

Merry Christmas

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TOTEM TIMES

Give The Ultimate In Christmas Gifts . . . American Dollars

VOL. 19 - NO. 24.

CFB COMOX TOTEM TIMES

THURSDAY, DEC. 15, 1977

The Nice People



Base photo

Terrie Hooper

Miss Wallace Gardens - 1978

It's front and centre this week for our Nice Person...the pert and pretty Miss Terrie Hooper who has just been selected Wallace Gardens for 1978.

Seventeen year old Terrie is the daughter of MCpl. George and Marilyn Hooper and resides in the PMQs. She has moved extensively with her parents in her seventeen years having lived in far off places like Saint Sylvestre Quebec, France, Alberta, Holberg, Goose Bay, and finally to the "Land of the Lotus Blossom".

While in Holberg Terrie was very active in Brownies and Guides and also took an avid interest in sports such as floor hockey, bowling and swimming. However it was in Goose Bay that Terrie excelled. There she won a silver medal in skating, advanced to star 4 level in synchronized swimming, and collected several bowling trophies. Not only was Terrie outstanding in athletic events, she also received an engraved plaque signifying that she had also attained the highest academic average in grade eleven.

In July, 1977, the Hoopers were posted to CFB Comox. Terrie is now completing grade twelve at Vanier High and although she has relaxed this year in school activities she still participates in student council programs.

In January Terrie will be writing scholarship exams and plans to enter university in the fall of 1978.

To Terrie we wish the best of luck with her immediate goal of becoming the Comox Valley Snow Festival Queen.

There is little doubt that you will succeed Terrie - Nice People always do.

Sobering Thoughts

From The Admiral

As the festive season approaches we are reminded that Christmas and New Years tend to be an intoxicating time of year. The festivities foster an exuberance akin to recklessness, both in drinking and driving - a feeling that nothing can mar such a happy time.

The grim statistics bear this recklessness out - 55 per cent of all fatalities on the road during this holiday period are directly attributable to alcohol. The social drinker, not the drunk is the greatest contributor to the carnage we experience on our highways. Keep in mind alcohol is a depressant not the stimulant you have always thought it to be. Alcohol depresses the nervous system and tends to remove normal inhibitions and social restraints.

My message to you is simple, please stay with us, exercise moderation in your drinking, if you are unsure about your ability to drive take a bus, cab or walk. The forces cannot afford to lose you and your families even less.

Baking a Christmas Cake

Light oven. Get out the utensils and ingredients. Remove blocks and toy cars from the table. Grease pan, crack nuts. Measure 2 cups flour, remove Johnny's hand from flour - wash Johnny. Re-measure flour. Put baking powder, flour and salt in sifter.

Get dustpan and brush up pieces of bowl Johnny knocked on the floor. Get another bowl - answer doorbell. Return to kitchen, remove Johnny's hand from bowl. Wash Johnny, answer the phone.

Return to kitchen, remove salt from greased pan. Answer phone. Return to kitchen and find Johnny. Take up greased pan and find a layer of nuts, shells, etc. in it. Head for Johnny who flies, knocking bowl off table. Wash kitchen floor, table, wall and dishes. Call the baker. Lie down. - Merry Christmas.

Think Of The Others

Christmas, and one automatically thinks of spending the time at home with one's family, frolicking around the Christmas tree, or maypole, if one's calendar is broken. So it is with servicemen. They too like the thought of Christmas at home, and most of them will spend it there.

But not all of them. For a surprising number of them, Christmas is just another working day. The military police, for example, will be at their appointed posts throughout the day. With any luck at all, it will be a quiet day with not too much to do. Despite that, they will still, as always, be prepared for any eventuality.

Down the road a piece, another group of men will be hoping that Christmas day will pass in boring fashion, and that they will not have to be called out. These people are the firefighters, who dislike fires at any time, but most particularly on Christmas day.

Not far from them, the hospital staff will be wondering what their families are doing on this Christmas day. They too will be hoping that accidents and sickness take the day off.

Away across the field, the duty air traffic controllers will lift the lids from their hotpacks and enjoy a Christmas dinner lovingly packed by a messhall staff that will have done its best to bring the elegance of fine dining to all the sections that are open on the holiday.

Alert crews and standby crews will be sitting beside their telephones, willing the day to a conclusion so that they might go home and be with their families. So will the telephone operators who make it possible for all these callout plans to work should they ever be needed.

Driving around the base on Christmas Day, one is apt to get the impression that it is a pretty somnolent place. But it is a misleading impression. Many people will be at work to keep the base functioning so that the rest of us might more fully enjoy the holiday.

To all those who are on call or at work on Christmas Day, a heartfelt thank you, and a very Merry Christmas.

Base Commander's message

At Christmas

The celebration of the birth of Christianity has become over the years a time to concentrate on family life, and I believe that this is most appropriate at this time of year. Most of us make special efforts during this season to become reunited with our kin and of course to show our affection with gifts.

Many families will celebrate this Christmas with greater joy because loved ones have been rescued by and cared for by some of our personnel.

Of all the gifts exchanged within the family perhaps one is frequently overlooked and that is the product of this Base. Collectively the skills and labour of every member of this Base has made a contribution towards ensuring one more year of peace - a most worthy Christmas gift. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and a rewarding New Year.



Col. Burgess

Hill Succeeds James

Change At The Top

A veteran of 32 years of military service and combat in two wars has been named to succeed Gen. Daniel James, Jr., as commander in chief of the North American Air Defense Command.

He is Lt. Gen. James E. Hill, 56, now vice commander in chief of the Strategic Air Command.

Gen. Hill assumed command of NORAD at a change-of-command ceremony Dec. 6 in Colorado Springs, home of the headquarters of the U.S.-Canadian organization.

Gen. Hill has been nominated for promotion to the grade of full general. As the ninth chief of NORAD since its formation 20 years

ago, he will head a force of some 53,000 people spread across North America and at other locations around the world to give Canada and the United States warning of air, space or missile attack.

He also will serve as commander in chief of the Aerospace Defense Command, which is the U.S. member of the two-nation defensive alliance and is headquartered along with NORAD at Colorado Springs.

Gen. Hill was born in Stillwater, Okla., where he was graduated from high school, and later attended both Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

Commissioned in 1943, he became a fighter pilot and a World War II ace, credited with five enemy aircraft shot down while flying 127 combat missions in Europe. In 1950 he again went into combat, this time in Korea where he flew 128 missions as an F-80 pilot, downing one enemy aircraft.

His subsequent assignments have included those in staff positions at Air Force headquarters and with the secretary of defense in the Pentagon, as commander of fighter and pilot training wings, and commander of the Third and Eighth Air Forces.

This will be Gen. Hill's second assignment in NORAD. In 1974 he was named commander in chief of the Alaskan Command, with additional duty as commander of the Alaskan NORAD Region with headquarters at Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage. He has been vice commander in chief of the Strategic Air Command since last July.



Gen. James E. Hill



**NEXT
TOTEM TIMES
DEADLINE
MONDAY,
JANUARY 9
1200 HRS.**

Fight the lung cripplers...
Emphysema, Asthma, Tuberculosis, Chronic Bronchitis, Air Pollution

Section News

good news from around the base

Half-way There

LIMA, PERU - Three destroyers of the Canadian Training Group Pacific reached the mid point of a two-month exercise when they sailed into this South American city on Wednesday.

The ships HMCS Yukon, HMCS Saskatchewan and HMCS Qu'Appelle, which left their Esquimalt home port last October 11, are berthed at nearby Callao where they will remain until Sunday.

The visit, although brief, will give the approximately 650 crew members an opportunity to see this South American country which hasn't been visited by units of the Canadian Forces since 1964.

At a press conference in response to a question about the purposes of the visit, Captain (N), C.M. Thomas, Commander Training Group Pacific, said, "the prime purpose was to provide training for officer cadets, junior officers and junior men under different conditions than they were used to encountering". He added, "he hoped that such a visit also would provide support for the Canadian Embassy in Peru in its relations with this country." "A rare chance to visit some unique areas of this country is also being provided", Captain Thomas said.

He spoke of plans of 18 members of the Canadian Forces who left on leave soon after arrival to fly to Iquitos, about 300 miles inland on the Amazon River. A second leave party of 71 is going to Macchu Picchu and Cusco about the same distance south of here. Macchu Picchu is an old Inca fortress that was uncovered in 1911 after being hidden in the Andes Mountains for more than 400 years. Those making the trips are doing so at their own expense.

The ships are providing a color party and will lay a wreath in honor of Remembrance Day and will entertain about 100 orphans during the visit.

West coast ports visited on the trip south were San Diego, Manzanillo and Panama. From here on the return voyage, they will visit Guayaquil in Ecuador and that country's fascinating Galapagos Islands before steaming to Esquimalt by way of Manzanillo and Mazatlan in Mexico and Long Beach, California.

Crossing-the-line ceremonies, an always colorful part of a sailor's life, saw about half of the ships' companies initiated by "King Neptune" on November 5.

Air Traffic Control News

Last weeks Cudgel Caper, a 409 Sqn. exercise, went over well with few hitches. The next day a group of Air Weapons Controller's (who handle the 409 interceptor training) from McCord visited Comox and managed to visit Ratcon just to see exactly what we have to work with. 409 hosted a get-together at the Golf Club and although we didn't have a great turnout from our section, those hardy souls that made it do appreciate the invitation.

Capt. Curt Brown has checked out in Ratcon (just in time for Xmas) and Ted Norrie is still hard at it. Lt's Pete Holicza and Terry Wallace will be back from the IFR course soon and will be starting their checkouts in the new year. Pte. Jo-Anne Parker should be back from Trenton this week and will be here till late January, when she will start her new job as a Flight Attendant. Our 3 Pte. OJT's are leaving for Course in Borden and hopefully have a better understanding of just what they will eventually be doing.

The Xmas party was a real success and the food was great. Special thanks to the Mess Hall staff for the fine work and to all the bodies that helped organize that function. VR ATC couldn't make it over to play hockey but the section team has had good

workouts playing Headquarters (tie) and 409 Arm (win). Both these games were a challenge and lot's of fun. The only problem is that we haven't had a referee for the last couple of games. Hopefully the Rec staff can get that problem straightened out before the New Year.

Our job in ATC is the safe control of A.C. and we couldn't do that job without the help of many other sections. I would like to thank the guy's (and gals) from Base Telecom for looking after our old Radios and Comm equipment and to the Radar techs who service our ASR, PAR and Tacan. Thanks again, we really appreciate your work.

This year we have decided to give out 'special' Christmas books (not yet published) to certain section members so as we say in ATC - Stand By.

To Fred Kempe - 'Bigfoot, Sasquatch and other Weird Creatures'

To Jim Patterson - "How to keep the Gravel Pit well stocked".

To Art K, Jim P., Pat H. and Brian S. - "How to deplete a well stocked Gravel Pit."

To Brian and Bev Swallow - "Mr. and Mrs. B.S."

To Wolfgang Wolf - "28 per cent plus 72 per cent equals 100 per cent" Where do you fit in?

To Jo-Anne Parker - "It's

what's up front that counts."

To Pete Holicza - "Descriptive phrases and other 4 letter words."

To Jean Gauvin, Serge Roy and Mario Tremblay - "The French Connection."

To Bernie Murphy - "How to become an excellent Supervisor-by Pete Morrow."

