

URSULA BLOOM

In our part of the world they ride at Christmas. We never used to believe a lot of rot, but visitors thought the world of it. The story made my

Many's the time I've turned him out of my inn because he couldn't even stand up. He was a bully and a coward, and local folks hated him, but somehow or other he always had a way with the visitors.

It began some years ago at a time when Dick's wits were getting a bit thin, and he went to the vicar's summer rummage sale. There he bought himself a whole lot of rubbish, fancy dress hats, but somehow or other he was rid of it reck on and no good to man nor beast. Some said there was a highwayman's rige in it, but nobody knew of course.

Away from then on the story started going. The sounds that James Hart had been seen again. Riding his horse across the dark moors which stretch over his parts, with a black handkerchief tied across his face, and a pistol in his hand. It happened at Christmas time.

little inn fill up with folks, and they'd chat over the drinks, and talk of highwaymen, and of James Hart who swung from the gibbet there used to be on the top of Galloway Hill. You didn't see it today when you look across to the hill from any porch. That all happened at the time when the Cavaliers were naughty but had James, and the Roundheads were trying to make England a good and proper place and not having so much success.

James Hart had been a cavalier, he loved the women, so the story goes. He defended the dam, and in distress at the side from her mother. They did say that one Christmas might he gave a girl back a diamond necklace with a king's ransom and all for a kiss from her rube-red lips. Oh, well, you never know, do you? They did things in those days. Anyway at Christmas the stories get around.

James Hart had been a cavalier, he loved the women, so the story goes. He defended the dam, and in distress at the side from her mother. They did say that one Christmas might he gave a girl back a diamond necklace with a king's ransom and all for a kiss from her rube-red lips. Oh, well, you never know, do you? They did things in those days. Anyway at Christmas the stories get around.

Well, the story increased and it didn't believe it but anyway it brought visitors to my inn. It did me proud. Then funny stories began.

That was the night when the little car was held up. It was no fairy tale, mark you, it really happened, and two young men and we used to have our tongues in our cheeks about it, but we never said nothing. You'll know why.

Dick Brown fostered the story too. Dick Brown was never much of a good. Every village has one of that kind; he poached; he fished; he lived by his wits, and pretty nimble ones they were. He liked women and he liked wine.

There was a row about it of course, and old Ben the police sergeant winked the other eye. He wasn't good at chawatching, he said. It got the village into the papers, well, you know what they are! A nice bit they had with a picture of James Hart riding across our very moor, and a grand story to go with him. That did us a bit of good!

On the whole we were pleased about it. People came ghost searching. Some lost their be-

lieved that a good one, and he had a gun. She didn't laugh when he swung off the horse, and she could feel the cold circle of that can against her breast. Steel is very cold, she said me, and that gave her a downright nasty feeling. He whipped off her pearls and he gripped her wrist with fingers that brought her back. She drove on across the moor with the bells ringing for Christmas, and the dark trees looking much like Gibbets, and as she drove, she saw the highwayman approaching and stopped for him. She bowed, and she laughed. He rode a piebald horse, she told



Illustration of a woman in a long dress and hat, possibly a highwayman's victim or a character in the story.



Illustration of a horse and rider, likely James Hart.

longings, others didn't. James Hart whoever he was — and we had a damned good idea who he was — was making a nice bit out of it. The Christmas Eve when the girl came to the inn. An actress she was, doing it for a sensation. I thought, a girl with golden hair and blue eyes, and a pearl necklace at her throat and diamonds in her ears. Pretty as a picture she was.

"I've got a little car outside," she said, "and I'm going right out to meet you, James Hart. I'm not scared of ghosts, I don't believe in such things, and I laugh. You'll see all about it in the paper later on."

We thought that was far enough. After Christmas the dead season and they're long being for stuff. She waved as she went out of the bar, and her blue eyes gave me a thrill.

She told us later what happened for she came back. He hurt her back. She drove on across the moor with the bells ringing for Christmas, and the dark trees looking much like Gibbets, and as she drove, she saw the highwayman approaching and stopped for him. She bowed, and she laughed. He rode a piebald horse, she told

QUESTIONS ON CHRISTMAS



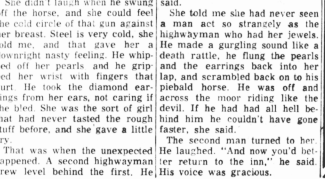
1. The Swedes know nothing on New Year. They have thought of the Christmas celebration as "Jul" (Jul is a name for the month of July). Is it a name for the month of July? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Neither (d) Both



2. We ought to know the names of the Three Wise Men who were the first guests of Christmas gifts. They were Melchior, Balthazar and (a) Samuel (b) Casper (c) Simeon? (d) Joseph



3. Everyone likes to get lots of Christmas cards. When did the custom of sending them begin? (a) About 1845 (b) About 1781 (c) About 1905 (d) About 1800



4. Who first had the idea of building a small replica of a manger for the Christmas eve? (a) Pope Gregory (b) Parn Pivonin (c) St. Francis of Assisi (d) Martin Luther?

5. "Silent Night, Holy Night" was the first hymn of Christmas hymns, was written by (a) Beethoven (b) Father Joseph Mohr (c) Martin Luther? (d) Martin Luther?

