WINCHESTER PRESS

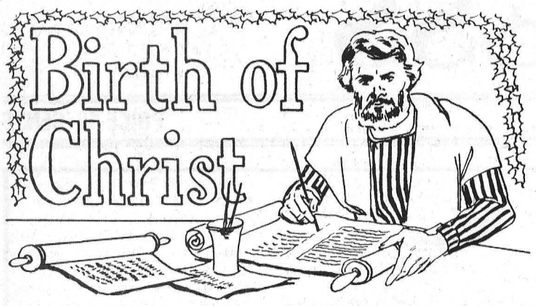
VOL. 81 NO. 34 — WINCHESTER, ONTARIO – SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION 1968 – TWO SECTIONS — PRICE 10 CENTS



AT CHRISTMAS

Joy to the World... Let every heart rejoice . . . for Christ is born in Bethlehem and the glory of His message shines forever, shines anew. Even as shepherds and wise men came to worship and be glad, so may each of us return in spirit to the sacred manger, there to find the peace and promise, the hope and happiness of the first Christmas. May the miracle of His birth and the wonder of His presence ever be our blessing and inspiration. And may this Christmas truly be, for you and yours, a season rich in joy and deep contentment.

The Management And Staff
of
The Winchester Press



Christmas in medieval England was called Christes Masse, then Chirst's Mass, until it aquired its present spelling. The day is still known in many European countries as "Christ's Birthday" and is called Noel by the French, Natale by the Italians, Weihnacht by the Germans, and Yulen Jul by the Scandinavians.

Most scholars agree that Dec. 25 is most certainly not the birthday anniversary of the Savior, and that He was not born in what we now measure as 1 A.D. The custom of celebrating Christ's Birthday on Dec. 25 originated in Rome in the fourth century of the Christian Era, some say in 354 A.D. The Roman monk Dionysius Exiguus, who made the calculations for the calendar in the sixth century, probably misplaced A.D. by at least six years.

Herod the Great, according to the current Gregorian calendar, died in 4 B.C. He is said to have put to death the boy babies in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger. The first Christmas may have been as early as 6 B.C.

In finally choosing Dec. 25 for Christmas, the early church fathers probably were not unmindful that the Roman feast week of the Saturnalia ended on Dec. 24, after which some purification of the soul would be in order. Worshippers of the Persian god Mithras celebrated Dec. 25 as the advent of the Sun.

The place of Christ's birth is much better established than the time. If you went to Bethlehem this Christmas and asked to see where Jesus Christ was born, the inhabitants would direct you to a small grotto, or cave, beneath the Church of the Nativity.

History fixes the year of the Savior's birth at 6 B.C. All the historical quibbling is of little significance to the real meaning of Christmas, which can be read in the face of almost any child at some moment on Christmas Day.

A CHRISTMAS DECISION

By Tommye Pope

Jim Smith stepped down from the station platform and gingerly treaded through the maze of parked vehicles until he came to the "Last of the '53's." With a couple of half-hearted swipes, he brushed aside enough snow to provide a driving peep-hole. Now, if the old girl still had life left, he'd soon be sitting before the warm fire, glass in hand, ready to suffer through the long holiday week.

The old girl was reluctant. She hardly murmured. Not again! It had been this way for several days. "Old '53" started each morning like a sewing machine and glided to the station as if she had wings. Evenings were a different story. Well, this did it! Afford it or not, Christmas or not, he intended to buy another second car. He'd talk to Martha about it tonight. Something just had to give.

Something had to give. Something had to go. Private dancing lessons, private schools, the country club membership, he didn't care which. Maybe some other things would go as well. They might even take a smaller house. Martha wouldn't like it, but ten years of keeping up with the rest of suburbia was enough. Jim Smith was going to put his foot down. The Smith family was going to live within the Smith family income and first things were going to come first.

He decided to walk home rather than call Martha to pick him up. He needed the time to think.

"Hey, Jim, want a push to get the old bucket rolling?" Harvey West. Driving a bright and shiny '65.

"No thanks, brother-in-law. I'll walk. I think the old girl is dead for keeps."

"No need to walk. Come on. Ride with me in my little red wagon. It's a Christmas gift. I want to know what you think of it."



"It's a fine looking machine, Harv. Obviously well-taken care of."

"Thought you'd like it. Look at the mileage. Can't say it belonged to an old lady, but it has been used sparingly as a second car. I know the owner well."

"Must be nice," Jim said indifferently. "Nice Christmas present."

"You bet," Harvey said with a laugh. "Belongs to a lucky guy. A gift from his family, and all paid for. No coupon book goes with it."

They lapsed into silence.

Harvey wheeled into the driveway behind the bright blue wagon. "Right to your door delivery, sir. Now as to the fare, it will cost you at least one round of the spirit of the season."

"Consider it paid Harv. Come on in. I could use a bit of refreshment myself."

NOT AT CHRISTMAS

Harvey didn't stay long. When he had gone, Jim sat before the fire, listening to the sounds of pots and pans as Martha fussed about the kitchen and the laughter of the children as they wrapped last-minute presents. He knew he couldn't spoil it for them now. After all, it was Christmas. He wouldn't even mention that Harvey had a new car for Christmas. They apparently didn't know it, as nothing had been said about the matter.

This is, of course, a Christmas story. You can imagine the dialogue as Jim Smith passed out the presents. As the piles of wrapping paper and ribbon accumulated on the floor. The "ooh's" and the "aah's" and then the moment of silence when Jim opened his last and smallest gift of all—the keys to the little red wagon Harvey had left in the driveway. The confessions that there had been no dancing lessons all year, that John had saved his summer lawn-mowing money, that Martha had cut corners and padded expenses.

After all, such things really happen at Christmas time.

CHRISTMAS STORY

When Christmas brings the story so often told before,
Of Wise men and the star that shone above the stable door—
May happiness, good will and love, within your hearts abound,
And Christmas hold the hope and joy the happy Wise Men found.

Luminaria City Lights The Way



During the holidays, Alburquerque is called Luminaria City. Millions of paper sacks are lighted by a single candle inside. They are called Luminarias or farelites after the Spanish who originated the custom.

Entire neighborhoods go together to "light the way for the lost Christ Child," as the Spanish tradition has it. The lights give the appearance of golden lanterns when spaced about three feet apart on the edges of the sidewalks, flat roofs and beside steps.

New Mexicans have decorated their homes at Christmas with luminarias for about 300 years. Originally New Mexicans used little bonfires of bright burning pinon and pine to light the paths of processions and festivities at Christmas. Small lanterns from Mexico were also used.

It is not known who first used the paper sack luminaria, but each year the custom has spread until today they are the traditional New Mexico Christmas light.

About two inches of sand or dirt is placed in each sack, and the top of the sacks are folded down one time. Inside the sack goes a small vetive candle which burns about two hours.



BEST WISHES THIS CHRISTMAS

It's the season of joy and good cheer

Weagant Farm Supplies
Phone 989-2097
South Mountain



Christmas is a winter wonderland, covered by a blanket of pure white snow. We send you our sentiment during this brisk season through our warmest wishes and a hearty "Thanks." Merry Christmas.

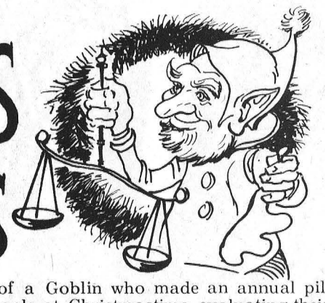
Top Valu Gas Mart
Phone 774-2006 Winchester



The date of the big Christmas dinner varies around the world; many countries have it on Christmas Eve, before or after midnight services. Our traditional Christmas turkey does not appear on many menus. The French reveillon, a feast which occurs after midnight mass, is apt to feature oysters and sausages; in the French province of Brittany, buckwheat cakes with sour cream are served. The Norwegian Christmas dinner features a fish called lutfisk. At a Polish Christmas Eve dinner, the number of courses is fixed at seven, nine, or eleven; a Lithuanian Christmas feast must include twelve courses, one for each of the disciples.

During the Christmas season, Germans and Rumanians bake long, thin cakes that symbolize the Christ Child wrapped in swaddling clothes. In the Ukranian part of Russia, cattle are given the first taste of the Christmas upper, because animals were the first to behold Christ. In parts of rural Germany, this is carried one step further—cattle and their owners both fast the day before Christmas, and eat well on Christmas Eve.

LIFE'S SCALES



There is a legend of a Goblin who made an annual pilgrimage among the people at Christmastime, evaluating their thoughts and deeds by their weight. One day the Goblin saw a man with a new automobile, which he had purchased for himself and family as a Christmas token. Here, thought the Goblin, is something very valuable.. So he put it on the scales, but, to his dismay, it weighed nothing.

Next he saw a boy who appeared very happy. "Why are you so glad?" asked the Goblin. "I'm going to get a lot of nice things for Christmas—I know, because I've seen them in the closet," said the boy. The Goblin put them all on the scales, but they weighed nothing.

There was a young girl who was frowning. "What are you frowning for?" asked the Goblin. "Oh, a friend of mine gave me a little old handkerchief for Christmas last year, and I'll have to give her one this year because she will expect it." The Goblin put the handkerchief on the scales, but it weighed nothing.

The Goblin looked up and saw a richly attired woman sitting at a window knitting. "What are you doing?" he asked. "I am knitting a scarf for a sick friend who is cold and miserable," said the woman. "There isn't a scarf in all the stores that I care to give her, so I am knitting one." The Goblin put the scarf on the scales and it weighed very much.

Looking down the street, the Goblin saw an aged couple carrying a well-fitted basket between them. He approached the couple, and saw that they were very poor. "Where are you taking that basket of food?" he asked. "To a kindly friend," said the man. "But do you not need this for yourselves?" asked the Goblin. "We can spare it; besides, our food tastes better when we divide it with those who need it worse than we do," was the answer. The Goblin put the basket on the scales, and it weighed to the limit of the scales.



A Peaceful Christmas

The peace of Christmas lives anew in song and story. May your joys be many, as are these thanks to you.

SUTTON'S Main Corner COFFEE SHOP

PALESTINE

At Christmas time, thousands of pilgrims from all over the world come to the little village of Bethlehem to visit the birthplace of Jesus. They go to the Church of The Nativity which stands over the sacred place.

First they enter the Latin Chapel, fourteen centuries old, then they descend to the Grotto of the Nativity. There, a Latin inscription on a silver star inlaid in a small recess of the wall says, "Here, of the Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ was born."

This is where Christmas began. And the many customs around the world help people of all lands to celebrate this joyous event.

To My Friends

Merry Christmas

& A Happy

NEW YEAR

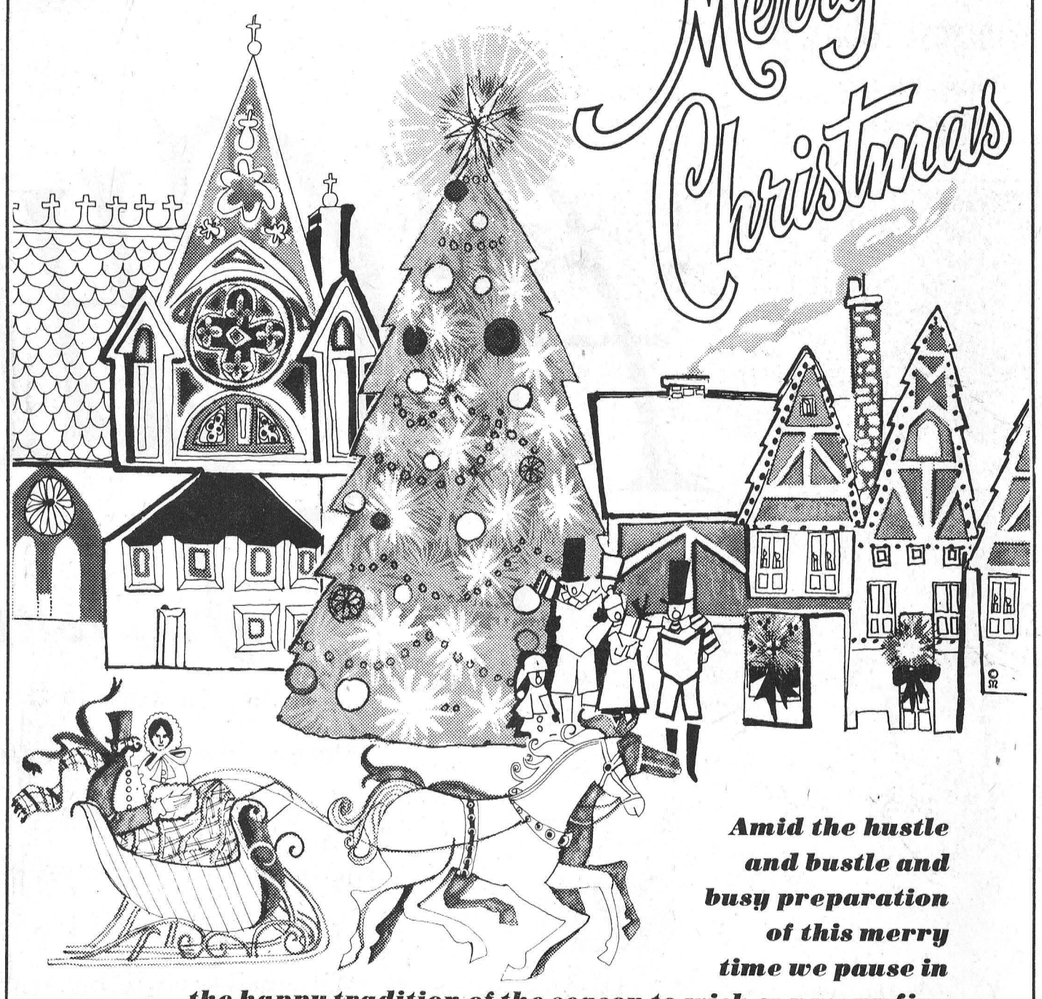
Harold Helmer
774-2135
Winchester

Joy at Christmas



We heartily hope that the true joy of Christmas may light the way for you and yours throughout the year. And we take this wonderful opportunity to thank you for your loyal patronage.

CHARLES ANDERSON
Imperial Esso Products
Phone 774-2101 Winchester



Amid the hustle and bustle and busy preparation of this merry time we pause in the happy tradition of the season to wish our many fine friends and neighbors all the long-lasting happiness of an old-fashioned Yule. Thanks for your loyal support.

H. E. SAUNDERS & SONS LTD.
Phone 989-2155 Inkerman

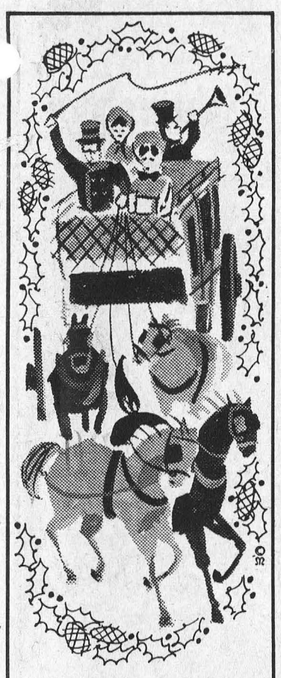
Homemade Christmas Is Best Of All

Traditionally the Yule season has been a do-it-yourselfer's delight. The men of the house used to do everything from chopping down the tree to going after the holiday bird. While the modern family head is usually spared such back-breaking chores, he still finds the workshop a great place to work some Christmas magic.

A charming doll house for your little girl from a discarded bookcase can be made. Just clean it up, sand it down, add wood or heavy cardboard partitions for rooms, and paint it playful colors. Some miniature, a Christmas doll—and really—the most beautiful gift ever!

A wooden box painted in bright colors makes a sturdy toy chest. Another idea using a wooden box is to turn it upside down, paint, then top with a colorful cushion, you'll have a brand new child's hassock.

Once you start making your own gifts, your family will never again be satisfied with the "store boughten" variety.



Yuletide Greetings

With deep appreciation of your loyalty and good will, we're wishing you all the pleasures of a fine old-fashioned Yule. Be merry!

Wincrest Dairy

Phone 774-3630

Winchester

Christmas Gifts Around The World

When **Santa Kurosu** (Japanese for Santa Claus) opens his bag on Christmas Eve., a strange smell may fill the air—for some Japanese villagers consider it extremely good luck to give fish as Christmas presents!

In Spain, gifts are exchanged on January 6th in honor of Epithany, to celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men at Bethlehem. Adults in France exchange gifts on New Year's Day, but the impatient young fry are visited by **Pere Noel** on Christmas Eve just like their American cousins. The German child finds candy and nuts in his stocking, or a potato. . .depending upon his "report" to Santa.

Italian children put out their shoes to eagerly await presents from a female version of Santa Claus called **La Befana** who, riding a broomstick, brings gifts to good children . . .and ashes to bad ones. While waiting for Befana, who comes on Jan. 6th Italian children and their elders draw small gifts on Christmas Eve from a jar called the "urn of fate".

In Sweden, the feast of St. Lucia on December 13th ushers in the Christmas season. Each community chooses a lovely Lucia Queen to represent the young girl martyred for her religion centuries before in ancient Rome. The chosen Queen is feted and entertained royally. In families with daughters, throughout Sweden, the prettiest is traditionally chosen as Lucia. Her "gift" is to wait on everyone else for the day.

The systematic British long ago established December 26th as "Boxing Day"—on this pugilistic sounding occassion, servants and tradespeople all over England are given boxes of money in token appreciation for their services.

"Christmas isn't Christmas without presents" said a concerned Amy in the classic "Little Women" and tradition bears her statement out. Whatever the amount spent, whatever the present, Americans certainly agree with Amy's sentiments. Studies show that 27 billion dollars were spent on Christmas presents in a recent year.



Christmas at Grandma's

Christmas at grandma's is a disappearing American tradition. Grandma doesn't live on the farm any longer. She has an apartment in town, across the street from the shopping center and within walking distance of the church. Now it is grandma that does the visiting during the holiday season.

In days of yore, Christmas was the one time of the year when all footsteps turned homeward. And, "home" was grandma's place in the country.

Grandpa lived there too. I remember that he barked loudly but, as grandma always said, "His bark was a lot worse that his bite." For the most part, he sat quietly before the fireplace, thoughtfully puffing on his corncob pipe, or lost somewhere in the passages of "The Good Book" that he must have read from cover to cover a thousand times.

It was grandma who rushed to the door to greet sons and daughters, grandchildren, aunts and uncles. It was grandma who "bossed" activities in the kitchen, who directed the trimming of the tree, who told people when to sit and when to stand — and obviously enjoyed every moment of it.

I remember Grandma's house was filled with the most delicious odors in the world... meats and sweets, cakes and pies, evergreens and pine boughs.



I remember how the sound of laughter rang throughout the old house and how echoes seem to remain until the most dominant sound was the "crackling" of hickory logs glowing red-hot in the fireplace.

I remember awakening on Christmas morning, rushing down the steps, three at a time, hoping that all of the spots near the warm side of the tree had not been taken by earlier-risers. Grandma waited patiently, in her rocking chair, knitting away. Children sat in a circle around the tree, the side of the room nearest the fireplace filling up first, the others filling in beside them.

Uncle John, old enough, and round enough to pose as Santa, passed out the presents. Grandma had long ago made a rule that none were opened until all had been given out and this rule was never violated.

When Uncle John said, "That's all", the fun began and the wrappings and the ribbons flew here and there.

Grandma always watched silently. Only when all others had opened their gifts did she start on the pile that had been placed before her.

TO CHURCH

Breakfast was never served at grandma's house on Christmas morning. Once the gifts had been distributed everyone put on their very best and "grandma's caravan", as the neighbors called it, headed church-ward, singing Christmas carols all the way.

After church, children had only a small amount of time to re-examine their gifts before grandma rang the bell on the back porch, the signal that the Christmas meal was on the table.

Mere words could not do justice to the quality, nor the quantity, of the foods that adorned the table, that overflowed onto sideboards and card tables on the back porch.

It was at this time, with his pipe nowhere in sight, that grandpa proved that he was not completely a man of few words. As heads, young and old, were bowed in silence, grandpa gave "thanks" for the good things of life, for the fellowship and the companionship of loved ones, and most especially, for a happy Christmas Day.

