

Hazelwood's Store & Father Christmas

Over the years Upper Hutt children will remember their visit to see Father Christmas at the former Hazelwood's Department Store. A special man Leonard George Rink in 1970 was recorded as being Santa for the Hazelwood's Department Store role from 1946 to 1972.

At Christmas time we often remember people and places from our past just like Leonard George Rink and the Hazelwood's Department Store.

Hazelwood's first store was established in 1893 [some records state 1887] by James Alfred (Jimmy) Hazelwood. Jimmy was the Managing Director of Hazelwood's up to 1944. In 1944 Theodore Nesbit Gibbs purchased the store from J Benge and J A Hazelwood. In 1954 Theodore's son Colin Gibbs became the Assistant Manager then took over as Manager in 1956. The original Hazelwood's Store was rebuilt several times over the years.

Hazelwood's Store Upper Hutt



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's 2nd building 1898-1914 P5-59-657)

James Alfred (Jimmy) Hazelwood was born 1875 in New Zealand. In 1897 in New Zealand Jimmy married Margaret Ada Bennett (born NZ 1878) and they had five children. The children were [1] Ethel May born 1898, [2] James Thomas born 1901, [3] Myrtle born 1903, [4] Hector Gilbert born 1909 and [5] Wilson Alfred born 1912 all in Upper Hutt. Margaret Ada Hazelwood died 23 November 1951 and was buried at Akatarawa cemetery. James Alfred Hazelwood died 24 December 1968 and was buried with his wife at Akatarawa cemetery Upper Hutt.

71th Anniversary

In 1964 the Hazelwood's Store celebrated its 71st anniversary and the opening of their new building. Although this building still stands the Store is just a memory.



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's 71 Anniversary Colin Gibbs Collection P2-597-1297)

Mayor Percy Henry Kinsman is on the left and James Alfred Hazelwood on the right in front of the cake. It is not known who the man in the middle is.

Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 07 & 14 October 1964

"It is now 71 years since Mr J A Hazelwood first opened his shop in Upper Hutt and since that time Hazelwood's have progressively grown with Upper Hutt. Upper Hutt is today a city with a tremendous future. Our new building and improved services will help to make this future more certain. We will officially open our new building on Wednesday 14th October and at the same time celebrate our 71st anniversary. We invite you to some and use these new services."

The Mayor Mr Percy Kinsman offered greetings and congratulations and spoke very warmly of the founder Mr J A Hazelwood who was present with his daughter Mrs Hector Poulson.

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 07 & 14 October 1964)

James Alfred Hazelwood meets Father Christmas in Santa's Cave

In 1966 James Alfred (Jimmy) Hazelwood meets Father Christmas in Santa's Magic Cave inside the Hazelwood's Department Store. Around 1946 Len Rink became Father Christmas for the Hazelwood's Store and was still in the roll in 1972 five years before his death.



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood Father Christmas 1966 Revelle Jackson Collection P1-4701-7091)

Leonard George (Len) Rink

Leonard George Rink was born 05 November 1906 in New Zealand. In 1928 Len married Mavis Edith Marita Kitney (1910-2011) in New Zealand. Len and Mavis resided in Whiteman's Valley Road with their children. In November 1961 Corporal L G Rink of the Royal NZ Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was presented at a ceremonial parade in Trentham Camp with his Long service and good conduct medal. Len died 21 December 1977 in New Zealand.

Len was involved with numerous local organisation and charities. He was very popular at Christmas time with local children.

Upper Hutt Leader 21 December 1949

Although 'Old Man Weather' was not too kind on Friday afternoon last when Father Xmas arrived at Hazelwood's Magic Cave, it did not deter the children any, as they were there in hundreds to meet him. Throughout Friday afternoon and evening there was a stream of children and parents visiting the Cave. The Cave itself is very prettily decorated with coloured lights, fancy papers and balloons. As you walk in you see a nice rockery with real plants, also goldfish swimming around in a large bowl. An electric train is yet another novelty for the children as it goes round and round. Each person receives a present from Father Xmas or his fairies and the secrets that are whispered into the children's ear is something we have not yet fathomed. Hazelwood's are to be congratulated for re-introducing this novel Christmas treat, as it saves the parents having to take their children to the city.

