



## Christmas

by CAROL MacPHERSON

Christmas.

A hunk of mistletoe shrinking from the snowsparkle. Fir needles sticking into a fuzzy mitten. Runny noses and bells resurrected from rust with some newfangled brass polish. Sleighrides because all the young ones are home. And church.

"For the angels name was Gabriel . . ."

Christmas.

Men with earlugged caps in the square. Rows and rows of chopped, hacked, torn trees. People inspecting them and choosing them. A small one. A crooked one for not much money. And hardly anybody ever haggling market style.

"God rest you merry, gentlemen . . ."

Christmas.

Clutched furs and big boxes. Rushing cheer. Ferocious pace of cheer. Knocking, squeezing cheer of a subway. Pleasantly honking cheer in a string of long cars. Silver trees. Blue trees. Pink trees. White trees. Some with jewels and glitters.

"O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining . . ."

Lone people.

Not very often with sad faces. Bursting shopping bags. Frizzy haired women with rouge and bare legs and laughter. A boy in a leather jacket with 'Hellcats' on the back.

"What child is this . . ."

Mince pie. Cocktail parties. An emerald ring or angel hair. Soft, stinging, stretching angel hair. Tinsel and tenderness.

Stockings.

Some with stripes, some with big feet, some with holes. People hauling logs for fires and people wishing they had fireplaces so that they could haul logs. There's something Christmasy about a fireplace. Home and the hearth. Warmth.

"Joy to the world . . ."

### A Name in the News (Mike Gordon)

He was found in Mem. Hall, half-naked and hose in hand, washing down the paint off some old flats in preparation for "his" show, **The Mousetrap**. Minutes later he could be heard urging an actor: "For heaven's sake, you're being murdered. **MURDERED!** Don't sit there as if you're having an afternoon cup of tea." And another rehearsal of the Drama Society's latest production was under way.

For three years awarded the Best Actor trophy in New Brunswick drama festivals, Mike Gordon has finally turned his hand to directing a show.

Liked, hated, envied, and (perhaps) abused, this controversial personality can only be respected for the energy he has put into popularizing drama at UNB. A successful show tomorrow night would cap Mike's achievements in stagework ever since his All-Star Football days.

The near future should see Mike starring in the February production of **The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll**. After that it might be supposed that this Law School student would put on the wig and gown. But he dreams . . . he dreams.

Unfortunately he was unavailable for questions about himself, although he agrees this is a favorite occupation. These days he is talking only of his freshman actors and actresses who have rehearsed for eight weeks to come up with what Mike claims will be a "really popular show."

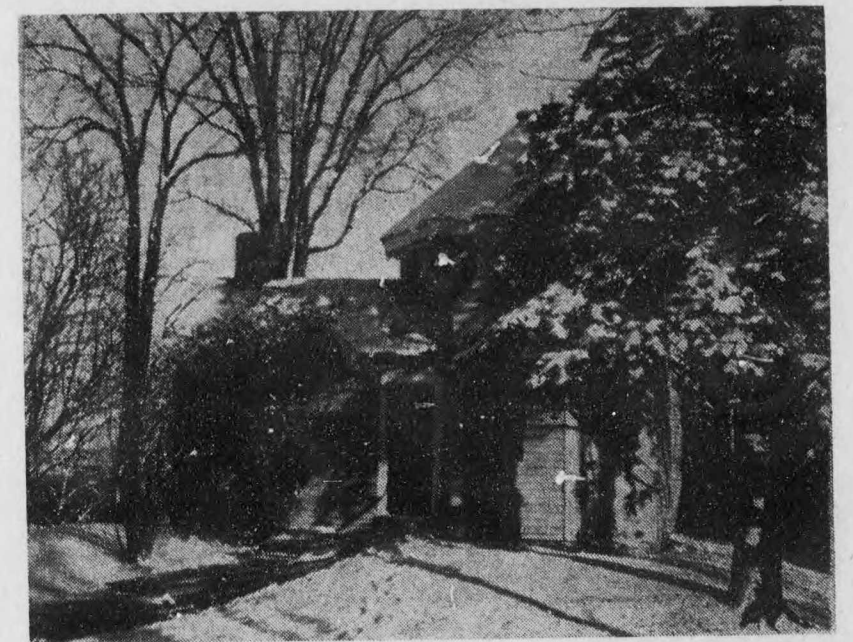


by KEN PLOURDE and GERARD COURTIN

Everyone takes it for granted that among the various Christmas symbols will be the sprig of mistletoe hanging in some strategic place in the house. Why this strategic place? For that matter why the mistletoe? Where did this custom originate?

Mistletoe dates back to the time of the Druids who were priestly protectors of the forests of Britain in the time of the ancient Celts. (Their name was derived from the Gaelic word, **derw** or **deru**, meaning an oak.)

The fact that mistletoe, which occurs more commonly on wild apple trees, dared to grow occasionally on the sacred oak, left the Druids in awe and wonderment. Its association with Christmas is of pre-Christian origin. Mistletoe was the emblem of fertility and the idea behind the old custom of kissing under the mistletoe was that it would guarantee fertility. There was not so much mere frivolity about it in those days.



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