

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR, NO. 51 50¢

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 1988



Investigators probe causes of two island fires

Wendy Sinclair died from smoke inhalation in the December 11 blaze that engulfed her Price Road home.

That was the conclusion of a routine autopsy performed last week on the 36-year-old Salt Spring Island mother of two.

Sgt. Larry Wendel of the

Ganges RCMP detachment says nothing unusual was found during the autopsy. "There were no signs of trauma to the body," he said. "It was confirmed she expired from smoke inhalation."

The badly-burned body was positively identified from dental charts.

A memorial fund has been set up for Sinclair's surviving eight-year-old son, Leon, and 13-year-old daughter, Heron.

Donations to the Wendy Sinclair Family Trust Account can be made at the Ganges branches of the Bank of Montreal, Islands Savings Credit Union and the

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Investigations into the December 7 fire at the residence of Debbie Davies, meanwhile, reveal the blaze began in the vicinity of the home's wood stove, says Regional Fire Commissioner Reg Perkins.

The house on Booth Canal was completely destroyed by the fire. Davies and her three children were not at home at the time.

A fund has been established for the Davies family. Contributions can be made at the Bank of Montreal branch in Ganges.

Memorial fund for two children tops \$5,000 mark - and counting

As of early Monday, Salt Spring residents had contributed \$5,000 to a trust fund established last week for the children of a woman who died in a December 11 house fire.

The total does not count funds that were expected to be collected late Monday at a combination wake and benefit held at the

Beaver Point Hall for 36-year-old Wendy Sinclair.

Betsy Dosco, who set up the fund with Arvid Chalmers, said Monday organizers are issuing "a major plea for more money." Donations will be held in trust for Sinclair's two children — eight-year-old Leon, and 13-year-old Heron.

Contributions to the fund can

be made to special accounts set up at the Ganges branches of Islands Savings Credit Union, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, and the Bank of Montreal. Donations are also being accepted at the island's pubs, and through Rodrigo's in Fulford Harbour.

Dosco said contributions can also be sent to her at Box 1518, Ganges.



Lisa Jorgensen

Page one art contributed by student

The cover of this year's *Driftwood* Christmas edition was created by Lisa Jorgensen, a Grade 12 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The winning effort was selected from a group of about 100 entries from local students participating in *Driftwood's* annual Christmas cover competition.

Jorgensen, 17, is enrolled in the secondary school's career preparation program for the arts. She said she is undecided about pursuing art as a career, but is "leaning more and more" in that direction as her school year progresses.

Should she decide to follow art as a career, Jorgensen said she would hope to enroll at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design.

In addition to arts courses, this year's poster contest winner is studying French, algebra and physics.

Christmas essay contest winners

This week's issue of *Driftwood* contains the winning entries in the newspaper's annual Christmas story-writing contest.

The contest, open to students in all Gulf Islands schools, features winners in six age-group categories. Following are the names of winners:

- Grades One and Two — first, Dylan Pinchin, Grade Two, Salt Spring Centre School; second, Robert Heaton, Grade One, Fernwood Elementary School.
- Grades Three and Four — first, Wolfgang Brocklebank, Grade Three, Fulford Elementary School; second, Jenny Storey, Grade Four, Fulford Elementary School.
- Grades Five and Six — first, Billy Boyte, Grade Six, Pender Island School; second, Auren Holt, Grade Five, Fulford Elementary School.
- Grades Seven and Eight — first, Jenni Thomas, Grade Seven, Salt Spring Elementary School; Karina Wickland, Grade Seven, Fulford Elementary School.
- Grades Nine and Ten — Lianne Weisner, Grade Nine, Gulf Islands Secondary School.
- Grades Eleven and Twelve — Dan Normand, Grade Eleven, Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Winners in each of the six categories win a cash prize of between \$25 and \$75, escalating through the age groups, while runners-up receive gift certificates valued at between \$12.50 and \$37.50. All winners also receive a free, one-year subscription to *Driftwood* or its sister newspaper, the *Islands Times*.



May the joys of the season be yours today and always.

So that all of our staff can get home to their families on Christmas Eve, we will be **CLOSED AT 4 PM SAT., DEC. 24**

We reopen as usual Tuesday, Dec. 27.

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21	0545	11.3	25	0805	11.8
	0920	10.5		1325	9.6
WE	1255	11.2	SU	1555	9.9
	2125	.7			
22	0615	11.7	26	0005	1.5
	1030	10.5		0835	11.7
TH	1345	10.9	MO	1420	9.1
	2205	.5		1650	9.4
23	0700	11.8	27	0045	2.3
	1145	10.3		0905	11.6
FR	1430	10.6	TU	1515	8.6
	2245	.6		1745	8.8
24	0730	11.8	28	0120	3.2
	1230	10.0		0930	11.4
SA	1505	10.3	WE	1610	7.9
	2325	1.0		1855	8.2

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Motorists obey warning

The RCMP's Christmas season drinking-driving CounterAttack program seems to be working on Salt Spring Island.

As of late Monday, not a single impaired driver had been charged by local police during the annual blitz, which started December 8 and continues until January 3.

However, one driver's driving privileges were suspended for 24 hours during that period.

Meanwhile, local police say they will continue with roadside inspections for motor vehicle infractions,

with assistance from Duncan RCMP.

The CounterAttack program was started over 10 years ago to help curb the toll on human lives and property caused by drinking drivers.

Most importantly, spot checks by police are a reminder that it's not worth taking a chance driving after imbibing during this holiday season.

The minimum penalty for first time drinking-driving offenders is a \$350 fine and a driver's license suspension for six months. The penalties for repeat offenders become increasingly severe.

to be frank

by richards



Kneeling in courtesy

Bill Bamford, at Sidney, was quick off the mark last week when he rang me to tell me the story of the kneeling bus.

I wrote last week of the legend on the side of a regional district bus announcing that it was a "kneeling bus." I was mystified by the announcement.

Bill tells me that the bus does, in fact, make an obeisance to the ailing passenger. When the boarding passenger has difficulty in mounting, the front end of the vehicle is lowered by the driver. The height to be negotiated by the passenger is, thereby, reduced.

The procedure is controlled by a hydraulic mechanism, said the former Galiano resident.

Distant news

I had a letter the other day from a small island off the west coast of Scotland, Arran. There was one comment from my sister-in-law that surprised me.

"So Mulroney did it again!" she commented. "What a slanging match between him and Turner!"

The significance, in my mind, is the fact that the election news and the Great Debate should have been allotted enough space on British television to prompt the comment.

In past elections when I have been over there, I have been hard-pushed to find out whether anyone had been elected.

One way of telling

I've found the simple way of proving that I am, in fact, getting older than I was the day before yesterday.

I only have to walk through Lady Minto Hospital to meet all my friends!

It's the pigs!

It's the pigs that have done for pork pies, I reckon. Ever since they turned red, the traditional Melton Mowbray pork pie has taken second place. The new, fine old English pork pie is compounded of ground pork, flavouring and a touch of red dye to tickle the eye before the pork tickles the palate. It's like a sausage roll loaded with luncheon meat of some kind: good enough but not a traditional pork pie.

To the uninitiated, one's the same as another, but to a man reared on his annual pork pie the change is great Christmas tragedy. I grew up in a household which could not have celebrated Christmas with a truly Christmas spirit had there been no pork pie available. Every Christmas demanded that breakfast centre on a Melton Mowbray pork pie and dinner featured a turkey and plum pudding. To mark Christmas without the breakfast pie would have been almost as shocking to my forebears as neglecting to go to church at Christmas.

The story was that the Melton Hunt, in Leicestershire, was fed pork pies before setting out in pursuit of Wilde's "Inedible," the fox. The tasty pie was widely adopted around the country. It is a simple dish. The pork is cooked, chopped and enclosed in a hot-water crust with a little seasoning and a hard-boiled egg. When it is cool, it is plugged out with jellied gravy and permitted to settle.

Since moving to Canada nearly 50 years ago, I have baked a pork pie each Christmas. Some were good and some were poor. Some were plain horrible and went into the garbage, only to be followed by a new, better and edible pie.

Last week the newest pie came into this world and is now stored away in my freezer ready for Christmas. No dye, no ground meat, there!

I just hope this Christmas proves to be a good season for pies!

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Christmas spirit alive year-round

Earlier this week, organizers of a memorial fund established for the two children of a woman who died in a December 11 Salt Spring Island fire announced that \$5,000 had been raised by local residents in the span of less than seven days.

That generous and compassionate outpouring is but one of a number of similar gestures made with great regularity on Salt Spring. In the past year, for instance, islanders have:

- raised more than \$4,000 at an auction in aid of the Community Society food bank (not counting another \$1,000 local Rotary Club members gave to the same cause on Monday);
- contributed a total of over \$30,000 to the Terry Fox Run for cancer research and to the local portion of the United Way campaign;
- launched the Salt Spring Island Foundation — with assets of more than \$10,000 — to act in cases of people in need;
- donated close to \$6,000 to aid an island woman's fight against cancer; and
- given strong financial support for outside humanitarian projects like relief for hurricane victims, improved quality of water supplies for Third World villagers, the shipment of domestic goods to Nicaragua.

The above is hardly a complete list of gestures made in the past year. It would be virtually impossible to calculate or document the total number of dollars raised on this island for the variety of worthy causes its residents support. Along with the spontaneous response to immediate calls for assistance, Salt Spring is blessed with organizations like the IODE and the



Lions Club (to name but a few), whose members regularly and quietly supply funds or much-needed items to people and projects in need.

However, it is not the monetary totals we wish to note and salute as the holiday season nears, but the unselfish spirit consistently shown by islanders whenever they undertake to answer a call for help.

Christmas makes all of us much more aware of the act of giving — an act we are sometimes led to believe is prompted more by the arrival of the festive season than by basic human nature or

genuine concern for the less fortunate among us.

Except on Salt Spring. Here, it seems, the spirit of giving is alive 12 months of the year and needs no impetus to be brought into play. More than that, the continual display of genuine concern for others, whether shown by a monetary contribution or by a helping hand, is a trait known in far too few communities.

For those blessings, we give thanks this Christmas.

Animals should be included on Santa's gift list

There's a saying in Cariboo-Chilcotin country that a dog will jump or fall out of the back of a moving pickup truck only once. If it survives the experience, the animal will presumably learn the error of its ways.

As you might gather from that snippet of folk wisdom, the Cariboo-Chilcotin is a hard country. Both of my dogs hail from those parts, each has jumped out of the back of a moving pickup only once, and both have since acted as though they are now well aware of the hazards involved.

At least, that's what I thought up until last week.

The truck was cruising slowly along Lower Ganges Road when a disoriented dog swung into view. Since it was loping along in my lane, I slowed the truck to a crawl

my word

by duncan macdonnell

and eased between Fido and an oncoming car.

The ker-thump and accompanying springing action in the box told me, before looking in the rear-view mirror, that one of my pups had suddenly decided to visit her pedestrian kin. Sure enough, the lane was now blocked by two dogs standing nose-to-nose in front of a growing line of cars stopping to enjoy the show.

After edging off the road, I whistled for my dog and dropped the tailgate. She came running, but my other dog interpreted the action as an invitation to join the show. She jumped out as the other jumped in.