Upper Hutt Leader 22 December 1952

Santa Arrives in Upper Hutt

Heralded by the excited cries and cheers of close on one hundred and fifty children, Father Christmas arrived at Hazelwood's Department Store last Thursday afternoon. Santa who was accompanied by two of his fairies, made a triumphant drive through the Borough and on his arrival at Hazelwood's officially unlocked his Magic Cave.

Inside the cave is a brilliant blaze of colour. Fairy lights hang from the roof, greenery lines the wall and on one corner all the story book characters are waiting to greet those who call on Santa.

Donald Duck and his cousins, the Seven Dwarfs, Jiminy Cricket and Pinocchio. Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Gus the Mouse, the Perky Penguin and Three Little Pigs are all there to gladden children's hearts. An electric train rushes through Toy Town and the residents are enjoying life on a Big Wheel. Father Christmas sits in a place of honour and after receiving his youthful guests his two fairies hand out presents to all his visitors.

Children who have not yet been to see Santa should not miss, as a visit to his Magic Cave is a trilling adventure.

Upper Hutt Leader 18 December 1958

Father Xmas arrives at Hazelwood's - Hundreds of Children greet him

Hundreds of children and their parents blocked the Main Street for quite a while on Friday afternoon last when Father Christmas arrived behind a tractor with his fairies and several clowns, led by some helpers. Children screamed with delight as Santa slowly dismounted from his dais and walked sedately among the kiddies talking to them as he went by with a pat on the head of several. The six clowns, the like of which has never been seen in Upper Hutt before with their enormous heads, kept the children amused, or at least most of them, (some of the tiny tots being a little afraid of them). After talking to the children, Father Christmas, led by Mr C Gibbs entered his magic cave with his fairies where he immediately began to take orders from the kiddies for their stockings. Just outside the cave there is a miniature railway working for children to have rides and this was taken advantage of by many. Yes you can hand it to Mr Colin Gibbs, and his executive staff who organised the great show for Upper Hutt, the first of its kind. Remember if its toys you want, Hazelwood's have just what is needed, so don't miss out, call in and inspect the best range in the Upper Valley.

Upper Hutt Leader 13 December 1962

Father Christmas & Rudolph

We have the most exciting news for all boys and girls. This year Father Christmas is to be seen in his sleigh on top of Hazelwood's veranda, and who do you think is leading the reindeer? Yes Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer himself. Now everyone knows the story of how Rudolph got the job of pulling Father Christmas sleigh and how his red nose shone so brightly at night that that Father Christmas didn't need any light to show him the way to all the homes of little boys and girls. Well this year Rudolph said "Father Xmas, I'm getting so tired of spending my Christmas in the cold snow, why don't we go to Hazelwood's, where Christmas time is always warm." Now Father Christmas is getting old and he feels the cold too, so he thought this is a good idea, and when you come to Upper Hutt with Mother don't forget to cross the street and look up and see this lovely sight. Then when you go through Hazelwood's Toy Bazar you will be able to see all the lovely toys before you see the real Father Christmas in his cave, and tell him what you would like if he can possibly manage it. Santa Claus and Rudolph wish you all A Merry Christmas and hope to see you all in his cave this year.

1964 crowds of children welcome Father Christmas



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's Father Christmas 1964 P3-171-883)

Upper Hutt Leader 05 December 1963

Upper Hutt's Idol at Christmas Time

To the children in the Upper Valley Mr Len Rink is perhaps the most famous Father Christmas of all, for he has the unique experience of acting in this capacity in the one store for the past 14 years which could possible the New Zealand record. His delightful personality and obvious enjoyment have made him a much loved figure in the community both to children and parents alike. Mr Rink recalls holding his first Christmas cave in Hazelwood Hardware Reserve about 14 years ago and has many happy and humorous memories of his long service. Some of the earlier children have returned with their own children. In recent years the number of children to pass through his cave would be in the vicinity of 33,000. One of the objects of the cave is to provide entertainment and interest to the children and this has been done in the way of exhibiting birds, fish, etc., and most important of all the electric train. It just would not be Father Christmas Cave without the electric train, which was set up the very first year of the cave. These various displays have captured the imagination of the children and the remarks of parents have made past efforts well worthwhile.