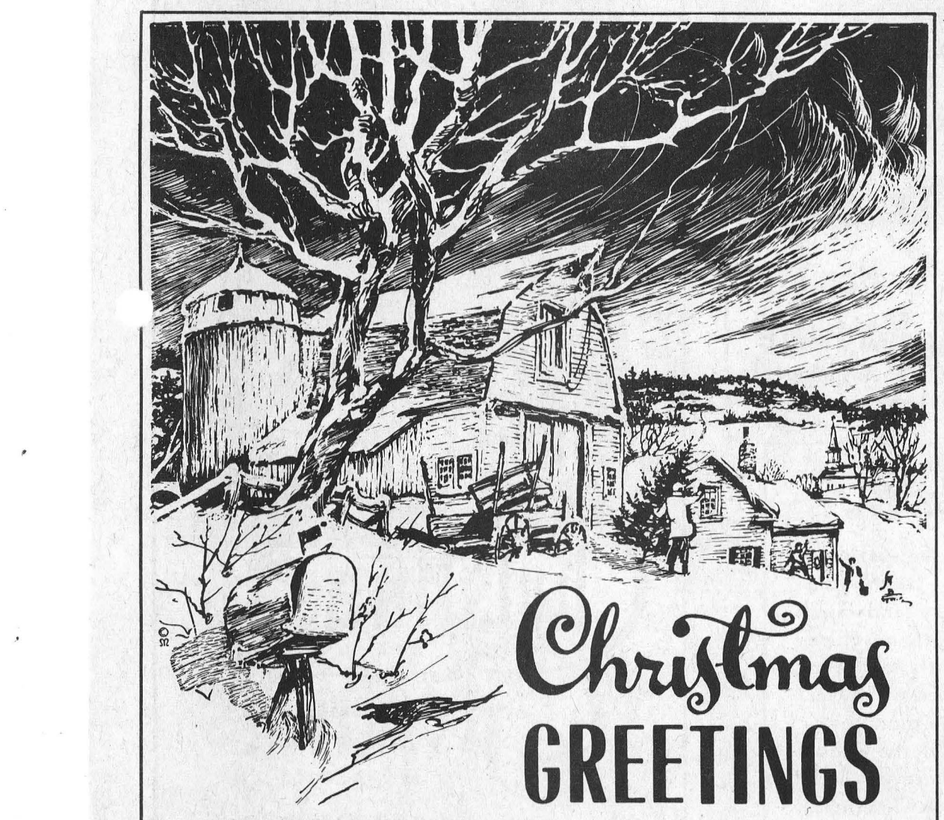
And, when he had finished, no one moved a fork until grandma had affirmed the message with a solemn, "Amen."

Such was Christmas at grandma's, a long, long time ago.

Enchanting Beauty Of Winter

COST WAS HIGH

When Christmas greetings cards first came into their own in the United States, about 1875, some of the more elegant cards were encrusted with blown glass frosting and sold for as much as three dollars each.



Christmas GREETINGS

The beauty and spirit of the season brings to mind most wonderful gifts . . . friendship, loyalty and good will. We thank you for yours and wish you a Merry Christmas.

Docksteader Bros.

Phone 774-2600 Winchester



It's Christmas!

It's that time of year when Santa's gifts are given out. And when best wishes for a happy holiday are given out to one and all. Thanks for your patronage!

Cecil MacNabb

Phone 448-2047 Morewood



GREETINGS FOR Christmas

To you, sincere greetings and thanks . . . with every good wish that the joy and delight of the Yuletide will be yours.

Sullivan Brothers

Phone 448-2660 Chesterville



Joy TO THE World

A glad, glorious Christmas comes, and with it best wishes, grateful thanks to you.

Erwin's General Store

Hallville

Christmas GREETINGS

At this crisp and exciting time of year, we are hopeful that your holiday will be filled with joyous warmth, richly shared with those you hold dear. And to you, our customers, we express our thanks and appreciation for your continued patronage. Merry Christmas!

Hugh Eadie Supertest Products

Phone 774-2203 Winchester

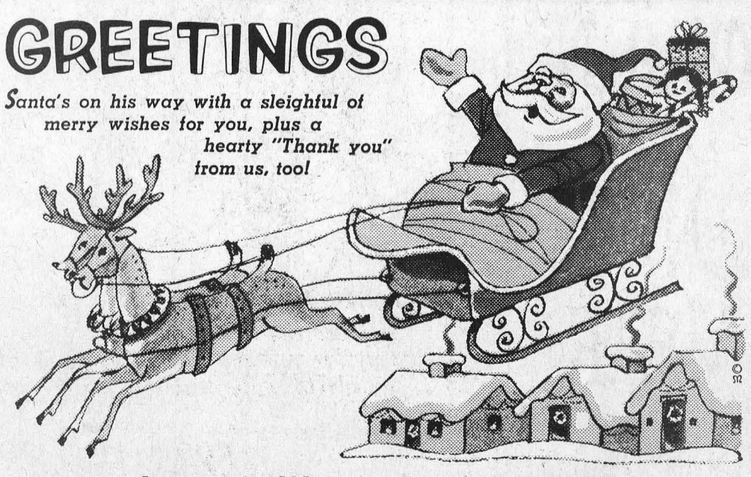


Greetings

Happiness, kindness, and tidings of good will are what we wish you on this holy and happy holiday. We send you our best through this little message to show our appreciation.

H. C. Fairbairn

Phone 652-4775 Brinston



GREETINGS

Santa's on his way with a sleighful of merry wishes for you, plus a hearty "Thank you" from us, too!

Louis J. Weiner Motor Sales

Phone 774-2127 Winchester





THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;—

So begins one of the most beloved of all Christmas writings. It would be difficult to find anyone whose memory of childhood does not associate these words with the magic of the holiday season, to whom these words do not bring to mind the vision of Santa and his reindeer, and the exciting clatter of hoofs upon the roof.

Author of the poem was Dr. Clement Clarke Moore, an aloof professor of Greek and Oriental literature in the Episcopal Seminary in New York. Dr. Moore did not write the poem for publication. He wrote it on Christmas Eve, 1822, for the enjoyment of his seven children.

It happened that on this particular Christmas Eve a relative was visiting the Moore family. She put a copy of the poem in her diary. The following holiday season, the relative's father sent a copy, unsigned as to author, to a newspaper.

Other newspapers picked up the jingle and printed it in their columns. The poem quickly became known, loved, and repeated each Christmas throughout the country.

Dr. Moore was not pleased. In fact, he was embarrassed. He felt it beneath the dignity of a man of his scholastic reputation to author of children's verses.

As time went on, the poem became increasingly more famous and Dr. Moore, perhaps upon the urging of his proud family, finally admitted authorship. More than two decades after he penned the poem at the family fireside the jingles were published in book form, under his name.

Today, the world remembers Dr. Clement Clarke Moore not as a scholar, nor as a teacher, but as author of one of the world's most beloved Christmas poems.













Why we give CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The best way to understand the feast of Christmas is in terms of a gift. We spend 364 days in getting; Christmas we spend in giving. The greater part of the year, we inflate our ego and insist on our rights, on Christmas Day we deflate our ego to bring happiness to others.

The reason we give on Christmas Day is because we too have received a gift—the Gift of God to man, in which He humbled Himself so completely as to veil His Glory and His Power. The Divine Babe did not come into this world as one would walk into a museum to see the work of other artists. He came into the world as a painter into His own studio. His entrance was into the world that He had made.

We give gifts at Christmas because we received a Gift. It is the birthday of God in the form of man, in order that man might be like unto God. Whenever we give gifts we tear off the price tag so that there will be no proportion between the gift of the lover and the love of a giver.



Rejoice

WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS OF WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT, A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

from

Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Schamehorn



Christmas GREETINGS

Ever glorious, Christmas comes with its blessings to you.

Holmes Jewellers
Winchester



SANTA NEEDS ANOTHER HELPER

Santa needs another helper—not another street corner bell ringer, but "a man with a broom".

Santa's presents, as everyone knows who has seen the aftermath around the family Christmas tree, carry with them their share of litter.

It is estimated that the average Christmas package is about 20 percent wrappings, ribbons and ornaments—all potential litter.

The best way to help Santa with the Christmas litter problem is to follow three simple rules:

Pack and store reusable gift wrappings in a safe, out-of-the-way place.

Bundle other wrappings in a rubbish container for safe disposal.

Take down your Christmas tree when the needles start falling and dispose of it where it won't cause litter or be a fire hazard.

A final warning: "Don't let Christmas become New Year's litter."



A French LEGEND

A French Legend tells why the Christmas rose—the only rose that blooms at Christmas—sometimes has a bit of pink on its white petals. A small girl who was accompanying the shepherds on their way to visit the Christ Child, was unhappy because she had no gift to offer the Infant. The Angel Gabriel appeared to her and was so impressed by the little girl's sincerity that he touched his staff to the ground, and a rose—more beautiful than any other sprang from the frozen earth. The rose was originally white, or so the story goes, but when the little girl gave it as a gift to the Baby Jesus, the Christ Child reached out His hand to touch the bloom, and its petals were suddenly tipped with pink.

Now In Season

Quick Southern Pecan Pie

1 cup sugar
1/4 cup melted butter
1/2 cup corn syrup
3 well beaten eggs
1 cup pecans
1 unbaked pie shell

Mix sugar, syrup and butter; add eggs and pecans. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes; reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake 30 to 35 minutes longer. Serve either hot or cold. Decorate pie with pecan halves as a border. As an added delight, top with slightly sweetened whipped cream.



Christmas Greetings

For all the bountiful blessings of Christmas, let us rejoice! To each and every one of our good friends and patrons, we extend, with sincere appreciation, good wishes for the holiday.

Archie Sheldrick
Phone Metcalfe 821-2194 Vernon



GREETINGS

At this joyous time of year we extend our greetings to our friends, whose confidence we highly value. Thank you.

Brown's General Store
Phone 774-2123 Winchester Station



Greetings

We'd like to get down to brass tacks and do two things... thank you for your patronage... and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Geggie's
VALUE - SERVICE - DEPENDABILITY

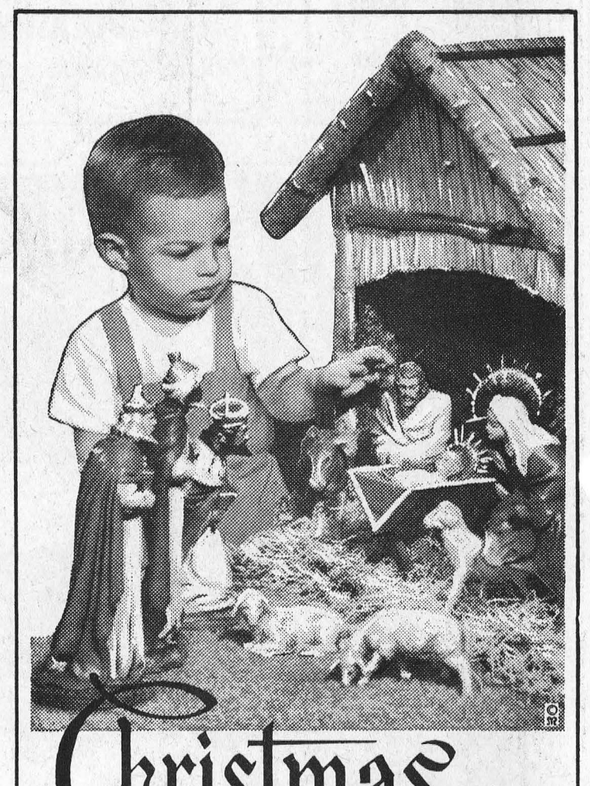
Home Hardware
Winchester
Phone 774-2700



Symbols of the holiday are as various as joy and peace. All mean the spirit of Christmas. Hearty thanks!

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

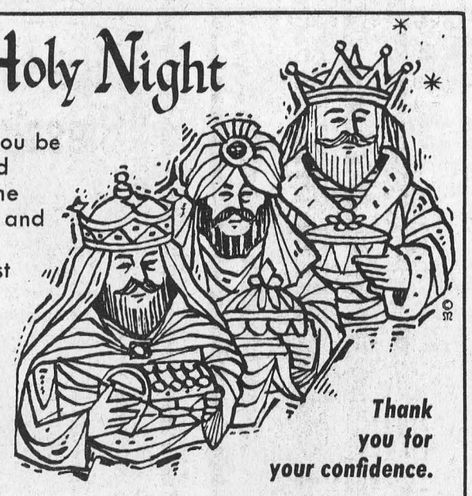
Hutchinson Fuel and Supplies
Phone 774-2000 Winchester



Christmas Greetings

As we rejoice in the story of the first Christmas, may the happy spirit of the holiday light up your home with peace, good will. Thanks to all you wonderful people for your loyal trust and support.

Biccum and McIntosh Ltd.
Phone 774-2410 Winchester



O, Holy Night

May you be blessed with the peace and joy of the first Noel.

Thank you for your confidence.

H. W. Algate
Optometrist



Merry Christmas to All!

Like the sparkling beauty of a snowy landscape, hearts are filled with peace and good will. Over the mountains, through the woods or wherever you'll be at Christmas, we wish you a merry one and sincere "Thanks" for your continued support.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RESTURANT
Phone 774-2417 Winchester

Christmas Carols Go 'Way Back

No one knows who wrote "The First Noel". It first appeared in print in 1883 in a book called "Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern", and is believed to be very old.

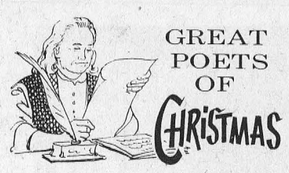
The author of "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" also is unknown, but he lived before Shakespeare.



IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!

We'd like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Thanks for your patronage!

H. S. Lannin Ltd. Winchester Phone 774-2637



GREAT POETS OF CHRISTMAS

Longfellow, from whose poem, CHRISTMAS—1863, came the refrain, "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day", The old familiar carols play", penned a Christmas carol preserved in many anthologies.

As far as research can determine, George Wither, a young contemporary of Shakespeare, first coupled the words "Merry Christmas".

Phillip Brooks, who wrote the verses of the beloved hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem", also expressed his sentiments in "The Voice of the Christ Child" and "Christmas Everywhere".

Robert Frost, Alfred Tennyson and Sir Walter Scott, are amony many besides Clement Clark Moore (of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" fame) who have enriched Christmas tradition lyrically. A larger number of poets have contributed carols to the world's musical treasure.

Mr. Steele's CHRISTMAS

By Mike Bennett

Henry Steele was doodling on the calendar when the nurse entered the room.

"Well, hello, sunshine," she said. "I see you're at it again. Tell me, how many days left until Christmas?"

Henry set the calendar and pencil aside. "What is it this time? You've been in and out of this place a hundred times today. Don't you have any other patients you can bother?"

Helen Garber had been a nurse for 21 years. She had learned how to get along with all types of people. She knew when they were kidding, when they could be kidded. She knew that Henry Steele was sour as rotten grapes—and it was unlikely that he would change. She had made a mistake by trying to joke with him. She should have known better.

"I'm sorry. You have a very fussy doctor, Mr. Steele. I have to follow his orders. Right now, according to his instructions, you have a small pill to swallow."

Henry snorted. "Him and his pills. Are those pills going to help me walk any sooner?"



Helen knew she should be quiet. She carefully adjusted the sheets at the foot of the bed, then turned to go.

"Just a minute!" Steele almost shouted. "How would you like to spend 52 days flat on your back, not able to do anything for yourself, not able to even get up and walk to the bathroom?"

Helen turned in the doorway, her eyes sparkling. "If I had been involved in a serious automobile accident, and had been saved only by the wonders of modern medicine and a bit of the grace of God, I would consider myself a very fortunate individual."

She slammed the door behind her and came face to face with Dr. Cranford. "Nurses should never slam doors. It annoys the patients." She was sure she saw faint traces of a smile at the corners of his lips.

"You're right, doctor. I'm sorry. It won't happen again."

The doctor really smiled. "Let us have no grouches at Christmastime."

AND AGAIN

Henry Steele was writing on the calendar again as she pushed the wheelchair into the room.

"What now?" he asked, without looking up.

"Therapy, Mr. Steele. Doctor's orders. You're going to a Christmas party."

"Bah!" He sounded just like Scrooge. "Where are you taking me?"

"To the children's ward. Christmas is for children, you know."

Helen had much to do at the party. Passing out gifts. Helping the children who were unable to walk. Opening presents for those unable to do so themselves. She looked often at Mr. Steele. He was not looking at her. He never did. He watched the children, all of them. He was utterly fascinated. She thought, for just a moment, he had joined in the singing of Christmas carols.

It was near the hour of midnight on Christmas Eve when the light for Room 32 flashed on. Helen did a double-take. Henry Steele had never rang for anything in 53 days.

She hurried down the corridor.

"Yes, Mr. Steele?"

. . . I want to wish you a Merry Christmas."

Steele threw the calendar in the waste basket. "and it is not only for children—no more than is life and hope. Good night, sweet nurse."





BE A SOLVENT SANTA-PLAN

A little advance planning can help you enjoy the holiday season as you should, without having to reach down the chimney of your bank.

Keep a "Yule log"—a day by day record of Christmas expenses which can serve as a brake on this year's spending and act as a guide to future Christmas budgeting.

To do this, decide the total amount you can spend on gifts, this sum, divided by the people on your list, represents your average gift outlay. You can adjust this figure upward or downward for different persons, just so you stay within your total gift outlay.

This does not mean, however, that you must ban an occassional splurge. Realistically, your Christmas budget should be like any other sound and practical account of money: it must be controlled—by you reins. By allowing for the unexpected expense in your "Yule log", you can avoid one of the costly mistakes many Christmas shoppers make: overspending on every item purchased.

By obtaining buying information, then comparing items, prices and stores, and by avoiding the last minute rush this Christmas, you too can be one of the Three Wise Men.



Harry Strader
Phone 774-2412
Winchester

PEACE on EARTH

Happiness, love, peace surround us as we celebrate the Birth of Christ. May joy be yours!

Longstreet Sales & Service
PHONE 821-2197 VERNON

As Christmas comes, here's a wish that true merriment may endure all through the holidays.

Sincere appreciation for your cordial relations!

Summers Bakery
Phone 774-2126 - Winchester

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Now's the time to count all your blessings. Warmest appreciation for your loyal kindness!

Erwin Duncan
General Contractor
Vernon

GREETINGS

To our fine patrons, sincere thanks, and warmest greetings to your and yours for a Merry Christmas.

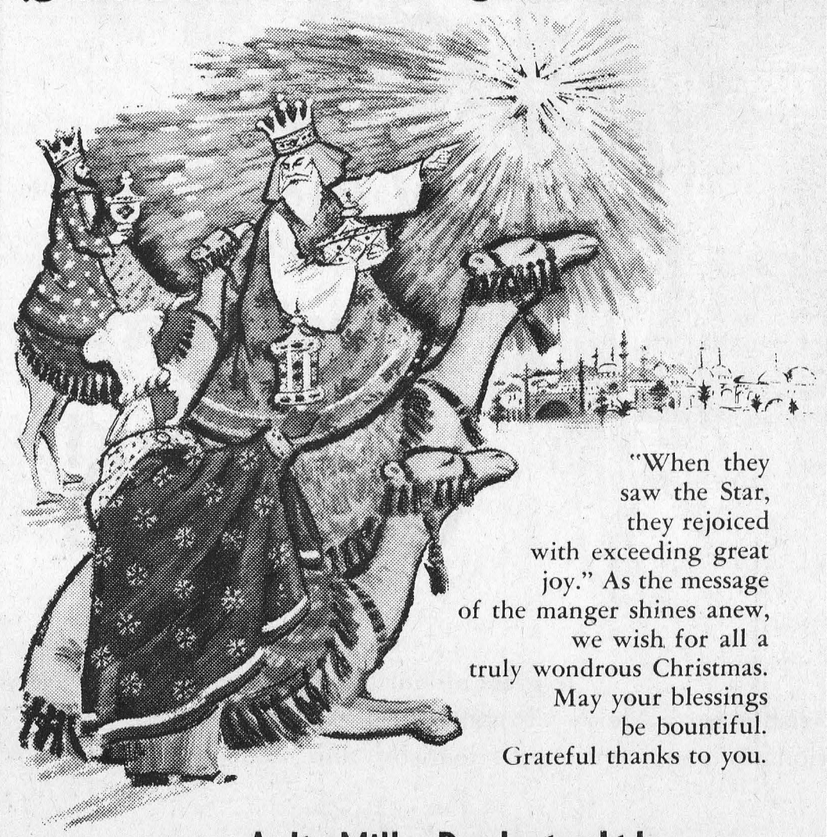
MacPherson & Summers
Phone 774-2613 - Winchester



The Peace and Promise of Christmas

Humble shepherds and mighty kings gave witness to the wondrous event of the birth of the Christ Child, and knew the great joy and peace that fills every heart on Christmas Day. May this gladness and contentment remain with you and those near and dear to you, enriching your lives in fullest measure.

VICE FURNITURE
Winchester – Phone 774-2800
Chesterville – Phone 448-2162



BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS

"When they saw the Star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." As the message of the manger shines anew, we wish for all a truly wondrous Christmas. May your blessings be bountiful. Grateful thanks to you.

Ault Milk Products Ltd.
Phone 774-2424 Winchester

Pretty Gift Wrappings Can Be Saved

Cardboard Castle Is Easy to Make for Holiday Fun

"Too pretty to throw away."

On Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, as beautifully-wrapped packages are opened, this remark is likely to be often repeated. Though the gift wrappings do indeed seem "too pretty to throw away," they must usually be consigned to the wastebasket. After all, what can be done with used gift wraps, once Christmas is over?

One answer might be: build a castle!

Save the most beautiful and colorful of the gift wrappings, find some laundry cardboards, follow a simple plan — and the result is a cardboard castle.