Then the strange dog got into the act. Soon the truck was the focal point for three dogs in, then three dogs out, or two in and one out, or one in and two out. The mix was never quite right.

By the time the mix of mutts was correctly sorted out, traffic was halted four or five cars deep on both sides of the road. My truck blocked part of one lane and the strange dog was walking back and forth in the other, blocking any hopes of a vehicle bypassing what was turning out to be a twisted scene, indeed.

But it must have been a slow day, because not one person honked a horn or showed signs of either displeasure or impatience while waiting for me to sort out the confusion. Perhaps the pure entertainment value was better than what they normally saw when they pattered through the village.

After much urging and sorting on my part, the performance drew to a close. We pulled away with the strange dog still blocking

traffic in our wake, and with vehicles in the other lane finally beginning to move. Just another isolated incident in minor, day-to-day affairs.

Except it made me realize that the old Cariboo-Chilcotin adage no longer applied to my dogs, and that perhaps it never really had in the first place. Luck alone was probably most responsible for the pups still being in one piece after all these years.

So, in the best tradition of Christmas, I've decided to give the mutts a present. Soon, a new system will be in place to ensure their safety while riding in the back of the pickup. It's the least I can do.

And to each and everyone out there, best wishes for a happy holiday season.

letters

Supportive

We wish to thank the community for their wonderful support of our *Gifts For Peace*. From the three craft faires plus the Peace, Justice and Environment Holiday Fest we raised \$4,424 for Chilean, Salvadoran and Guatemalan women's co-operatives. Thanks to the Community Centre, Beaver Point and especially the Fabric Guild for welcoming us.

We remind you of your power to change the world every time you spend money. Please purchase mindfully, especially at this season of peace. Both Voice of Women and Nuclear Disarmament have copies of the booklet, *Socially Responsible Buyer's Guide: How to Keep Nuclear Weapons Out of Your Daily Life*. (Call Virginia at 537-9251.)

And remember: Santa doesn't like war toys!

WILLO STEVENSON,
Salt Spring Voice of Women.

P.S. There are a few calendars and cards still available at Sooz, Juliette's Hair Studio and Off Centre Stage.

Vigil

Now, in the midst of the season of goodwill, feasting, celebration and resolutions, everyone is invited to come together and share a vigil for peace throughout the world.

This will be the third time this vigil is being held on Salt Spring and will be from 4 am to 6 am on the morning of New Year's Eve — that is, Saturday morning. The Salt Spring Centre on Blackburn Road has again opened its lovely room for this occasion. The timing is in order to coincide with noon GMT and therefore with all the other groups and individuals around the world sitting a vigil with a common intention. Those who prefer not to come to the centre are invited to join in anyway, at home.

We will participate in a non-denominational meditation, and ask anyone who feels so moved to bring a contribution — a reading, a poem, a song, a prayer to help us all turn our attention towards the fullest human possibilities of disarmament, global co-operation and world peace.

Please pass the invitation on to your friends. Thank you.
HEATHER MARTIN,
Ganges.

Progressive

An article in the November 30 edition of the Gulf Islands *Driftwood* covered concerns about elevator signage on our Long Harbour vessel.

I can recall a visit from David Clegg some time ago when he asked about improving elevator signage on the ferry. Immediately following that meeting, we set up a program to improve notices on the ferry serving the route at that time. This program is being expanded to all of our major vessels as they go in for annual refit.

B.C. Ferries has always recognized its responsibilities in handling special needs for passengers. The recent addition of an elevator on our Queens of Sidney and Tsawwassen are

examples of this progressive attitude.

BILL BOUCHARD,
Manager,
Marketing and Public Relations,
B.C. Ferry Corporation.

Thank you

The Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association would like to thank Albert Kaye of Tri-K Drilling for drilling our well at Portlock Park, and for re-drilling it after vandals plugged the well. Thank you also to Bill Egeland for generous donation of proceeds from their herring sale, and to all coaches, managers, concession workers, players, Syd Wigen and the members of the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HANS HAZENBOOM,
Salt Spring Youth Soccer.

Thank you

On behalf of the Fernwood Parents' Group, I would like to thank the following people for

their generous donations:

The Knoths, John and Ann Millerd, Salt Spring Natureworks, The General Store, Harlan's Chocolates, Glads, The Deli Shoppe, Foxglove Farm and Garden Supplies, Ganges Village Market, Embe Bakery, Breadwinners Bakery and Sweet Arts Patisserie Cafe.

I would also like to thank the many parents who donated all the wonderful baked goodies for the bake sale. We were able to raise \$366 from the evening.

Thank you again to everyone involved and may you all have a very Merry Christmas.
SANDRA BRAINERD,
Ganges.

Congratulations

I wish to thank all those who supported me in my recent try for the School Board. Next time! And may I also congratulate the successful contenders and wish them luck in the oncoming problems which I'm sure they will face.

MURRAY SHOOLBRAID,
Ganges.

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letters

Generosity

On behalf of the United Way Campaign for 1988, I would like to thank Salt Spring Island residents for giving so generously.

Last year the 1987 United Way raised approximately \$5,800 on Salt Spring. This year we raised approximately \$14,236 which made for the largest percentage increase in the Victoria-area campaign drive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following canvassers and volunteers who worked so hard on this campaign: Joan Collins, John Crofton, Carol Gay, Gary Greico, Maggie Hayes, Michael Hayes, Lianne Huntley, Jim Lightfoot, Dale Mellish, Jonathan Oldryod, Henri Procter, Tony Richards, Jacquie Severn, Hugh Spoor, Walt Swing, Mel Topping, Tom Toynbee, Mike Tyson and David Williams.

A special thanks to: Paul Sadler and his group of canvassers at Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwoods, to Frank Leigh-Spencer for his excellent articles on the United Way member agencies, and to *Driftwood* for publishing those articles.

If I have missed anyone please accept this as my apology. Again, thank you Salt Spring for your generosity. **ARVID CHALMERS**, 1988 United Way Campaign Chairman, Salt Spring Island.

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<p style="text-align: center;">— FRESH LAMB SALE —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEG OF LAMB 6.59 kg 2.99 lb. LAMB LOIN CHOPS 9.90 kg 4.49 lb. RACK OF LAMB 9.46 kg 4.29 lb. LAMB SHOULDER CHOPS OR ROASTS 5.05 kg 2.29 lb. LAMB SHANKS 4.39 kg 1.99 lb. LAMB STEW or BREAST 3.73 kg 1.69 lb. 		<p style="text-align: center;">— MAPLE LEAF FINE PRODUCTS —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLICED SIDE BACON 500 g 2.09 ea. CORNED BEEF Sweet Pickle 5.71 kg 2.59 lb. SMOKED HAM Boneless Country Kitchen 7.91 kg 3.59 lb. BEEF or CHICKEN PES 250 g 1.29 pkg. 		B.C. FRESH MUSHROOMS 3.95 kg 1.79 lb.
<p style="text-align: center;">— CUT FROM GRADE "A" BEEF — A TREAT FOR THE XMAS SEASON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T-BONE STEAKS 7.03 kg 3.19 lb. PORTERHOUSE STEAKS 7.21 kg 3.27 lb. WING STEAKS 6.59 kg 2.99 lb. 		SWEET POTATOES or YAMS 55¢ kg 25¢ lb.	JAPANESE MANDARIN ORANGES box 7.79	
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SCOTTIES SQUARE FACIAL TISSUES 100's 47¢	NABISCO MILKBONE DOG BISCUITS 450 g 1.37	DOLE'S PINEAPPLE JUICE 48 oz. 1.27	• SEA HAUL CRABMEAT 113 g 1.79	
NABOB DELUXE TEA BAGS 120's 3.17	KRAFT PARKAY MARGARINE 3 lbs. in 1/4's 2.17	DOLE PINEAPPLE All cuts, 19 oz. 87¢	• SEA HAUL BROKEN OR TINY SHRIMP 113 g 1.29	
		SUNLIGHT LIQUID DISH DETERGENT 1 litre btl. 1.77	7UP PEPSI REG. OR DIET 750 ml btl. 56¢ Limit in effect plus deposit	

more letters

Your trip

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to Sue Hiscocks, Chairman of the Salt Spring Island Sierra Club, in reply to a letter to the editor printed in the *Whitehorse Star*.

Such whining! Such snivelling! As a member (let alone chairman) of the Sierra Club, you surely must realize that not all places of beauty require paved roads for easy access, service stations every few miles for convenience, and road signs at their gateways to warn about what common sense and adequate research and planning should tell you. You should also, as member of such a club, be no stranger to walking — and therefore could have turned a minor setback like hitch-hiking to Inuvik into a positive experience.

Your point about calcium chloride is also open to discussion. Would you prefer to have the chemicals in the tars and bonding agents in chip seal find their way to the delicate and protected environment of the Dempster? Or would you be on that band wagon, too, crying "leave this place in its natural state!"

As for being "mosquito-infested country," as you so rightly and aptly put it, would you prefer that pesticides were used there to control the things? Don't you think it safer and more prudent just to take your own bug spray? Or would you like a sign for that, too?

You *do* have something positive to say about the kindness of the highway crew who helped you change your tires. But they are used to foolish people who don't look at a map or make sensible preparations for a trip into unfamiliar country. Those people hardly ever know how to change tires.

So, Ms. Hiscocks, next time you want a wilderness adventure, you can drive the Coquihalla Highway. Billions were spent on pavement and it only costs \$10 to go there. It sounds more like your kind of trip. L. MOTH, Whitehorse, Yukon.

Noel

Good health, good friends... all the best to you and the ones you love.

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FRESH OR FROZEN "GRADE A" TURKEYS DUCKS & GEESE HOME CURED HAMS & BACON

Gulf Island Trading Co.

Best way to avoid roadblocks is to refuse drink

By HUGH LINDSAY

"Let's get into the holiday spirit, eh? ... have a drink."
 "Thanks, happy holidays."

When there is a festive spirit in the air, it's all too easy to enjoy a few friendly drinks on the spur of the moment without thinking about the drive home. Once you've had those drinks you may not be in a fit state to drive and your ability to make choices is reduced. That's why it's important to plan ahead and make your choices *before* you start drinking.

Fortunately, the number of choices keeps increasing. The designated driver option is still one of the best. If you can't stay put until you're fully sober, your best bet is to get someone who hasn't been drinking to drive you. It's great if a friend or family member can drive you home in your own car, but this isn't always possible. You may wish to call for a taxi.

Of course, the safest option of all is to stick to non-alcoholic beverages. Ask yourself: "Do I really need alcohol to have a good time?" After all, the true holiday spirit comes from being with people and not out of a bottle.

guest column

'The true holiday spirit comes from being with people, and not out of a bottle.'

What are the costs of drinking and driving in B.C.?

In an average year in B.C., alcohol is the cause of about 4,500 property damage accidents, 3,500 personal injury accidents, and accidents in which 7,200 people are injured and 250 people are killed.

Your insurance: About \$60 million is spent each year repairing the damage done by impaired drivers.

Your tax dollars: Over \$130 million is spent on enforcement, court, medical services and the other costs.

