

In Our Opinion . . .

Preview Of A Happy Holiday

Skating families have a choice of nearly 90 winter sports centers broadly distributed throughout the state of Michigan, and many of Farmington's households will be heading for the slopes during the long holiday week.

Each center has its own specialty. Many boast heated swimming pools which really provide an exciting outdoor winter sport, as the nippy winds tingle and the warm waters soothe. All of the facilities offer modern and efficient accommodations.

Many outstanding ski events take place yearly at Traverse City, Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Boyne Mountain, Boyne Highlands, Boyne Falls, Manistiquish, Ishpeming (home of the National Ski Hall of Fame) and Iron Mountain which features the world's highest artificial ski jump.

During the holiday week, the Ski Festival will be held in Gaylord and will attract many visitors to the northern portion of the Michigan mitten.

Skating events, too, will be listed in the daily papers for devotees of the silver blades. They are scheduled for the surrounding areas—Flint, Detroit, Bay City, Midland and Alpena.

Another exciting spectator event is a fairly new one known as snowmobiling; several Michigan sections will host Snowmobile Derbies this winter. These motorized toboggans are constructed of fiber-glass hulls resting on two skis and are steered by means of a

handlebar inside the hull. Providing traction below the hull is a cleated belt powered by a small motor.

Those who have tried it report that the exhilaration of motion is an experience unique to this new style of locomotion.

Frozen surfaces of Michigan lakes will be the scenes of ice boat races, even sports car races, and, of course, ice fishing. There is something for everyone brave enough to face the home state's unpredictable temperatures.

For specific details, the Michigan Calendar of Events is available to anyone who will write to the Michigan Tourist Bureau and request it.

For those who must remain closer to the Farmington scene, there are a multitude of nearby ski areas, skating rinks, toboggan slides and sledding hills.

Greenfield Village is presenting a continuous display of Christmas as it was known 300 years ago. It should prove fascinating to the TV-oriented youth of today. The tingly sleigh ride alone is worth the price of admission.

These are but a few of the multitudinous goings on to be discovered with just a little effort in the stimulating and beckoning environs of the Farmington community. Such diverse attractions surely guarantee a happy holiday for everyone, and the Farmington Enterprise staff sincerely hopes that it will be just that.

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School - to - School Partnership

When the one-for-one school construction program first began to be written about in the nation's publications, it sounded like a fine idea.

It still does.

What a splendid chance for PTA's and well endowed American schools to do a really constructive service for less fortunate neighbors. For too long now, some groups have actually had to forage and dig even to find an excuse to lavish still more funds on their local institutions of learning.

Michigan junior and senior high school students are being asked by the Peace Corps to participate in a foreign aid program that will give them personal opportunity to help youth of another nation obtain an education.

The appeal is for Michigan students, through fund-raising projects, to provide money for their school to provide money for their school to purchase building materials for a school in Tanzania.

The project has been named by the Peace Corps as the School-to-School Partnership Program. Each state is being urged to "adopt" a specific nation as its target area.

Support from Michigan is being sought for 50 schools in Tanzania. Each Michigan school participating will supply \$1000 to cover costs of building materials, while the partner school in Tanzania will, through community participation, provide for labor and all other construction and operation costs.

The State Human Resources Council is cooperating with the Peace Corps in promoting the program here in Michigan. Mailings have gone out to school superintendents and student council presidents to encourage participation. In addition, Peace Corps volunteers are attending education and youth conferences in the state to explain the program's operation and solicit help.

While various fund-raising methods such as record "hops" and donation of money earned from baby sitting and other activities are being suggested to students, the Peace Corps is also recommending that the students interest the PTA and other community organizations in the partnership.

Of course the plan will earn the thanks of those who will be able to "adopt" a specific nation as its target area.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

DECEMBER 28, 1961

Price Winners

Grand prize winners of the annual Christmas outdoor lighting contest, sponsored by the Thompson-Brown Co. for residents of its subdivisions were Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Colby, of 26223 Dundalk, Kinberly Subdivision.

Expansion Plans

A plan to permit expansion of the Quinley Machine Products Co. industrial operation on Grand River just west of Kline-Mile Road was approved by Farmington Planning Commission.

Kiwans Club

After meeting at Himmelsbach's Dining Room for the past five years, the Farmington Kiwanis Club has completed arrangements to move to Botsford Inn.

Hopes for 1962

An Enterprise editorial states that it hopes city, township and school officials will see fit to work in closer harmony than they have in the past on objectives. At least that many sales that will benefit the community as a whole.

