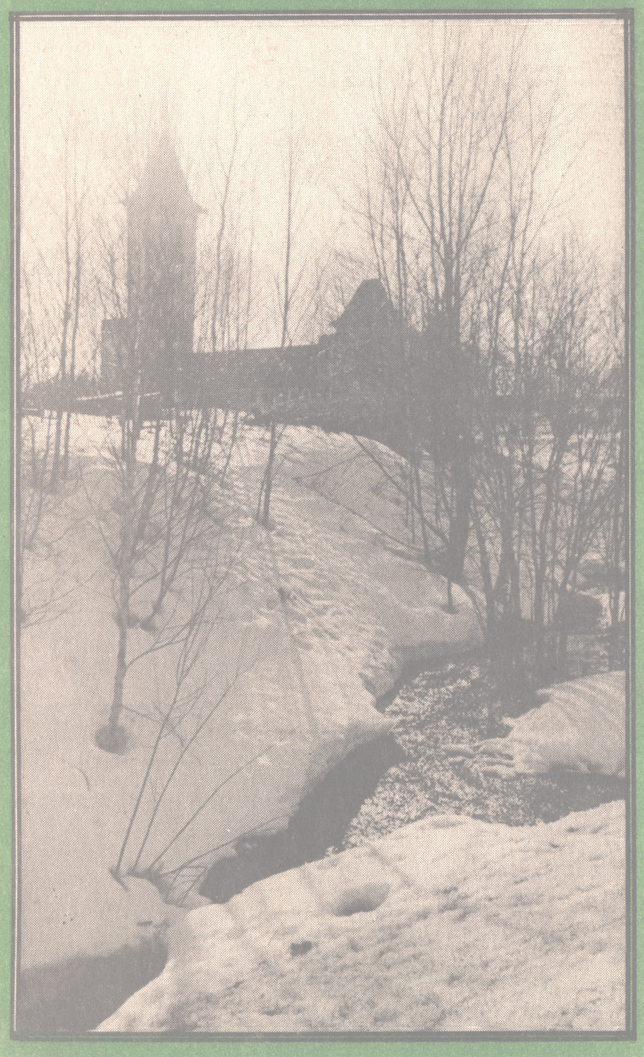
The Townships Sun



Volume 15 No. 6 December 1987

The Townships Sun

Writers' award winner 1983 & 1985 & 1987

$1.50

AOREM AMRAQ

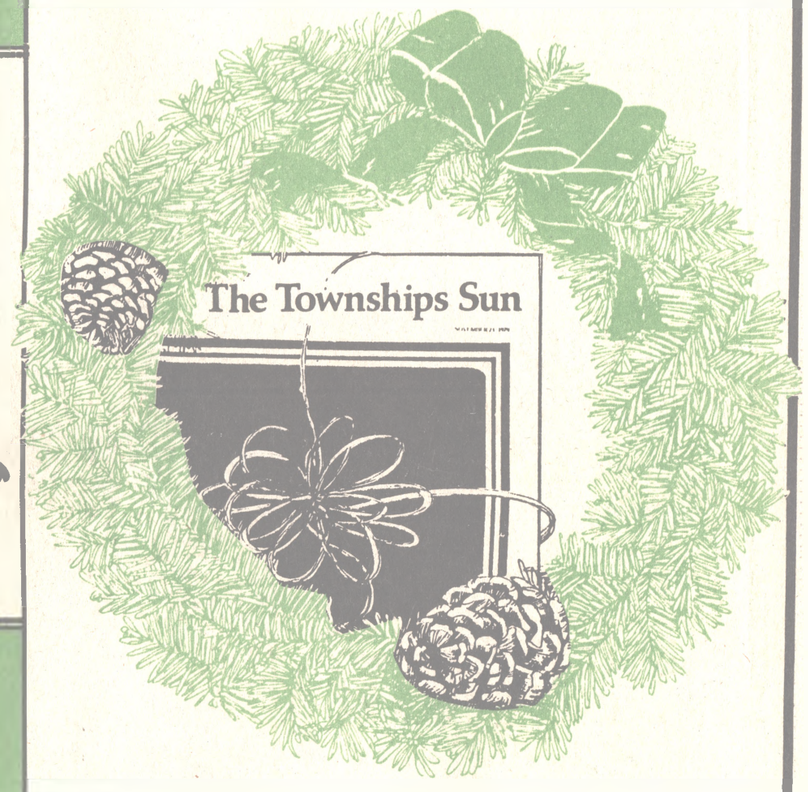
JESOUS AHATONHIA

ANCIENT CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

ST. BENOIT DU LAC

SUFFOLK HORSES

CHRISTMAS CAROL PULL-OUT



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Nov. 15 - Dec. 19

Kay Kinsman, The Joy of Art is a special exhibition taking place at the *Sherbrooke Museum of Fine Arts*. Visitors have the privilege of enjoying paintings and sketches from the Eastern Townships as well as from many other countries. Thirty years of the artist's work is represented in over 60 paintings. Don't miss it! The museum is open daily from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., except Saturdays, at *86 Wellington North* in downtown *Sherbrooke*. For more information, call: (819) 837-2005.

Nov. 11 Dec. 20 — *Le Musée Séminaire de Sherbrooke* presents an exhibition of *Contemporary Textile Art*. Included are 17 tapestries from the prestigious collection of the Pierre Pauli Association. You can find the museum at *195 Marquette, Sherbrroke.* Info: 563-2050.

Nov. 26 - Dec. 2 — The *University of Sherbrooke's Art Gallery* presents three exhibitions: *Stardusters* (Hall du Pavillon Central), *Jean-Marie Martin* and *Humeur Vitrée de Randy Saharuni.*

Nov. 22 - Dec. 20 — Designs, prints, paintings and sculptures will be on display in the main studio of the *Norton Building* on the *Bishop's University* campus. The show is being presented by the students of the Fine Arts Department. Hours: Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Friday-Wednesday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The *vernissage* will be held on Thursday, *November 26* at 8:00 p.m. Everyone welcome!

Nov. 29 - Jan. 4 — *"Inspiration-Celebration Estrie"* invites you to see an exhibition of watercolours by *Joyce Schweitzer Cochrane* at the *Caisse Populaire St. Jean de Brébeuf*, 2185 King St. West, Sherbrooke. The vernissage will take place on *November 29* from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 28

Christmas Bazaar at the Sherbrooke Elementary School, 242 Ontario St., Sherbrooke. 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 30 — The *Townshippers' Association* invites you to participate in a public consultation concerning the delivery of health and social services to English-speaking people. Your input will be helpful to ensure the proper implementation of *Bill 142* which legislatively guarantees health and social services for the English communities where numbers warrant them. We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to bring a friend too! 7:30 p.m. at the *Cowansville C.L.S.C.*, 112 South Street.

Nov. 30 — *Christmas Concert* open meeting held by the *Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley*. 2:00 p.m. at the *Cowansville Golf and Country Club*. Guest artist will be *Kenneth Roach* of the Bishop's music department. A reception will follow and admission is FREE. Info: Lynn Staples [*243-5591*] or Donna Luce [*263-3713*].

Dec. 5 - 6 — The *Telethon of Stars* for the Children's Hospitals St. Justine and Montreal Children's in Montreal and Laval Hospital in Quebec City will be held from 8:00 p.m. Saturday night until 6:00 p.m. Sunday night. Call to make your pledges at *564-5118* and long distance callers at *1-800-567-3450.* you may also bring donations to *Bell Canada*, 325 Jacques Cartier South, Sherbrooke on Sunday, December 6th.

Dec. 6 — *Annual Craft Show and Bake Table* will take place at St. John's Anglican church, Shefford St., Bromont. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

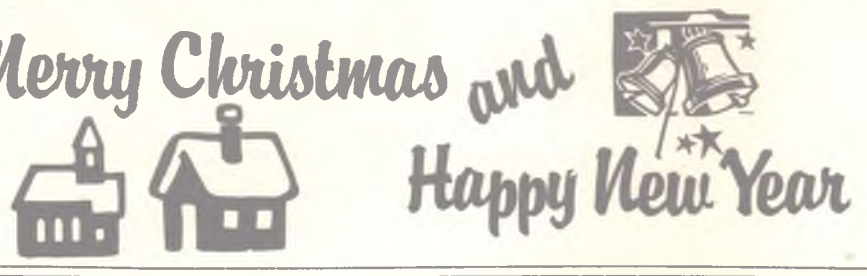
Dec. 6

Christmas Concert by the Eastern Townships School Board Elementary Students. 7:30 p.m. at St. Michel Cathedral, 130 Cathedral St., Sherbrooke. Admission is FREE.

Dec. 9 — *St. Patrick's Church* in Sherbrooke is holding a *Mini-Bazaar* from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in support of the *Canadian Missions.*

Dec. 6 — *Christmas Concert* at St. George's Church in Lennoxville. The concert, featuring the *Orchestre Symphonique des Jeunes de Sherbrooke*, will benefit the "Uplands" project of the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical Society. Tickets are available at the *Christian Readers' Bookstore* in Lennoxville or from Society members. Info: 562-6745.

Dec. 12 — The *Sherbrooke Symphony Choir* is presenting a concert at the *Salle Maurice O'Bready* of the University of Sherbrooke. The program includes *Vivladi's Gloria*, conductor *Alexander Brott*, and guest soloists *Nancy Allen*, *Michel Gaudreau* and *Ruth Chamberlain*. Tickets are on sale for $10 at the *Caisse Populaire Desjardins.*



Editorial

Time is a very special commodity. It always seems to run to extremes: too much or too little, and rarely does the job at hand equal the amount of time available. Even the Oxford Dictionary concedes that time is something special and devotes an entire page to defining the intricacies of "time.

We are often not free to budget our time, and so choices must be made. It is in this light that I have decided to vacate the tippy, old oak, editor's chair here and devote more time to "extended math" and "horrendous spelling", and some of the dozens of other things that households with school-age children seem to require besides the usual recording that says: "Time for Bed" and "Time to Get Up".

It has been great fun talking with you through the pages of the Sun, and meeting many of you in person. Discovering the special people and places around the Townships and putting them into print has been a real learning experience. I have made only a tiny ripple in that vast ocean of "Unknown Townships Trivia". I trust my successor will continue to tap those resources to help us all to better know who we are and what we are. I also hope the children will be encouraged to continue to write and draw for the Sun. Most newspapers now are too big and too sophisticated to publish children's writing. I hope the Sun never gets so big that it doesn't have room to print the literary efforts of young writers.

Don't be shy to voice your complaints and make suggestions when they seem needed. Editors even appreciate getting "nice" letters too. (Sometimes it makes a whole terrible day worthwhile!)

Most important of all, keep supporting the Sun. It really is **YOUR PAPER**, and **HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

GMB

The Townships Sun

Box 28, 1 Church St., Lennoxville, PQ
J1M 1Z3 819 -566-7424.

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The Townships Sun

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Dear Editor:

War toys have been around for a long time. So have wars. You often hear a parent say: "I, too, played cowboys, and Bang-bang-your-dead; and I did not grow up to be a warmonger nor a violent person." Our second "T.V. Generation" is growing up on much stronger stuff than "cops and robbers." Todays youngersters are dominated by televisions' space-age frenzy.... bombarded by 250 episodes of war cartoons and some 800 commercials every year, glorifying the featured toys (the equal of 22 days of classroom instruction) through this perversion of toyland, war and violence are legitimized in young eyes. The sale of war toys in North America has increased 500 percent over the past 3 years.

Violence is play...war can be fun for all.

Who do our children believe? Their parents message of caring, sharing and peaceful co-existence — or — T.V.'s dehumanizing values?

Who wins out on "prime time" communicating—television or parents?

The next war is not "pretend". It will have no winners.

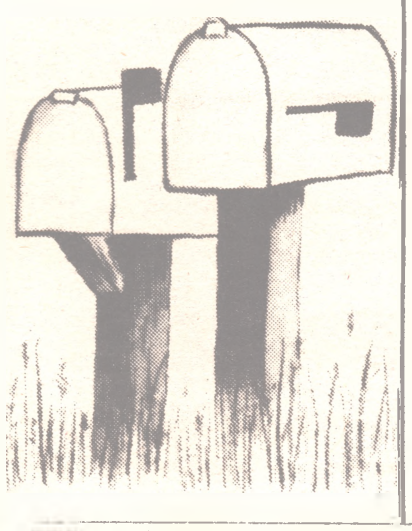
While there is still time—pass along the message: Don't buy "war Toys" for your loved ones.

Meredith Kohl
Georgeville, P.Q.

Dear Editor:

We enjoy the aricles very much, especially those done by Mr. Jacques Boisvert. We are also pleased to read those concerning the United Empire Loyalists. Your paper carries a good variety of subjects.

Sincerely
Nelson & Edith Catchpaugh
Magog



Hi Folks!

You're doing something there; I get more action from the ads in your paper than from all the others combined! Thanks a lot. Yours sincerely,

Walter J. Cross

Dear Editor:

The Sun provides a worthwhile monthly read; my wish is that it appeared more frequently in my mailbox!

Mr. Leigh Boyle Coffin

Dear Editor:

I really enjoy your newspaper and look forward to its arrival each month. Keep up the good work.

Merva Manson
Cowansville, P.Q.

Dear Editor:

I have in my possession some cylinder records. Also many negatives on glass panes.

I wonder if any of your readers would know the value of these.

R.O. Beauregard
Warden, Que.

Dear Editor:

Would like to know how long it took the old G.T.R. to build it's line from **Richmond to Charny** on the **Danville Sub.**

Warren Smith
Richmond, Qc

Editors Note:

Can any of our readers answer this?

Dear Mrs. Beattie:

Thank you very much for the complementary copy of the Sun.

I am please to let you know it was delivered on Monday Nov. 2nd. Very Good! So please find my cheque for $7.00 for subscription.

Jack appreciated your article on horses on the road, keep up the good work.

Thanks again.

Andre Chaddock
Roxboro, Que.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Townships Sun is proud to announce that we have two award winners in the Annual Journalists Competitions sponsored by the Associations of Quebec Regional English Media.

Mikalt Horvath, a 12 year old Lennoxville Elementary School student won a Junior Journalism Award for her story, "**Christmas in Hungary.**"

Sue Boyer, well known as part of the Sun staff for many years won an award for Photo Journalism on her photo essay on "**Old Houses of the Townships.**"

SHERBROOKE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Every year it happens, and every year it comes as a surprise. "You mean it's November already and Christmas is just how many days away?"

Well, quess what? Christmas is only 30 days away.

This seems an appropriate time to mention the Sherbrooke Firemen's Association fund for collecting toys and money for our regions less fortunate. This year there are 1,300 children on the list. The firemen desperately need dolls and any other toy you might have that needs a good home.

Through the efforts of many people last year the firemen's Association raised $40,600.00 in toys and money on a budget of $1,000.00. One might say a minor miracle!

The delivery of Santa's toys will take place on December the 19th. The firemen are busy repairing and getting the presents ready for distribution. They are working to help approximately 400 families here in Sherbrooke and the surrounding areas as well. These families are not necessarily all on welfare, some are just going through difficult times and need a helping hand to help them through this time of the year.

So donate some Christmas goodness this year and tell your friends to do the same.

You can contact Father Christmas (Gaston Albert) at 821-5530 or drop off your donations at the fire station on the corner of Jacques Cartier and Prospect, near the Sherbrooke Golf Club. Donations are always appreciated any time of the year, but especially during the Christmas season.

Short Notes and Lengthy Graffiti

by Gladys Mackey Beattie

Weather Hot Line

Christmas is a time for giving thanks, and a big thank you should go out to the English secter of the UPA for paying for the English Weather "Hot Line" that was made available to farm producers all summer. This much appreciated (and used) service has helped to put better hay in many barns and reduced loss of many other crops as well. The French version of the weather line is paid for by the provincial dept. of Agriculture!!

Road Conditions

The minister of Transport advises that its phone lines are now open for travellers wishing to check out the road conditions before setting out on a trip. This information is gathered by patrollers, highway workers and maintenance crews who are out on the roads at all times. The information service is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day at the following numbers.

Christmas Stamps

The Christmas stamps this year are by Quebec painter - Claude A. Simard. They feature (in rather muted colours), the poinsetta, holly and mistletoe, some of the "traditional" Christmas plants. The special 31 cent stamp will be available for use on envelopes which have the printed postal code matrix- which you have the pleasure of filling in before mailing your cards.

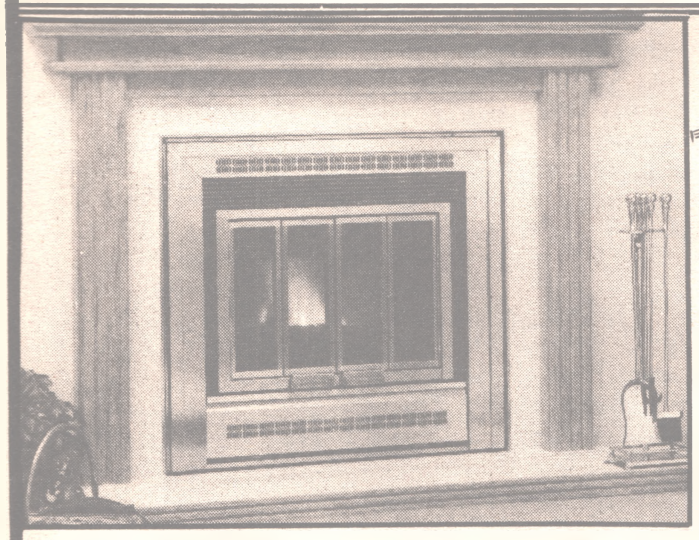
Government Support for Horses

While the provincial government is trying to make life difficult for horse owners, by banning horses on the roads, the Prov. Minister of Agriculture recently has announced a 5 year 5 million dollar per year plan to support the Province's horse industry. Some of this money is destined to upgrade this Provinces 5 big race tracks, some towards prize money and some to encourage and support horse breeders.

Isn't this a typical government mess up?

