The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W.J. Hancox, Publisher

Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Festival Of Good Will

Critics tell us that the essential spirit of Christmas is in danger of dying out altogether. What should be a time for simple joys, they say, has been turned into a mania of buying and selling, with all the distractions which accompany the process. And indeed there is a growing tendency to pervert the sacred symbols to utilitarian uses, to submerge the Christ Child under the sentimentality of Santa Claus. It is a disturbing symptom of our commercialized age; but we do not believe it is as bad as it appears on the surface.

Under all the glitter, the tinsel and the show, there is still alive and urgent the spiritual quality which sets Christmas apart from all the days of the calendar. Somehow the meaning, the promise and the hopes are not forgotten. The kindness and goodness of the human heart, too often latent and unused, fills up and overflows at this blessed season. Neglected friends are remembered, and thoughtless discourtesies remedied. We are warmed at discovering within us a personal thought and prayer for the poor, the sick, the unfortunate.

Nor is the pageantry of Christmas an outward show merely, providing nothing more than an interval of unreality in an otherwise realistic world. To countless thousands it brings the message of Christianity into mental and emotional relationship with their lives. It is but a human attempt to redramatize the song of the angels, telling of the heavenly gift of peace on earth and good-will toward men.

There is always a danger that the outward trappings will be confused with the inner truth, and become a substitute for it rather than an aid in understanding its meaning. But the abiding joy and glory of Christmas is that for most of us, at some hour or moment of the day, the trappings fall away and we discover that our hearts and souls can respond to the old, old story. It is then that we are seized with the fact that the most obvious truth of the universe is the one we sometimes mistake for a cliche: It IS more blessed to give than to receive.

Here in Canada, in this abundantly favored land, let us pause to thank God that we are so happily placed at this Christmastide. And let us also reverently unite our prayers with the millions of devout souls the earth around—that the peace of which the angels sang will come again, through the Prince of Peace whose birth we celebrate so joyously.

Bonusing Sugar Daddies

A New Democratic Party member, Mr. Robert Prittle, Burnaby-Richmond, has come up with the intriguing proposal that contributions to political parties be allowed as deductions for taxable incomes. He suggested in the Commons the other day that contributions should be deductible up to a maximum of perhaps $200 or $300 each.

Mr. Prittle argues that people who help finance political parties are contributing to the democratic process. That, of course, is true enough; but does it constitute a reason for subsidizing them in the manner suggested? We all contribute to the democratic process by paying our taxes; and those who can't afford, or who do not see fit, to contribute to party funds would have to pay more taxes to make up the bonuses the NDP member would like to provide for those who do. It is hard to see anything democratic in this idea.

Undoubtedly it would be a help to parties which find themselves lacking in campaign funds, if they could have backers' contributions placed in the same category as charitable subscriptions and church donations. We have heard of "sugar daddies" who contribute to more than one party during an election campaign—to be on the safe side —and they too would probably welcome this proposal with open arms. But surely it is up to the parties themselves to provide, through their platforms and the calibre of their candidates, the kind of appeal that will elicit popular support.

If they are not able to do this, all the tax-free backing in the world would be money down the drain.

Plugs Legal Loopholes

Of importance to all the provinces is the recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada, upholding the Ontario Unconscionable Transactions Relief Act which provides safeguards against unscrupulous money lenders. The Ontario act, which has been in existence for half a century, has now been confirmed in its power to allow courts to grant relief in respect of money lent, where the cost of the loan is held to be excessive and the transaction harsh and "unconscionable". The validity of the act, questioned on the grounds that it invaded the federal preserve of loan interest, has been restored.

We may expect now that similar legislation will be introduced in other provinces, to curb the activities of "loan sharks". As the Toronto Globe and Mail warns, however, the Supreme Court ruling should not be taken as an open invitation for the enactment of all kinds of laws that would place legitimate finance companies in straitjackets. There is a limit to the extent in which borrowers can be protected from their own gullibility.

A major step toward protection of the uninformed borrower, it suggests, would be taken by requiring that the lender should disclose fully the total sum that the borrower is required to repay over the given period. Insistence on this point would be one effective method of repelling the sharks.

Kennedy Publications

Even the book-publishing business has felt repercussions from the assassination of President Kennedy. The Winnipeg Free Press notes in this connection that in addition to the two books to his credit the late president had two more bearing his name, in the process of publication at the time of his death.

The first of these, completed just before going to Dallas, is "A Nation of Immigrants". Originally scheduled for publication in November, it has been re-scheduled for February because of some last minute changes and additions that the president wished to make. The second, "The Burden and the Glory", was due to be published next spring. Edited by Allan Nevins, it is a collection of Kennedy addresses.

