

Xtemas, Krysommas, Chrystemasse

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas..." is as much a part of today's yuletide spirit as blazing logs, carols and starry eyed wonderment. Yet, seldom do we search for the whys behind our traditional holiday thinking. Why

does Christmas and the blustery weather of winter seem to go hand in hand?

In his book "The Story of Christmas," Michael Harrison furnishes some of the answers.

Thousands of years before the birth of Christ, people of the world celebrated and feasted for their winter solstice - rescue of the sun from a total disappearance beneath the dark horizon.

In pagan Rome, this winter carnival was observed with "great and extended rejoicing" December 17 until well into the New Year.

Crowds jostled in the streets, alleyways were lit by tapers of wax, gifts were exchanged and slaves were given the special freedom of being allowed to sit at the festive table and

be served by those they normally served.

During saturnalia Christians tried to correlate their ceremonies as much as possible with those of "heathens" in order to solicit new members. It was the practice of ancient religious men to try and give sacred significance to established pagan festivals rather than abolishing them.

December 25th was also the chosen day of great feasting in the Mithraic religion - arch rival of Christianity to become the state religion of Rome.

Judaism was another great influence on early Christian thought and selection of Christmas day. Jesus' disciples were Jews and continued to practice many of their traditional ceremonies. The principle Jewish

fete of the day was Dedication of the Temple held on 25 Kislev (corresponding to our 20th or 21st of December).

In the realm of Christianity, there was a great need to convert the pagan. Thus, "the end of the year celebrations to mark the rebirth of the sun could, by making the celebrant thank God for that rebirth, be brought into line with Christian practice, and by identifying God with nature, pagan festivals could be and were transformed into Christian ones."

Throughout the ages, scholars dated Nativity on May 20, Jan. 6, April 20 and on numerous more dates. Some modern men have pinpointed the birth of Christ (for astronomical reasons) at 2 a.m. the 16th or 17th of May in 8 B.C. Whatever the actual date, December 25th and its accompanying winter whiteness will never be altered for the sake of accuracy.

Whether it be spelled Krysonmas, Stermas or Chrystemasse, Christmas will continue to conjure up thoughts of Santa's sled, new ice skates, three wisemen trudging through the snow and the "moon shining on the crest of new fallen snow."

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Greetings with the Spirit of Christmas

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Atom Standings

"ATOM" STANDINGS (as of Dec. 8)

	Played	Won	Tie	Lost	For	Agst.	Pts.
SABRES	6	3	2	1	17	11	8
WINGS	6	3	2	1	14	11	8
KINGS	6	1	2	3	13	15	4
HAWKS	6	1	2	3	8	13	4

LEADING SCORERS GOALS

K - Doug Williams	5
S - Jeff Campbell	5
W - Dave Nixon	4
S - Phil Winger	4
W - Jim Dunnett	4
W - Dave Mattice	3
H - Kevin Saunders	3
S - Tom Clause	3

Novice Standings

"NOVICE" STANDINGS (as of Dec. 8)

	Played	Won	Tie	Lost	For	Agst.	Pts.
BRUINS	6	5	1	0	21	11	11
RANGERS	6	4	1	1	21	12	9
LEAFS	6	1	2	3	22	19	4
CANADIANS	6	0	1	5	6	28	1

LEADING SCORERS: GOALS

B - Gerry McCarthy	18
R - Todd LaForme	9
R - Bill Mumby	9
L - Dennis Smith	7
L - Chris Webber	6
L - Trevor Smith	3
Brad Marshall	2
John Almas	2

Merry Christmas

Right up our alley!
Being able to wish our loyal friends... patrons season's best, sincere thanks.

CHECK-R-BOWL
HAGERSVILLE

Single Mother And Her Child

How Do They Fare In The Community?
The following article is supplied to the Record, courtesy of The Family and Children's Services of Haldimand County.

The trend in recent years for single mothers to keep and raise their own children has caused anxiety in some circles. More than 50% of the mothers who receive service from Children's Aid Societies elect to keep the child.

In the late 50's the rate of births to single mothers, compared with total births, was 3.2%. This reached an all-time high of 9.6% in 1970 and has since been declining. In the last year for which statistics are available (1972) more than 2,000 single mothers in Ontario began the adventure of raising a child alone.

