



### A Very Merry Christmas

We take this happy time of year to wish you all the joys of the Holiday Season, and to join all men of good will in a prayer for worldwide peace and understanding. May your Holidays be merry and bright!

**CRADDOCK & PHIBBS**  
JARVIS, Ontario

### HOLIDAY SKATING

— AT —

### HAGERSVILLE ARENA

Christmas Day — Arena Closed

Tuesday, December 26th - Boxing Day  
— 8.00 to 10.00 P.M. — Public Skating

Sunday, December 31st  
— 2.00 to 4.00 P.M. — Public Skating

Monday, January 1st  
— 2.00 to 4.00 P.M. — Public Skating

### BIRTHS

**SCHWEYER** — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schwyer, R.R. 3, Jarvis, wish to announce the birth of a son at West Haldimand General Hospital, Hagersville, on Thursday, December 14, 1967.

**SANDERSON** — Bill and Shirley (nee Reichheld) of Hagersville are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Susan Elaine, 6 lbs., 13 oz. at West Haldimand General Hospital, Hagersville, on Thursday, December 14, 1967.

**CELEBRATE 40th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

The Record joins with the many friends to offer congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Orvil Dell who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday, December 19th. On Sunday a family dinner was held at their home and Mr. and Mrs. David A. Dell of Toronto were present.

We are happy to report that Mr. Harold Johnston has recovered favourably after an accident last week at Bailey & Linklaters' which injured his eye and also that Jim Doughty was able to return home on Sunday from the hospital. The injuries he received from an accident at Doughty & Williamson on Saturday were not serious.

IT IS WITH SINCERE PLEASURE that we pause at the holiday season to wish you a

"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

and to hope that the New Year will bring much happiness and success

**ACE T.V.**  
217 MAIN ST. PORT DOVER

583-2287



AS WE OPEN the door to another new year our thoughts turn gratefully to those whose courtesy, good will and loyalty have helped make our progress possible.

IN THIS SPIRIT we extend to you the SEASON'S GREETINGS.

THE MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYEES

OF

**DOUGHTY & WILLIAMSON**

JARVIS, Ontario



### ELDOR RESTAURANT

JARVIS, Ontario

— Ellard & Dorothy Cowan



It's time again to wish our good friends all the enchantment, every excitement and wonder that the Christmas Season can bring... and to express our sincere appreciation!

### BILL'S SEPTIC SERVICE

JARVIS, Ontario

— Helen and Bill Phibbs



**Merry Christmas**

One of the special pleasures of Christmas is the opportunity to greet one's friends and customers — with appreciation of our cordial relations.

### REED MOTORS

YOUR CASE DEALER

Phone 587-2613

JARVIS, Ontario



We wish for you the blessings of Christmas. May the radiance of the Star of Bethlehem light your way to peace and contentment in the coming year.

### PAYNE'S PLASTERING

JARVIS, Ontario

— Steve and Doug



### JARVIS ESSO SERVICE

Phone 587-2282

Harry Helder, Prop.



### at Christmastime

May the Star of Bethlehem beam its blessed light of love and peace on you and your loved ones... and through all the world, always.

### WM. L. MOTT & STAFF

HAGERSVILLE, Ontario



## Where Christmas Really Began

By Sara Lockwood Williams



TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO Augustus Caesar issued a decree that all the world was to be taxed.

Thus Joseph took Mary, his betrothed, from the home of her mother Ann in Jerusalem and journeyed to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Now the way was six miles. Mary, seated sideways on a small donkey, with their few belongings tied in a cloth hanging across the donkey's back, and Joseph trudging beside her, found their way through the narrow streets of ancient Jerusalem, through the Joppa (or Jaffa) Gate down into the Valley of Gihon, then up to the ridge or watershed of Palestine's hill country and on to the Plain of Rephaim. Midway on the plain they probably paused beside the road to drink from a well. They did not know this well would some day be called the Well of the Magi because the three Wise Shepherds following "God's bright star" would stop there to drink and to see the star reflected in the water's depths as they traveled by camel to Bethlehem in search of Jesus, the Son soon to be born of Mary.

Joseph and Mary were humble and fine and they loved each other. They gazed happily across the well-cultivated terraced valleys across the fields where shepherds guarded their flocks, noted the old stone watch towers where the farmers and shepherds could go to look far across their lands in all directions. Then they glimpsed the city of Bethlehem, a small and humble village whose rock walls, cobbled streets and stone buildings showed gray and uninviting.

The man and woman wended their way through the throngs of tax-payers about the bazaars and found the inn where they sought lodging. The inn was overflowing. People were having to sleep by the wayside. Now Mary was with child and Joseph wanted to protect her and make her comfortable, but no room was to be had. So the couple sought shelter in the stable beside their tiny donkey. The stable was a cave or grotto in the rocks with crude wooden mangers filled with hay. Here, in the year 4 B.C., the thirty-third year of the reign of Herod the Great, Jesus of Nazareth was born. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Here the shepherds, to whom angels had announced the Saviour's birth, came to kneel low beside the humble bed and lay their gifts before the Babe whom they adored.

Because this Babe was born the whole world rejoices and celebrates Christmas. Joy, peace, love, humility — all the great truths of Christianity came to the world with His birth. The basis of modern civilization lies in the little town of Bethlehem.

Even as the Wise Men 2000 years ago made their way to the shrine, so pilgrims, tourists, believers and non-believers journey today across the self-same road, still the main artery of communication between Jerusalem and all the southern part of Israel. They see the Well of the Magi, the terraced gardens, the shepherds' fields, and the old, old watch towers. The highway is now smoothly paved. The travelers all too often ride in luxurious motor cars. But they still pass caravans of camels and asses and see pedestrians garbed in costumes of many lands. For pilgrims come from near and far to the Holy Land, particularly to ancient Bethlehem, whose grayness has increased with centuries of dust and erosion on its leaden-hued stones. But dull as is its outward appearance, few approach the city without a thrill of reverence and awe, without renewing acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures and gaining inspiration and faith. Today they cross the lively bazaars where "objects of piety" made of shells, mother-of-pearl and olive wood have wide space among the food-stuffs and goods for sale. They go to the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem's greatest relic of antiquity. In 330 B.C. Constantine built this basilica above what is believed to be the grotto-stable in which Christ was born. The church looks like a fortress and its entrance door is so small even a short person must stoop to enter. It was made thus not, as some say, to cause thoughts of humility and reverence upon entering so holy a place, but to prevent the ancient Saracens and Turks when they were in power from desecrating the place with cattle. Five different nationalities of Christians now guard this church and hold services here. The place is strikingly simple. The Greek Orthodox and the Armenian and Syrian churches occupy the main floor. Two circular stairways lead to the dark caves below. There is a chapel in the grotto. On the floor is a great silver star with silver nails over a hollow where Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus. Around the star is the inscription:

"Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est."

Fifteen silver lamps unceasingly burn day and night over this holy place. Four belong to the Latins, six to the Greek Orthodox, and five to the Armenians and Syrians. Representatives from many Christian nations kneel in common before the little altar. Seldom is the grotto without worshippers. Whether or not they believe this to be the authentic spot of the Nativity, it carries the atmosphere of holiness and spirituality. The handsome, proud natives of Bethlehem seem always a happy people, but at Christmas time Bethlehem radiates joy.

