

Maid of Mist Lovers

Ottawa Plays Santa for Yule Tryst



Kitty Kleiner

Issue Identity Card To Allow Trip to U.S.

Guelph, Dec. 13.—Dennis Chrastansky, the displaced Czech who made love on the Maid of the Mist, is going to be allowed to see his sweetheart on dry land this Christmas.

Word from Ottawa this afternoon, was that Chrastansky, being treated in hospital here for a heart ailment, would be issued a card of identity enabling him to cross the United States border. His sweetheart Kitty Kleiner is taking post-graduate medical studies in North Carolina.

Chrastansky applied to the Ex-ama farm contract five months ago, and when he was balked from visiting his fiancée in the United States, and she from coming to Canada to see him, they trysted back and forth on the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls.

"This is the happiest moment since I arrived in Canada," the DP said tonight. "I shall write Kitty this very moment and tell her I shall be with her on Christmas Day. She will be delighted."

Dennis, who studied medicine three and a half years in his native Prague, wants to finish his course here and become a Canadian doctor, but under his contract must serve 12 months on a farm before taking up other work.

His brother, Johnny, who came here at the same time, believes farm work may be too hard for the slight youth and may have weakened his heart. He has been in hospital here 12 days, and is lying on a bed in the corridor because of overcrowded conditions pending completion of a new hospital.

Friends in Guelph tonight—and Chrastansky already has scores—were talking of finding him lighter work that he might conserve his health, admittedly not good now.

Chrastansky applied to the External Affairs Department for a passport to visit the U.S. during the holiday season. He was in-



Dennis Chrastansky

formed no passport could be issued because he was not a Canadian citizen, but that he could apply for a card of identity which would serve the same purpose.

In effect, the identity card assures U.S. authorities that Canada will permit Chrastansky to re-enter this country.

(In Washington, Immigration officials said Chrastansky would be admitted to the United States without difficulty. A Canadian identification certificate needs no U.S. approval, they said.)

At first it was feared that Labor Department authorities would not allow the displaced person to leave Canada on the grounds he was under a farm contract. However, this technically was smoothed over by a bit of teamwork on the part of J. H. Rooney, Liberal member of parliament for Toronto St. Paul's, Ralph Maybank, parliamentary assistant to Resources Minister Gibson, and Arthur MacNamara, deputy labor minister.