To Terry Wallace, Eric Munroe and Woody Filiier - "Hair raising experiences I have known."

To Tom Evers - "Fishing holes in and around Moose Jaw."

To Blake Mulion - "Danger, if you stop smoking your sex drive will drop rapidly."

To Ted Norrie - "I love a parade."

To BComd and BOPs - "Why you didn't receive a Queen's Jubilee Medal" by Lt. Dann.

To Batco (while praying for a new office) - "Our Father who art in heaven, HALLOWELL be thy name."

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.


SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
 TO PMQ'S AND TYEE PARK
 ON DECEMBER 24th
 COURTESY 442 SQN. and
 C.F.B. COMOX

LANGUAGE TRAINING
 The Base Language Training Program is forming another class for Base personnel interested in learning French. The classes commence 9 Jan. 77 and participation is one morning a week for each student. Personnel interested are requested to contact BLTC at 507 or in person during his many sorties around the Base.
 It is free and if you put some effort into it, the course can be interesting and rewarding.
 Get involved mes amis.

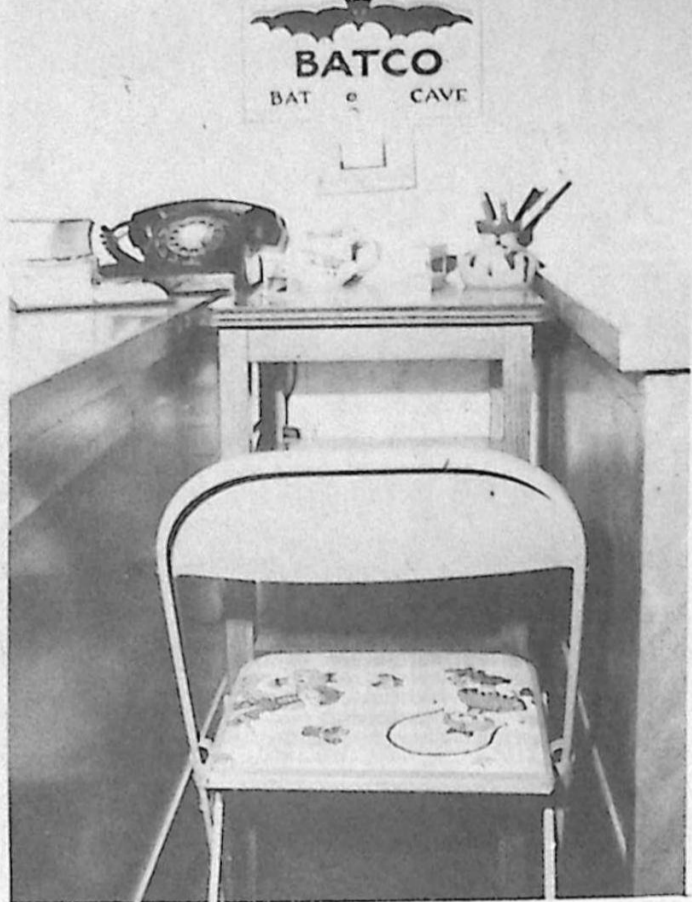
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WHILE THE BATCO was away on his ICP course, his office was either taken away by the BOPs or given away by the CC Ratcon (we're not telling). The only fact that is important is that the boss directed the ATC section to, "Find me some !!!sxx office space!" Faced with a huge separation problem, the brains of the section jumped into action and found a solution. Since the CC Ratcon and the Standards and Training already share a small office, why not "squeeze" in one more. As the photo illustrates the Batco's new office is slightly cramped, but what the hell, it's better than a draughty tent in front of the Tower. The Batco can be contacted at local 209 for the next 8 weeks while the CC Ratcon recovers from a mugging from person's unknown.

Christmas Wishes From Around The Base

L/Col. Konnings, 407 Sqn.
 MESSAGE FROM CO 407 SQN.
 Without doubt, 1977 has been a busy year, a year of activity which would not have been possible without the personal dedication and spirit of each individual squadron member. The year was highlighted by a number of deployments as far away as New Zealand; deployments in which the squadron received accolades for their professional attitude and performance.

The operational capability of the squadron as a whole was demonstrated during a most successful operational readiness inspection, and by Crew 6 and 407 groundcrew who captured the O'Brien ASW Trophy in Summerside. While we did our best, unfortunately we were not successful in achieving our aim of winning the Fincastle in Australia.

Our achievements during this year have been remarkable in view of the considerable number of problems encountered in keeping our aircraft flying. Our success in this regard can only be attributed to the dedication and plain hard work of all personnel. Despite these transient difficulties, I look forward to next year with anticipation.

To all members of 407 Squadron, my family and I wish you a joyous season and a prosperous new year.

L/Col. Herbert, 409 Sqn.

FROM THE BOSS HAWK
 As we draw to the close of another year, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on what, I believe, has been a banner year for 409 Squadron. Commencing in February the Squadron put together an outstanding team effort to produce an exceptionally fine Tac Eval. Shortly thereafter, on CI, the Squadron performance elicited high praise from the evaluators for "one of the best loads ever seen".

Similar comments continued throughout the year as we hosted hundreds of former squadron members at our Colors celebrations, as Hawk One toured Canada and the U.S. with our formation team, and as our load team competed at Tyndal. These accomplishments have not been easy. We have faced shortages of personnel and

equipment and we have undertaken difficult tasks, such as Combat Pike, with minimum support facilities available. Throughout all these activities, and many more, the skill and devotion of the personnel of the Squadron has shone through. I would like at this time to thank and congratulate every member of the Squadron for the dedication and professionalism you have displayed in achieving such enviable results. I know that in the year ahead we will be called upon many times to produce the same high standard of performance, and I am confident that we will meet every challenge as safely and efficiently as we have done in the past.

In closing, on behalf of my wife and myself I would like to wish all squadron members a very joyous Christmas and a full and rewarding New Year.

L/Col. Hollowell, B.Ops.O

On the occasion of my first Christmas at CFB Comox, I welcome the opportunity, through the good offices of the Totem Times, to wish the best of the Season to everyone on the Base, and most specially to those in the Operations Branch. Many of you are required to be on duty during the festive season, but I hope you all have the opportunity for a happy family holiday, and I wish you ever success in the New Year. It has been a pleasure to meet and work with you for the past few months, and I look forward to continued success in 1978.

L/Col. Fielding, B.T.S.O.

Season's Greetings from the Technical Services Branch. The officers, men and women (military and civilian) of Base Armament and

Maintenance Support, Construction Engineering, Supply, Telecommunications and Transportation Sections unite in one voice to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Each is a member of the Technical Services team. A team placed at CFB Comox in support of the military aircraft using this airfield as a sanctuary. At approximately one-third of the Base's strength, the team earns its living by keeping the big "birds" flying. Participation by each individual may not involve direct maintenance on the flying machines, but it is always an important part of the overall picture.

No tail waggin' the dog here at Comox ... no support organization manipulating the operators ... just a first-class group of servicemen, servicewomen and civilians doing their best with the resources available to keep the "Sharp End" sharp.

There are many changes around the corner. The acquisition of new equipment for the air, sea and land elements will present a challenge to every one of us. All our tradesmen and tradeswomen will have to expend much time, energy and time-away-from-home in

preparing themselves to meet the challenge - the mastery of intricate computer circuitry, protection of the environment through application of modern pollution control technology, the coping with the new computerized Supply System, maintenance of up-to-date Radar equipment and (I hope for the new year) fire-fighting equipment - all of us will be well tested. I am sure that each and every one of the Technical Services Branch will meet the challenge.

Again, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maj. Stroud, B.Comp.

This will be the 30th Christmas that I have spent in the uniform of the RCAF and Canadian Forces. If there is a great change that I have observed over those years, it is the tendency to question our existence as a force.

Such questioning by a civilian populace of whom many cannot remember a major conflagration is understandable. For we who are "in" the Canadian Forces, whether short or long tenure, self-confidence and pride should stem from knowing

that we have provided an arm to pull our people from the floods and from icy mountainsides; that we have carried relief to the disaster-ridden around the world and that we have stood and will stand between warring nations.

We joined "to serve"; we have served and are ready, no matter our skill or station, to serve again. This Christmas give yourself and your fellow members the gift of pride and confidence that comes with knowing why we are members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Dedicate yourself to your duty so that we may continue to take pride in our contribution to "Peace on Earth".

Maj. Arnold, VU33

"At this festive season, I should like to extend to all squadron members and to those on the base and in our sister squadrons, especially 407 and 409 maintenance servicing crews, my heartfelt thanks for having made possible the mission accomplishments of my squadron. I also include those members of the refinishing shop who have assisted us in advertising VU 33's presence at Comox.

To you and your families, a festive and happy holiday season."

Col. Demers, 442 Sqn.

The Festive Season is here once again and with it comes the end of another very busy and successful year for 442 Squadron.

While the number of extended searches conducted by the squadron to date this year has decreased, the total number of Rescue missions and hours flown has actually increased. The last three months were undoubtedly the most demanding of our personnel and their families, without whose outstanding effort and understanding the squadron could not have done its job.

Another most significant factor in the success enjoyed by 442 during this past year, which does not go unrecognized by squadron personnel, is the support received from Base, VU 33, VP 407 and 409 Squadron personnel.


As Commanding Officer of 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to congratulate all members of the squadron on their fine performance during 1977 as well as to express my appreciation to all those who have given us their support.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year.

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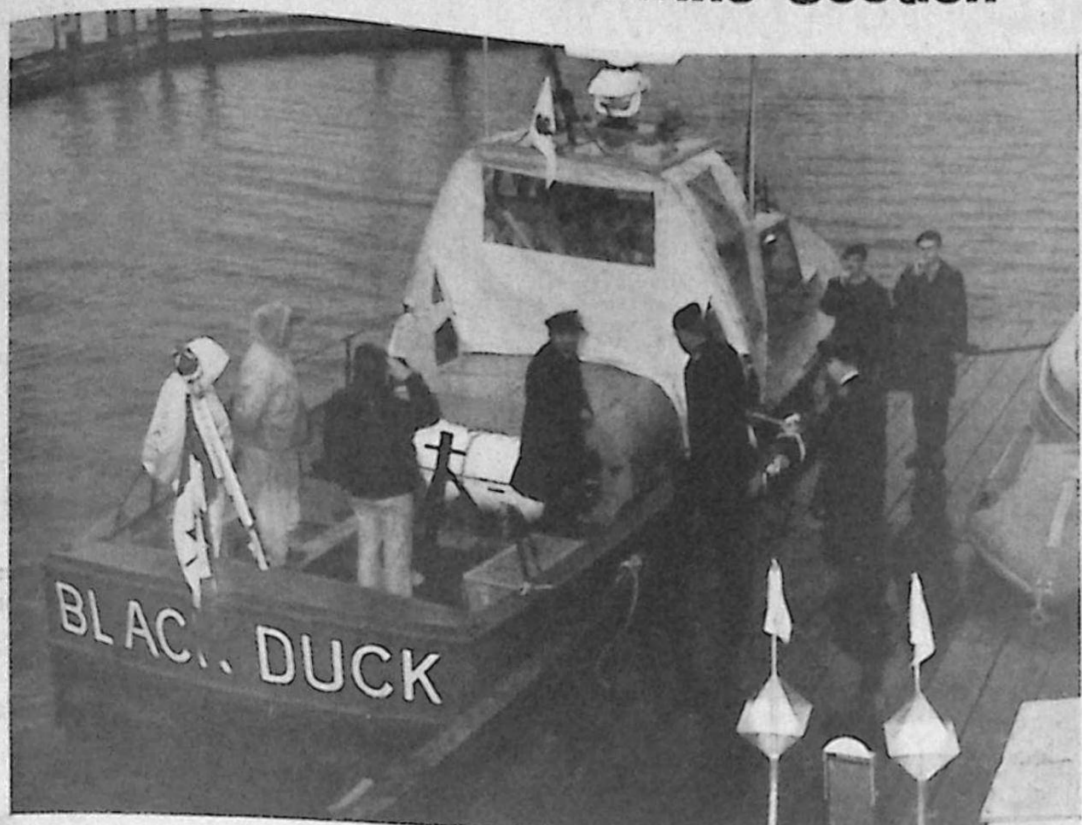
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B.Comd. Visits Marine Section