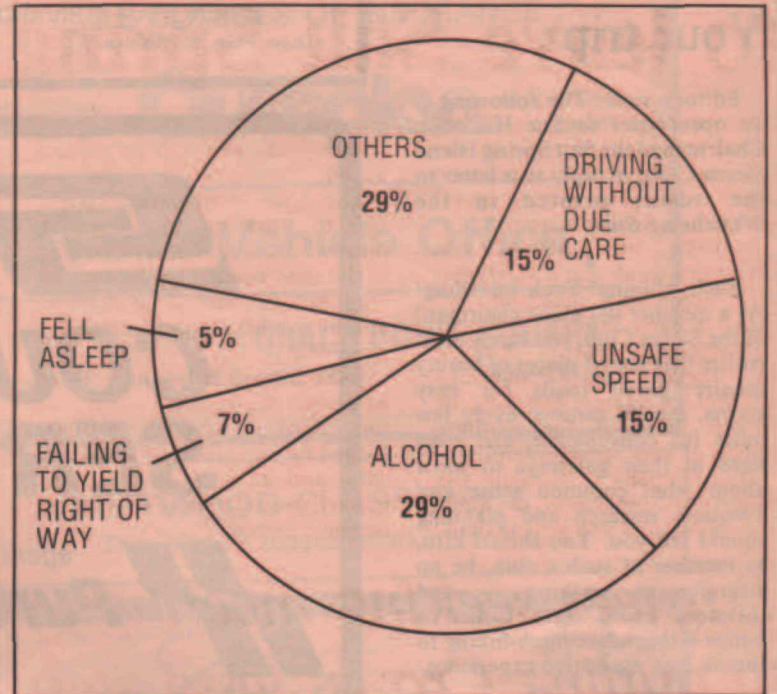
Your justice system: About one-third of all people in B.C. jails are there for impaired driving convictions. One-third of all cases heard in provincial court involved drinking and driving. About \$20 million is spent on charges alone.

Your health system: Drinking drivers are responsible for 40 per cent of all driver fatalities. They send over 7,000 people to hospital.

CounterAttack: During the 1987 province-wide Christmas CounterAttack police roadcheck blitz, there were over 340,000 vehicles checked, and 880 charges laid.

The total number of drivers checked increased by 25 per cent over 1986, while the total number of drivers charged, per vehicle, decreased by four per cent over the previous year.

Hugh Lindsay is the manager of the traffic safety education department at the Insurance Corporation of B.C.



Police reports show that as of September 30, 1988, there had been 356 fatal motor vehicle accidents in B.C. Twenty-nine per cent of those accidents involved alcohol as the primary contributing factor.

more letters

Thank you

On Saturday, December 10, Tools For Peace had a dance for Nicaragua, to the music of Mango Dub. Although it would have been great to see more people there, I'd like to thank those who did come to dance the night away.

No one can show more appreciation of good music, and have more fun doing so, than Islanders. A special thanks to Linda Jensen and others from Off Centre Stage, April Curtis, Trish Noble, Ross McLeod, Erin Butler, Judy Thompson, Wendy Norton, Pat Robertson, Dale Klimek, Jack Speed, Dietrich Luth, Shawn Adams, Ken Soles and partners for sound, and all others who helped.
TOM MITCHELL,
 Fulford Harbour.

Said ICCHRLA: "This is not true. Chilean Church and human rights agencies document an alarming increase in reports of gross and systematic human rights violations."

Please write Ottawa to say Canada should vote against new loans to Chile until power is restored to elected civilian authorities and there is a notable improvement in the human rights situation.

SHEILA REID,
 Mexico City.

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Speak out

Serious human rights abuses continue in Chile, according to the inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA).

Yet, although government officials are aware of this, Canadian trade with Chile is *increasing*, and Canada continues to vote *in favour* of World Bank loans to Chile — i.e., the recent Canada-supported \$250 million structural adjustment loan to the Chilean military government.

Except for Britain and Canada, all other Western democracies voted against this loan, or abstained.


When questioned on policy towards Chile, reports ICCHRLA, the government said Chilean authorities have taken steps to improve the human rights situation.

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Mining company expected to leave Salt Spring alone

Falconbridge Minerals is expected to announce early in the new year that it has abandoned proposals to open a mining operation on Salt Spring Island.

Officially, the company said earlier this week that a statement of its intentions should be released in early January.

Unofficially, sources close to the company say Falconbridge has decided against pursuing its mineral claims in the southern portion of Salt Spring Island.

The company's decision has reportedly been based on questions about land-use jurisdictions,

and on public opposition to its proposal to open a mine on the island.

The hold-up in announcing a halt to work on the proposal, meanwhile, is thought to be tied to the time needed to sort out the legal ramifications of its move — and on a wish to avoid setting a precedent.

Falconbridge is legally entitled to pursue its mineral claims on the island — a point acknowledged by opponents of its proposal — and, as such, does not wish to have cancellation of its work to be interpreted elsewhere as a

sign that public pressure will force it to withdraw, the sources say.

The mining company stepped up exploratory work on its Salt Spring claim earlier this year, then held a local workshop in the fall to discuss its plans with islanders. However, those plans were never outlined because the audience at the workshop opened the session by saying it stood unanimously opposed to any mining on Salt Spring. Falconbridge then closed the meeting.

It is still not clear what Falconbridge intends to do about its mineral claims on the island if and when work is halted. To retain a claim, mining companies are required to invest a certain amount of money over a prescribed period of time. If it fails to do so, the claim lapses and is open to anyone else who wishes to stake the area.

In the midst of local opposition to Falconbridge's proposal, the Islands Trust suggested that a freeze be placed on mineral claims on Salt Spring, and that the mining company voluntarily place its claim within the reserves to be created. It also indicated the reserve could be lifted if and when technology made an environmentally-safe mining operation possible.

Sources at Falconbridge say the question of giving up claims to a local government authority also entered internal discussions about the company wishing to avoid setting any precedent that could cause it problems in the future.

Trustees seeking meeting to outline Crown land step

Before it takes any steps aimed at securing tenure over Crown lands on Salt Spring, the local Islands Trust committee will first seek a meeting with the area's elected provincial representatives.

Trustee Nick Gilbert said last week a meeting is being requested with Saanich-The Islands MLAs Mel Couvelier and Terry Huberts, at which time the Trust would present its case and seek the support of the government members if and when discussions take place with the province.

Earlier this month, representatives of 12 community groups urged the Trust to pursue "every reasonable avenue to secure" control over the 1,900 acres of

Crown land on Salt Spring. The land, contained in eight parcels, is subject to a status review by the provincial government and could end up in private hands, the representatives noted.

Should the Trust win control of the land, it says authority for managing the acreage would be vested with a resource board made up of local residents. A coalition of community group representatives is being formed to examine potential uses for the lands.

The Crown's Salt Spring holdings include parcels on Mt. Erskine and Mt. Bruce, near Cusheon Lake, along Satellite Channel and on Hope Hill.



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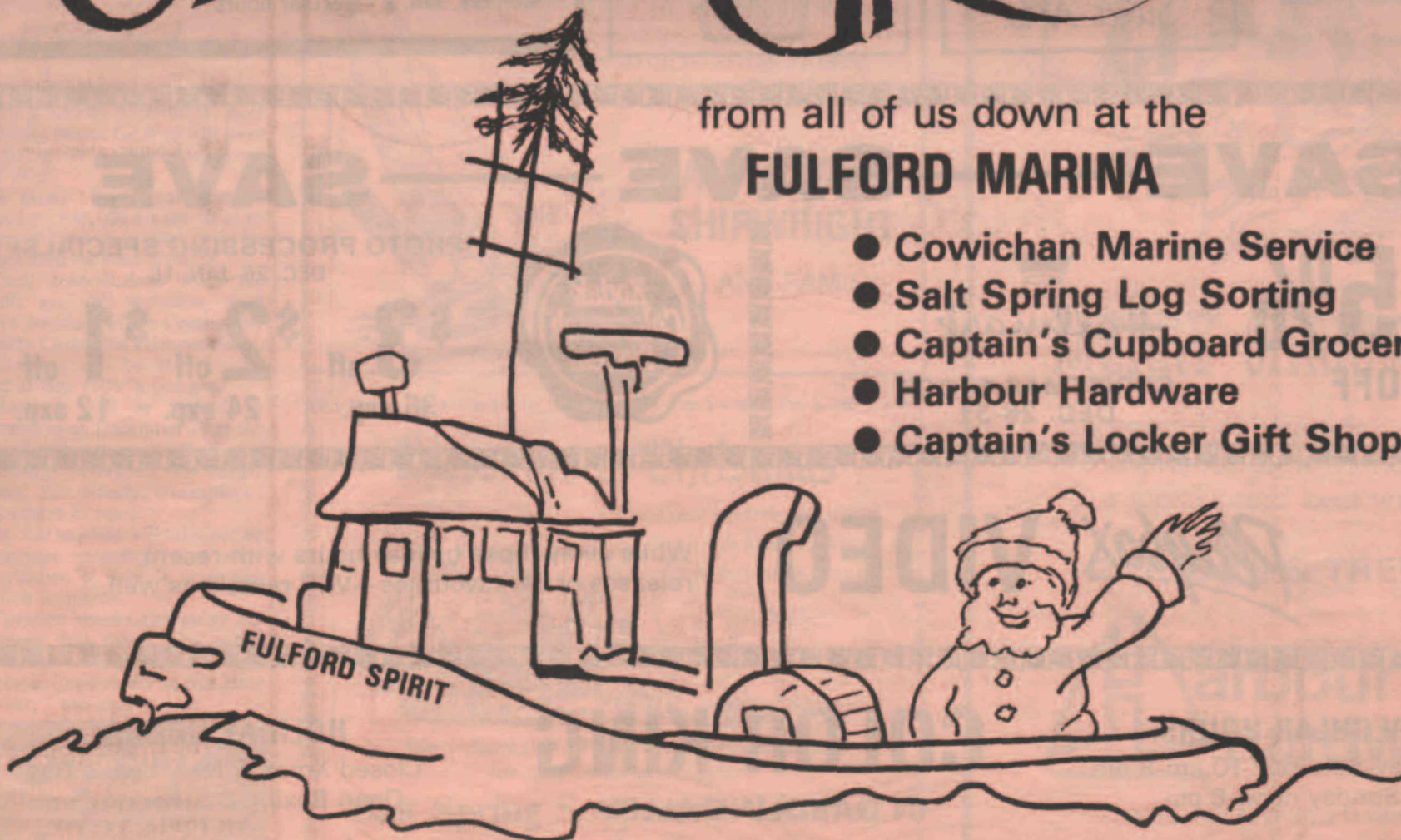
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- Captain's Cupboard Grocery
- Harbour Hardware
- Captain's Locker Gift Shop





All together now

Primary students from Salt Spring Elementary follow their teacher in rousing chorus of Christmas carols at Centennial Park last Thursday.

Conditional discharge granted on marijuana cultivation charge

When can marijuana be used for medicinal use and when can't it?

That was the question facing Judge R.E. Hudson at the December 13 session of Ganges provincial court.