GABRIEL DUBREUIL

1151 KING EAST 562-3891 SHERBROOKE



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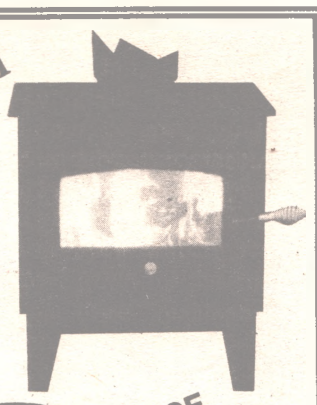

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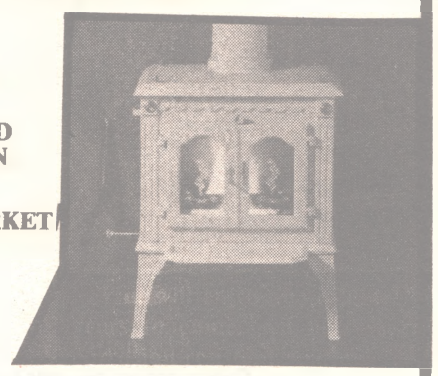

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Jesous Ahatonhia

A Story of Christmas

'Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi-Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead

Before their light the stars grew dim
And wandering hunters heard the hymn
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born
In Excelsis Gloria

by Jim Lawrence

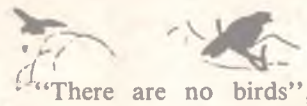
When the first missionaries arrived in the new world they quickly discovered that teaching their Gospels was difficult for many reasons. One of the biggest problems was that, although the Indians had vivid imaginations, they had no knowledge of the Mid-East and could not comprehend the stories as described in the Bible.

To make the stories more easily understood the missionaries rewrote many of the Bible stories, locating them in settings the local Indians could understand. The Christmas Story was rewritten as **Jesous Ahatonhia** *and a beautiful Christmas Carol written in Huron—we know the carol in English as it was translated.*

The following story was written around the famed Christmas Carol to tell the story as it might have been told in a bark and skin lodge somewhere in Canada...many years ago.

It was the singing of the birds that woke Many Fingers. Slowly he drifted into consciousness and the sweet sleepy hands of night drew back from his body and he opened his eyes. Somewhere near a robin shrilled, and then a finch replied. The Birds ! But there were no birds now in the snow hushed woods surrounding the wood and skin lodge of his family. The birds had fled many months ago before the winter had taken the coloured leaves from the trees and added a skim of ice around the edges of the streams and rivers. Now, a deep layer of snow lay around the trees, and covered the cold ice of the lakes. But there were no birds!

The Indian youth lifted his head. There, in their sleeping robes, lay his father, Strong Teeth, and his mother, Early Dawn, still soundly snoring their sleep dreams. Only a hint of dawn lightened the early grey of morning. He slipped noiselessly from his robe and threw his thick winter cloak of deerhide round his shoulders.



"There are no birds", he thought, as he cautiously poked his head out of the hide hanging over the round door of the winter lodge. The song was louder now and he searched the branches of the bare trees for a glimpse of the singers.

On the other side, they could see many animals watching the lodge. There were deer and moose, rabbits, squirrels, weasels and skunks standing there. Wolves and rabbits, too, stood side by side watching the door of the tiny lodge

Far to the right, down the trail that lead to the lake, was a flutter of feathers. The boy pushed through the doorway and stood up in the crisp winter air. He was as tall as a man. Next summer he would celebrate the coming of manhood when his tribe gathered on the island in the big waters.

He drew in a deep breath of the chilled air. It was good to be in the winter camp. His father was a skilled hunter and so far this winter there had been plenty to eat. He remembered two winters ago, when his little sister had persihed, because the moose had not come to the lake. Almost a third of the tribe had starved that winter. But this year was different ! Even today, he and his father were joining a hunt. Many Fingers was certain he would drive his arrow deep into the moose and prove himself a hunter.

The song of the birds swelled and grew, as if it were calling.

"There are no birds", the boy spoke aloud. "There cannot be any birds, the birds have gone."

Yet, still the songs of the summer sounded loud in the still air.

Slowly and carefully Many Fingers walked down the trail. As he drew closer to the lake he could see the birds. There were robins and finches, as he had heard, but, also, he could see bluebirds, canaries, blackbirds and sparrows. He could see and recognize almost every type of bird he knew, and some he didn't. Their songs blended and harmonized in a melody sweet to his ears.

The birds flittered and fluttered from tree to tree. Many Fingers was pulled along by invisible strings that lead him off the trail, through the hardwoods beside the lake, and out across the ice. He could not help but follow and the glorious singing that lead him further and further from his lodge. As though in a

continued.....

continued from page 6

trance, like that induced by Willow the Shamaan, the boy followed the birds and their song across the lake, through the cedars and over the high ridge beyond.

When the first purple fingers of evening stained the snow, Many Fingers was miles from his home. He stood on the banks of a river. A river that flowed open and free all winter over its rocky course. Mist lifted from the cold running waters into the freezing air, and the sound of the turbulence, blended in harmony with the song of the birds. The boy paused by the bank, knelt and drank from the running water. As he lifted his head he saw a reflection in the water. He jumped to his feet, poised to run.

On the opposite bank of the river stood a young girl dressed in skins and furs. The boy said nothing, he searched the woods behind here with frightened eyes, looking for the rest of her party. He wondered if she was the bait to draw him into an Iroquois trap.

"Hello", said the girl, her voice soft and gentle in the winter air. The boy said nothing. The girl spoke again, "My name is Flower, I travel alone, and I need your help."

"I am Many Fingers", spoke the boy. "If you are by yourself, I can help you. What is it you need?"

"I am by myself", the girl assured him. Drawing her robe back, she showed him that she was soon to give birth. "The child within me cries to be born. Soon he will arrive, ready to be named. I have no lodge or wikki-up in which he can be delivered. I have no knife or axe to build him shelter. Are you skilled in building? Do you have a knife?"

"Where do you come from?" asked the boy. "Why do you travel without tools and without friends? Where are your home fires? Why do you travel alone when soon you are to be a mother?"

"I am here", answered Flower. "That is enough."

"How can I be certain your party is not hiding, ready to kill me as soon as I cross the river?" demanded Many Fingers.

"The child within me needs a lodge. There are none with me, and you have only my word that I am alone. This child I carry holds more promise for your tribe than I tell you. It is important that he be born to live, more important than you or I. Many Fingers, you of all the people in the forest have been chosen to help him. Do not delay with questions of danger. You are safer, now, than when you were in your mother's womb. Cross over this stream now and build here, beside this running water. Build a lodge of bark and wood, a lodge for the child. The Manitou is your protection, as the Manitou was your guide."

The boy stood and thought, surely the birds had brought him there. He walked to the water's edge. There was a regular and even set of large stones that lead directly to the feet of the girl on the opposite bank. He crossed, stepping carefully from one rock to another. When he reached her side, he paused with his head thrown back, like a deer ready to scent danger. There were no sounds in the forest, the song of the birds was stilled as if to indicate his journey was over.

He was called Many Fingers because of the skill in his hands. Quickly, he found the willows that would bend to form the ribs of the building, then he wove them into a strong support for the bark and small branches that would be the roof. While he worked, Flower stood by him singing a soft melody. A song of strength for the almost-man who was working with her, and a song of praise for the Manitou, the mighty Lord of all the World, who had placed the child within her.

When the light was gone, and the black sky glittered with tiny lights, the lodge was finished, and they went inside. He cut a thong from his cloak and with a fire-drill, kindled a fire. Warmth slowly spread through the small domed house and the cheerful reflection of the flames danced on their faces. Their outer robes were spread on a couch of balsam branches, where they could relax with their backs to the thin walls that sheltered them from the winter cold.

When the morning star was still visible on the horizon, they were, suddenly, awakened by a series of shouts and loud cries. "Raiders"! exclaimed Strong Teeth, and seizing their weapons they rushed from the lodge.

Soon the pain of birth gave notice that the child was coming. Flower lay on the skin covered couch and Many Fingers gently stroked her cheek and urged her to allow the pains of motherhood bring forth her child. Flower gave birth to a boy child. A perfect boy child. A soft radiance of light surrounded him as he opened his tiny mouth and screamed his welcome to the cold winter air.

Flower took from her undergarments, a warm rabbit fur and wrapped the child. She held him in her arms and sang a lullaby as she gently rocked back and forth.

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round
But as the hunter braves drew nigh
The angel song rang loud and high
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born
In Excelsis Gloria

Strong Teeth, Many Finger's father, awoke suddenly. There was something wrong! He shook the woman, Early Dawn, and demanded roughly where Many Fingers was. "The boy is not here. Where has he gone?"

I do not know, my husband", answered the woman. "Perhaps, he arose early and went rabbit hunting in the cedars by the lake."

"No", he said. "This morning we are hunting moose with my uncle and his two sons. Many Fingers would not go from the camp this early and miss the hunt. Willow told him that today he would make the kill. He would not have missed it." Strong Teeth jumped to his feet. There was something strange in the boy's leaving the wikki-up. He knew it.

Quickly he threw his robe around his shoulders and left the family dwelling. There in the fresh snow he could see the imprints of his son's moccasins. The tracks lead down the trail. He followed quickly to the point where the tracks left the trail and headed out across the lake. If the boy were hunting he would have followed the trail further into the cedars, but to cross the lake this early was strange.

Strong Teeth returned to the lodge. "Woman", he said. "There are strange feelings in the forest today. Pack the camp. I will cross the lake and follow our son. Come as quickly as possible. Stop at my uncle's lodge and bring him and his sons for I feel there is some reason behind Many Fingers' trip this morning." He turned away, pausing only to take a few strips of dried moosemeat from the pack at the door, then hurried down the trail and out across the lake following the tracks of his son. Early Dawn was already packing and soon after her husband had left, she too took the trail across the lake.

Strong Teeth held back with his little band. They had brought only their hunting weapons and were far overshadowed by the furs and other gifts brought by the other tribes.

As she neared the point on which Strong Teeth's uncle camped, she began calling. Within minutes that family, too, was on the trail. All could feel the strangeness in the air. Strong Teeth had left a clear trail for them to follow. They caught up with him at his half-day break, and then they all followed the footsteps of Many Fingers.

They were only a few hours behind the boy when night caught them. They decided to camp there and continue on next morning. Strong Teeth and his uncle quickly built a lodge big enough for the entire family, and in darkness they ate their evening meal, unaware of the next day's promise.

When the morning star was still visible on the horizon, they were, suddenly, awakened by a series of shouts and loud cries. "Raiders"! exclaimed Strong Teeth, and seizing their weapons they rushed from the lodge.

Approaching on the trail was a strange procession. Here were Iroquois with their faces bare of war paint, walking tall beneath their high war locks. But there were only four! A few paces behind them walked four Crees, followed by four Shawnee, followed by four each of all the tribes. These were not hunting parties or war parties. All the Indians were dressed in their finest robes and headdresses. All walked together. All were great chiefs of their people and they carried furs and food enough for months.

The small party of Hurons did not know what to do. Should they flee? Should they stand their ground? What was happening?

"Ho, Huron", spoke a Mohawk chieftan. Speaking in the Huron tongue he continued, "Do you know of the child? We have been called to the side of the child."

"What child?" asked Strong Teeth. "There is only one child I know of. He is my son, Many Fingers, but surely you do not seek him?"

"Do you know of a child that holds the future of all mankind in his hands? Do you know a child that is so strong that he can afford to be gentle and meek? Do you know a child born of man, who is a God? Do you know a child born today to rule all the tribes?" The questions came from all the chiefs.

One mighty chief stepped forward. "A few weeks ago, I was visited, in the night, by the spirit of my grandfather. He told me of a child to be born. A child that could change my life. A child that would grow to be a great chief, greater than any of those assembled here today. I set forth with my companions to bring these gifts to that child. On the trail, I have met these other wise and powerful chieftans, who, by the power of the same vision, are, also, seeking the child."

Another chief spoke, "Last night, a new star glowed in the sky, and then burst, leaving a long fire tail and fell in this area. We know we are near the child. Join with us, Huron, help us find the child, this new chief of all tribes."

"I search for my son," said Strong Teeth. "But, for such a chief as this I have searched all my life. I will travel with you until our paths must part."

"That is fair enough," spoke the Shawneee. "Gather your party now, Huron. We are in haste to find our goal."

As the large party passed over the top of the ridge, they could see in the valley beside the running river, a small lodge with a whisp of smoke raising into the air. A strange feeling held them speechless, as they advanced down the hill, and stood beside the river.

continued.....

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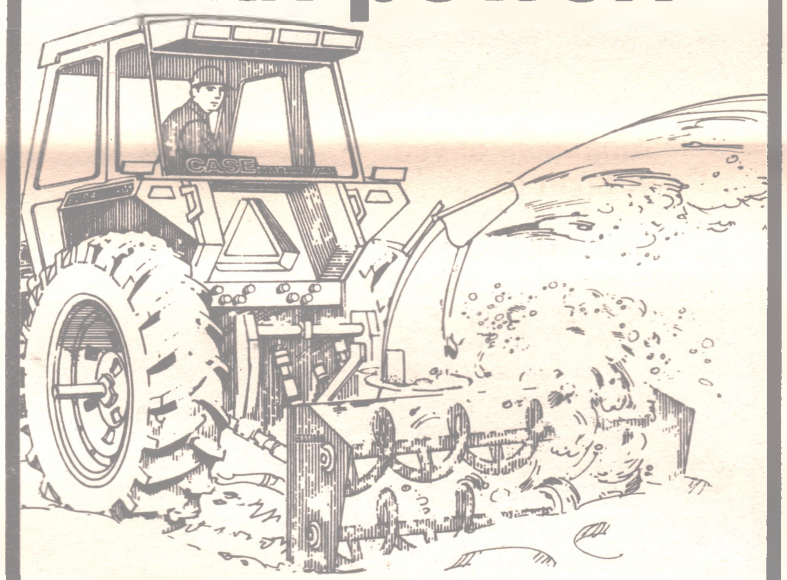

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continued from page 7

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless infant there

The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born
In Excelsis Gloria

On the other side, they could see many animals watching the lodge. There were deer and moose, rabbits, skunks, weasels and squirrels standing there. Wolves and rabbits, too, stood side by side watching the door of the tiny lodge.

A great camp was made. Each tribe built a lodge and as they set about their camp building, they took turns crossing the river and entering the tiny lodge to lay their presents at the foot of the balsam couch on which Flower sat with her baby.

Strong Teeth held back with his little band. They had brought only their hunting weapons and were far overshadowed by the furs and other gifts brought by the other tribes.

"Father," called Many Fingers. "Why do you not come and see this wondrous child? Why do you hang back when others push forward?"

"We are but poor hunters," said Strong Teeth. "We travelled far with only our camp goods. We did not know of the child and have nothing to give to him."

"Oh, my foolish one," cried Many Fingers. "You have given more than you know. It was you who taught me to build the lodge in which this child was born. It was you who gave me life so that I could be here and aid in his birth. You taught me to be strong and give to those who need. I cannot leave the side of this child now, I will stay with him for as long as he needs me, and I will teach him as you taught me. You gave this child your own son. What more could any person give?" With these words, Many Fingers crossed the river and took his parents by the hand and lead them across the stones to the small lodge in which lay the child. And Many Fingers and Flower married in the Indian fashion and raised the child to be a man. The Manitou looked down from the sky and was pleased, for the gift of one man's son made the birth of his own son possible in the land of ice and snow.

In the cold bitterness of the wintertime all men must work together to keep the cold from the hearts of others. The Manitou had sent them a reason to work together, new life for a new beginning. It had not been from the rich and powerful tribes that the birth came, but from the tribes of lowly hunters. □

Oh children of the forest free
O sons of Manitou
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born this day for you

Come kneel before the Radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy
Jesus Your King is born, Jesus is born
In Excelsis Gloria

Public Archives of Canada

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

by Sun Staff

For Christmas I like to send calendars, especially to my family and friends overseas. Usually I send the **National Geographic Society** calendars because the photos are wonderful and there is also plenty of space to mark your appointements, special occasions and reminders. You can get these calendars only by becoming a member of the National Geographic society. A membership makes a great Christmas present.

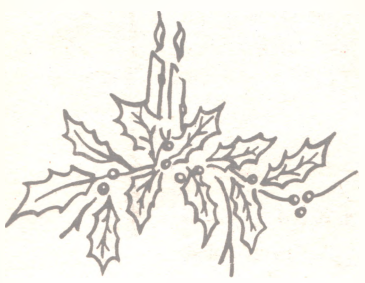
Another present I prefer is stationary -- a gentle hint to letter writers. In recent years stationary has not been very popular but it still remains a favourite of mine.

To continue on the theme of presents for far away family and friends, how about a **Bell** gift certificate? Nothing beats hearing a loved one's voice on the telephone. Hope these suggestions help. **Merry Christmas.**

At Christmas time, I like to give homemade cookies, squares or candy in decorated containers. It is not difficult to find inexpensive jars, baskets and tins; they are easily made special with a bit of ribbon or by attaching a small ornament. My favouri e gift cookies are the standard chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin and peanut butter recipes Shortbreads are especially connected with Christmas in our family.

Another economical present is a reprint of an old picture placed in a frame. This type of present is specially cherished if the picture has been in hiding for a long time and brings back some happy memories.

Other no-fail gifts include cookbooks, handmade tree decorations and magazine subscriptions.



Infoetox Magazine published by Friends of the Earth. The magazine contains information about toxics and what the government and individuals are doing about the problem. This is a newsprint periodical and is a must for everyone who is concerned about the environment. Available for $10 annually from: **Friends of the Earth**, 16, 53 Queen St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5C5.

Not for children only: **A Gentle Wind** sells cassette recordings of music, songs and stories for children. The recordings are lively, entertaining and educational, and fun for children (and adults!) to sing along with or listen to. Each selection is age-rated and many are award winners. Tapes are priced at $10.95. A catalogue is free from **A Gentle Wind**, att: Mary Pollard, Box 381, Syndenham, Ontario, K0H 2T0.

The **Reader's Digest Large-Type Edition** makes a nice gift for those who cannot read the standard size type. Senior Citizen homes would do wel to make this magazine available to their residents. It can be ordered from: **Reader's Digest Large Type Edition**, Box 241, Mount Morris, Illinois, 61054-9982.

A good stocking stuffer for the 9-12 year old age group is "Redeemable coupons". These are made on index cards and "cashed" during the year as the child sees fit to do so. For example, one coupon could be good for staying up past bedtime on a school night, "or" getting out of a specific chore, "or" a toy later on in the year. These "coupons" were a big hit with my kids at this age.

