

## Books, etc.

**PERIODICALS** (Contd.) — Remember when *Edge* first appeared three years ago? Remember the filthy poems and stories in it? Remember how the provincial cabinet jumped on it and condemned it as trash, and how a schoolteacher lost his job for bringing it into the classroom?

Such is the history of *Edge* magazine, which published four issues before sinking into obscurity about a year ago. It was edited by one Henry Beissel, a former U of A English professor who was in voluntary exile in the Caribbean. Most of the contributors were from this university, and a great deal of the material dealt with problems unique to this province (i.e. provincialism and E. C. Manning).

And now *Edge* has returned—issue number five made a quiet appearance on the newsstands (Hurtig's, the University Bookstore) last week. Some things haven't changed—Henry Beissel is still the editor (though he now works out of Montreal), most of the material is still written by Albertans, and many of the things discussed are most relevant for the Alberta reader.

But in other respects *Edge* has changed a great deal. Quality-wise, *Edge* 5 is undoubtedly the best issue ever produced—and is, in fact, one of the best magazines in Canada. Some of the contributors are men of no small talent—W. O. Mitchell, for one, who has been one of the most respected Canadian fictionists for years.

Mr. Mitchell has contributed a superb radio play dealing with the Hutterite problem

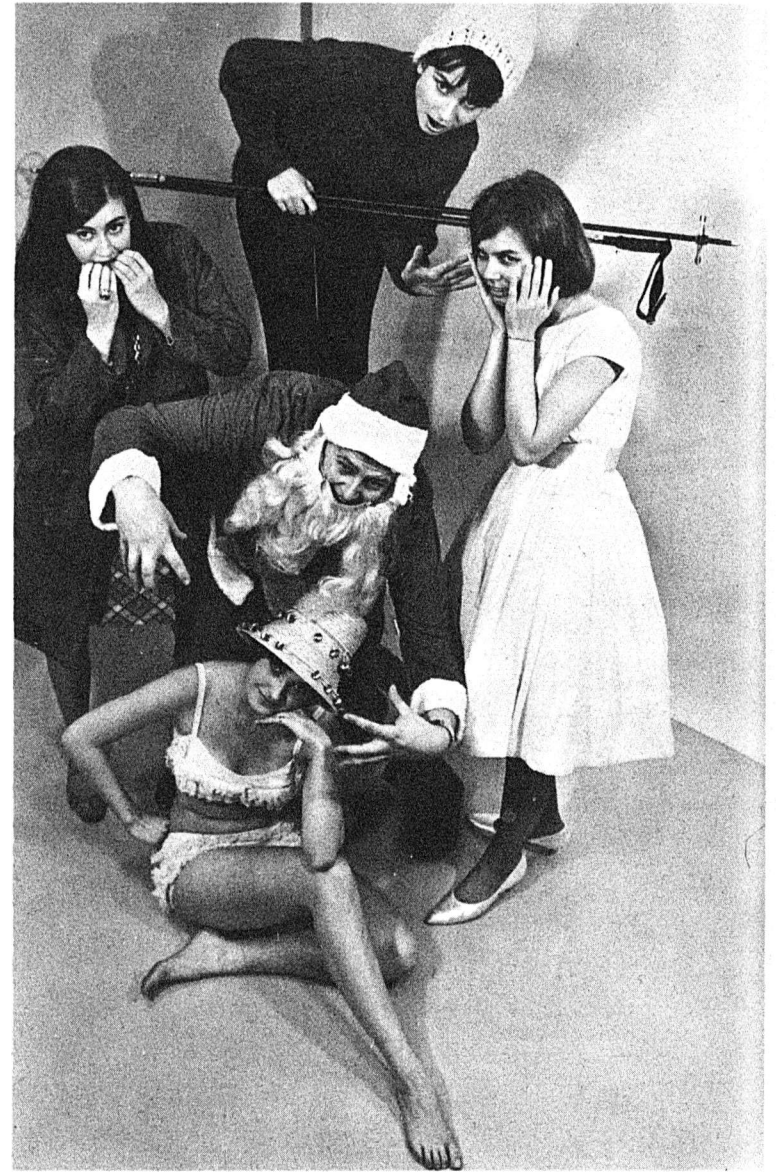
in a typical rural Alberta community. Anyone who has ever heard some of our agrarian citizens holding forth on the Hutterites and their communal farms will certainly enjoy Mr. Mitchell's characterizations. I haven't ever seen a more accurate definition of the rural Albertan or a more intelligent insight into the Hutterite problem as it exists in this province. Maybe CBC radio will see fit to stage this play; I certainly hope so.