10 Years Ago

DECEMBER 27, 1956

Water District

The possible extension of the proposed Farmington water district to include the area between 10 Mile and 12 Mile Roads was discussed at a joint conference of officials held Wednesday evening at the Town Hall.

Goodfellows

Over 100 families in the Farmington area know today that there really is a Santa Claus. They saw him last Saturday in the person of the Farmington Goodfellows bringing baskets of badly needed food and toys and certificates for clothing.

Salt Remedy

Sprinkle walks with finely ground salt mixed with sand. This will break up ice and prevent slipping while the ice is melting. Fine salt will be diluted quicker and as a result not be as injurious to plants as well concentrated rock salt.

Sales Advice

Samson killed 5,000 Phillips with the jawbone of an elephant. That's why many sales are killed each day with the same weapon.

15 Years Ago

DECEMBER 27, 1951

No More Controls

The Township Clerk's announcements that official notification has been received from Washington lifting rent controls in Farmington Township as of December 11, 1951.

New Phones

Mayor Kenn Loomis announced that several new phones have been added in city offices for the convenience of residents. The new phone numbers for the city manager's office is Farmington 2744.

New Classes

Four new courses have been added for the winter session of adult education classes at Farmington High School. They include a public speaking class, bookkeeping, photography and square dancing.

Visit Santa

Between 350 and 400 boys and girls visited Santa Claus during his annual visit last Saturday afternoon at the Farmington Town Hall according to the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the visit.

Bd. of Comm. Newsletter

An annual election meeting for the Board of Commerce will take place on January 17, 1967, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Masonic Temple for \$3.50 per plate.

In addition to the election, reports, etc., the North Farmington State Band under the direction of Larry Haver will supply a very enjoyable program. "This is a good time to bring that prospective member because the reports will show the how, what and why of the Board of Commerce."

Announcement of the Chairman for Festival '67 will take place in January. It's not too early to start planning on what you would like to do—or to come forth with ideas you may have had and would like to see developed.

As a result of a survey among membership, the Unification Pre-Study Committee has been actively pursuing a course designed to pave the way for a permanent Study Committee.

The Board has announced acquisition of two huge lighted signs proclaiming "Seasons Greetings from Farmington" which are situated at strategic locations along our two expressways. Congratulations to the hard working committee for this fine idea!

Bon Ton Gives Cards

In keeping with the season and as has been its custom over the years, the Bon Ton Shoppe in the Downtown Farmington Shopping Center is making available its Christmas card albums free of charge to anyone who will put them to good use for youngsters in children's homes, hospitals, or other institutions. Those interested may call at the shop during business hours.

LETTER BOX

Chief Irving H. Yakes
Farmington Township
Police Department
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington, Michigan

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for a job well done by the Farmington Township Police Department. I refer to the recent breaking of one of our Japanese have adopted Santa as their own. But in doing so, they have transformed him into a contemporary folk hero devoid of any association with the Christmas season.

Where in the West, Santa usually is found in toy department and at children's parties, Santa Kurosu is most often seen on city streets dispensing brochures of fly bills.

Instead of the familiar bell and kettie, he carries a sandwich sign, often decorated

with some advertising slogan. Employed by nightclubs, coffee shops and stores rather than the Salvation Army, Japanese Santas joyfully proclaim such notices as "Club Whoopee" or "No Minimum." It is not unusual to find old Kris Kringle bearing a sign with shop repair prices.

The widespread use of Santa as a symbol for the out-and-out Christmas hard-sell has turned the grand old gentleman into a popular folk figure. Each year Santa takes his stand beside the costumed actors of the traditional Japanese festivals. To the younger generation of Japanese, Santa looks no more unusual than the lacquer armored, spear-toting samurai who peers from shielded balconies on holidays.

BUT NOT EVERY Japanese Santa is engaged in commercial pursuits. A TV company once filmed a newsreel sequence at a neighborhood shrine called with Santa. The children assembled, flute music sounded, and out marched a Shinto priest in full robes, followed by a slim Santa Kurosu who bowed deeply and then distributed candy to delighted youngsters.

Although the God of Happiness depicted in Japanese and Chinese art has the ample girth that would make him a



JAPANESE SANTA MAN: A familiar sight about Tokyo this Christmas season is Santa Kurosu, the Japanese equivalent of our own Santa Claus. Unlike the Western version, Santa-san is used primarily to advertise merchandise and hawk wares. The Japanese have taken to Santa in a big way and the kindly old gentleman in white beard and red suit can be seen on street corners from early November clear into January. Nipponese Santas are usually recruited from the ranks of struggling university students who frequently prefer the sleek, slim look to the traditional plump and padded version of the West.

