time of the Birth of Christ. To this day they are used at many Christian altars.

An old poem which expressed the ancient belief that "incense owns a deity neigh" is further evidence that frankincense and myrrh were worthy gifts for the Prince of Peace.

## Mistletoe classed as disease

Why do we hang mistletoe at Christmas and where can it be gathered in B.C.?

We do have mistletoes in our province, but not the "kissing" kind that is decoratively used at Christmas.

Ours have a different appearance and are dwarf varieties that pose quite a serious problem to foresters in some parts of B.C. Mistletoes are parasitic plants. They feed on other plants and are classed as a forest disease.

Soon after the seed of a mistletoe has reached a tree, it

sends out strands and sinkers that penetrate the bark, eventually reaching the woody tissues of the tree. In western Canada the most vulnerable species include larch, hemlock, Douglas fir, jack and lodgepole pine. According to statistics, dwarf mistletoes manage to kill 25 million cubic feet of jack and lodgepole pine alone each year.

### IT REFUSED

In the folklore surrounding Christmas, it is interesting to find a legend that tells of all trees and plants making a solemn oath not to

harm the Christ child. The mistletoe alone refused. Thereafter it was cursed and doomed to live as a parasite.

Other lore would seem to place mistletoe in a different light. Among the ancient Druids, it was revered because it grew on the oak, a tree they held to be sacred. We read of minstrels singing its praises in terms of life, love and resurrection. In some traditions it possessed the power to scare off evil spirits or was regarded as a symbol of good luck. With a piece hung over the door, only happiness could enter - a short step, perhaps, to the present status of mistletoe as a good excuse for a kiss.

If you have children and plan to hang some in your house, watch the berries. Birds eat them, but for humans, they are poisonous.

This column is a joint project of the Canadian Forestry Association of B.C. and the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters.

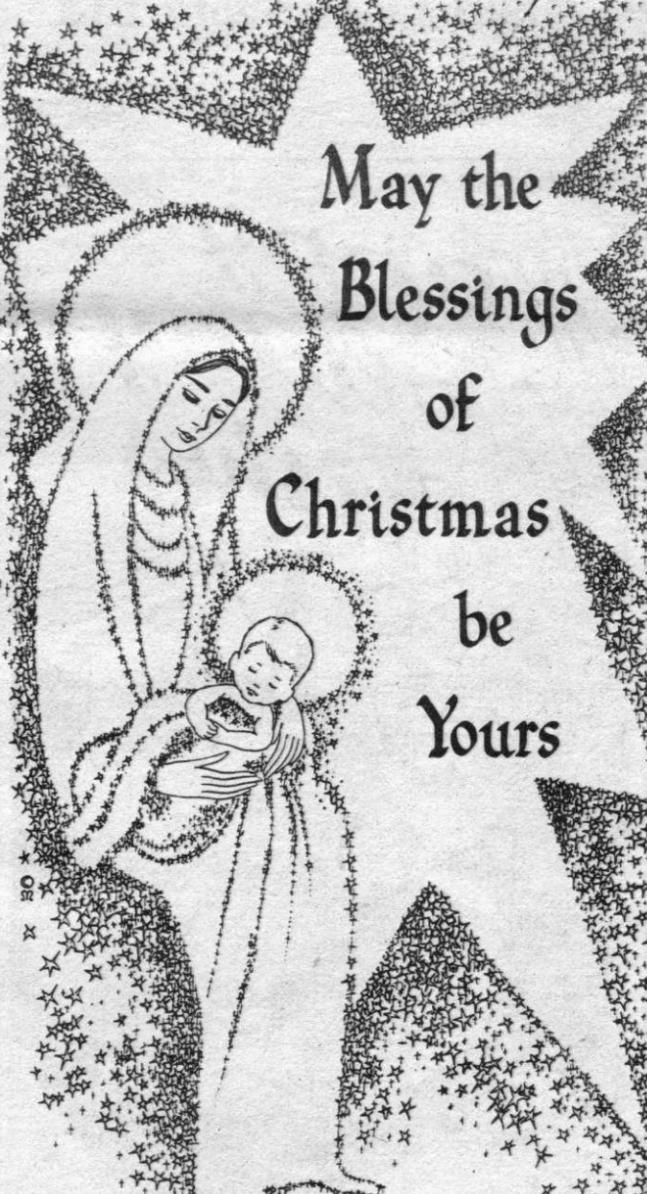


*Merry Christmas*

We join Santa's Yuletide song, wishing you a Happy Holiday season and expressing sincere thanks for your patronage.

Brian Wright, Bruce McPhee, Don & Lil Irwin & Family

## Don's Collision



May the Blessings of Christmas be Yours

And may the Star shine as it shone upon that hallowed night when the Holy Child was born . . . with eternal light . . . forever bringing joy, love and peace into your home.

## Ganges Harbour Grocery Ltd.

and their staff  
Kathy Fraser, Wayne Jenkins and Bob and Edane Blundell



May the gift of love live in your heart and home forever, your Christmas as wonderful as the island we share.

Thank you for your patronage this passing year.

Dennis, Elsie & Brett

## Salt Spring Island Glass

MOUAT'S MALL



It's Christmas! Hope yours is merry!

The Munnekes at  
**Salt Spring Plumbing**

# Songs for the C

## THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood  
The holly bears the crown:  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer;  
The playing of the merry organ  
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom,  
White as the lily flower;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
The rising of the sun, etc.

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good;  
The rising of the sun, etc.

## HARK THE HERALD ANGELS

Hark the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King,"  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new born King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veil'd in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the Incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new born King."

## JOLLY OLD SAINT NICHOLAS

Jolly old Saint Nicholas  
Lean your ear this way!  
Don't you tell a single soul,  
What I'm going to say:  
Christmas Eve is coming soon,  
Now, you dear old man,  
Whisper what you'll bring to me,  
Tell me if you can.

When the clock is striking twelve,  
When I'm fast asleep,  
Down the chimney broad and black  
With your pack you'll creep;  
All the stockings you will find  
Hanging in a row.  
Mine will be the shortest one,  
You'll be sure to know.

## AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger,  
No crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the night sky  
Look down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing,  
The baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying he makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side  
Until morning is nigh.

## SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Saviour is born! (x2)

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth! (x2)

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see,  
Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord the new-born King,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
Glory to God  
In the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him etc.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus to Thee be glory giv'n:  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore Him etc.

## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the twelfth day of Christmas  
My true love sent to me:  
Twelve drummers drumming,  
Eleven pipers piping,  
Ten lords a-leaping,  
Nine ladies dancing  
Eight maids a-milking,  
Seven swans a-swimming,  
Six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings;  
Four calling birds,  
Three French hens,  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

To our customers and friends,  
**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year**

from the Marcottes at  
**Gulf Islands Septic Ltd.**



Our special  
of the day is  
coming right up . . .  
sincere wishes for a rare vintage  
Christmas trimmed with every  
delectable holiday delight!

Management & Staff

**Fulford Inn**

## Merry Christmas

To all our friends & customers

Denise, Suzanne & Jennie at

**Volume II**

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Keiko & Greg Coles  
of the

**Salt Spring Bobcat Service**