

What Christmas means to me

by Penny Marshall

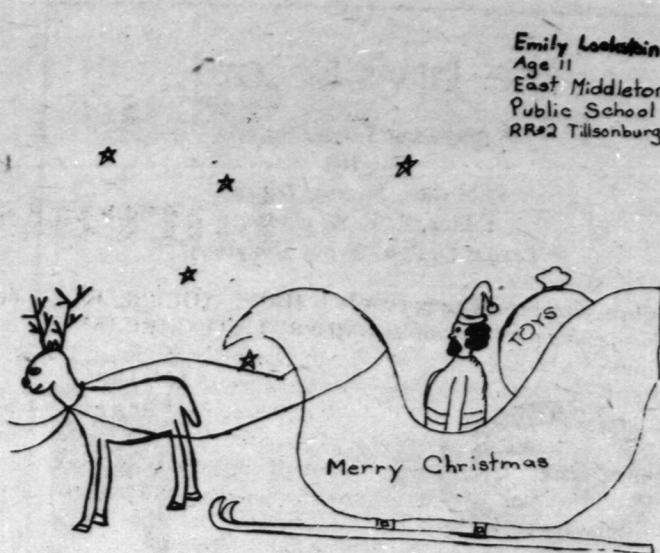
Christmas is the night a little boy was born about 1976 years ago. His mother's name was Mary and Joseph was his step-father. The little boy named Jesus was born that very night in a manger. Santa Claus is a man with a toy shop in the North Pole with over a 100 little elves. They work very hard all year. Mrs. Claus makes sure Santa is prepared for an all-night long journey around the world.

On Christmas Day I like it when the water is frozen to ice so we can skate on the ice.

Toys are nice things to play with and I would like ice skates, Barbie dolls, and lots of other things, too.

On Christmas day we have Christmas pudding which is good.

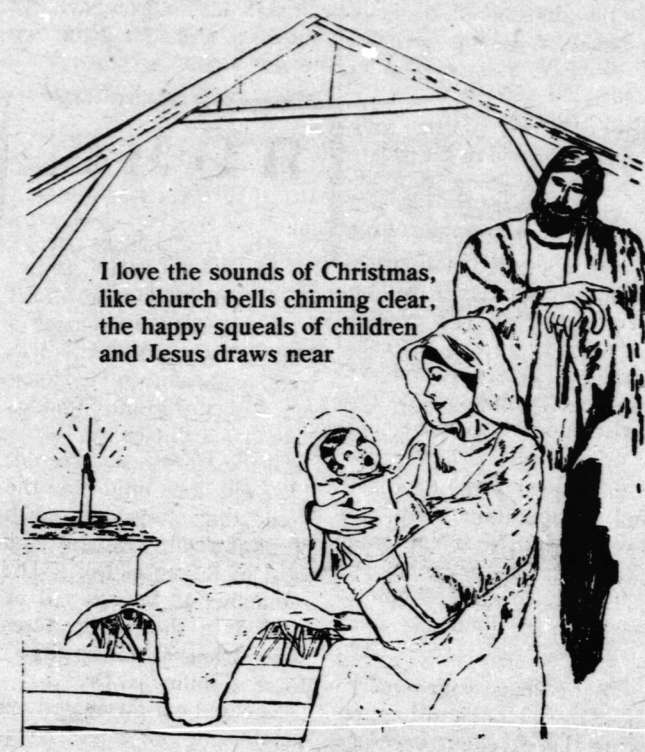
My friends are like Christmas to me and like the star of Bethlehem.



Emily Lockhart
Age 11
East Middleton
Public School
RR#2 Tilsonburg

GREETINGS for CHRISTMAS

Norm, Dennis, Ken And Robert Graham
SHELL SERVICE STATION
JARVIS



sketched by Rod Armstrong, 12

Christmas Song

by Margaret Elsom

The winter sky is beautiful to-night.
Brilliant with stars, and O, so strangely still
Above the snowy fields and little towns;
I marvel at such loveliness until
Somewhere there seems to fall an angel song;
Perhaps the same refrain that sounded when
The shepherds, watching sheep, heard heaven's choirs
Singing of "peace on earth, good will to men".

To-night my own heart thrills with that great joy
The shepherds knew, when told of Jesus' birth;
And to my own soul, often so afraid—
The words "fear not" come drifting down to earth.
And still a deeper joy possesses me
While standing here beneath these stars that shine,
When I recall, a star led to a cross—
And in His love He whispered, "thou art mine".

