

## Ben Matlock Busy Fashioning Floats For Santa Claus Parades in East

By ROD CURRIE  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
WINDSOR, Ont. (C)—For thou-

sands who line the streets of more than a dozen Ontario cities to view the annual Santa Claus

parade, Ben Matlock is the nearest thing to Santa this side of the North Pole.



BEN MATLOCK (second from left) of Windsor, Ont., designs and makes floats for Santa Claus parades for a number of Canadian cities. At left is C. A. Hoshor, chairman of the Yuletide in Windsor committee of the Windsor Retail Merchants' Association.

6

Prince Rupert Daily News  
Wednesday, November 4, 1953



YES,  
YOU'LL  
BE THE  
Smartest  
Man In Town!

NEXT TIME  
BUY HER  
PRESENT  
AT

Wallace's  
Dept.  
Store

SMARTEST MAN  
IN TOWN!

IT'S TIME...

### TO INSTAL STORM WINDOWS

The fall rains are here and winter is not far behind. Call us today to instal storm windows in YOUR house.

ALL TYPES OF WINDOWS AND SASH MADE TO ORDER

**GREER & BRIDDEN LTD.**

215 First Avenue West

Phone 909

Yesterday's Milk Today NOT Tomorrow

**NORTHLAND DAIRY**

Phone 18

Limited

NORTHERN PRODUCE FOR NORTHERN CONSUMERS

Ben is the paint-smeared genius behind the glittering \$30,000 two-mile long display which kindles the Christmas spirit in young and old.

He and his helpers, working in a large building which resembles an airport hangar, handle tons of paper mache, paint, silver rope, wire mesh, wooden frames, artificial snow and multi-colored cloth to fashion several new floats and remodel some of last year's for this year's parade.

Sketches are transformed into 18 giant floats to equal in splendor even the most vivid dreams of youngsters who have followed the adventures of Cinderella, Humpty Dumpty and dozens of other fairyland folks.

With eight motorized floats hauling the other trailer floats they head first for Dearborn, Mich. During the last six years Ben has handled 100 parades in 20 cities.

#### PLAYS SANTA ROLE

Santa, usually Ben himself, rides a 50-foot, snow-covered combination truck-trailer on which is mounted the traditional sleigh and eight reindeer.

Other floats include a three-car candy train, Jack the Giant Killer, the Old Woman in the Shoe and her children, and Cinderella in a posh carriage. Ben draws many ideas from his library which includes probably the largest private collection of children's books in Canada.

He and his wife and three children live in a cottage adjoining the plant, situated on three acres of land in suburban Windsor.

Born in a small community near Kingsville, Ont., some 50 years ago, Ben started the firm of B. G. Matlock, Ltd., here six years ago.

He got the idea for the Santa parades after Windsor merchants paid \$2,000 to import a parade from the United States. En route the parade ran into a hurricane and presented a tattered sight by the time it arrived here.

The following year Ben made some models and won the financial support of a merchants' association. The parade has been going ever since.

### Couple Drills For Gas Well In Back Yard

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. John S. Weiss went right on drilling in their back yard today for a gas well they hope to strike—but whose output they cannot sell.

If they should happen to strike oil, a court order says they'll have to seal up the well and forget about it.

The couple live in an area where natural gas has been found in the past. Some time ago they decided to drill a "wildcat" well on their property.

At that point, municipal supervisors pointed out that zoning regulations restrict the area to residences. A temporary court order halted the drilling.

Judge William H. McNaugher later approved an agreement that permits the Weiss well-drilling to continue, with these restrictions:

If gas is found, they can use the gas themselves, but may not sell it without facing a charge of violating the zoning ordinance.

And if they hit oil they are out of luck. Any effort to transport the oil from the property would run afoul of the zoning laws and the well would have to be closed and plugged.

#### FAMOUS VOYAGE

The great American clipper Flying Cloud sailed from New York to San Francisco in 89 days in 1854.



UNDERGROUND HUTS or bunkers are a new threat to lives of children in Windsor, Ont., fire inspectors say. This youngster, Gregory Pare, 1½, is in the tunnel entrance of one of the diggings, holding a box of matches. Fire inspectors said they discovered dozens of such bunkers dug by school boys.

### BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

Can You Spot the Flaw In Miss Brash's Play?

See if you can spot the flaw in Miss Brash's play which cost her the contract in today's deal. The five of spades was opened, Mr. Dale won with the king and Miss Brash played the 10.