Juliana Docherty of Ganges pleaded guilty to cultivating marijuana in the back yard of her home. In his decision on the case, Judge Hudson gave the accused a conditional discharge.

Court was told Ganges RCMP investigated Docherty's residence after receiving a report she was selling lumber at her home. In the course of their visit, police discovered seven marijuana plants. Docherty admitted to growing the pot but said it was for personal use.

She told the court she had

smoked a "joint" a night for seven years to relieve her high blood pressure, after being advised that cannabis would help her condition.

Defence lawyer Jim Pasuta said Docherty, who had no previous record, did not fit into the normal category of a drug user. She did not try to cover up her actions because she felt she had a moral right to grow the pot, Pasuta said.

As part of her sentence, Docherty must keep the peace

and be of good behaviour for one year. She must also perform 40 hours of community service work.

Festive Times
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Sweet Arts!

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Festive Season Events
at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 92

Saturday, Dec. 31 **NEW YEAR'S PARTY** - 8 pm
Sunday, Jan. 1 ... **NEW YEAR'S LEVEE** - noon-3 pm (members only)
Monday, Jan. 9 **GENERAL MEETING** - 8 pm
Monday, Jan. 16 **LADIES GENERAL MEETING** 7:30 pm

Watch for information on the **AUCTION** and **ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT**, both coming in January.

CHRISTMAS HOURS:
Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) No meat draw; Legion closes at 5:00 pm
Christmas Day (Dec. 25) Closed
Boxing Day (Dec. 26) Open as usual
New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) Meat Draw 3-5 pm; Legion closes 6:00 pm.
Monday, Jan. 2 - Regular hours

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Sunday noon-8 pm

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Closed Xmas & New Year's Day
Open Boxing Day noon-4 pm

Coast Guard veteran sails into retirement

After more than 37 years of plying the waters of Western Canada and answering distress signals, Frank Wilkins has retired from the Coast Guard.

A ceremony marking Wilkins' career and contributions to marine safety was held Friday, December 2, at the Coast Guard office in Ganges.

Wilkins, who was born and raised near Saskatoon, started his career on the water almost by accident. "A friend and I went to sign up for service in the army during the Second World War, but they wouldn't take me because I was only 16," he said.

"So I left the office and went out and smudged some coal dust on to my birth certificate and changed the date to make it look like I was 18. Then I walked down the street and signed on with the navy."

During his four and a half year stint with the navy, Wilkins served on the *HMCS Pictou*, a Corvette cruiser, running convoys between Canada and England. "I lost track of how many times we crossed the ocean, probably about 25 times," he said.

After the war ended, he returned to his home town but left again after a couple of years to join the Air Force Marine on the west coast. "I was the first person they hired in Vancouver to work small vessels for the coast guard," he said. "I wanted to get back to the boats."

Over the next two and a half decades he patrolled the coastal waters from Vancouver to Bull Harbour, on Hope Island off the north end of Vancouver Island. It was nearly 10 years ago that he came to Salt Spring Island to head up the operations here.

Gordon Ruckle, the current

Officer in Charge in Ganges, worked with Frank for the past four years. "He was one of the best to work with," Ruckle said. "He has a lot of patience with people and always looks for the good in people. Everyone enjoyed working with him."

Since his retirement at the end of September, Frank said he has just been "puttering around the yard, doing jobs I've meant to do for years and don't have any excuse not to, now."

As for the future, he said he and his wife are planning a trip to New Zealand, not by boat but by air. But he hasn't given up on sea travel yet.

"What I would like to find is a passenger freighter that only takes about 12 or 14 passengers and go on a trip somewhere," he said. "I plan on doing some boating of my own, if I ever get my boat fixed."

He mused: "One thing I will never do is leave boating — it gets in your blood."



Good cause

Rotary Club's Don Harrison signs cheque for \$1,000 for Mary Toynbee, to be used for community food bank. Harrison notes club's contribution was made possible with the help of the Salt Spring Island branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club, who assist staging of Rotary bingo games. Most important, he said, are the players who turn out for games. Food bank, meanwhile, is preparing to distribute Christmas hampers.

Distribution of hampers scheduled

Thanks to dedicated volunteers and a generous community, over 90 needy island families will have the fixings for a Christmas dinner this year.

A recent food bank auction raised over \$4,000 for the 90 or so hampers and toys that will be distributed on December 23.

Cash contributions from the public are still welcome, says Mary Toynbee of the Community Society Christmas Hamper Fund.

Cheques can be sent to the fund at Box 1106 in Ganges.

Hampers will be packed by volunteers on December 22 at the United Church and the next morning delivered to single moms, the elderly, unemployed and others in need.

So that no child will miss out on Christmas morning, toys were refurbished at Santa's workshop by Bob Appleton.

Toynbee thanks the many volunteers and those who made donations. "We have a very generous community at this time of year," she says.

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS & SMOOTH SAILING

in 1989—to all who have made 1988 great for us on Salt Spring

DEAN SEVOLD SHIPWRIGHT AND FAMILY

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We raise our voice in thanks.*

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FRESH BEEF SAUSAGE MEAT 3.51 kg 1 59 lb.	FRESH PORK SAUSAGE MEAT 4.17 kg 1 89 lb.	FRESH PORK COCKTAIL SAUSAGE 6.75 kg 3 06 lb.	FRESH PRE-MADE POULTRY STUFFING 5.27 kg 2 39 lb.	FLETCHER'S POULTRY STUFFING 400 g 2 39 ea.

BONELESS LEG OF PORK 7.47 kg 3 39	BEEF RIB STEAK BLADE ROAST 8.80 kg 3.99 lb. Boneless 5.27 kg 2.39 lb.	BLACK FOREST HAM 1/4 cut 10.78 kg 4 89	SLICED BACK BACON 13.21 kg 5 99	FLEETWOOD COIL GARLIC 5.37 kg 2 39	SMALL PCS. BACK BACON 11.00 kg 4 99
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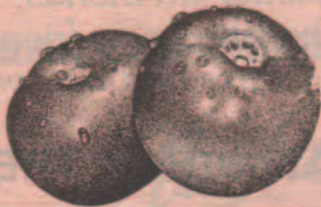


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• Extra Fine
300 g pkg.

1.68



MAXWELL HOUSE
INSTANT COFFEE Reg. 200 g or Decaf 150 g **4.98**

RED ROSE
TEA BAGS

Paper 144 pack **3.48**

SHIRRIFF
JELLY POWDER

85 g pkgs. **3/89¢**

OCEAN SPRAY
CRANBERRY SAUCE

398 ml tin, whole or jellied **98¢**

OLD DUTCH
POTATO CHIPS

Twin Pack Box Your Choice

98¢



NALLEY'S
CHIP DIPS

225 g tub **98¢**

WASA
CRISP BREADS

200 g pkg. **1.48**

KARINA
BUTTER COOKIES

500 g tin **2.98**

DIANE'S
TORTILLA CHIPS

1 lb. bag **2.38**

SEA HAUL
SMOKED OYSTERS



1.14

SEA HAUL or CLOVER LEAF
SMOKED MUSSELS 104 g tin **98¢**

SEA HAUL
BROKEN SHRIMP

113 g tin **1.38**

SEA HAUL
SHRIMP

Cocktail or Tiny. 113 g tin **1.68**

CHALLENGER
PINK SALMON

7 1/2 oz. tin **1.98**

GOLDEN CIRCLE CRUSHED
PINEAPPLE

In its own juice

2.99

DELMONTE FANCY
CREAM CORN 14 oz. tin **84¢**

AYLMER CUT WAX OR
GREEN BEANS

14 oz. tin **66¢**

BERRYLAND FANCY
GREEN PEAS

14 oz. tin **68¢**

MAPLE LEAF or E.D. SMITH
MINGEMEAT

750 ml jar **2.98**

CHOCOLATES

• Black Magic
• Dairy Box 450 g box
• Turtles 200 g pkg.

6.98



AFTER EIGHT
MINTS

240 g pkg. **2.98**

400 g pkg. **4.98**

ELEGANT
Chocolates

600 g box **4.98**

FROZEN FOOD SPECIALS

DELNOR
FROZEN VEGETABLES

• Peas
• Corn
• Mixed Veg
1 kg bag **2.56**

TENDERFLAKE
PIE SHELLS

Deep Dish **2.18** Regular **1.98**

FBI FROZEN
Orange Juice 341 ml tin **98¢**

SNOWCREST 1 kg bag
Brussels Sprouts **2.18**

SNOWCREST
Festive Mix 1 kg bag **2.68**

FBI FROZEN Pink or White
Lemonade 355 ml tins **2/99¢**

ALL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

• Christmas Wrap
• Decorations **50% OFF**

ROYALE
BATHROOM TISSUE

8-roll pack or 2 4-roll packs **2.88**

FLORELLE
FACIAL TISSUE

200's **98¢**

MOTT'S
CLAMATO JUICE

Reg. or Extra Spicy
48 oz. tin **1.78**

VENICE
ITALIANO ROLLS

doz. **1.18**

McVITIE
DIGESTIVE BISCUITS

500 g pkg. **1.98**

UNICO MEDIUM PITTED
OLIVES

375 ml tin **98¢**

BICK'S GARLIC or POLSKIE
DILL PICKLES

1 litre jar **1.78**

BICK'S
PICKLES

1 litre jar Sw. Mixed, Yum Yums, Baby Dills **2.98**

PAMPER
DIAPERS

All convenience packs except jumbo packs **10.98**



REYNOLDS
FOIL WRAP

18" x 25' **2.38**

KAL KAN
CAT FOOD

369 g tin **68¢**

Keep safety considerations in mind when decorating for festive season

Along with the merriment of the holiday season comes an increased risk of fire.

"A great big be careful" — that's the advice regional fire commissioner Reg Perkins gives to help keep your Christmas a safe and happy one.

Natural trees should be kept in a pot of water and away from hot air registers or electrical baseboard heaters. Keep a close eye on fallen pine needles, a sign your tree may be dying.

If lights are to be used, they should be CSA-approved and not left on for long periods of time.

When presents are being opened have a garbage bag handy for paper waste which, if sparked, can lead to fire.

Care should be taken not to overload electrical sockets. A fused multiple outlet can save a lot of grief.

Before using any lights or electric decoration, check all wiring, sockets and plugs for fraying, cracks or loose connections. If at all in doubt replace the old sets.

Always disconnect Christmas lights when your family is asleep or away from home. When a bulb on a Christmas tree light string or

electrically-lit decoration burns out replace the bulb as soon as possible (allow it to cool off and unplug the light string first). If you don't the other bulbs may burn at a higher than normal temperature and the empty socket on the string could pose a potential shock hazard, especially for young, curious children.

Make sure the replacement bulb is of the correct wattage and voltage.

Do not coil or bunch an extension cord as it may cause overheating. Extension cords should not be walked on or run

under a rug.

Make sure decorations don't wind up in children's mouths. They should be flame resistant, non-combustible and should not conduct electricity.

Do not use decoration angel hair together with spray-on snow — the combination is highly combustible, according to the Canada Safety Council.

Teach children not to eat any part of Christmas plants such as holly, Jerusalem Cherry, mistletoe and poinsettia — they can cause intestinal irritation and vomiting.