For teenagers interested in automobiles, a subscription to **Popular Mechanics** is always welcomed.

For the fitness-minded person on your shopping list, a few sessions at the Sports Complex at **Bishop's University** in Lennoxville woulkd be greatly appreciated. **Happy Holidays** to all! □

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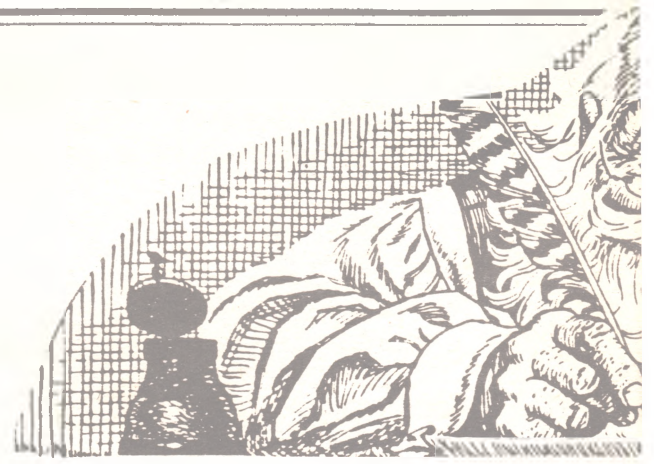


The Book Case

The World of **Beatrix Potter**

The popularity of **Beatrix Potter's** books have endured over the years. The **Tale of Peter Rabbit** was first published in 1903 and still retains its popularity after eighty-four years. Unfortunately although the stories have remained the same the drawings began to have a faded look as the prints became worn down. Now these pictures have taken on a new look as Penquin Books took over a project of restoring all of Potter's art work. The new editions will not only mean a sharper picture book, but there is also a new interest in Beatrix Potter herself.

It was once believed that Beatrix Potter was a lonely spinster who wrote stories for the children of her ex-governess. In 1946 Margaret Lane published **The Tale of Beatrix Potter**. This book was a revelation and showed Miss Potter as an astute business woman, exquisite water colour artist and fascinating story teller. With the appointment of Judy Taylor as consultant on Beatrix Potter and artistic advisor there will be more than just the twenty-three little books being redone. She is now involved in compiling a book of Potter's letters and an exhibit of Potter's art work and nature studies.

There is a wide variety of Potter books to choose from. Some are listed below.

Biography Beatrix Potter - Elizabeth Buchan $9.95

Written especially for the 8-12 year olds and illustrated with twenty line drawings.

Board Books - $3.95

Specially written for toddlers with simplified stories and bright pictures. There are eight titles in this series.

The Beatrix Potter Knitting Book - Pat Menchini $25.00

Patterns are based on Potter's own watercolors and include cosy outfits for toddlers, attractive sweaters for women and chunky knits for men.

The Beatrix Potter Gift Shop - $11.80 [gift pack]

A collection of favourites in an attractive presentation unit. Paperback editions of:

The Tale of Two Bad Mice
The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy Winkle
The Tale of Peter Rabbit
The Tale of Tom Kitten

Peter Rabbit 1 2 3 Books - $7.95

Learning to count can be fun with this picture book. A Beatrix Potter illustration has been chosen for each number and the child can count the number of animals featured in each one.

Peter Rabbit 1 2 3 Wall Frieze - $7.95

A full color wall frieze decorated with Potter's animal characters.

Further Tales from Beatrix Potter - $7.95

One volume chunky hardcover format books contains four of Potter's most popular stories.

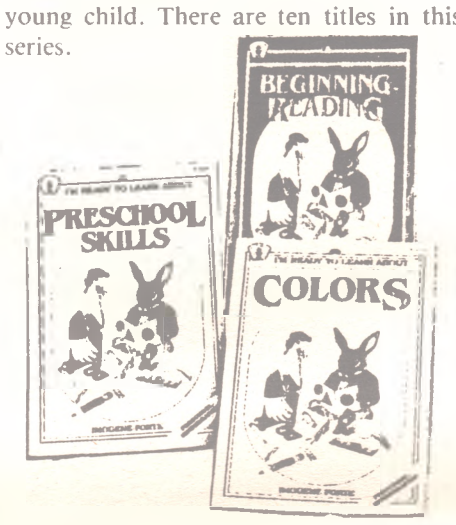
The Tale of Benjamin Bunny
The Tale of Jeremy Fisher
The Tale of Mr. Tod
The Tale of Tom Kitten

The Original Peter Rabbit Collection - $2.95 each

All twenty-three of Potter's little books can now be found in paperback editions at your local Book Store. At $2.95 each these remain one of the most popular childrens' books.

I'm Ready to Learn About - Series $2.95 Kids Stuff

A delightful series of books designed to teach the preschooler basic skills. A fun way to early learning for the very young child. There are ten titles in this series.



Beginning Math **Numbers**
Beginning Reading **PreschoolSkills**
Beginning Science **Safety**
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A Difficult Day - Eugenie Fernandes $10.95 ages 3 - 7 Kids Can Press

Melinda had a sleepless night and waking up grouchy her mood goes from bad to worse. She is late for school and by the time she arrives home feels that no-one loves her and that nothing is right. Her mother doesn't help any by making her take a bath and sending her to her room. Her mother finally realizes Melinda is sad and feeling sorry for her makes cookies and goes upstairs to find her. This is a reassuring story for young children with large bright colored pictures.

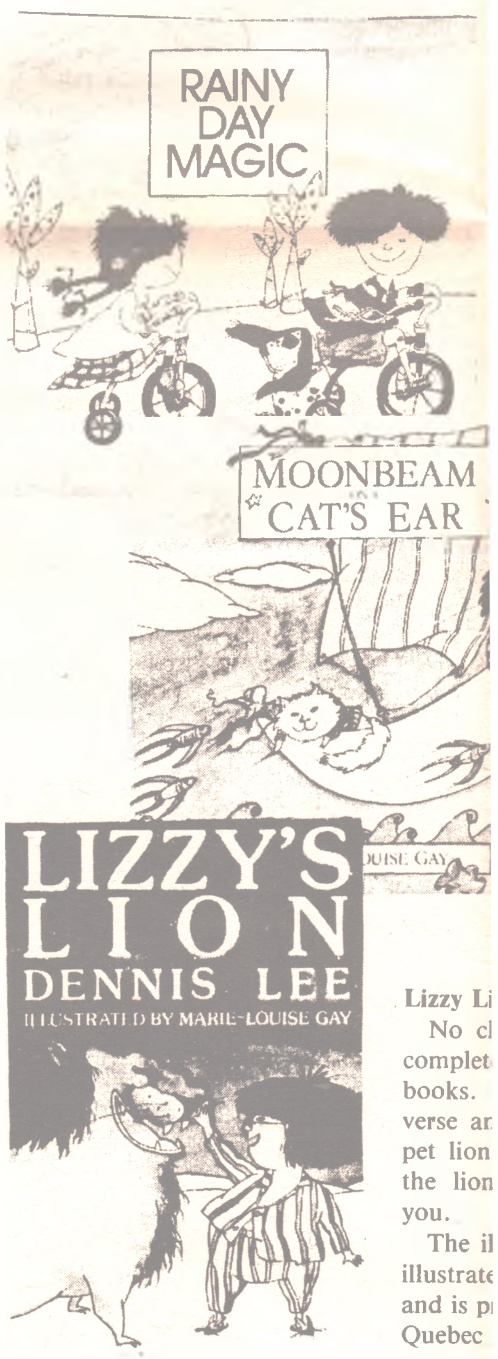
Crocodile - Crocodile - Peter Nickel, Binette Schroeder $6.95 Tundra

This book is one that has been chosen by Tundra to lead off a series of Childrens Books as a Work of Art. An unusual story of a crocodile who overhears some women discussing a crocodile store.Thinking that this is the store for him, he goes in search until at last he finds it. What a disappointment - a store not for crocodiles - but things made out of crocodile skins. You will see how he takes his revenge! Both text and drawings in this book are delightfully different.

Bonny's Big Day - James Herriot [illustrations Ruth Brown] $12.95

Bonny and Dolly are two aging carthorses who have been retired for twelve years and lovingly cared for by their owner-John Skipton. When James Herriot suggests entering Bonny in a Family Pet Contest John first scoffs at the idea—a horse in a pet show. When the big day does arrive no-one is more surprised than Mr. Herriot—unless it is the judge—to see Bonny all dressed up and at the show.

Both the story and the illustrations make this a very nice book for a young reader or one to read aloud to a younger child.



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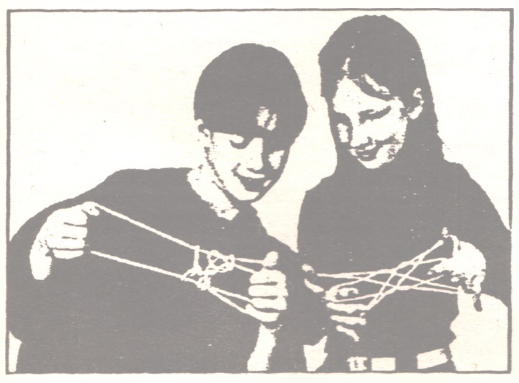
FOR CHILDREN

Super String Games



Super String Games - Camilla Gryski $9.95 Kids Can Press

If you have tried the other string books - **Cats Cradle, Owl's Eyes** and **Many Stars and More String Games** then you are ready for this one. There are more than twenty of the most unusual string figures in this newest book. Each figure comes with easy to follow instructions. You may buy this book for the children, but I am sure everyone in the family will want to try their hand at doing these string games.

Who is Frances Rain? Margaret Buffie $4.95 Kids Can Press [ages 10-14]

Was there a ghost on Rain Island? Lizzie thought a vacation with her whole family at her grandmother's cottage might be a little boring, until she decides to explore Rain Island. With her teenage friend Alex she puts together clues about the ghosts' identities and in doing so, finds a way to help her estranged family reunite.

This is Margaret Buffie's first novel for young people and is good reading.

Dennis Lee $8.95 Stoddart
ens' book review would be
thout one of Dennis Lee's
is his first story book in
about a little girl and her
robber gets mixed up with
d the ending will surprise

ator Marie Louise Gay has
umerous childrens' books
itly teaching at University of
lontreal.

Big Sarah's Little Boots - Paulette Bourgeois - Brenda Clark $10.95 Kids Can

Sarah loved her little yellow boots and was very sad when they became too small for her. This is the story of how she tried to stretch her boots, but finally had to get new ones and give her old ones to her little brother. A happy colourful book with excellent illustrations on each page with a little lesson for growing toddlers.

Greenapple Street Blues - Ted Staunton $4.95 Kinds Can [ages 7-11]

This is the third book about Maggie and her best friend and partner Cyril. Things are changing on Greenapple Street as Maggie is moving and her Mom is going to have a baby. There is a lot of dialogue and the book is fast moving enought that will keep a young reader interested.

Annabel Lee - Edgar Allan Poe, Gilles Tibo $19.95 Tundra

The poem and the equisite illustrations in this book makes it a pleasure for adults to read—although it is meant as a childrens' book. The poem is about a poor fisherman's imaginary love for a beautiful girl. The pictures are drawn from the artist's love of his native Gaspé home. The drawings are delicately done in pastels and the poem matches the illustrations.

This book is available in French as well as English. Another fine addition to Turndra's Children Books of Works of Art series. □

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If there is a student on your Christmas list the Store has gift certificates available.

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If you are not already a regular customer of the store may we suggest that you pay it a visit while out Christmas shopping.

ANCIENT CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

by Joan MacDonald

When you are enjoying the beauty of the Christmas season, singing carols, eating your Christmas pudding, kissing under the mistletoe, do you ever wonder where all these traditions come from, and how long ago they originated? Many of them go back far before the beginning of Christianity. December 25th for example, was a pagan festivity of old Rome; a great festival in honour of the birth of the sun. Even after the advent of Christianity, the Church was unable to stop these joyous celebrations, and the Church fixed that date as the birth of Christ, as there was no certain knowledge of the actual date of Christ's birth.

Mistletoe was a sacred plant to the pagan Druids and long before Christmas trees were popular, there was a custom of hanging kissing boughs in the shape of a crown or a globe, with a bunch of mistletoe suspended below them.

The Christmas pudding has Teutonic origins and the custom of bringing it to the table in brandy filled flames is a relic of ancient fire worship, symbolic of the rising sun. The decorative Christmas crackers you may find on your table, which explode with a small crack when you open them for your gift, are also a reminder that Christmas was once celebrated as a festival of fire and light.

Even Santa Claus owes his origin to the pagan days of Woden, the Anglo-Saxon diety credited with the power of magic and believed to ride through the sky laden with gifts for those who had faith in him. Later these magical powers were transferred to St. Nicholas.

Two thousand years ago, at the time of the Vikings, a boar was sacrificed at the season of Yu-ul and his head was feasted on to accelerate the sun's return. Although the boar's head has been replaced by ham and turkey, there are still traditional boar's head ceremonies in England every Christmas.

The head always has an orange between its teeth and is decorated with sprigs of rosemary, bay leaves, holly and mistletoe. At Queen's College, Oxford a boar's head is always served on Christmas Day. The head is carried in to the dining hall on a silver platter, which was presented to the College in 1688. Its arrival is heralded by trumpets and by the choir singing the Boar's Head Carol, with everyone joining in the Latin refrain:

The Boar's Head in hand bear I,
Bedeck'd with bay and rosemary;
Quot estis in convivio
Capur apri defero,,
Reddens laudes Domino.

is the first verse. The Cutler's Company of London observes a similar ceremony, when the choir boys of St. Paul's Cathedral sing the traditional Boar's Head Carol.

The origin of today's punch bowl was the Waissail Bowl. Families gathered around a bowl of spiced ale known as 'lamb's wool' which is still served in British taverns at the Christmas season. The pubs are also decorated with poles and garlands in keeping with the old custom of hoisting the ale garland, a custom derived from the time when a bush was displayed outside a tavern to indicate wine selling. The City Connors, in their ceremonial robes, sample and approve the ale before the garland is hoisted.

"Stir up Sunday", the 25th Sunday after Trinity, is an old English tradition which derived its name from the collect, 'Stir up, we beseech thee, Oh Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people.' However, it was also known as 'Stir up Sunday' because on this day, after going to church, the housewives began making their Christmas puddings and stirring up the raisins, currants, fruit peels, nuts and other ingredients. The housewife would secrete in her pudding silver sixpences, rings and thimbles. The finder of the silver sixpence was supposed to be ensured a year of good luck, the finder of the ring an impending marriage, the thimble a year of spinsterhood.

Carols are a favourite English tradition dating back hundreds of years. One of the most famous Carol Services is held every Christmas Eve in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. Nine sets of carols are sung and the choir boys carry candles as they enter by the west door of the magnificent chapel, which was founded by Henry V1 in 1441. A tradition connected with this service is the singing of "Once in Royal David's City" by a choir boy who is never told he has been chosen for the part until just before the service begins.

continued from page 12

The town of Glasonbury, in Somerset, England, has set a Chritmas tradition which has been carried on for four centuries. The town always sends the reigning monarch a sprig from the famous 'Holy Thorn' as a token of homage.

Legend records that Joseph of Arimathea landed in Wales with eleven disciples to establish the Christian faith. On Christmas morning, weary from their long travels, they rested at a spot now known as Weary-All Hill, near Glastonbury. St. Joseph stuck his staff in to the ground and the dry hawthorn stick flowered and has continued to blossom ever since on the anniversary of the birth of Christ.

The flowering of the hawthorn was a heaven sent signal to Joseph and his disciples that their wandering was over, so they sought permission to erect a church there. Their church was built on the site now occupied by the Chapel of St. Mary of the Virgin, built around 1184. The cutting of the sprig to send to the Queen takes place on 5th January, which was the old Christmas Eve before England adopted the new style calendar in 1752.

The earliest record of Christmas trees was written in 1605 in Strasbourg, France, where a merchant wrote, "At Christmas they set up fir trees in the parlours at Strasbourg and hang thereon roses cut out of many coloured paper, apples, wafers, gold foil, sweets etc." Christmas cards, were introduced in 1846 in England by Sir Henry Cole, a distinguished civil servant whose name is linked with the building of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Albert Hall.

Not so popular over here, but a great tradition in England, is the Christmas pantomime. The first one was in 1717 in London and called 'Harlequin'. Favourites over the years have been 'Cinderella', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'The Sleeping Beauty', 'Mother Goose', and 'Alladin'. Almost every town has its local pantomime and many English children have glowing Christmas memories of their first topsy turvy pantomime where the principal boy is always a girl and the female comic always a man. It is ideal family entertainment where fairy tales and legends are linked by dancing and music and glittering costumes. Great music hall artists always used to play in pantomime and in the olden days there was a great deal of local satire and many political digs. In the 18th century, Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole became so incensed by this that he went back stage at the Haymarket Theatre and beat the clown with a stick!

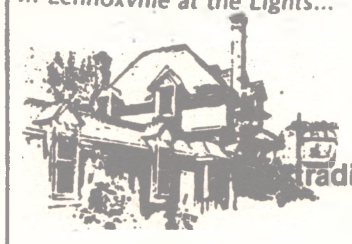
The circus also comes to town around Christmas time. The circus had its beginning at Lambeth in the 18th century when Philip Astley, a guards sergeant major in the British army, was presented on his discharge with a white stallion named Gibraltar. Astley bought two more horses and he and his wife began public exhibitions of "Feats of Horsemanship". He introduced the circular circus ring and gradually added clowns, tumbling acts etc. From this developed the famous Bertram Mills Circus of world status.

So tradition carries on over thousands of years. When you eat your Christmas dinner this year, think back. Imagine the pagans joyfully celebrating the worship of their sun god; the Saxons drinking 'lamb's wool' around the 'wass hael' bowl; one of your ancestors stirring the silver sixpence in to the Christmas pudding.

Perhaps you go to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. If so, think back to Christmas for the Catholics in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the first. They probably celebrated their Christmas Mass in their homes in England, behind locked doors, with the priest ready to hide in the 'priest's hole' behind the fireplace in case someone might report this illegal mass to the authorities.

"History is in essence a history of ideas" said H.G. Wells, and the ideas of our ancestors surely made the traditions of Christmas more interesting for us. □

In Lennoxville at the Lights...