Being Piped Aboard By Big Jim's Navy

Base photo

Nighthawk's Nest

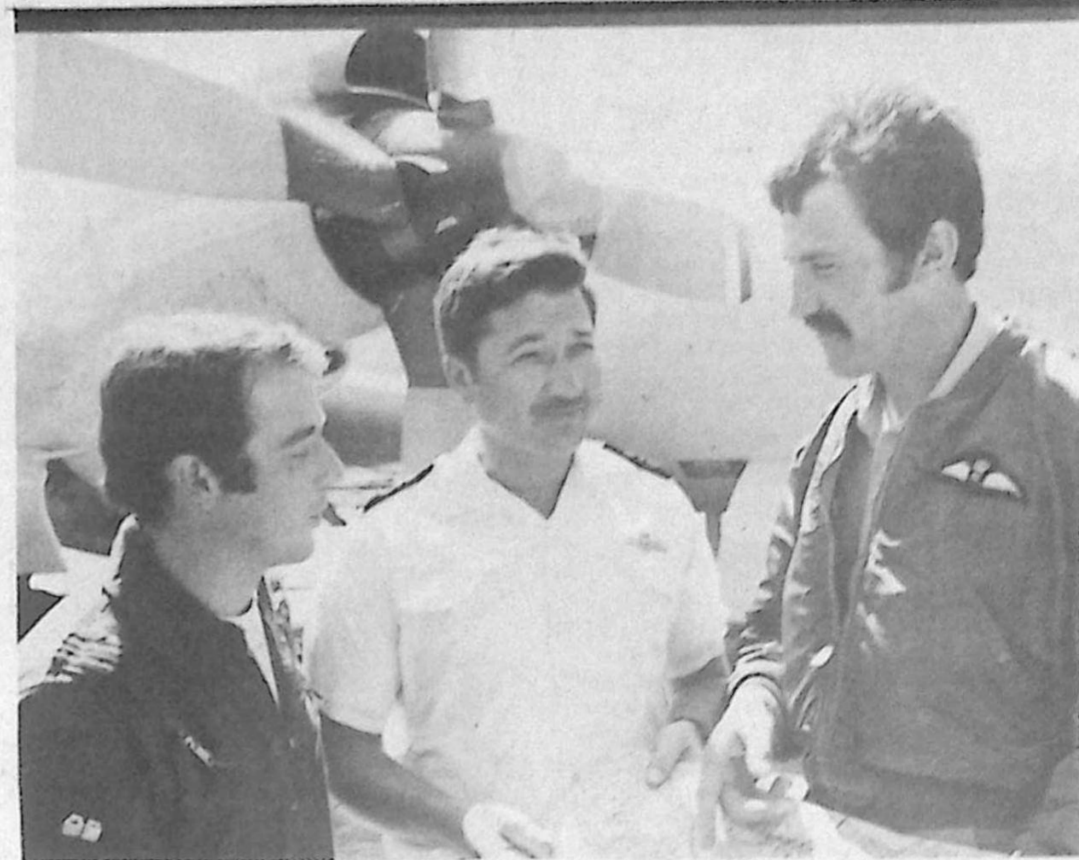
A few A flighters made a longer than expected trek to Holberg by Buff and bus. Two cases of beer and as many hours later, they arrived to find there was only enough time left for the Holberg Mess briefing. George Wissler insists his following two days of misery was the flu. George Kulka figured, it would be safer if he and Sgt. Pipe took the scenic route rather than put their life in the hands of 442.

Four crews were quickly mustered to fly down to Colorado Springs and do a formation flypast for General "Chappy" James' handover retirement parade. Ron Coleman led (?) the gaggle.

Unfortunately, the weather was too poor for the flypast. ("The question mark after 'led' is a question of possibly two things: 1) Whether Capt. Coleman can lead; or 2) Whether the others know how to follow." - Hill AFB Ops. and Comox Dep.)

409 had their first Super Cudgel Caper this year. Aircrew and groundcrew were divided into A and B flights. Aircrew were scored on their usual dot steering and groundcrew were scored on servicing, snags, repair and weapons. And, as usual A flight won, and, quite handily. Following the Caper 409 had their Christmas Stag with food, drinks and flicks laid on at the Sergeant-WO's Mess.

407 Sqn. On "Auckex"



MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT pilots from three nations discuss operations in the maritime exercise Auckex at present taking place off the east coast of the North Island. Orion long-range maritime patrol aircraft from the Royal Australian Air Force and Argus maritime aircraft from the Canadian Armed Forces have joined RNZAF Orions in anti-submarine operations from RNZAF Base Auckland during the two-week exercise which began last Monday. From left they are Flight Lieutenant Phil Green RAAF from Berrin in South Australia, Major Ken Allen CAF from Comox in British Columbia and Flight Lieutenant Bruce Clark RNZAF from Invercargill.

Mushroom Mutterings

On this last issue of "Ye Olde Fishwrapper" before the Yule, on behalf of all the Mushroom Men (and the few women), allow me to wish one and all the very best kind of Christmas and nothing, but good things for the coming New Year.

Saturday is the 442 Annual Christmas get-together and it is hoped that everyone is as friendly with their spouses after the party as (hopefully), they are before it. Tickets are still available at the Canteen for \$6.00 a couple and include cocktails at 1900, dinner with wine at 2000, and dancing to the "Alley Cats" from 2100.

ParaRescue has again been "at" the Buffalos. By the time those guys get through adding gear to the inside of the aircraft, there won't be any room for the crew or spotters. And NO, Chuck! You can't sling anything under the wings!

They also pulled their usual stunt at the Christmas Stag and grabbed up most of the goodies. Next year for sure the entire ParaRescue Section will be handicapped during the Bottle Draws; no matter how many they get drawn from the jar, they can only take home half!! "Tinker" Bell was a disappointment to many at the Stag when she reneged on her promise to get up and dance on the table. Having no music is a pretty lame excuse, Marilyn. Those "Cherrytops" were making enough noise you wouldn't have heard it anyway.

Labrador 304 finally made it back from Williams Lake ... and in one piece, too!! By the time Mel gets all the paperwork straightened around, the helicopter will have been TX'ed and mounted on a pylon somewhere.

During the recent snowfalls, several of our august group suffered driving problems or troubles with their cars. The award for Squadron "Driver Of The Year" must go to Mike Shea for his classic job of parking while trying to negotiate a turn. Luckily for the surrounding territory and his ICBC rates, he came to rest on a flat spot. (It is hoped that he drives the Buffalo better during duff weather!) One thing, Mike; you sure picked an inopportune place to miss the road. Next time I'm going to charge you a parking fee, and I won't help push you out, either. It's bad enough with kids running all over my lawn without you sliding your crummy car across it. (Rule Number One: Don't mess with the Squadron Scribe!!)

Notice to RCC: Under no circumstances will 442 scramble a Buffalo or Labrador for an aircraft search on Christmas Eve if the missing "aircraft" happens to be a single-place, multi-reindeer powered, light transport with one on board. That old guy has flown that route so often he'll have no excuses for getting himself lost!! Besides, MoT says everyone can reinstall their ELTs.

New Career Plan For Non-Coms.

OTTAWA (CFP) - National Defence headquarters' Defence Management Committee has approved the implementation of a new career plan for non-commissioned Canadian Forces personnel effective Apr. 1, 1978.

The terms of service in the new package will govern the careers of all new recruits and members serving on fixed periods of service on 1 Apr. 78. Members on career status on that date will continue to serve on their present terms, but may have the opportunity to convert to the new terms.

The revised career plan has two new features - a mid-career release point, and a retirement age of 55 for all members who are selected and continue to serve beyond that time.

A full career will span three engagements, a Basic Engagement (BE) of three or five years depending on the member's trade; an Intermediate Engagement (IE) to complete twenty years continuous service and reach age 40, whichever occurs later, and finally, a Special Indefinite Period of Service (IPS) ending with a retirement age of 55.

Other terms are:

- Re-engagement to both the IE and the IPS will be subject to selection based on merit.
- A member completing an IE and not selected for IPS may be offered a Continuing Engagement (CE) for a specified number of years to do a specific job.
- A member being released on completion of an IE will receive an unpenalized annuity.

Each year, commencing in 1978, a selected number of serving members will be offered the opportunity to convert to IPS. The basis for selection will include member's proven potential service to age 55, medical status and requirements by trade, rank and age to ensure balanced distribution of age and experience in each trade.

Each member will be considered for selection while in the selection gate. This selection gate will span three consecutive years for all members, with the exception of a few affected by the program starting date of 1978 who may be considered only once or twice depending on their age. Those members so affected will be given weighted advantage in the selection process to compensate for the reduction in the number of years they will be considered. Further details on the selection gate will be issued at a later date.

An opportunity to convert to IE will be available to any member who would still have one year to serve after conversion and for whom the IE would not extend beyond the current engagement. This will apply to those on career status on 1 Apr. 78. After that date members presently on initial engagements will follow the new career plan.

Congratulations to George and Donna Wissler for their new son, Scott Jeffery George. George Sr. mentioned the "George" part wasn't his idea. We also understand young Scott was wearing Tacks when entering.

Terry Day was put in trail of Kent Smerdon enroute to Winnipeg. Kent was to take a Voodoo to Bristol and return by 707. Since the 707 and weather haven't been too reliable, the Squadron decided to send combat ready Terry to retrieve Kent in the old Model-T, Silverstar. As fate would have it, the weather between Winnipeg and Comox was not the greatest. The stalwart warriors decided to call dad (Frank Martin) to ask if they should come home. Frank told them they were big boys. So, they decided to prove 409's motto and weathered Winnipeg's midnight life.

The 25th controllers visited Comox last Thurs. Unfortunately, due to the white rain (it never snows in Comox) not too much was happening and a few controllers missed out on a Voodoo ride. But, back at the golf club no one missed out in the free food and beer.

THANK YOU

The members of the Boeing MRP wish to thank the personnel of 442 Squadron for their hospitality and assistance during our stay at CFB Comox. In particular Capt. Taylor, CWO Salkus and Sgt. Ross. Also special thanks to the management and staff of the WO's and Sgt's Mess.

