

# Store Project Helps Retarded People

## Angels, Angels, Angels

BY JOAN M. SMITH

There's no getting away from William Lee. Armed with a charming smile and a determined twinkle in his eyes, he asks, "Would you like to be an angel?" Before you can answer you're walking away not only with a delightful Christmas angel but a warm glow, knowing you've added to the true Christmas spirit.

Lee is chairman and chief executive of Sibley's department store and has been doing his stint, along with the store's other executives and employees, at the first floor angel tree. Their product — a shiny gold or red angel selling for 25 cents. What makes their efforts so pleasurable is that the proceeds will be presented to the Association for Retarded Citizens.

"It's lent a note to this Christmas that's unique and adds to the real spirit of Christmas," declared Lee who suggested the project. He is pleased with the enthusiasm and cooperation with which the store has promoted the idea. "It has brought a great feeling to the Sibley family," he added.

And there's no question about the public's enthusiasm. Lee told of many people who have come into the store and have offered to help him sell. Other customers have been so delighted with their angels they've shared with Sibley's family. They have found them such as tree

hangers, wreath decorations, table centerpieces and gift wrapping accents.

The angels which also decorate Sibley's trees and display arrangements were made by the Association for Retarded Citizens' Work Experience Groups. Sibley's supplied the cut-out sheets and the groups went to work, punching-out, assembling and painting angel faces.

Another aspect of the store's special Christmas scene this year was an art contest held for the Board of Cooperative Education Services. Members of the educable mental and trainable retarded classes painted their versions of the "Littlest Angel" and the six winning entries were used to highlight the store's holiday ads. All the paintings are on display in the Ward Gallery, (5th floor).

The angel has involved everyone at Sibley's from the front office to the shipping department to the employees right down to the display people who are responsible for the gold link chain. It is draped over the aisles, archways and at the rate it's growing will soon be circling the posts. Known as the "love chain" it is made of the gold links which are signed by all angel buyers. According to Sharon Cross, coordinator of special events, the chain is now three to four miles long. The chain is made of gold links and is draped over the aisles, archways and at the rate it's growing will soon be circling the posts.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan  
William Lee displays the angel he and his colleagues have been selling this Christmas season.

suburban stores where the angels are also on sale.

By the store's estimation, sales counts as of a few days ago was 12,000 angels sold. In talking with those involved in the project, it would be an extra special Christmas for Sibley's if they could, say to a customer, "Sorry, we're all

sold out of the angels." In fact, the store won't even mind selling them off the display trees.

The community has shared a special experience through the angel and wherever she has found a home she giving.

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## Community Honors Palombi

C. Richard Palombi, an agent with the Prudential Insurance Co. and very active in St. Lawrence Parish affairs, was a 1977 recipient of the company's Orville E. Beal Award for Community Leadership.

Palombi received the award for his work with the St. Lawrence Men's Club, the Town of Greece Drainage Committee and the Rotary Club of Greece.

He was one of 38 Prudential employees throughout the U.S. and

### TOFANY ELECTED

Dr. Victor J. Tofany, attending physician in the anesthesiology department at St. Mary's Hospital and a hospital trustee, has been elected assistant secretary of the Medical Society of New York State. He will serve also on the Council of the Medical Society.

Canada to be recognized for making outstanding volunteer contributions to their neighborhoods and communities.

He is past president of the St. Lawrence Men's Club, serving three years on its board of governors. He is a

lector and usher at the parish and works with Project Share which collects food, clothing and money for needy families. He also serves as a co-retreat leader for the parish where he has lived for 15 years. Previously he was active in Holy Cross parish affairs.

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The Christmas season draws near, that wonderful time of year for beautiful cards and carols, brilliant lights and decorations, lovely gifts, abundant meals and treats, and the warmth of family gatherings.

For some, those things do not exist. They are the **poor**. They too would savour all the wonderful things of Christmas... but are deprived of them.

All too often we forget the true meaning of Christmas: **the birthday of Jesus**. Our best gift to Him is to share with His poor, whether they are in our neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Share also with the missionaries of the world's most northern missions, the Eskimo missions of the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay., who have no source of funds in that remote Arctic region.

Your support will be most precious and so greatly appreciated by **Bishop Omer Robidoux**. (Esk-Omi Missions - P.O. Box 159 - St. Norbert, Manitoba, Canada-R3V 1L6) All donations are personally acknowledged and are tax-deductible in Canada and in the U.S.A.

THIS CHRISTMAS... PLEASE FIND ROOM FOR THE POOR. **Note:** this appeal comes to you from a 33 year old woman who, for the last 17 years, has been disabled with rheumatoid arthritis and confined to bed and wheelchair.

**\*\*\* MERRY CHRISTMAS \*\*\***

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