1965 crowds of children welcome Father Christmas



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's Father Christmas on Teddy train 1965 P3-207-1207)

Four very important Upper Hutt people

Mayor Percy Kinsman - Father Christmas - fairy Evelyn Vernie - fairy Jacqui Gibbs



(Reference UH City Library Recollect Website Hazelwood's Father Christmas 1966 Revell Jackson Collection P2-546-1206)

Three Happy People

Father Christmas – A happy Boy (unknown) – Happy the dwarf



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood Father Christmas 1966 Cave P1-4797-7187)

Rain

On the 06th December 1968 even the rain would not keep the children away from welcoming Father Christmas to his magic cave in Hazelwood's Department Store.



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's Father Christmas 1968 Revelle Jackson Collection P1-4657-7047)

Sunshine

One year later on the 05 December 1969 saw a brilliant summer day to welcome Father Christmas to the Hazelwood's Department Store.



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's Father Christmas 1969 Revelle Jackson collection P1-4496-6886)

24 years in Santa's Cave at Hazelwood's



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's Father Christmas 1966 Revelle Jackson Collection P1-4488-6878)
In 1970 Len Rink was recorded as taking up his Santa role for the 24th year. Len began around 1946 and in 1972 was still Santa for Hazelwood's Department Store.



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website Hazelwood's Father Christmas 1972 Gibbs Collection P2-437-683)
The 1972 Christmas Parade Main Street Upper Hutt with Father Christmas and his fairy.

Leonard George RINK (Father Christmas)

1- Leonard George RINK born 05 November 1906 New Zealand died 21 December 1977 New Zealand married 1928 New Zealand **Mavis Edith Marita KITNEY** born 24 May 1910 died 2011 New Zealand

#Leonard George RINK born 05 November 1906 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1906 folio website 1906/3801 parents Eliza Jane and George Otto Rink

#Leonard George RINK builder 21 Blackwell Street Marton

#Leonard George RINK married 1928 New Zealand Mavis Edith Marita KITNEY reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1928 folio website 1928/500

#Leonard George RINK builder Turakina & Mavis Edith Marita RINK married Turakina 1935 & 1938 Rangitikei Electoral Roll

#Leonard George RINK soldier Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream & Mavis Edith Marita RINK married Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream 1946 & 1949 Otaki Electoral Roll

#Leonard George RINK soldier Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream & Mavis Edith Marita RINK married Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream 1954 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Leonard George RINK soldier 30 Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream & Mavis Edith Marita RINK married 30 Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream 1957 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#09 November 1961 Upper Hutt Leader Long service and good conduct medals were recently presented by Lieut-Colonel F D McWha to three soldiers of the Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at a ceremonial parade at Trentham Camp. The recipients were Corporal L G Rink, Lance Corporal H P M Wilson and Warrant Officer W F U R Talbot.

#Leonard G RINK public servant 30A Whiteman's Valley Road & Mavis E M RINK married 30A Whiteman's Valley Road 1963 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Leonard George RINK factory hand 30A Whiteman's Road & Mavis Edith Marita RINK married 30A Whiteman's Road 1969 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Leonard George RINK pensioner 30A Whiteman's Road & Mavis Edith M RINK pensioner 30A Whiteman's Road 1972 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Leonard George RINK died 1978 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1978 folio website 1978/29365 born 05 November 1906

#Mavis Edith Mareta RINK died 2011 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2011 folio website 2011/16561 born 24 May 1910