What have we done to Christmas?

by Dorothy Skevington

A couple of weeks ago our youngest son—just out of his teens—made a very frightening statement and provided food for some very serious thinking.

"I hate Christmas! I just wish I could die until it is all over and then come back to life again!"

What have we done to Christmas that he should feel this way. Have we given too much; have we given too little; or have we just not been giving the right thing: not enough of ourselves and the love and true meaning of the wonderful gift given for all. Have we unwittingly been the inn-keeper that found no room for Christ at our festive board. Have we scattered but crumbs to the King of Kings while we grumbled with gluttony.

As I look back across the years one Christmas stands out in my memory more than any others. I guess I was just at a very impressionable yet understanding age. I can still see my father bending over his work in our farm kitchen. The long hard hours of farming finished for the day and he was patiently whitening tops from the wooden spoons that had held sewing thread. I can also remember

the troubled tired look on his face as he carefully balanced it all around. I knew times were hard but we didn't dare to grumble. Everyone was in the same boat and the communities worked together to try to make it as easy as possible for all.

We did have a dear Auntie that had no children and she made it a practice that Santa should leave an orange in each stocking for Christmas morning.

This particular Christmas my stocking so carefully hung with childlike trust contained the treasured orange and a hand-whittled top; truly a love gift.

If we could only take time to realize that a wee babe born in a manger was God's supreme gift to mankind. Let us think more seriously about what we have allowed Christmas to become.

We should bow our heads in shame that we, who have so much, give so little of the right things for a truly blessed Christmas.

This year take time to give—not your money nor the things money can buy. Give just a little of yourself to someone somewhere. Take time to smile; take time for a kind word, a helping hand, a phone call or just a fervent prayer for those you love. Take time to give thanks for the most precious gift of all; given for all. This is truly the gift to share for a blessed, happy, never to be forgotten Christmas.

This is our earnest desire for each of you at this 1975 Christmas Season as we celebrate together the Birthday of the King of Kings.



Stepping up to say thanks for your goodwill and patronage. We get a boot out of serving you.

Have a merry!
CHARLES
SHOE STORE
Hagersville



In this season of happy thoughts and warm hearts, we extend a special "Thank you" to all our good friends and patrons for your confidence, loyalty and support... a Merry Christmas to all!

Norfolk Co-Op Company Ltd.
HARDWARE AND
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
JARVIS

Christmas Season brings Threats to Child Safety

"Christmas brings temptations to many parents, while visiting with neighbours or completing last minute shopping, to leave small children unattended for short periods," says Haldimand-Norfolk regional fire coordinator George H. Ross.

"At the same time, decoration, trees and wrapping paper bring an increased threat of fire danger unless constant care is exercised."

Mr. Ross urges all parents to recognize the fire danger of this season, and not to leave small children alone in the home even for a moment. He points out that the Criminal Code of Canada forbids such action which endangers the life or health of any child under the age of ten years.

Parents are further reminded that under certain conditions a Christmas tree can be ignited by a single match to burn furiously to charred wood in a few seconds. Care must be taken to keep butts of natural trees immersed in water and to ensure that the tree itself does not obstruct access to a door or window. Families are also urged to review their home fire-escape plans for quick exit in an emergency.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS ... and there's no place like home for Christmas fire hazards. Keep that tree butt immersed in water ... check those strings of lights for frayed insulation and possible short circuits ... clear away discarded gift wrapping promptly ... and don't smoke near the tree.

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS ... but keep it safe from the fire dangers of the season ... keep the tree fresh and green by standing it in water throughout its stay indoors. Keep cigarettes and matches at a safe distance. Switch the tree lights off at bedtime and before leaving home ... and never decorate a tree with candles.

IT ALWAYS HAPPENS IN DECEMBER ... Christmas trees ... decorations ... gift wrappings ... they all add up to a greater home fire danger. This is the time to take the utmost care to make sure that holiday fun will not turn into family tragedy. Watch small children more carefully at this season that at any other time ... and never leave them unattended.

MERRY CHRISTMAS ... MERRY CHRISTMAS ... TO YOU ... and keep this Christmas safe from fire. Take special care with the tree ... stand it in water ... clear discarded wrappings away from the tree ... keep cigarettes and matches at a safe distance ... and never leave small children unattended ... even for a minute.

