

Grads Christmas Night Dance

DECEMBER 25th

NEW DOME DANCE HALL

Featuring Ray Simmons and his Clarinet Novelties

Dancing 9.30 to 2

Admission 50c plus tax

It's a Grad Dance

Long, Long Ago

By BLYTHE HURST ST.

Christmas is with us once again, and with it the troubles of editors of "Christmas Numbers" who must find something new wherewith to tempt the jaded palates of their readers. It would appear that in the nineteenth century years since the first Noel, that all that could be said has been said; and even the journalistic lights that invent tidbits of Norse and Teutonic mythology seem to show signs of exhaustion. About the only novel effect noticeable in this year's output is the use of "Gull" for Yule; but we may let that set by if we remember that the original users of the word had no qualms about its spelling—principally because they had no alphabet.

There is, however, one perennial source of interest remaining. In an ever-changing world the Christmas experiences of the older generation will furnish notable contrasts to that of the younger; and this leads to a recollection of a memorable Christmas long ago.

When I was a little shaver, six or seven years old, my folk received a letter, inviting me into the country to spend Christmas with my grandfather; and while accepting the invitation they little thought that the visit would extend for the next ten years. I had seen the old gentleman annually, when he had his summer vacation—a tall, portly man—he stood six feet one in his stockings—and with the instinct peculiar to children and dogs, I had observed a certain amount of benevolence in his countenance; but he also possessed another characteristic of the "fine old English gentleman" of the "olden time," and that was a good deal of determination. Hence his invitation was something of a command.

After changing trains at Newcastle-on-Tyne, I at last, under the kindly care of the guard, as the train conductor was called, found myself at a small wayside station, where grandfather with a two-wheeled light vehicle called a "trap" awaited me. Then came a long, slow drive of four miles, uphill all the way, which brought us to his house, situated about one thousand feet above sea-level.

Next morning, when I had time to look about, I certainly had the time of my life—there was so much to appeal to the inquisitive mind of a youngster. The house was a large one—counted eight "chimney pots" on the chimney stack and not all the rooms had fires—and had been built in the late 1830's, when the North Country had been much disturbed by the rebellious activities of the Chartists. The doors were painted inside with iron, and an iron bar falling into sockets on each side, fastened them securely. The windows had heavy wooden shutters inside which folded and swung back into recesses on each side. The place could have stood a small siege, and perhaps the precaution was necessary as there had been good cause for alarm not many years before. At a village not far distant the miners had been very turbulent, and a rumor having arisen that the leaders were to be arrested by a party of dragoons from Newcastle, the "rebels" dragged an old cannon to a point where it commanded the main road, and spent their leisure in forcing pikes (spears) for use against the men and cattraps (crow's feet) they called them to lame the horses. However, in this instance, the troops did not come and the affair fizzled out.

Two Days to Christmas

But I'm getting away from my story. It was two days to Christmas and the house was redolent with the smell of warm spices, while my aunt and the two maids were as busy as bees. The Christmas pudding I was told, had been made on Christmas Eve and was now hanging "to ripen." The Christmas groceries had come in; they were hauled from town, ten miles away, by carrier, in large boxes with sides nearly three feet square. There was not the variety of fruits available at the festive season as there is now; nothing but apples and oranges. But there were all kinds of nuts, and plenty of them, and what more did a boy with a healthy appetite want? Well, Christmas Eve came at last, and there was some cessation of labor. The house had been bedecked with mistletoe and holly, for paper streamers and glass saws were then unknown. As I sat looking out of the window in the twilight just before "tea" (supper here) I was surprised to see a number of shade trees leading to the road-gate. They approached and presently there was a knock at the back door, and a quavering voice was lifted against the frosty air in doleful music. Then one of the maids—they were called "servants" then, and didn't care—came in and announced that Old Betty was at the door. "Bring her in," said grandfather, and the mystery of the lights was made plain. She had a board or tray before her, supported by shoulder-straps, and on it was a number of candles, all alight, embedded in pellets of brick-clay which kept them upright. In the midst was a tiny cradle with a doll in it—the image of the Christ-child. (This custom must have come down from the times when Catholicism was the national religion of England, for customs die slowly in the North Country.) Old Betty obliged the company with another carol, and was invited to stay for "supper" in the servants' kitchen, after which grandfather (as I found to be his custom in necessitous cases) gave her two shillings and sent her on her way rejoicing. Old Betty died the following year, and the custom with her. She was the feminine "Last Minstrel."