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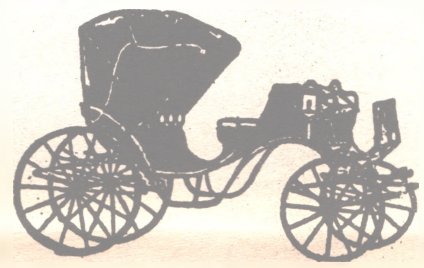

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WATERVILLE THEN AND NOW

photo courtesy of Patricia Ball

Gale's Bedspring & Matress Factory

by Patricia Ball

I had some old pictures of Waterville and I thought it would be nice to take new ones of the same locations and show our readers the changes which have taken place in the last 80 years or so. These old pictures would have been taken before 1913 when my family moved away from Waterville. None of the pictures were taken by my family, they are simply souvenirs, mostly postcards.

The old picture showing the Geo. Gale and Son factory also shows the railroad spur which used to run through the centre of the town. It crossed the main street just south of the bridge. The old building of Gale's has served Waterville well. Since the Gales sold in the 1920's it has housed Johnson's Woolen Mills, a firm manufacturing sheepskin rugs, and when it burned in 1948, Aviv Textiles, manufacturers of chenille dressing gowns and other clothing. The main industry of Waterville is now T.G. Waterville Inc. Their large plant is built on the other side of the town near the main railroad line. The company has evolved and gone through changes since first started as Canadian Sponge Rubber Products Company Ltd. in 1952 with about 15 employees. This company was sold to B.F. Cellular Products Inc. and in 1987—T.G. Waterville Inc., now employing about 700 people in Waterville.

The early picture of Waterville does not show the stately trees that I remember when I was growing up. The photo of the village shows the Town Hall on the left, the old covered bridge before the sidewalk was added, a barn and store, the A.H. Gale residence, what is labelled in old pictures as the residence of The Hon. Hollis Smith and St. John's Church. The Smith residence would later become the Rectory. The old Town Hall, having burned down in 1952, a new one story building was erected. The roof is just visible in the new photo because of the houses which have been built on the near side of the river. This photo also shows a new Post Office on the space that was the Town Park. The Church is barely visible. The brick building to the left of the church is Victoria Jubilee Hall, built in 1913. The Gale property is behind the trees. The old covered bridge gave way to this unimposing structure in 1954. The barn and store, destroyed by fire in the 1950's, have been replaced by smaller buildings.

The two pictures of Westmount are almost identical. The house on the upper right of the old picture was destroyed by fire some years ago. The house shown in the new picture would be the next above. Mrs. Gustafson told me that many of the houses on Westmount were built by her uncle, Robert Edgecombe. He built well, for as one can see, little has changed on this quiet street except the people. The Wilsons, the Watts, the McCormicks, the Snows, the Miltimores and many others have moved on or died. Only the Spafford home, out of sight at the right, is still occupied by Mrs. Spafford.

continued.....

photos courtesy of Patricia Ball

photos by Patricia Ball

Some streets change very little, as Westmount Street Then and Now.

photos courtesy of Patricia Ball

photos by Patricia Ball

Some streets change a great deal, as these photographs show.

continued from page 14

Pleasant Street, now named Compton Street, has become a busy thoroughfare leading to the Waterville T.G. Inc. Plant. The old hotel has become a hardware store. The stately, or rickety, depending upon one's point of view, wooden balconies are gone. The graceful roof with its multiple dormers is still as attractive as ever. The building visible at the left; after housing at various times, the post office, stores, a funeral parlour, and the Southern Canada Power offices, has become a restaurant. The old school, which Waterville built with such pride, has had its red brick painted white, an addition made to it, and been turned into a hotel, Manoir Waterville.

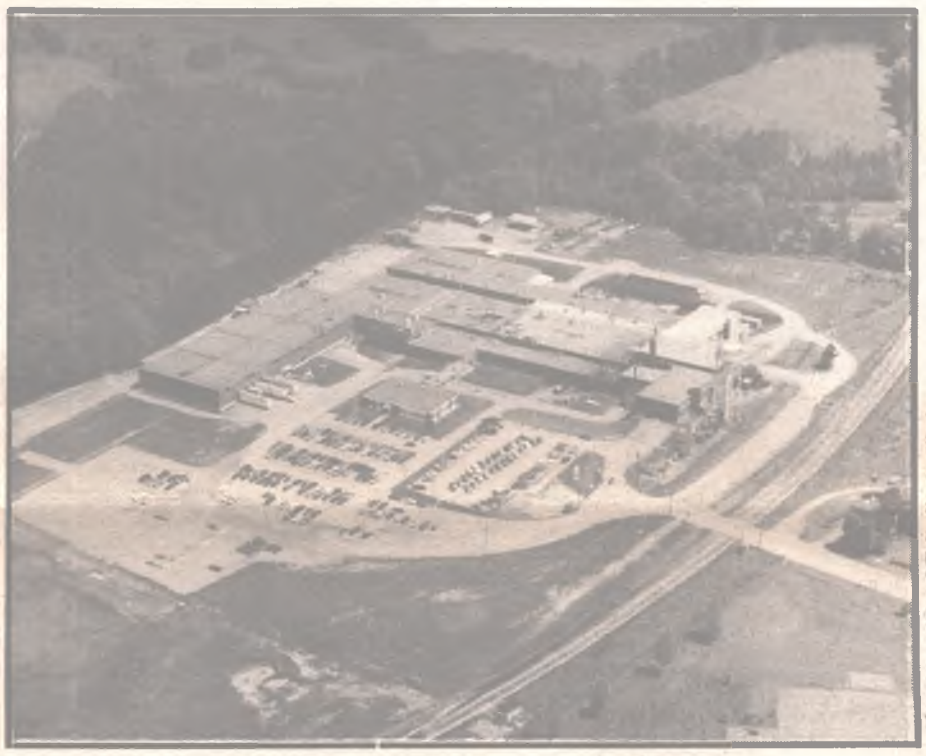


photo courtesy of T.G. Waterville Inc.

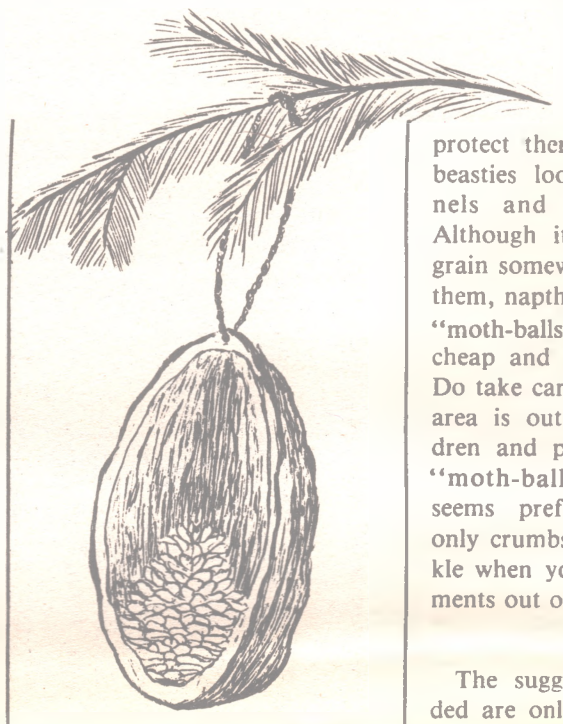
The town's employer, T.G. Waterville Inc.

Many other changes have taken place. The old sawmill on the main street has given way to a street of neat modern houses. The ballpark behind it has not been used in years. The baseball played then has given way to softball. I haven't heard of anyone clearing a rink on the river for years. In fact, I didn't ask if Waterville even has a rink now. I'm very sure that no one ever skates on the old Overflow or through the cedar woods at the back of the old pasture.

A new sawmill, several small factories and houses are now built on the vacant land that we used to call Gale's pasture. This seems appropriate because Channell's History of Comptom County states that this was the site of Waterville's first hotel and was then a substantial part of the town. □

This grand old building has seen many people and many names and many changes. But the structure remains the same.

NATURAL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



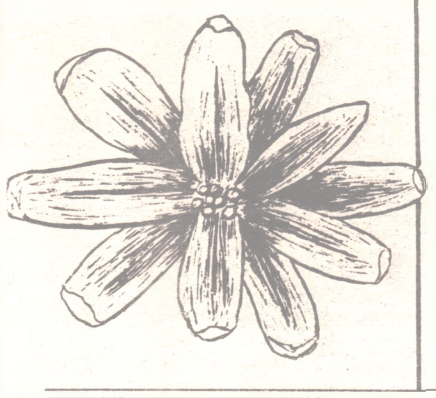
by Kathy Longworth

There is an abundance of natural material available which lends itself beautifully to the making of attractive Christmas decorations. I do not pretend to remain a purist here, because many of these suggestions require a dab of paint, or perhaps a few scraps of tinsel or other embellishments to add the sparkle which most of us associate with decorations for the holiday season.

Some of the components for these decorations can be collected from the wild, some can be grown in our gardens, and the others can be found in a variety of stores or, better yet, perhaps your own cupboards.

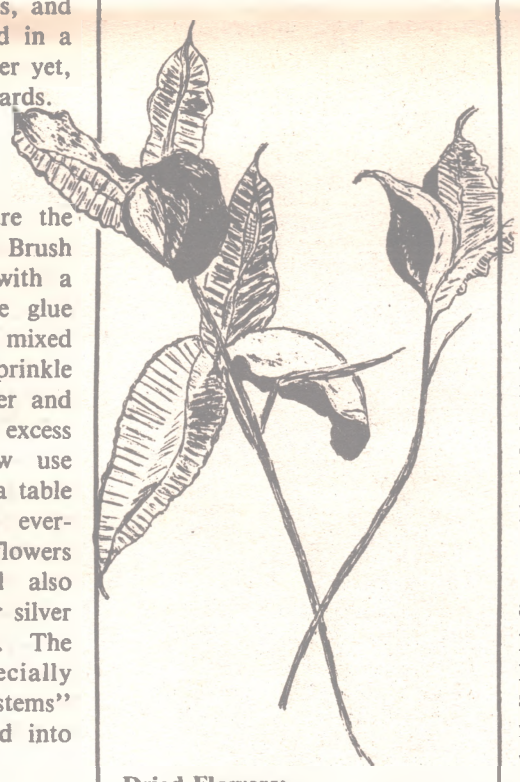
Cones:

Cones of all types are the first to come to mind. Brush the tips of the petals with a dilute solution of white glue (½ white glue, ½ water mixed in a small container), sprinkle with gold or silver glitter and let dry. Gently tap the excess sparkle. You can now use them incorporated into a table centrepiece with fruit, evergreen branches, dried flowers or berries. You could also hang them from gold or silver threads on your tree. The smaller ones, especially tamarack, with wire "stems" attached, can be worked into other decorations.



Cones can be changed into flowers. Just clip out the top portion, leaving one or two rows of "petals" on the bottom. Glue a few tiny dried berries or seeds in the centre. Use a bit of wire wrapped in florists' tape to make a stem. If cones are in short supply, you can, with careful cutting, make three or four flowers from each one.

There are innumerable other possibilities for cones. In fact, there are several excellent booklets available in craft stores that deal solely with the art of cone-craft



Dried Flowers:

Dried flowers can be combined into Victorian style nosegays to tuck among the branches of your Christmas tree or incorporate into many other decorations about the home. Simply wire stems together and cover with florists' tape then push through a small white paper doily. A loop of narrow ribbon makes an attractive hanger for your bouquets.

Nuts and Nutshells:

Walnuts seem to have a great variety of uses as Christmas decorations. Drill small holes in opposite sides of half an empty walnut shell. Attach thin gold-coloured wire, or a bit of narrow gold lace for a handle, and you have a tiny basket. Wire together a bunch of dried flowers, small cones and a sprig or two of evergreen. Place a dab of glue from a hot glue gun in the bottom of the shell, and push the stems into it to hold in place. You now have a mini-basket ready to hang on your tree.

A whole walnut, drilled through the pointed end, painted gold and hung from gold thread -- simple, but used in numbers, looks quite elegant on a Christmas tree.

Half an empty walnut shell also makes a cradle for a very tiny doll, with a scrap of flanellette for a blanket.

Paint the inside of a clean, empty, half walnut shell with gold or silver. Attach a matching thread for hanging and glue a tiny, sparkly tamarack cone into the bottom end. There's another ornament for your tree.

I recently saw a walnut with a filbert glued side-ways on the pointed end. The whole was painted black, with a white strip down its back. A scrap of red felt and a snip of fluffy white yarn for a hat, a bit of twisted black and white pipe cleaner for a tail, and viola! **Santa Skink!**

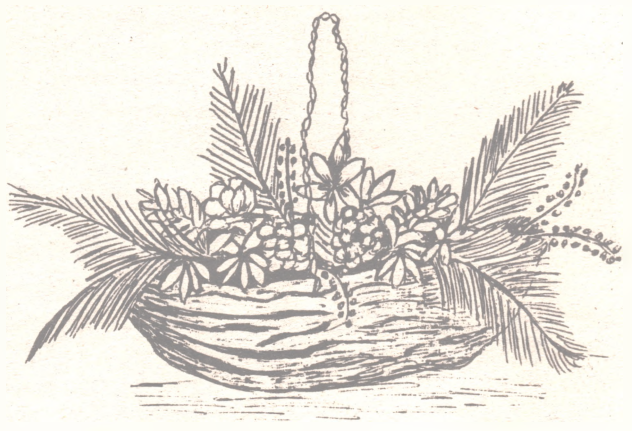
A very attractive centrepiece can be made from a styrofoam cone, a couple of bags of mixed nuts and some patience. Drill holes in all the nuts, and attach fairly stiff wire to make stems. Push the wires into the cone, completely covering the styrofoam. You can also mix the nuts with cones of various types if you like. When assembled, brush tips of nuts and cones with dilute glue solution, sprinkle with sparkle dust and let dry. Bits of tinsel, dried berries or flowers, or miniature artificial fruits can be added too, if you wish.

Storage:

Most of your natural decorations can be stored for several years with a few simple precautions. Pack them loosely and carefully and store in a cool, dry place. Egg cartons, for instance, are excellent vehicules for walnut-based ornaments. You also need to protect them against invading beasties looking for nut kernels and evergreen seeds. Although it goes against my grain somewhat to recommend them, napthalene crystals, alias "moth-balls" seem to be a cheap and effective deterrent. Do take care that your storage area is out of reach of children and pets if you do use "moth-balls". This method seems preferable to finding only crumbs and bits of sparkle when you take your ornaments out of storage next year!

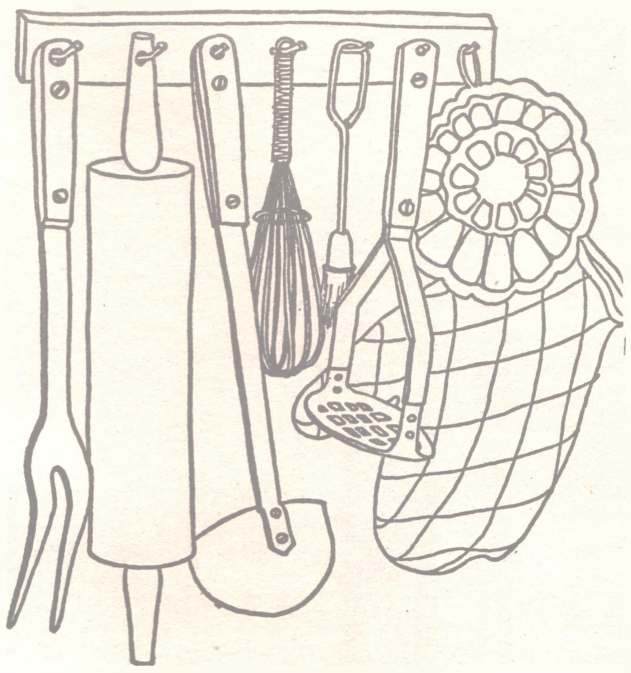
The suggestions I've included are only a glimmering of the possibilities for incorporating natural materials into your holiday decorating scheme. Milkweed pods and a bit of imagination should make great birds to put on your tree. Groups of wild iris seed-pods wired together and tucked into evergreen garlands would be another. These pods split open in the fall, forming the most wonderful, twisted and curled flower shapes, and they're naturally silvery inside, too.

As you become more aware of the natural materials available, you will find the only limit to your decorations is your own imagination. Have fun, and Season's Best to everyone! □



Illustrations by Kathy Longworth

Earthly Pleasures



December has arrived. Christmas is sneaking up on us again. Time once again to start baking.

For me, Christmas would not be Christmas without baked goods. I look forward to baking all the old standbys and trying a few new treats each year. Many of them will be presented to friends; homemade treats make wonderful gifts. My family looks forward to sampling them all!

by Marge Heggison

CHOCOLATE COCONUT BARS

2 eggs
1c packed brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 TBsp flour
½ tsp. baking powder
1¼c shredded coconut
2 / 3c chopped pecans
1c chocolate chips

Crust:
½c butter, softened
1½c packed brown sugar
½ tsp. salt
¼c cocoa
1c minus 2 TBsp sifted flour

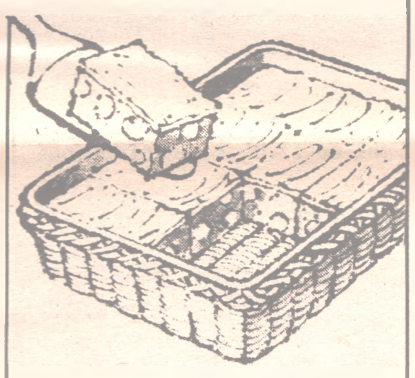
Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease an 8X12" pan.

Prepare crust by creaming butter and brown sugar. When it is light and fluffy, stir in salt, cocoa and flour. Spread and press dough lightly into prepared baking pan. Bake for 15 minutes.

While crust is baking, prepare topping. Beat the eggs with electric mixer until frothy. Add brown sugar, vanilla, flour, and baking powder. Blend well. Stir in coconut, pecans, and half the chocolate chips.

When crust has baked 15 minutes, remove from oven and spread topping over it. Sprinkle with remaining chocolate chips. Bake 25 minutes.

