

Is surprise element leaving Christmas?

By M. McINTYRE HOOD
LONDON — Is the surprise element going out of Christmas? Are the thrills that used to come with the unwrapping of strange-looking parcels, and the emptying of bulging stockings becoming a thing of the past?

According to many of the buyers and sales people in the large London department stores that is exactly what is happening. The magic is going out of the Christmas morning orgy of saving the gifts that the un-honored Santa Nicholas has been fit to provide.

The old habit of writing to Father Christmas and watching the smoke as the burning letter disappears up the chimney is another old custom that is passing out. There are much different ways of dealing with the Christmas shopping problems now, and I regretted to learn of the changes that had taken place. But then perhaps I am just an old-fashioned sentimentalist. And the ways of modern children are not the ways which prevailed in my long ago childhood.

TALK IT OVER
Perhaps there is more common sense in the modern ways. At some point in the weeks before Christmas shopping has to be faced, parents and children sit down together and discuss what shall be bought. And when the time for shopping comes, the children and their parents descend on the stores and make their selections of the things they would like as Christmas gifts. The children now pick their own gifts in advance.

Walking through the stores, however, one can sense that there is not too much change in the nature of toys offered, except that there are some really modern additions to the lists. The stocks have become more international, with toys from

France, Italy, West Germany, Russia, Japan, Canada, the United States and Czechoslovakia to be found on the shelves. Dolls from all these countries complete with each other for popular favor.

FUN FOR ALL
There seems to be greater emphasis in the stores on constructional toys and games that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Today, the electric train sets are finding keen competition from motor racing games.

According to one of the toy buyers in a large store, girls are more difficult to please than boys. At a much younger age, they move away from toys and start asking for clothes and record players instead.

But there is that group of girls who now play as much with boys' toys as with their own. Before the last war, it was unusual for girls to play with guns. Nowadays, one buyer estimated, nearly as many guns are bought for girls as for boys.

SELECTING GOODS
I asked what influenced toy buyers in the selection of goods for the Christmas trade. Most of them, it seems, are guided by what sold well in the previous year, by the comments of parents, and children, and the actual quality of the goods. Because of this last consideration, it is interesting to note a much larger proportion of wooden toys this year compared with tin and plastic, which have been known to have dangerous aspects.

And the children of today seem to be more worldly wise than those of bygone days. As I watched some of them in the toy departments, I could see that they had definitely made up their minds what they wanted, and liked to make their own selections. There is

no more of leaving it to chance and to Santa Claus to surprise them. They know what they want, and they know how to go about making sure they get it.

Tiny turks are available
LONDON, England — The era of the mini-turkey, to suit the needs of couples and small families, has arrived for this year's Christmas turkey trade.

Turkey breeders have finally produced a strain of birds which weigh from six to eight pounds, streamlined to meet the needs of the small family and the size of the family's oven.

At the price will be around 70 to 75 cents a pound, depending on the area in which the housewife does her shopping and the date on which the order for the Christmas bird is placed.

There are going to be slightly more turkeys in the shops this year than last. But the demand, especially for the mini-turkeys, is going to be much greater. One Hampshire farmer who has a large flock of small birds, said:

"If advance ordering is any indication of what the demand is going to be, there is going to be a sell-out. We were already fully booked for all our turkeys before the end of October."

It is noted that more than a half the birds will be over-ready.

his two dogs started barking and ran in. When the frightened dogs refused to leave the stable he went out to investigate and found a fox.

"Just as I had stepped out the door I saw this big black figure leap at me," he said. "It must have jumped 10 feet to grab me by the throat. I was thrown to the ground and we rolled over until we were at the stable entry. I was yelling and my son-in-law ran to my rescue."

Mr. Carre and his son-in-law,

Fernand Legault, managed to force the wolf's jaw open. Just then Mrs. Carre arrived with an axe and chopped the animal down.

The wolf's fangs penetrated two inches in Mr. Carre's throat. He was treated at a hospital in Sturgeon Falls, about 20 miles southeast of here.

HUNTING EAGLES
Russia's sportsmen train black eagles to hunt foxes, antelopes and wolves.