VETERAN'S LAND ACT OFFICE

Hugh Anderson, Member of Parliament for Comox-Alberni, announced today the Veterans' Land Act Office in Courtenay will be closing shortly with the retirement of its present officer. No further applications are being accepted under the Veterans' Land Act and, in future, any transactions to V.L.A. will be handled either through the Duncan or Vancouver office.

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Editorials

Peace On Earth

Once again it's that time of year! The season to be jolly -- and to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. There is something magical about this time of year, something that provokes a feeling within us that ahead lies a new year of good fortune and a much better life.

We are reminded of that night some one thousand nine hundred and seventy seven years ago when God's gift to us arrived on earth -- into the rude surroundings of a stable, a humble beginning to say the least. But what progress have we really made since that night of the bright star?

The threat of war and conflict has continued to menace us through the decades and a sudden nuclear holocaust could yet be our epitaph. Struggles continue to be a way throughout the world and the beloved holy land itself continues to be embroiled in conflict and turmoil. Could it be that this wondrous place where it all began shall become the spark which will ignite the fire that will in turn destroy us.

Yet all is not lost -- the picture certainly is not totally bleak. These twenty centuries of Christianity have had some positive effect -- I think.

The United Nations, be it as it is, has endured some years of continuity -- has prevented a major global conflict in its time and that is a positive sign. There are even indications today that man in his wisdom realizes his potential for destruction and is becoming more prudent in using the power he has. The super powers actually talk about it!

But we must do more than just sit passively by and do nothing overt that will threaten the orderly arrangement of

the world -- the orderly arrangement that is required for the world as a whole to develop to its true potential. Peace on earth with good will toward men is that time-worn phrase needed so badly today.

However a better way of seeing it might be goodwill toward men than peace on earth, for if indeed we had goodwill toward each other peace would surely come. In that one terse line "Goodwill toward men" lies the key that will help us solve the problem and in effect will bring peace to this wonderful world in which we live.

It is indeed unfortunate that man's competitive nature militates against goodwill toward each other. We realize that we should promote it and yet in the end we fail to live up to what is required.

Only through development of true good will towards men amongst all of us throughout the world can we ever hope to achieve that age old dream of peace on earth. Man has through the centuries stood in the shadow of conflict and has been a threat to destruction of his own kind -- goodwill is so hard to achieve.

With Christmas comes goodwill. For many of us it is but one of the few times we express it. If we can carry on what Christmas brings out in us then there is hope, but that goodwill must last longer than just through the Christmas week.

That Christmas promise of peace on earth, goodwill towards men, is one of the greatest promises ever made. Will you do your part to help it materialize into something tangible -- something that we all can enjoy in a peaceful prosperous world?



Hugh Anderson . . . M.P.

Stu's view

A Second Sacrifice

A few weeks ago members of the Government solemnly assembled at War Memorials, dutifully placed wreaths, and paid homage to those who suffered and fell in defence of Canada.

Their sincerity might well be questioned by some of the very Canadians they were supposed to be honouring -- the disabled veterans.

Coincidentally with Remembrance Day these veterans looked forward to the Government announcing that the basic disability pension would be increased to equate it once again with the five lowest categories in the public service, according to a formula and precedent established in 1973.

The veterans were disappointed. The Minister of Veterans Affairs informed them that in January their pensions would be increased by an inflation factor of 7.2 per cent but no more. He hoped that, "as good Canadians", the disabled veterans would "accept the decision...and not ask for this increase in this time of restraint". "When fiscal conditions become a little better" he said later "the government would look at this again".

A disabled veteran receives less than \$500 per month to live on, less than some healthy citizens receive from UIC or Welfare benefits. It would cost \$30

million to raise their pensions back to the modest level the government established in 1973. Unfortunately for the disabled veteran, the government claims that "additional funds...are just not available at the present time".

This the veterans may well find hard to believe. Since Prime Minister Trudeau came to power in 1968 federal spending has surged from \$9,900 million to over \$45,000 million. This year it will make over \$4,000 million in UIC payouts and another \$1,000 million for unemployment related benefits. It is presently attempting to pass bill C-11 which would give, according to one MP, \$1,200 million in tax breaks to corporations.

Yet with all the money the government has, and all the money it is handing out, there is not enough left over for those who actually sacrificed their own flesh to defend our country.

Stanley Knowles observed that "Canadians generally do not approve of the government taking its economic troubles out on veterans." "Canadians generally do not approve of the government taking its economic troubles out on veterans."

The veterans have already risked their lives for Canada, and now they are being imposed upon to endure further hardship.

Who Needs Religion

Who needs religion? That seems to be a fair question to ask in any time or place. It certainly is a question asked by anyone with the slightest hint of an inquiring mind.

There is an easy answer to it in terms of theological jargon, and it is an answer full of truth and hope, but I suspect that it will really not penetrate to the core of the questing spirit because, for some, its cutting edge has been dulled by the very fact that it was forged in a different age. Truth does not change, but each new generation has a need to rediscover it afresh.

So I look for a fresh package -- a current mode of expression that will help to answer the question -- and I see people more than I see words. It is in living people that any workable ideal will be made real if it is workable at all. Okay, scan the people of the past year, select a few and see what we have.

I see a man crippled and in pain, beset by the slings and arrows of a truly outrageous fortune, and I know he needs a good Samaritan or two. While looking, I see the helping, loving, costing care with which he is treated, and I know I am watching a holy event -- God is there, visible or not.

I see a lonely, troubled, bothered person who is losing hold of the tattered edges of his life and I know that he needs to have his body, soul, mind, and spirit re-welded so that he can be a whole person again. Watching, I see this person talking with another whose approach and manner aid the healing process -- and I know I have witnessed a miracle of recreation.

Why I Want To Be a Pilot

I want to be a pilot when I grow up... because it's a fun job and easy to do. That's why there are so many pilots flying today. Pilot's don't need much school, they just have to learn numbers so they can read instruments. I guess they should be able to read road maps, so they won't get lost. Pilots should be brave so they won't be scared if it's foggy

and they can't see, or if a wing or a motor falls off, they should stay calm so they'll know what to do. Pilots have to have eyes, to see through clouds, and they can't be afraid of lightning or thunder, because they are closer to them than we are.

The salary pilots make is another thing that I like. They

make more money than they can spend. This is because most people think plane flying is dangerous, except pilots don't because they know how easy it is. There isn't much I don't like, except girls like pilots and all the stewardesses want to marry pilots, so they always have to chase them away so they don't bother them.

Parliamentary Report

In 1977 a new immigration act was passed by Parliament, and will be proclaimed early in 1978, and because of the implications to the Constituents of Comox-Alberni, I thought it would be desirable in the column this week to spend some time examining the implications of the Act and how it will affect future immigration to Canada.

The principles regarding admission to Canada remain unchanged, based on non-discriminatory grounds with regard to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, or sex. However, all non-residents must meet basic requirement standards designed to protect public health, safety, order, and national security. Election will still be based on the applicant's ability to become successfully established in Canada. Detailed assessments will be made according to selection standards (the point system), which will continue to be set out in regulations.

Immigrants will be selected under three basic admissible classes as follows:

The family class is similar to the present sponsored class for immediate family members, but will remove the minimum age limit for parents sponsored by Canadian citizens. Family class applicants will not be assessed under the point system but will have to meet the basic standards of good health and character.

Convention refugees will not be selected under the point system, but rather on their general ability to adapt to Canadian life, taking into account the settlement assistance available to them from both Government and non-Government sources. The Act incorporates into Canadian domestic law, the United Nations' definition of a "convention refugee" i.e. any person who, by reason of a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or by reason of such fear is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country or b) not having a country of nationality, is outside the country of his former habitual residence and is unable, or by reason of such fear, is unwilling to return to that country.

Other immigrants corresponding to the present nominated and independent class, will continue to be selected on employment related factors. Persons with relatives willing to assist with their settlement will continue

to receive bonus selective points.

Immigration levels for Canada will be developed in consultation with the Provinces and other appropriate groups to determine regional demographic and labour market needs. It is expected that such consultations will result in the establishment of medium and long term immigration requirements, and that annual levels will be set in light of such forecast. Further, the Act requires the Minister responsible for immigration to make an annual public announcement of the number of immigrants the Federal Government plans to admit during a given period of time. This number will be a global level, not a country by country quota.

There has been a great deal of concern regarding illegal immigration, and to that end, the Act stipulates that application to work or study temporarily in Canada, must be made abroad, and that visitors may not change their status after admission. For example, tourists may not apply from within Canada for authorization to work or study, and a visitor admitted as a student may not become a worker, or vice versa. Visitors who do not leave the country when their period of authorization stay has expired or who work or study without authorization are often exposed to exploitation by unscrupulous employers and others who may be aware of their illegal situation. In order to discourage such abuses and other problems, employers will continue to be required to satisfy themselves that new employees have the right to work in Canada. Since visitors are now given distinctive Social Insurance Numbers, employers will be able to identify them and request evidence of their authority to work. Employers who hire persons not authorized to work in Canada will face stiffer penalties than at present.

There has also been public concern as to who will be refused entry to Canada under the new immigration act. The basic principles remain unchanged. All those who pose a threat to public health, safety, order and national security will be refused admission to Canada. Also, persons who fail to meet selection criteria and other requirements such as having a visible means of support and valid travel documents will not be admitted.

Also excluded will be persons with health impairments that are a threat to public health or safety, or place excessive burdens on our health and social services.

The Act will no longer list specific diseases which could prohibit entry, so persons such as epileptics, who can lead productive lives, will now normally be admissible. Applicants who have violated foreign laws will be assessed according to the seriousness with which their offences would be viewed in Canadian law. Thus, the criteria for assessing criminality will be objective and will no longer involve a list of "undesirables" such as drug traffickers, saboteurs and moral offenders or the application of the imprecise criterion of "moral turpitude".

New provisions have been added to exclude persons who may not have been convicted for criminal offences but who are known to be involved with organized crime, or who, on reasonable grounds, are likely to engage in acts of violence. People seeking permanent residence will continue to be denied that status if they cannot substantiate their ability to successfully establish in Canada on the basis of the selection criteria. In exceptional cases involving humanitarian concern or national interest, the Minister may continue to grant authority to admit individuals who have been designated inadmissible but whose admission is justified on compassionate grounds.

The new Act preserves the independent status and functions of the Immigration Appeal Board, but it introduces some changes in that appeal system and composition of the Board. It also stipulates that claims to Canadian citizenship will be referred to the Minister responsible for citizenship matters instead of the Appeal Board. Those in possession of a valid reason as well as convention refugees and permanent residents will retain the right to appeal a removal order on legal and humanitarian grounds.

Campaign a Success

Dear Sir,
On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, B.C. & Yukon Division, may I take this opportunity through your media to express my heartfelt appreciation to the residents of Greater Victoria and Vancouver Island for their wonderful support of the now completed 1977 "Conquer Cancer Campaign."

Total returns for the Province exceeded \$2,000,000.00 with \$300,000 coming from Island communities. As a result, Cancer Research will benefit by over \$1,300,000 from the B.C. Campaign, supporting many new and ongoing programs within our own Province.

Patient Aid Services & Preventive Educational Programs consumed an additional \$465,000.00, Fund Raising \$81,000.00, whilst Administration costs were held at 5 per cent.

A copy of our audit report

will be available early in January for those persons interested, and will be sent on request.