Cool on a rack, then cut into thin bars. Yields about 30 bars.



IRISH CREAM TRUFFLES

3 oz. sweet chocolate
1 egg yolk
1 TBsp butter
3 TBsp Irish cream liqueur
2 TBsp icing sugar
Unsweetened cocoa powder or chocolate sprinkles

In top of double boiler over hot water, melt chocolate. Remove from heat; whisk in egg yolk and butter until blended. Beat in liqueur and sugar until smooth. Cover and refrigerate until firm enough to shape, about 1 hour.

With melon baller or your hands, shape chocolate mixture into balls. (If balls stick to melon baller, dip it into warm water before making each ball) Roll balls in cocoa or chocolate sprinkles; place in tiny paper or foil cups. Refrigerate in a covered container for up to 2 weeks. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before serving. Makes about 16.

BUTTER TART SQUARES

1c flour
¼c sugar
½c butter
2eggs, lightly beaten
1c packed brown sugar
2 TBsp flour
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. vanilla
pinch salt
1c raisins
½c coarsely chopped pecans

Combine 1c flour and ¼c sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse meal. Press into ungreased 9" square pan. Bake at 350°F for 15 minutes.

Beat together eggs, brown sugar, 2 TBsp flour, baking powder, vanilla and salt. Stir in raisins and nuts. Pour over base. Bake at 350°F for 25-30 minutes or until filling is almost firm. Let cool and cut into small squares. Makes about 36.

CHOCOLATE PRETZELS

1c unsalted butter, softened
1c icing sugar
1 egg yolk
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. vanilla
1½c flour
1 / 3c cocoa
Cocoa for dusting

Glaze:
1 egg white
1 TBsp cognac or brandy
2 tsp. lemon juice
2 TBsp water
1 1 / 3c icing sugar, [sifted after measuring]
¼c cocoa
Pearl sugar (optional)

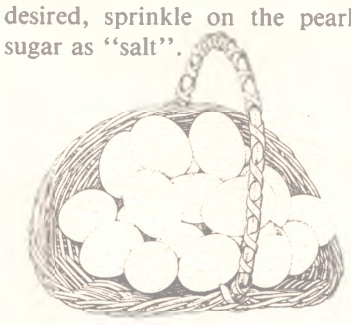
Cream together butter and icing sugar. Add the egg yolk, salt and vanilla.

Sift together flour and cocoa and add to the butter. Stir and knead mixture with your hands until it forms a smooth dough. Pack dough into a ball, cover tightly with plastic wrap, then refrigerate for at least 2 hours before using.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a baking sheet.

Remove dough from refrigerator and cut into quarters (It will need to soften slightly before it can be rolled.) Break off portions of dough and roll them with your hands on a surface lightly dusted with cocoa until they are long strands. The ropes of dough should be pencil thin and roughly 14" long. Twist the dough into pretzel shapes and place pretzels on baking sheet. (They do not spread much.) Bake cookies for 12-15 min., or until firm to the touch. Transfer cookies to cooling racks and prepare the rest of the cookies with remaining dough.

To make the glaze, whisk together the egg white, cognac, lemon juice, water, icing sugar, and cocoa. Brush warm pretzels with glaze and, if desired, sprinkle on the pearl sugar as "salt".



SPRITZ COOKIES

1c butter, softened
1¼c sifted icing sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
2c flour
¼ tsp. salt
Decorator Icing [optional]

In bowl, cream butter thoroughly; gradually blend in sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour with salt; blend into creamed mixture.

Fill cookie press with batches of dough and press out shapes onto ungreased cookie sheets. (If dough becomes too soft to hold shapes, chill). Bake in 375°F oven for 5-10 minutes or just until beginning to brown around edges. Let cool on wire racks. Spread with decorator icing if desired. Makes about 4 dozen.

Decorator Icing

To 1 lightly beaten egg white, add a few drops of vanilla or almond extract. Stir in enough sifted icing sugar (about 2c) to make firm icing that will pipe easily through pastry bag. If it's too stiff, add a few drops of milk.

Divide among several small custard cups. Add enough food colouring to each cup to make bright colours. (Icing can be thinned slightly and painted onto cookies with small brushes). Cover icing with a damp cloth to prevent it from hardening.

Bake ahead if desired. This freezes well:

CINNAMON LOAF

Dough:
1c milk
¼c butter
about 4c flour
1 / 3c sugar
1 pkg. active dry yeast
3 / 4 tsp. salt
1 egg, at room temperature

Filling:

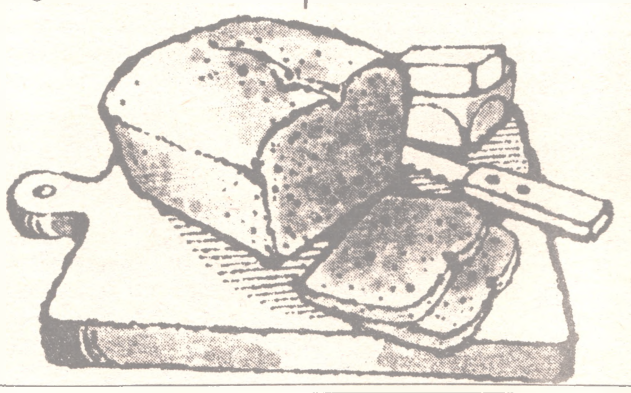
1 / 3c butter, softened
¼c sugar
1 TBsp. cinnamon
1 egg yolk mixed with 1 TBsp milk or water

3 / 4c powdered sugar mixed with 1 TBsp milk until smooth

In small saucepan heat milk and butter until very warm. Meanwhile, in large bowl mix well: 2c flour, sugar, yeast and salt. Add milk mixture; beat at medium speed 2 minutes, scraping down sides of bowl. Add egg and 1c flour; beat at high speed about 2 minutes, scraping down sides of bowl. Gradually stir in remaining flour to make a soft dough. Turn out on a lightly floured surface. Knead 5-8 minutes or until dough is smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl; turn to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm draft-free place 1 hour or until doubled. Punch down; knead lightly; cover; let rest 5-10 minutes. Roll out to 11" square.

To make filling, spread dough with butter to within 1" of edges. Mix sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over top. Roll dough up tight. Place seamside down in greased 9X5" loaf pan. With scissors dipped in flour cut V-shaped slits ½" apart down center. Turn points alternately to the right and left, pressing points down securely. Brush top with egg yolk mixture. Cover; let rise in warm draft-free place 1 hour or until doubled.

Bake at 350°F for 40 min. until golden brown. Cool in pan on rack 10 minutes; loosen edges; invert on rack; turn right side up; cool completely. Frost top with powered sugar mixture. Makes 1 loaf. □



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by Bijou Ardglass

Not long ago I was at a shopping center doing some errands when, voila, I ran into my old friend Stanley.

"Stanley, what on earth are you doing here?" I asked. "I'd have thought you'd be at work."

"No Bijou," he said, looking me firmly in the eye. "I am doing my Christmas shopping."

"So soon?" I exclaimed. "You mean you're not leaving it until December 23 as you usually do? Or worse still, hitting the post-Christmas sales and giving belated presents?"

"There' no need to be snarky, Bijou," he replied huffily. The truth hurts. "I've turned over a new leaf. Besides, I'm exhausted. Let's go somewhere for a late lunch."

So we drove off to a new little place I'd heard about and had wanted to try for some time. **Chose Fine** is a clean, sparkling little place that looks as if it had just bloomed out of nowhere. And if the large clientele is any indication, it is rapidly becoming very popular. It is not fancy; it has a white linoleum floor and pale pink walls hung with attractive prints. There is a rose formica counter and tables with white cloths have rose porcelain lamps hanging above them.

The lunch menu has an enormous variety of sandwiches available, from vege-

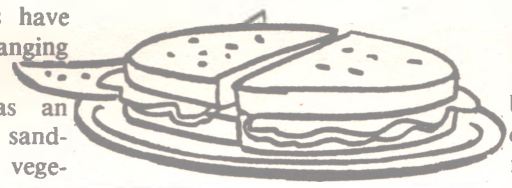

table pita, ham and cheese, and cream cheese and smoked salmon to tomatoes, onions and crab salad on a kaiser roll. As if that were not enough, there is also a special menu featuring items of the day, both à la carte items and table d'hôte, including soup and main course.

We both chose the table d' hote specials, starting off with an absolutely delicious, spicy puréed carrot soup that had a hint of cumin in it. With it came those fantastic Kiri whole wheat rolls (cold, unfortunately). I chose tuna salad ($3.25) and received an attractive and very large salad with very fresh greens. Stanley had rice with vegetables and chicken ($4.50). He was brought a plate of lightly curried rice with green and red peppers, onions and carrots with pieces of boned chicken breast over it. The chicken was cooked just enough and was not dry or stringy. The rice was deliciously flavoured.

For dessert, I had a chocolate cake that had been sprinkled with rum and chestnut purée ($2.75). The chestnut purée had been mixed with whipping cream and the cake was covered with a thin milk chocolate glaze. Stanley had sort of a chocolate mousse dessert ($3.00) which was also very good.

Service was rapid and efficient throughout without being pushy. Lunch for two, excluding tip and tax: **$13.50**. □

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photo by Renaud Thomas

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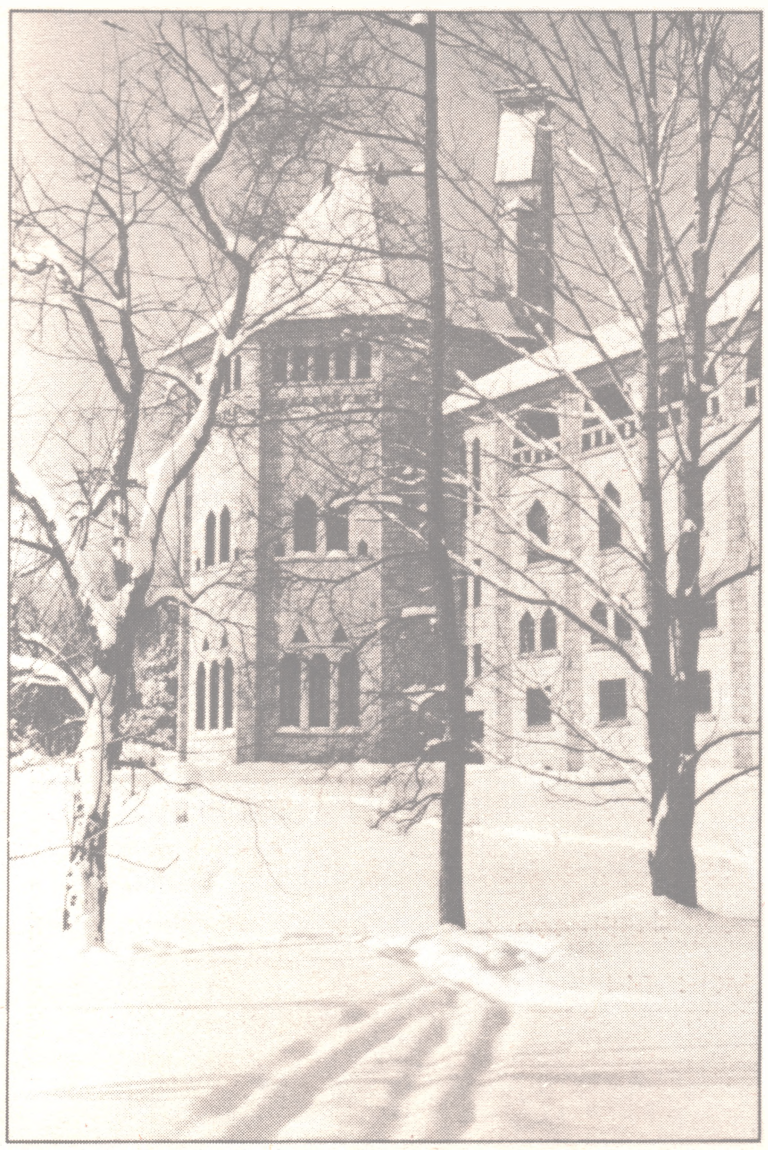


photos courtesy of St. Benoit du Lac

by La Societé d'historie du lac Memphrémagog
Jacques Boisvert, President

St-Benoit, the founder of the monastic order of Benedictines, was born in Europe in 480. The religious order he founded is one of the most ancient in the Catholic Church and has kept its rules virtually unchanged since they were written.

St-Benoit wanted to reform monastic life by simplifying it with a code which could be used by monastaries all over the world and throughout time.

In 1901 a law made by the French parliament obliged the monks to leave France. The St-Wandrille Benedictines from the Normandie monastery, founded in the 7th century, then sought asylum in Belgium. This eviction prompted the monks into considering going to a more distant and hopefully safer land. In 1910 when Dom(*) Lucien David visited Canada for the Montreal Eucharistic Congress, he received from Monsignor Larocque, Bishop of Sherbrooke, an invitation to set up his community in that diocese.

(*) from Latin: *dominus,* master, lord:title given to certain Roman Catholics ecclesiastics especially Benedictine Monks

About July 1912, Dom Paul Vannier landed in Montreal to establish a Benedictine Community in French Canada. After visiting Monsignor Larocque, the parish priest from St-Patrice de Magog, Reverend Francois X. Brassard, took Dom Paul Vannier by boat to show him where the Bishop wanted a parish established. Dom Vannier chose the land on the west side of Lake Memphremagog, ten miles South of Magog, then owned by a Mr. Lachapelle. Needless to say Dom Vannier fell in love with the site and immediately asked his superiors authorization to buy the 560 acres. The answer was quickly given and the sale took place on October 8, 1912. They moved in December 4th, the date which remains the anniversary of the monaster's foundation.

In the next two years, Dom Vannier welcomed many others from France including:Dom Lajat, Dom Boitard and Friar Hilaire Fraudeau. An expansion project was undertaken on the farmhouse in Oct. 1914. On November 30th Dom Vannier accompanied Friar Collot to Sherbrooke to celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of Monsignor Larocque as Bishop.

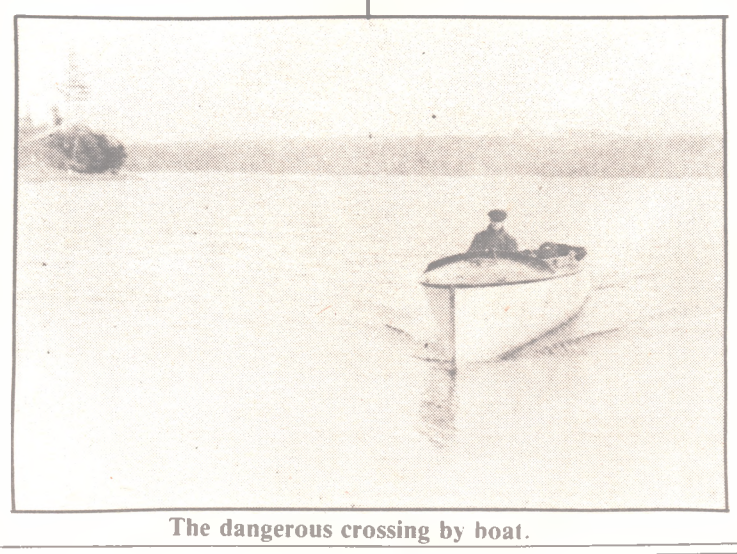
They decided to go to Magog by motor-boat:"Le Saint-Benoit", and continue to Sherbrooke by car or train. That day there was a thin layer of ice on the lake but they didn't realize it could be treacherous. They travelled 6½ miles before the ice pierced the bottom of the boat. Just a few hundred feet south of Three Sisters Islands, their boat sank in the 0 degree Celsius water and both of them drowned.

A witness to this tragedy, Mr. Laurent Lanahan saw and heard the monks cry for help, but he was on the Georgeville road, a mile away and was unable to render any assistance.

Wallace Sheldon, now 100 years old, was part of the search party sent to find the bodies and the boat on the next day. The body of Dom Vannier was found and the boat was refloated, but the body of Friar Collor was not found until the following spring. Mr. Sheldon said: "When we brought up the boat, we found a small door about 1 foot by 1 foot at the front of the boat and inside there was some money."

This confirms what another Benedictine Monk had told me: "Dom Vannier, before drowning had put the money at the front of the boat." The monk was not wearing his cassock when his body was found. I first thought he had taken it off when he saw the water coming in. Father Rochon in a letter dated May 16,1983 gave me his opinion: "I would more likely think that he took it off in order to keep it clean for the Bishop's reception."

November 30,1914 remains a sad day for the community, but the two brave monks left a unique abbey renowned for its a special charm, beauty and its sincere hospitality. We are proud of L'Abbaye St-Benoit-du-Lac. We consider it as a place of meditaiton and contemplation on the shores of a beautiful but sometimes merciless and treacherous lake.



The dangerous crossing by boat.

There were other difficulties as well. After World War I the monks received a telegram from the mother monastery: "Sell out and come back". Encouraged by Monsignor Larocque, the community sent two priests to Abbey St-Wandrille in Belgium who successfully plead their cause. The first monastery was partially built using the old farmhouse and making additions until 1934 when about twenty cells were added.

The original Abbey.

In a letter dated September 2, 1987, received from a Benedictine Monk, I quote:"The two monks which St-Benoit du Lac owes its expansion are: Dom Paul Brun, well liked as parish priest of Austin from 1914 to 1936 and Community Superior from 1920 to 1925, also, founder of a noviciate in 1924 for the first Canadians monks. The second monk, Dom Crenier, Prior from 1931 to 1944, completed the formation of the Canadian community and was responsible for the building of the cheese factory, and had the first two granite stone wings of the monastery built, before moving on the found another monastery in Marinique."

In 1934 Dom Paul Bellot, an internationally known architect, and French Benedictine Monk, came to know our country, through giving a series of conferences at the Montreal and Quebec Schools of Fine-Arts. In 1936, he was given the difficult task of completing the roof of the St-Joseph Oratory in Montreal. Now a superb dome crowns the basilica. At the time the structure caused much controversy but the roof is strong and beautiful and enhances the city of Montreal's skyline. It seems that here in Quebec majestic roofs are a source of controversy. Dom Bellot completed his dome but Taillebert will have to wait 11 years to see his Olympic stadium's roof installed.

While Dom Bellot was in Canada, the St-Benoit du Lac monks decided to ask him to draw up plans for their Abbey. He accepted and asked the help of two other Canadian architects, Mr. Félix Racicot and Dom Claude Coté, a monk.