Oh, yes—and smut, too. An anonymous businessman submitted an article on Canada's sex laws, pointing up in no uncertain language the absurdity of some of the regulations concerning what is and is not permissible behaviour in bed. For some reason this article was not printed as such, but as a "letter to the editor". Are we to take this as evidence that *Edge* is toning down its policy of presenting material of this sort in the text proper?

Speaking of editorial policy, *Edge* has jumped on the anti-war-in-Vietnam bandwagon in a four-page editorial. This sounds awfully old hat, but I am forced to admit that it is one of the most well-written and compelling articles on the subject that I have seen in any magazine. Not only that, but the editors have made the jump from talk to action by providing an *Impeach Lyndon Johnson* petition form with the editorial.

The magazine sells for \$1.50—but for that price you get one hundred and twenty pages of almost uninterrupted text and illustration. I recommend it strongly.

—Terry Donnelly

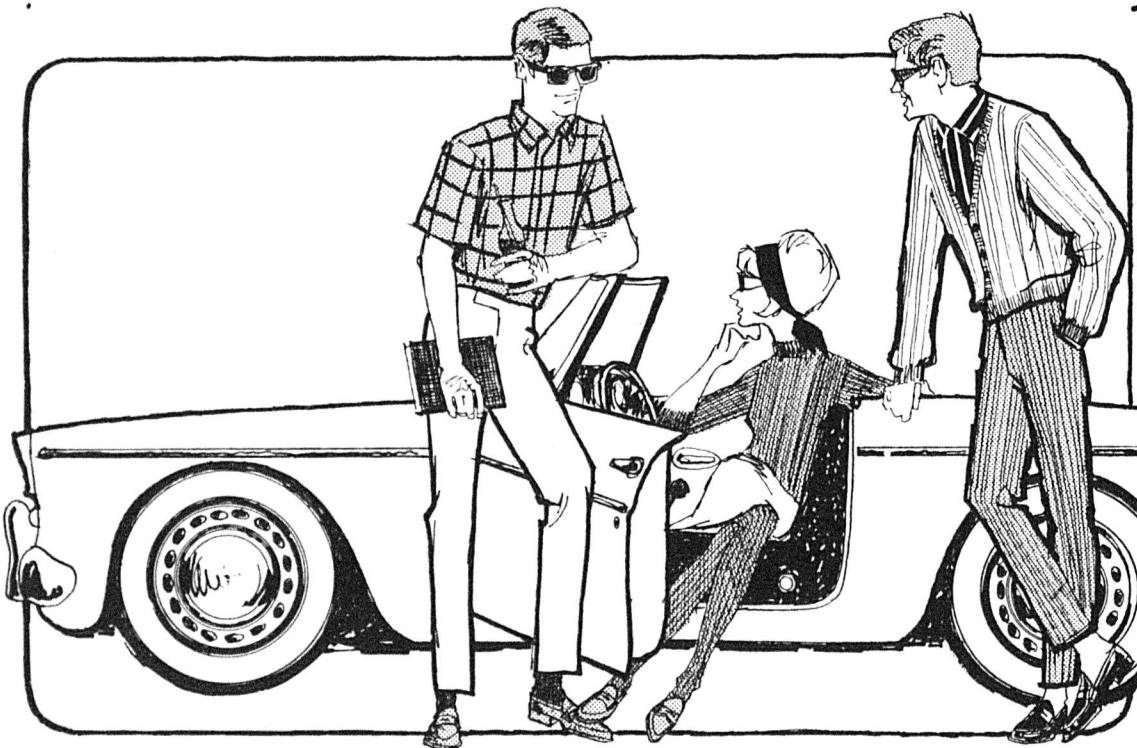


### On the cover

Santa Claus can't decide when to come to town. Will he make it in spring, summer, fall or winter this time? The girls are: Miss Spring, Penny Huber, arts 3; Miss Summer, Sue Hill, arts 3; Miss Fall, Joanne Fallow, arts 2; and Miss Winter, Linda Hollingsworth, home ec 2. The dirty young man impersonating Santa Claus is Gateway photog, and ex-loser, Alan Yackulic.

The picture was taken by Casserole Photo Editor, Al Scarth, assisted by Derek Nash, Chuck Lyall, and Ken Hutchinson.

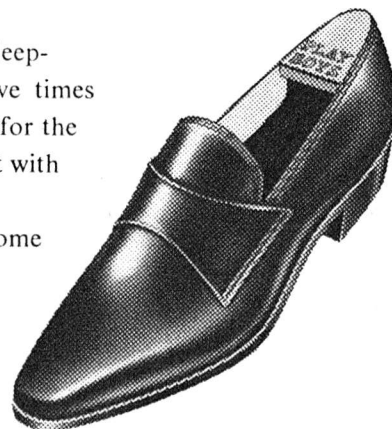
The picture above was snapped just at the close of our Sunday night photo session and shows Yackulic doing what all photogs do when their work is done.



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