Suggested by a manufacturer of gift wrapping papers, this castle-building plan might be a Christmas-afternoon project for the children. After the first gifts-exchange excitement is over, youngsters may appreciate a quiet pastime, and the cardboard castle offers an extra advantage in that it's as much fun to take apart as it is to build. The castle can be assembled and reassembled many times.

Although the plan is simple, adult guidance may be required — or at least, the adults can pretend that it is, so they can get in on the fun.

Scissors, a ruler and rubber cement are the only equipment required, in addition to the gift wraps and cardboards.

Begin by cutting 24 pieces of cardboard, each five inches by seven inches. Cement gift wraps to each side and trim the edges.

To make Type "A" cards, cut one and one-quarter inch slits in 22 of the cards. Each card should have six slits, and the slits should be placed as follows: one slit on each five-inch side of the card, at the center or two and one-half inches from the outer edge; two slits on each seven-inch side of the card, with each such slit placed one and a quarter inches from the outer edge.

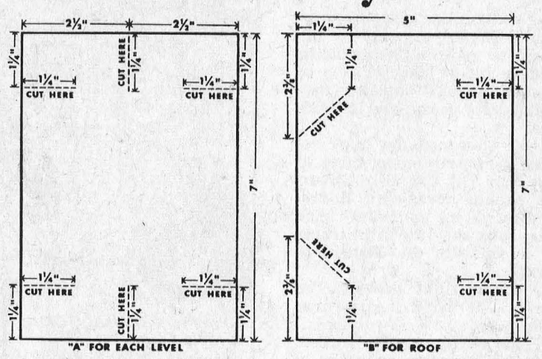
For the remaining two Type "B" cards, the slits can be omitted on the five-inch side. Two slits should be cut as described on one seven-inch side of the card. On the other seven-inch side, the slits should be diagonal — placed two and a quarter inches from the outer edge and cut on a slant to two and one-eighth inch depth.

Assemble the castle by joining Type "A" cards at right angles, alternating pairs. At intervals, insert cards horizontally for an interesting, balconied effect.

Reserve two Type "A" cards for roof.

Use Type "B" cards at top of castle, where the slanted notches will receive the Type "A" roof pieces.

See illustrations accompanying this article, for sketched plan, and photograph of completed castle.



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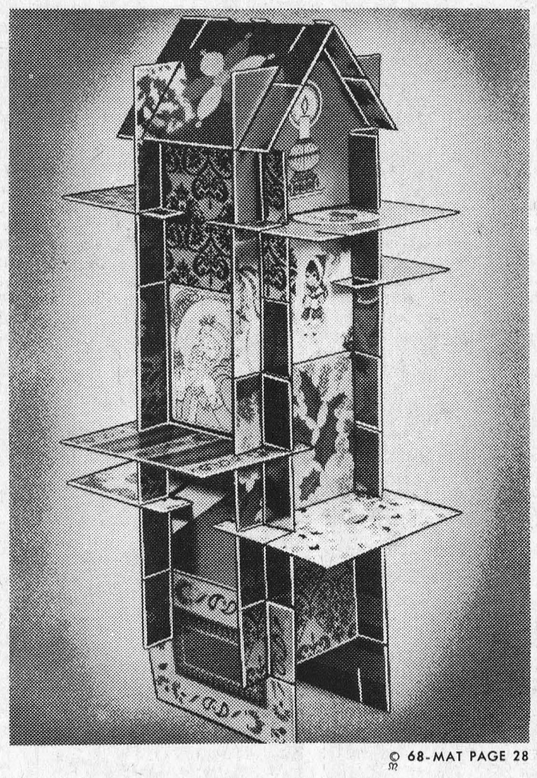
SKETCHES SHOW HOW TO PREPARE cardboards, covered with gift wraps, for building a cardboard castle. Follow measurements, cutting slits wherever dotted lines appear. Join Type "A" cards at right angles, occasionally inserting cards horizontally. Type "B"cards go at top of castle, where slanted notches hold two "A" cards to form roof. Suggested by the Norcross Design Studio.



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CARDBOARD CASTLE, MERRILY COLORFUL, GROWS from left-over Christmas gift wraps and laundry cardboards. Castle, pictured above, can be built from five-by-seven inch pieces of cardboard, to which gift wraps have been rubber-cemented. For directions, see sketches at upper left. Photo courtesy Norcross Design Studio.



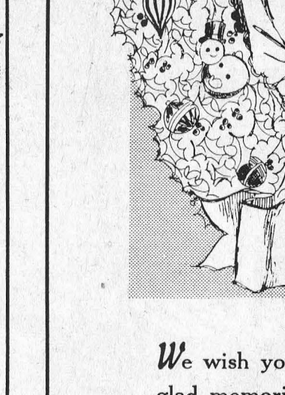
GAY & COLORFUL . . . Christmas shopping bags this year are colorful enough to serve as Christmas decorations themselves. Designs run from cheerful Santas to colorful wreaths and Christmas trees.

A Favorite With Many

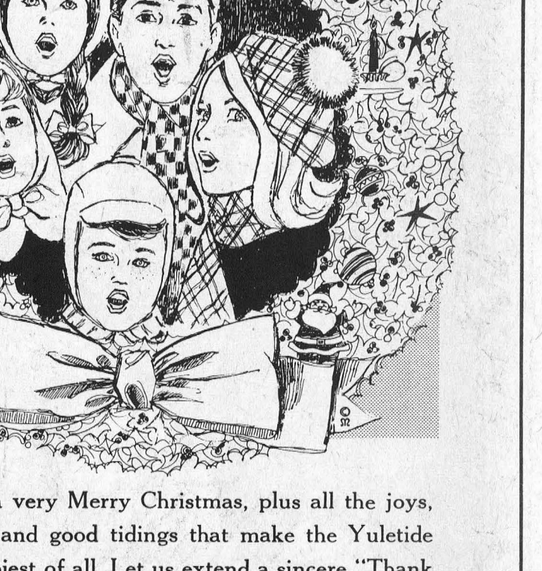
Here's Recipe For Stuffed Dates

4 1/2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
2/3 cup sweet condensed milk
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1 1/2 lbs. whole pitted dates

Slowly add four cups of the sugar to the milk, blending well. Mix in the salt and extracts. Sprinkle the remaining 1/2 cup of sugar on a board and knead the fondant until smooth and creamy, working in the sugar. Wrap in foil and let sit in the refrigerator for a day. Then stuff the dates and top them with walnut halves. This will make enough fondant to fill 7 to 8 dozen dates.



Winchester IGA
LEN STECK



May this holiday season be for all our customers a truly blooming one.
We thank you for your kind patronage.

Muriel's Flowers
Phone 774-2201
Winchester



Wire your CHRISTMAS GIFT

Sending floral arangements by wire is a convenient way to say "Merry Christmas" to friends and family. There are many legends behind some of our favorite Christmas flowers, holly sprang up where the Infant Jesus took His first steps, according to one story.

Today, flowers are a symbol of the holiday spirit and bouquets wired can convey seasons greetings to friends and family even when they're thousands of miles away. Catalogues, which are available at local florists' shops, enable you to see the bouquet you're wiring before you make your selection.

IT IS THE CHRISTMAS

Tell me, what is this feeling that seeps into the depths of the innermost parts of a being, and starts the flickering flames to burst out anew. Others about you see a glow in your face, a mellowness in your voice. A warmth radiates from you that is contagious. The whole world seems new and beautiful. What is it?

It is the Christmas spirit! Were it to remain in the hearts of men time without end, strife would cease; wars and rumors of wars would be no more, and swords would be melted into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks. For man's desire for peace and good would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

SEASONS GREETINGS

One of our most recent customs, the exchanging of Christmas cards, began in England in the 1840's. Christmas cards were first introduced in the United States by Louis Prang, a German immigrant who settled in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He was often called the "Father of the American Christmas card," and printed his first "Seasons Greetings" in 1873.

DECORATING TREES

It was in heavily-forested northern Europe that decorating Christmas trees began. St. Boniface, an eighth century monk who converted the pagans living in what is now Germany, convinced them to stop worshipping Odin's sacred oak and, instead, to adorn fir trees in their homes in tribute to the Christ Child.

MERRY Christmas TO ALL!



Carolers sing the joys of Christmas . . . and may those joys be yours. Your generous support and trust is really appreciated. Many, many thanks!

RAY'S Dry Cleaning Service
PERSO CLEANERS

We wish you a very Merry Christmas, plus all the joys, glad memories and good tidings that make the Yuletide season the happiest of all. Let us extend a sincere "Thank you" to all our dear friends for their confidence.

Arthur Thom
Phone 535-2720 Williamsburg

CHEERY
Greetings

We put aside our business to greet all our fine patrons with sincere best wishes for a Merry Christmas and to express our deepest appreciation for your continued friendship and many kindnesses.

Don Redmond and Son
Phone 774-2108 Winchester



Best Wishes for **Christmas**

Christmas is a special time filled with merriment for everyone. We hope yours is exceptionally happy since you made us happy by being a customer and becoming a good friend.

Harold Poapst
Phone 774-2602 Winchester

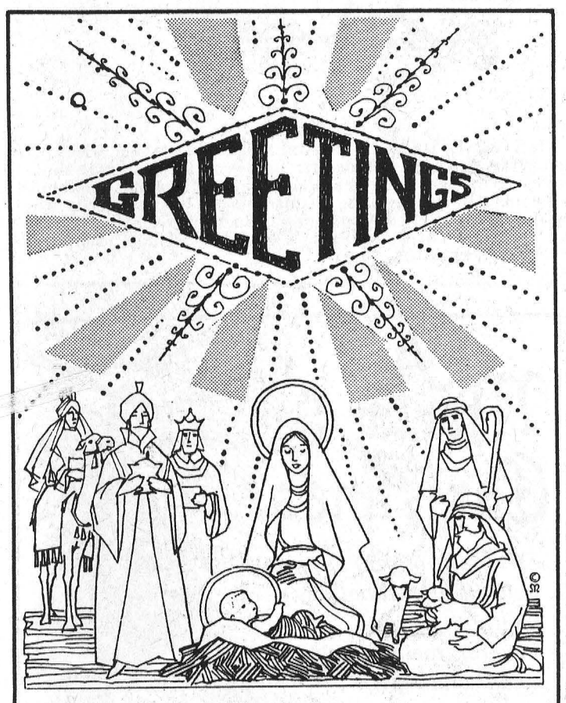
Cities Put Up Evergreens

Comes Christmas, and cities everywhere renew the tradition of setting up a community Christmas tree — a custom which began early in this century.

In 1909, citizens of Pasadena, Calif., decorated an evergreen on Mount Wilson as the tree of the city.

The year 1912 saw community Christmas trees erected in Madison Square, New York, N.Y., and on the Common in Boston, Mass. Independence Square in Philadelphia, Pa., showed off its first community tree in 1914.

President Calvin Coolidge inaugurated the custom of a national community Christmas tree in Washington, D.C., when he was presented with a large evergreen by the University of Vermont, in 1923.



May every joy and blessing of this holy season come to you and your loved ones, bringing peace and happiness . . . making hearts and spirits bright. Merry Christmas!

G. E. Elliott

Phone 774-2614 Winchester

May CHRISTMAS

fill the hearts of men everywhere with the good will that its true meaning offers to all. And may the joy and blessings of that first Christmas be yours.



W.N

CONSTRUCTION (OTTAWA) LTD.

W. Neurauter, President

PHONE 825-1866 OTTAWA

THE POPULAR POINSETTIA

The most popular flowering plant for Christmas, according to many florists, is the Poinsettia. The plant was brought to the United States more than 125 years ago from Mexico by Dr. Joel Poinsett, who was the American ambassador to that country. According to one legend, a poor Mexican girl, who was heartbroken because she had nothing of beauty or value to offer the Virgin Mary, plucked some weeds from the side of the road and placed them at the foot of the holy statue. The plants were miraculously transformed into the scarlet brilliance that we associate with the poinsettia today. In Mexico, many people still call the flower "Flor de Noche Buena"—the flower of the Holy Night.

Children Show Generosity, Treat Santa to Surprises

As a certain white-bearded, jolly old gentleman makes his rounds on Christmas Eve, delivering happy surprises to children the world over, he may look forward to being, in turn, surprised.

In the legend and lore of Christmas, giving to Santa is a time-honored tradition, with the gifts usually taking the form of food or beverage. Today, many families encourage children to be generous, by observing the custom of setting out treats for Santa — perhaps some candy, a dish of cookies, a glass of milk.

Through the ages, the gift-giver now known as Santa Claus has been called by many different names, but Santa's predecessors, like Santa himself, were often greeted with special treats.

Filling Pockets

In Italy, Befana is the gift-giver who preceded Santa. She took her name from the name for Twelfth Night — Epiphania, or Epiphany — and brought her gifts on Epiphany Eve, January 5th.

To make ready for Befana, tradition says, Italian children empty their pockets and hang up their clothes. Then into each pocket goes a surprise — something good to eat.

After taking out the treats, Befana refills each pocket with gifts for the children.

Guarding the Home

Sweden has an unusual gift-giver — it's a goat! According to tradition, the Yulbock or Yule goat comes to the door of Swedish homes on Christmas Eve and tosses the family's gifts through the doorway.

Another legendary guest at Swedish holiday celebrations is Tomte, a kind-hearted elf who guards the home. A dish of food is placed in a quiet corner, so that Tomte may feast as he secretly observes the family fun.

Enjoying Pudding

In Denmark and Norway the legendary good spirit of the house is Nisse, who watches over home and farm and is sometimes said to be the gift-bringer, too.

His Christmas treat, the rice pudding traditional at Scandinavian holiday feasts, is placed beside the kitchen door or, on farms, in the hayloft.

Treating the Donkey

Today's Santa relies on his reindeer for transport, but the gift bringers of yesteryear had other animal helpers, who usually shared in the holiday giving and receiving.

In Holland, for instance, legend says that St. Nicholas arrives early — on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5th — riding a white donkey.

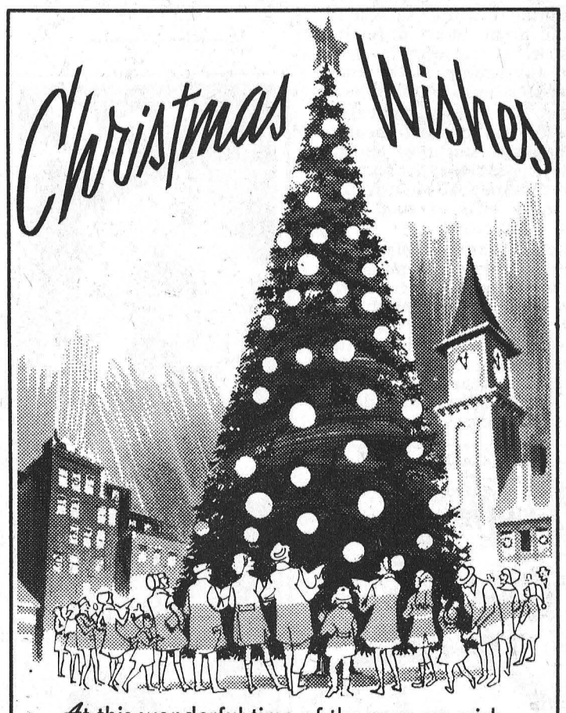
For the refreshment of the good saint's donkey, children stuff their shoes with hay and set out a dish of water. Carrots and a potato are sometimes added.

Feeding the Horses

Twelfth Night is, in Spanish tradition, the time for giving gifts, and the traditional gift bearers are the Wise Men, who as they journey each year to Bethlehem bring gifts for good children.

To feed the Wise Men's horses on their long pilgrimage, Spanish children fill their shoes with straw and set them on balconies or window ledges.

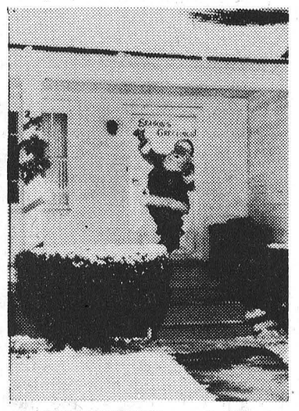
Christmas Wishes



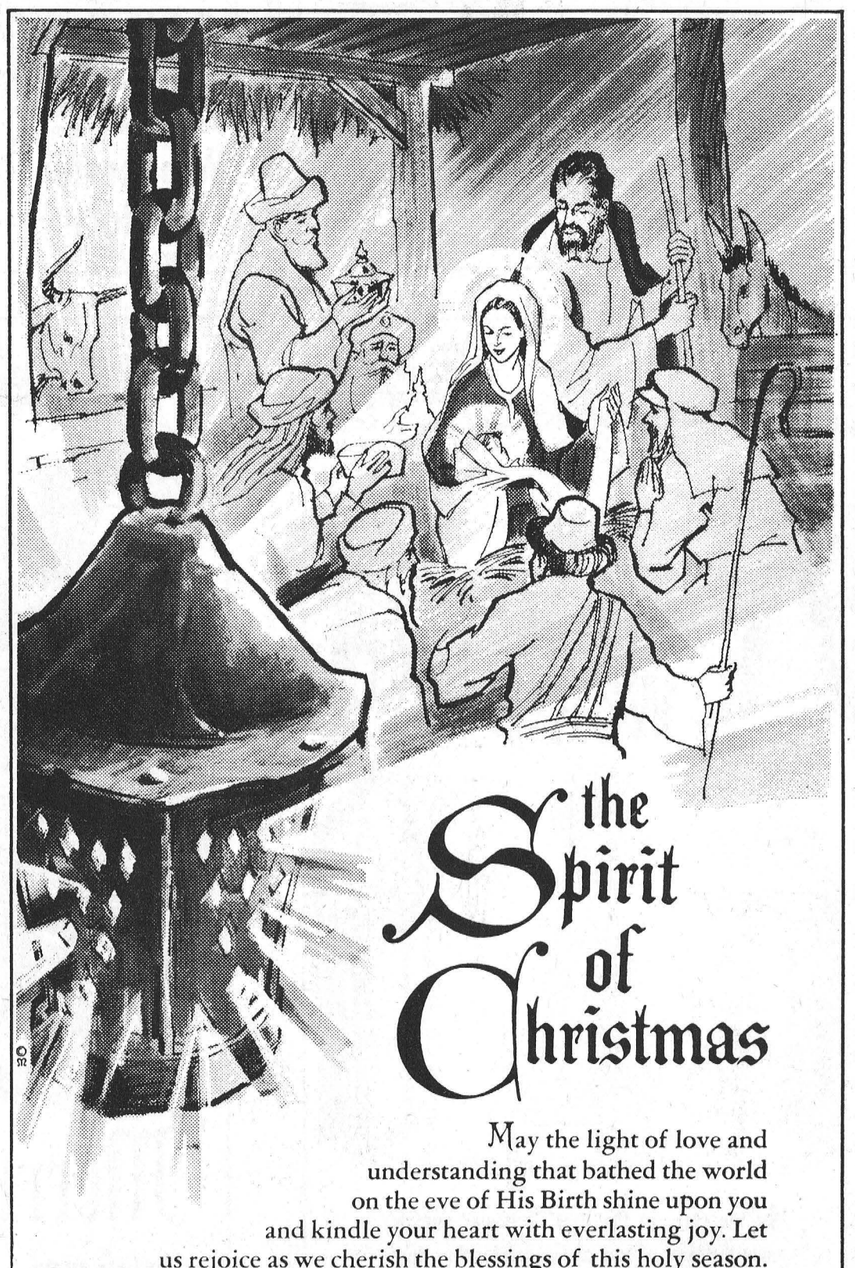
At this wonderful time of the year we wish you and your families the merriest and happiest Christmas ever, plus a special "Thanks" for being special to us!

Lorne Armstrong

Phone 989-2808 South Mountain



GREETINGS . . . A life-size cutout of old Santa himself on the doorway, a bit of ribbon and a small amount of greenery offer Season's wishes in this attractive setting.



the Spirit of Christmas

May the light of love and understanding that bathed the world on the eve of His Birth shine upon you and kindle your heart with everlasting joy. Let us rejoice as we cherish the blessings of this holy season.

D. L. Berry & Sons Ltd.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN 989-2880 WINCHESTER 774-2522 MANOTICK 692-3543



How Many Wise Men? Answers Are Many!

Three wise men?

In New Testament stories of the Nativity, only St. Mathew tells of "wise men from the east" — and how many wise men followed the star to the manger is not stated. The tradition that there were three probably comes from St. Matthew's description of three gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Another explanation for the number three is the legend that the wise men symbolized all humanity, in turn represented by the races of Shem, Ham and Japhet, according to the editors of The New Book of Knowledge.