But besides books by the president, a number of books about him have also been affected by the tragedy. Victor Lasky's highly critical "J.F.K.: The Man and the Myth" has had promotion suspended and bookstores in the U.S. no longer display it. In contrast, the favorably disposed "John F. Kennedy, President", by Hugh Sidey, will have a second version which will include the events of the past summer and fall.

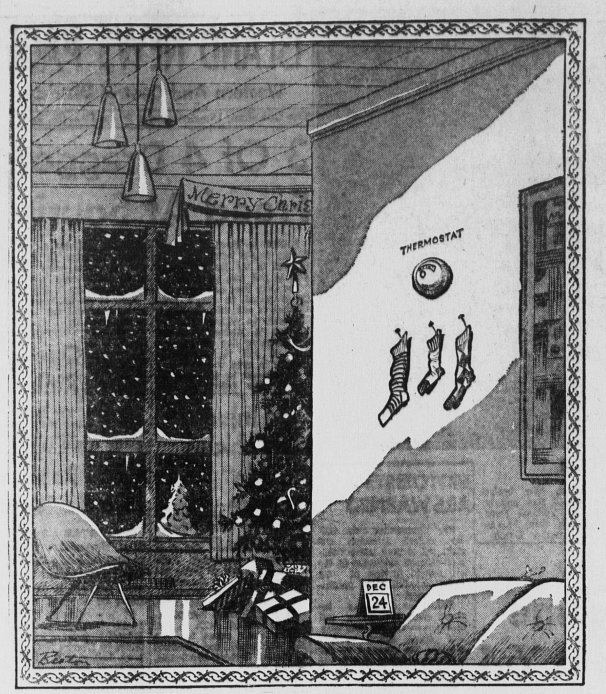
A final book to be affected by the assassination is "The First Four Kennedy Years" by William V. Shannon. This was to have come out at the time of next year's campaign. Whether it will or not is now very much in doubt.

EDITORIAL NOTES

At least, we won't have to worry now about not having a White Christmas.

* * *

If Santa can breach the Berlin wall there is no reason why he cannot, with a little cooperation, be able to get down every chimney in this province this Christmas eve.



By Allan Beaton in The Telegram, Toronto

NO WORDS NEEDED

SPILLING THEIR SECRETS

How Scientists Study The Ocean Waves

To an expert wave- watcher, the roll of surf can reveal a storm boiling 5,000 miles away.

Oceanographers have measured waves in England which came from the southern tip of South America. Antarctic storms can trigger swells reaching as far away as Alaska and Hawaii, the National Geographic Society says.

The United States and New Zealand recently launched a global wave study with the cooperation of scientists at New Zealand's Oceanographic Institute of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the University of California's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics. The project should provide more accurate predictions of heavy seas, so important to fishing and shipping fleets.

WAVES NOT WATER MOVE

Scientists have tried for years to make waves spill their secrets. Leonardo da Vinci, an ardent 15th- century wave- watcher, noted that water behaves much like a waving wheat field. Water moves up and down, but, like the wheat, remains in place.

In World War II, a group of scientists known as the Swell Forecasting Section played a vital part in predicting the action of seas off Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

As those who were there remember, the predictions left something to be desired. The sea was catastrophically rough.

Giant sea waves always have been man's enemy. Seventy-foot hurricane waves reportedly destroyed 20,000 boats and drowned 300,000 people in the Bay of Bengal in 1737.

The biggest sea waves aren't even seen. Unexpected 300- foot giants have thrown submarines out of the water. Submarine waves beneath the surface occur when currents of different temperatures or salinity clash.

Seismic waves or tsunamis—Japanese for "harbor waves"—are most feared because they travel almost unnoticed at speeds up to 500 m.p.h. across the ocean, then build up to great heights as they approach shore. Though they are called "tidal waves," the tsunamis are caused by submarine earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. An Alaskan earthquake in 1958 triggered seismic waves that climbed 1,600 feet up a heavily wooded mountainside and scoured trees, earth, and everything else down to the bedrock.

DAMPING SEA WAVES

Ever since early seafarers "poured oil on the troubled waters," men have tried to still the seas.

In the 1st century A.D., Pliny the Elder reported that divers released olive oil from their mouth to try to calm the waters. The Spanish rigged paddle wheels in parallel channels out from the shore. British officials have experimented with perforated pipes, laid across a harbor mouth, which shoot up air bubbles.

Recently, but with little more success, a Frenchman devised a long, open box called a hydraulic resonator. The inventor claimed it calms the sea by pitting wave against wave to neutralize the motion.

United States Rubber Company scientists are pinning hopes on a floating box with hanging plastic and fabric curtains which will calm the ocean much as seaweed does. Hopefully the wave traps can serve as portable breakwaters to protect harbors, prevent beach erosion, and aid in sea rescue operations.

