

PRO

by Lydia Torrance

Mr. Fierce is full of Eastern mysticism and anti-Christian sentiment as usual, but I notice that he doesn't tell us how he actually spent his Christmas. Did he really spend it with Indian fakers and Krishna friends? Or was he in a massage parlor? I wouldn't put anything past the little mutt. And since he's fond of religious perversion the social perversions will follow!

I don't mind telling you what I did not do for Christmas. It wasn't exactly an old-fashioned Christmas, but it was good Christian folk getting together. See, I was going to go East to see my nephew Mortlach at Harvard, and visit with his family, but at the last minute he decided to—how did he put it?—yes, "pack it in" and hitch-hike to Mexico with his girlfriend Claremont. So all of a sudden I didn't have any plans to speak of.

Now I was sitting on my bunk sorta blue when Lucreesh came in from "Room At The Top" to finish packing. When she heard what had happened she insisted I go home with her to Manyberries. I said, "Oh, no, thanks, Lucreesh, I don't want to impose, your family all together just once a year—it's no fun with an outsider, though it's kind of you." "Don't be silly" she said. "It's not just my family, we always have all kinds of people. My brother Ratchet will have logging buddies there, and Uncle Sammy always likes to meet new girls. You won't be in the way."

It did sound as if she meant it, and I'd never been that far south in Alberta, so I decided to go. The ride down wasn't so much fun, there six of us girls taking turns driving, and the others kept talking about boys, and how classes were dumb, and one girl kept talking about that movie "Carrie", and how its transcendental fluid camera movements raised a high-school Gothic to the level of art through its brooding exploration of man's alienation and quest for faith. I've seen those TV ads so I figure she must just be an Arts major.

The other girls got off in Lethbridge and Cardston. When we got to Manyberries it was nearly midnight, yet everybody seemed to still be up. I didn't realize what a big family Lucreesh has. There's lots of brothers and sisters, some in high-school like Doris, who wants to be a veterinarian and spent the whole time in the barn. Uncle Sammy was very nice at first. "I never thought

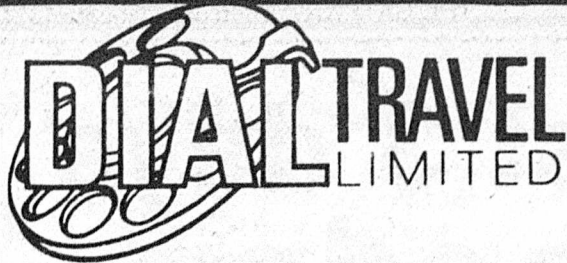
Lucreesh would bring home a *real* lady" he chuckled. "Maybe you can teach her something about deportment. Maybe I should go back to school too!" He doesn't look very old, about 70 I'd say, and he's still a pleasant-looking gentleman, but he had too much holiday cheer that night, because pretty soon he started calling me "Sister" and wiggling his ears at me. "Let's go trim the tree, know what I mean, sister?" he said, and nudged me, just as Lucreesh's mom brought out the gingerbread rabbits.

"I'm so flustered I can't recollect what season it is," she said. "I grabbed the wrong cookie-cutter." Everybody pitched in but Doris, who refused to eat anything in the shape of such a cute, harmless animal. Everybody laughed at her though their father tried to quiet them down. But Doris got mad and went back to the barn. Nancy, the cook, came in to say there weren't vegetables left for the next day and Mrs. Tanner said in that case use the canned ones.

"There aren't any of them either" Nancy said. "But there must be, there's lots of corn and beets." "Well there isn't 'cause I just looked," Nancy shouted and stalked out. I was just appalled. Why would she get so mad? Then Lucreesh explained to me that Nancy was one of them Mormons and kept hiding canned foods under her bed for Judgement Day, when the rest of us would perish, and it might be any time now. Everytime she went to the store she'd buy more applesauce and prunes because she has a weakness for them, and her closet is so full she had to hang her clothes in the hall. So now she's taking the Tanner's canned goods too. But her pastry is so flakey they can't bear to get rid of her.

The whole family's very Christian, I can tell you. Doris was kidnapped by the Sons of Light last spring, they tried to brainwash her into renouncing the United Church and work in their mission in Saskatoon. Fortunately Doris doesn't know enough to renounce anything, but they fed her well, and she knows *Revelations* and the *Apocrypha* better than the whole family now, which goes to show His eye is on the sparrow.

Well, we were just finishing our egg-nogs and getting ready for bed when this racket started in the yard, and it was the logging prother and his pals and they were really two sheets to the wind, as I'll tell you next week.



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Research fund authorized

The university's Board of Governors Friday authorized the establishment of a research fund in honor of the late Dr. J. Douglas Muir, a professor of industrial relations who died on April 30, 1976, shortly before he was to become the dean of the Faculty of Bus. Admin and Commerce.

The U of A was closely involved in the formation of the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Nairobi in Kenya and Dr. Muir, who joined the U of A teaching staff in 1964, was seconded to the African university in 1971.

Muir remained in Kenya until 1974, serving as Dean of the Commerce Faculty, and teaching industrial relations, organizational theory and business policy.

The U of A fund established in Dr. Muir's honor is also in recognition of his contribution to the Nairobi Commerce Faculty. It will be open to all permanent members of the U of A Faculty of Bus. Admin. and Commerce and will provide a total fund of \$47,000 to be used over a four-year period for studies in management performance.

Allocations will be made upon the recommendation of the commerce faculty's research and workshop committee, which is to involve two outside members

from related university departments in the selection process.

The money will come from the overhead allowance included in the funds that the university will receive from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the terms

of the contract — renewed Friday — providing for the university's assistance to the Nairobi commerce faculty.

Money from allowances of this sort normally goes into the university's general operating account.

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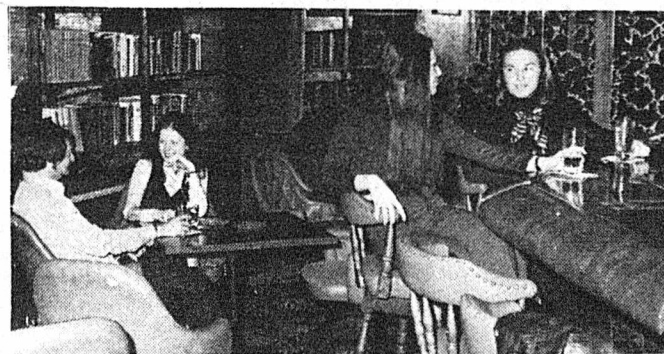
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