London lights up at Christmas time

LONDON — Nowhere in my experience have I found anything to equal the true atmosphere of Christmas as it is to be found in walking through the shopping districts of London's west end during the few weeks before the Christmas holiday. To be truly sensed, that walk must be in the evening, when the streets are a blaze of glory.

Overhead, the Christmas decorations are twinkling. A great archway of silver and gold, and with other colors intermingled in the lights gleams above the curved sweep of Regent street, from Piccadilly Circus to Oxford Circus. Streams of lights swing from huge candles suspended at each side of Bond street. Brightly colored Christmas bells and balls hang high above the hurrying crowd which

is milling along Oxford Circus. The atmosphere is truly infectious, and is made more so by the happy, gleaming faces of the Londoners out to see the sights. And these lights transform the heart of London into the most entrancing picture one could wish to see at the Christmas season.

SHOP WINDOWS
The shop windows fit into the general picture of gaiety. Each year they seem to look more inviting. Firms like Selfridges, Liberty's, Bourne and Hollinsworth, Jaeger's and a dozen more vie with each other in their efforts to make their Christmas displays the most inviting.

Christmas trees line the balconies of the large department stores. Golden doves fly inside

the window of a dress shop. Tempting gifts from all parts of the world are dressed up in Christmas finery.

On Oxford street, a small band of musicians moves slowly along the street playing cheerful tunes to the atmosphere. Vendors of toys are to be found in the entrances to the stores which are closed. One waves a toy snake on a stick, while a competitor tries to sell paper flowers that grow out of a shell when placed in water.

So we walk on down to Piccadilly Circus and down Haymarket Street to Trafalgar Square, which is truly the heart of London's Christmas observance. And there we stand near the

Ring-in Wishes for a Merry Christmas

The Halifax Seed (P.E.I.) LTD.
Charlottetown

Greetings to our friends
ARNFAST PROPANE

139 Gt. George St. Dial 4-3500

Joy to You at Christmas

Time for Santa to fill the stockings. Time, too, for us to wish you a Christmas overflowing with joy and happiness.

LARTER BROS.
Concrete Contractors
Kensington Road

GREETINGS!
... Santa and

HUGHES DRUG
greet you... for the 153rd Year!

Another year is about to close. Again, this year of 1962, we wish to greet our friends, our customers, and our business associates with best wishes for this happy holiday season.

We realize, with gratitude, on this, our 153rd Christmas, to send greetings along to you, that our 153 years of business on Prince Edward Island is the result of your patronage and loyalty.

So, with grateful hearts, and with appreciation for all we have received during the past years, we extend to one and all our best wishes for

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HUGHES DRUG CO. LTD.
Charlottetown

O, HOLY NIGHT
We hark back in reverence to a night of wonder and holy joy, nearly two thousand years ago, may the spiritual blessings of that first Christmas be with us all.

SEMPLER'S PHARMACY
Queen Street Charlottetown

Woman Kills Timber Wolf

RIVER VALLEY, Ont. (CP) Mrs. Isidore Carre grabbed an axe and killed a timber wolf that attacked her husband on his farm here.

Mr. Carre, who was released from hospital after treatment said he was in the stable when

his two dogs started barking and ran in. When the frightened dogs refused to leave the stable he went out to investigate and found a fox.

"Just as I had stepped out the door I saw this big black figure leap at me," he said. "It must have jumped 10 feet to grab me by the throat. I was thrown to the ground and we rolled over until we were at the stable entry. I was yelling and my son-in-law ran to my rescue."

Mr. Carre and his son-in-law,

Fernand Legault, managed to force the wolf's jaw open. Just then Mrs. Carre arrived with an axe and chopped the animal down.

The wolf's fangs penetrated two inches in Mr. Carre's throat. He was treated at a hospital in Sturgeon Falls, about 20 miles southeast of here.

HUNTING EAGLES
Russia's sportsmen train black eagles to hunt foxes, antelopes and wolves.



Glorious Yule Greetings to our friends
CHRISTMAS CHEER TO ALL
OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

STEWART MOTORS LIMITED
Charlottetown

MILTON'S OLD SPAIN
Charlottetown

Management and Staff

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring....

ATLANTIC ROOFING & INSULATION
18 Spring Park Road

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... Santa and

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SIMPSONS-SEARS