

## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY UNDER WAY AT MILLER BAY HOSPITAL SCHOOL

(By "Teacher")

To children everywhere Christmas begins to seem near and exciting. Santa Claus is a real figure, despite the pronouncements of scientists. Children still write letters to the old fellow and think with shivers of awe of the patter on the frosted roof of his fleet reindeer and the jingle of his sleigh bells. Even some grown-ups delight in the prospect of his visit because, whether one believes in him or not, he leaves behind some useful and lovely gifts.

Sleighs, toboggans, electric trains, engines, toys that wind for a brief frenzy of motion, sometimes dying sadly for all time, skates, dolls, doll carriages, in which the Christmas doll is proudly perambulated, all these articles form part of the Christmas picture for normal children, living an everyday life. Construction toys, mechano sets, toy typewriters and sewing machines out of a long list the children write with undimmed hope at Christmas to the jolly old saint of song and story, confident that he knows each by name, and knows, alas, their faults and failings, their good deeds and virtues, and will reward them accordingly. In a surprising and satisfying number of cases virtue is rewarded and the age-old myth given a new transfusion of energy.

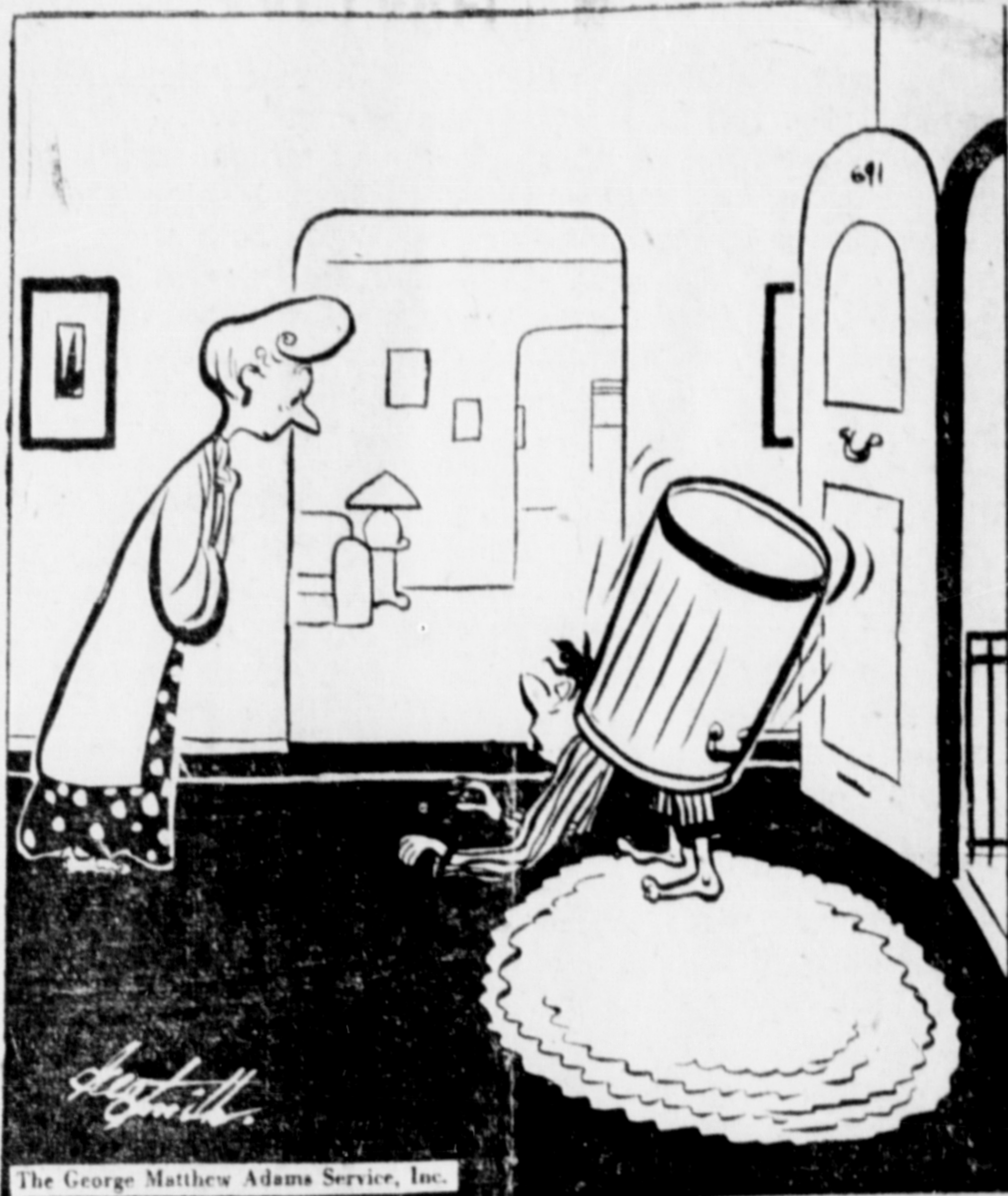
At Miller Bay Hospital, eight miles on the road to Port Edward in a setting of natural beauty and grandeur, more than 50 children go to school in bed, their world bounded for weary months by the walls of the hospital. They too look for Santa Claus and listen again to the story of the baby Jesus whose infant cradle was a manger. Some of them know that story well, even though they are not sure what a manger is. They know the story of the mother and father who had to seek shelter in a stable, that the "little Lord Jesus" might have a place to

