

Gifts in pillowcases highlight Christmas season in England

David Hogg and Julian Goatcher, from England, recently paid our school a visit as a part of their world-wide tour. They arrived in a brightly painted Land Rover and they offered their views on subjects ranging from politics to girls to Christmas.

Christmas presents in a pillowcase at the foot of your bed, and stockings filled with goodies and sweets contribute to the excitement of an English Christmas.

Presents are distributed on Christmas day, the tree candles are lighted in the afternoon, and at 8 p.m. everyone sits down to the Queens Annual Christmas Day speech, which is broadcast on television stations all over the world. This is the only time of the year that she speaks directly to the people.

Christmas day is considered to be a family day—when everyone eats and

drinks too much. A typical dinner menu would include turkey, onion sauce, brussel sprouts, ham roast, potatoes, and chipolata sausages, and when everyone is visited.

Boxing Day, a holiday which falls the day after Christmas, and which is unique to England. This day, commonly called "Sporting Day" is devoted to visiting the in-laws, watching the horse races and television spectacles and going to plays—for this is the traditional day of British pantomime.

Leading pop stars, comedians, and show people take part in the performance of the fairytales—such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella, and Snowwhite, with the leading male part always being performed by a woman.

Other Christmas-time traditions include mistletoe, the exchange of cards, and attendance of the midnight service on Christmas Eve.



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Horns American symbol for international holiday

Confetti, champagne, horns, and Auld Lang Syne: American symbols of that holiday which comes, without fail, every January 1.

Around the world the occasion is celebrated differently, but always with the same goal: to insure a happy and prosperous year.

In France, New Year's festivities are symbolized by family reunions, presents, greeting cards, and children giving their parents small, handmade gifts. Errand boys are sent by their employers to give patrons gifts that represent their trade.

German people welcome the New Year by living January 1 the way they would like to live the next 12 months. Everyone wears at least one new garment. No one spends any money, but coins in pockets are shaken for good luck. Presents are rarely given, except money to people who have served the family throughout the year.

CHRIST'S STATE by Jim Clausnitzer

Christ was born at home
'Cause they say home is
Where the heart is
Christ was wrapped in fabulous
cloth
'Cause is that's all you got
They're just wonderful
Christ was born loved
'Cause his parents came from
Love
Christ was rich, richer than all
'Cause He had love, a home and
Fabulous cloth.

At midnight on December 31, the Japanese toll a bell 108 times, dispelling all evil spirits. This tradition is in keeping with the Buddhist idea that man has 108 cares. All debts are paid, and houses are immaculately cleaned. A traditional food is a rice cake made from a hard, cake-like dough of pounded rice, and considered a happy omen. At the front entrance of the home, a pine decoration is proudly displayed. Carolers make the rounds dressed in costumes, and carrying hand drums. The Japanese festivities last until January 14.

By contrast to the joyful welcome of the New Year by many countries, people of Latvia attend morning and afternoon services in churches. The day is spent quietly, calling among official friends and relatives.

IN MY HOUSE by Mari Goodman

In my house
there is not a
Christmas tree.
In my house
there is not
mistletoe and holly.
In my house
there is not a
Christian.
There are, instead,
nine candles
glowing warmly.
There are
gifts wrapped in
white and blue.
There are
people who call
themselves Jews.
In my house.

Ensembles present Christmas songs

The "silver sound" of Christmas music heard during the past month is due to the glorious sounds of our choirs and choral ensembles. As a climax to a hectic Christmas season for the choral department was the Christmas program, and for a finale will be the performance of the Royal Blues and the Envoys at Providence Hospital December 26. They will carol in the corridors of the hospital, bringing pleasure to the patients.

"We were so good they invited us back," confided Janet Howland, choir director. All the schools are called, but Grant received a special invitation.

"Performing in front of people makes us more at ease when we perform at school," stated Jan Geschwin, member of Royal Blues. "It gives us a chance to blend our voices better and to work together better."

After a performance at the American Legion by the Octet, "More! More!" was cried by the Legionnaires. "Singing with the Octet has given me the knowledge of what it's like to sing with a great group," said Paul Tinker thoughtfully. Reggie Morris commented, "It's been an honor to sing with the Octet and working with Mrs. Howland." Perhaps the reason for the Octet's recent popularity is the addition of a new member, sophomore Robin Towne.

"It's a good opportunity to get us accustomed to singing in front of people," replied Choralettes member Debbie Fifield when asked how she felt about singing in front of groups.

In preparation for their busy season, members of the choral department have been attending early morning rehearsals starting at 7:45 each morning.

The feelings of everyone associated with Mrs. Howland, who has done a terrific job, can be summed up by Dave Powell, senior choir piano player, who states, "Mrs. Howland is a wonderful person and deserves a lot of credit."

Festival of Lights honored by Jews

It's not a Jewish Christmas! Beginning the 25th day of Kislev, the third month of the Jewish calendar, millions of Jews throughout the world will be celebrating the "Festival of Lights" known as Chanukah.

Chanukah commemorates the renewed services in the Temple at Jerusalem after it had been destroyed by Antiochus IV, and restored under the leadership of Judas Maccabaeus.

According to the Talmud, only one small container of oil was found in the ruins of the Temple to kindle the eternal light which eternally burns in all temples, even today. Miraculously, this small bit of oil which appeared to be just enough for one day lit the eternal light for eight days.

Jewish people of today commemorate this event by lighting the candles for the eight days of Chanukah. They begin with one and kindle one more successively for eight nights until an eight-branched candelabrum, called a menorah, is filled.

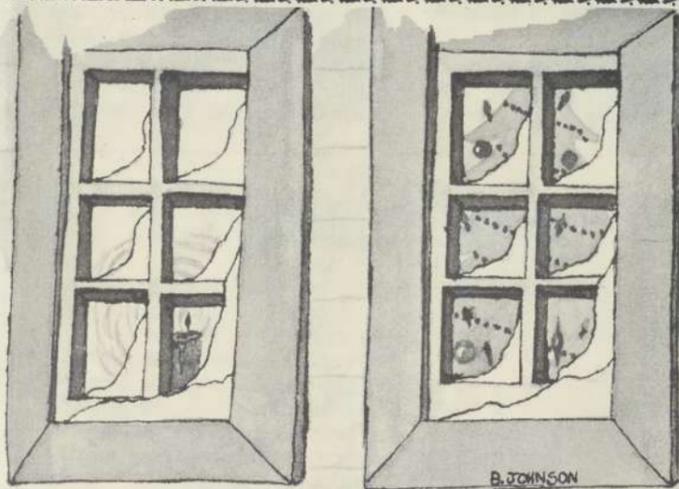
This year, the "Festival of Lights" began December 16, and will end on December 24.

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SEASONS GREETINGS



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