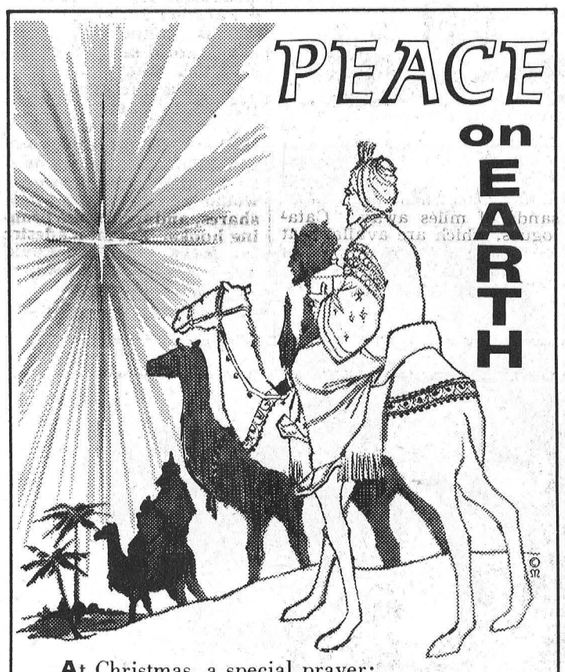
Early traditions mention varying numbers of wise men. Twelve was the number traditional in the Eastern church, while in the West, mosaics and paintings showed sometimes two, sometimes three, four or more wise men.

During the sixth century, the idea that there were three came to be generally accepted. In legends, the wise men were given names: Melhior, Gasper, Baltasar.

Although St. Mathew did not use the name "Magi," he implied it when he wrote of "wise men," for "magi" was commonly used in Palestine to mean "great, illustrious."

Today, Nativity scenes show three wise men or Magi present at the manger along with the shepherds, who hastened to Bethlehem on the night Christ was born. Some historians, however, believe that the visit of the Magi didn't take place until much later — perhaps a year or even two years after the birth of Christ.

PEACE on EARTH



At Christmas, a special prayer: May mankind be blessed with "Peace on Earth." And a special wish: May your personal Christmas be a most happy one.

A. T. Allison and Sons

Phone 989-6025 Inkerman

YULE CAROLING



Christmas caroling is almost as old as Christmas itself.

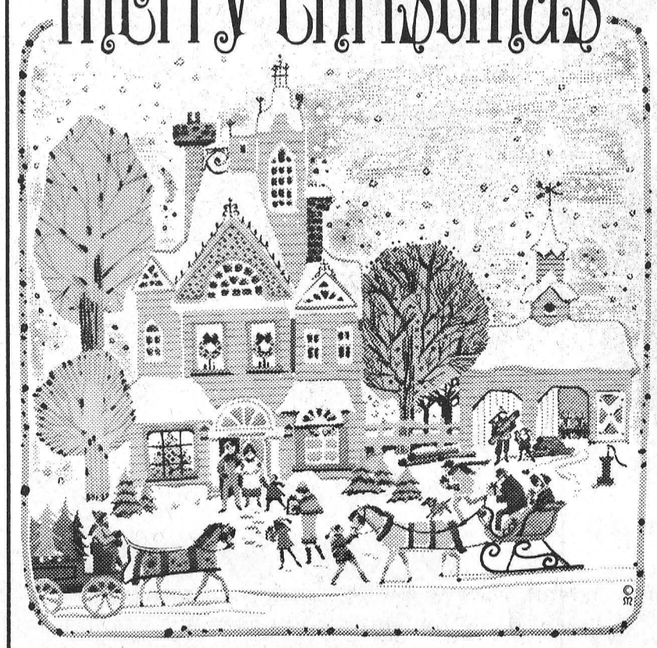
An early historian wrote that in the Second Century the bishop of Rome urged his people to sing "in celebration of our Lord". Christmas hymns go back to the Fifth Century, when most of them were written in Latin.

St. Francis of Assis is regarded as the father of caroling as known today. In 1223, St. Francis placed a creche (miniature Nativity scene), in a hermitage in Grecchio, Italy.

After this many churches began displaying a Nativity scene at Christmas, and soon the people began acting out the Christmas story. The actors composed carols to sing with their Nativity plays and after the plays they would stroll down the street, singing. In that way; street caroling began.

So if you should go caroling this Christmas season, think of other carolers of years gone by, of the people of Charles Dickens' time in their beaver hats cut away coats, of English villagers in hose and jerkin, of good St. Francis, and of the priests of the time of the Christian Roman Empire who, before caroling as we know it existed, sang "in celebration of our Lord"

merry christmas



Best wishes for a season filled with good health, good cheer for you and your family. We wish to extend our thanks to all our fine friends and neighbors for their loyalty and confidence.

Crowder's Insurance Agency

Phone 989-2157 South Mountain

Tree Radiates Yule Meaning

The Christmas tree, a universally recognized symbol of the merriest season, radiates the meaning of the Christmas story.

For many people, the tree recalls the atmosphere of the holiday home and thus reflects the joyful warmth of the season.

As a religious symbol, the tree with its lights and greenery represents both the story of the garden of Eden and the belief in Christ as the "Light of the world."

Although only a century and a half old in America, the custom of the tree has a history that is measured in many centuries. The forerunner of today's Christmas tree was seen in medieval miracle plays, which were produced as religious instruction for the illiterate — in an era when illiteracy was common and the ability to read a rarity.

A play about Eve's eating the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden was enacted with only one prop on stage, a single, apple-laden fir that became known as the Paradise Tree. The play ended with the promise of the coming of Christ and was usually presented just before Christmas.

At about the same time, people also decorated for the Christmas season with pyramid-shaped frames of light, symbolizing the birth of Christ as the Light of the world.

Early efforts to combine the Paradise Tree and the Christmas Light pyramid are recorded in manuscripts from Germany dating to the 16th century, collected by the Hallmark Cards research library.

The first tree was thought to have been brought to the United States by Hessian soldiers during the American Revolution. These homesick soldiers and other immigrants carried the tree throughout the country.



BOTH ELEMENTS THAT LED TO TODAY'S Christmas tree — the Paradise Tree and the Christmas Lights pyramid — are shown in this antique Christmas card of the 1880's. The card was published by Opbacher Brothers of Munich, Germany, and is part of the Hallmark Cards Historical Collection.

A major setback almost occurred in Cleveland in 1851 when a pastor decorated a tree in his home. His parishioners condemned the tree as pagan, but relented after an explanation of its religious aspects.

Conservation-minded President Theodore Roosevelt again nearly stamped out the practice when he banned trees in the White House. After one of his sons sneaked a Christmas tree into the White House, a forester convinced the President that thinning helped forests.

The tree that is common today is a combination of the religious elements. The evergreen with glass, plastic or metal balls hanging from it is the Paradise Tree with its apples. Lights, tinsel, angels, a star on top, ornaments and other "good things" reflect the Christmas Light.

CAROLING EVERYWHERE

In every country where Christmas is celebrated, carols are a part of the celebration.

Santa's Moving To Take Lead As Gift-Giver

More and more, Santa becomes the favored gift-giver in countries around the world, replacing a host of legendary figures who were said to bring gifts at this same season of the year.

Gift-giving time, too, is now more likely to be Christmas Eve, although the traditional date in European countries once ranged from St. Nicholas Eve, December 5th, to Epiphany Eve, January 5th.

Among the many who set the trend for Santa Claus is the German gift-giver, Kris Kringle. The name is a variation of Christkind—not the Infant Jesus himself, but his messenger who came to earth at Christmastime.

Christkind was represented by a child dressed in white robes, with a crown and wings of gold.

In Japan, the traditional gift-giver is a native god, Hoteiosho. Represented as a kindly old man with a pack on his back, he is much like visions of the traditional Santa.

He is said to have eyes in the back of his head, the better to see whether boys and girls have been naughty or nice.

In Yugoslavia, Grandfather Frost — "Dede Mraz" — replaces Santa Claus.

The Yugoslavian trend is to combine Christmas and New Year holidays, and celebrate them together with Grandfather Frost Day.

Why Pick Chimney? St. Nick Has Reasons

Why does Santa come down the chimney?

Of all the traditions connected with Santa, his unconventional mode of entry might seem the most puzzling. Surely the magical gift giver, who has the power to drive reindeer through the skies and who can cover the earth in a single night, could find an easier way to enter a house.

Like most of the lore of Christmas, Santa's choice of the chimney has several explanations. For instance, legend has it that the original Santa, St. Nicholas, presented three maidens with gifts of gold for a dowry. Modestly concealing his generosity, he tossed the gold down a chimney, in secret.

Another theory claims that Santa copied a goddess, who was the first to deliver gifts via a chimney. According to this legend, when the Vikings of Norway celebrated the Yuletide or winter solstice in their great halls, a festive feature of the occasion was the appearance of the goddess Hertha in the fireplace.

As her name indicates, Hertha was goddess of hearth and home, and most appropriately arrived by way of the chimney, to deliver her Yuletide gifts of good luck and good cheer.

Still another explanation takes a practical point of view. Housewives of Northern Europe, cleaning house for the New Year, used to coax children to help with the chores by saying, "Let's clean the hearth. St. Nicholas will soon be coming down the chimney."

The children willingly set to work, and thus, says legend, a tradition was born. Even when he takes to helicopter or jet plane, Santa delivers his gifts by way of the chimney!





THE WISE MEN. . .This montage depicts the wise men journeying through the desert, following the star that shone above the manger in which Jesus lay, and bearing their gifts to the new born Messiah. It also shows the shepherds who saw the star while tending their flocks. The Goodrich Christmas special, "Christ is Born," recounts this most famous of the Christmas stories.

Santa's New Look Takes Local Trend

Santa Claus is taking on a new look in the Phillipines.

The traditional, snow-suited Santa has been popular for years but with the gradual rise of nationalism, Santa is becoming "Filipinoized".

More and more advertisements show Santa's sleigh being pulled by water buffaloes rather than reindeer.

The temperature is hardly ever below 75 degrees in this tropical climate, so Santa is often seen wearing a "barong tagalog" rather than a snow suit. "Barong" is a cool, thin native styled shirt made of pineapple fiber.

Instead of a snow cap, the "new" Santa wears a pointed hat called a "salaket".

The traditional Santa can still be found in Manila's department stores, but the time may not be far off when he disappears altogether.

Cards Were General

Most of the popular Christmas cards of the later 19th century in Europe had no particular Christmas significance. There were some manger scenes and others of religious nature, but these were far outnumbered by landscapes, flowers, kittens, and similar subjects.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We're taking this opportunity to say "Hello" and to thank our customers for their patronage. Have a merry Christmas!

CLEMENT'S
FEED AND FARM SUPPLIES
Phone 448-2161 Chesterville



Everyone's singing out in merriment and joy, announcing to the world that it's Christmas! And it's our time to thank you, customers, for your patronage.

McVey Insurance Service
Phone 821-2524 - Metcalfe



PEACE, GOOD WILL

May your prayers be answered many-fold and your heart filled with joy and love.

Winchester Motors
Phone 774-2124



Hoping you will have an old-fashioned holiday with all its joy, contentment, peace . . . and sending you heartiest thanks!

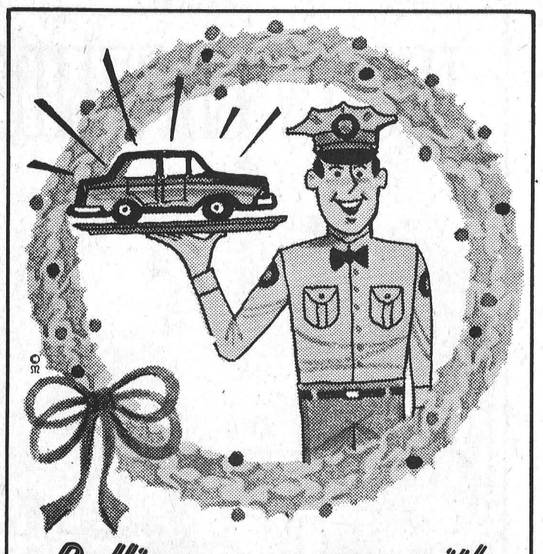
W. J. L. Boyd and Sons Ltd.
Phone 774-2520 Winchester



A Blessed Christmas

The inspiration of that Holy Night lives anew. May all its spiritual blessings be yours, at this Christmastide.

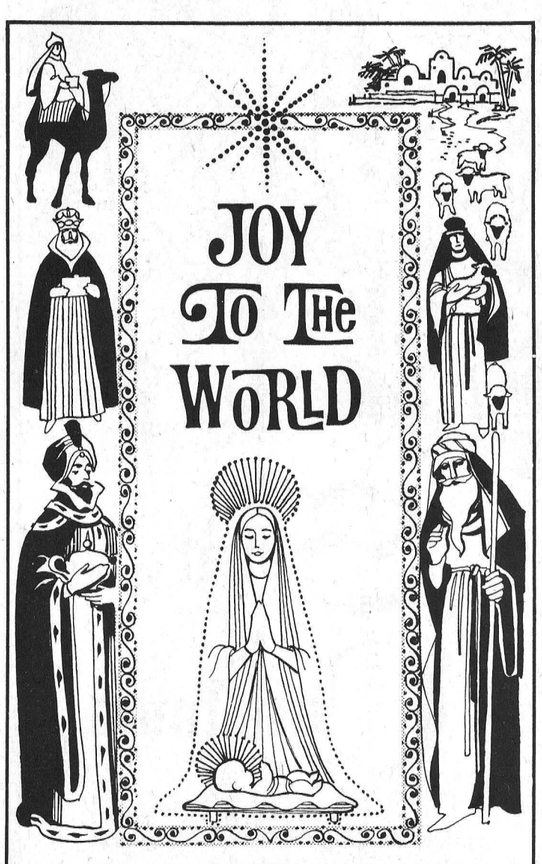
Lorne Acres
Manager - Patz Limited
Phone 774-2643
Winchester



Rolling your way with GOOD WISHES

To all our customers, sincerest wishes for a Christmas that hums with complete joy and happiness. And for the pleasure of having served you, our thanks!

Levere's Fina Station
Phone 774-2411 Winchester



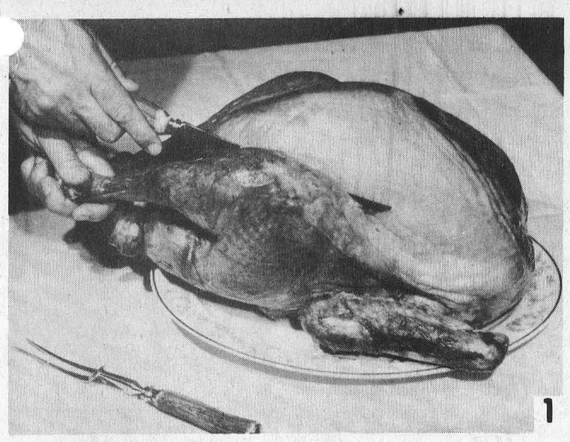
As the story of the first Christmas unfolds, may the light of love and understanding shine upon you and bring you everlasting peace and happiness. Best wishes for a joyous holiday.

Dixon's
Red & White Food Store
Phone 774-2005 Winchester

Merry Christmas

It's here again . . . the season to be jolly . . . the season of warm enjoyment shared with friends and loved ones. And a wonderful time for us to express our thanks for your loyalty and consideration. Merry Christmas!

Stan Black Shell Products
Phone 774-2109 Winchester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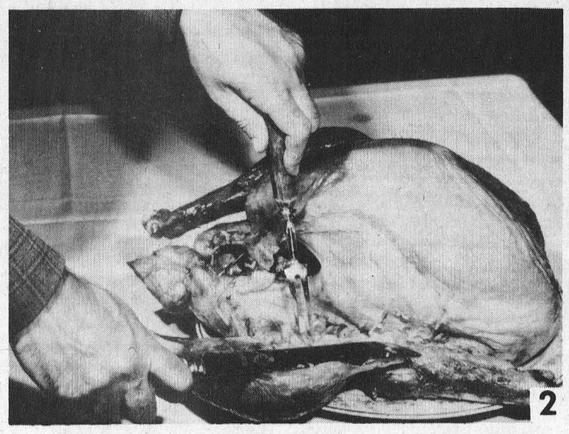
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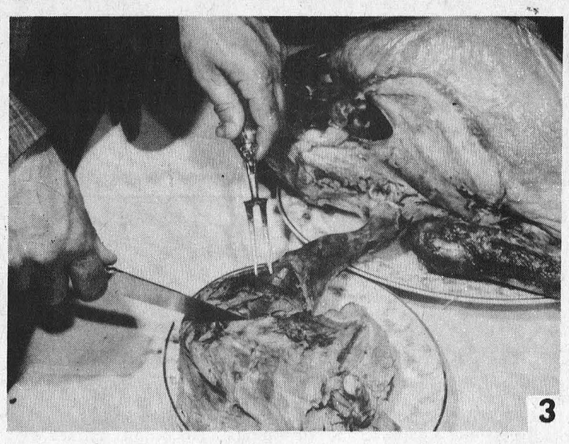
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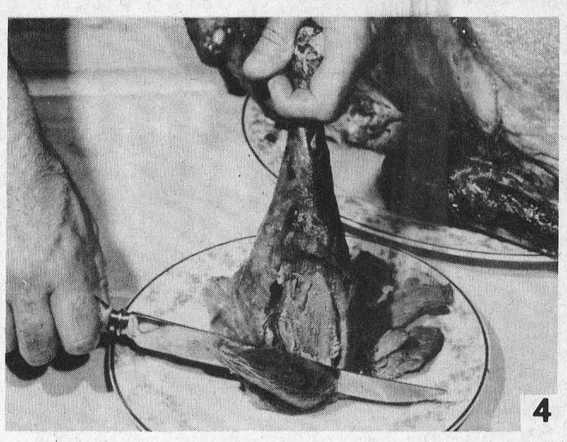
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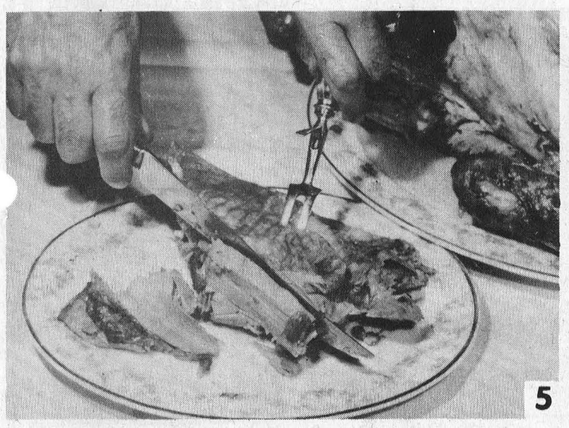
"Here's How To Carve The Holiday Bird"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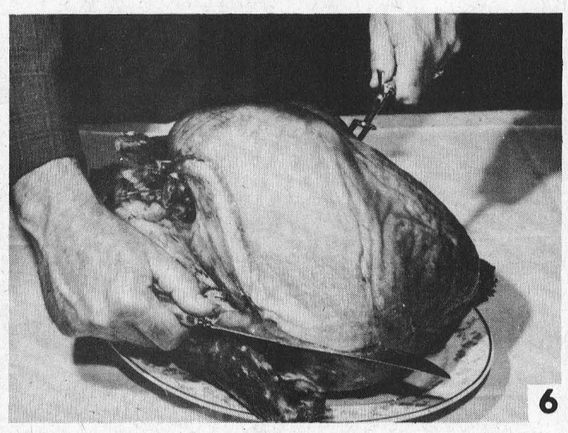
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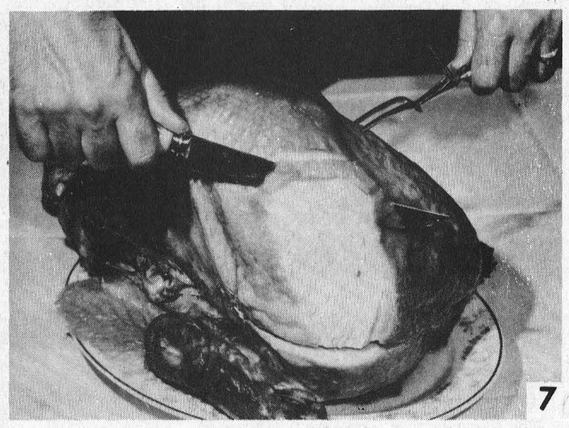
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As You Read, Refer To Illustrations

1—Start with fully cooked turkey and sharp knife. First remove leg by cutting between the body and thigh.

2—Cut through thigh muscle to thigh joint.

3—Cut through thigh joint and drumstick (now in two pieces drum stick and thigh).

4—To cut drumstick, hold at 45 degree angle to plate and carve down, turning to get several slices.

5—To cut thigh, cut parallel to thigh bone to get several slices of dark meat.

6—To cut breast, make one slice upward just above the wing, deep into breast.

7—Cut remaining slices down from the wing.

WINCHESTER Press

Volume Eighty-One
Special Christmas Edition 1968
Section Two

Churches Celebrate Holy Day

With special services, churches of this community celebrate Christmas — a holiday that is, first of all, a holy day. Festivals of light, music and prayer are dedicated to the birth of a Holy Child in Bethlehem, nearly two thousand years ago.

For Christian believers, each of these — light, music, prayer—has a special meaning associated with Christmas.

"And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matthew 2:9-10.