Construction began on St-Benoit's Day, July 11th, 1939, with the blessing of the corner stone by Monsignor Desranleau, Bishop coadjutor of Sherbrooke. The first phase was completed in 1941 and the public was invited to visit. I had the chance to visit the monastery at the time and I was filled with wonder. The architecture was so beautiful and so solid. I still consider its perfection unequalled.

Masonry work held no secrets for Dom Bellot, he used white granite from Beebe for the exterior of the building with the same ease and sensitivity as he had shown for ordinary brick. Dom Bellot ended his career with the St-Benoit du Lac monastery. He died on July 5th, 1944 and rests in the monastery's cemetery in the shadow of his masterpiece.

Mrs. Nicle Tardif-Painchaud, author of the book: **Dom Bellot et l'architecture religieuse au Québec** writes: "St-Benoit du Lac marks the end of Dom Bellot architectural career and at the same

continued.....

continued from page 22

time it is his masterpiece. A complete blending of lines, forms, colours and materials such as stone, brick concrete can be found here used in perfect harmony. It is, all in all, his only completely Canadian masterpiece".

In the book's preface, Henri Charlier a French sculptor says:"By giving to God his exceptional talents, Dom Bellot was making a very big sacrifice which only could be understood by those who sacrifice their lives for a vocation. But God had not given him this talent for himself and surely did not expect it to be all spirit without some manifestation to his Glory.

His student, Dom Coté who died in June 1986, continued Dom Bellot's work. From 1955 to 1962 a monastic "hostellerie" was put up as well as part of the abbey-church. Since then no construction has been done. Eventhough all appears complete, there is much to be finished and only God knows when the final stage of Dom Bellot's plans will be completed.

There are approximately sixty monks and friars now living in the monastery. As part of their meditative lives, they must practise all trades in order to live. The hotel accomodates some thirty-five men. Women can be boarded in a separate building close by, named: Villa Ste-Scholastique. Silence is the rule, and especially so at meal time. There is a rite that the Abbot, appointed for life, meets the guests, welcomes them and washes their hands according to St-Benoit's rules. The meal is then served in the refectory with the monks. Their best cheese is served and the only voice to break the silence is the "recto tono" reader with his spiritual readings. The price for shelter and food is left to the discretion of each boarder.

The monks actively farm and keep a herd of Charolais cattle. They cultivate 25 acres of apple orchards from which their famous apple butter and apple cider are made. They also operate a cheese factory where the renowned St-Benoit cheeses are made, and run a small store selling religious articles. Each monk must contribute as he is able towards the work at the monastery. He may be a mechanic, electrician, plumber, chemist, accoutant, cook or even sell articles in their store at times.

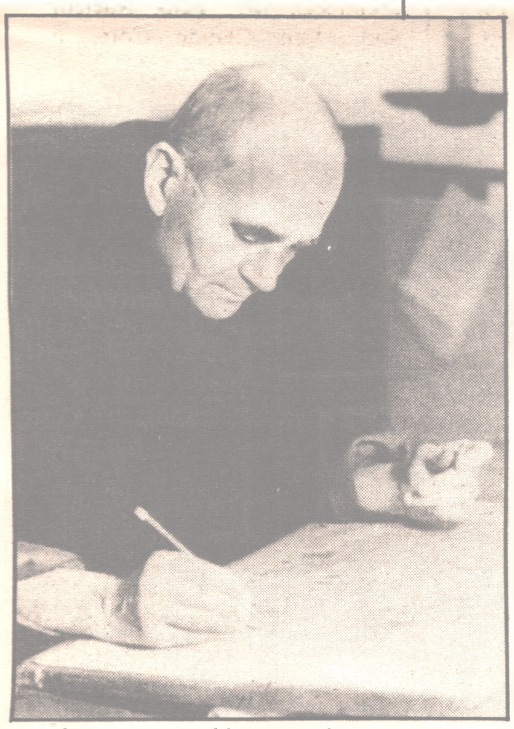
The public is invited to attend high mass at 11:00 am daily, vespers at 5:00 p.m and attend the compline at 7:45 pm. The monks are renowned for their Gregorian chants.

It is something special to attend one of their services. Let me tell you about a personal experience. One day the Ex-Minister Guy St-Pierre (in Liberal Cabinet 1970 - 1976) and his deputy minister and a guest from the United States, and myself were at the monastery on a tour with a monk when the bell rang announcing Vespers. The monk asked if we would like to assist at this service, and to be polite, we accepted. After a while we left but the Americans stayed to the end. As he came out, he said he had travelled in many countries but what he had witnessed here was beyond anything he had ever seen or heard in his life. We possess a spiritual wealth and richness of which we are not fully aware. It's a bit like health, we only realize the value of when we don't have it anymore.

The municipality of St-Benoit du Lac was established in 1939. The present Mayor is Dom Garneau. It is part of the Municipality Regional County of Memphrémagog and has its own post office as well as its own postal code.

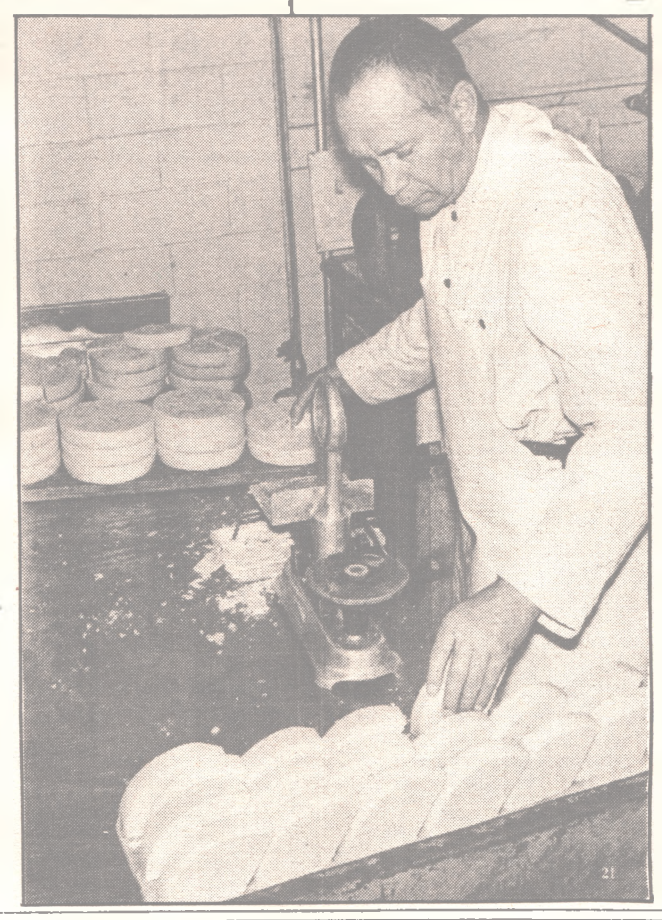
To visit St-Benoit or to stay there a while leaves no one indifferent. This place is an oasis for thought and prayer.

Here is an excerpt from a speech given by Georges Vanier, Governor General of Canada, when he visited the monastery:"A simple Christian who reflects on today's world situation is gripped with distress as he sees man working frantically for scientific achievement, unconsciously neglecting the contemplative activities of the intellect. That's why God and men need St-Benoit du Lac". □



Dom Bellot working on the plans of the Abbey.

The famous St. Benoit du Lac cheese.



photos courtesy of St. Benoit du Lac

Note from the author: In order to write these articles, archives are of the greatest importance and we count on your generosity to send us: photographs, documents, books, newspaper clippings, or postal cards. Please do not hesitate to contact us at: **La société d'histoire du Lac Memphrémagog, 446 Main West, Magog, J1X 2A9** or telephone at (819) 843-1212.

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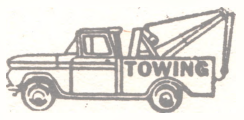

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English Quebecers have special angle on Commonwealth and La Francophonie

We are nearing the end of an eventful year for Canada — a year in which our country has hosted not one, but two top-drawer international conferences: La Francophonie and the Commonwealth Summit.

Within a two-month period, leaders of the French-speaking nations met at Quebec City, and the 49 Commonwealth heads of government met at Vancouver.

The pundits have had their say about what it all meant politically, and neither conference seems to have had a huge impact on international policies.

But surely to dismiss the concrete accomplishments of the two summits as negligible is to miss the point, in a way. Being visited by representatives of so many diverse countries and cultures is, for us Canadians, like being presented with a huge and colorful Advent calendar — the kind where you can choose to open any one of many little windows and doors to see what objects or scenes are portrayed inside.

Quebecers and other bilingual Canadians are particularly lucky because they have access to new information in both languages.

But because most of us have been working so hard over the past 20 years or so to get closer to the French fact in Quebec, it's fun to take a bit of a break, and focus, however briefly, on the rest of the English-speaking world, exclusive of our omnipresent neighbor to the south.

To use an inelegant simile, we are like the English hole in the French doughnut on a bilingual plate which is Canada. The Commonwealth gives us a chance to look at some of the most colorful and varied motifs on the world tablecloth — motifs which share to a greater or lesser degree the English language and certain historical traditions.

There's something about just reading through the list of countries belonging to the Commonwealth which brings back a sense of wonder about faraway places. What's it like to live in the Solomon Islands?

Like the Chinese circle of Yin and Yang, the concepts of "sameness" and "difference" each contain a germ of the other. Perhaps that is a lot of what the Commonwealth is all about.

Have saucepan, will travel: Some international recipes

One popular and relatively effortless way of learning about the lifestyle of another country is through its cuisine. The 49 Commonwealth countries offer a virtually limitless variety of cooking styles and recipes, some using exotic ingredients seldom found in the Canadian supermarket. Many others, however, use relatively everyday foodstuffs. But different combinations of seasonings or preparation methods add a sense of adventure and discovery to our tables.

From Malaysia:

Roast and Broiled Chicken with Soy Sauce

(Source: The Encyclopedia of Asian Cooking. Octopus Books Ltd., London, 1980)

1 chicken, 3-3½ lbs.
Salt
2 Tbsp. dark soy sauce
2 shallots or green onions, finely sliced
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
½ tsp. chili powder
Juice of ½ lemon or lime
2 tsp. sesame oil (from oriental grocery) or use cooking oil
Oil for basting (optional)

Rub the chicken with salt, then roast in pre-heated 375° oven for 45 minutes, or until golden brown. Leave to cool.

Cut chicken into four pieces, then pound the pieces to loosen the fibres. Mix together the remaining ingredients and rub over the chicken. Cover and leave to marinate for about an hour, turning occasionally.

Just before serving, reheat the chicken under the broiler, brushing it first with oil if desired. Serve hot.

4 servings

From Great Britain

Welsh Rarebit

(Source: Jean Hewitt's International Meatless Cookbook. Signet Books, New American Library, 1980).
(The British version of fondue can be served with raw vegetable dippers if you choose.)

Makes 6 servings.

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon dry mustard
Pinch of cayenne
½ cup beer
4 cups (16 ounces) grated sharp Cheddar
2 tablespoons flour

In a medium-size heavy saucepan heat the Worcestershire, mustard, cayenne, and beer. Toss the cheese with the flour and add to saucepan. Heat, stirring, over low heat until cheese melts.

Serve over toast or English muffins, if you wish.

From the Caribbean

Caribbean Salad

(Source: International Vegetarian Cooking; Sonya Richmond. Arco Publishing Co., New York, 1974).

1 small white cabbage
1 small cucumber
1 large avocado, peeled
2 large radishes
2 large sweet Spanish onions
1 green or red pepper
½ cup corn oil
¼ cup tarragon vinegar
1 tblsp. raw sugar
½ tsp. lemon juice
Salt and black pepper.

Seed and slice the pepper, thinly shred the cabbage and slice all the other vegetables thinly. Mix well with two forks in a deep salad bowl. Mix the oil, vinegar, lemon juice, salt and pepper, and the sugar well together and toss with sliced vegetables. Chill well in the fridge before serving with hot, buttered bread.

From Kenya

Baked Curried Fish

(Source: The Frugal Gourmet; Jeff Smith. Ballantine Books, New York, 1984).

3 yellow onions, peeled and sliced
2 tablespoons peanut oil
SAUCE
½ cup white vinegar
½ teaspoon cardamom
2 teaspoons turmeric
2 teaspoons chili powder
½ teaspoon cumin
3 cloves garlic, crushed
½ teaspoon salt
1 1-ounce can tomato paste
1 cup water
2 pounds white fish fillets

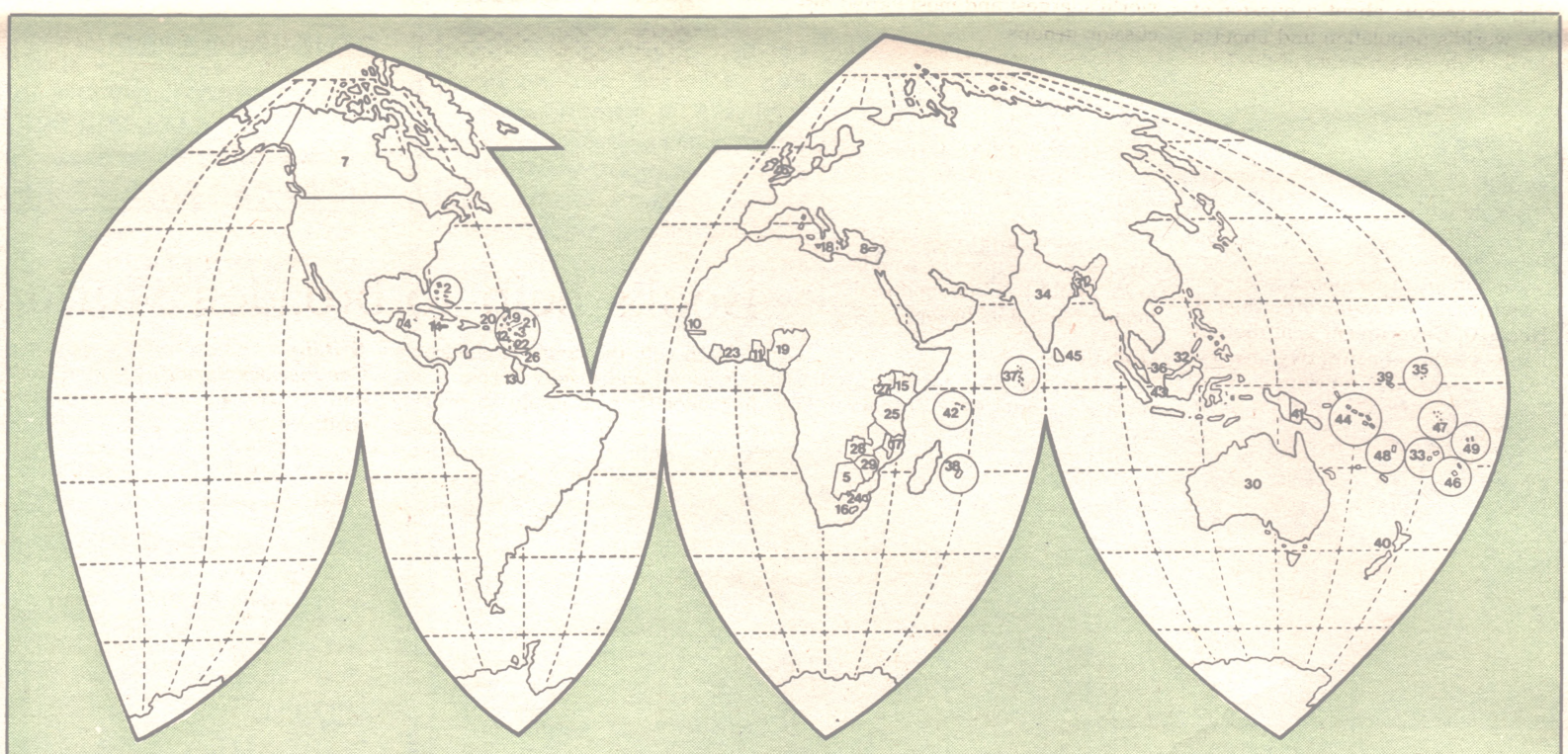
Sauté the onions in the oil until clear. Set aside.

Prepare the sauce by simmering all the ingredients for 20 minutes.

Place the fish in a greased baking dish. Cover first with the sautéed onions and then with the sauce. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Serves 4 or 5.

The Commonwealth:



Countries of the Commonwealth

	Country	Population		Country	Population		Country	Population		Country	Population
1	Antigua and Barbuda	78 000	14	Jamaica	2 200 000	26	Trinidad and Tobago	1 200 000	38	Mauritius	1 000 000
2	Bahamas	229 000	15	Kenya	19 600 000	27	Uganda	15 000 000	39	Nauru	8 000
3	Barbados	253 000	16	Lesotho	1 500 000	28	Zambia	6 400 000	40	New Zealand	3 200 000
4	Belize	156 000	17	Malawi	6 800 000	29	Zimbabwe	8 100 000	41	Papua New Guinea	3 400 000
5	Botswana	1 000 000	18	Malta	360 000	30	Australia	15 500 000	42	Seychelles	65 000
6	Britain	56 400 000	19	Nigeria	96 500 000	31	Bangladesh	98 100 000	43	Singapore	2 500 000
7	Canada	25 100 000	20	St. Christopher-Nevis	55 000	32	Brunei Darussalam	218 000	44	Solomon Islands	259 000
8	Cyprus	654 000	21	St. Lucia	134 000	33	Fiji	686 000	45	Sri Lanka	15 900 000
9	Dominica	77 000	22	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	117 000	34	India	749 200 000	46	Tonga	106 000
10	The Gambia	718 000	23	Sierra Leone	3 700 000	35	Kiribati	60 000	47	Tuvalu	8 000
11	Ghana	12 300 000	24	Swaziland	731 000	36	Malaysia	15 300 000	48	Vanuatu	130 000
12	Grenada	94 000	25	Tanzania	21 500 000	37	Maldives	173 000	49	Western Samoa	161 000
13	Guyana	785 000									

The Commonwealth:

What is the Commonwealth; how does it work?

The Commonwealth is a loosely-structured, voluntary association of 49 diverse, independent states, consulting and cooperating through a largely informal network of governmental and non-governmental ties.

