



Isabella "Grandma" Linton with letter from one of her Arctic "children". Behind her are mementoes from the Eskimos with whom she corresponds.

Letters from the Arctic

By KRYSZYNA JONES

"Grandma" Linton has lots of friends in Canada's north even though she's only been there a total of four days.

Over the years she has gotten hundreds of letters from her "family" — a loosely-knit group of about 100 Eskimos living in the Baffin Island area.

Although Isabella Linton modestly says what she's doing is a "crazy hobby," she answers every letter she receives. With each reply is a lined piece of paper and stamped, self-addressed envelope so her "girls" will find it easier to write back.

Between 1950 and 1968, Mrs. Linton, who lives on Silver Spear Rd. in Mississauga, was Girl Guide leader at Toronto Hospital in Weston.

She worked with girls who were TB patients from the Arctic. Grandma Linton, as she's known to her friends, continued to keep in touch with the former patients and their friends and relatives and some warm relationships have developed. The letters tell about the sad and happy aspects of living in the north.

Silatuk, from the Belcher Islands, wrote recently about how her husband had died.

Nanasie, who lives in Frobisher Bay, told in her last letter of a hunting expedition that she and 51 others took. It lasted two months and they nearly starved because they got lost. Her letter ended: "It was sad. I can't talk about it anymore."

Little Jimmy Noah of Igloolik explained a while ago about how he caught 19 seals and his brother managed to get five bears.

"My father got a new skidoo and mother a new baby," he wrote.

Leeveena Paptosie of Frobisher sent Mrs. Linton a photograph of herself dressed in seal skins and told her "grandma" about White Dawn, a motion picture being made in her community.

"All my girls are lovely. Dear knows, I lose track. There are so many."

"I have to carry my little book around with me," she adds.

The book contains every girl's name, address, telephone number if there's one, and date of birth.

Besides the letters she has souvenirs of the Arctic: intricately designed slippers, seal-skin bags, North West Territory licence plates in the shape of polar bears and Eskimo dolls like her walls.

She sends the occasional cookbook to her "children," or knitting wool if someone needs it. She has just sent 30 copies of the Upper Room, a small booklet on English grammar.

"I don't drink or smoke, so it doesn't matter about the money I require for stamps. Besides, the girls need a letter," she says.

When any of her Arctic "family" visits Toronto, Grandma Linton usually gets a visit.

She told about the time four Eskimos came from the hospital to her place for dinner after a shopping outing.

"I asked them what they would like to eat and Martha answered 'Fish — no cook,' so off we went to get some raw salmon."

Mrs. Linton also tells about the day she took some Eskimo children to a farm in Georgetown. "They saw cows for the first time. They were thrilled to bits."

An opportunity arose in 1972 for Grandma to visit the north. She flew to Frobisher Bay, where she was greeted by 12 girls who had travelled from Cape Dorset.

She went back to Frobisher Bay in April of this year. Each visit lasted two days.

"I'd go again in a minute if I could," she says. "It's worth every dime. I still have an Arctic char in the freezer downstairs that I brought back with me you know."

I WISH...

A scattering of thoughts for the New Year

Ways to bring in a new year are varied. Besides celebrating, many people make resolutions. I make wishes. They're varied too, and here's a sample. I wish

That the current, tiresome mess of words "do your own thing" and "let it all hang out" won't be heard next year.

That the word "Gay" used in its correct sense, won't cause smirking.

That the word "involved" won't be bandied about willy nilly, until participation in anything by anybody will seem repugnant to me.

That Pierre Berton won't be so confounded busy that he makes me feel lazy.

That former-president Nixon's connection with the Watergate affair, won't be mentioned until he comes to court.

By Orry Danes

That the media won't go berserk each time Prime Minister Trudeau whispers the abusive words used by most people. Reporters should hear what other members of the House of Commons are muttering.

That I won't again view a commercial about anything as stupid as a stereo fireplace. Surely there's a limit to gimmickry.

That every typewriter ribbon I buy won't act like a temperamental performer when put to work.

That somebody will invent an adult pacifier so smokers like me can quit. Remember those vegetable cigarettes that smelled like burning garbage when lit?

That due to inflation, we appreciate the simple things in life, and refrain from buying unnecessary items. We might as well try to beat it, before it beats the dickens out of us.

And that life's vagaries I hear about, or am embroiled in, will continue to both amuse and bemuse me.

Incidentally, that last wish reminds me of a New Year's party I was told about by a friend. With firewater flowing freely, the guests reached great

heights of animation and noise. As the celebration was held in an apartment building, the superintendent doused the lights, to indicate the merriment should cease.

Finally after much muddling around looking for things all went home — except one. The host went to the bedroom and fell on top of a drunk friend who was sleeping off. The amusing part of this story to me, is the friend's wife didn't miss him until she'd been home for over half an hour.

Anyway my last wish is that you get your wishes. Happy New Year.

