

Watford Guide-Advocate

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"Squibographs"

Winter has been described as the period between the first snow of fall and the first robin of spring.

The days are getting so short that it is almost time to hook on the bed time stories after breakfast.

In a beauty contest in Cordova, Spain, the leading candidate eliminated a rival by clipping off part of her ear.

The race is not always to the swift, but in the Christmas rush the hindmost is the last to reach the bargain counters.

Christmas tree fruits may be immune from frost, but they have a withering effect on the family "rest fund."

The warden of a boys' reformatory attributes a considerable amount of juvenile delinquency to too many garages and too few woodsheds.

Bobbed hair women in Ontario may protest against the proposal to make them subject to poll tax. Their "overhead" is already carrying the peak load.

Sir Adam Beck, Ontario's hydro chief, intimates that he is growing weary of "probes" and may decide to let the "juice" go to the deuce.

It is easier for an Egyptian to pass through the eye of Cleopatra's needle than to enter the den of the British lion.

"No. 1 hard" is hard to beat. Wheat grown in the prairie provinces was awarded highest honors in the grain department of the Chicago livestock show.

Providing he can run the immigration blockade, the deposed boy Emperor of China is said to contemplate taking up his residence in the United States.

For the first time since the revolution Russian children will be able to eat oranges on Christmas. During that period many "lemons" have been squeezed in Moscow.

Mah jongg, cross-word puzzles and other parlor pastimes now give way to the annual problem of keeping the appropriation for Christmas presents within the estimates.

The pay of a colonel in the Russian army is \$60 a month. A bricklayer in this country would refuse to exchange pay cheques with a field marshal.

When President Coolidge visited the Chicago livestock show he would see many fatted calves. Veal does not appeal to the prodigal sons in that city, who prefer "a bird and a bottle."

By way of a burnt offering, tobacco users in the United States contributed \$400,000,000 to Uncle Sam's revenue last year. A considerable portion of this money went up in smoke.

At a Florida wedding the other day the principals and guests were all mounted on horseback. After the ceremony the bride's mount took the bit in its mouth and the groom naturally trailed behind.

Despite Uncle Sam's high tariff walls a cargo of eels from Quebec slipped through the other day. Fearing a shock, customs officers hesitated to seize the wrigglers.

The New York telephone directory has become so bulky that it has been decided to issue the next number in two volumes. The Cohens are almost numerous enough to fill one book.

The committee appointed to award the Nobel prizes has been unable to find a candidate worthy of the honor this year. The inventor of the cross word puzzle appears to have been overlooked.

If there is any medal for long and continuous civic service it might be pinned on the breast of Alderman Patrick Meehan of St. Thomas. The veteran municipal legislator has served his city for forty-four years and is a candidate for another term.

Which reminds us—the twanging of harps in heaven may become monotonous, but think of the droning of the saxophones at the other place.

The reported discovery of synthetic gold has not been confirmed by chemical tests. Christmas shoppers can continue using the old-fashioned but popular paper currency and coin of the realm until further notice.

The new Saskatchewan Government control law proposes to establish moisture zones. The populous centres are to be provided with "hard" and "medium" while the rural districts are restricted to the less potent but more effervescent beverages.

A Vienna specialist has introduced the scrub brush as a flesh reducer. By applying the brush vigorously to the body four or five times a day, followed by a shower bath, enthusiasts say a pound or so of excess disappears like magic every week. It is possible that the same result might be obtained by applying the brush to a washboard or a hard-wood floor.

A visitor at the capitol was accompanied by his small son. The little boy watched from the gallery when the House came to order. "Why did the minister pray for all those men, papa?" he questioned. "He didn't. He looked 'em over and prayed for the country," was the answer.

Our Store Windows

The store windows of Watford have never appeared to better advantage than now. The individual who has not walked around the town recently "window shopping" should do so tonight. Watford merchants seem to have accumulated even more extensive stocks of Christmas goods than usual, and the very attractive displays in both windows and stores are made for your benefit. Prices have been materially reduced on practically all lines during the past year and the 1924 Christmas shopper finds that her dollar goes much further than in recent years. If you have not already completed your Christmas buying don't wait until the last day. Town people, shop in the mornings; don't crowd the stores in the afternoons when our rural friends are seeking a chance. Consider the clerks, the better choice and freedom from hurry and worry—shop in the mornings and do it today.

Watford Council

Council met pursuant to adjournment on Dec. 15, 1924, with Messrs. Connolly, Hollingsworth, Doar, Brown and McCormick present.

Doar—McCormick that the communication from the Lyons Club, Strathroy, be received and that the Reeve confer with the Club re same and report to the Council.—Carried.
Finance Committee examined accounts and recommend payment—
Robert Hollingsworth, labor, \$10.75
Guide-Advocate, printing ac. 18.50
Gordon Jamieson cleaning sta. 1.00
C. A. Class, rent Lyceum Bd. of Health, 10.00
C. A. Class, rent Lyceum
Thanksgiving, 10.00
McCormick Bros. tile ac., 12.50
S. James, draying, .75
Basil Saunders, ladder for Fire Co., 25.00
W. Harper, truck moving tile 3.00
T. A. Adams sal. & postage Collector, 25.00
McCormick—Doar that accounts be passed and Reeve grant his order.—Carried.