To all Media, Newspapers, Radio and Television equally, to the hundreds of volunteers who work in, or assist, our Units, and to all Vancouver Island residents... "Thank You" for your mutual concern over a problem that affects us all.

Funding Cancer Research is the major objective of the Canadian Cancer Society, and everyone who contributed to the success of the 1977 Campaign, in any way, may consider their generosity investment in life that will benefit everyone in the years to come.

Best Wishes to all for a pleasant Festive Season.

Yours very truly,
Wilfred W.A. Burton,
Executive Officer,
Vancouver Island Branch.

TOTEM TIMES		
Publication Dates		
CFB COMOX, LAZO, B.C. V0R 2K0		
Phone 339-2211		
Local 289-Editor		
Local 275-Business Manager		
VOLUME 20		
Number	Deadline	Publication
1	9 Jan.	12 Jan
2	23 Jan.	26 Jan
3	6 Feb	9 Feb
4	20 Feb	23 Feb
5	6 Mar	9 Mar.
6	20 Mar	23 Mar.
7	3 Apr.	6 Apr.
8	17 Apr.	20 Apr.
9	1 May	4 May
10	15 May	18 May
11	29 May	1 Jun
12	12 Jun	15 Jun
13	26 Jun	29 Jun
14	17 Jul	20 Jul
15	7 Aug.	10 Aug.
16	28 Aug.	31 Aug.
17	11 Sept.	14 Sep
18	25 Sept.	28 Sep.
19	9 Oct.	12 Oct.
20	23 Oct.	26 Oct.
21	6 Nov.	9 Nov.
22	20 Nov.	23 Nov.
23	4 Dec.	7 Dec.
24	18 Dec.	21 Dec.

CNA TOTEM TIMES

Published every second Thursday, with the kind permission of Colonel B. T. Burgess, Base Commander, CFB Comox. Second Class mail registration is 4098.

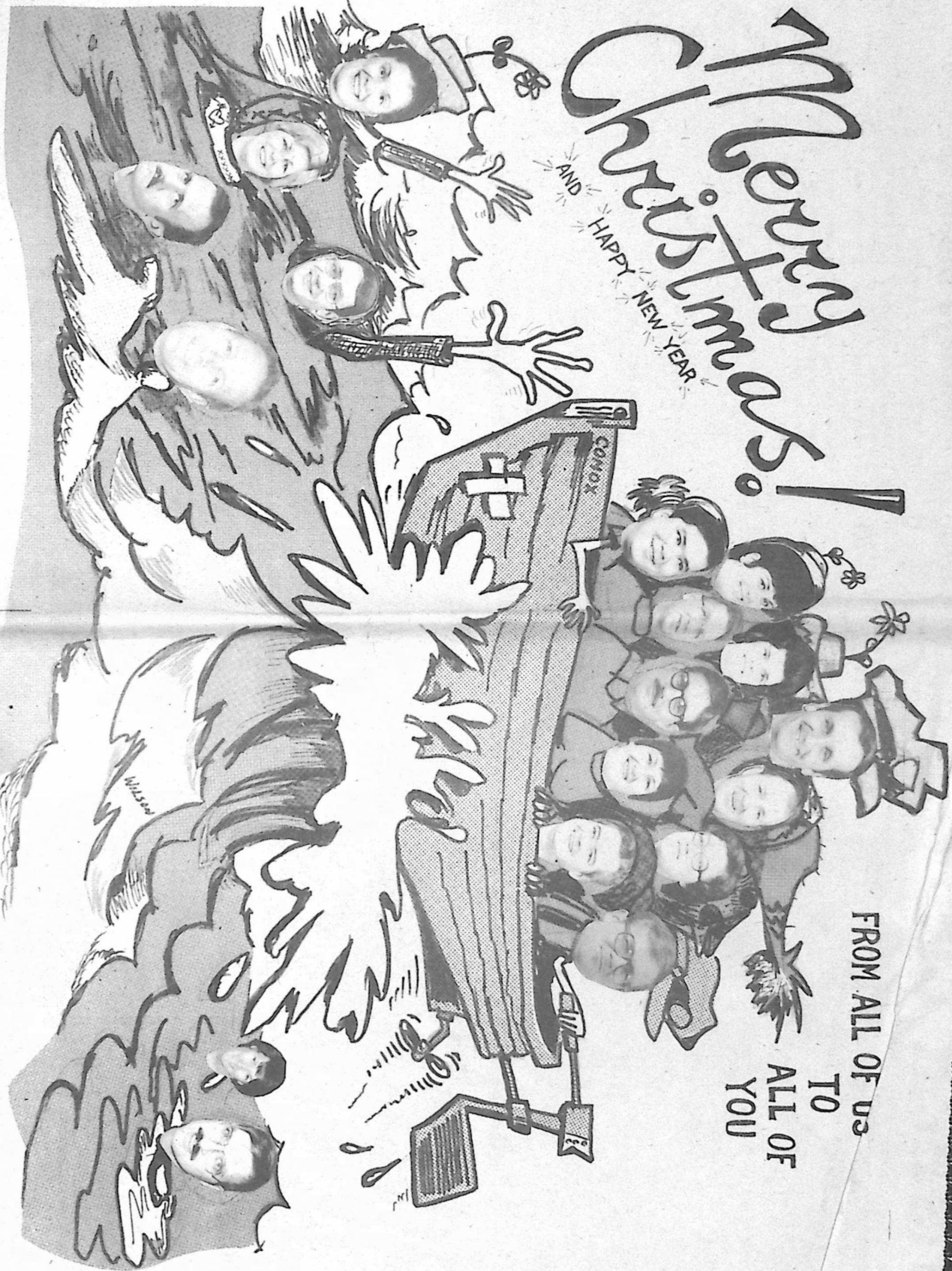
Editor: Gord Kruger (289)
Assistant Editor: Brian Puttock
Editorial Staff: Chris Hosford, Bill Ewing, John Windish, Ole Johansen, Laurie Haines, Steve Milan.
Feature Writer & Cartoonist: Al Wilson (371).
Advertising Distribution Manager: Ken MacLean (275) or (338-5188)
Photographers: Chris Hosford, John Windish.
Sports and Recreation: Earl Thompson (315)
Proofreaders: Blanche Campbell, Joyce Taylor, Rhona Windish and Linda Whelen.
Circulation: The Geneau Family 338 4215. In PMQs by: Rod Campbell (339 2045) & Scott Wallace (339 4491).
Advertising: Nancy Lyons, 339 4092; Ken MacLean, 338 5188; Bob DeIorme, 339 5118.

The TOTEM TIMES is an official publication of CFB Comox. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy and reject advertisements to suit the needs of the publication. Views expressed are those of the contributor unless expressly attributed to DND, CF or other agencies. In case of typographical error, no goods may be sold and difference charged to this newspaper whose liability is limited to a refund of the space charge for the erroneous item. Advertising is an offer to sell and may be withdrawn at any time. Address correspondence to The Editor, Totem Times, CFB Comox, LAZO, B.C. V0R 2K0. Printed in Courtenay, B.C., by Comox District Free Press.

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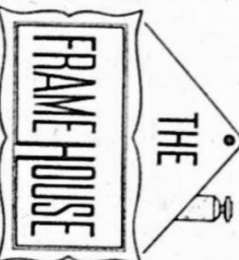
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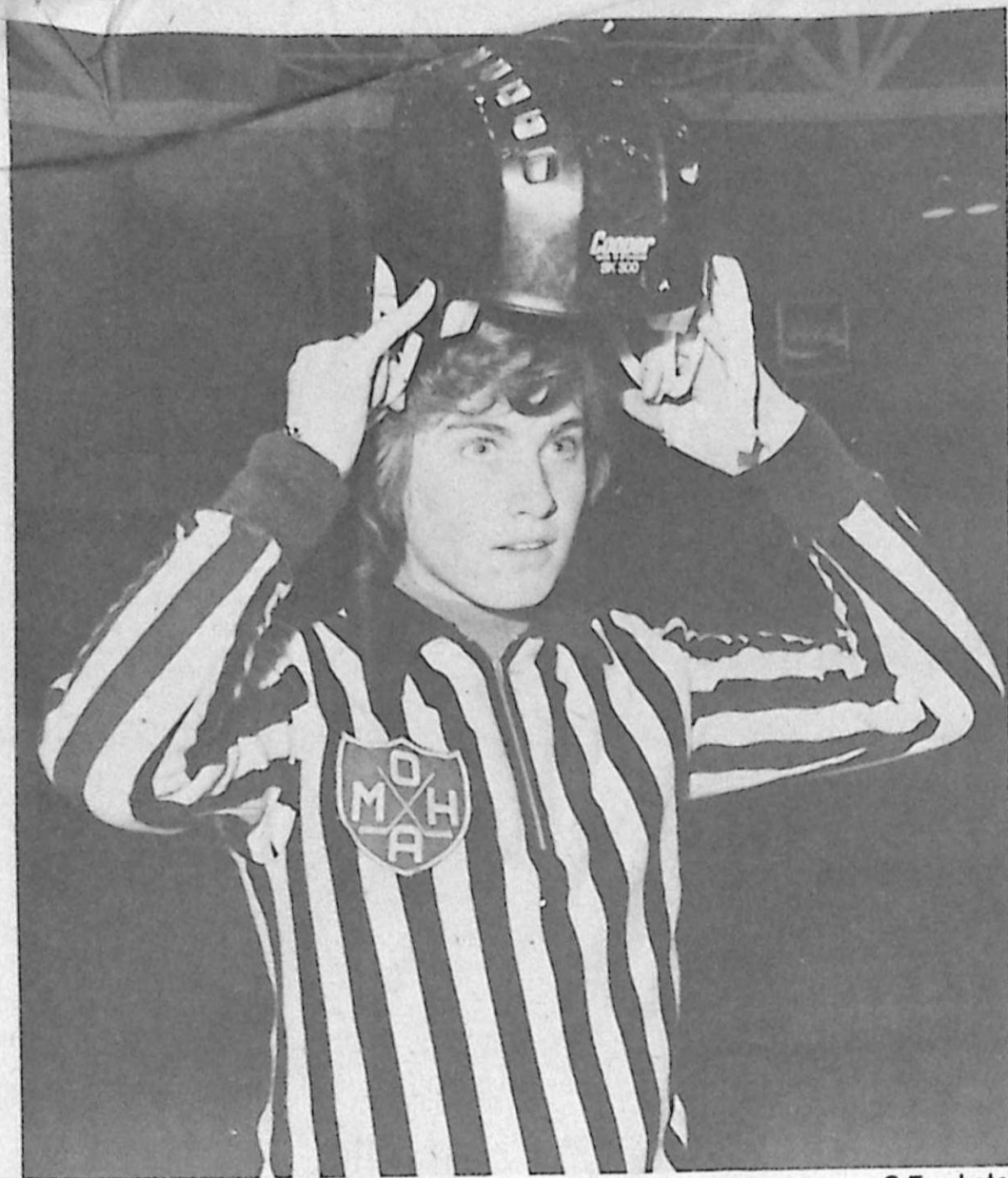
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Sports Beat Comox — Year end wrap-up



C.F. photo

Another First . . . Alison Clarke

WINNIPEG — "I wear MY referee's crest on the right. All other hockey referees wear theirs on the left." Canadian Forces Private Alison Clarke, 19, won the right when she was the first female to graduate as an Ontario Minor Hockey Association Representative (No. 2112) in Bramalea, Ont., in December 1975. Private Clarke is now a referee for the Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg Inter-Section Men's Hockey League. And she plays for the Winnipeg Rebels in the Manitoba Senior Women's Hockey League. Private Clarke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Clarke, 559 Ash St., Winnipeg, is an administration clerk at the Canadian Forces Air Command Headquarters in Winnipeg.