Greece's Mount Athos

National Geographic News Bulletin

Women have been trying to sneak onto Greece's Mount Athos for a thousand years. Monks of the all-male holy realm now have a worse headache: too many tourists and too few novices.

Soon after the first of 20 major monasteries was founded there in A.D. 963, women, children, and eunuchs were barred from the narrow, hilly peninsula jutting some 35 miles from Macedonia into the Aegean. The ban applied to female animals. Not even the lowing of milk cows was to be heard again over the meadows, the soaring cliffs, and fragrant forests dominated by the glistening gray granite cone of the holy mountain itself.

Visitors have mostly been pilgrims or specialists interested in Athonite treasuries of Byzantine religious art. The monks have provided food, wine, and shelter for a traveler as long as he cared to stay.

INVASION BY HIKERS

In recent years, the hospitality has been abused. Hikers on budget holidays from Western Europe have been swarming onto the peninsula, a wildly beautiful paradise without Eve, for they like the views and the price is right. Too often, visitors of the new breed regard the monasteries as free hotels and intrude upon the monks' spiritual activities.

And the calques from Salonika are bringing fewer young novices each year. The population of the peninsula of Mount Athos, a self- governing little theocracy under Greek suzerainty, has dropped from a high of 20,000 in the Middle Ages to 5,000 at the turn of the 20th century and less than 3,000 today.

Few of this century's youths seem attracted to a place where time serves only to count the intervals between prayers. Mount Athos remains in 1963, its 1,000th birthday, a medieval world where most residents give their lives to worship and contemplation.

National Geographic Senior Assistant Editor Franc Shor wrote, after visiting the roadless, careless peninsula with a Greek archeologist: "When we returned to Salonika from that silent and peaceful world, the hustle and noise of the modern city struck me like a bucket of freezing water hurled on a man emerging from a pleasant dream."

Not so pleasant is the financial plight of many of these monasteries of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Once they were showered with gifts from emperors and kings. The cloisters accumulated what is probably the world's foremost collection of Byzantine icons, murals, manuscripts, and bejeweled objects such as censers and chalices.

LANDHOLDINGS LOST

Many art works have been stolen, illuminations even cut from priceless manuscripts. Wars and political upsets have stripped the monasteries of their vast landholdings in eastern Europe. The monks now get most of their income from sales of timberwood, wine, olives, and nuts.

Women have not really been much of a trial. In 1962, an Englishwoman was arrested and held briefly for trespassing by mistake. Romania's Queen Marie tried numerous times, without success, to pay a call. The daughter of a British diplomat evaded the ban in the dress of a midshipman. A French woman author, disguised as a sailor, roamed about for two weeks before her succes de scandale was exposed.

Though there is no place in Athos' sun for female animals, theoretically, not much can be done about the domestic felicity of birds, bees, mice, and the like. A recent visitor saw chickens. Occasionally, a presumably male cat grows and commits the unecclesiastical error of producing kittens.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(December 24, 1938)

Fire completely destroyed a barn and part of the stock of Percy Coffin in Kingsboro at noon Tuesday. Mr. Coffin was able to save the horses and three cows. Four cows, three calves and a dozen hogs, ready for shipment, perished in the fire.

The Gyro Club held its annual Christmas dinner at the Canadian National Hotel last evening. J. Austin Trainor was soloist, and a program of new songs was rendered.

TEN YEARS AGO
(December 24, 1953)

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Creamer and Reginald Creamer of Souris had a narrow escape from serious injury yesterday when their car skidded on a slippery pavement and overturned near Canavoy. Although the car was badly damaged none of the occupants suffered more than cuts and bruises.

Approximately eight hundred people visited the Charlottetown National Employment office on Tuesday and Wednesday. After the close of regular working hours members of the Insurance Branch of the office remained at their desks to write and forward cheques to rural claimants in order that the recipients receive them before Christmas. All told the office will have paid twenty thousand dollars well before the weekend.

SAME PROPORTION

The Canadian census of 1911 and 1961 each reported 54 per cent of Canadians 14 years and over were participants in the work force.

The Poets Corner

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

O'er all the world, in one glad voice,
Those Christmas tidings ring,
Making the sick and sad rejoice,
Telling of Christ, the King.

Its Message reaches to the stars
And passes o'er the waves;
It penetrates cold prison bars,
Dense forests and deep caves.

In every land where Christ is known
Its triumph swells in one glad tone.

—F.H. MacARTHUR

Charlottetown.

Hands Across The Wall

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Christmas arrangements in Berlin have raised soaring hopes for bigger things to come.

In the current atmosphere of East-West accord, the Communist hands-across-the-wall gesture has led to speculation that even envisages the beginning of the end of the German problem.