Doar—Hollingsworth, that the Reeve purchase a cabinet to keep corporate papers and by-laws in.—Carried.

Hollingsworth—McCormick that minutes as read be adopted.—Carried.

McCormick—Doar that we adjourn.
W. S. Fuller, Clerk.

WARWICK UNION L. O. L. 1029.

Election of officers for the coming year:

W. M.—Roy Heaton.
D. M.—David Higgins.
Chaplain—Thomas Higgins.
Rec. Sec.—R. A. Higgins.
Finance—Stanley Lucas.
Treasurer—Sanford Lucas.
D. R. Serm.—John Saunders.
Lecturer—R. J. Lucas.
Com.—Arthur Sawyers, L. H. Lucas, Richard Higgins, William Henderson, Eddie Higgins.
The officers were installed by County Master, R. J. Lucas.

SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS

(Dickens' "Christmas Carol")

By MOLLY BEVAN

I think we all, like Scrooge, are visited
Upon this wondrous eve by Spirits three—
The ghost of Christmas Past, and Christmas Present
And that mysterious "Christmas Yet To Be."

The ghost of Christmas now long departed
Guides us, with taper burning bright,
Till, by some well remembered fireside
A gleam with holly and soft candlelight,
We hear the echo of our childish voices
Singing the carol of the "Holy Night."

The ghost of Christmas Present—may it find us
A little worthy of its incense rare,
Within our homes the joy of peace and plenty,
Within our hearts a simple faith and prayer,
Willing to give from out our small possessions
The world's "Bob Cratchits" all an ample share.

The shrouded ghost of Christmas in the future
Stands at the portal of the years to be,
A grim relentless figure guarding
Days that no mortal vision may foresee;
Lord, grant we keep the Christmas spirit
Throughout our lives in reverence to Thee.

Back to the great unknown, with noiseless footsteps
The Spirits glide, their mighty task now done;
While all the Christmas chimes are sweetly pealing
Poor Tiny Tim's "God bless us, every one"

THE WATFORD FIRE BRIGADE AND ITS HISTORY

A short time ago I was very much interested when reading in the Dundas Star, a history of the Dundas Fire Brigade from 1880 to the present time. In 1880, Dundas had a hand pump. Their water supply was got ten from cisterns and wells. To-day they have the most modern and up-to-date Fire Fighting Apparatus, so I will try and pen a history of the Watford Fire Brigade from 1880 to the present time.

In that year, although I was quite young, but being somewhat of an athlete, I was invited to join the Brigade, as they were getting up a running team to compete in St. Thomas. At that time the Brigade was a voluntary Company, composed of forty two men, including officers, M. S. Campbell, Chief, and Dan McLaughlin, Captain. The equipment consisted of a brake hand engine, hose and some ladders and large tanks for the water supply.

In those days Main St. was nearly all frame stores and we had some very bad fires to fight, especially the fire of Nov. 6th, 1880, when the two south end blocks were nearly all wiped out, but what the Brigade lacked in apparatus, was made up by the efficiency of the Brigade, as they were all young and well trained. Every member knew his work.

The running team was composed of the following men, namely: Dave, Richard, John, Tom and Charlie Roche, F. Hillis, J. Hamilton, D. Hamilton, H. Spurway, G. Mansbridge, A. G. Brown, J. D. Brown, Fred Restorick, T. B. Taylor, Frank McLeay, Alex Saunders, J. S. Miller, Joe Cook and W. Scott. Fifteen composed the team and was always ably looked after by M. S. Campbell, Chief, R. Dixie looked after the finance, J. S. Williams, Chaplain and Dr. U. M. Stanley, now of Brantford, looked after our physical condition.

For a number of years the Watford Hose Team competed at Firemen's Tournaments in the following towns and cities in Ontario and always getting first or second money, Sarnia, Petrolia, Strathroy, London, St. Thomas, Tilsonburg, Brantford, Toronto, Stratford, Kincardine and also other places in the U. S.

Amongst the most noteworthy was at London in 1883 when we competed against 22 teams in the International Hose Reel Race open to Canada and United States. Watford got second money and was defeated by the Mohawks of Cleveland a professional team. The Dr. while running across to see the team finish, lost his pocket book. As the team won there were no complaints. At Toronto in 1884 against 19 teams, Watford again got second money being defeated by the Maple Leafs of New York, another professional team,

who won by a fraction of a second, time—four hundred yards and all couplings made in 57 seconds. At Sarnia in 1888 we defeated a team from Valparaiso, Indiana, and all other teams in the fast time of 55 seconds for four hundred yards and couplings.

When attending Tournaments, every member was supposed to return home with the team. I think it was in 1887 we went to Stratford and after winning a hard race and we started for home, one of our best men was missing, but we were soon informed that "A. G." had decided to remain over and join a company called the Benedicts. He was not expelled. Five days later we journeyed to Kincardine and arrived in the evening tired and hungry. After some refreshments, we retired to our rooms for the night. The town was full of firemen, so someone to make some excitement, set fire to an old shack, but Tom Roche stood guard with a big club and said "Not a man move until the walls get hot." We remained in bed. The next day we won the hose reel race and got a place in the hook and ladder race.