To bed at nine of the clock, as Peppy would say. Grandfather was always last up, and wound the tall clock at ten, promptly, his last act before retiring. (That clock is ticking away as placidly here as I write, as it did in those far-off days and scenes). At five o'clock the next morning I was awakened by the sound of voices "under the window." Then they broke into music. It was only "Tammam" Anderson, the sexton, and the members of the village choir, with more carols, but like Maggie Fuller, in my juvenile innocence I imagined there was something supernatural about the affair, "and the image of men in the vision of angels resting on the parted cloud." A big pot of coffee had been put "on the hob" to keep warm for the nocturnal singers and aunt and the girls got up to minister to them, but Tammam and the male choristers voted for the ale which was kept in a large barrel in the outside pantry. Grandfather didn't get up, but sent down five shillings, which the party would not doubt spend in riotous living later on, at the village inn. (Ale was as common as tea in those days, and

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The Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at 5 cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

CRASWELL for Photographs.

CHRISTMAS TREE LAMPS 49c. Toombs Music Store, L-637-12-23-11.

CONFEDERATION LIFE INSURANCE, L-9789-7-21-311

OPEN TONIGHT and every night till Christmas till 9.30: The Rogers Hardware, L-805-12-20-23.

NEW GENERAL ELECTRIC RADIOS. Toombs Music Store, L-637-12-23-11.

CIVIC TAXES — City's fiscal year ends December 31st not January 15th as in previous years. L-81-12-5-7-10-12-14-19-21-23.

FOR SALE — Christmas Trees while they last. Phone 218-L and 1752 or call at 31 Grafton Street, L-696-12-23-21.

CIVIC TAXES — Tax payers are reminded that the discount period ends this year December 31st and not January 15th as in previous years. L-81-12-5-7-10-12-14-19-21-23.

CHRISTMAS MAILS FOR LOCAL DELIVERY.—Owing to heavy receipt of mails from the mainland, Greeting Cards, etc., for City delivery should be mailed today if delivery before Christmas Day is expected. The local Post Office has worked twenty-four hours each day this past week and all mails have been delivered promptly. Shop early, mail early and the post office will deliver early.

MARKET BUILDING CLEANED.—The Market Building in the city has been given a general cleaning and painting on the inside recently and many favorable comments on its appearance has been heard from the numerous visitors. The main section along with the rest of the rooms, wash rooms and other parts has had its walls and floors scrubbed. Two coats of paint was applied to the walls and the ceiling finished in white. The cold water paint permits washing thus eliminating the necessity of painting for a number of years. The cost of the work was defrayed by increased revenues in the department. It is announced that the fish department of the building will be overhauled later and next year a plastic floor will be laid and all tables covered with the same material.

FOR BRITISH RELIEF.—Members of the Church of Scotland and other interesting friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Desmond, Cambridge, Mass., where a large amount of clothing was donated and a generous sum of money given, to buy new clothing, and all articles of clothing were packed under the supervision of the pastor Rev. R. I. Westaway and sent on the British Relief Ship. An enjoyable evening was spent by all, violin music being furnished by Mr. Lorne Simmons and Leah and Jessie Martin with guitars as well as Mr. Andrew MacDougall entertaining all in his usual jolly manner. A delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Stanley Campbell assisted by Alma Luque, Evelyn MacVittie and Mrs. J. MacPherson. The happy meeting was brought to a close by the former Islanders singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Personals

Mr. Percy Barlow left Saturday to spend the holidays with Mrs. Barlow's mother, Mrs. Whidden in Milford, N. S., and Halifax.

Mr. Henry Smallwood, Southport, and Mrs. Boswell Jenkins, Cross Roads, leave this morning for Fredericton, N.B., where they will spend the Christmas holidays.

The Misses Orva Gill and Nora Harper have arrived from Ottawa to spend the Christmas holidays at their respective homes in Charlottetown.

Lance Corporal Arthur Perry, of the R.C.C.S., has returned to his unit after spending his furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Perry, 50 School St.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

The pre-Christmas services of Trinity United Church were especially appropriate to the Nativity season, being rich in the beautiful carols of the Christmas time. The church was very busy with the decorations for these special services with trees and lights. In the morning Rev. Mr. Miller spoke on "The Nativity." He showed once again the wonderful story of the birth of the world and appealed for a new and fuller realization of it in our lives. At this service the choir sang the anthem, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," by J. E. Scott. Two enjoyable solos were also sung by Mrs. Roy Cudmore and Miss Margaret Sterns.

The annual candlelight carol service of Trinity Church was held in the evening. Special thanks are due Mr. Kendall and the choir for the excellent musical program. Two groups of carols were sung. The first group was: "Angels from the Realms of Glory," the solo part being taken by Miss Sally Wood. "When Christ was Born of Mary Free," "As Joseph Was a-Walking," "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The solo parts of these last two were sung by Miss Margery Wood and Mrs. Roy Cudmore respectively. The minister spoke very briefly on "The Glory of the Incarnation of Christ." The glory which shone around at his birth is reflected today in our wonderful Christmas music and lives too in the assurance it gives to every Christian who thinks upon the marvel of it.