#In loving memory of Leonard George loving husband of Mavis RINK he fell asleep 21st December 1977 ages 71 years buried Turakina Public cemetery reference Ancestry website NZ cemetery transcripts

0-1- Myra Leona RINK born 20 August 1935 New Zealand died 2004 New Zealand married Mervyn John CAMERON born 01 November 1926 died 2006 New Zealand

#10 September 1953 Upper Hutt Leader - Cameron – Rink – Mr and Mrs L Rink 30 Whiteman's Valley Road Silverstream have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter Myra Leona to Mervyn John Cameron only son of Mrs V C Jones Gallipoli Road Trentham and Mr J Cameron Point Howard

#Myra Leona CAMERON died 2004 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2004 folio website 2004/11443 born 20 August 1935

#Mervyn John CAMERON died 2006 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2006 folio website 2006/20759 born 01 November 1926

0-2- George Herbert RINK married Carrol Marlene UNKNOWN

#George H RINK Bulldozer driver 627 Main Road Te Marua & Carrol M RINK married Main Road Te Marua 1963 Heretaunga Electoral Roll AND George Herbert RINK operator 22 Maymorn Road Te Marua & Carrol Marlene RINK married 22 Maymorn Road Te Marua 1969 Heretaunga Electoral Roll AND George Herbert RINK rubber worker 22 Maymorn Road & Carrol Marlene RINK married 22 Maymorn Road 1972 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

Leonard's ancestors and descendants

- 0- Frederick RINK** born about 1850 died 1937 New Zealand married **Matilda UNKNOWN** born about 1855 died 1940 New Zealand
#Frederick RINK died 1937 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1937 folio website 1937/27355 age 87 born about 1850
#Matilda RINK died 1940 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1940 folio website 1940/19152 age 85 born about 1855
#Fielding burials reference Ancestry website New Zealand cemetery records
- Frederick RINK 87years 22 September 1937 plot 742 block 2
 - Matilda RINK 85 years 18 December 1940 plot 742 block 2
 - Stillborn RINK child of Basil 12 June 1937 plot 736 block 2
 - Basil RINK 60 Churcher Street Fielding contractor 67 years 28 July 1978 sub 4 row 205 plot 42
 - Clara Matilda RINK 2 months 9 April plot 260 block 2 (transcription died 09 April 1888)
 - Eliza RINK 46 years 03 May 1932 plot 735 block 2
 - Frederick RINK Fielding 44 years 04 July 1952 plot 1317 block 2
 - Frederick RINK 39 years 10 November 1920 plot 736 block 2
 - Pauline Nola Isabel RINK 11 weeks 17 September 1949 plot 28 block 3 children's ground
 - Robert Richard RINK Denbigh Street Fielding 60 years 24 September 1951 plot 1C block 3 Anglican
- 0-1- Frederick RINK born about 1881 died 10 November 1920 New Zealand married 1906 New Zealand Eliza STRINGER born about 1886 died 03 May 1932 New Zealand
#Frederick RINK died 1920 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1920 folio website 1920/5633 age 39 born about 1881
#Frederick RINK married 1906 New Zealand Eliza STRINGER reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1906 folio website 190/4201
- 0-1-1- Frederick RINK born 1907 Fielding New Zealand died 04 July 1952 New Zealand
#Frederick RINK born 1907 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1907 folio website 1907/1193 parents Eliza and Frederick
#Frederick RINK died 1952 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1952 folio website 1952/32316 age 44 born about 1908
- 0-1-2- John Allen RINK born 1909 Fielding New Zealand died 1961 New Zealand married 1931 New Zealand Dulcie Boyne MCGREGOR born about 1908 died 1972 New Zealand
#John Allen RINK born 1909 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1909 folio website 1909/1036 parents Eliza and Frederick
#John Allan RINK married 1931 New Zealand Dulcie Boyne MCGREGOR reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1931 folio website 1931/8121
#John Allan RINK died 1961 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1961 folio website 1961/32398 age 52 born about 1909
#Dulcie Boyne RINK died 1972 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1972 folio website 1972/25114 age 64 born about 1908
- 0-1-3- Basil RINK born 04 November 1910 Fielding New Zealand died 28 July 1978 New Zealand married 1936 New Zealand Alberta Annie HINKS born 04 May 1914 died 1996 New Zealand
#Basil RINK born 1910 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1910 folio website 1910/4000 parents Eliza and Frederick
#Basil RINK married 1936 New Zealand Alberta Annie HINKS reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1936 folio website 1936/6152