Four years ago the ratepayers voted to have a more up-to-date fire protection, so a waterworks system was installed. The water is now forced through the mains to the hydrants by a powerful marine engine. The old hand engine is now kept in the Fire Hall for the good it has done. While our Brigade is organized and officered, in time young men grow cold. It is a young man's job fighting fires as quickness is very important at the start of a fire. One minute at the start is worth a lot later.

There are not many of the old Brigade left and only two or three of the hose team, in the Company now. I might mention Fred Restorick one of the old team who is still on active service and is Captain, but I would like to see the young men take a greater interest in the Brigade and keep the Company up to the high standard that we have so long enjoyed.

A good Fire Brigade is a good asset to any Town and it is a good thing to be able to save lives and property. It is too late to train men after the alarm has been sounded. There is nothing like efficiency. I for one would like to retire in favor of a younger man.

J. D. Brown,
Secretary, Watford Fire Brigade.

The Guide-Advocate will receive orders for Christmas Greeting Cards up until Saturday night; delivery Tuesday. If you are one of the late ones get in today and see our sample book.

Skates and Shoes are the best wish for every boy and girl. We supply both and put them on for you.—P. Dodds & Son.

Wet Snow—you need Rubbers! We have your size at the right price, too. Get 'em now.—P. Dodds & Son.

F. W. MAHONY LEAVING WATFORD

Nelson Hood Steps Up as General Manager of The Andrews Wire Works of Canada.

Mr. Fred W. Mahony is this week preparing to leave Watford to take up residence in Worcester, Mass., where he will assume the duties of general purchasing agent for the four large Washburn factories in Worcester, Mass., Chicago and Rockford, Ill., and Niles, Mich.

This is a gratifying promotion for Mr. Mahony and while Watford citizens will regret the removal of himself and Mrs. Mahony from the town, best wishes are extended for his continued success and achievements.

Mr. Nelson Hood, who has been associated with the Company in various capacities for the past eight years, will be Mr. Mahony's successor as General Manager of the Watford plant. Coming to the Andrews Wire Works Co. as a stenographer, fresh from the business schools, Mr. Hood has diligently applied himself to master executive ability, and it is with much pleasure that Watford congratulates him on his early success.

H. S. "LIT" IN LYCEUM FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Watford High School Literary Society will hold their first meeting in the Lyceum on Friday afternoon. A good program has been arranged and the High School hopes to end the term with a snap.

The Program

1. Speech.....Honorary President.
2. Selection.....H. S. Orchestra.
3. Reading.....Eleanor MacIntosh.
4. Solo.....Alberta Lovell.
5. Speech.....Bert Oakes.
6. Playette by Fourth Form..... "The Betting Burglar."
7. Selection.....H. S. Orchestra.
8. Minutes of last meeting.
9. Piano Duet.....Miss Minore, Ethel Watson.
10. Playette by Second Form..... "Too Much Bobby."
11. Speech.....William Fitzgerald.
12. Dance....."The French Minuet."
- 13.....Mary Connolly, Dorothy Delmage.
14. Selection.....H. S. Orchestra.

The public is cordially invited to these closing exercises.

WATFORD WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Mrs. J. Hawes was hostess for the regular monthly meeting of the Women's Institute on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 10th, with seventeen members and six visitors present. President, Mrs. J. H. Humphries presiding and Mrs. J. D. Brown, pianist for the community singing which was very heartily indulged in. Ten dollars was voted to be sent to London Salvation Army to help with their good work during the Christmas season. The Treasurer's report showed very gratifying results from "Tea" ladies conducted quite recently. An interesting feature of the meeting, was a display of very pretty, useful and ornamental inexpensive Christmas gifts, led by Mrs. L. Kinnell. Mrs. L. Millar favored the ladies with a most pleasing solo, "When Song is Sweet," Miss Doreen played the accompaniment.

STRATHROY HIGH AGAIN DEFEATS WATFORD

The basket ball team of the Strathroy Collegiate Institute defeated the boys' team of the Watford High School in the second of a series of home-and-home games in the armory here on Saturday evening, this giving Strathroy two victories to their credit over Watford, the Strathroy boys having won in Strathroy the week before. Though beaten twice, Watford High School was by no means disgraced, as on account of week-end games the Watford team was minus the services of two of its regulars on each occasion and showed good sportsmanship in taking the floor without them. For Strathroy Graham and Thompson were the leading scorers, while Shugg again proved himself to be Watford's leading sharpshooter. The teams:

Strathroy—Graham (10), Gregory forwards; Brady (6), center; Nicholson (2), Douglas, defense, and Thompson (8), sub.
Watford High School—Shugg (11) Prentiss (2), forwards; Parker (1), center; Cooke and Heaton, defense; Rayner, sub.

Referee—Burt B. Lucas, Strathroy