6. The second man turned to her. He laughed. "And now you'd better return to the inn," he said. His voice was gracious.

She came to the car, and she looked closely at her. "I owe you a debt," she stammered. "It can be paid with a kiss," he told her. "I'll pay," she laughed. It was the kiss she would never forget. The gentlemen with which he drew her into his arms, and the way he laid his mouth against the bar! Men looked at her with yellow faces. After a bit I spoke. "That second one was James Hart himself," I told her. "That was the ghost." She turned sheet white. Some one put her a brandy and when she could speak again, she said that. "His mouth was cold." Just like that. These days Dick doesn't do highwaymaning. I reckon he's learnt his lesson.

LePages

GIFT SUGGESTIONS — CHRISTMAS 1957

DAD		MOTHER	
Hartt Shoes at	\$22.95	Naturalizers, still only	\$12.95
Mac and L Shoes from	\$12.95	Medcalf Strollers	\$10.95
Slippers from	\$2.95 - \$6.95	Slippers from	\$1.75 to \$5.95
Travel Polish Kit at	\$2.98	Nylon or Rubber Overshoes from	\$5.50
Shoe Trees at	\$2.50	Shower Tags at	\$1.98
Overshoes from	\$5.50		
BIG BROTHER		BIG SISTER	
Jet Boots at	\$12.95	Sweater Girl Pumps or Flaties	\$7.95
Hockey Outfits at	\$9.95	Foamrred Ballerina Slippers	\$3.95
Side Tie Oxfords from	\$6.95 - 9.95	Hussy White Buck Oxfords	\$9.75
Complete Polishing Kit	\$6.95	TV Foamlets	\$1.98
(Woven Stand with Black & Brown Brushes)		Snow Boots at	\$6.95 and \$9.95
DENNIS		LITTLE IODINE	
Cowboy Boots at	\$5.50	Savage Patent Straps	\$4.75 - \$4.95
Hi Cut Laced Boots at	\$5.50	Fancy Slippers	\$1.50 - \$2.95
Savage Oxfords at	\$4.95	Figure Skates	\$9.95
		Warm Overshoes	\$4.95

LePage Shoe Co. Ltd. Dial 4748

"The Home Of Good Shoes Since 1920"

Ask About GIFT CERTIFICATES and LAY-AWAY PLAN at

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS at CANADIAN TIRE!

For the MAIN MALE on your list

SLIDE SHUT-OFF

Super Deluxe HOSELLIE WASH BRUSH

REDUCED

HANDSOMELY GIFT WRAPPED

1.98

All-Brass Fittings — Soft, Flexible
Plastic Head — Fine Horsehair and Nylon Blend Bristles

IT'S NEW—IT'S LOWER-PRICED... AT CANADIAN TIRE. For the man on your mind—Canadian Tire suggests this new and finest Auto Wash Brush—It's the slide in the line. It's simple, sturdy, slick, up or down, controls the new Slide-Shut-Off. Conveniently located in the handle, this improved Water Control Valve gives full or partial water-flow—or complete shut-off, with easy, one-hand operation. Metal parts are solid brass. Lifetime construction. Pressure fixed. The blended 80% Horsehair and 20% Nylon bristles give thorough, gentle cleaning; powerful multi-jet streams loosen dirt and float it away. The super-soft, flexible plastic Brush Head gives complete access to every part of the car. Equipped with outstanding corrugated rubber-like hand grip and fitted with standard 1/4" hose coupling of solid brass. Choose the Mastercraft Supreme Car Wash Brush—gaily gift wrapped. Priced for special savings—at Canadian Tire **5.98**

HERE'S THE ANSWER TO "WISHFUL THINKING"

12-PIECE SOCKET WRENCH SET Includes both a complete 1/2" drive and 1/4" drive outfit with popular size sockets and tools. 5.25	"JET OR MIC" EXHAUST GUARD—A sturdy and practical aid. Prevents bumper splash. Universal fit. 1.58	TWIN AUTO FLOOR MATS—Designed in high-style and protect car interiors. Black-set. 2.98	ELECTRIC ENGINE HEATER—Keeps motor warm, and ignition system maintenance-free for starting ease. 110-volt. 3.99
HAND SPOTLAMP—Plugs into car light. 8 m o e h. call grain. 120-volt. 100-watt. 1.500 feet. 3.98	FLAME TIPS—Clean on the parking glass. 100-watt. 120-volt. 1.500 feet. 98¢	SPOT LAMPS—Simply plug into car's light socket for 100-watt beam of light. With cord. 4.98	BACK-UP LIGHT—Large diffusing type lens sends a flood of light behind the car. Universal mount. 3.79
TRUNK LIGHT—Illuminates spare tire, luggage, etc. 120-volt. 1.500 feet. 1.25	SEAL BEAM—Keeps windshield wipers from leaking. 120-volt. 1.500 feet. 1.75	CHROMED BATTERY CHARGER—Keeps battery fully charged—stops cold weather starting troubles. 10-watt. 17.95	SPARE KEY KEPPER—Regulated plastic box holds spare key safely. 120-volt. .84

Motor robes, from	2.35	Cigarette lighter	1.85
Car Cushions, from	.89	Socket sets, from	1.95
Steering wheel covers	.36 up	Snap on whitewalls	5.40
Overnight engine heaters	1.98 up	Hockey game	7.95
Strap on tire chains, each	1.00	Kiddle car	4.69
Auto snow shovels	1.69	Roller skates	1.98
Car mirrors, from	1.49	Hockey sticks, from	.69

Toboggans, 3 ft. to 6 ft. **3.69 to 9.69**

Bicycles **39.95**

Save Safely

CANADIAN TIRE CORPN

ASSOCIATE STORE

Stewart & MacRae Ltd.

Charlottetown