The Star that guided the Wise Men shines as symbol of Christ, the Light of the world, and it in turn is symbolized by all the bright lights that twinkle at Christmas today.

Candlelight services reflect the radiance of the holiday, in Christian observances everywhere.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14.

Since the angelic chorus brought "glad tidings of great joy" to shepherds watching in the fields, hymns and carols of rejoicing have told of the wonder and glory of Christmas.

That the words of the angels composed the first of all Christmas carols is a thought repeated again and again in favorite songs of the season.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" makes this thought its theme, and another familiar carol, "It Came upon the Midnight Clear," is devoted to "that glorious song of old," on the night when "the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing."

Christmas music in the churches celebrates the joy of the Nativity.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him." Matthew 2:11.

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Luke 2:20.

Thus wrote two of Christ's disciples, Matthew and Luke, telling of the awe and wonder, the joy and reverence experienced alike by wise men and shepherds.

Especially at Christmas, in church services and private devotions, Christians give prayerful thanks to God, for the miracle of the manger.

A TIME OF TRADITION

for the happiest holidays

Throughout this community, the Christmas spirit finds expression, as once again, people are proving that this happiest of holidays is a time of tradition. A modern Christmas, just like a good old-fashioned Christmas, calls for gatherings of family and friends, with much merriment, fun and feasting. Gifts and Santa Claus express the mood of the season, especially for the youngsters. Trees and other decorations, music and song, light and laughter set the scene. As a Christian holy day, celebrated in church services and private devotions, Christmas glows with the spirit of good will, and "peace and good will" is the wish and prayer, for all mankind.

All of these traditions of Christmas are wrapped up in one. The true spirit of Christmas is most happily expressed in the exchange of greetings. "Have a Merry Christmas." That says it all — the heartfelt hope for good things for others, the good feeling that prevails, the happiness of the season rising above problems and crises, the wish to give and to share all the holiday joys and blessings.

As a special custom that symbolizes the spirit of Christmas, the exchange of greetings takes many forms. "Merry Christmas" is said person-to-person, with smiles of gladness, wherever friends and family meet. "Merry Christmas" is the message of millions of greeting cards which travel across the miles. And "Merry Christmas" is the theme of today's edition of this newspaper, in which businessmen of the community offer their special greetings and good wishes, their words of appreciation to patrons and friends.

Art " Illumination " To Light Up Christmas Scene

By ANNA MANG

Illumination.

The very word seems to belong to Christmas, the season of light. Like the star that guided the wise men, Christmas illuminates the spirit of man.

In an artistic sense, illumination has another meaning that is also linked to Christmas: The decoration of books and manuscripts with colorful illustrations, initial letters and borders, "lit" by gold or, occasionally, silver.

Like all the arts, the ancient art of illumination was often employed by man in his efforts to capture some portion of the wonder of Christmas, to retell and to picture the story of the Nativity and related events.

"The Annunciation," "The Nativity," "The Adoration of the Magi," "The Flight into Egypt" — these and other scenes from the well-loved Christmas story appear again and again in the hand-lettered, individually-illustrated books known as illuminated manuscripts.

* * *

When It Began

In the early Christian era, illuminated manuscripts were generally the products of monasteries and cathedral schools. The first examples of illumination appeared, however, centuries before the birth of Christ.

The Egyptian "Books of the Dead," manuscripts intended for tomb burial to serve as guides for the deceased in the afterworld, offer examples of gold-lit vignettes dating back to 1350 B.C.

These "books," written on papyrus scrolls, envisioned afterlife as a continuation of life on earth. People and animals were pictured, along with decorative lettering showing swirls of gold and sometimes silver.

* * *

To Spread Learning

The coming of Christianity brought a continuing concern with religious subjects as the text for illuminated manuscripts. Monasteries of Egypt and Syria were early dedicated to the creation of art, the development of crafts, the spread of learning.

In the Western world, these aims gained impetus with the founding of the Benedictine monasteries in the sixth century A.D. Artists and craftsmen worked devotedly to preserve sacred texts through their hand-copied, hand-illustrated, elaborately-bound vellum manuscripts.

From time to time, secular texts — scientific treatises, for example — were also copied and illustrated.

* * *

How It Grew

Just as the celebration of Christmas gathered together many customs and rituals of earlier holidays, so too the monastery artists drew upon techniques evolved by pre-Christian craftsmen.

Influence of classic Greek and Roman style is evident in the early illuminated manuscripts of the Christian era. This gradually gave way to the decorative, abstract Byzantine style.

With the approach of the Renaissance, more natural, realistic techniques came into use, in illumination as in other forms of art.

* * *

Treasured Today

In the preparation of illuminated manuscripts, a master artist often set the style for copyists and assistants to follow, since even the decoration of an initial letter could be a major project.

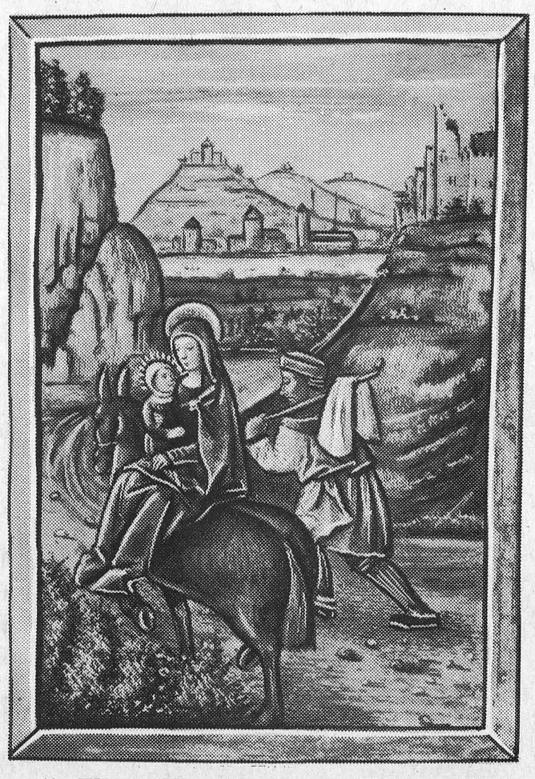
A single letter might occupy an entire page, and a complete scene or miniature painting might be contained within the boundaries of, for instance, an initial "C" or "D."

Some manuscripts, in fact, represent the work not only of more than one artist but of more than one generation of artists.

Today, illuminated manuscripts are treasures of libraries and museums, and rightly so, for throughout a thousand years of Christian history, the art of illumination brought an extra dimension of beauty to manuscripts that are, in themselves, precious works of art.



" The Nativity Scene "



" The Flight Into Egypt "

SHARING THE LEGEND

Flowers Speak Language Of Love At Christmas



A Joyous Christmas

Take these flowers, gemm'd with dew-drops,
As a loving gift from me:
May thy heart reflect their brightness
And thy Christmas joyous be!

Like holly, ivy and mistletoe, flowers share in the legend and lore of Christmas. In terms of the Victorian era, the floral legend is an especially meaningful one.

A Victorian lady who received a bouquet from her admirer could either smell it or read it as if it were a letter. Often, it was a letter.

Young engaged couples, strictly chaperoned, found a way to communicate words of affection via flowers. Each flower had a special meaning.

Flowers in sequence could be used to spell out a fervent pledge of love. To help in composing — and translating — these messages, there were numerous tiny dictionaries listing flowers and their meanings.

The flowering honeysuckle, for instance, spoke of "bonds of love." A red rosebud told a lady that she was "pure and lovely." Red double pink meant "woman's love." And heliotrope carried a bold message, "I love you."

This Victorian language of flowers greatly influenced the design of Christmas cards of the time — witness the card illustrated here, from the Norcross Historical Collection of antique cards.

The lush summer blooms are typical of the Victorian admiration of flowers, regardless of the season.

Though sentiments may be expressed differently, flowers still bloom on modern Christmas cards. A current card offers one example. Poinsettias flower on a background of mistletoe, and the message reads, "Just for you, honey, all my love at Christmas."



ACTING OUT THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY, youngsters play the role of angels in the Christmas pageant at St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Traditional wherever the holiday is celebrated, the Christmas pageant has history in religious drama.

Pageant Has History In Medieval Dramas

As young actors and actresses of this community rehearse their roles for their special Christmas play or pageant, they take part in a custom treasured through the ages.

Since the Christmas story first was told, mankind has sought and found countless ways to create it again and anew, in song and story, in art and drama. The modern Christmas pageant, a feature of church observances in communities near and far, may well trace its history to early religious dramas — the mystery, miracle and morality plays of the Middle Ages.

Where did church drama actually begin? One possible source is the tradition of the Christmas crib or manger scene, but scholarly research indicates that medieval religious drama probably had other, separate origins, according to the editors of Encyclopedia Americana.

Easter Plays Came First

Representations of the manger scene began with the use of doll figures, and history offers no evidence that people were ever substituted for the dolls. Living "actors" did, however, play a part in some early elaborations of church rituals.

In the 10th century, special chants written to accompany church music on festival occasions began to take the form of simple dialogues. These were little more than dramatic inserts in the church services, but here, researchers believe, religious plays had their start.

Easter dialogues and playlets probably came first, with Christmas plays developing as a natural result. Other religious dramas or mystery plays soon followed, until there were series or cycles of plays devoted to telling the entire story of the Scriptures.

Covered Many Subjects

Mystery cycles of the 16th century included as many as 40 dramas, which might be presented over a period of several days. The cycles developed in virtually every European country.

Typical plays dealt with such subjects as "The Creation of the World and the Fall of the Angels," "Noah and the Flood," "The Annunciation," "The Passion of Christ," "The Death of Pilate," "The Resurrection and Ascension," "The Harrowing of Hell and the Coming of Antichrist."

Along with the mystery cycles were miracle and morality plays. Miracle plays recounted the miracles of the saints, while the moralities presented allegorical messages of moral instruction, with characters personifying, for instance, Vice, the Devil or specific vices such as Gluttony, Pride, Anger, Hatred.

Question: Who Put 'x' In Christmas?

Almost every year from this time on, the question comes up again—who put the "X" in Christmas, and cries such as the unchristian approach to an otherwise solemn occassion.

Actually, it's been there all the time. An X, used alone or in combination with other letters, often stands for the word "Christ"; and an Episcopalian priest, explains: "This usage is quite ancient or as ancient certainly as the term "Christmas" itself.

It isn't so much how you spell it as how you keep it that determines how blessed will be the joyous season.

ANCIENT LEGEND

An ancient Italian legend tells of the Three Wise Men stopping to ask directions of an old woman, Befana. They invited her to go with them to worship the new born King, but she would not leave until she had swept her house and baked her bread. So the Wise Men left without her.

When her housework was finished, Befana packed a basket of toys for the Christ Child and set out after the Wise Men, but she never overtook them. So every Christmas she searches for the Christ Child with her basket of toys, leaving gifts for the children in each house.

Popular Cards Mostly Religious

The Partridge in The Pear Tree is being replaced in popularity by Christmas cards with a religious motif. Of all the familiar and well-loved images that adorn the new Christmas cards, the favorite is one that recalls the Christmas story with its message of hope.

Whether a card is illustrated in the formal style of a Renaissance painter or with the simplicity of primitive modern art, the manger in Bethlehem strikes a responsive chord wherever it is seen.

Legends of the Christmas season from all over the world emerge from the themes drawn on Christmas cards. Their beauty is enriched with vivid, contemporary colorings and textures.



CHOOSE YOUR CHRISTMAS COLOR IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RED

Don't worry if you don't plan to use red in your chosen decorating theme. You will have plenty of this familiar tone supplied by gift wrappings, stockings, berries and seasonal flowers to give bright color accents in the house.

Carefully plan the effect you want to achieve before starting. For instance, it would be an original and soothing setting for all the activity and excitement, to provide a mood of peace and contentment using blues, whites and metallic touches.

A theme from the words of one of your favorite carols could be expressed through the creative use of color in your Yuletide decorations. After you have decided on a general color scheme, try to keep hues simple.

THERE is a definite language of colors; they produce certain thoughts and feelings, and understanding a few of the ideas associated with them will be useful in your preparations. According to color experts, there is a reason for our seasonal preference for certain shades: Bright, warm colors like **orange** and **red** suggest warmth, gaiety and joy. **Green** is associated with hope and life everlasting. Light, cool colors of **blue, turquoise,** and **violet,** are calm and serene.

Blue particularly, expresses restfulness, truth and dependability. **White** means purity, peace faith and joy. **Silver** symbolizes birth, purity, the Spirit, and the promise of happy times; while **gold** stands for royalty and power. As one of the gifts of the Three Wise Men—Melchior, Balthasar, and Caspar—gold meant that Christ was acknowledged as King of men.

For Holidays

Festive Cheesebread Special Treat

1 cup milk
3 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon shortening
2 pkgs., active dry yeast
1 cup warm water
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
4 1/2 cups sifted flour

Scald milk, add sugar, salt, and shortening; let stand until luke warm. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Combine with the milk mixture. Add cheese and flour; blend well. Cover batter and set in a warm place for 45 minutes. Stir the batter down and beat for half a minute. Pour into a greased 1 1/2 quart casserole or two 9x5 loaf pans. Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for one hour.



65- MAT PAGE 27

Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh Make Suitable Gifts for Infant King

In New Testament history, St. Matthew describes the first of all Christmas gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh. After the wise men had knelt at the manger, he tells us, they opened their treasures to select these special offerings for the newborn Babe of Bethlehem.

To the modern mind, gold is instantly recognizable as a treasure, but the value of frankincense and myrrh is not so readily apparent. Actually, frankincense and myrrh were costly items in the time of Christ, and they are still costly. Both are resins used in making incense, surviving today at many a Christian altar.

As further evidence that frankincense and myrrh were precious treasures, worthy gifts for an Infant King, there is the old poem which expressed the ancient belief that "incense owns a deity nigh."

RASPBERRY-PEACH COMPOTE

2 pkgs. frozen raspberries, thawed
8 peach halves, drained
3 egg whites
6 tablespoons sugar

Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually beat in sugar until smooth and glossy. Place peaches, cut side up, in shallow baking dish; top each with a spoonful of meringue. Bake at 450 degrees for 5 minutes. Place raspberries in serving dish; remove peaches carefully from dish and float on raspberries.

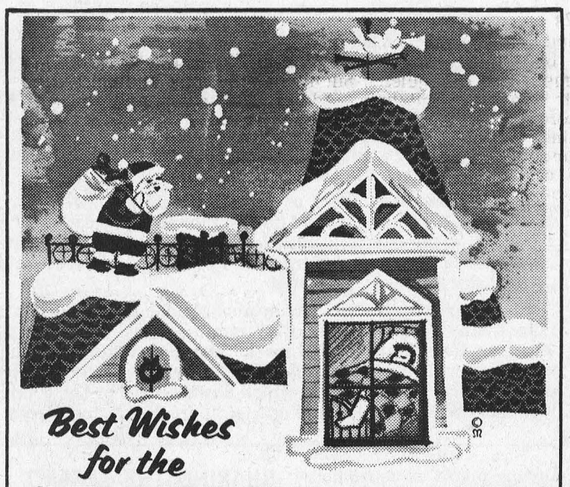

Joyous Greetings
May the joy of Christmas be yours.
Many thanks for your friendship!
Don & Betty McLaurin
General Supplies - Metcalfe


CHEERS
We take this day to express fondest wishes, and a cheerful "Thank you."
Benson's
Bee Supplies
Metcalfe, Ont.

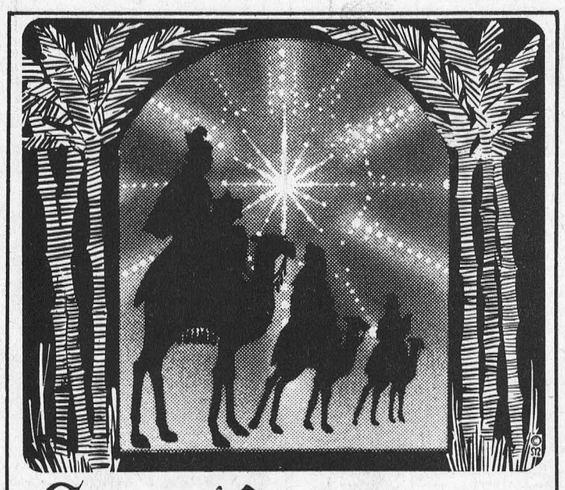

WITH WARMEST WISHES FOR A Merry Christmas
The season that generates great warmth and joy on Earth is here! May it bring gladness to you and yours. Thanks for your patronage!
Ron Freeland BP Products
Phone 774-2630 - Winchester

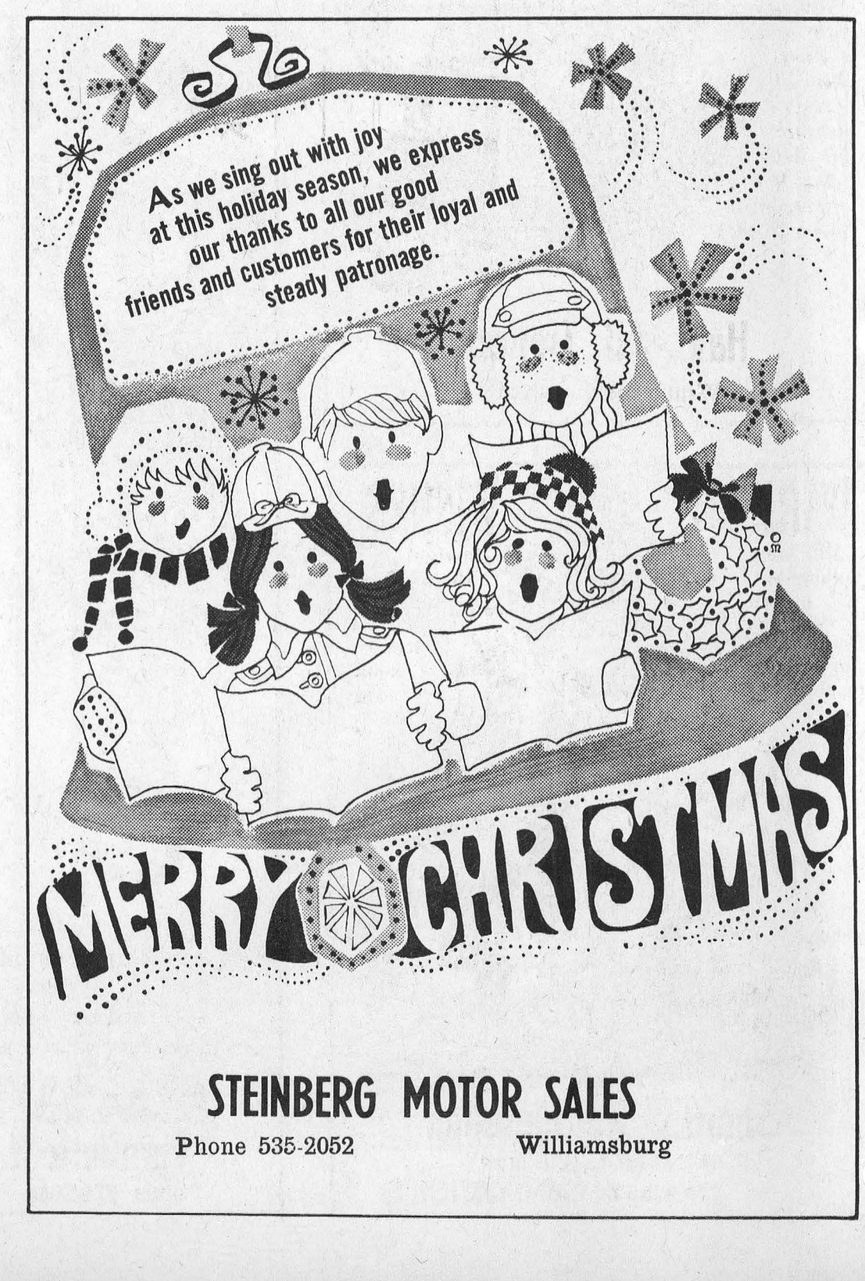
CHRISTMAS TIME
As the Christmas bells gladden your heart, we wish you a Happy Holiday.
ABEL'S
ODORLESS CLEANING
Ph. 448-2135
Chesterville


HI! MERRY CHRISTMAS
Here comes Santa to brighten your holiday. Merry Christmas! And thanks for your patronage.
Holm-El Beauty Salon
774-3734
WINCHESTER

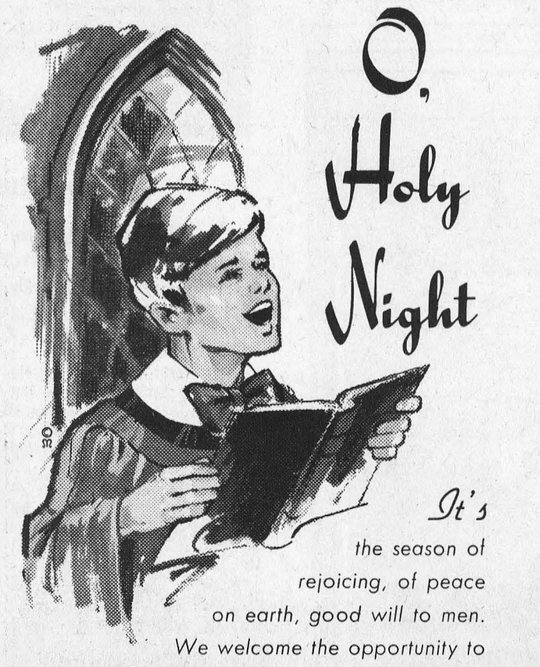

Best Wishes for the CHRISTMAS SEASON
Thanks to the support of friends old and new, everyday business is a special pleasure. Best wishes for the holiday season.
Davidson Jewellery
Phone 774-2102 - Winchester


Happy Christmas
May all the joys of the season be yours in great abundance!
Stewart James
Auctioneer
Edwards 821-2784


Silent Night May the spirit of that night, on which the Saviour was born, shine upon you in this Christmas season.
Grateful thanks for your continued good will.
Ted Herriman
Your Morrison-Lamothe Salesman

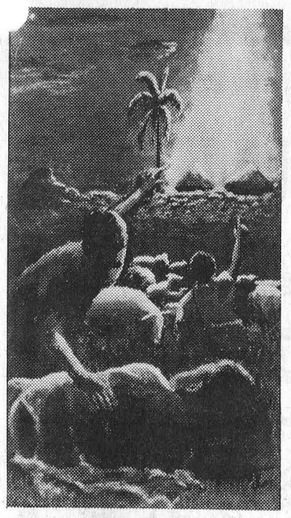

As we sing out with joy at this holiday season, we express our thanks to all our good friends and customers for their loyal and steady patronage.
MERRY CHRISTMAS
STEINBERG MOTOR SALES
Phone 535-2052 Williamsburg


Christmas Wishes
Our very best wishes for a truly wonderful Christmas.
Gerald Morris
REAL ESTATE
Ph. 821-2042 - Metcalfe


O, Holy Night
It's the season of rejoicing, of peace on earth, good will to men. We welcome the opportunity to greet our friends and customers, whose loyal good will we greatly value.
Gordon Morrow Construction
R. R. No. 3 - Metcalfe


Greetings
We hope that Santa is bringing good things your way. Thank you for your loyal patronage.
Barclay's IGA
Phone 535-2430 - Williamsburg

Carols Express Yuletide Joy



CONGO ART. . . Titled "Awake", this prize-winning oil depicts a Congolese shepherd under a bright sky with the Advent star. It was selected for reproduction on a Christmas card by the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature.