Seafood at Vesuvius Bay...
SEASIDE KITCHEN
 Lunch Specials from 11:30
 Dinner Specials 5-8 pm
537-2249
 LICENSED



Moisture essential for in-house trees

Whether you buy or cut your Christmas tree, some precautions can be taken to minimize fire risks.

The B.C. Forestry Association advises that when buying a tree, check for freshness by moving your hand down some of the branches and tapping the cut trunk on the ground several times. If too many needles fall off the tree, it is not fresh — select another one.

If the purchased or home-cut tree is to be stored before decorating, do so outside in the shade. Also, a small slice should be cut from the trunk at an angle. Exposing the fresh wood opens up the pores, allowing the tree to drink.

Following the cut, the tree should be placed in a bucket of water. When the tree is brought inside the house, another small section of the trunk must be cut — this time, straight across — to expose more fresh wood before placing the trunk in the tree stand.

Water level in the tree should be checked at least once a day. Adding sugar to the water will increase water absorption by the tree, resulting in increased moisture content of the tree and thus reducing the potential fire risk.

As noted in a story elsewhere on this page, the tree should then be kept well away from any kind of heat source or electrical appliance. Only CSA-approved lights and non- or slow-combustible decorations should be used. Check all cord and sockets and discard or repair any faulty equipment.

Board, teacher contract talks under blackout

Contract negotiations between Gulf Islands' teachers and the school district are proceeding slowly but steadily.

That is as much information as both sides agreed to release to *Driftwood* since agreeing on a news blackout during contract talks, says Grace Byrne, chairman of the school board's negotiating committee.

Under Bill 20 this is the first time district teachers will bargain as union locals. Virtually all aspects of teacher's jobs (hours of work, sick leave, teacher evaluation and dismissal), hitherto covered by the School Act, must be bargained again.

Byrne says the Gulf Islands School District, with 100 teachers and 1,400 students, is one of the fastest growing districts in the province.

Portables at Fernwood and Fulford schools are indications of a rising student population.

SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SOCIETY NEWS

268 Fulford-Ganges Rd. 537-9971

★ **CHRISTMAS HAMPER DELIVERIES** - Hampers will be delivered Friday morning, Dec. 23. If you are expecting a hamper but can't be at home, or if we need special instructions to find you, please call Mary Toynbee, 537-5812, Thursday morning.

★ **SENIORS FOR SENIORS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** - Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2 pm, United Church. New members welcome.

★ **VOLUNTEER OFFICE RECEPTIONISTS** - Needed at Community Centre. Call 537-9971 after Jan. 3.

★ **HOLIDAY CLOSURE** - The Community Centre will be closed over the holidays and will open again Jan. 3.

★ **EMERGENCY HELP** - If you need help while the Centre is closed, call the **NEED CRISIS LINE, ZENITH 2262**, and they will put you in touch with an on-call counsellor.

BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS! — The Staff

Violation charge verdict delayed

Ganges provincial court has delayed until January its decision on a case alleging violation of an Islands Trust bylaw by Lloyd and Cordelia Kinney.

Initially, the decision had been expected when the court sat in Ganges on December 13. However, court registry officials in Sidney said Monday the verdict will not be handed down until January 10.

The Kinneys were charged were misuse of property zoned for rural-residential purposes, in violation of an Islands Trust bylaw. The case centred on the use of the Kinneys' Kings Lane property by tenant Hal Wright, who operated a trucking business before leaving Salt Spring Island earlier this year to relocate in the Kootenays.

Six provincial court sessions, beginning last spring, were taken up by testimony in the case.

Merry Christmas

May your holiday be joyous in every way.

Orcas Gallery

Wolfgang & Necitas Kranz & Chris Pike

Happy Holidays!

Our publishing schedule remains unchanged through the holiday season except for a deadline change this week.

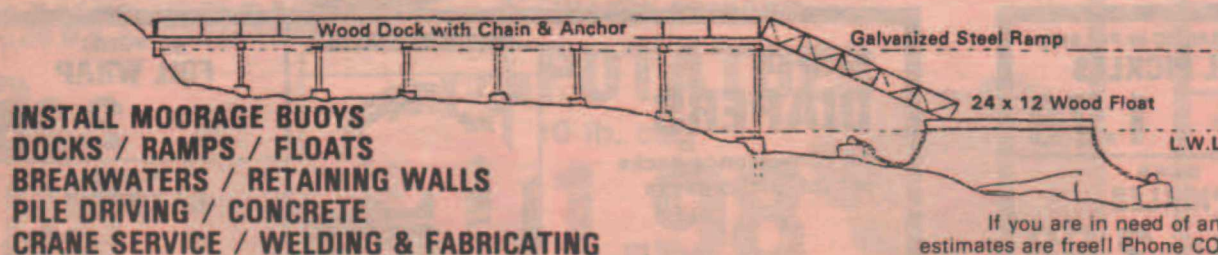
Display, classified and editorial deadline for the issue of December 28 will be **4:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 22.**

Our office will be closed two days only, Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26 & 27.

Gulf Islands Driftwood
 YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

537-9933

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artseen

by gary cherneff



There was a Christmas many years ago which stands out in my mind, mostly because it was so spare and uncontrived.

I remember that my honey and I had arrived in New Zealand after spending a year working and travelling in Australia. It was late November and we were on our way home to Canada, but first we wanted to see a little bit of this island nation.

I also had a sort of pilgrimage in mind. I wanted to visit the home and studio of the much-respected potter Harry Davis, from whom, earlier in the year, I had taken a workshop. His home was in Nelson, a town about the size of Duncan situated on the north side of the South Island in the deepest part of Tasman Bay.

To get there, we hitch-hiked down the North Island from Auckland, eventually arriving in Wellington, a small city clinging to precipitous slopes, from where we could take a ferry to the South Island.

The navigation of Cook Strait is far more distressing than anything we encounter in our placid Gulf waters. It's open ocean after all, just a constricted conduit between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea.

Disembarking at Picton at the head of scenic Queen Charlotte Sound we made hasty progress to Nelson where we hoped to bolster our diminishing resources by picking berries. This part of New Zealand has a climate a little like Northern California or even our own Gulf Islands. Nelson was a thriving small town and was a noted centre for crafts, especially pottery.

Harry Davis was an English potter who alongside Bernard Leach and Michael Carder was at the forefront of the craft revival in England. He was famous as a teacher and advocate of values based on simple technology, good design, self-reliance, and a commitment to enlightened social change.

Soon after we arrived we discovered that he was to have a sale of his pots at his home two weeks hence.

This gave us just enough time to earn some money in the fields, one day's travel to the south. Well, being the spontaneous travellers that we were, we arrived back one day late and the short of it is that not one decent pot remained for purchase. Not only that, but our guru had departed to Peru. Mary Davis, Harry's wife, soon ascertained our earnestness and disappointment and somehow discovered one last piece overlooked in the hectic buying the day before.

We learned that these would be the last pots for some time to come, for Harry Davis had dedicated the next few years of his life to a project to train impoverished and exploited villagers in the techniques of pottery making. His hope was that through self-reliance they could unshackle themselves from the landlord's bondage and develop a cash income to raise living standards.

Ultimately, the project failed due to corruption and a misunderstanding of cultural values, but that sort of dedication is, to my way of thinking, all too rare.

Well, we got our pot. And we ended up back at Picton on Christmas Eve, in our yellow tent cooking up plum pudding and waiting for the ferry home.

Here's one last story:

'Twas the night before Christmas
 And all through the house
 Not a creature was stirring
 Especially a mouse
 They all had been eaten as I may attest
 By Barney and Torchy, the cats they detest.
 Well this does pose a problem
 as the vet does explain.
 The kitties will soon experience
 some appetite gain.
 Roundworms and tapeworms
 will gnaw their intestinal tract
 lest they are given one pill
 per five to eleven-pound cat.
 The prescription we did follow
 the cats they resisted
 but by devious means,
 our success was assisted.
 This all goes to show
 how dependent we are
 on our neighbours and friends
 on this planet we share.
 Being like cats at the top of the food chain
 this earth we must protect
 and from exploitation refrain.
 I can't stop the cats from
 eating the mice.
 But we humans I trust are
 smarter than louses.
 We can learn to get along
 we can learn to share
 we can protect the forests and oceans
 and clean up the air.
 It is going to cost us.
 We must be prepared.
 Else nothing will be left for our
 children, nothing will be spared.
 So when you do your shopping
 don't forget to pay a tithe for the volunteers
 to save the environment
 those who struggle for all life
 Merry Xmas and Happy New Year
 to all you in your houses.
 And don't forget to put some cheese out
 for them poor little mice.

History sparks memory

North Saanich — Memories and Pioneers, by Nell Horth. Porthole Press (Sidney).

By FRANK RICHARDS

For thousands of islanders during the past century and longer, North Saanich has been a staging point on their journeyings between the serenity of an island home and the great world outside. By rowboat and by power boat, by private vessel, charter boat or ferry, the trip away to Victoria — or, many times, to Vancouver — was made by way of North Saanich.

Even further back in history, the native Indians knew Saanich, that fertile peninsula, as a launching ground for island-bound canoe.

For that reason of historic association, this new history of North Saanich will be read with interest by many islanders.

The book makes reference to the writer's memories of cruising the islands as well as the events, mainly in transportation, which linked the two communities.

Many of the events which stand out in the story of North Saanich will be familiar to the reader. The loss of the *Iroquois*, in 1911, was part of the tragedy of travel on these protected waters. Laden with hay on the deck, the *Iroquois* sank after turning turtle off Sidney, whence she had just sailed. The *Iroquois* had long linked Salt Spring Island with Sidney.

The author recalls that 80 to 100 passengers were aboard and that most of them were lost.

Another event which became of international note was the hijacking of the *Beryl G*. The vessel was a 50-foot fish packer which her skipper, William Gillis, had turned to rum-running for its greater profit. The incident proved that the risks were somewhat greater, too. The *Beryl G* was found drifting in September, 1924. Gillis and his son, Bill, were missing while a bloody shambles left no doubt but that there had been foul play.

A year or so later two men were hanged for the murder and a third was found not guilty. Nell explains that this was the first case in Canadian history where a man was convicted of murder without the evidence of the body.

The majority of stories with a common connection are less murderous.

I find the book of particular interest for the fact that I have known the author for nearly 50 years. She writes of their building their boat, the *Donna Maria*. I remember one of the first fishing forays my wife and I made was with Brownie and Nell Horth aboard that vessel on a glorious sunny day in the early 1950s.

The book has been published without any profit motive. Any benefit will accrue to the Friends of the Public Library, in Sidney. It is a tribute as much to the writer as to the library. For 12 years she served as North Saanich representative on the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board and was actively engaged in the campaign in the late 1970s to find the community library a newer and larger home.

I have considerable sympathy with her efforts in respect of the library there, because I was closely involved in the original campaign, a quarter-century ago, to establish a community library.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

To our friends & neighbours— best wishes from

Bill & Doris DeLong



A cheery hello!

A sincere "THANKS" & best wishes for a Merry Christmas!