Up Earl's Alley

I would imagine that the Inter-Section hockey teams will be glad to see the end of the first half of the hockey season. We have had some extreme difficulty in trying to get sufficient officials for scheduled games. However perhaps things will work out in the second half.

I guess the quote of the week was one I heard in the Bowling Alley last Wednesday, and I quote... "Well, Stan finally had an open frame, that's the first one he has had in 6 months". Unquote.

The CFB Oldtimers made a trip to Powell River over the past weekend. They played a regular schedule game against the PR Oldtimers. Powell River have an excellent team as the majority of their players played with the Regals which won the Hardy Cup (Canadian Intermediate "A" Championship) back in 1970. Our players had a great time and were well hosted by their hosts. And they even had time for a little "Beaver Shooting"...

There were some interesting results from exhibition hockey over the past weekend.

The Cincinnati Racers whipped the CSSR Team and the augmented New West Bruins (JR) eked out a vic-

tory over the Moscow Selects. Perhaps Canada has finally started to realize that we have to go back to the Basics again and get on with it. For a few of the recent years all the Canadian Players had in mind was how much money they could make in as short a time as possible. During this time very little thought was put

into how the game could be improved upon. This selfish act displayed by the players proved very costly in our showing against International competition. It seems that there are now more players than there are jobs available therefore, the players now realize that it is time to improve their basic skills.

"For the lonely one even noise is a comfort."
Friedrich Nietzsche

Holiday Arena Schedule

- Wednesday 21, Dec.: 1415-1545, Public Skating
1615-1845, Minor Hockey 1900-2030, Commercial League
2100-2300, Jr. B. Practice
- Thursday 22, Dec.: 1400-1530, Public Skating
1545-1815, Minor Hockey
1830-2300, Commercial League
2315-0045, B.S.L.
- Friday, 23, Dec.: 0845-1345, Minor Hockey
1400-1530, Public Skating
1600-2215, Minor Hockey
2230-0030, Black Creek.
- Saturday 24, Dec.: 0845-1345, Minor Hockey
1400-1800, Figure Skating
1800 - CLOSED
- SUNDAY 25, DEC.: MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- Monday 26, Dec.: 0830-1345, All Week - Minor Hockey.
1415-1545, Public Skating
1615-1845, Minor Hockey
1900-2015, Rented
2030-2200, C.M.H.L.
2215-0015, Rented.
- Tuesday 27, Dec.: 1400-1530, Open
1545-1800, Figure Skating
1815-1945, Public Skating
2000-2200, Rented
2215-0015, C.M.H.L.
- Wednesday 28, Dec.: 1415-1545, Public Skating
1615-1845, Minor Hockey
1900-2030, C.M.H.L.
2100-2300, Jr. B.
- Thursday 29, Dec.: 1400-1815, Minor Hockey
1830-2030, Rented
2045-2215, C.M.H.L.
2230-2400, B.S.L.
- Friday 30, Dec.: 1415-1545, Public Skating
1600-2055, Minor Hockey
2110-0010, Black Creek
- Saturday 31, Dec.: 1400-1800, Figure Skating
1800 - CLOSED
- SUNDAY 1, JAN.: HAPPY NEW YEAR.**
- Monday 2, Jan.: 0845-1345, Minor Hockey
1415-1545, Public Skating
1615-1845, Minor Hockey
1900-2030, Totems Practice.
- Tuesday 3, Jan.: Back to normal Winter Routine.

Whataya Mean, No Snow!!

By "Exhausted"

The guy who started the rumour that Vancouver Island in general and Comox in particular never gets any snow has just twenty-four hours to get out of town!!

No snow, HA! A whole day hasn't passed and already I've had to dig out my driveway twice, and it's still coming down. Being a refugee from Manitoba, I had joyfully hidden my snow-shovel away in one of the dark places of my basement with the intention of never seeing it again until after my next move. After slipping and sliding out of the driveway, almost wiping out a parked car, two sliding youngsters, and a telephone pole, I decided that I had been a little hasty in my action and began to search through the various stacks of unused goodies in an effort to find the elusive snowshovel. After walking into two spider-webs (the second one causing such a start that I raised my head right into a floor beam...oooooh that smarts!), tripping over a cast-off (up to now) toboggan, and straining my back heaving large boxes of stored gear out of the way, I uncovered my "Manitoba Helpmate".

There it stood; dusty, rusted, and looking slightly dejected from being cast aside so carelessly. As I picked it up (again bashing my head on the beams), I felt a slight quiver go through my back, but for a different reason.

After donning a heavy shirt, a sweater, thermal underwear, jeans, heavy socks, a scarf, my old ski jacket, an earband, heavy snowboots (also recovered from the storage boxes), a pair of mitts, and a toque...I can't move, let alone swing a shovel. A healthy push from my "better half" finally gets me rolling...literally!

How can something so soft and light be so heavy and hard? Five minutes after getting started, I'm sweating like a boar, and I've cleaned off all of three feet of driveway. Off comes the scarf. Five minutes later, I

get the distinct impression that my lungs have taken up fire-eating for fun and profit, and I've only managed another three feet of driveway. (Oh, com'on, my driveway can't be THAT long). Off comes the ski jacket!

It's taken me half an hour and I'm only moving the snow off my driveway as fast as Mother Nature is dumping it back on. By now, I'm down to my heavy shirt, and must have lost ten pounds through sweating. My youngest has lost points and a couple of Christmas gifts by standing there and asking dumb questions like, "How come your face is so red, Daddy?" Not only that, but she's managed to gather together some of her neighbourhood cronies, and they are enjoying the techni-colour display...while tramping down the snow that's left to shovel!!

At last! The end of the driveway! A long exhausted sigh, and I trudge slowly back to the house. I don't even get to the door when a rumble coming towards me causes me to pause...Yup! You guessed it! The snowplow! And you know what happens next before I even tell you, don't you. Rrrright! Neatly, he deposits a fifty foot pile of tightly packed (well, it seems that high) and rock hard snow across the end of what I have just sweated so much over.

Another sigh, and I turn to start all over again. This time, the sweat really begins to flow. This stuff can't be merely pushed aside; each and every shovelful must be labouriously chopped free of the surrounding drift and carried with trembling knees to one side. I no longer have lungs. Both feel as if they've torn loose and cast into a handy blast furnace. The nicest display of spots is before my eyes, and my youngest has not only been scratched off my Christmas list, but disinherited, and all her friends slated for the lion pit.

AT LAST! (but I said that

once already!). With as much determination as I can muster, I turn to return to the house...only to slip on the newly fallen white stuff that has built up during my absence, and I fall flat on my aspidistra... which really brings out the stars! This amuses the entire Peanut Gallery no end, and my wife has witnessed this last event, and joins in the merriment. That's one more strickened from my list!!

I limp back to the basement, and by now the shakes have started. I hadn't realized just how cold it was! If I don't get warm soon, all my fillings are going to get shaken out. Three cups of tea, another heavy sweater, and turning the thermostat up to the top later, and the shakes have reduced themselves down to mere violent tremours.

An hour goes by! The violent tremours have subsided, and I have mellowed enough to consider reinstating my youngest in my Will. My reverie is jarred by the sound of squeals of joy coming from the driveway. I glance out the window and then run and hide in the closet...the neighbourhood kids have all gathered and have turned my driveway into the "World's Best Slide", using the snow which has built up since I finished!!! And I won't come out again until it rains!

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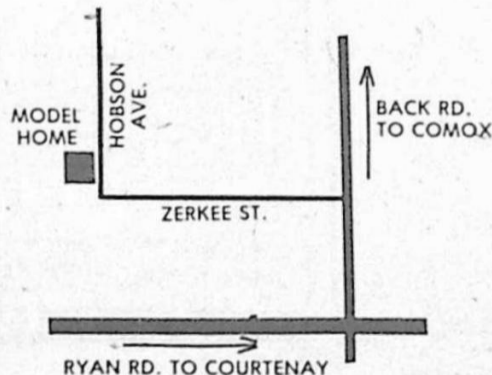
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ANNOUNCEMENT



Northgate Motors Ltd. is pleased to announce the appointment of Allan Griffiths to their sales staff. Allan is another prairie native who comes to us from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where he spent the last eight years in car sales. Allan and his good wife, Nita, plan to make the Comox Valley their permanent home. They have two children, Delilah and Dwayne aged 11 and 10 years. Allan is socially active and has already transferred his membership to the local Kinsmen Club. We believe that Allan is a pleasant and knowledgeable young man. Come in and meet Allan. We think you will like him.

Northgate Motors Ltd.

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Promotions and Presentations around c.f.b. comox

CDS Commendation



SGT GLOUTNEZ receives a well deserved Chief of Defence Staff Commendation for his bravery during rescue missions from LCol. Demers, CO 442 Sqn.

Order of Military Merit



Captain Bob Goldie



CWO George Howard



Captain Nels Gesner

During ceremonies in Ottawa on 23 Nov., these members of the Canadian Forces were invested in the Order of Military Merit in the Grade of Member by the Right Honourable Jules Leger, Governor General of Canada. The Order of Military Merit has been established to provide a worthy means of recognizing conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members of the Canadian Forces, both Regular and Reserve.

Captain R.J. Goldie formerly served with 442 Squadron. He is presently residing in Prince George.
Chief Warrant Officer George Howard has retired but he continues to serve as Base Language Training Coordinator.
Captain N.B. Gesner serves with 442 Squadron.

Promotions



CONFIDENTIALLY I'D RATHER GIVE A KISS THAN A HANDSHAKE ANY DAY! Capt. (Doc) Culver-James waits his chance as MCpl. Pat Simmons is congratulated by LtCol. Burrows, BAdO, for her promotion to MCpl.



PROMOTED TO MASTER CORPORAL - MCpl. John Blanchard is all smiles as he is being congratulated by Lt.Col. Burrows, BAdO, and Capt. (Doc) Culver-James.

Base Commander's Commendation



YOU DID GOOD WORK FOR US BERNIE - Maj. Arwood, BPServ O, looks on as Capt. Bernie Levesque receives the Base Commander's Commendation for his fine work at Canex.

- Base Photos

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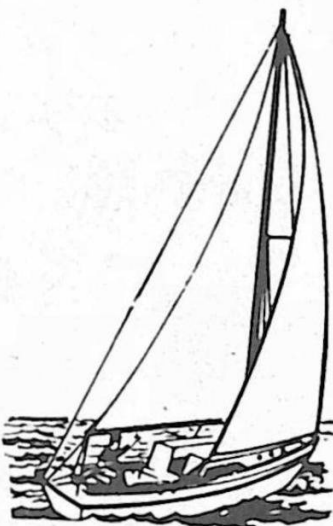
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Your 1978 property assessment... a fairer way to share.

Changes in assessment law now make it possible for property owners to accurately measure whether they are fairly assessed. Your 1978 property Assessment Notice, issued by the British Columbia Assessment Authority, is in the mail and will be arriving at your door shortly. An information brochure explaining the changes accompanies the notice. When they arrive, please take time to read both carefully...