Voices rise in songs of joy and praise. As the joyous season arrives, the vibrant sound of carolers is heard in churches, at family gatherings, in groups going from house to house to celebrate with song.

Carols are as much a part of the Yuletide as the tree, gifts and Santa himself.

It all began with the first carols in the 13th century, says the Encyclopedia Americana.

The earliest English carols were composed anonymously, perhaps by clergymen or court musicians. Simple tunes and strong rhythms were characteristic, and the musical form featured a refrain, to repeat before and after each stanza.

Words were written, generally, in the English vernacular or in "macaronic" form — a combination of English and Latin.

The first printed collection of carols appeared in 1521. It included the "Boar's Head Carol," still sung during Christmas dinner at Queen's College, Oxford, England.

Even then, however, the practice of passing on carols orally, from generation to generation, continued. Among these were carols in ballad form, such as "I Saw Three Ships" and "The Cherry Tree Carol."

Caroling fell into disrepute in the 17th century, and carol singing was forbidden by the English Puritans. Those who colonized America carried this disapproval with them.

After the Restoration, in 1660, caroling was once again permitted and the custom slowly revived.

Some of the most popular carols date from the 18th and 19th centuries. These include "Adeste Fideles," possibly by Francis Wade; "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," with words by Charles Wesley and music by Felix Mendelssohn; "Joy to the World," with words by Isaac Watts, music by George Frederic Handel.

Probably the most popular of all carols is the 19th century "Silent Night," with words by Joseph Mohr, the village priest of Hallein, Austria.

Many stories are told about the way this carol came to be written. One legend says that on a snowy Christmas Eve in 1818, Father Mohr went to bless the newborn baby of a poor parishioner.

On that night he was so inspired by the beauty of the mother and child that he wrote the poem "Silent Night."



There would not be the cosmopolitan variety of cards that we have today. Hints at what was around long ago are shown in collections of that era. The designs have a charming quality. Flowers and birds, children and pets. Sometimes a star or a bell, but seldom a Santa Claus. Then, as now, however, the cards' intent is the same; to convey good will, good wishes, the hope of happy times to come.

Unusual Tradition In Switzerland

Perhaps one of the most unusual Christmas traditions is the one still adhered to by some Swiss romantics. These folks advise a boy or girl to visit nine different fountains and take three sips from each at the time the bells are ringing for midnight services on Christmas Eve. After this odd rite has been completed, the future husband or wife will be standing at the door of the church and a regular courtship will begin—if the spell has worked.

Fragile Egg Shells For Exquisite Tree

An English proverb says "Better half an egg than an empty shell". However, creators of exquisite decorated egg shells have refuted this.

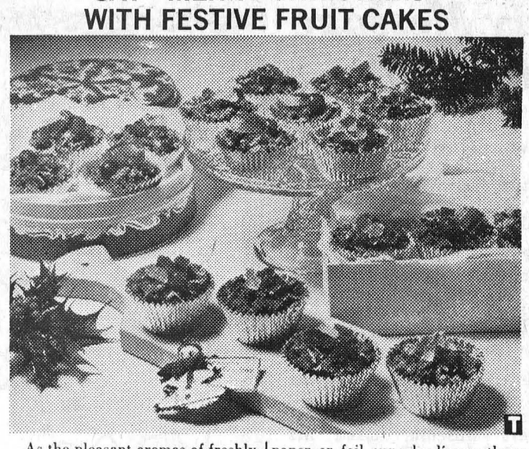
Take empty shells and a variety of other small fragile things—fake pearls and brilliant stones, miniature gilt ornaments, the tiniest of artificial flowers and ferns—and create Christmas tree ornaments of heirloom quality.

It is preciseley because they are so fragile that these ornaments are so charming. Even one, strategically hung, could have a place of honor on your tree.

TOYS—VICTORIAN ERA

Christmas toys for children of the Victorain era were meant to amuse as well as instruct. The popular mechanical banks were interesting to watch and also inspired thrift.

SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS" WITH FESTIVE FRUIT CAKES



As the pleasant aromas of freshly-made goodies drift from kitchens across the country, many a busy homemaker will be preparing a delectable assortment of holiday treats. During the Christmas season, it's always a good idea to have plenty of snacks on hand so you're prepared when unexpected guests stop in or gay carolers come calling.

But there's no reason for Mom to spend all her time in the kitchen cooking and baking, and missing out on all the fun. With a quick-and-easy no-bake recipe like this one for Holiday Fruit Cakes, she can prepare a batch of taste-tempting treats in no time at all.

Flecked with an assortment of sweet fruits and served in colorful paper or foil cupcake liners, these festive individual fruit cakes look as good as they taste. Made with Dutch Apple Dessert and Oatmeal Cereal, both borrowed from baby's supply, they can be eaten and enjoyed by every member of the family.

For a unique holiday gift-giving idea, place several individual fruit cakes in a gay cookie tin or a gift box and wrap with Christmas paper and miniature decorations. To add a personal touch, tuck in a copy of the recipe. This is a fine way of remembering a neighbor or friend. And you can be sure the recipient will appreciate your efforts and thoughtfulness while enjoying these delicious homemade Holiday Fruit Cakes.

QUICK-AND-EASY FRUIT CAKES

2 tablespoons margarine
¼ cup brown sugar
½ cup shredded coconut
1½ cups Gerber Oatmeal Cereal
¼ cup chopped pecans
1 dozen dates, chopped
6 prunes, chopped
¼ cup raisins
¼ cup candied cherries, cut small
¼ cup candied pineapple, cut small
1 jar Strained Gerber Dutch Apple Dessert
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon orange peel, dried
⅛ teaspoon salt

Melt margarine in saucepan. Add brown sugar, coconut, and Oatmeal Cereal. Cook, stirring constantly, until cereal and coconut are toasted. Add nuts and all fruits to cereal mixture. Stir until all pieces of fruit are individually coated. Combine Dutch Apple Dessert with cinnamon, nutmeg, orange peel and salt. Add Dutch Apple Dessert mixture to cereal mixture and mix well. Pack into small size paper or foil cupcake liners and set in muffin tins. Garnish with candied fruit. Refrigerate several hours.

Yield: 12 small fruit cakes

For Holiday Treat

Lebkuchen Rounds Are Favorite

1 cup honey
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 beaten egg
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
2 1/4 cups sifted flour
1/3 cup chopped almonds, whole almonds and citron for decorating
1/2 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon allspice
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/3 cup chopped citron

Bring honey to boil, then cool. Add brown sugar, egg, lemon peel and juice. Sift flour with soda and spices and stir into honey mixture. Add chopped citron and almonds. Store overnight in refrigeragor. Roll out to one half inch thinkness; cut into 4-inch rounds. Decorate with blanched almonds arranged as petals of a daisy with a round piece of citron or angelica for the center. Bake at 400 degrees about fifteen minutes. Brush with glazing icing—confectioners' sugar and water—immediately after taking from oven.

TOYS AND REINDEER

On the night before Christmas, according to tradition, Santa Claus and his sleighful of toys are swirled through the air by eight reindeer who answer to such spirited names as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, and Blitzen.

ANIMALS AT CHRISTMAS

Legends about animals at Christmas are especially touching. It was told that the night of Jesus' birth was the darkest ever known, but when the child was born a great light spread across the skies. Dead black branches put out green leaves; blossoms and berries appeared on withered vines; flowers never seen before sprang out of dry earth. At that moment the cattle kneeled kown in stalls of the little manger. They spoke to each other. A cock crowed, "Christ is born"! and the animals whispered, "Let us all worship together."

Yesteryear's Customs Live At Yuletide

Candles and carols, trees and treats, gifts and greens — and Santa Claus, of course. Wherever Christmas is celebrated, these symbols seem to appear.

In the modern era of rapid communication, there is a growing uniformity in the ways that people everywhere choose to mark the holiday.

Yesteryear's customs, however, still have their place in modern celebrations. It's a case of "the more things change, the more they stay the same," as countries, communities and individuals seek to cherish and preserve their own special holiday traditions.

Some of these traditions, as treasured in memory or kept alive in holiday ritual, are compiled in the following paragraphs, according to information from the editors of Encyclopedia International.

* * *

It's a Mystery

Mysterious things happen on Christmas Eve, say country legends of Switzerland. Young people may foretell the future, if they drink from nine different fountains while the midnight church bells chime. Then, if they hasten to the church steps, their future mates will await them there.

Somewhat less romantically, older folk seek to predict the weather for the coming year, using onion peels filled with salt.

* * *

How Many Holidays?

Traditionally, Belgians celebrate three holidays at the Christmas season — beginning with St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, when the good saint brings gifts for children.

Then comes St. Thomas Day, December 21st. It's a sort of "trick or treat" day for school children, who try to play tricks on their teachers.

The third holiday, of course, is Christmas.

* * *

Wrapping Gifts

When German tradition is followed, unwrapping a Christmas gift can be an amusing but complicated process.

One gift may have many consecutive wrappings, each with a different name on it, and the final wrapping may reveal not a gift, but a card telling where the gift is hidden.

Other cards in other hiding places lead to a treasure hunt, ending in the discovery of the gift.

* * *

Picturing Nativity

The Christmas crib or presepio is an especially treasured part of the Portuguese holiday celebration. Every home and church seems to have one, and some of those in the churches are masterpieces of art.

Especially famous is the presepio in Estrella Church, Lisbon. This Nativity scene depicts the people of Bethlehem, in terra cotta figures. Unique among the crowd are the figures of an elephant and a bagpiper.

* * *

Baking Cakes

If the weather on St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, is misty, a Dutch legend can explain it. St. Nicholas is baking his cakes.

Traditional cakes — Zelten or Klosse — are adorned with different figures. These, children are told, are the marks made by St. Nicholas' donkey as he steps over the cakes on his way through the mist.

* * *

Driving Yule Out

St. Knut's Day, January 13th, is the traditional time for taking down Christmas greens in Sweden. According to custom, as the tree is dismantled, young folk dance while their elders sing, "Twentieth day Knut driveth Yule out."

This custom is believed to be derived from the laws of King Canute, written in the early 11th century.

* * *

Bringing the Tree

Christmas trees were first introduced to France in 1837, when Princess Helen of Mecklenburg married the Duke of Orleans and brought with her to Paris the Yule customs of her native country.

In spite of this and many later efforts to advance the cause of the Christmas tree, Parisians still prefer the earlier tradition, which says that gift exchange time for French adults is New Year's day.

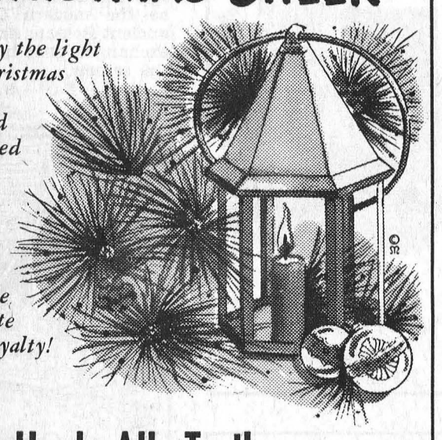
SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco's first tree was made in 1850 from Douglas fir branches wired to a stick by a German wine proprietor.



Have a most delightful holiday season . . . and sincerest thanks for your loyal patronage.
Hansen's Esso Service Highway 31 Metcalfe


May Christmas be radiant with the light of peace, joy and blessings for you and yours.
Duncan's Store
Phone 774-2639 Winchester

CHRISTMAS CHEER

May the light of Christmas shine on you and your loved ones. May its bright warmth fill each day. We appreciate your loyalty!
Haul - All Trailers
Winchester, Ontario



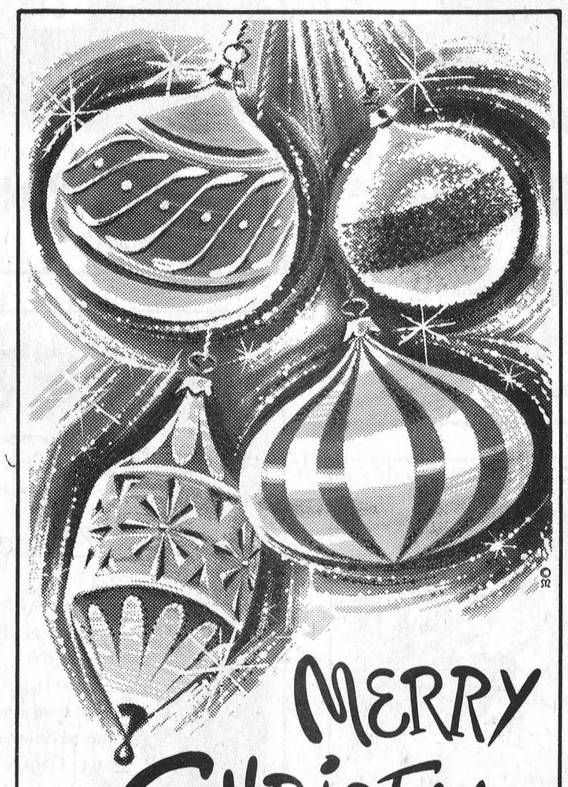
Shortt's Refrigeration
AND DAIRY EQUIPMENT
Vernon, Ontario



Rolly's Garage Russell, Ontario
General Repairs - 24-Hour Towing Service



Ross Wingard
Phone 535-2854 Williamsburg


MERRY CHRISTMAS
May this holiday season bestow on you every blessing and happiness. Please accept our best wishes, and may we express our gratitude to you for your loyal patronage. Thank you!
MacINTOSH'S
Furniture & Appliances
Phone 774-2636 - Winchester


the Spirit of Christmas
May the world rejoice again in the spirit of the season.
Vi's Beauty Salon
Metcalfe



Lyell Strader Shell Products
Phone 535-2616 Williamsburg



A & T Service
Service Station — Licenced Mechanic
Amon Sheldrick & Theodore Sheldrick
PHONE 821-1946 VERNON



Archie Sayant
Body & Fender Repairs
Spray Painting -
Dunlop Tires
VERNON 821-2164

Unique Holiday Message Begins Greeting Cards

It was the "Golden Age of Christmas." The personal exchange of good wishes, visiting homes to toast a friend's good health, carol-singing, bringing in the Yule log and great family dinners were all in vogue.

A new book was published that year. It told of Christmas goose and plum pudding, of happy family parties. It presented, and made immortal, Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. The book was Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and the year was 1843.

Appropriately, during this "Golden Age of Christmas," the now universally-popular custom of sending Christmas greeting cards began.

The very first card, authorities now agree, is the celebrated Cole-Horsley, designed and printed in London in 1843. Only a dozen of the original 1,000 copies are known to exist, and two of these, including the only unsigned and unposted specimen, are part of the Hallmark Historical Collection.

When not on display in museums and similar institutions, the collection is filed in a specially constructed vault at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Mo.

Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy London gentleman, and founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum, asked his friend, John C. Horsley, noted artist and member of the Royal Academy, to design the now-famous card as an unusual means of expressing his kind wishes to friends at the holiday season.

WHAT "NOEL" MEANS

"Noel," the French word for Christmas, means "birthday," "news," or "a shout of joy."



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We wish to extend our warmest holiday greetings to all the wonderful people in our town who make day-to-day business a special pleasure. Heartfelt thanks for your loyal trust and support. Merry Christmas.

Summers Insurance Service

Phone 774-2515 Winchester



Christmas Colouring Fun



A friendly puppy here we see —
The happiest gift, you'll quite agree.



Her list is longer than Aunt Min's;
To fill it, Santa should be twins.



Check the chimney — is it he?
Santa's bringing gifts for you and me.



Greetings

A happy season is upon us, bringing joy to one and all. Warmest appreciation!

Jim Rowan

School Photographer

Metcalfe

THE WASSAIL BOWL

For the brewing, let there be ginger, nutmeg, and a pinch of cinnamon. One half pound of sugar added to some goodly ale. Heat. Stir but do not boil. Add a good portion of Malaga wine, the zest of lemon, and six apples cored and roasted.

Honor to you who sit near the well of it and drink ye fill of it.

Greetings

We wish all our friends a very joyous and cheerful Christmas Season.

Casselman TV And Appliances

Winchester 774-2801



Here's hoping that Santa brings lots of good things your way! Thank you.

Merry Christmas

Reg. Fetterly's Car Wash

Winchester, Ontario

Tasty Treat

Old Time Penuche Pleases Most

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1 cup brown sugar
2/3 cup light cream
1/2 cup pecan pieces
1/3 cup milk
2 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon vanilla

Butter the sides of a heavy 2-quart saucepan. Combine the sugars, cream, milk, and butter. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until sugars dissolve and mixture comes to boiling. Then cook to soft-ball stage (238 degrees), stirring only if necessary. Remove from heat immediately and cool to lukewarm (110 degrees) without stirring. Add vanilla. Beat vigorously until fudge becomes very thick and starts to lose its gloss. Quickly stir in the nuts and spread in a buttered shallow pan or small platter. Score in squares while warm, and then cut when firm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Like the glow of the candle, happiness lights this Christmas season. May it shine for you every hour!

Smith Photo Service

Phone 543-2873 Morrisburg

Tracing Santa

Santa's source, legend says, goes back to the fourth century, when St. Nicholas, a bishop of Asia Minor, was noted for his generosity and gift-giving.

In some countries, St. Nicholas still retains his role as gift-bearer. His day is, traditionally, December 6th, and European children await him on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5th.

A gray horse and a white donkey have each been credited with the honor of transporting him on his gift-giving journeys.

* * *

Giving Gifts

Like greetings, gifts are synonymous with Christmas, as part of a custom that probably has its beginning in the Wise Men's presentation of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child.

Some researchers trace the gift-giving tradition to even earlier, pre-Christian times. During pagan holidays observed at about the same time as the modern Christmas, ancient Romans and Britons exchanged gifts in token of the season.