"lay down his sweet head." They do not all know what a stable is as their experience has been more among boats and fishermen than among farmers and stables. They know about trappers and fur-bearing animals and many of them express surprise that "Teacher" would be afraid to meet a bear—or even a wolf.

In teaching them the story of Christmas, it is disconcerting, to say the least, to find that their visual memories have no picture of a horse or a cow. It was explained that a manger was the feed box for cattle, containing straw or hay. Still a blank. We use canned milk in this part of the world and there is not a horse, I am told, in Prince Rupert. The patient plodding horses of eastern cities that teacher knows, bringing the daily bread and milk are unknown to these children. Teacher was stumped. She searched in her mind for some familiar association through which she might relate the animals, the stable and the manger. The hefty and familiar mail order catalogue which is the cornerstone of many homes beside those of the Indian children, was a happy solution. By showing the "farm needs" pages the Bethlehem stable took form with its animals and its manger.

**RADIO REQUEST POGAM POPULAR**  
Radio station CFRP played "O Little Town of Bethlehem" as a request on a recent morning and there was the silence of deep feeling as the splendid tones of Richard Crooks sounded through

## THIS AND THAT



The George Matthew Adams Service, Inc.

wards. Afterwards they asked that they might learn that song. The request programs are very dear to the native children. Their parents use this medium of communication also, and the little bedside radios are turned on at seven-thirty each morning, little ears quivering with delight and anticipation. Not all rooms have radios in them but, by carrying around radios of the staff, we try to give each group a "turn." Teacher remembers a home in Ottawa where five radios serve three people. How much entertainment the extra two would provide in a hospital! Lack of thought, not lack of heart!

A boy of sixteen years, who has just learned to read and write, this week sent his first letter home, and was so proud of it he would not let teacher read it over. There are probably many errors in spelling and the writing looks like the progress of many small insects not always travelling in a straight line, but

it is the beginning of a respect for his own achievement, and his family will share that proud moment. When I consider the arduous devotion of this boy to his tasks I wish some of it might be contagious in this place of baneful germs.

It is thrilling to find among our children one now and again who has had a "start" at home. Little Robert is seven. He knows the alphabet. The books brought to him by his father are intelligently chosen, not the reprehensible "comics" unthinkingly donated to small fry. Robert's father and mother both read and write a little. They have tried to teach him, as there is no school near his home. This discovery was like the recent Prince Rupert gold strike, more substantial I hope.

Books of the right kind for spare time reading are what these children need. Their minds are alert, although their backgrounds are limited. Sometimes a book is the only pleasure possible when a child is in such a cast that he must lie on his back or on his stomach. While school books in use are pleasant and interesting they like a change, and simple stories, well told and illustrated with attractive pictures, are very welcome. They make Christmas cards, using as models old cards which have been sent in by kind friends of the school. These they color with crayons or paints. Some of the cards are well executed although some are bound to be described as "blobs," but they send them to their parents and grandparents with pride.

### INSPIRATION OF CONRAD STREET

The children of Grade One in Conrad School made a colorful scrap-book of their own crayon drawings and sent it with their best wishes to our children which pleased and interested them. It also spurred them on to emulate this achievement and the little girls are now making such a picture book for a ward of four small ones who are not yet doing school work. Of this group one little girl of four is on a "frame" which means that she is lying rigid and has little diver-

sion for her childish mind. It is heartening to see the kind interest of one for the other as if the flame of self-interest, always glowing in the adult mind, has been dimmed by their suffering.

A kind friend from Prince Rupert sent in a record player for the hospital, with a stock of excellent records, and another friend sent some construction paper in gay colors and used Christmas cards which have been much admired by the children and employed as models in their own work.

The hospital is little more than a year old the school is even younger. This is the first school Christmas. The school at Sardis, Coqualeetza, has been in operation for several years, is well-organized and well-known. Dr. Galbraith, Medical Superintendent came from Coqualeetza where he was for years on the staff. The Miller Bay Hospital has grown into a lusty infant. Children of school age are coming in all the time. Vancouver organizations have dealt generously with the native children of Coqualeetza, and their Christmas trees are always striking and beautiful.