Santa Kurosu, Japanese Version of Yule Saint

Thousands of American athletes and tourists who journeyed to the Olympic Games in Japan were impressed by the color and charm of a country whose customs continue to mystify the Western mind.

Unfortunately, many who attended the Olympics returned immediately thereafter, thus missing one of Japan's most interesting and peculiarly Japanese celebrations—Christmas. For Christmas in Japan is like nothing found anywhere else in the world.

What is usually thought of as the spirit of Christmas, which emphasizes the religious and family aspects of the holiday, is entirely absent in the land of the Rising Sun where Santa Claus, rechristened Santa Kurosu, has become a symbol of the fervent commercialism now sweeping the country. With typical oriental zeal, the Japanese have adopted Santa as their own. But in doing so, they have transformed him into a contemporary folk hero devoid of any association with the Christmas season.

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Answers to Yule Quiz May Afford Surprises

You decorate your home with holly and sneak kisses under the mistletoe. . . take it for granted that Christmas was always celebrated on December 25 . . . and even if you're past believing in Santa Claus, expect to see him drawn and painted as a jolly, bearded old elf. But did you ever stop to think of why you do these things?

Some fascinating questions have been raised about the holiday — and the answers could lead you a lot about Yuletide customs and traditions.

1. How about your Christmas decorations? Know why we kiss under the mistletoe . . . who was first to use holly in December . . . what holly symbolizes to Christians . . . from which country the poinsettia came . . . how the cherry tree figures in Yule lore?

Kissing under the mistletoe

is said to have begun with the ancient Romans, who viewed the plant as a symbol of peace. Enemies, meeting under the mistletoe, were supposed to embrace and declare a truce. The Romans were also the first to use holly—at their December Saturnalia festival. But Christians also find holly appropriate because they see in it the symbolism of Christ's blood (the red berries) and his crown of thorns. The poinsettia, another holiday bloom, comes from Mexico. José Poinsett, first American Minister to Mexico, brought it here in 1826. The cherry tree, according to the well-known "Cherry Tree Carol," lent its boughs so that the Virgin Mary could pluck its fruit.

2. Which settlers brought Santa Claus to the New World, and which three men created today's popular image of Santa Claus? Can you name his real-life prototype?

THE DUTCH brought San Nicholas (Sinter Klaas for short) to the New World. After his name became Americanized to Santa Claus, author Washington Irving first described Santa as riding through the skies in a reindeer-drawn sleigh. Clement C. Moore described Santa as fat and jolly, with a sunny beard. In his famous poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," cartoonist Thomas Nast drew him that way. Santa's prototype, the real St. Nicholas, was a 4th-century Turkish bishop who became a legend in his own lifetime for his generosity and his love of children.

3. How has the organ contributed to the music of Christmas?

The organ has been used in church worship and Christmas songs since 650 A.D. (Spain was first to use it for Christian worship.) One of the greatest Christmas traditions, Handel's The Messiah, is customarily sung with organ accompaniment; another classic Christmas composition, Silent Night, was the work of Austrian church organist Franz Gruber. In recent years, organs have grown increasingly popular for the home as well as the church, and caroling sing-alongs are a favorite holiday entertainment.

4. Christmas dates are the subject of this quiz: Who lived the date of Christmas on December 25? In what century was Christmas first celebrated as a legal holiday? Which Americans made it a crime to celebrate Christmas? When is Epiphany, and how does it fit into the Christmas calendar?

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Jaycees Need Name of Best Teacher

The Farmington Jaycees plan to honor the outstanding young educator in Farmington January 21 as part of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Young Educator Program."

Parents and students in the community are being asked to submit the names of teachers between the ages of 21 and 35 whom they feel are doing a job "beyond the call of duty."

How can you tell such a teacher when you see him?

According to Richard Tupper, who is in charge of the local program, he will be "someone who excites the imagination of the students, who really makes education fun while challenging young minds to new achievements of the intellect."

"There are many such teachers here," Tupper says. Teachers' names should be submitted by card or letter to Tupper at 23100 Cass Avenue, Farmington, or call him at 474-5771.

Eligible for the contest are both males and females, teaching at any level between the first and 12th grades.

Co-sponsoring the contest with the U.S. Jaycees is World Book Encyclopedia. There will be winners chosen in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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