

A real Christmas family celebrates Yule

BY SHERRY KAHAN

If James Christmas has been a father for eight months, does that make him Father Christmas?

This former Farmington resident, now a Union, and vice-president of a White Lake landscaping service, he regularly has to make a joke like that, particularly at this time of year.

"Every holiday we get crack calls," commented Cheryl, his wife. "They even call up on other holidays. At Easter some one might say, 'Happy Easter, Mrs. Christmas.'"

As for an ordinary simple task like order-

ing a pizza, the Christmases have to act like CIA agents and change their name.

"Otherwise they won't send the pizza," she said. "They think it's a joke."

She added: "When writing a check to a store, the clerk always looks up when she sees the name and asks, 'Are you kidding?'"

Before meeting someone with a name like Christmas, you might expect him to resemble in some way that other Yule celebrity, the one with the round little belly that did all that shaking when its owner was amused.

BUT CHRISTMAS is a non-chub. His eyes twinkle now and again, but he has no

dimples, merry or otherwise. According to the most reliable sources he has nothing to do with reindeer, having instead horsepower under the hood of his Chevrolet.

Nonetheless, he has dressed up several times in the traditional red suit and white beard to charter a few "Ho, ho, ho's" at holiday programs at the Claremontville Methodist Church and at Northville State Hospital.

The children who live near his Livonia home see Christmas as having a crucial role in the confusion of the holiday.

"They think their Christmas presents are hidden in our house," laughed Mrs. Christmas, who despite all the battles also man-

ages to produce frequent winks.

"I've always received a lot of kidding," reported Christmas, who missed by a mere week the opportunity of being born on Dec. 25. Instead he deprived his parents of an income tax deduction and was a New Year's baby.

"The teasing happened more often when I was younger. The kids called me tree or Halloween or Easter. People often asked if my name is Merry."

The name is English," he said, with his family coming from an area near Liverpool. A relative has located a family coat of arms, but Christmas didn't know whether

or not it bears a tree.

"I never thought of changing my name," he stated. "Actually it is a business asset. When someone hears it, they don't easily forget it."

BOTH CHRISTMASSES have found the best thing to do is to laugh about the whole thing. And in thinking of the mix-ups caused by their name as well as the names of several couples they know, Mrs. Christmas really broke up.

The name of one couple is Klaus, the other Miracle. When one of them was in the hospital and visited by the rest, the problems of introductions to the nurse

caused wild hilarity all around.

Mrs. Christmas, whose maiden name is Grose, said her friends couldn't believe it when she announced her engagement to someone named Christmas.

"But she knew what she was getting into," announced her husband. "While we were dating she heard all the jokes."

So she was well prepared when she became pregnant and everyone asked if Merry was inside. Instead the baby turned out to be Colette, now eight months old.

However, out there in Ohio a Christmas relative is growing up with the name, Merry Christmas.

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10-4, good buddy

Cops link with Cbers

Farmington Cbers will be united with COPS, as soon as the police department has bought six of the radios for its patrol cars.

The department wants to organize local Cbers into a Community Observation Patrol Service (COPS) to help it gather information about accidents, traffic hazards and violations, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

For the past several months, the department has operated a CB radio in the traffic enforcement car," he said. "They have found this radio to be a valuable tool for receiving information from motorists about incidents calling for police attention."

Members of COPS would be encouraged to report illegal or suspicious events to the police.

With the CB radios installed in each of the patrol units, the officers would be able to communicate directly with the reporting party. This would provide for accurate dissemination of information and improve response time to the reported incident," Deadman said.

IN ADDITION COPS members would receive training in being a good witness to crimes, according to Director of Public Safety Don Byrnes.

"They would be taught what to observe and how to report an incident," Byrnes said.

"But the intent of the program at this time isn't to organize a citizen patrol," he cautioned.

Cbers wouldn't be expected to patrol an area or become a vigilante group, he said.

The department will monitor Cbers with its base station. Presently, the depart-

ment monitors Channel Nine, the CB emergency station.

Patrol cars will later in on another, yet undetermined channel, also.

"Patrol units may be assigned to monitor some other channel to communicate with those persons reporting incidents to

the police," Byrnes said.

The program will be one of the few of its kind in the state. Detroit, Westland and Jackson have similar programs.

"No one else, with the exception of Jackson has a program of this scope," Byrnes said.

District saves Marillac Hall

The Farmington school board and Marillac Hall trustees have joined forces to save the facility at 2925 Lakster, in Farmington Hills.

Under the plan revealed at Tuesday night's Farmington school board meeting, half of the cost of replacing two teachers at the facility will be borne by the Hall's trustees.

The State Department of Education's alternative education funds will cover the other half of the expense.

Farmington's school district will supply the Hall with two teachers who will be selected from the present ranks of district employees or from the rolls of those who were pink-slipped, according to Farmington school Superintendent Lewis Schulman.

It will cost the Hall's trustees and the State a total of \$1,000 in salaries to replace two special education teachers that were removed from the Hall as part of a Detroit Board of Education austerity measure.

ALTHOUGH DETROIT had placed special education teachers in the facility, Farmington will send persons who can teach junior high and high school classes.

"Why did a certain other district have special education teachers in there when they were not needed?" said Farmington school trustee Gary Lichman.