THESE CHRISTMAS FIRE SAFETY HINTS can help you in the preparation of your own news releases, radio or TV flashes, or talks to community groups: BY

THE FRESHEST, GREENEST Christmas tree you can obtain, and store it outdoors or in an unheated garage until you are ready to decorate it. Then cut one or two inches diagonally from the

butt before setting it up indoors in water. Replenish water regularly. Remember that if a tree has dried out beyond its moisture recovery limit, it will continue to dry out, even when standing in water.

EVEN AT MAXIMUM MOISTURE CONTENT, a tree will burn if flame is applied all around the base. Keep discarded gift wrappings away from the base of the tree, and make the Christmas tree area a no-smoking zone.

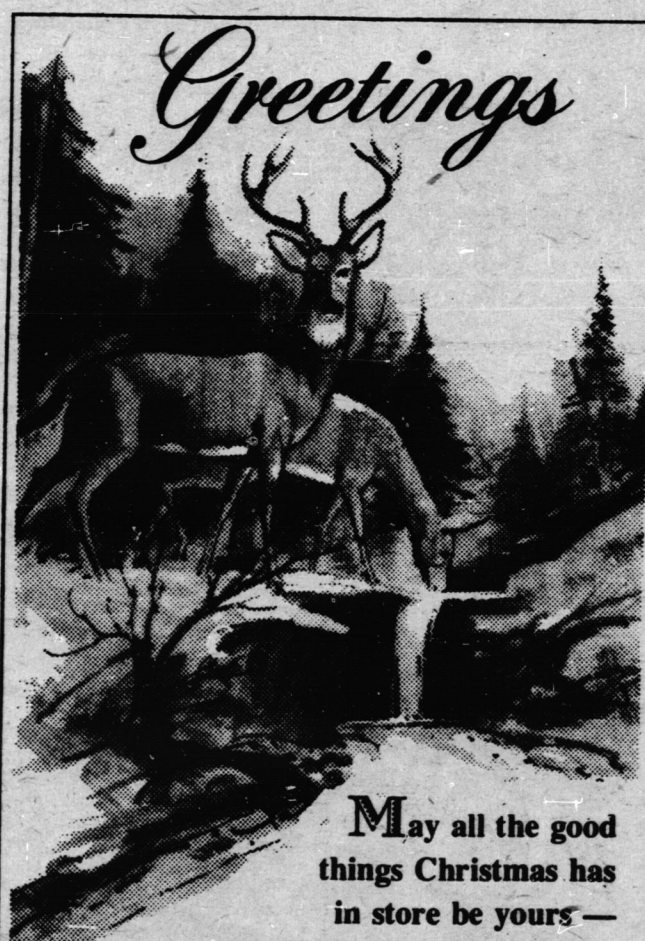
USE ONLY NON-FLAMMABLE ORNAMENTS AND TRIM on the tree. Do not decorate metallic artificial trees with strings of electric lights, but illuminate by floodlight if desired. Some plastic trees, made from styrene materials are flammable and may burn violently. Never use candles to decorate any tree.

NEVER LEAVE SMALL CHILDREN ALONE at Christmas (or at any other time). The employment of a reliable babysitter is the best assurance of freedom from worry if you plan to get together with friends, in your home or theirs.

SET UP CHRISTMAS TREE INDOORS just before Christmas, and remove them as soon as possible after Christmas. Keep trees away from heat sources, and do not allow them to block exits.

IF FIRE SHOULD STRIKE, first get everyone out of the house, then sound the alarm and call the fire department before attempting to fight the fire yourself. Your first rule in the event of fire is **GET OUT SAFELY**.

Merry Christmas
Here comes Santa Claus and friend laden with season's wishes to our many fine customers.
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
THANK YOU. JEAN'S COUNTRY CORNER
JARVIS



May all the good things Christmas has in store be yours — peace, joy and serenity. We are forever grateful for your kindness.

Nearly two years have passed since I became Mayor of the City of Nanticoke. It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve the people of our fair City. On behalf of my wife Bertha and myself, I wish one and ALL a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and may the Good Lord smile upon everyone in the year 1976.

Mayor Pow & Mrs. Pow



Heartfelt wishes for a glowing Yuletide overflowing with good cheer and happy days. We are thinking of you, our dear friends, and hoping your holidays will be filled with many delights.

Special thanks to all.

Alice and Mike Nelligan and Family

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