MICHAEL, JOAN & RYAN BUNA



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NESBITT THOMSON



Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

Barry Miss



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At this giving time of the year, Christmas '88, we wish to say "THANK YOU" for your support and encouragement, and we wish you all a

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

with your children and family and friends.

Lynn & Zoe

Joe Garner pens new chapter in publishing portion of his life

By DAVID FRASER

Salt Spring Island native son Joe Garner is an inspiration to all writers struggling to get published.

His autobiographical first book, *Never Fly Over An Eagle's Nest*, now in its 19th printing, has sold 52,000 copies since it was first published in 1980.

A best-seller in Canada is a book that sells at least 15,000 copies.

Selling that many books took considerable effort by Garner. He says his publisher, Oolichan Books, was afraid to print more than one or two thousand copies of *Never* at any one time "because they thought it wouldn't sell east of the Rockies."

Garner proved them wrong. He loaded 1,500 copies of his books into his motorhome and drove as far east as Prince Edward Island, persuading merchants to sell a few of his books at a time. None of the books were ever returned unsold.

Garner related the story to *Driftwood* last Thursday, while he was in Volume II Books in Ganges to autograph copies of his third and latest book, *Never Chop Your Rope*, the story of logging in B.C. and the men who logged.

In the first chapter Garner writes that he learned at an early age what a widow-maker was. In 1919 the 10-year-old Garner was hand-falling with his older brother Tom on Salt Spring Island when a large limb came crashing down on the saw, breaking it clean in two.

The book covers 100 years of logging, from the 1890s to the present. "I wanted to preserve something that was rapidly changing. And if it gives people pleasure, that's really satisfying," says Garner, who now lives in the Chase River area south of Nanaimo.

Garner says the book has sold well since its release November 21. On November 23 he took 1,000 books with him to Prince George and appeared on television and radio. The next day, he says, there wasn't a single copy to be had in town.



Joe Garner autographed books at Volume II

Garner says he is an advocate of intense forest management but is not impressed by the forest industry's *Forests Forever* media campaign. "They (the forest companies) could stand more action and less words."

The industry is 20 years behind in its tree-planting, adds Garner. "Timber is a crop and must be managed like one. But they're cutting trees that are 30 to 50 years old. That's too young."

Garner got into writing books in a round-about way. "I was in the woods all my life. When my legs

gave out I couldn't scramble down banks anymore to fish for steelhead."

So Garner thought he should write about his experiences. The task was made easier since he kept diaries and log books for 40 years.

Besides using archives, Garner says he went straight to the people he wrote about. He says selling his books personally gave him the chance to get feedback from his readers. "It was also more satisfying. I felt more in control."

Festive Times
Sweet Talk...
Sweet Arts!



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Friday Supper

CANCELLED
FRI., DEC. 23

SAT. MEAT DRAW CANCELLED THIS WEEK TOO.



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CHINESE RESTAURANT — LICENSED

Eat In
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LUNCH Tues.-Fri. 11:30-2

DINNER Tues.-Thurs. 5-10

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LUNCH SPECIAL your choice \$4.25

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Upper Ganges Centre, Ganges 537-2535

VESUVIUS INN

WINTER PUB HOURS — NOON-12:30 AM

THIS FRIDAY,
DEC. 23:

CLUB MONGO'S CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

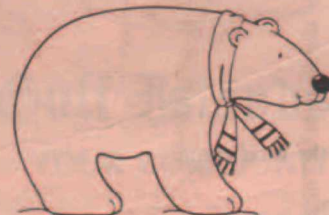
Please note—on Saturday, Dec. 24, we'll be closing early at 5:00 pm.

BOXING DAY, DEC. 26—
AN AFTERNOON WITH

CLUB MONGO & friends

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH IDA EYE

Buffet, Party Favours & Midnight Toast
\$20 per person or \$35 per couple
Call John for further info at 537-2312



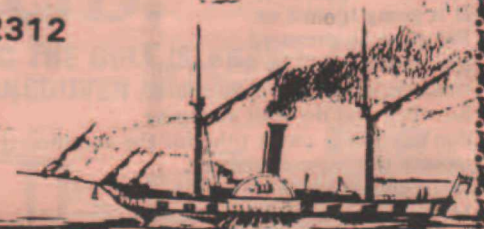
POLAR BEAR SWIM

Jan. 1st — 11 am
Vesuvius Beach

The Inn Kitchen

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PHONE
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Merry Christmas!

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Reservations appreciated — 653-4432

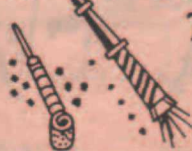
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CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Pub menu available every day from 11:30 am-9:30 pm
Pub closes Christmas Eve at 6 pm.



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Join us for
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Thank you for your support...
and may your holidays
be happy!

CHRISTMAS HOURS: Closed at 6 pm
Christmas Eve & all Christmas Day.

ROOM RATES: \$35 plus tax
Modern, comfortable accommodations.

Common cold can't prevent Santa from making rounds

By DYLAN PINCHIN

Santa's elfs made a truck, a car, and 13 dump trucks, and six boats with wooden waves, and Santa was proud of them. Santa said to make some paper dolls and some paper decorations and sew some teddy bears and dogs. Santa got some strawberry plants and then he went back home and made a fire and the fireplace got warm in a minute.

Then he went to feed the reindeers and Santa put his sleigh in his sleigh shed. It was foggy and stormy and dark, so Santa said: "Rudolph, a-choo! will you be the leader — a-choo! — of my sleigh? A-choo!" Then Santa went to get some hot cocoa. He sneezed again. Then Santa had some milk and cookies and he sneezed again.

He said: "Oh, when I come back I better have some tea and go straight to bed!" Santa coughed. Santa yawned. Santa laughed, because he was catching such a cold. Santa got two fuzzy coats, two pairs of fuzzy boots, and put two hats on and two scarfs. And he tied six sacks of wool around him, and then he went out. He got some of his money and went to the store to buy some medicine. Then Santa took another yawn. Santa sneezed. Santa sniffed.

Then kids came up to Santa and splashed jars of water on him, and Santa sneezed 500 times, yawned 100 times, then he coughed 99 times. Santa said to the kids: "You won't get any presents if you splash me with water."

And the kids said: "O.K. we'll splash you with hot tea and cocoa." Santa said: "Yummy, yummy."

Then Santa gave all his presents to all the kids in the world, and he went to Saint Nick's place because he was getting so old that Santa had to take over. Then Santa went to Saskatchewan, Mexico, Manitoba, Australia and Salt Spring and Victoria and Sooke.

Then Santa went home and went to bed. The end.

This story was dictated to me during a much-interrupted lunch playtime. Dylan's elfs made what we have been making as presents for our families, and what we made



to sell at the craft fair. We were getting cold because the wood fire had died down, and I interrupted his telling to stoke the fire, unsuccessfully. Resuming the

dictation, Santa's fire had none of my troubles in warming up. I started sneezing as Dylan dictated his story, and his Santa started sneezing, too. One of the children came to tell me I was needed outside, where some of the kids

were playing with water — on such a winter's day! Dylan accompanied me, and on our return incorporated my lecture on the natural consequences of inappropriate water play into his tale. Santa went to bed in time for me to call the children in from play.

Dylan Pinchin is a Grade Two student at the Salt Spring Centre School.

Santa's sudden realization leads to additional presents

By WOLFGANG BROCKLEBANK

It was Christmas again. There was that long, long, cold house again.

Every Christmas, Santa couldn't find the stockings and the Christmas tree in that house. So, he went on to other houses because he thought they didn't believe in Christmas in that house.

Santa didn't know that they were poor and they had to wear their stockings on their feet to keep them warm.

One day a new friend came and found out that they were cold, and he gave them some firewood and a Christmas tree and then they could take off their stockings.

And that Christmas, when Santa came in, he noticed how warm it was and then Santa realized why they didn't hang the stockings up before, and so Santa stuffed the stockings extra full and he put a sack of coal under each of

the stockings, to keep them even warmer, and he put presents under the Christmas tree and he even put decorations on it for them. And they had their happiest Christmas ever. The End.

Wolfgang Brocklebank is a Grade 3 student at Fulford Elementary School.

NOTICE

Vesuvius Store HOLIDAY OPENING

Dec. 25: CLOSED
Dec. 26: 11-3

Jan. 1: 11-5

FOR
YOUR
CONVENIENCE
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Holiday follows pleasant routine

By ROBERT HEATON

I wake up on Christmas day and I go downstairs and see who all the presents belong to. Then my sister comes down and wants to know the same thing. Mummy and Daddy come downstairs and we start opening the presents from Santa. We look at how much Santa has drunk and eaten. We have lots of nuts in our stockings.

We have a star on top of our tree and little angels.

We ring up grandad in England. We go up to Mount Maxwell and have a snowball fight. We saw some snow looking like a frog. I like my Christmas dinner. We get joke crackers and hats. We sing songs and play with our toys.

We have Christmas to celebrate baby Jesus's birthday. I like Christmas.

By Robert Heaton, age six years. My mom helped with the spelling.

Robert Heaton is a Grade One student at Fernwood Elementary School.




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till Christmas...
Sunday thru Wednesday

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Hawaiian or Vegetarian
PIZZA
for the price of a medium.
EAT IN or TAKE OUT.

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The Chart Room

Dinner Hours 5:30-10 pm

Lunch Special — Dec. 24-30

SHEPHERD'S PIE **5.45**
We cook lean ground beef with onions and gravy, then top with mashed potato & bake in the oven. Served with house salad

Dinner Special — Dec. 24-30

SOLE FLORENTINE **11.25**
Poached sole fillets placed atop sauteed spinach and covered with cheese sauce. Served with rice pilaf & vegetable

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Monday to Saturday, 5:30-7 pm; Sunday 5:30-9 pm

Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding	6.95
Petite Ribeye Steak	6.95
Grilled Chicken Breast	5.95
Sole Florentine	6.95

NEW YEAR'S EVE

at the HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL...

Book now to avoid disappointment.

DINING & DANCING IN THE DINING ROOM WITH THE DAVIS COMBO

We feature our **GREEK STYLE DELUXE BUFFET** followed by dancing, party favours, midnight toast.
\$45 per couple.



IN THE HARBOUR HOUSE PUB... ROCK & ROLL WITH THE JACK LORDS BAND

Buffet included, pick-up tickets. \$15 per person.

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Yearly gift-giving journey made in mentor's memory

By AUREN HOLT

A baby was about to be born to the trolls. Or to the bad people, as the fairies would put it. Whenever a baby was born it was ordered to be put to death by the king, because he wanted no one else to be ruler.

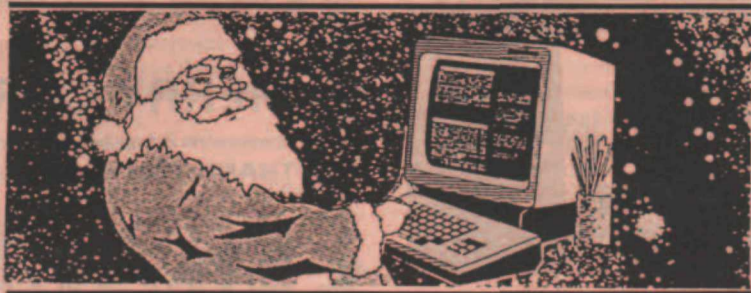
One fairy knew about the baby and, after much thinking, thought of a plan to rescue the unborn child from a cruel death. Soon after, the fairy changed herself into a leaf from a huckleberry bush, and dropped herself into a spring. When the troll mother dipped her drinking ladle into the water the leaf floated into it.