Adel Gamaa
and Gemini Staff
Wish All Gemini Members
And Their Families
And All Mississauga
A Very Merry Christmas
And A Wish For Good
Health In The New Year

Gemini Health & Fitness Centre
Sheridan Mall
2225 Erin Mills Pkwy.
823-2440

Merry Christmas

In appreciation for our many friends, we wish you a merry Christmas season topped with a rich frosting of happiness.

Lords + Ladies
THE LATEST LOOK IN HAIR FOR GUYS & DOLLS

MAIN ENTRANCE BESIDE ESCALATOR

275-2663

SUPER STYLES FOR SUPER PEOPLE BY SUPER STYLISTS

master charge
VISA
CHARGE

Free rides for aged

Once again this year any senior citizen in Mississauga can get free taxi transportation on both Christmas and New Year's Day, courtesy of a local real estate firm.

Parsons Taylor Real Estate has made arrangements for Peel Taxi to provide free service to senior citizens on the two holidays at any time of the day up to 10 p.m.

This is the fourth year in a row Parsons Taylor has treated seniors to a free lift. Last year the number of free rides on Christmas and New Year's Day totalled 80.

Interested seniors are urged to call Peel Taxi at 279-1111 well before the time the cab is needed on either of the two days.

FACTORY CARPET OUTLET

CHAIN-WIDE

BOXING DAY SALE

SELECT YOUR BROADLOOM

AS LOW AS **1/2**

PRICE OR LESS

John Gilbert says:
YOU WILL SEE MORE BROADLOOM AND SAVE MORE MONEY AT FACTORY CARPET... I GUARANTEE IT!

SELECT YOUR SAVINGS FROM 4800 BALES Chain-Wide

- SHAGS • TWISTS • CARVES • PLUSHES • SCULPTURES
- ACRILANS • NYLONS • PROPYLONS • POLYPROPYLENES
- POLYESTERS • KODOLS • KITCHEN & COMMERCIAL CARPETING

NO MONEY DOWN NO PAYMENTS UNTIL APRIL

ON THE DEFERRED CREDIT PLAN

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER ANYWHERE WE GUARANTEE IT!

WE CUSTOM CUT FROM THE BALE YOU CHOOSE. WE PROVIDE EXPERT INSTALLATION AND WE UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEE THE QUALITY OF WORKMANSHIP FOR THE LIFETIME OF THE CARPET.

We Wish You Health and Happiness for Christmas and the New Year

NAKANO JEWELLERS

1725 Lakeshore Road West
Mississauga, Ontario
822-0262

Sheridan grad helps in Botswana

A graduate of the Sheridan College School of Design is making her skills as a potter available to the people of Botswana in South Africa.

Anita Hutchings of Toronto has signed a two-year contract with the Botswelole Centre in Botswana, through the Canadian Union of Students Overseas.

CUSO is a non-profit organization designed to assist in the placement of skilled people to help in depressed areas throughout the world.

Hutchings has toured most of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in an effort to become better acquainted with the arts and crafts situation.

"Pottery is a dying craft here," says Hutchings. "It is done only by the old women in the villages, the younger ones showing no interest in continuing the tradition."

This is the first CUSO placement in this area and it has been successful, according to CUSO

representative Robin Hurst. someone from Botswana Hutchings is now training who will replace her.

This Xmas — Give A Gift Of Life

MISSISSAUGA SAFETY COUNCIL'S DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

At Port Credit Secondary School

Commencing January 9, 1975

Instructed By The Peel Regional Police

PHONE: 453-3311 COST \$8.00

Make Defensive Driving Your Contribution To Safety

DRINKING plus DRIVING equal DISASTER Careful

DRIVE SAFELY into '75

The savings are off our Fair Value prices of \$4.98 to \$19.95 per square yard. You pay as low as half price or less.

- THE FACTORY CARPET CARAVAN IS AT ALL LOCATIONS BOXING DAY.
- FREE • FLOWERS
- SHOPSY'S • BALLOONS
- C-PLUS ORANGE Music • FUN • SURPRISES

WIN a MGA COLOUR TV
by Mitsubishi NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

EVERY BALE IS CLEARLY TAGGED WITH THE LOW PRICE YOU PAY.

7 DAYS A WEEK

WEEKDAYS 9 am to 9 pm
SATURDAYS 9 am to 6 pm
SUNDAYS Noon to 6 pm FOR INSPECTION

WE DELIVER OR YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU FOR EVEN GREATER SAVINGS

FACTORY CARPET OUTLET NOW 8 LOCATIONS

MISSISSAUGA: 1030 DUNDAS (Just West of Dixie Road) 270-6600	SCARBOROUGH: 1399 KENNEDY RD. (At Ellesmere) 752-6010	MAIN WAREHOUSE: 1017 FINCH W. (At Dufferin) 630-8060	RICHMOND HILL: 10720 YONGE ST. (At Egl. Mills Rd.) 881-1223	KITCHENER: 1040 KING EAST Phone 379-4420	HAMILTON: 567 UPPER JAMES Phone 588-2095	LONDON: 515 WELLINGTON ROAD S. Phone 681-8322
--	--	---	--	--	--	---

NEVER KNOWINGLY UNDERSOLD!