These are based on the use English as a common working language and similar administrative, legal, governmental, educational and other practices arising out of a shared historical experience.

Empire no longer

All the members of the Commonwealth were once part of the British Empire.

The Statute of Westminster of 1931 gave legal expression to the independence of Canada, Australia and New Zealand and to their equal status with Britain within the "British Commonwealth".

In 1949, after achieving independence, India chose to become a republic but to retain the Commonwealth link. This marks the beginning of the modern Commonwealth.

The number of member states grew quickly from the late 1940s into the 1960s as many Asian and African countries achieved independence. In more recent years many small Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific Island countries have become member states.

Today about half the members are small states with populations of under one million. Present membership represents about a quarter of the world's population and about a third of the membership of the United Nations.

Since 1951 the association has been known as the "Commonwealth of Nations" or simply "the Commonwealth".

Open consultation

At the inter-governmental level the Commonwealth is based on consultation, discussion and cooperation. The **biennial meetings** of Heads of Government is at the pinnacle of the consultative process while programs of functional cooperation are assisted by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Unlike the United Nations, the Commonwealth has no written charter or constitution and does not conduct its businesa by means of votes or mandatory decisions. Views are exchanged freely, informally and confidentially as between equals. It thereby avoids much of the political posturing which can sometimes hamper genuine dialogue in other international fora.

Consensus possible

The Commonwealth is a **forum** for pooling experience and expressing viewpoints. As a result of this type of exchange attitudes may alter and a consensus emerge which can make possible a concerted Commonwealth policy or expression of principales on international issues.

The Commonwealth has provided moral and practical leadership on some of the major issues of the day: condemning racism; making efforts to achieve a more equitable sharing of world economic resources; promoting the security of small states; and integrating women as full partners in the social and developmental process.

The Commonwealth assisted large scale de-colonization into the 1960s and made an important contribution to the Rhodesia settlement and emergence of Zimbabwe. Today it is at the forefront of international efforts to end apartheid and to bring about non-racial, representative government in South Africa.

"Harmonizing differences"

Even where concerted Commonwealth action has not been possible, consultations have often had a moderating influence. Hence the Commonwealth has been described as **"a facility for harmonizing differences"**.

The Commonwealth does not act as a cohesive political force, rather, it **helps maintain friendly contacts among states of great diversity.**

This is in itself an important contribution to multilateralism.

Membership of the Commonwealth is compatible with the **freedom** of member governments to be non-aligned or **to belong to any other grouping,** association or alliance. Most member countries have stronger ties to some other group, but the Commonwealth is an important auxiliary to their foreign policies, providing links to ther political groups and regions.

Same yet different

Through the accident of history, Commonwealth members share enough in common for dialogue to be fruitful, but they have sufficient diversity to reflect many points of view. It is its capacity for "bridge-building" which gives the Commonwealth its importance and potential. The Commonwealth, however, is only an instrument and its members have to show effort and commitment to use it fully.

A mini-quiz for trivia treasurers

Do you share the current mania for trivia games? If so, you might want to test your general knowledge of matters pertaining to the Commonwealth, in the wake of the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver.

We're not concerned here with heavy matters of state or international policy. The 10 questions which follow represent a small random harvest of tidbits about one of the world's largest and most varied discussion groups.

Answers to many of the questions may be found elsewhere on this page — by consulting the map, or reading some of the background materials. A list of answers is given at the bottom of this page.

The quiz is just for fun, but it may also pique your interest in finding out more about the Commonwealth, its members, and its history.

Questions

1. Commonwealth members today represent about what proportion of the world's population?
a) One tenth
b) One half
c) One quarter

2. What events led to the emergence of the modern Commonwealth as we know it.

3. Who was the first Secretary-general of the Commonwealth (from 1965-75), and what country did he come from?

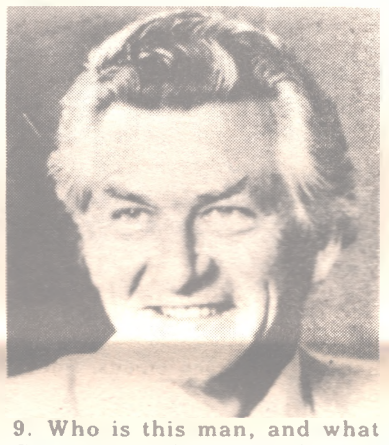
4. Aside from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, one other woman currently heads a Commonwealth nation. Here is her picture. Who is she, and what country does she lead?

5. India is the Commonwealth member with the largest population (749,200,000). Which nations rank second and third?

6. Where does Canada, with its population of 25,100,000, rank among the 49 Commonwealth members?

7. In 1985, Canada had a Gross National Product per person of $13,670 U.S. One other Commonwealth nation had a higher GNP — which was it?

8. Which Commonwealth country had the lowest GNP per person in 1985?



9. Who is this man, and what Commonwealth country does he lead?
10. Name at least one Commonwealth country beginning with each of the letters in 'SUMMIT'.

Information and activities pertaining to the recent Commonwealth Summit was produced by the Association of Quebec Regional English Media for insertion in its 14 member publications. The project was made possible with assistance from the Secretary of State. Some of the material used was provided courtesy of External Affairs Canada, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Books help to broaden world view

Even with the magic of children's television, and instant access to information from all around the world, there will always be a place for a well-told story, in a book which may be shared with family or classmates, or savored in quiet solitary times.

In connection with the recent Commonwealth Summit, External Affairs Canada produced an excellent learning kit for use in public schools. Included among the educational materials was this list of classic children's books from many lands, many of them by well-known authors. Recommended grade levels are included with each title.

Check your school or public library for these books. If some are not available, they might be worth considering as recommended purchases or donations, in this year when the Commonwealth is receiving so much attention.

Recommended Children's Books by Commonwealth Authors

Australia

A Little Fear by Patricia Wrightson — GR. 6-8, Australia: Hutchinson Ltd., 1983.

Hills End by Ivan Southal — GR. 6-8, Australia: Angus & Robertson Pty Ltd., 1970.

Britain

The Peacock Spring by Rumer Godden — GR. 4-8, England: Ulverscroft, 1980.

The Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling — GR. 1-8, London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd., 1964.

India

Kari the Elephant by Dhan Gopal Mukerji — GR. 3-6, New York: E.P. Dutton & Co. Inc., 1967.

The Village by the Sea by Anita Desai — GR. 4-8, England: Puffin Books, Penguin Books Ltd., 1982.

Camels Make Me Homesick by Nazneen Sadiq — GR. 5-8, Toronto: Lorimer, 1985.

Jamaica

Anansi The Spider Man: Jamaican Folk Tales by Philip Sherlock — GR. 4-8 [illegible]

Big Doc Bitterroot by C. Everard Palmer — GR. 4-8, London: Andre Deutsch Ltd., 1977.

New West Indian Readers by Nelson, England: Nelson, 1984.

New Zealand

The Changeover by Margaret Mahy — GR. 6-8, London: Dent, 1984.

A Princess of the Chameln by Cherry Wilder — GR. 6-8, Auckland, New Zealand: Penguin Books.

Answers to quiz

1. (c) One quarter
2. The 1949 decision by an independent India to become a republic, but to remain in the Commonwealth.
3. Arnold Smith, a Canadian, was the first Commonwealth Secretary-general.
4. The Hon. Mary Eugenia Charles, of Dominica.
5. Second is Bangladesh, with 98,100,000 people, followed by Nigeria, with 96,500,000.
6. Canada is fifth, behind Britain, which has a population of 56,400,000.
7. Brunei Darussalam had a 1985 GNP per person of $17,580, due to rich oil and natural gas resources.
8. Bangladesh, with a per person GNP of $150.
9. The Hon. Robert Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia.
10. "S": St Kitts and Nevis; St Lucia; St Vincent and the Grenadines; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Swaziland.
"U": Uganda
"M": Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Malta; Mauritius.
"I": India
"T": Tanzania; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago.

Conservation and Nature Notes

THE BLUEBIRD

by Gladys Mackey Beattie

Here at last is the long promised report on Bluebird nestings in this area. Bluebird houses built by the Societe de Loisir Ornithologique de L'Estrie (SLOE) and the St. Francis Valley Naturalists' Club could be seen in the summer dotting the highways and byways hopefully offering home to Bluebirds. Approximately 200 houses were built and installed. The large majority of these were built and installed under the guidance of Philippe Fragnier of the SLOE who deserves a vote of thanks for undertaking and pursuing the project over the last two years.

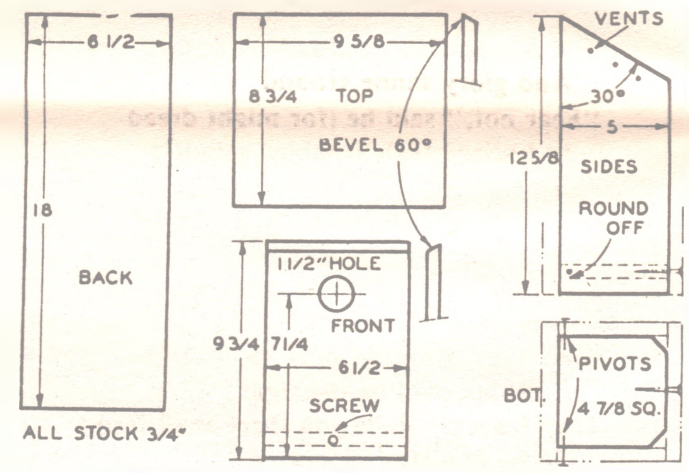
Although Bluebirds did not inhabit most of them, they were appreciated by tree swallows and chickadees, and they created a great deal of human interest which in itself is good. I do not have a detailed location report from the SLOE but Mr. Frangier advised that they had approxiamately 20 successful bluebird nestings in a variety of locations. An additional 13 pairs were reported to me from the following locations in this immediate area: 5 pairs in the Ascot Highlands south of Sherbrooke; 1 pair in the Minton area; 1 pair in the Milby area; 1 pair near Sandhill; 1 pair near Baldwin's Mills; 1 pair in Compton; 1 pair at Moulton Hill; and 2 pair near Earlstown.

Although most of the birds nested in man made bird boxes three pairs used natural cavities in trees or fence posts.

Are the Bluebirds really making a comeback, or are we simply looking for them more? And thus, seeing more of them? I am inclined to believe that they are making a comeback. Until three years ago, I had never even seen an Eastern Bluebird, except in a museum. Providing housing for them all over North America has been an important step in the right direction. Cutting back on the amount of insecticide and pesticide used is another.

A worthwhile winter project could be making houses for the bluebirds, or even making up some kits (or houses) to give for Christmas Gifts. Many stores are now offering bluebird houses all finished and ready to install, for those who don't have the time or means to make their own.

The Bluebirds stayed around here until the first part of November. Their blue jackets looked rather out of place with all the leaves off the trees and the other "migrating" birds gone, but the chickadees did not seem to mind sharing their apple tree with them, and even seemed oblivious of their plaintive song. I hope they have a good winter and make it back here next spring. In the meantime, I have plans to provide more homes for them. I hope others will too. □



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pull-out

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

While shepherds watched their flocks by night.
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around
"Fear not," said he [for might dread
had seized their troubled minds];
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
The Heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the Seraph: and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God who thus
Addressed their joyful song:
"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace:
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease."

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul,
With a corn cob pipe and a button nose
And two eyes made out of coal.
Frosty the Snowman is a fairy tale, they say,
He was made of snow but the children know
How he came to life one day.
There must have been some magic
In that old silk hat they found,
For when they placed it on his head,
He began to dance around.
Oh, Frosty the Snowman was alive as he could be
And the children say he could laugh and play
Just the same as you and me.

CHESTNUTS ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
Jack Frost nipping at your nose.
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir,
And folks dressed up like Eskimos.
Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
Helps to make the season bright.
Tiny tots with their eyes all a glow,
Will find it hard to sleep tonight.
They know that Santa's on his way,
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh
And every mother's child is going to spy
To see if reindeer really know how to fly.
And so I'm offering this simple phrase
To kids from one to ninety-two
Although it's been said many times many ways
Merry Christmas to you.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on 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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
To live with Thee there.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above they deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in they dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

fa-la-

IT CAME UPON THE

It came upon the midni
That glorious song of
From angels bending ne
To touch their harps
"Peace on the earth, go
From heaven's all-gra
The World in solemn st
To hear the angels si

Still through the cloven
With peaceful wings
And still their heavenly
O'er all the weary wo
Above its sad and lowly
They bend on hoveri
And ever o'er its Babel
The blessed angels si

But with the woes of si
The world has suffer
Beneath the angel strai
Two thousand years
And man, at war with
The love song which
O hush the noise, ye m
And hear the angels

And ye, beneath life's
Whose forms are be
Who toil along the clim
With painful steps a
Look now! for glad an
Come swiftly on the
O rest beside the weary
And hear the angels

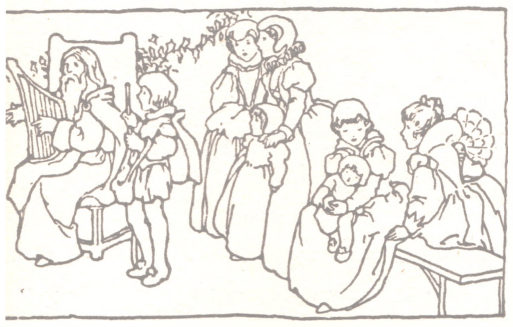
For, lo! the days are h
By prophet bards fo
When with the ever-ci
Comes round the A
When peace shall over
Its ancient splendou
And the whole world
Which now the ang

I WONDER AS I WANDER

I wonder as I wander,
out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour
did come for to die
For poor on'ry people
like you and like I
I wonder as I wander,
out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus,
'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers
and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven
a star's light did fall,
And the promise of the ages
it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted
for any wee thing,
A star in the sky,
or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels
in heaven to sing,
He surely could have seen it,
'cause He was the King.



WASSAIL SONG

Here we come a wassailing
Among the leaves so green;
Here we come a wand'ring
so fair to be seen:

Chorus:
Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail too;
And God bless you,
and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.

We are not daily beggars
That beg from door to door;
But we are neighbors' children
Whom you have seen before.

We have got a little purse,
Of stretching leather skin;
We want a little of your money
To line it well within.

Bring us out a table,
And spread it with a cloth;
Bring us out a mouldy cheese,
And some of your Christmas loaf.

God bless the master of this house,
Likewise the mistress too;
And all the little children
That round the table go.

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Refrain:
Hark, the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born king."

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him Come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb,
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings.
Risen with healing in His wings,
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN

You better watch out, you better not cry,
Better not pout, I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town.
He sees you when you're sleepin',
He knows when you're awake,
He knows if you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake.
Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry,
Better not pout, I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He's making a list and checking it twice,
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice,
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

JINGLE BELLS

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way;
Bells on bob-tail ring,
Making spirits bright;
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing-song tonight!

Jingle bells, Jingle bells!
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY 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 Hallelujah.
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!

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,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

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.

Chorus:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

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

INFANT HOLY

Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging
Angles singing,
Noels ringing,
Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory,
Heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing
Greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Silver Bells, Silver Bells

It's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, ring-a-ling
Hear them ring, ting-a-ling
Soon it will be Christmas Day

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks
Dressed in holiday style
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas
Children laughing, people passing
Meeting smile after smile
And on every street corner you hear...

Silver Bells, Silver Bells
Silver bells, Silver Bells
It's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, ring-a-ling
Hear them ring, hear them ring
Soon it will be Christmas Day

Strings of street lights, even stop lights
Blink a bright red and green
As the shoppers rush home with their treasures
Hear the snow crush, see the kids rush
This is Santa's big scene
And above all this bustle you hear...

Silver Bells, Silver Bells
Silver Bells, Silver Bells
It's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, it fills the winter air
Hear them ring, you hear them everywhere
Soon it will be Christmas Day

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it....

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed out Saviour's birth!
Go, tell it....

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it....

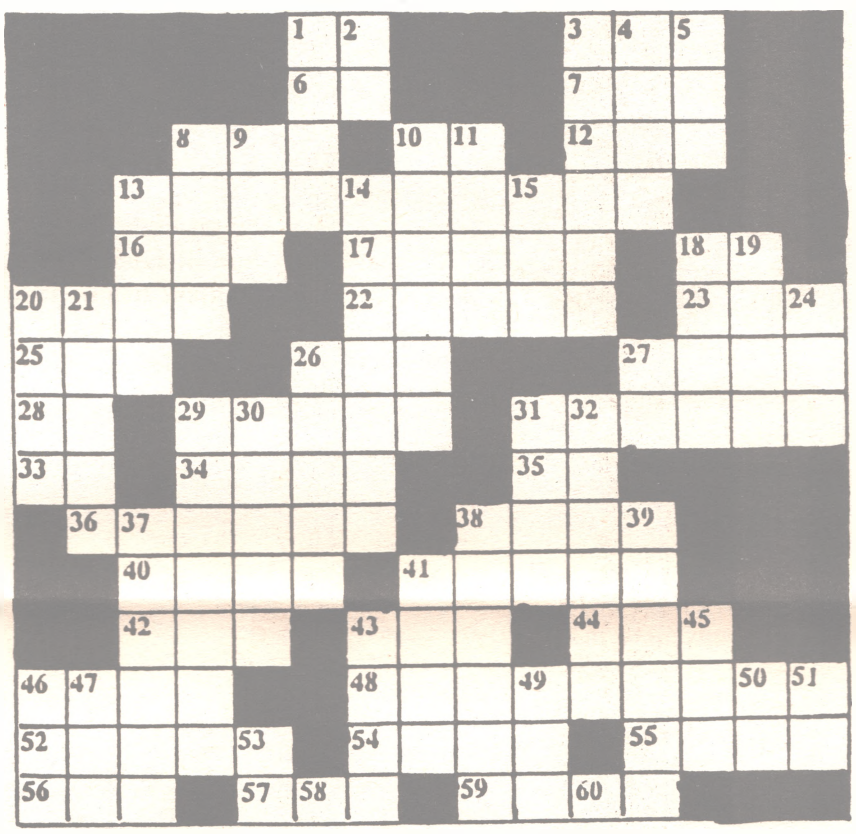
TOWNSHIPS TOWN CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 I
3 Water outlet
6 While
7 Malt drink
8 Head warmer
10 And (Fr.)
12 Support
13 TOWNSHIPS TOWN
16 Hasten
17 Strange
18 Cubic centimeter
20 Equal
22 Taunt
23 Caveman's name
25 Girl's name
26 Promise to pay
27 Feel sore
28 Pronoun
29 Exercise
31 Academy
33 About
35 ---- the Terrible
36 Opposite of yes
37 Repeated
39 Spoke
40 Rage
41 Dolphin player - Super -----
43 Fairy
44 Holds tea
45 Travel fast
47 Help
49 Top
53 Minced
55 Smell
56 One
57 Baseballer Mel ---
58 Fuel
59 Gather

DOWN

1 Wife or husband
2 Plural ending
3 Higher than
4 Sheltered side
5 Pin
8 Head covering
9 Devoured
10 Tie the score
11 Car rubber
13 What time
14 Echo
15 Golf term
18 ----nut
19 Salmon
20 Two
21 Go in
24 Hair product
26 Boot country
27 Exclamation
29 Place
30 Tusk
31 ----dragon
32 Mixed up letters
38 Result
39 Evening meal
40 Find business
42 Trick
44 Tress
46 Negative answer (Fr.)
47 Fuss
48 Small amount
50 Augment
51 Spanish yes
52 Small man's initials
54 Act
59 See 1
61 First letter



SOLUTION PAGE 34

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BRINGING HOME

THE SUFFOLK

Suffolk Horses

Question: What is a Suffolk?