A spade was returned and Mrs. Keen ducked, fearing her king of diamonds was not a quick enough entry and believing her partner had another spade.

After winning trick two, Miss Brash led a small heart to dummy's king. She might have finessed the 10 but that would have lost to the queen and the defenders then could have cashed three more spades.

At trick four a club was led from dummy and the queen finessed. The ace of clubs came next and the king failed to drop, hoping for a miracle. Miss Brash led another club. But no miracle happened. Mr. Dale won with the king and led his last spade for down one.

As is often the case, success depended upon a slight and apparently immaterial change in the play. After her unwar-ranted jump to three no trump, Miss Brash hardly deserved a chance for nine tricks but she had it just the same.

All she had to do was to play her queen of spades under Mr. Dale's king at trick one. Now if Mrs. Keen ducked the second spade, as before, the jack could be played from the board and that would be the vital second entry to dummy. Miss Brash could take two club finesses instead of one, bringing in the entire suit without loss.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Dale could have fouled up this line of play by dropping a low spade on the first trick and forcing Miss Brash to win. But that was practically an impossible play for him to make against a bidder like Miss Brash. After all, she might have been in there on a doubleton 10 of spades, and in that case he would look great holding up his king when his partner had led from five to the ace-queen.

The town of Rodosto in Turkey has long been noted for its export of silkworms' eggs.

SELECTED FOR QUALITY

**Corby's**

SPECIAL SELECTED WHISKY

This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

### Shoe Sale!

WOMEN'S SANDALS.....1.95

BOYS' OXFORDS and BOOTS.....3.95

MEN'S DRESS OXFORDS.....6.95

FASHION FOOTWEAR

### Ousted Official Being Queried On Beria Case

BERLIN (AP)—The United States high commission newspaper Neue Zeitung announces that Soviet authorities in East Berlin are questioning Wilhelm Zaisser, ousted interior minister of East Germany, in connection with the Beria case.

Laventy Beria, the Soviet Union's dreaded secret police boss and interior minister, was charged last June with treason.

Neue Zeitung declared "it is known" in Communist circles of East Berlin that the Russian justice minister thus far has lacked material on Beria's alleged ties with foreign agents to present at his impending trial.

A long-time friend of Zaisser, Beria once obtained his release from a Russian jail after the German had been made a scapegoat for the defeat of his international brigade in the Spanish civil war. Zaisser was known as "General Gomez" during that fighting.

Beria's 1953 directives to Zaisser were blamed by Communist leaders for the June 17 uprising by East German workers, a revolt that caught the Soviet zone regime by surprise.

PAINT A ROOM WITH **Kem-Tone** THE ECONOMY PAINT FOR BEAUTIFUL WALLS AND CEILINGS

THERE NEVER WAS A MAN LIKE... **SHANE** See it and you'll say IT'S GREAT!

Prices For This Engagement Only  
Adults.....75c  
Students.....50c  
Children.....25c

ENDS TODAY  
7: - 9: p.m.

KIRK DOUGLAS in  
"THE JUGGLER"

That dizzy "Pride of St. Louis" Guy scores again!

A FAVORITE "PITCHER" ABOUT A FAVORITE PASTIME!

STARTING TOMORROW

The wackily wonderful story that waves pennants in your heart!

DAN DAILEY ANNE BANCROFT **THE Kid Left Field**

**TOTEM** Evenings 7: - 9: p.m. A Famous Players Theatre Matinee Sat. 2: p.m.

7 p.m. - 9:20  
ALAN LADD JEAN ARTHUR VAN HEFLIN  
-GEORGE STEVENS-  
**SHANE**  
BRANDON DE WILDE JACK PALANCE BEN JOHNSON EDGAR BUCHANAN  
TECHNICOLOR  
A Paramount Picture  
**CAPITOL**  
A Famous Players Theatre



**LOOK CLOSE HERE...**

Yes, we've decided to offer you A SPECIAL 10% DISCOUNT

on everything in the store all through November!  
Take advantage of this and do your Christmas Shopping Early.

Lots of Watches—BULOVA—ROLEX—MIDO—ELGIN—HAMILTON—ETC., still on sale at...

**HALF PRICE**

**SAVINGS YOURS ON EVERYTHING**

BE SURE TO SEE OUR

VALUES GALORE to TEN DOLLARS ALL FOR \$1.00

**GRAB-BAG SPECIALS!**

EVERY PARCEL GUARANTEED \$1.50 Value or your money refunded

Be Smart

**MANSON'S**

"YOUR FRIENDLY JEWELLER"

Shop Early