* * *



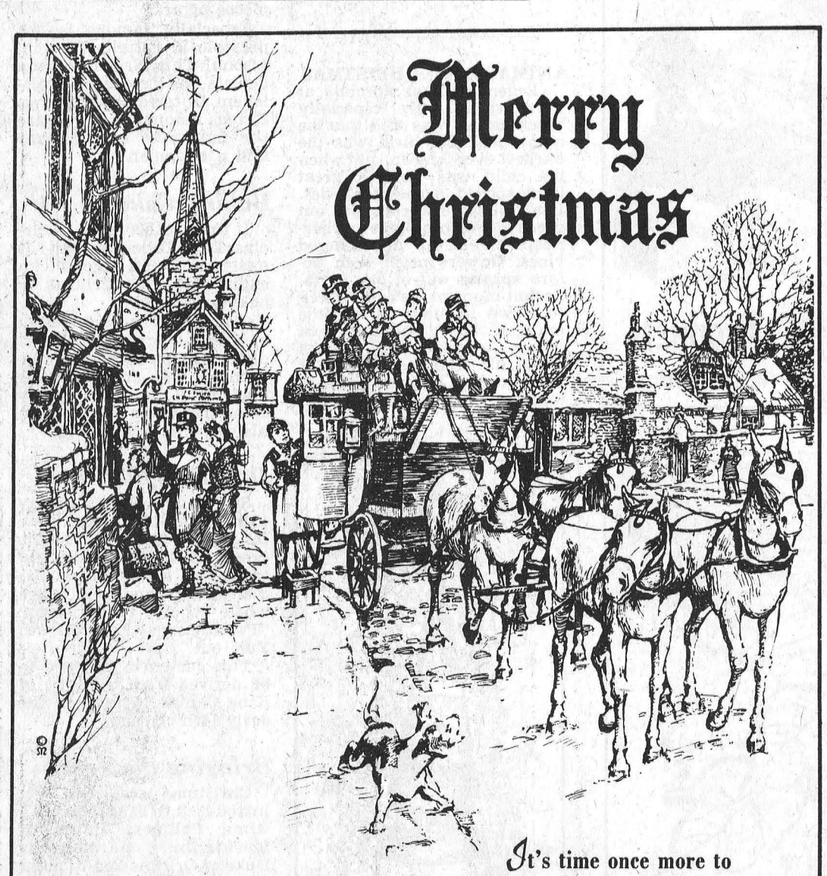
At Christmas, join the heartfelt prayer that peace and good will may reign forevermore. And at Christmas, be joyful, with all the happiness and harmony of the season.

A Christmas Prayer

Warmest gratitude for your loyal patronage!

Fabrics Unlimited

774-2207 Winchester

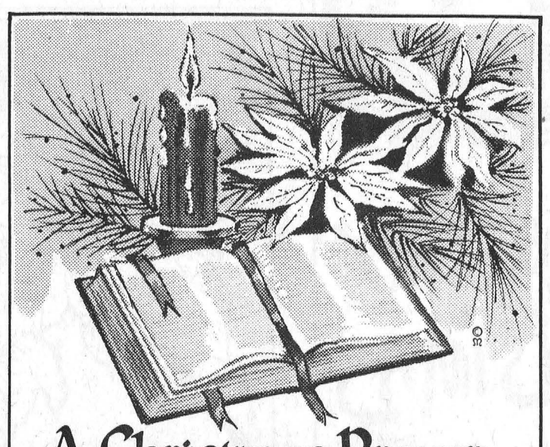


Merry Christmas

It's time once more to turn aside from the routine of day-to-day business and greet our fine patrons and neighbors with hearty wishes for a merry, old-fashioned Yule. May your holiday be filled with the happy sounds of laughter as you rejoice in the company of family and friends. Sincere thanks for your loyal trust and support.

Pinkus Salvage and Auto Parts Ltd.

Phone 535-2759 or 535-2760 Williamsburg



A Christmas Prayer

May the beautiful meaning of Christmas ... living through the ages to inspire men everywhere... continue to live in your own heart and mind. And may your Christmas be filled with joy.

Walter C. MacDonald

Phone 774-2331 Winchester



S. B. Simms and Sons

Phone 989-2049 Mountain



For thousands of men and women serving overseas in the armed forces, Christmas will have to come in the form of a package from home.

"Space Available Mail", or SAM for short, is airlift service provided by the Post Office Department for "surface prepaid mail addressed to, from or between overseas military personnel." There are four categories of SAM: First-class letter mail; sound-recorded personal correspondence; newspapers and periodicals addressed to combat zone only (Vietnam and contiguous waters): and parcels (including those with a letter attached) weighing no more than 5 pounds and measuring no more than 60 inches, combined length and girth.

In mailing packages overseas, there are some prohibitions worth noting. It is against regulations to send coffee, tobacco and currency to some destinations, so either don't include these items or check with the Post Office. In fact, it's a good idea to check with postal authorities whatever the destinations of your package. Nothing perishable should be sent, of course.

For packing the Post Office strongly recommends a double corrugated box, the kind you may get from a grocery store. Pack the box solidly, then stuff popped corn, shredded paper or excelsior between items. Use heavy brown wrapping paper on the outside and tie with strong cord, whether or not you have used tape. If you wish to use the SAM service, you must take your package to the Post Office to be stamped.

The Lucia Bride Swedish Tradition

The Lucia Bride is the symbol of the beginning of the Christmas season in Sweden. Each family chooses one of the daughters, often the youngest, to portray St. Lucia. On December thirteenth, St. Lucia's Day, she rises before the rest of the family. Dressed in white and wearing a crown of lighted candles, she goes to each room awakening sleepers and offering the coffee and freshly baked buns.

Lighting the Way

Light and Christmas go together, for the deepest meaning of the holiday represents Christ, the Light of the world. From the bonfires and candles of yesteryear to the twinkling electric ornaments of today, light symbolizes Christmas.

According to Irish legend, a candle should always be placed in the window on Christmas Eve. Each Christmas, it was said, Christ wanders the earth in search of a welcome, and a candle should light the way.

SANTAKLAUSEN

Christmas is the most imprtant festival of the year in Austria, but Saint Nicholas (Santaklausen), the patron saint of the children, appears on Dec. 6th. Santaklausen is accompanied by the devil and demands that the children tell of their bad deeds, as well as their good ones. After the children promise to be good, Santaklausen rewards them with candies, fruits and nuts.

HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR YOUR TREE

Balsam, Douglas fir, Scotch pine and white spruce are the most popular trees in the East. In the mid South it's the long-needled pine. Favorites in the West are firs and cypresses. Popularity varies from region to region.

When choosing a Christmas tree, select it for beauty, fragrance and lasting needles. Balsam and Douglas fir have those qualities. Their dark green, soft at tip needles will remain as long as two or three weeks indoors.

A Norway spruce makes an ideal outdoor Christmas tree. Indoors it has a tendency to shed rather quickly. A white spruce on the other hand is better for indoor use if it is not cut too early in the season. Its bluish-green needles distinguish it from a Norway spruce. Red pine is gaining in popularity but its needles are too soft to hold ornaments. It does, however, make good greens for decorations.

STICKY FRESH

Rub a finger across the butt of the tree before buying it. If it's sticky with sap, it's still quite fresh. A stump of 6 or 7 inches long will allow stability when the tree is set up and give "drinking" area to soak up water.

When the tree is brought home, cut a diagonal one-inch slice from the stump, and peel back the bark another inch. Now place the tree in a bucket of water—you may add a cup of sugar or syrup. Keep the tree outside until you are ready to decorate it and add water each day as well as sprinkle the branches.

When you set up the tree, make sure the stump will continue to take up plenty of moisture. Anchor the tree in a stand filled with sand to which water can be added daily.

Check the needles every day. If they turn brown in the vicinity of Christmas lights, move the lights. If needles begin to drop heavily, take the tree down at once, a dried out tree is a distinct hazard.

Never place the tree near a fireplace, smoking stand or where it may block the exit of a room. Make sure the decorations are flameproof or fireproof.

CHRISTMAS IN MIDSUMMER

In Central and South America, where the holiday comes in midsummer, Santa Claus and Christmas trees are seldom seen. But after midnight mass on Christmas Eve, or at dinner on Christmas Day, families gather to enjoy the traditional roast suckling pig and their wide assortment of desserts.



The Nativity Scene

One of the most revered Christmas customs is the reenactment of Christ's birth with a Nativity Scene. This custom was popularized in the 13th century by St. Francis of Assis. At a time when few books were available, and most people couldn't read anyway, St. Francis dramatized the Nativity in 1224, to help the people of Greccio, Italy, understand the meaning of Christmas. Villagers took the parts of Mary, Joseph, and shepherds. Live animals were used, and a life-sized wax figure of the Christ Child was placed in the manger.

It was St. Francis who led the villagers in joyous dancing around the Nativity Scene.



TINSEL TINSEL TINSEL

Americans really go tinsel-happy at Christmas Time!

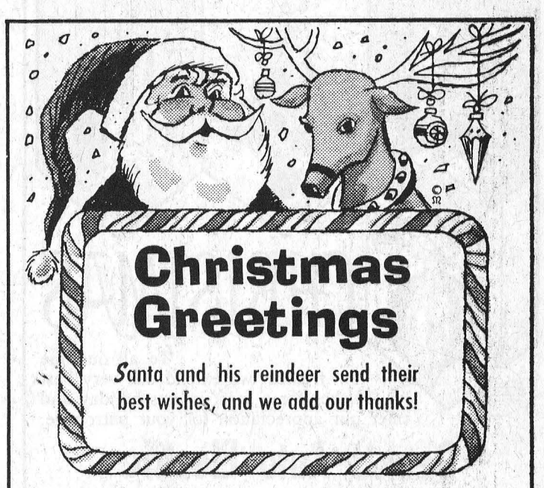
Just how stupendous the U. S. holiday decorations business is, when viewed nationally, can be illustrated by this set of statistics from a chain store.

If all the strands of "tinsel rain" sold by chain stores last year were laid end to end, they would circle the earth fifty times, reach to the moon, make ten trips around it, return to earth and still have enough remaining to trim all the trees in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles and a few other cities. It would weigh almost ten thousand tons.

The company said these figures would increase this year, as they have for the past several years for three good reasons—more marriages, more children, and more home owners.



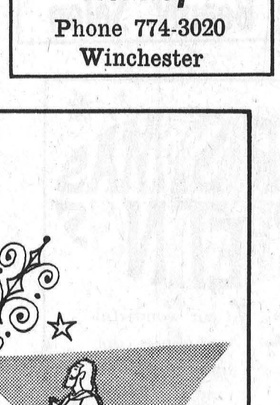
Durant's Plumbing & Heating
Phone 774-2007 WINCHESTER



R. H. Beckstead
Phone 535-2103 Williamsburg



Fawcett's
Jewellery - Organ Store - Music Centre
Phone 774-2205 Winchester



Jean and Dalt Kenney
Phone 774-3020
Winchester



Porteous IGA
Foodliner
821-2276 Vernon

This season, it is our wish that your spirit be moved by the inspiration and hope that distinguished the first Christmas. And that its meaning then . . . of peace and good will toward men . . . will be its meaning now for you and your loved ones.

Vice and Craig Ltd.
Phone 774-2120
WINCHESTER – CHESTERVILLE – METCALFE



We wish you the happiest of holidays, with all the joys and delights of the season.
James Walker
Plumbing
Metcalfe 821-2530

Canadian Tire Corporation
Phone 535-2845 Williamsburg

Family Christmas Traditions

Just how much Santa Claus does differs in every family. Always of course, he fills the stockings. In some families, he brings a few toys.

In other families he brings all the toys. In some he also trims the tree. How many of these things he is supposed to do is a question of your own tradition.

A child should be taught, even when very little, to thank the giver. Aunt Mary, Grandfather, etc. It is not fair to say that presents sent from other people are from Santa Claus.

A child's belief in the miracle of Santa Claus can help him all his life to know that if he trust and believes hard enough in something, it will be a long step toward making it come true.



To all our fine friends, we extend our very best wishes for a most joyous holiday and offer our appreciation for your patronage.

Deek's Auto Electric

Fred Hagmann, Proprietor

Phone 774-2634 WINCHESTER

GREETINGS

Here's wishing you the fulfillment of all your dreams for Christmas. Thank you for your patronage.

Morgan's Men's Wear

Phone 774-2413 Winchester

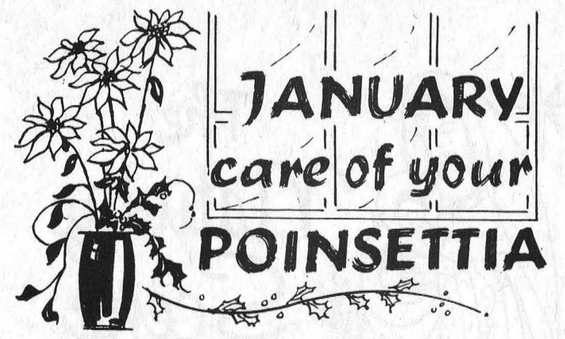


CHRISTMAS JOY

The Saviour is born and the world rejoices. May every joy and blessing be yours along with a simple, sincere thank you from us.

R. S. Allison and Sons Ltd.

Phone 774-3323 Winchester Springs



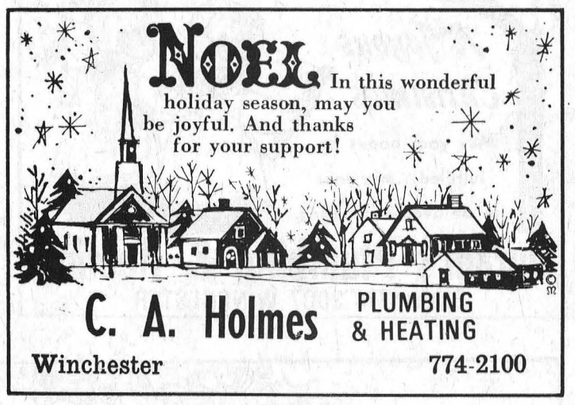
If you received a poinsettia for Christmas and wonder about proper care to assure maximum plant life, these tips may be helpful to you.

Three things are important in preserving the plant. Provide proper temperature, keep the plant out of drafts, and water it often.

Temperature is very important to the plant. Temperature should not range above 70-75 degrees during the day and not under 60 degrees at night. Temperature too hot or too cold can cause the poinsettia to become unattractive in a very short time.

The plant should be kept out of drafts. A poinsettia left in a drafty place will begin to lose its leaves quickly becoming unsightly in a brief time.

Your poinsettia should be watered every day. The water should be room temperature. It may be that your plant will require more moisture in one part of the room than another, determined by how fast it becomes dry.



In this wonderful holiday season, may you be joyful. And thanks for your support!

C. A. Holmes PLUMBING & HEATING

Winchester 774-2100



Now's the time to thank you for your continued good will, and wish you and your family a happy holiday!

Graham Casselman

Insurance

Phone 774-5150 Winchester Springs

Sending Greetings

The custom of exchanging greetings at holiday time is older than Christmas. The custom of the Christmas greeting card, however, is a relatively new one.

Christmas cards originated about 125 years ago, in England. Despite this recent start, printed greetings quickly caught the public fancy and are today one of the most popular forms of Christmas holiday traditions.

* * *

Decorating Trees

The gaily decorated tree so much a part of Christmas has its counterpart in trees adorned with colorful trinkets during the ancient feasts of the winter equinox.

This pagan custom of decorating evergreens became associated with Christmas observances, and legends link it to the birth of Jesus. One such story says that on the night of the Nativity, all the woodland trees burst into bloom and bore fruit.

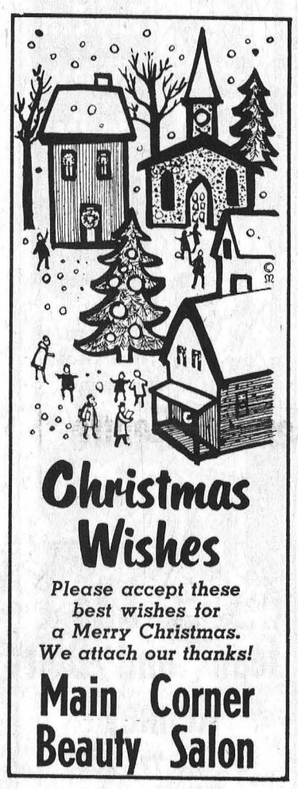
* * *

Singing Carols

With voices lifted in harmony for "Silent Night," "The First Noel" and other beloved songs, today's carolers carry on a Christmas custom that originated centuries ago.

In the fourth century A.D., St. Basil was praised with a musical poem in honor of the fight for Christianity over the Byzantine emperor Julian. Later in Greece, legends of St. Basil were set to music and sung at Christmas and the New Year.

St. Francis of Assisi led the villagers of Grecchio in singing hymns of praise to the Christ Child when in the 13th century he created a manger scene in this Italian town.



Christmas Wishes

Please accept these best wishes for a Merry Christmas. We attach our thanks!

Main Corner Beauty Salon

Yes, Virginia

New York, N.Y.
September 8, 1897

Dear Editor:
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth— is there a Santa Claus?

Youre truly,
Virginia O'Hanlon

"Yes, indeed!

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age—they do not believe except what they see—they think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible to their little minds.

"All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

"In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

"He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies!

"You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus—the most real things in the world are those neither children nor men can see.

"Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there—nobldy can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men, that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty of all glory beyond.

"Is it all real?—ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever—a thousand years, from now, Virginia, nay, ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of childhood."

—Francis B. Church
The New York Sun

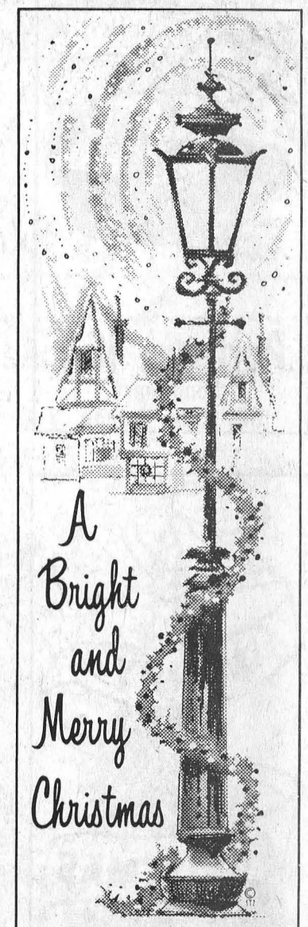


Russell Phair "For Service Call Phair" Russell



Wishing you and your family the happiest of holidays. Thanks for your support!

Ken McCallum Barber Vernon



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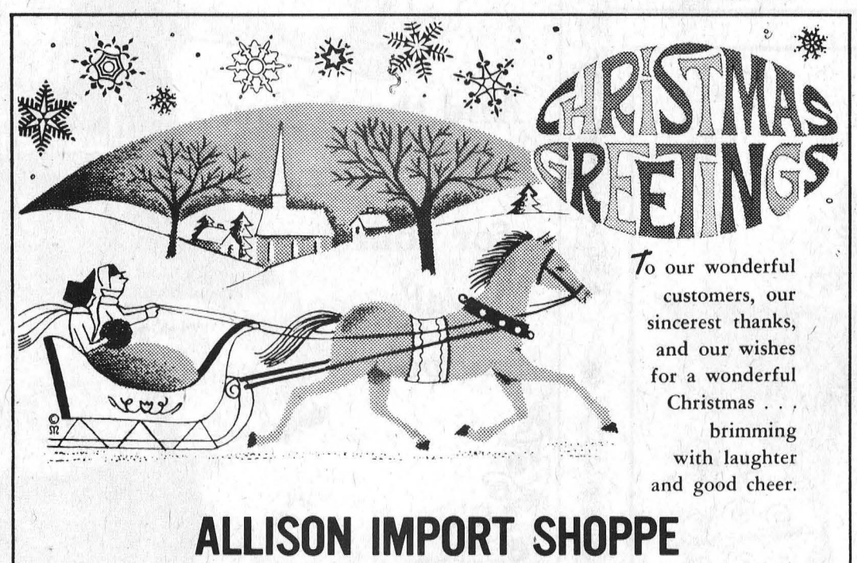


To our wonderful customers, our sincerest thanks, and our wishes for a wonderful Christmas . . . brimming with laughter and good cheer.

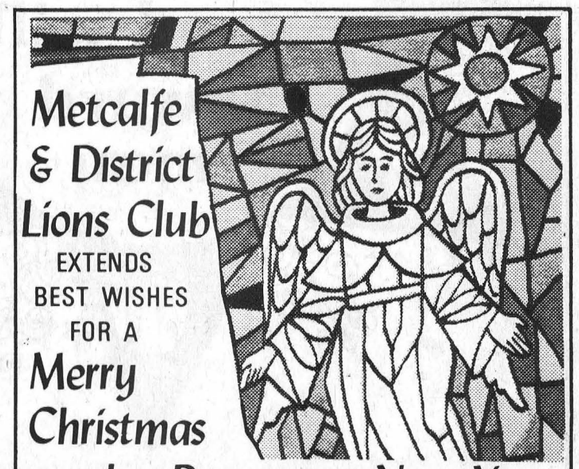
ALLISON IMPORT SHOPPE

PHONE 543-3132 MORRISBURG



In this, the most festive season of the year, we express the sincere wish that your Christmas may be the picture of great joy and glad tidings. Many thanks for your loyal patronage!

BLACK'S ELECTRONICS ARDEN BLACK, PROPRIETOR PHONE 535-2561 WILLIAMSBURG



Metcalfe & District Lions Club EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR A *Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year*

to their many friends whose kind co-operation has made extensive welfare work possible.

GORDON MORROW, President
DON McKENNA, Sec.
WILLARD CUMMINGS, Treas.