Why changes in assessment law?
Assessments had become outdated. They had become inequitable in terms of their actual value relationships. Properties having identical market values were assessed at widely differing amounts. This resulted in some owners paying more than their fair share of taxes and others less. The new law required production of the 1978 assessment roll based on fixed percentages of actual value for each class of property. This means that the inequities will be removed, and that each class of property will be assessed on the same basis. In all, it provides a fairer way to share the cost of essential local services.

What will happen to taxes?
The assessment roll provides the rate base used by municipalities, school boards and other local governments to raise the funds necessary to provide essential local services. The costs of these services determine the overall amount required to be raised by local property taxes. The purpose of the change in assessment law is NOT to raise more taxes but to provide a fairer basis upon which to apportion the costs of essential local services more equitably between property owners. Since assessments are now directly related to actual value, your assessed values may be higher or lower than in previous years. An increase or a decrease in your assessed values from those in effect last year does not

necessarily mean that your property taxes will change significantly. Tax notices based on your new assessed values will be issued later in 1978.

Is my 1978 assessment fair?
As your assessment is now based on a fixed percentage of what your property is worth its fairness can be measured by actual value comparisons. The Assessor's estimate of your property's actual value (market value) is shown on your 1978 Assessment Notice. The fairness of your assessment may be determined by comparing the Assessor's estimate of actual value of your property to your own estimate of its current market value as well as by comparing it to the current market values of properties of similar worth. The percentage of actual value at which each class of property will be assessed is: Residential - 15% (includes apartments, condominiums, mobile homes, etc.) Business and Other - 25% (includes commercial, some industrial). Industrial, Utilities, Machinery and Equipment, Forestry - 30%. The Assessor and his staff will give you every assistance necessary to properly check your assessment.

What appeal do I have?
Your Assessor is prepared to provide you with a detailed explanation of how your assessment was determined. If you are dissatisfied with the assessment and wish an independent review, a right of appeal is available to you. The procedure to complain is simple and is fully explained on the reverse of your 1978 Assessment Notice. The deadline for any written appeal is January 20, 1978. The new assessment method is fully explained in the brochure that will accompany the mailing of your individual Assessment Notices.

Look at your Assessment Notice... it's different this year!



It now shows both the actual (market) value and the assessed value on which your 1978 taxes will be based.

Around The Base

Who's doing what to who



HAPPY BIRTHDAY COL... Col. Burgess receives birthday cake from Sgt. Leonard of the J.R. Mess. As for age, nobody's talking, but isn't one supposed to represent a hundred? Or is it fifty?

Base Photo

Christmas Customs

How often have you wondered about the many Christmas customs that are observed and celebrated each year? I became curious about them some years ago and attempted to trace their origins. Here are a few I would like to share with you.

The Christmas Tree is an old German custom. Many legends are written about it and how it became an indoor decoration. It was brought to the English speaking people only 136 years ago when Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert (who came from Germany) placed one in Windsor Castle in 1841.

Santa Claus as many of us know was a name given to St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop who was especially known for his generosity and became popularly known as the patron of children. The

giving of gifts at this time of year has its roots in pre-Christian times. The custom was adopted by the Christian Church when it was remembered that the greatest gift of all was the gift God gave us in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Candles are widely used in the festive season. Such candles are a reminder of the Light which came into the world at Christmas. There was an old idea that the candle would be a guide to the house for a stranger who might be the Christ child.

The "Yule log" formed a part of the Christmas celebration also, not only because of the warmth provided as it burned upon the hearth but also because it was said to have special qualities of a magical nature. This too was a carry-over from pagan times. The word "yule" is a very old Anglo-Saxon term for feast.

The sharp prickles and red berries of the Holly were thought to be emblems of the crown of thorns which the Holy Child would one day wear.

The custom of hanging a decorated wreath on the door goes back to Roman times when the citizens of Rome gave wreaths as presents.

And speaking of presents, many children "hang" their stockings on Christmas Eve because a legend tells how St. Nicholas on one of his midnight journeys dropped a purse of money down a chimney. It fell into a stocking which was hung to dry from the mantle - children to-day still look for something in their stocking (now often very ornate) on Christmas morning.

Firing Away

Christmas is a time of joy and happiness but every year it becomes a time of sadness for many people in Canada because of fire. We all have a tendency to be a little less cautious during the festive season and when we add this to the fact that we have more things in our homes that could cause or contribute to a fire at this time of year, it is easy to understand why we have so many fires during the holiday season.

So we ask you to please be extra careful and make sure that all members of your family understand how quickly the festive season can become one of tragedy and heart break. Just one careless act such as matches or lighters left within reach of little children can start a fire that can make Christmas a nightmare instead of a time of joy and happiness.

The following is a list of some precautions you should take to ensure that your Christmas is a time of joy:

1. Buy a fresh tree.
2. Before setting it up, saw off diagonally at least one inch of the trunk and place the base in a holder containing water.
3. Keep the water reservoir filled. Be sure the tree is firm and secure.
4. Locate tree away from all sources of heat, such as radiators, television sets, spot lights, etc.
5. If the needles turn brown, take the tree down and dispose of it in a safe manner - Christmas trees burn with explosive violence.
6. Use only fire retardant or non-combustible decorations for trimming the tree.
7. Use only approved lighting sets and be sure all connectors are in good condition and connections tightly made.

are urged to discard your tree at this time.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE BASE FIRE DEPARTMENT WISH YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY AND FIRE FREE CHRISTMAS.



Margarine has the same caloric content as butter.

People and Profile

You cannot see the forest for the trees! How many times have we heard that cliché? However, it's still apropos. People are often taken for granted because of their high standards of performance over a long period of time. Amid the complexities of the daily DND routine, a group of individuals known to us all continues to work effectively and efficiently to provide us with required services.

These employees are as creative as their military counterparts and their Federally employed, publicly paid, peers. The sole method of discerning their area of employment, in comparison with or contrast to other civilians in DND's working force, is from their incomes which are generated from NPF sponsored activities. That is right, these folks are our neighbours, our friends and our relatives. They are

the NPF labour force, and are administering specialty services to you. There is no attempt to "low key" the existence of these individuals. The low profile is a result of comfortable acceptance of the services provided. If that happens to be the case, let's look in at a couple of areas.

Sure enough! There they are - working in the snack bar, the convenience store, and hey! look at those happy merchandisers in the

Exchange. Golly, come to think of it, they were working for me at that Candle Light Dinner at the mess last night. That fellow over there refereed our hockey game last week - those fellows having a coffee break are NPF employees at the golf and curling club complex. And, the chap in line ahead of me is one of the mechanics at the Service Station. Son of a gun! - looking around, the rest of the crowd appears to be coming and going to jobs at the concessions, the barber shops, beauty parlors, daycare centres and the Base theatre. Come to think of it, my boys are going to the bowling alley to pin-set this afternoon - lots of people doing lots of things. NPF employees seem to have developed a keen interest in and sense of loyalty to the Service Community, and their non-public employers. I suppose that is because NPF employees, with their full range of benefits, feel NPF is a good employer with a vested interest in its employees!



TIME OUT FOR COFFEE. B. Gen. Sturgess, Commander Maritime Air Group from Halifax, takes time out for coffee with Ken MacLean. The General was here this past weekend to make a tour of C.F.B. Comox.

Base photo

C to C
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Winter of '43, Somewhere in England

*God rest you merry, gentle folk,
 Let nothing you dismay,
 Remember Christ our Saviour
 Was born on Christmas day,
 To save us all from Satan's power
 When we were gone astray;
 O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Best wishes
 for a Merry Christmas and a
 Happy New Year
 from Tom Procter*

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PMQ Preamble

You and your community

... Over The Back Fence

Last year when I was down in cold old Greenwood, Nova Scotia my wife informed me weekly of the great British Columbia winter they were having. So what happens this year out here in balmy B.C.? (And no, I have no intention of going back to Greenwood just so you people can have another nice winter). It's days like last Friday that make you wish each PMQ was equipped with a fireplace.

The Group Committee and the Ladies Auxiliary for their support. We had hoped to have a photo or two of the Girl Guide ceremony held on Thursday, Dec. 1 but the photog, Gord Stallard, had camera problems. Well, at least you tried, Gord, and be assured we will run a future article on the guides, complete with photos.

Since I received no reports from the various council committees this week, I assume everything is going well. As you know, the volunteers on the various committees, i.e. Works, Recreation, BTO, Safety

Council, Town Cop, etc. are always at work on your behalf in an effort to make Wallace Gardens a better place for all of us.

And now on behalf of those council and committee members, we would like to wish all of you here in Wallace Gardens and all of you everywhere a Christmas filled with happiness and good will. We also wish you a 1978 filled with good health and prosperity.

Your council has enjoyed working on your behalf and look forward to serving you even better in the coming year.

Chapel Named

The Chaplain General (P), Brigadier General C.D. Nickerson, has approved the naming of the Protestant Chapel, CFB Comox.

Official ceremonies will take place in late April 1978 when the name "ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS" will be conferred by Padre Nickerson. In the meantime, the name will gradually come into popular use. ST. MICHAEL was

chosen since he has been over the ages the patron saint for those who bear arms in a righteous cause. ALL ANGELS was added as the winged host of heaven is symbolically linked to all who fly.

As the Base Commander noted, this is not to allude that all flyers are angels, for he has known a few who do not qualify.



Windish Photo

GORGEOUS IN EVENING GOWNS ... The contestants as they looked on the big night ... and you had better believe that those judges had a tough time.

Beautiful Ladies ... on parade

The Miss Wallace Gardens competition held on Dec. 5th was truly a gala event. The girls looked striking in their evening gowns and it was obviously a difficult chore for the judges to select one person

from the seven lovely contestants.

Co-ordinator Don Leblanc had everything well organized and with the help of the parents and other helpers, the evening went very smoothly. One of the highlights of the competition was the talks given by each of the young ladies. Each contestant had good topics and delivered their points very well.

Patti Smith spoke on bilingualism; Kathy Brown - sports; Mora Carscadden - education; Lisa Fleming - disadvantages of being a military child; Terrie Hooper - drugs, alcohol, and BTO; Karen Olscamp - lack of teen activities; and Kim Bodnarek on importance of good speech.

After all the voting and judging was completed, Terrie Hooper was named the new Miss Wallace Gardens and Mora Carscadden was named 1st runner-up.

The organizers of this year's competition would like to thank the ladies who competed, the four judges, and of course our base gardener for the tremendous floral arrangements.

Miss Wallace Gardens 1978 will certainly represent our community well in the forthcoming Comox Valley Snow Festival. To both Terrie and Mora and their proud parents - congratulations.



A \$4,438 AUTOMOBILE costs \$19,979 when repaired part by part as your auto repair shop must do, according to one study.

The big event of the past two weeks was, of course, the Miss Wallace Gardens contest which was held on Monday, Dec. 5. Congratulations to Miss Hooper and all the other contestants who participated. (See photos throughout this issue for more details). The council would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank the Miss Wallace Gardens co-ordinator(s), Mr. and Mrs. Don Leblanc for their hard work and efforts which ensured the success of the program.