The second group of carols was as follows: "See Amid the Winter's Snow," Mr. Arthur Hertz and Miss Bona Buestis sang the solo selections. "Carol, sweetly Carol," the solo part being taken by Miss Tait. "The Holly and the Ivy," the solo part sung by Miss Tait. "Ring Out, Wild Bells." In addition to these carols a duet of Miss Margaret Sterns and Miss Doris Tait very charmingly sang the carol, "Where is This Goodly Fragrance?"

LONDON.—(CP) — Tenants are disputing their liability to pay rent for houses they have been forced to leave because of burning time-bombs. A London magistrate upheld the tenants, but property owners want their money.

In the beloved words of Tiny Tim — so expressive of the feelings of all at this particular Christmas — General Motors joins Canada's most famous daughters, in saying:

"GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE"



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GENERAL MOTORS OF CANADA, LIMITED

Interpreting the War News

By Kirke L. Simpson, Associated Press Staff Writer

Winter has come astronomical for Europe and with it practical German attempt to finish off Britain will be launched—and defeated—before spring burgoons. Prime Minister Churchill has told Parliament that to offset waning German-Italian Axis war fortunes, Hitler "must do something now, or Britain has within two months."

The longest night of the year is that of Dec. 21-22. From now on the nights will slowly shorten and the days lengthen until June.

Long nights admittedly permit bombing with minimized losses for the attackers; but also with greatly increased bombing accuracy. Hitler's high command could as sent to a winter invasion schedule except in desperation. The risks are great, the seasonal advantages few.

oil and gasoline for U-boat and air fleets and at the same time storing reserves at French, Netherlands, Belgian and Norwegian attack bases. Those difficulties will increase, not lessen in the months just ahead.

The Danube's 1,750-mile waterway that threads east and west Europe together is Germany's main route for transportation of Rumanian oil. In winter, it is iced and closed for many weeks—the same weeks when by British forecast, it would be most vitally needed to Britain.

Concentrated bombing of Nazi air and U-boat bases on the invasion coast, and of critically important rail junctions deep into Germany, has marked British strategy. To what extent Nazi oil supplies have been hampered can only be conjectured, but beyond doubt it has done some damage.

In December, January, February and March, the North Sea and English Channel are normally turbulent. Crossing them to England with thousands of troops and heavy war gear jammed into low freeboard, open barges would be difficult even unopposed.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. I. Judson Levy, B.A., took as the subject of the morning sermon "Following the Star." It is Saint Matthew's gospel, 2:9, we read "Where is He that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen His star from the east and have come to worship Him." Who were they? Why did they come? What did they find? Saint Matthew alone tells of the wise men, just who they were we do not know. They came from beyond Judah, from the world outside, where the old faiths had failed and faded, seeking certainty in a world of doubt and fear, seeking a revelation of God, seeking among a people who though narrow and intolerant had held patiently, insistently to the worship of the Almighty. As in our day, who live in a world confused and fearing and lacking faith, needing God, these men came seeking. They found a

little city, small and humble, a manger and a little child, they found the new revelation of God, the Christ of the manger, the cross and the empty tomb through whom the world will win through its doubts and fears to peace and to the brotherhood of man.

The junior choir led in the music of the morning, under the direction of John Inen, Mus. Lic. Their freshly sweet young voices were heard effectively in the Polish carol "Infant Holy," and the French carol "Mme. Marie Elizabeth." The flowers of the communion table were placed by Mrs. H. S. Henderson in memory of her mother.

The evening sermon by Mr. Levy was an eloquent one with the subject "An Angel Song." Yon's

"Infant Jesus" and Van De Water's "Night of Nights" were expressively sung by the choir. Large congregations were in attendance, morning and evening.

The Eastern Guardian

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HELP HOSPITAL.—The Kings Co. Hospital, Montague, are indebted to the Women's Institute of Lower Montague for a very generous donation of preserve.

WOOLLIES FOR RAIDS

LONDON.—(CP) — Fashions have gone by the board and London girls are wearing thick knee-length woolen stockings to protect feet and legs from air raid shelter draughts.

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 21.—(AP)

Pope Pius expects to extend Christmas greetings to war prisoners in various countries by mailing his photograph, sacred images and special apostolic benedictions, informed sources said today. The Pope also has decided to send money to his representatives to purchase small gifts of clothing and other necessities for the prisoners they said.

Minard's removes dandruff.

Advertisement for Sussex Pale Dry Ginger Ale. The ad features a large illustration of a bottle of the beverage with a label that reads 'Sussex PALE DRY GINGER ALE'. Below the bottle, there is a large '5c' price tag and the text 'Sussex GINGER ALE'. At the bottom, it says 'Phone Your Dealer!' and lists various locations where the drink is available.

Advertisement for Hickey & Nicholson Tobacco Co., Ltd. The ad is titled 'BUY WAR SAVING CERTIFICATES' and 'HICKEY'S BLACK TWIST CHEWING'. It features a portrait of a man in a military-style cap. The text encourages buying war-saving certificates and mentions that the company's products are used by airmen, soldiers, and sailors. The address is given as 'Charlottetown, P. E. I.'