Uncle Bill AND SANTA CLAUS

By Joseph Burton

The depression years were pretty tough all over, I guess. But in the mountains where we lived most folks barely scratched together enough to keep going. Many of them wouldn't have made it without Uncle Bill's help. He ran the general store. He had signs all over the place declaring a "CASH ONLY" policy. But there was a funny thing about that. Uncle Bill apparently couldn't read. I know. I asked him about the signs one time and he said they read, "WE HOPE."

But I think the most unusual thing about Uncle Bill was that he was personally acquainted with Santa Claus. Every kid in the mountains knew it.

Uncle Bill was the local postmaster. I used to watch him put stamps on the letters and put them in a pouch which Big Zeb swung over his saddle horn and carried over the hill trail to Junction City. There, I was told, a big train passed through every single day.



When they were ready to leave, he gave Joe a peppermint stick. "By the way, Joe. I had a letter from Santa yesterday. Said he had heard from you, too. He's much too busy to answer all his mail, as you can guess—so he asked me to give you a message. He's liable to be a little short on bicycles this year, but he'll try. Said, tho, he had a pretty good mule. Just right for a feller your size. Strong enough to pull a plow and sharp enough to ride to school. What do you think of that, eh?"

SELF THOUGHTS

Needless to say, I was pretty impressed with my Uncle Bill at this point. I began to think of all the things I should have put in a letter to Santa. I could have listed all kinds of second choices. How I wished I could have a mule for my very own!

"Uncle Bill," I asked, "is it too late for me to send a letter to Santa?"

"Course not," he said, handing me pencil and paper. "Jot 'er down."

I did. And, I didn't ask for a thing. I only asked how he got the letters in Uncle Bill's leather folder so fast.

Christmas morning, along with a dandy spinning top, an air rifle and an assortment of fruits and nuts, I received a letter from Santa, which read simply, "Son, Christmas is a time of miracles."

I know it came from Santa. Like I said, I don't think Uncle Bill could read or write. There's a big difference between "CASH ONLY" and "WE HOPE."

DISCOVERY

I found out about Uncle Bill and Santa Claus during the first Christmas season I spent with him at the store. I noticed that he put the letters to Santa separate from the others. I didn't think this unusual at first. But, I couldn't help wondering why he never put any stamps on them. At least, I never saw him do so. He just took the letters when the kids brought them in and put them in a leather folder he kept on the top of his old roll-top desk.

One day, as Big Zeb mounted his mule to carry another packet of mail over the trail, I asked Uncle Bill about the Santa Letters.

"Regular mail service is too slow for those, Jimmy," he said. "They get special attention. But, don't you worry. I'll see to them."

And he did. Next morning the leather folder was empty. And so it was each of the five mornings that remained before the arrival of Christmas morning.

I could tell they had been delivered, too. Like when little Joe Hoskins came in with his folks on Christmas Eve. Uncle Bill took quite a long time filling their order and talking quietly with Mr. Hoskins.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS



While Dad may relax this December 25th with a box of fine cigars that "Santa" left under the Christmas tree, fathers in some other countries receive gifts on January 6, in honor of the date when the Wise Men are thought to have brought gifts to the Christ Child.

The original Saint Nicholas was a bishop in Turkey, in the 14th century A.D. According to one story, he once dropped a bag of gold coins down a chimney into the stocking a poor girl had hung by the fireplace to dry.



It was Saint Francis of Assisi, who was the first caroler. Caroling originally meant dancing, rather than singing. To bring the Christmas message vividly and directly to his 13th-century villagers, most of whom couldn't read, St. Francis arranged a manger scene in which he used real people and animals. When the villagers came to see it, he led them in joyous "carols" or dances, around the Nativity Scene.

According to some authorities, exchanging Christmas gifts replaced a pagan custom of giving gifts on New Year's. Today, it's a custom welcomed by all, especially many cigar smokers, who receive more cigars as gifts at Christmas than at any other time of the year.



While a box of fine cigars under the tree is a gift that pleases many a modern Pop, in early times, the first gifts were called "priests' boxes," since priests collected money and jewelry in them to distribute to the needy.

The German theologian Martin Luther was the first to decorate a Christmas tree. While walking through the forest one night before Christmas, he was inspired by the sight of the stars glittering among the branches of the trees. He took a small fir tree home and placed candles on its branches to recapture the inspiration for his children.



COLOUR US!



In Baking

Santa Claus Buns Are In Season

1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup sugar
1 1/4 teaspoons salt
1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup mashed potatoes
2 pkgs. active dry yeast, or
2 cakes compressed yeast
3 eggs
4 1/2 cups sifted flour
grated peel of 1 lemon
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup chopped nuts
1/2 cup sifted confectioners' sugar.

Scald milk; stir in sugar, salt, butter and mashed potatoes. Cool to lukewarm. Sprinkle yeast on warm water in large mixing bowl; stir until dissolved. Add milk-potato mixture. Beat 2 of the eggs and add to mixture. Stir in lemon peel and half the flour, beat until smooth. Add remaining flour or enough to make an easily handled dough. Turn out on lightly floured board and knead quickly and lightly until smooth and elastic—8 to 10 minutes. Cover and set in warm place; let rise until doubled. Punch dough down and turn out on lightly floured board. Knead raisins and nuts into dough. Roll dough into circle 1/2-inch thick. Cut into rounds with a 2 1/2 inch cutter. Place on greased baking sheet about 1 inch apart. Separate remaining egg. Beat yolk with 2 tablespoons water and brush buns with the mixture. Cover buns and set in a warm place until doubled in bulk. Bake at 375 degrees about 25 minutes. Beat remaining egg white and add enough confectioners' sugar to make spreading consistency. Frost buns; decorate as desired. Makes 2 dozen.



Old-Fashioned Greetings

Hearty greetings are sent your way, and so are heartiest thanks!

Bab's Groceteria
METCALFE

Silent Night, Holy Night

In the awesome stillness of that Holy Night, the Christ Child was born. May the true meaning of Christmas fill your heart and home!

Kelly's Texaco Service Centre
Winchester, Ontario



We wish you all at this time of year
A plentiful measure of Yuletide cheer!

Cowans SNOWPLOWING SERVICES
Harold Cowan Metcalfe, Ont. Tel. 821-2430



S. S. Bishop
821-2283 PLUMBING & HEATING Metcalfe



The picture at Christmas time is a joyful one, and we hope it's especially so for you and your family. Thanks for your patronage!

Daykin Photos
Phone 826-2567
Osgoode



All the Best for CHRISTMAS

The treats of the Christmas season are many and varied, and our wish for you, our customers, is that you and your families may have the good fortune to enjoy them all. Thanks for your patronage!

McNeill's Store
Phone 989-2175 Mountain



Crerar Pure Honey Vernon Ont.

Greetings

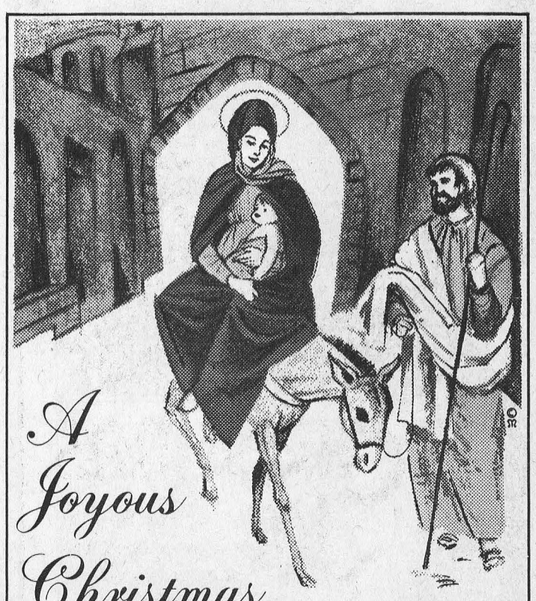
To you and your family, our wish is for all the merriment and excitement of this festive season... all the joy and warmth of a Yuletide celebration. And may we thank you for your much appreciated patronage.

JOHNSTON MOTOR SALES (Kemptville) LTD.
Phone 258-3403 Kemptville



Let every heart rejoice in the spiritual blessing and inspiration of the season. And may the meaning of Christmas make your holidays bright.

Durant's Flowers
Phone 448-2060 Chesterville



A Joyous Christmas

To all, a wish for a Christmas richly blessed with peace and joy.
And to our patrons, our heartfelt thanks for the privilege of serving you.

Marjorie and Walter Shadbolt
And Staff
5c to $1.00 Store
Phone 774-2008 Winchester

'Noah's Ark' Disappears from Holiday Scene

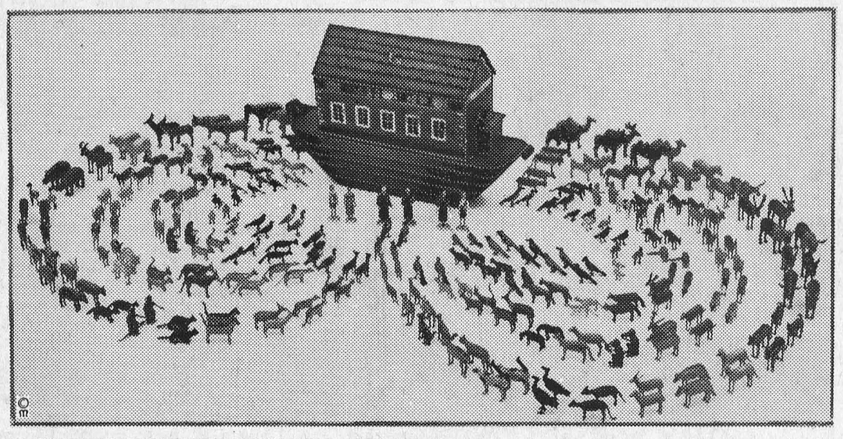
By ANNA MANG

Where there are children, this holiday season, there's usually a Christmas tree — brightly lighted, gaily decorated, its fragrant branches bending low over a veritable "Toyland" of gifts from Santa's lavish pack.

These days, the variety of toys to enchant, entertain and instruct the youngsters is practically limitless. The toy pack holds, it seems, everything and anything that a lucky child might see in his dreams.

A century or so ago, the picture was very different. Even the Christmas tree itself was not as likely to be a part of the holiday scene. Around the middle of the nineteenth century, the Sunday school movement had begun to popularize the idea of family Christmas trees, but a tree at home was still not something a child would take for granted.

As for the toys, under the tree or not, the usual gift might be only one toy, and that one not a toy that modern children would recognize.



ENCHANTMENT AT CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN of the nineteenth century often came in the form of a Noah's Ark, then a highly prized special occasion gift. The set shown here contains more than 300 animals. Photo courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York City, N. Y.

This is not to say, however, that nineteenth century children were to be pitied.

In a single toy, the "Noah's Ark" then highly prized as a special occasion gift, nineteenth century children found entertainment in great variety.

Today the Noah's Ark has disappeared from the wonder world of toys, but in the days of its popularity, nearly every home with children also housed a Noah's Ark in some form, however modest.

Like modern toys, the Ark was available in many versions, from the simple to the complex. Basically, this toy consisted of the ark itself, in miniature of course, accompanied by gaily painted wooden figures representing Noah, his family, and animals in pairs.

The more elaborate the toy, the greater was the number of animals included. One nineteenth century Noah's Ark set, now part of the New York Historical Society's collection, includes more than 300 animals. Everything from little birds and domestic cats to elephants, camels, lions and tigers is represented.

STOCKING LEGEND

A fourth-century bishop of Turkey, Saint Nicholas, was the real-life predecessor of Santa Claus. According to legend, he dropped a bag of gold coins down a chimney into a stocking which a poor girl had hung by the fireplace to dry: hence our custom of hanging Christmas stockings.



We're wishing you joy and happiness during this beautiful season. May the true spirit of the Yuletide bring us peace and contentment, with thankfulness for our many blessings, as we celebrate with family and friends.

METCALFE SERVICE CENTRE LTD.

"SERVICE" IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

Farm Equipment Dealers

Metcalfe, Ontario

For Family's Christmas Fun

Little Prune People Bring Good Luck

From the South of Germany comes a centuries-old custom of making "Little Prune People" for Christmas decorating and eating.

Legend has it that the appearance of these "little people" in the home during the holiday season will bring good luck and good harvest during the coming year. They take on characterizations of people of all ages and occupations, including St. Nicholas himself.

If Dad has some heavy wire and some scraps of plywood in his workshop, and if fruits and nuts are on hand (as they usually are at Christmas), almost any family could make some "lucky little prune people" this Yuletide. For groups large or small, planned or impromptu parties, the creation of prune people could be an enjoyable Christmas Day pastime.

Most people will quickly come up with their own ideas for prune characters they would like to create. The characterizations are limited only by the imagination and the materials that can be used.

Traditional materials used to create "prune people" are: heavy picture wire, prunes, dried figs and raisins, unshelled nuts, quarter-inch plywood scraps or wood scraps from crates, pliers, hammer, small awl, foil, scraps of Christmas wrapping, glue and a little imagination.

To make prune people, follow these steps:

1. Cut a three-inch square wooden base. Make two holes one inch apart in center of base and cover with paper or foil.

2. Cut wire 30" long and put each end through holes in bottom of base. The base will now stand with wire perpendicular and ready to string on nuts or prunes.

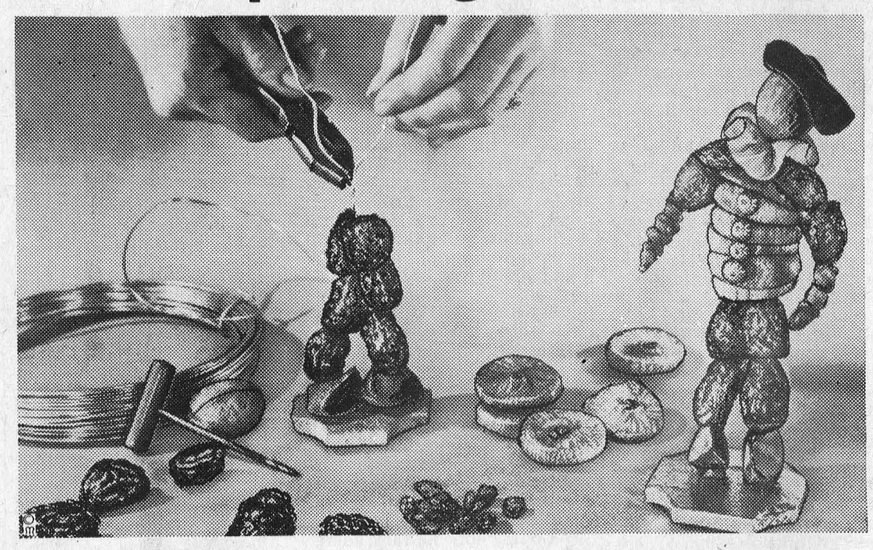
3. Punch hole through two Brazil nuts and string wire through holes to form feet and glue nuts to wooden base.

4. String two or three prunes on each wire for legs. Then twist two strands of wire around each other to form one strand so that body can be made from prunes or figs (five or six figs or two or three prunes).

5. Twist strands of wire again to hold torso in place at neck. Then separate wires and bend down arms. Make arms of prunes, adding raisins for cuffs or hands, snip off extra wire and bend into loop to hold fruit in place.

6. For the head, make small hole in end of walnut and insert short piece of wire in walnut — just far enough to hold head in place, using balance of wire to wrap around wire that forms body of figure.

7. With scraps of cloth, thumb tacks, small balls of foil or raisins and a little creative thought, dress the little prune figures.



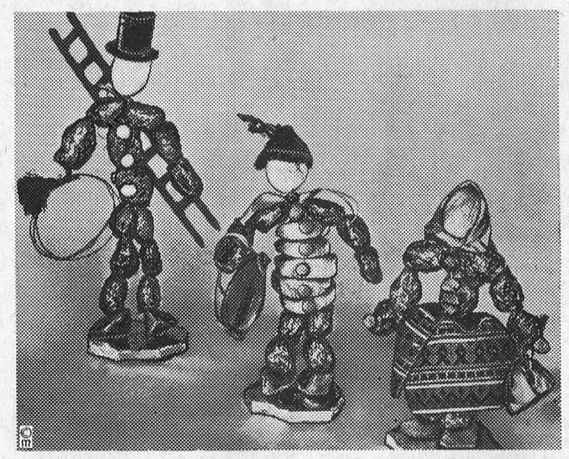
PRUNE PEOPLE BRING luck during the coming year, legend says. They are easy to make with ingredients most families have on hand at Christmas time — prunes, figs, Brazil nuts, together with plywood scraps, picture wire and scraps of such decorative materials as foil and gift wrapping paper.

* * *

SOME CHARACTERS that might be created from prunes and other ingredients are shown at right. The chimney sweep is prunes from neck to toe. His ladder and hat are made from shiny black construction paper. He and his companions, the Tyrolean prune couple, stand on a three-inch wooden base covered with foil. Each has Brazil nuts glued to the base for feet, and a walnut for a head.

CANDLES IN THE WINDOW

Candles in the window
Shining on the snow;
Stockings by the fireplace;
Faces all aglow;
Carols sung by children
At the open door—
These are joys of Christmas-time
We'll keep forevermore



Plant Wins Yule Favor

One plant particularly favored at Christmas in the United States and Canada is the poinsettia. The holiday colors of this green shrub with its star-shaped red clusters make it an appropriate symbol of the season.

If it had not been for the interest of an American diplomat, Dr. Joel Poinsett of Charleston, S. C., the poinsettia might never have attained popularity. Serving as the first U. S. minister to Mexico in 1828, Dr. Poinsett discovered this tropical plant.

Impressed with its beauty, he brought it back to the United States and introduced it into cultivation. Later, the plant was named the "poinsettia" in his honor.

Albert Ecke, a California farmer, developed and improved the plant, and first marketed it in 1906. Since then, it has become a favorite Yuletide decoration.



Mrs. Florence Helmer

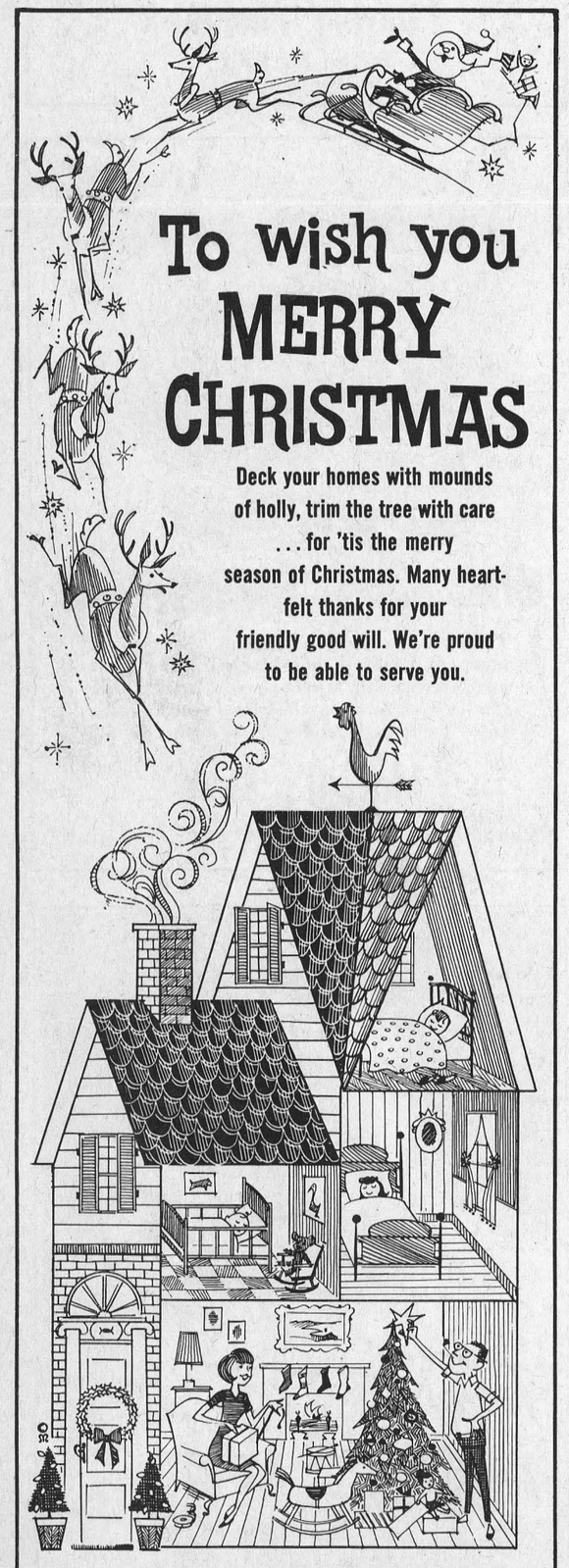
Phone 774-2045 Winchester



As jolly Santa wends his way, bringing wonderful gifts for you, we'd like to add our appreciation. Happy holidays.

Alexander's Lunch

Winchester



The Jo-Anne Shoppe

LADIES' WEAR

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A happy home — that is our wish for you and your family at this very special time of year. And for the real pleasure of serving you, our thanks!

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