Answer: Not a black-faced sheep, but a chestnut horse.

by John M. Rhicard

Originally called Suffolk Punch because of their round "Punchy" look, the Suffolk horse is one of oldest draft breeds, and is the only draft horse bred exclusively for farm work. Originally from East Anglia (Norwich and Suffolk Counties, England) they are one of the few kinds of horses that always breed true to colour. All Suffolks are chestnut in colour, and are a darker and redder than the typical Belgian. Not much white is seen, and the manes and tails are usually the same colour as the rest of the horse. This makes it easy to find a matched team. A very docile horse, the Suffolk is intelligent and friendly. They are, also, noted for their longevity and willingness to work.

The average Suffolk weighs 1,600 to 1,800 lbs. and stands in the neighbourhood of 16 hands. The stock imported from England is larger which gives rise to controversy among breeders as to which direction the breed should take Some feel bigger is better, while others maintain the Suffolk should remain as he is, a somewhat smaller draft horse. There are many advantages to owning a smaller draft horse. They are cheaper to keep, but are still able to do a lot of hard work. A shorter horse is considerable easier to harness, especially for people who happen to stand less than six foot six inches themselves.

There are over four hundred registered Suffolk horses in Canada and the United States. Not a large number when compared with Belgians or Per Percherons, but nevertheless their numbers are steadily increasing as they become better known. Last winter The Small Farmer's Journal had a big write-up on Suffolks and this summer "Mother Earth News" had a feature article on them.

photos by Diane Rhicard

Owl Hoot Horton and Owl Hoot Victor looking for a new owner. Two splendid examples of the Suffolk Horse.

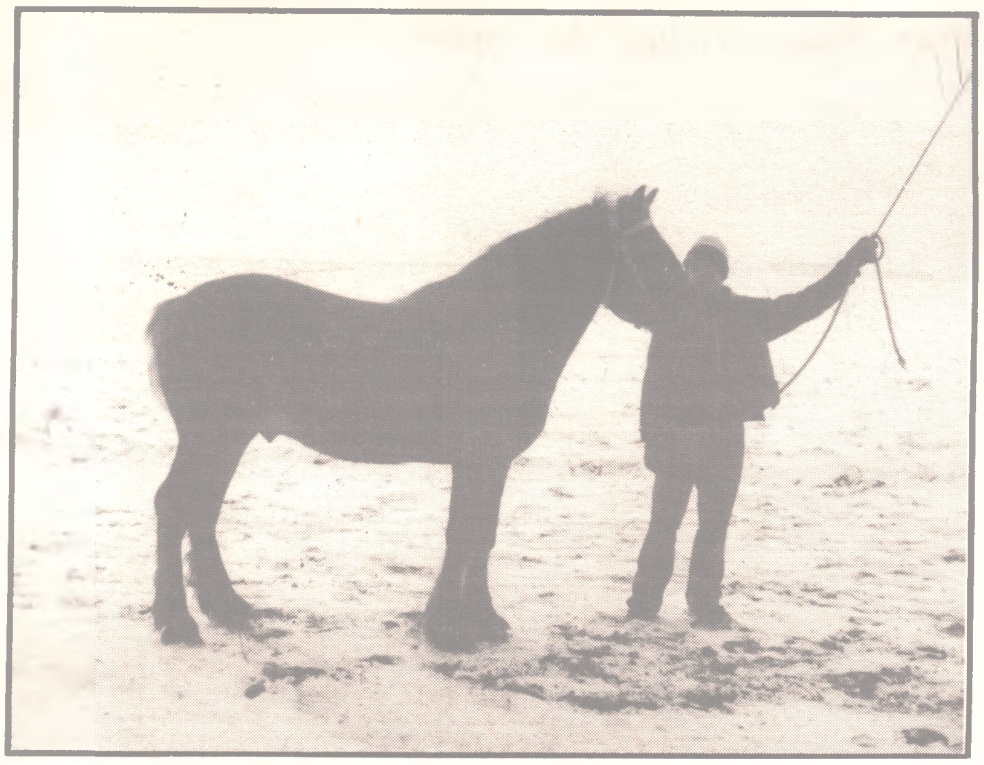
We, at Owl Hoot Maple Farm in Stanbridge East are, as far as I know, the only Suffolk breeders in Quebec. If there are others, I hope to be corrected, and I would be pleased to make their acquaintance. We have made friends with a few of the seventy odd members of the Suffolk Assn. and hope to meet more. It is a sort of nice little fraternity. We have, also, enjoyed many visits from other horse people who wanted to see Suffolks first hand.

Why did we get into the Suffolk breed? Mostly to be different. I have been around many breeds of horses and have great respect for all of them. What other animal can do so many things for man? Horse power has always been the main force in our modest sugaring and logging operations, as well as our small scale farming and sleighride business In the fall of 1984 we purchased two, registered, Suffolk mares, in Vermont, brought them home and put them to work. We then discovered that the closest stallion stood, probably, 250 miles away. That meant, if we wanted to breed our mares, we must look for a stallion to buy. After a few letters and phone calls we made a deal to buy a two year old stallion from Paul Hartkopf, a breeder in Minnesota.

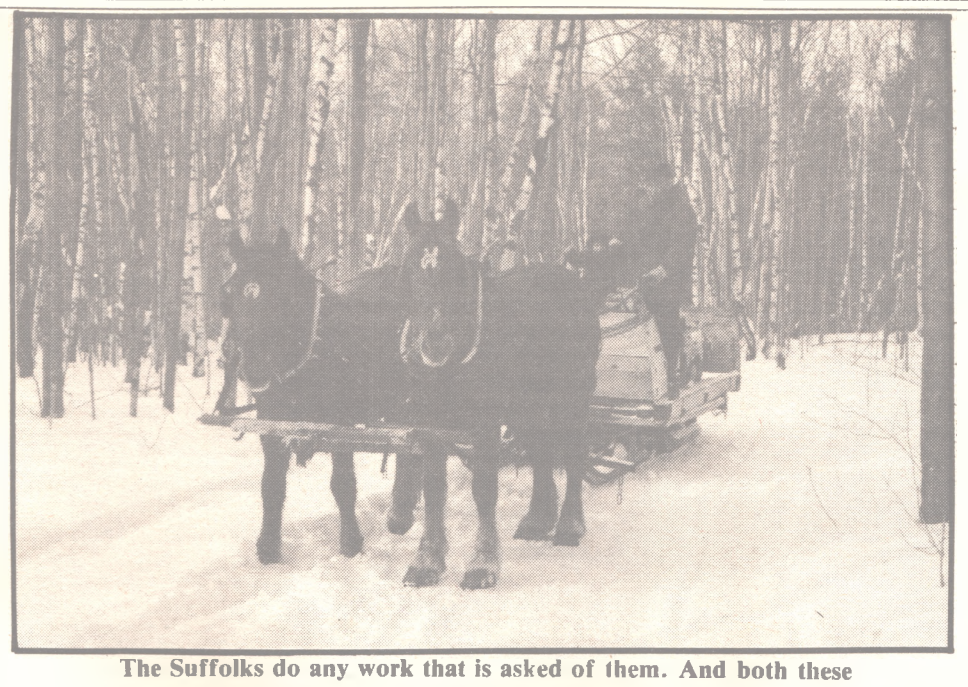
Getting him home was quite an adventure for us. In May, my wife, Dianne, and I struck out for Minnesota. We had a borrowed pick-up and a borrowed horse trailer. On our way out we stopped in Michigan at a Suffolk breeder's farm. They welcomed us and invited us to stay overnight, even though we were perfect strangers. Arriving in Minnesota we met the Hartkopfs and made the acquaintance of our new stallion, Fashfire.

With Fashfire in the trailer we started the long trip home. The first day, we travelled four hundred miles in order to reach the farm of a man in Wisconsin who owned Suffolks We left Fashfire there overnight and went to find a motel for ourselves. I don't think motels wlecome horses! Fashfire proved to be a good travelling companion. He did not seem to mind riding loaded willingly every morning. The second day we motored through Illinois and Indiana and into Ohio. Dianne had the pleasure of driving through Chicago at noon hour where the cars were five lanes wide, one way. We had no connect -ions at all in Ohio where we might leave Fashfire for the night, so we found a State Park Campground that didn't object to horses. We slept in a tent, and Fashfire, after being taken out for exercise, slept int the trailer. We had to get up once in the night to give him more hay as he was getting noisy. The third day's travel brought us to the farm of longtime friends in North-west Pennsylvania, where we stayed two nights and rested before pushing on in New York State, another Suffolk breeder took care of the horse overnight while we stayed with friends nearby. The next day brought us to another friend's barn in

continued.....



Part of Fashfire's education was learning to pose for pictures. He was only 2 years old at the time.



The Suffolks do any work that is asked of them. And both these two seem to enjoy having their picture taken!!

continued from page 32

Vermont, just over the border from home. Here, Fashfire stayed a couple of days, until we made arrangements with the Government veterinary to clear him into Canada.What would we have done without good friends all along the way? Our thanks to them all.

Soon after Fashfire, now nicknamed Willie, arrived home my son, Conrad, and I set about breaking him. First, we taught him to lunge, then added the bitting harness. Next we started ground driving him. After a few of these lessons we hitched him single to a stone-boat and rode around with him. When his performance satisfied us, we hitched him double wtih the other horses. As soon as we had him well under our command we used him to breed the mares which proved fruitful the next summer.

During the winter and spring we used Willie in the woods and sugarbush, and before he was three years old he had, also, learned to plow. Later that spring, we were using him in a five horse hitch to do the harrowing. This proves what many horsemen have often told me - a stallion can do his share of the work as well as being the daddy of your foals.

I don't expect the Suffolks to replace the Belgians and Percherons but like all of the Suffolk breeders I have talked to, and corresponded with, we are enthusiastic about them. If any of you horse fanciers out there want to have a close look at Suffolks, feel free to pay us a visit. We welcome company. We are at Owl Hoot Maple Farm, 85 Ross Rd., Stanbridge East, P.Q. □

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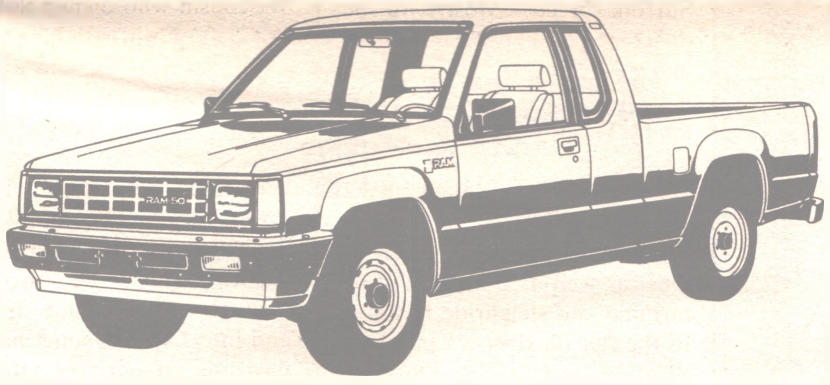

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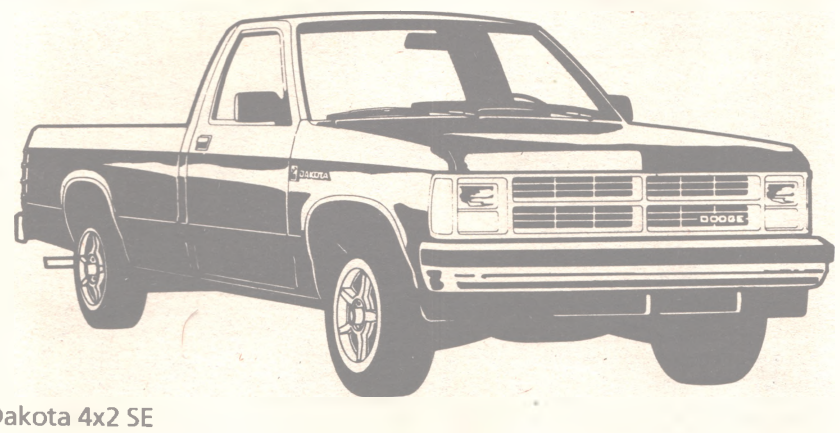

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Video Reviews

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by Ron Romanado

Raising Arizona

Raising Arizona is a wacko but very deft slapstick farce about a melange of characters who want babies but can't have them. The movie starts with an affluent but childless couple who are helped with fertility techniques and give birth to quintuplets. Then there is Herbert (Nicholas Cage), a nice but not very bright fellow who would like to make a career of holding up convenience stores; however, he keeps getting arrested. Each time he's booked, he meets a young female police photographer, Edwina (Holly Hunter), and they eventually, if not logiacally, get married.

They also turn out to be unhappily childless, and unable to adopt because of Herbert's conviction record. When they see a t.v. news report about the quints, a solution seems to present itself. Surely, the lucky couple can spare one baby! Thus begins an improbable kidnap caper by a pair of likeable incompetents, who are in trouble even as parents, much less as the focus of a police and FBI search, and intrusions by other criminal types.

The baby is coveted, in turn, by Herbert's obnoxious boss, who already has a houseful of bratty kids; by a couple of dimwitted escaped convicts who pull of the dumbest of all bank robberies and repeatedly forget the child in their haste to depart; and by a hairy Neanderthal biker (Tex Cobb) who wants to collect the reward money. Ex-fighter Cobb is so mean, he amuses himself by tossing grenades at bunnies on the Arizona prairie.

The atmosphere is clearly Marx Brothers surrealism. At the end of one madcap chase, Herbert is projected through the windshield of a car onto a suburban lawn, where he jumps up and resumes the chase into and through the house. But...the major element is that **Raising Arizona** is just flat-out funny and unpredictable. This is basic bend-over-in-the-chair stuff.

The movie has a strong, fast-paced story line. While the ending may not totally satisfy, it's an imaginative and touching solution. Some will find **Raising Arizona** too unconventional, but this is a very funny physical comedy with a good heart.

Tin Men

Tin Men is a comedy that works on all levels; it's funny, poignant and human, and its also a bit disturbing in its revelation of a hidden, deeper truth. Writer-director Barry Levinson (**Diner, The Natural**) goes back to the 1960's Baltimore for what appears to be a farcical feud between a couple of bantamweight aluminum siding salesmen (Danny DeVito, Richard Dreyfuss).

Backing his brand new Cadillac (the tin-man car of preference) out of the dealer's, Bill Babowsky (Dreyfuss) is hit in the rear by Ernest Tilley (DeVito). "I'm gonna get this guy," vows Dreyfuss, and for the rest of the movie the two men find ways to torture and humiliate each other.

Dreyfuss' plot is fiendish; he sets his sights on DeVito's wife (Barbara Hershey). The dapper single man seduces Hershey and calls his foe to gloat. DeVito pretends he doesn't care, with his patented bravado, but really does. Ironically, Dreyfuss falls in love with the wife and when he eventually wins Hershey away from her husband, he's like a frightened boy who suddenly has to learn a new game. Experienced only in one-night stands, his first reaction is to run.

At the same time, the unethical tactics of selling siding in the early days hilarious early in the film, no longer seem so funny as sales slow down and legal authorities move in to enforce sanity. Grudgingly, the heroes repent and go on to something different, and another crazy era in free enterprise passes.

The salesmen are really only at home with each other, and like **Diner, Tin Men** excels in its funny, informal scenes of male camaraderie. Both Dreyfuss and DeVito are excellent in this film, superbly supported by a crew of characters not meant to be moral paragons. They are classic comic figures—a bit worse than most of us, and to be loved but not admired.

Tin Men is a solid piece of work and comes highly recommended. □

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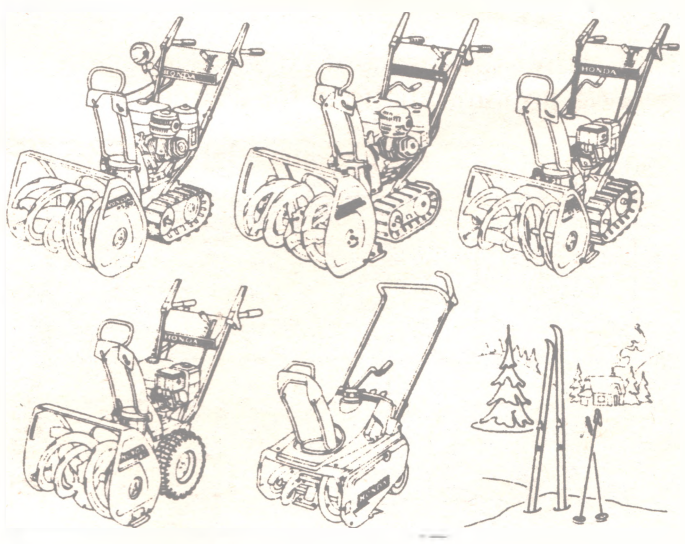

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