How hazardous is it? In an effort to replace speculation with facts, the London Family and Children's Services (incorporated as a Children's Aid Society) completed an in-depth study of 18-months duration of 52 unmarried mothers who had received service from the agency and had agreed to take part. Each of these mothers was raising her own child. The study was an attempt to find out how they and their children fared and what additional services might be needed for the well-being of these one-parent families.

First, who were these young (average age 17 to 19) women who conceived children before they were married? The study showed that 71.3% came from families where both parents lived together. Nearly 70% were employed and 27% were attending school, supported by their parents. About 3% were unemployed. About half lived with their parents. Nearly 10% lived with the man who was the child's father and the remainder lived alone, usually in an apartment. Not one was on welfare or public assistance of any kind at the time of conception.

Most (57.7%) had known the father of the child for a year or more. In nearly 70% of cases, the alleged father was a single man, but 80% of the women involved had no intention of marrying the father.

Among those who were employed, occupations were nurse or nurse's aid, office worker, factory worker, hairdresser, domestic, waitress and one or two other occupations. 85% expressed satisfaction with their jobs.

What was their situation at the end of the study when their children were 18 months of age?
About one third were on welfare or public

assistance. The 26.9% supported by parents (as students) had dropped to 10.2%. Another 20.4% had either married the father or were supported by him. At that period 55% of the unmarried mothers had an income of less than \$250 per month. Those who were living alone found the income inadequate.

It was found that peak support from parents, friends and relatives came during the child's infancy and tended to drop when the child reached 12 months of age. This was a crisis period in the mother's life.

By the end of 18 months of motherhood, 83.6% found that they needed some financial and emotional support, child care and medical help. 60% felt that they had a poor social life.

During the whole period, an average of 60% turned to their own parents for support.

Mostly for financial help, 42% turned to social agencies. For emotional support 35% turned to friends. Only 8% (who had not married) turned to the child's father for emotional or financial help. However, when the children were 18 months old, 38.8% still maintained some sort of contact with the father. Of these, 14.3% married him (with 30% claiming this an unhappy union) and 6% lived with the child's father.

Despite the uneasiness of the financial and social situation, social workers doing the study found that 75% of the women were tackling the problem of raising a child alone with enthusiasm and optimism. More than a third had received offers of marriage and nearly 80% hoped to marry some day. About 40% had a "good job" as a goal. Half claimed that the child was a source

of enjoyment, with 20% admitting there was some hardship. Only 30% expressed any regret that they had not been married when their children were conceived. Only two of 45 who had not married became pregnant a second time. Both had abortions.

The agency found that about 25% of the children involved in the study might be in danger of neglect or deprivation in the situation. A workup of the statistics of the mothers of these 12 children showed them to be slightly younger than the group age; three times as likely to have known the child's father less than six months at the time of conception; half as likely to be employed; moved four times oftener than others in the group and half as likely to have come from a family where both parents were together.

It was hoped that a careful tabulation of the characteristics of these unmarried mothers might help the agency to predict which ones would be most in need of follow-up as their children grew older. The agency concluded that when the baby reached 12 months of age and the mother was finding the going most rough would be a good time to

reach out and offer supportive help. The greatest difficulty expressed by all the single mothers was for steady child-care so that they could return to work or achieve a higher level of training. From this might flow the financial resources they all needed. But they would still need "someone to talk to."



Peace on Earth...
WM. L. MOTT & STAFF
HAGERSVILLE



Parent Volunteers at the Jarvis Public School met Friday to discuss their volunteer program. They are as follows: (back) Sandra McDowell, Betty Reu, Dorothy Doughty, Donaida Reu, Diane Blundell, Marg Carlson, Sheryl McLeish, (front) Wilma Wilson, Kay Wingrove. (Staff Photo)

The Legend of the Christmas Rose

According to legend a little shepherd girl from Bethlehem followed the shepherds on their way to the manger. All the shepherds had gifts for Jesus but the little girl had none. She felt very sad and unworthy about this and hung back from the others. Just before they reached the stable, an angel appeared in a blaze of light and scattered lovely white roses before the little girl. So she gathered them up and laid them before the manger.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our store will be closed on December 24 and December 31 but will be open for business as usual on December 26 and January 2nd.

We wish to thank all our customers for their patronage during the past year and hope for all a prosperous New Year.

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