The teachers will stay at their posts in the Hall from Jan. 3 to June 17, according to Schulman.

The move by the school board was viewed by Schulman as benefiting youngsters in the Farmington districts and its neighbors.

"The facility not only serves students from our district, it serves students from other districts and serves them well," Schulman said.

Marillac Hall was forced to search for teachers to retain its child care facility license, several weeks ago.

The facility serves unmet mothers, most of whom are under 18 years old.



Making it work

These students from North Farmington High School gathered to aid Santa in distributing gifts bought with funds raised through the

Goodfellow Drive. They are (from left): Eric Glatfelter, Rich Stumpf, Bob Atkins, Jeff Cohen and Mark Schulte. (Evert photo)



Santa's chief helper

Chuck Schultkins (right), Farmington's Apple Man, aids Santa in his quest to give every child a merry Christmas. (Evert photo)

inside

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Due to the New Year's Holiday, deadlines for the Monday, January 3, issue of the paper will be earlier than usual. The deadline for display advertising and news copy will be noon, Thursday, December 30. Classified ads can be placed until 4 p.m. Thursday. Our offices will be closed on Friday, December 31.

Lawrence Garneau dies in early morning fire

A 29-year-old Farmington Hills resident died from smoke inhalation early Sunday morning when fire swept through the house he was renting with a friend at 3050 Twelve Mile.

The body of Lawrence Garneau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Garneau, of 8190 Ravine, Westland, was found face down near his bedroom door, by Farmington Hills firemen.

"Evidently, he started to get out of the house," said Fire Chief John Van De Voort.

Garneau's roommate, Charles E. McHenry Jr., 19, managed to escape through a rear door after calling the fire department.

The fire started shortly after the men had gone to sleep at 3:25 a.m.

Garneau had returned just as a party in the house was coming to an end, Van De Voort said.

"McHenry smelled smoke but thought it was the furnace," he said. "He was awakened by a smoke alarm in the corridor near his bedroom in the rear of the house."

"He called the fire department, but gave the wrong location to the dispatcher before leaving the house," he said.

McHenry heard his friend moan and went to the front of the house. He broke a front window and opened the front door in an attempt to get at Garneau.

"He ventilated the fire when he opened the window and the door. The front of the building went up in flames," Van De Voort said.

Officials believe that the fire was caused

by careless smoking.

"The men answering the call had to use water to gain entry into the house," Van De Voort said.

"Captain Paul Dutton and men from station four conducted an immediate search through the house. He did a nice job under the circumstances," he said.

Fire Marshall William Gearhardt, Det. Charles Archambault, of the Farmington Hills police and Nelson Gellinas of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department are investigating the cause of the fire.

Rating course covers the fundamentals of aircraft structure, aerodynamics, meteorology, pilotage and radio navigation. Includes preparation for private pilot FAA written examination. Classes will be on Mondays from 7:10 p.m. in room 107E. Cost is \$23.

•INSTRUMENT GROUND SCHOOL course covers fundamentals of instrument flying, aerodynamics, instruments, radio regulations, navigation, meteorology and flight procedures. Class in on Mondays from 7:10 p.m. in room 107E. Cost is \$23.

•AUTO TUNE-UP AND REPAIR, a limited enrollment class, uses electronic diagnostic equipment. Students will learn minor tune-up and repairs. Classes are Tuesdays from 7:10 p.m. in room 107G. Cost is \$20.

•WELDING, a limited enrollment class, will give students basic experience in gas and arc welding techniques. Class is Tuesdays from 7:10 p.m. in room 106G. Cost is \$20. Materials are extra.

•MACHINE TOOL, a limited enrollment class, will learn operation of lathe, vertical mill, shaper and surface grinder. Time also will be spent on basic blueprint reading and shop math. Classes will be Thursdays from 7:10 p.m. in room 106G. Cost is \$20. Books and materials are extra.

•PHOTOGRAPHY I, an introductory class which deals with the basics of the camera, lenses, exposures, compositions, motion, depth of field, lighting, colors and filters. Class is on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. in room 105E. Cost is \$12.

•PHOTOGRAPHY II, includes advanced techniques. Class is on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. in room 105E. Cost is \$12.

•BEGINNERS BRIDGE (GOREN), class is on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. in room 101D. Cost is \$12.

•INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE is on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. in room 101D. Cost is \$12.

•BASIC READING SKILLS FOR ADULTS will be at East Junior High School. The class is designed to help individuals who feel weak in reading skills. Class in on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in room 107E. Cost is \$12.

•SPEED READING AND COMPREHENSION SKILLS is on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. in room 212D. Cost is \$12.

•BASIC WRITING SKILLS WORKSHOP will teach persons how to express themselves more effectively in writing. Classes are on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. in room 211B. Cost is \$12.

•GUITAR will concentrate on the folk aspect. Beginning students will meet on Tuesdays in room 106C from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Advanced students will meet from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Specify time. Cost is \$12.

•DRIVER EDUCATION FOR ADULTS, a limited enrollment class, will be arranged on an individual basis. For further

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REGISTRATION BLANK

Evening Classes Only

CLASS _____	DAY _____
CLASS _____	DAY _____
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	ZIP CODE _____
PHONE NO. _____	TOTAL FEE _____

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