The speculation follows President Johnson's call for an end to the cold war. It also follows newspaper stries stating that the late President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev were closer to broad agreement on some basic issues, including possibly Germany, than ordinary folk dared hope.

Lord Beaverbrook's London Evening Standard carries an analysis of the development in which West Bertiners are being allowed into East Berlin for the first time since August, 1961. It predicts spectacular developments may follow and concludes:

"Generally speaking, the target is a confederation of East and West Germany with Berlin as a free city under United Nations control."

CONTRAST VIVID

This is certainly a vivid contrast with the grim andseemingly hopeless days of the Berlin blockade in 1949 and even with the tense period five years ago when Khrushchev delivered his notorious Berlin ultimatum.

Under the ultimatum, the Western allies were to quit West Berlin, which was to become a de-militarized and neutral free city—a procedure that in the Western view would have meant abandoning the city, embedded deep in Communist territory.

Khrushchev has not mentioned the so-called ultimatum for a long time, nor has he renewed lately his threat to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany.

The Berlin wall, which seemed so incredible when construction began in 1961, becomes ever more grotesque in the current period of relaxation when not only the Soviet Union but its other satellite countries appear drawing closer to the West, holding trade negotiations and admitting visitors.

The East Berlin regime learned with chagrin that its citizens were travelling to Communist Poland to rendezvous and hold reunions with West Berlin relatives and friends.

On the other side, there is evidence that the Bonn government under Chancellor Ludwig Erhard is quietly taking a significantly different attitude towards East Germany from that maintained for 15 years by the former chancellor, Konrad Adenauer.

Bonn recently has been willing to hold official political talks with East German authorities, going beyond Adenauer's limit of purely technical discussions. Some observers believe this will open the way to new negotiations at the highest level. They hope for developments after Erhard visits Johnson in the new year.

OPPOSES FLYING

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa has proposed a Sunday ban on flying. Rev. Daniel de Beer argues that the principle of Sunday sanctification should apply equally to all modes of public transportation.

Inadequate Circulation

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Poor arterial circulation in the elderly is a handicap, but not a hopeless situation. Many good remedies are available, including surgical procedures, that will improve circulation. The most recent progress centers about techniques in which the obstructing segment in the artery is by-passed with a plastic graft.

The majority of persons with impaired blood flow to the extremities will find there is no substitute for common sense care of the parts. Hardening of the arteries is a slow process and any injury or infection encountered will aggravate these bloodless tissues.

Cleanliness, for example is a must. The feet should be washed every day with a bland or medicated soap and tepid water. After drying the skin thoroughly, rub with alcohol and massage with cocoa butter, lanolin, or another oily salve or ointment. These procedures are more important than they sound. Clean feet are less likely to become infected and soft skin seldom cracks.

The nails also require careful handling. They should be cut straight across by someone with a steady hand. Many infected and gangrenous toes originated from a small nick brought on by an oldster with poor eyesight and shaky hands. The complications started when the scissors slipped.

Corns and calluses deserve attention, as these lesions need to be trimmed by an expert. A better policy is to wear properly fitted shoes to ward off their formation. For men, a good pair of wool socks is a worthwhile investment as they keep the feet warm and discourage blisters.

Don't apply strong antiseptics, especially those used to combat such conditions as ringworm infection. Also avoid hot water, diathermy, infra-red treatments. The circulation is too impaired to handle the increased metabolism that heat produces in the tissues, and the skin burns easily. Too much cold is just as damaging, more so when the feet are wet. Another precaution is to try to protect the feet against injury, particularly when standing in a crowded bus or elevator. And don't drop a heavy object on the toes.

CURLED TOES

Mrs. K. writes: What would cause a small child's toes to curl under? She always has worn properly fitted shoes.

REPLY

Yes but a rise in temperature never is blamed on nervousness unless organic causes are ruled out first.

Rankling emotions cry for self- expression.

BLOCKED SINUSES

C. B. writes: Can sinus disease be present without a discharge?

REPLY

Yes. When the sinuses are blocked, the secretions cannot move.

The Joy of Giving

"We hear that man is a selfish creature," says an experienced fund-raiser, "but he has a *dual* nature." Find out in January Reader's Digest why *not* giving to worthy causes denies one of your basic human needs. Read how by giving $1 you may actually cause as much as $800 to be saved! Get your copy of Reader's Digest—41 articles of lasting interest.

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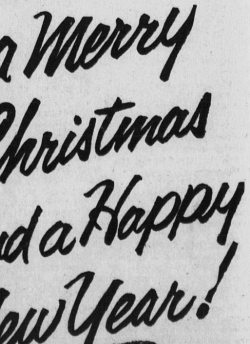
Wishing one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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