When she drank the water she coughed and gagged; finally the leaf went down. Once inside the mother's body she changed into a mouth with wings and swallowed the baby whole. Two days later the mouth was born; immediately it flew off.

When safe inside the fairy forest the mouth regurgitated the troll baby. The baby was handsome, not ugly; and looked upon the fairy as his mother.

The boy grew up in the forest but grew ever more curious about the "side world. After 10 years the boy finally begged his mother to let him go out of the forest with his Godfather, Jesus.

The boy and his Godfather left



the forest and travelled to a far-off land. Then they saw a boy of about five who was being forced to train to be a Samurai, because there was a war going on. Once he made a mistake the teacher whipped him.

"Leave that boy alone," said the troll boy.

"Don't waste your breath," said the Godfather, "they can't hear".

They travelled a little farther to a place near the top of the world. Then they stopped and saw an extremely poor and hungry family picking turnips for the king. A little girl snuck a turnip but one of the king's men saw her and slapped her.

"Godfather, I didn't know people were so cruel to children." "I know, son, but I don't think there's anything we can do about it."

FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

The troll boy had some elf

friends and they set to work making toys for each of the little boys and girls of the world.

Meanwhile in the charred forest of the bad people, they were scheming. Soon after a battle broke out; it ranged on for 12 months and 21 days.

The fairy boy's faithful Godfather died in the gruesome and bloodthirsty fight. The boy, now a man, mourned for his Godfather. Then he realized that there was nothing he could do besides make the children of the globe happy and that would make him feel better.

The troll man waited till next year and set off on a long journey that he would repeat every year in memory of his beloved Godfather.

Auren Holt is a Grade Five student at Fulford Elementary School.

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Child, spirit combine to battle holiday's foe

By JENNI THOMAS

"Miss Elizabeth, we have only half an hour to get you ready to meet your new governess. You must come upstairs for your bath right away!" A young maid came bustling into the kitchen of Starshine Manor where Elizabeth

was sitting, doing her homework. Elizabeth Stein, 13 years old, was the daughter of Richard and Olivia Stein, two of the richest people in North America. "Cynthia," Liz answered the maid. "I took a shower at 7:30 this morning. I do not need to take another!"

"Very well, Miss Elizabeth, no shower. But your mother insists that you wear your taffeta frock to greet her."

"Fine Cynthia. See you in 20 minutes." Liz left the kitchen and walked slowly up the stairs to her room. She was considering how to get rid of this latest governess. Elizabeth wondered why her mother hadn't caught on that she didn't need one any more. She entered her room and opened the closet.

As she dug through the clothes she was startled to hear a voice behind her saying, "This one is going to be difficult to get rid of, you know. She's a witch."

"What?" Liz whirled but there was no one in the room. "Who said that? Where are you?"

"Over here Liz. In the mirror." Liz stared at the mirror in disbelief. A man's face, surrounded by a blue haze, was inside the glass. "What are you doing in my mirror, whoever you are?" she asked.

"I'm Clondar and I've been sent here by Santa & Co. to tell you your newest governess is a witch trying to destroy Christmas and to help you stop her.

Liz hollered "What? Who are Santa & Co? What's going on?"

"Liz, let me explain. You must know that Santa Claus does not exist in all the countries of the world. Why, there's Saint Nicholas and Black Peter in Denmark, Father Christmas in England, Pere Noel in France, the Ice Queen in Russia, Befana in Italy and so many others. That's Santa and Co. They have a problem. Eltrinda, your new governess is actually a black witch, an evil one. And because she's unhappy and evil, she wants everyone else to be, too. So she decided to stop Christmas, supposedly the happiest time of the year, forever."

"How's she going to do that?" Liz asked, now rather interested.

"By taking it off the calendar. You'd be surprised at how many people would forget about Christmas if it weren't on the calendar. And once the forgetting has started there's no way to stop it. In a couple of generations Christmas would be gone for all time. But that's only half of it. You see, if you take Christmas off the calendar, it leaves the year one day short. So to make up the right number of days in December you'd have to take one from January, and January would take one from February and so on, tugging the

Turn to Page A20

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—and now! See, I can walk:

My legs were crooked — born that way, I couldn't move around; I'd never stood or walked. Sometimes I'd crawl upon the ground. They called it "act of providence", which has to be endured, Anyway, the neighbors said, such cases can't be cured.

But not my Ma! She used to say that rich folks found a way To straighten crippled children's legs, so they could run and play. "It don't seem fair that there's no hope", she'd say, "for boys like mine Whose folks are poor!" and then one day she heard about the Shrine.

The Shriner's doctor saw my legs. He didn't shake his head Like most folks did. "We'll fix you up as good as new", he said. "We're awful poor", said Ma. "It's hard to pay for food and rent". "Give us that boy", the Shriners said, "It won't cost you one cent".

They didn't ask about what church we went to, or if any, Or if we had some Shriner kin. Their questions wasn't many. They took me in. And then one day the doctor said, "Well, son, Let's try those new straight legs of yours and see how well you've done".

I don't know how they did it — I'm not much on doctor's talk; I only know I used to crawl — and now! See, I can WALK: I wonder why my Mother cried when I came home so straight and fine! But through her tears I heard her say, "God bless the Shrine"

Reprinted from Pottlatch Shrine Club Newsletter who obtained it from an unknown source.

Thankyou for your support
A Very Merry Christmas
Gulf Islands Shrine Club

Magic, courage help girl save Christmas as holiday

FROM PAGE A19

years backwards until in 180 years we'd be having winter in July. This cannot be permitted to happen! Anyway, they need you to stop Eltrinda before she can destroy Christmas and the seasons. Also, you have to stop her by midnight Christmas Eve."

"But tomorrow is Christmas Eve. That doesn't give me much time."

Someone knocked at the door. It was Cynthia. "Miss Elizabeth? You have five minutes before Ms. Kazzaam arrives. Please hurry!"

Liz grabbed the forgotten frock from the bed and ran into the bathroom. Three minutes later she emerged, washed and clothed, and ran all through the house so she was standing in the foyer waiting as the door was opened to admit Ms. Eltrinda Kazzaam.

For some reason, when Liz discovered that Eltrinda was a witch she had begun to build a picture in her mind of a hunchbacked old woman with warts and a big nose. So stunned was not a ward to describe how Liz felt when she saw her new governess.

Eltrinda was tall, at least six feet. Her hair and eyes were black and it flowed around her head like a wave. By contrast her skin was pale, almost white. The dazzling smile was perfect.

"Hello Elizabeth." Even her voice was beautiful.

"Hello Ms. Kazzaam. Welcome to Starshine Manor." Liz tried desperately to think of something to say. "Would you like me to show you the house?" Why did she say that? This house was huge. Oh well. Eltrinda accepted and they started off.

Two hours later Liz stumbled into her room, exhausted. She hadn't realized the house was so big. She was greeted by Clondar. "Well, it took you long enough to get back here. Where have you been?"

"I've been showing Eltrinda the house. But I'm back now. Are you sure Eltrinda's a witch? She's so -"

Clondar snorted scornfully. "Yes I'm sure she's a witch. Just because you were expecting a hag and got a queen doesn't mean I've been lying."

Liz flushed. "Okay Clondar, I apologize. Of course she's a witch. But you still haven't told me how we're going to stop her."

"Right. Okay, it's like this. We aren't allowed to kill her; it'd be too difficult. So instead we're marooning her. In another dimension."

"How?" Liz demanded, incredulous.

Two points of light appeared in the mirror on either side of Clondar's face. They came closer and closer until they hit the surface of the mirror and flew into Liz's room. She looked down in surprise. Two marbles, one red, one blue, gleamed on the floor. Liz knelt down and picked them up. "What are these for?"

"Those are how we're marooning her. All you have to do is hold Eltrinda's hand, grab the blue marble and say Wiggley Wallabey. And you're off to



another dimension. Once there let go of Eltrinda and grab the red marble. Say the magic words again and you're back here. Only make sure Eltrinda doesn't grab you coming back or we'll have problems.

There was a knock at the door again. "Yes?" Liz said.

"Miss Elizabeth, dinner is served." Cynthia.

"Okay Cynthia, I'll be right down. Bye Clondar." Liz ran out the door and downstairs, past a startled Cynthia.

Three hours later Liz came back

'Two points of light appeared in the mirror on either side of Clondar's face.'

upstairs and went straight to bed. Clondar wondered if Liz had forgotten about their mission.

The next morning when Liz came back to her room she told Clondar that she, Mrs. Stein, and Eltrinda were going shopping for Christmas presents. They'd be back around 5 p.m.

When Liz returned she immediately asked: "Clondar, have you considered how I'm going to explain Eltrinda's disappearance to my parents. I can hardly tell them the truth."

"Just keep quiet. I doubt they'll question you about it."

"All right, I guess. When she comes in here to tuck me in I'll do it. then, at a call from downstairs, Liz left.

Some time later Liz came back upstairs. She got into bed, the

marbles beside her on a table and began to wait. It was 9 p.m. Two and a half hours later Liz got out of bed and opened the door. The house was silent. Liz went back into her room and grabbed the marbles. Then as silently as possible she began tiptoeing off to Eltrinda's room.

Slowly she crept through the house. Some time later Liz arrived at Eltrinda's door. Opening it slowly she peeked through and gasped at what she saw. There was Eltrinda, in a long black robe and tall black hat. She was chanting in a strange language.

Liz took a deep breath and threw open the door. Eltrinda whirled but it was too late. Liz was across the room, blue marble in hand, to grab Eltrinda's hand and yell, "Wiggley Wallabey!" before the witch could cry out.

Eltrinda's room flickered out and was replaced by a landscape of rocks and sand. But Liz didn't stop to look around. She let go of Eltrinda, stuffed the blue marble in her pocket, grabbed the red one and yelled "Wiggley Wallabey" again. Eltrinda disappeared and Liz was back in the witch's room. Quickly she returned to her room to check her calendar. Christmas was still there. She had done it! Liz slid weakly into bed. As she fell asleep she considered telling her parents how close they had come to losing Christmas. She decided she wouldn't. They wouldn't believe her anyway.

Jenni Thomas is a Grade Seven student at Salt Spring Elementary School.

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Secret wish of reindeer granted with Santa's aid

By KARINA WICKLAND

It was dusk now and the path was worn down from hooves of eager reindeer galloping up as fast as they could to meet Santa on his annual visit to the forest to meet all the animals and ask their wishes. Except this was more than a normal visit. This year he would be choosing a few healthy reindeer to help pull the sled.

As she climbed to the top of the plateau where he was waiting she could feel the excitement mounting inside of her like a balloon bursting with air. She had always wanted to fly and this might be her chance. When she reached the top she saw Santa waiting for her. His back was turned away as he watched the sunset deepen from a rosy pink to a dark purple with golden streaks. Finally he faced her.