The Base Teen organization is busy these past few weeks painting their new club house and making other improvements which make the place more habitable. If you have any old chairs or tables laying around that you no longer have use for, the BTO could use them. They will take anything you have but prefer that the chairs be the vinyl covered type and not sofa chairs because of fire regulations and so on. If you have any questions or you do wish to contribute some old furniture, please contact Rusty Rutherford at 339-5106.

You will be happy to know that the cable TV system is in for revamping in the near future. At the time of this writing I'm unsure of the target date and the status of Air Command's decision as to when funding will be available.



Base photo

Babysitters Course

... The Graduates

The beavers, cubs and punts held their Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 11 and would once again like to thank

CHRISTMAS SALE

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Screwball
Replace 4 Screwdrivers with 1
Compact, faster, more powerful
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Last year, drinking drivers cost each B.C. auto insurance buyer about \$49.



They cost some of us more than money.

About \$49 of your last auto insurance premium is going to pay the tab for drinking drivers. That's an estimate of the costs of 1976-77 claims in which alcohol was a significant factor. It includes collision, property damage, bodily injury, accident benefit, uninsured motorist and hit-and-run claims.

What it doesn't include are the costs that can't be measured in money. The suffering of accident victims and their families. The days lost in court. The nights lost in jail. And above all, the wasted lives. Because last year alone, more than 300 British Columbians died pointlessly in alcohol-related accidents.

It's another first for our province. The worst

drinking-driving toll in Canada. Perhaps in the world.

What can you do about it? You can accept responsibility not only for your own drinking and driving behaviour—but also for that of your family, Your friends. Your guests. Maybe you'll talk them out of that last drink. Or if that isn't possible, talk them into a cab.

Here's what we're doing about it at the Insurance Corporation: We're backing the Provincial Government's Drinking Driving CounterAttack all the way.

This program might save you some money on your next car insurance premium. It might save you more than money.

The lower the accident rate, the lower the insurance rate.

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Where the driver sets the rates.



Accent Safety

The accident victim, badly shaken, said "The steering wheel became loose in my hands."

Another victim said: "My front wheels just didn't respond when I turned them."

Still another said: "All of a sudden there was nothing to get hold of."

Many other drivers have made similar statements after accidents caused by a mysterious - and terrifying loss of control on wet roads.

They weren't talking about ordinary skidding in rainy weather, which is bad enough. They were talking about something far more frightening: a complete loss of steering and traction - as if their cars actually began to float on the water-covered pavement.

These eerie reports are no longer attributed to emotional shock, alcohol, drugs, deceptive alibis or defective steering mechanisms. Today, thanks to a lot of scientific sleuthing, we know the survivors are telling the truth. Their cars did float - on less than an inch of water.

Safety engineers call it "hydro-planing."

Oddly enough, hydroplaning was discovered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA scientists were investigating a rash of military aircraft accidents on wet runways, when a tire-tread mill experiment finally provided the clue.

Watching a tire spinning on a wet belt one day, they suddenly saw it come to a full stop - for no apparent reason - while the belt continued to travel at 60 mph.

That clue broke the case wide open. NASA quickly proved that, as a tire displaces stationary water on a highway, hydrodynamic pressures build up a wave-like wedge of water right in front of the tire's point of contact with the road. The size of the wedge, as you probably guessed, increases as the speed increases.

Water, like all liquids, refused to compress and eventually the tire can no longer penetrate the wedge. When that happens, say your prayers, for the tire then climbs up on the water and rides on it like a water ski. All traction, all steering, all control are lost.

No statistics are available yet for automobile hydroplaning, but the latest National Safety Council figures reveal that in 1972 almost 500,000 people were killed or injured on wet roads.

Safety experts strongly suspect that hydroplaning was guilty in many of those cases.

Hydroplaning certainly comes off as a crime - a crime committed against the unwary. And, as such, it represents a conspiracy involving water, speed, tires, over-all weight and weight distribution.

Water - It doesn't take much. Although hydroplaning is more likely to occur on roads covered with half an inch or more of water, it can happen with less.

Speed - Below 30 m.p.h., a tire should disperse water under and around it, and maintain contact with the road. Above 30 m.p.h., partial hydroplaning can occur. Above 55 m.p.h., the tire may lose contact with the road, causing total hydroplaning. This can occur at much lower

speeds under slush conditions. Tires - Worn or under-inflated tires invite hydroplaning, and will do so on less water and at lower speeds. Good treads channel the water through the grooves without lifting the wheel.

Weight - The lighter the car, the more chance of hydroplaning.

Weight distribution - If too much weight is concentrated in the rear of a car (back seat or trunk or trailer), hydroplaning is also likely, for the front tires will tend to tilt up much like the bow of a speedboat.

So far we've discussed "dynamic" hydroplaning. "Viscous" hydroplaning is more common and every bit as dangerous.

Viscous hydroplaning often happens when those first few drops of rain mix with oil, dust and dirt on the road. Even fog or dew will do the trick - a dirty trick indeed.

Here's how to protect yourself and that family of yours against both kinds of hydroplaning:

Be alert for hydroplaning conditions. As we just mentioned, viscous hydroplaning can occur with minimum moisture: dew, fog or the first few raindrops.

Dynamic hydroplaning is produced by standing water. Look for it, especially on curves. Warning clues: you see clear reflections of other cars and poles; or you notice raindrop "dimples" appearing on the road; or you hear your tires splashing or sizzling on what seems to be only a thin film of water.

Slow down. Slow way down on curves. Even on a straightaway, partial

hydroplaning can happen at 30 m.p.h.

Driving smoothly is as important as driving slowly. Corner carefully and don't make abrupt movements with the steering wheel, brakes or accelerator.

Become sensitive to what's going on between your tires and the road. To feel the "vibes," sit snugly in your seat and maintain a secure but relaxed grip on the steering wheel. If you develop a feel for the road, you're more likely to ease up on the gas before your tires start acting like water skis.

If the steering wheel begins to feel loose, your tires are in the process of saying goodbye to the road. Ease off the accelerator but stay away from the brakes.

Follow the tracks of the car ahead. Its tires will clear away the water for yours.

But, needless to say, don't tailgate. When hydroplaning conditions are present, you should increase your following distance.

If you anticipate those conditions, increase your tire pressures too. But don't exceed the recommended maximum pressure.

Worn tires lower the speed required for hydroplaning. Check your tread depth and, if necessary, replace your tires. (Historical note: treads were originally placed on tires to dissipate water and eliminate skidding.)

Try not to place too much weight on the rear wheels of your car. If you do and are "down by the stern," be extra cautious.

Follow those simple safety tips and you'll keep hydroplaning where it belongs - in water sports!

Courtesy - Family Safety

Femme Gen

By Liz Graham

"THE SAGA OF S.A.R. CLAUS"

'T was the night before Christmas that got out of hand. As the R.C.C. teams began to disband. When all of a sudden, in came a new call: Santa is missing! Scramble them all! At R.C.C. centers, things began to get tough. Finding a Santa can really be rough. The Searchmaster named like a 'classic' scapegoat, Captain E. Scrooge ... with a lump in his throat.

He called all his men, the short and the tall, And proceeded to tell them of this strange call. "We have to find Santa - although it's a sin, 'Cause all that we'll work with will be spread very thin. Our equipment and planes are outdated by years, Not to mention the headlines, or political fears. But we'll go out and find him, in spite of the mess, 'Should be easy to spot in that outlandish dress."

Down by the ocean full of vigor and vim, Spoke the public defender, professor T. Tim. "A lost Santa? Why - take my advice. I'll solve this mystery all easy and nice. I am an expert - in case you don't know - From out of my mouth, pure wisdom doth flow. The searchers? They don't know enough! They're not searching MY way, so I'll make things tough. For them, the government, and everyone else. I'm an armchair expert. Just me. By myself."

While professor 'the expert' was informing the world, What was wrong with the search (it would make your hair curl!)

Captain E. Scrooge had things well in motion. Searching this land, from ocean to ocean. Dispatching old aircraft, left, right, and center. Whilst answering questions from his D.N.D. mentor. (But all over the country were children so sad, To spend Christmas Eve without dear old Dad. For he was out looking for one who was lost, And these Armed Forces children were paying the cost.)

After hours of searching there was still not a trace, Of jolly old Santa with his merry face. Not a sight. Not a sound. Not a radio call. To show where he or his reindeer might fall. All hope was beginning to become quite a loss, Except by the searchers - who announced to their boss: "We'll find him. Just you wait and see. For he got it last Christmas - a new E.L.T.!"

So they searched to the east, they searched to the west. They searched the North Pole, along with the rest. While they searched here and there - at no extra pay, The salty professor had plenty to say. On Santa and rescues, an expert was he, And somehow, he managed to get on T.V. (A diversified expert as all of us know, Could doubt even Santa - on a C.B.C. show.)

Meanwhile at Trenton, after numerous calls, There came one from a tyke, north of Smith Falls. His hope could be heard as he started to speak, His voice a falsetto - resembling a squeak: "I say sir, hello there. My name is Jimmy. Santa's not lost! He's just stuck in my chimney."

Can you and your men please give me a hand? For you know he's the fattest in all of the land. And he's stuck in my chimney awfully tight, Getting him out will sure be a fight!"

Well, they did, and old Santa went on his way. (When asked - the professor, had nothing to say!) And in spite of the headlines, critics and such, The dauntless berated, who'd suffered so much, For their wearisome hours of doing their thing, Were counting their costs, while Christmas bells ring. They'd rescued old Santa, and sent him on south, Despite lack of equipment. But no lack of mouth!

MERRY XMAS!

Rodent Control

At this time of year it is common for rats and mice to seek shelter, food, and water and there have been a number of complaints received about rats in several localities. The shelter they look for is at ground level and consists of burrows in the ground, under house foundations and around rubbish heaps or piled lumber. Removal of these harbours and denial of food sources will reduce the rodent population significantly.

The following precautions should be taken to deal with this problem:

(1) All garbage should be stored in rat-proof containers such as metal garbage cans with tight-fitting lids.

(2) Food scraps should not be placed on compost piles. In fact, no foods or food debris

should be allowed to litter any area since these are bound to attract rats.

(3) Rat proofing of buildings should be carried out and any holes in cement walls should be filled or tightened where pipes or ducts pass through.

(4) A tight metal flashing should be used for wooden walls and if there are signs of gnawing around a door or door-post, these too should be metal covered. Even a half inch hold will allow a young rat to pass.

In addition to these precautions, poisons can be used. Anti-coagulant baits appear to be most effective and as they require several successive feedings to kill a rat, the danger to pets and other animals is minimized.

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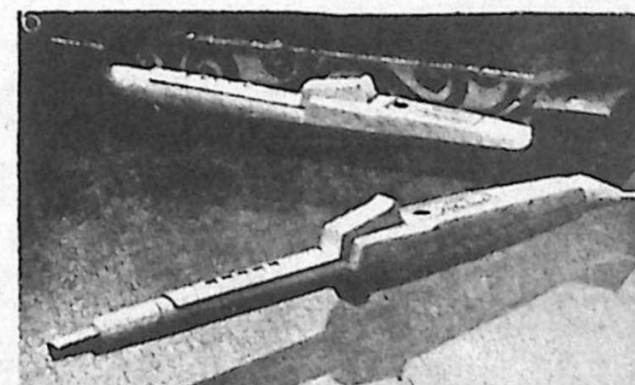
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