- #Basil RINK died 1978 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1978 folio website 1978/46883 born 04 November 1910
- #Alberta Annie RINK died 1996 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1996 folio website 1996/36168 born 04 May 1914
- 0-1-4- Leslie Ivan RINK born 26 July 1914 Fielding New Zealand died 1986 New Zealand
- #Leslie Ivan RINK born 1914 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1914 folio website 1914/17508 parents Eliza and Frederick
- #Leslie Ivan RINK died 1986 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1986 folio website 1986/44858 born 26 July 1914
- 0-1-5- Merinda Ellen RINK born 1916 Featherston New Zealand
- #Merinda / Lerinda Ellen RINK born 1916 Featherston New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1916 folio website 1916/8901 parents Eliza and Frederick
- 0-2- George Otto RINK born 1882 Fielding New Zealand died 03 January 1924 Wanganui New Zealand married 1906 New Zealand Eliza Jane HEAYNS born 1884 New Zealand died 09 April 1934 Sydney Victoria Australia
- #George Otto RINK born 1882 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1882 folio website 1882/10532 parents Matilda and Frederick Rink
- #Eliza Jane HEAYNS born 1884 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1884 folio website 1884/6601 parents Augusta Dorothea Elsie and Thomas Heayns
- #George Otto RINK married 1906 New Zealand Eliza Jane HEAYNS reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1906 folio website 1906/4200
- #George Otto RINK died 1924 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1924 folio website 1924/1165 age 41 born about 1883
- #George Otto RINK 1924 probate
- #Eliza Jane RINK widow Turakina 1928 Rangitikei Electoral Roll
- #Eliza Jane RINK 1934 both probate Wanganui Probates Whanganui District Court reference Archives NZ wellington
- #Turakina Public cemetery headstone – In loving memory of GEORGE OTTO beloved husband of Elia Jane RINK died 03 January 1924 aged 4`years; also ELIZA JANE RINK wife of above interred Botany Cemetery Sydney 09th April 1934 reference Ancestry New Zealand cemetery records
- 0-2-1- **Leonard George RINK** born 05 November 1906 Fielding New Zealand died
- #Leonard George RINK born 05 November 1906 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1906 folio website 1906/3801 parents Eliza Jane and George Otto Rink
- #Leonard George RINK married 1928 New Zealand Mavis Edith Marita KITNEY reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1928 folio website 1928/5600
- 0-2-2- Phyllis Evelyn RINK born 1908 Rangitikei New Zealand
- #Phyllis Evelyn RINK born 1908 Rangitikei New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1908 folio website 1908/9019 parents Eliza Jane and George Otto Rink
- 0-3- Henry Walter RINK born 1884 Fielding New Zealand
- #Henry Walter RINK born 1884 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1884 folio website 1884/11929 parents Tilda [sic] and Frederick Rink
- 0-4- Jane Lucy RINK born 1886 Fielding New Zealand married 1908 New Zealand Patrick KINAVAN
- #Jane Lucy RINK born 1886 Fielding New Zealand RGO NZ birth registration 1886 March quarter folio 317
- #Jane RINK married 1908 New Zealand Patrick KINAVAN reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1908 folio 1541

0-5- Clara Matilda RINK born 1888 Fielding New Zealand died 09 April 1888 New Zealand (died young never married)

#Clara Matilda RINK born 1888 Fielding New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1888 folio website 1888/1880 parents Matilda and Frederick Rink

#Clara Matilda RINK died 1888 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1888 folio website 1888/2389 age 8 weeks