"Oh, sorry little one, I didn't see you there. What is your wish?"

She gulped. "Well, Santa, I've always wanted to fly. It looks wonderful and the reindeer always look so happy when they are

flying. But everyone says I'm too small and that I don't have any antlers and flying reindeer always have antlers."

"Ho, ho, ho," laughed Santa. "Since when do all flying reindeer have antlers? You can still fly if you don't have antlers. Since I can't let you fly all around the world for you'd get too tired, how would you like it if you flew on one of my pleasure trips?"

She felt the joy bubble up inside of her like an overflowing pot. "Thank you, Santa, thank you very much," and then she had to leave, for it was another reindeer's turn to talk.

It was evening in the forest, the night before Christmas Eve, and the flying reindeer were putting on a performance. The air was thick with excitement. All of the reindeer could feel it snapping and jumping around them. A thick blanket of the velvety black sky covered the forest with brilliant stars, stars so brilliant that if they looked at them too long they were blinded for a moment.

The reindeer were waiting to see the sled pulled by reindeer that had only just learned to fly. Bells jangled through the black night air and suddenly, across the sky they could see the mighty silhouettes of the flying reindeer thrusting their noses forward, their legs churning slowly.

From above, looking down on the forest floor and at the stars burning coldly against the enveloping black, the little reindeer felt an indescribable thrill run through her veins. She felt the night wind brush against her face. She looked down at all the reindeer who were running — trying to keep up with the ones flying and she was finally perfectly happy as she soared like an eagle through the air. It was her dream and it had finally come true.

Karina Wickland is a Grade Seven student at Fulford Elementary School.

Belief in the true spirit of gift-giving means happy Christmas for others

By LIANNE WEISNER

Christmas was coming up soon, in four weeks, and the children were getting anxious. It was 2:30 and the kids wanted to go outside to play. But the teacher wouldn't let them go until they had finished their work.

From her third row seat Molly sat staring at the window, wishing it would snow. All she wanted for Christmas was to have a white Christmas. The class window was covered in steam but she could still see outside. The green grass wemed crystal-like under its frosty coating.

Slowly the minutes slipped by. The children, restless in their seats, began to wander toward the door. Finally the bell rang, and the hallways were flooded with young children. Molly went for her bags and then headed outside. The crisp air ripped into her throat as she ran towards the parking lot where her mother was waiting to take her home.

When they arrived Molly went upstairs to watch an hour of television. When she finished she went downstairs to help her mother with supper. At five o'clock the meal was just about ready when Molly's father arrived home.

Just that day Molly had received a letter from the family in Guatemala that Molly's family sponsored. "Daddy, what will Tana and her family do for Christmas presents? They don't have enough money to buy them."

"Well, I can't say that I know. Perhaps they have been saving for Christmas."

"But Daddy, what if they haven't been saving? What if they only had enough money for food and other necessities? What would they do then?"

Molly's mother now intervened: "Perhaps we could send them a Christmas present from us. Then they would have Christmas presents."

"That would be a good idea. I could make something for all the children. And I know we could make them all cards."



The family started to make presents for Tana's family. In a week Molly and her family had collected presents for the family. Also, some kids at school had helped Molly make things. The presents were sent off. The package contained enough for three presents each.

For a while Molly hadn't received anything from the family. Then the day before Christmas she received a letter saying they had received the gifts and thanked them all. They also sent a card from each person in the family thanking Molly and her family.

"This Christmas turned out great. Even if we didn't have any

snow," Molly remarked.

"It feels good to have helped Tana's family, doesn't it?" Her mother's question remained unanswered as Molly stared outside.

After a minute white flakes started to fall. And soon after the sprinkling of flakes became a blizzard. Molly looked out the window at the trees, "Look mommy! It is going to be a white Christmas after all. It's snowing!" Quickly Molly ran out into the snow, dancing in the quickly falling white snow.

Lianne Weisner is a Grade Nine student at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

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One good deed leads to happy holiday

By DAN NORMAND

It was Friday, December 16, 1979, and the children were just let out of school to go home for Christmas vacation. Most of the children were happy, except Lisa. All this meant to her was two weeks of crying her heart out. To her, Christmas was loneliness and despair. For she is a 12-year-old girl with only a shack to live in. Her parents are hardly ever home because they are trying to give her a life. But she has a heart to be rewarded.

And this is her story.

The first week was meaningless. During the day she would just lie down on her old mattress and stare into the ceiling wondering what Christmas she'll have. At night she would stare in sadness at the stars, just wishing for one joyful Christmas day.

It finally reached December 24 and Lisa chose to go to the city for a short walk. As she passed Henry's Hardware Lisa noticed a little puppy wandering around looking for someone. Lisa picked it up and looked at the tag on his collar. It read: "Please bring Dusty

to 1343 Glenridge Way. Or phone 478-1154." Lisa knew the address so she decided to bring Dusty to his rightful owner.

It was two hours before Lisa reached the address on the collar. She noticed the long driveway and said to herself a plain and simple "WOW!" It took 10 minutes to reach the mansion. She walked up to the door and rang the doorbell. The door then opened and standing in the doorway was the butler. The butler let Lisa in and led her to the living room and let her sit down. After she sat down the butler said to her: "Let me get Mr. Douglas for you."

About two minutes later a figure dressed in a rich, silky robe appeared before her and said to her politely: "Widworth says you have my puppy." Lisa nodded affirmatively.

Mr. Douglas responded: "Thank you for returning Dusty to me, I've missed him so much." Lisa answered: "You're welcome," turned and walked away.

Mr. Douglas cried out: "Wait!" Lisa stopped and turned around. "What is your name?" asked Mr. Douglas. "Lisa Ericson," she said.



"Where do you live?" asked Mr. Douglas. No response. "Let me drive you home." After looking down at her tired feet, she answered "Yes please."

Mr. Douglas then told her: "But for that I need your address."

Lisa finally agreed to give her address and off they went.

About half way into the trip Mr. Douglas asked Lisa if she wanted an ice-cream cone. She answered yes so they went to the nearest ice-cream parlour. At the parlour Mr. Douglas asked Lisa if he could make a phone call. Lisa answered "Yes."

In the hallway she heard her parents calling her. She turned around and started running into their arms, and in doing so she started to cry.

After the last tear was shed, Lisa asked what they were doing here. Her mother replied: "Mr. Douglas wanted to repay you for returning Dusty to him." Her father intervened: "You see, we work for Mr. Douglas. He remembered seeing you at work visiting us once."

Mr. Douglas concluded: "So I called your parents at work while we were at the ice cream parlour, and got their permission to throw a Christmas party. After that I called my place and got Widworth to get some candies, decorations and most importantly, the tree. But I needed a couple of hours to set up."

Lisa looked outside the window and saw the North Star shining. She said to herself: "Thank God, for all you've done."

Dan Normand is a Grade 11 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Riding's rookie MP adjusting to pace, demands of Ottawa life

It's an uphill battle for the opposition against the free trade bill, but rookie Member of Parliament Lynn Hunter says she will voice the concerns of her Saanich-Gulf Island constituents.

"It's a fast-learning experience," says Hunter, who spoke to *Driftwood* last week from the lounge at the House of Commons.

"It's like a big game of chicken," Hunter said in describing the government's attempts to stall debate on the free trade bill by the opposition New Democrats and Liberals.

Hunter said that because of the bitter free trade debate, she will only have two days off to mark Christmas on the West Coast before she flies back to Ottawa on Boxing Day.

"There is a lot of acrimony in the House. Experienced (MPs) say they have never seen anything like it before.

"It takes the euphoria off of becoming a new member of parliament," says Hunter, adding that a chief reason she ran was to oppose the deal.

The federal government has removed the January 1 deadline



Lynn Hunter

for implementing the free-trade legislation but is still pushing for passage by the end of the year.

Because her family is not with her in Ottawa, Hunter says she can put in 14-hour work days and not feel guilty. "Besides, there's not much else to do out here but work," she adds.

But Hunter says she still finds time to phone her two children every morning before they go to school.

Hunter says the effects of free trade on jobs are already being felt. Four hundred Northern Telecom workers are now out on the street because their parent company, Bell, transferred operations from Ontario to Georgia.

Soon after the election another American firm, Gillette, closed a plant in Ontario and the jobs went to the United States.

"It's an indication of what lies ahead. The multinationals were waiting for the election (result) to make their move.

"The government has denied free trade had anything to do with it. There are no provisions for those job losses. It just shows their arrogance and lack of feeling."

Hunter says she has prepared a 10-minute statement — which she hopes she can present to the House — on how free trade could harm the West Coast.

She says a lot of government workers, especially women, could be hit with layoffs because of the free-trade legislation.

The Saanich resident expects to be back in her riding in January to meet with constituents.

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Hoist away

Scouts Phillip Bazzard and Dean Beitel (right) assist local scouting leaders Ross McLeod (left) and David Clegg (rear) in arranging Christmas trees being sold to raise funds for the group. Sale continues this week next to Ganges Village Market. Times are from 4 pm to 8 pm this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Bar brawl ends with court fine

A Nanaimo logger earned a night in the crow-bar hotel, a black eye and a \$300 fine after verbally abusing patrons and staff at the Fulford Inn on May 5.

James Kevin Dorman pleaded guilty December 13 in Ganges provincial court to causing a disturbance.

Salt Spring RCMP responded to the complaint of a fight in progress at the inn at 12:35 am. Court was told that when police tried to remove the accused from the scene, Dorman exclaimed that if the officer didn't unhand him he would "wind up on the floor spitting blood."

Police were forced to use a choke hold on Dorman to get him to the patrol car.

Dorman, who has a long record of alcohol-related offences, later admitted that he was giving a rival logging outfit a "hard time" when the fight broke out.

Presiding Judge R.E. Hudson said while passing sentence that "peace officers are not paid to put up with that kind of nonsense."

Tree-cutting warning issued

Islanders planning to bag their own Christmas trees are reminded that permits are needed to take trees from Crown Land, the B.C. Forest Service said last week.

Anyone wishing to cut a tree is asked to check with the nearest forest district office, where staff can direct people to areas where trees can be cut at no charge.

Taking a tree from Crown land, forest plantation or research installation is illegal.

The office of Forests Minister Dave Parker notes that the forest service has Christmas tree patrols, issues fines and takes court action against offenders.

Impaired charge nets suspension

A hydro power pole proved the undoing of an impaired driver charged October 31 following an accident on the Fulford-Ganges Road.

Ganges provincial court was told last week that local RCMP found John Lee Stewart of Ganges leaning against a power pole early that morning at the scene of the single vehicle accident.

Stewart admitted to consuming six drinks. His blood alcohol level measured .18, over twice the allowable level.

The carpenter's helper was fined \$500 and prohibited from driving for six months.

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Many individuals or community groups who would like to provide day care services from their home are reluctant to apply for a licence as they are not sure if they would qualify to operate a licensed facility. The Community Care Facility Licensing staff will meet with any interested parties to explain and assist in the licensing process.

For further information contact:

Ms. Marcia Thorneycroft
 Community Care Facilities Licensing Officer
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