We hope that Santa Claus will come to Miller Bay over the treelines with his sled filled for the children who in these crisp December days are talking of him and happily awaiting him. If there are any Christmas decorations out away in trunks in households whose children have grown up or gone away, they would be received with appreciation in our school.

## MEN'S FIVE PIN "B" LEAGUE

December 19—Fish Dock vs. Moose Army vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Grotto vs. Canfisco, Co-op vs. Leafs, Mutt vs. Thorncliffes, Stones vs. Scotians.

December 26—Co-op vs. Thorncliffes, Canfisco vs. Scotians, Stones vs. Moose, Mutt vs. Grotto, Fish Dock vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Army vs. Leafs.

January 2—Canfisco vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Stones vs. Mutt, Army vs. Co-op, Thorncliffes vs. Fish Dock, Leafs vs. Grotto, Moose vs. Scotians.

January 9—Stones vs. Grotto, Leafs vs. Fish Dock, Thorncliffes vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Co-op vs. Scotians, Army vs. Moose, Mutt vs. Canfisco.

January 16—Army vs. Mutt, Co-op vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Leafs vs. Canfisco, Fish Dock vs. Stones, Grotto vs. Scotians, Thorncliffes vs. Moose.

January 23—Co-op vs. Moose, Stones vs. Leafs, Thorncliffes vs. Scotians, Army vs. Canfisco, Mutt vs. Fish Dock, Grotto vs. Thom Sheet Metal.

January 30—Leafs vs. Scotians, Grotto vs. Moose, Army vs. Fish Dock, Mutt vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Co-op vs. Canfisco, Stones vs. Thorncliffes.

February 6—Stones vs. Thom Sheet Metal, Co-op vs. Fish Dock, Mutt vs. Scotians, Thorncliffes vs. Canfisco, Leafs vs. Moose, Army vs. Grotto.

February 13—Mutt vs. Moose, Army vs. Thorncliffes, Co-op vs. Grotto, Fish Dock vs. Scotians, Stones vs. Canfisco, Leafs vs. Thom Sheet Metal.

## BASKETBALL SCHEDULES (Senior)

Dec. 16—Brownwoods vs. Savoy  
Dec. 20—Savoy vs. Co-op  
Dec. 23—Co-op vs. Brownwoods

**BLACK REPUBLIC**  
One-fifth of the population of Liberia is composed of American Negroes or their descendants.

**ZOOLOGICALLY SPEAKING**  
Zoologically speaking, apes are more like man than like monkeys.

## MEN'S FIVE-PIN "A" LEAGUE

December 22—Morgans vs. Revelers, McMeekins vs. Ambassadors, Malkin vs. North Star, Kilowatts vs. Brownwoods, Home Oil vs. Continentals, Burns vs. Mansons.

December 29—McMeekins vs. Continentals, Malkins vs. Kilowatts, Burns vs. Morgans, Revelers vs. Home Oil, Mansons vs. Brownwoods, North Star vs. Ambassadors.

January 5—Malkins vs. Brownwoods, Mansons vs. Home Oil, Revelers vs. Continentals, Morgans vs. Ambassadors, Burns vs. North Star, Kilowatts vs. McMeekins.

January 12—Burns vs. Kilowatts, Morgans vs. Continentals, Mansons vs. McMeekins, Malkins vs. Home Oil, Brownwoods vs. Ambassadors, Revelers vs. North Star.

January 19—Morgans vs. North Star, Malkins vs. Mansons, Revelers vs. Ambassadors, Burns vs. McMeekins, Kilowatts vs. Home Oil, Brownwoods vs. Continentals.

January 26—Mansons vs. Ambassadors, Brownwoods vs. North Star, Burns vs. Home Oil, Kilowatts vs. Continentals, Morgans vs. Revelers, McMeekins, Mansons vs. North Star, Burns vs. Brownwoods.

February 2—Malkins vs. Continentals, Morgans vs. Home Oil, Kilowatts vs. Ambassadors, Revelers vs. McMeekins, Mansons vs. North Star, Burns vs. Brownwoods.

February 9—Kilowatts vs. North Star, Burns vs. Revelers, Morgans vs. Brownwoods, Home Oil vs. Ambassadors, Malkins vs. McMeekins, Mansons vs. Continentals.

## LADIES' BOWLING LEAGUE SCHEDULE

December 16—Variety vs. Coasters, Mansons vs. Miller Bay, Toilers vs. Moose, Savoy vs. Browsers, Orange vs. Scuby's.

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