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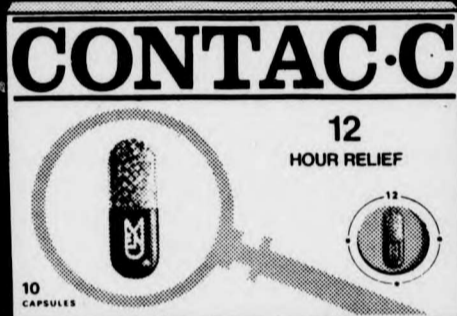
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### Pearl Harbour Day: that festive occasion

I am writing this article on Pearl Harbour Day, that poignant point in history when the Japanese attacked the American bases off the coast of Hawaii. Therefore, I would like to start off by wishing you all a very happy and prosperous Pearl Harbour Day.

Perhaps, if we are not being a little too Utopian here, every day could possess the spirit of Pearl Harbour Day.

My favourite event of The Pearl Harbour celebrations is, and I hope here that I am not giving away my childhood fantasies, the annual Seige Hayakawa Parade presented by Eaton's Department Store. Mr. Hayakawa, as the mentor and chief conservative of the California State Educational Scene, as usual is perched on the top of his sleigh being drawn by a whole flock of famous reindeer. He is in fine spirits and is yelling to the crowd that familiar chant, "Haso, Haso, Haso".

The other often heard chant of "Ho, Ho, Ho," was deemed inappropriate for the parade because Mr. Hayakawa felt that it might instill thoughts into the minds of the smaller children of that late but still noted East Asian revolutionary leader with the similar sounding first name. And, the parade, as far as Eaton's is concerned is a strictly apolitical event.

After the parade has finally made its way through Toronto's streets, the thousands of people lined up along The Yonge Strip dash over into Eaton's Toyland to grab up all the best and biggest toys for their respective children. As the grown-ups pile up their Sesame Street dolls, their wind-up Pierre Trudeau dolls (You wind it up and it spits out 'conspiracy') and their toy machine guns so that their Johnnys and Suzies can learn how to be Weathermen.

And what with all this unbelievable commotion going on, I can not help but to think back to those busy, event packed days at Hiroshima.

And they say that Pearl Harbour Day has lost some of its original meaning.

After a hard day at the store, it is really a pleasure to get back home at night to one's family. I can think of nothing quite as heartwarming as the whole family together pinning up their Pearl

Harbour stockings. "But daddy, Jimmy has a bigger stocking than I do". "I'm sorry, Shirly, but Jimmy sold two more boxes of 'Have A Happy Pearl, Harbour Day' cards than you did so he deserves a bigger stocking".

And what with the stocking feud out of the way, we once again can touch that Pearl Harbour spirit in the air as we dash about the house pinning up our pretty lanterns.

Once we are finished that, we relax by ordering in some Chinese food (the closest we can come to the original) and swallow up a few of those delicious Japanese oranges. Nothing like the authentic thing.

And just as we toss the last orange peel into the garbage can, there is a ring at the door and a few of our closer friends can be heard singing Japanese war songs to the beat of Salvation Army combo.

After a few numbers, we naturally invite them in for a little spiked jasman tea. And as befits the spirit of the occasion we usually end up having a little more than just a little tea. After all, what's a good Pearl Harbour Season without a little hooch.

And as usual when old Harry has put a little too much under his cap, he puts on his wounded soldier routine where he tries to fool the children into believing he was actually at Pearl Harbour by limping about the house yelling "My leg, my poor old wounded leg". Old Harry is sure a gas at parties.

But of course the highlight of the celebrations is Pearl Harbour morn. At 6:00 am the kids scamper downstairs and tear open their goodies. But as one would expect from the little darlings, even now they aren't quite satisfied. But after all they are only human beings. Once again it is little Shirly who is most upset:

"Jimmy got more candies than I did. He also got a bigger Big Bird doll than I did." And at this Jimmy blew up. "Why I'm just sick and tired of listening to your crying. All you ever do is cry. Don't you even stop? Jesus Christ!"

"Jimmy," I cried, "For God's sake, what in the hell does Jesus Christ have to do with any of this?"

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