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Governor's Christmas Message

Christmas is the time of year when we, as Christians, celebrate the birth of the Founder of our faith. It is the day when we renew our dedication to His message of peace and goodwill toward all men which has guided mankind for the last 2,000 years. We celebrate Christmas, as did our forefathers, because of the deep spiritual meaning it holds for us, because the teachings of Christ are fundamental to our lives, and because we want the youngest of our generation to grow up knowing the significance of this tradition and the story of the coming of the immortal Prince of Peace.

But, in many American homes anxious thoughts will be with faraway loved ones who are suffering hardships and misery, risking their lives to preserve for us and for all mankind the fruits of His teachings and the foundation of civilization.

For these men and all America, I welcome Christmas and the New Year because of the promise the season holds for a better, more tranquil world.



With Christmas only days away now, I thought readers might be interested in the origin of some of our Holiday customs, both at home and around the world.

Christmas in the U. S. reflects a heritage of customs from many lands and times. Trees, candles, bells, carols and other well-loved traditions came, like the people of the U. S., from other countries. In many communities, people still celebrate Christmas as their ancestors did.

The U. S. has made its contributions to Christmas customs around the world, too. Santa Claus, bearded and red-suited, was first personified in "The Night Before Christmas," by Dr. Clement Moore. Street decorations, Santas in stores, and special store displays of gifts are U. S. ideas that have been adopted on a global scale.

Following are other customs and events that played their part in Christmas celebrations.

Swedish Yuletide ceremonies begin officially on December 13, St. Lucy's Day. According to legend, St. Lucy went about carrying food and drink to the needy. The Swedes give the legend reality by choosing one of the girls in the family to represent St. Lucy. St. Lucy rises early and wakens each member of the family, serves them coffee and bakes buns.

In Norway preparations for Christmas traditionally start six months before December 24. The Christmas celebration itself lasts three weeks. The period, according to Book of Knowledge researchers, is known as the Julafred, or the Peace of Christmas.

In Switzerland, Christmas Day, or Weihnachten, is the traditional opening day of the winter sports season. A colorful sight on Christmas is the fires which are burned on the peaks of the Alps. Like flaming stars, they hang in the dark heavens during Holy Night.

In Italy the Presepio, or crib, is as characteristic of Christmas as the tree in other countries. To the Presepio, people bring gifts of nuts and apples, which they place in the hands of life-sized figures.

Australians go in for outdoor picnics at Christmas time since it's summertime "down under" then.

In Mexico and other Latin American countries, the breaking of the pinata is a traditional Christmas custom. Earthen jars are filled with toys and sweets, covered with colored paper-mache figures and hung in an open space. Blindfolded children take turns at trying to break the pinata with a stick. When it is smashed, there's a merry scramble for its contents.

The French traditionally exchange gifts on New Year's Day, but the burning of the Yule log at Christmas is an honored custom in many parts of the country. After carols are sung, wine is poured on the log by the youngest child.

The people of Ireland originated the tradition of burning a candle in the window at Christmas time. Legend said that the Christ Child might be wander-

Drinking Drivers Warned By State

More and more we're beginning to realize how often alcohol is involved in traffic accidents. With these words, Dr. Edward Press, State Health Officer and member of the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission, sounded a warning for the holidays ahead.

"New studies show that drinking is involved in as many as half the fatal traffic accidents," the safety official emphasized. "The estimates involve no special time of year; so during the season of parties and celebrations, the implications are even more frightening."

The Commissions forewarning was clear: if the holidays are to be kept from being disastrous for many people and many cars in Oregon, care and common sense adjustments will have to replace the usual holiday carelessness.

"Alcohol dulls our senses and deadens restraints that usually govern our behavior," Dr. Press continued. "In short, liquor influences us to take chances and do things we normally wouldn't do."

Take such a carefree attitude with you behind the wheel of your car and mix it with holiday pressures, last minute rushes and adverse weather, and the stage is set for a personal disaster.

"Be sensible," he urged. "Don't abuse traditional holiday conviviality. Know your own limitations when it comes to drinking. Horrible traffic crashes are only one of the tragic consequences that are possible."

"I can't be any more explicit than that; and I can't argue with the research findings of alcohol's adverse effects upon driving behavior. In the final analysis, what our holiday traffic record turns out to be this year will depend upon how well you adjust your actions to the cold, hard facts of reality. The answer's up to you," Dr. Press declared.

Sturgeon Migration Is Studied

By LANS LENEVE

A green sturgeon tagged by the Oregon Game Commission and released back into the Columbia River last fall was recaptured recently by a commercial fisherman near the mouth of the Fraser River in British Columbia. The 46-inch fish made the 370-mile trip in one year and six days from the time it was tagged in the lower river across from Astoria until it was recaptured at Stevenson, British Columbia, in late August. The sturgeon had gained an even two pounds in the one-year interim from its first official weight of 17 pounds.

The extensive study of the history and migration of Columbia River sturgeon is now some historians trace back to Martin Luther, the Reformation leader. Encyclopedia Americana researchers say.

After a walk one Christmas Eve under a brilliant starlight sky, Luther returned home and tried to reproduce the scene for his family by lighting candles on the Christmas tree.

Christmas can come to an end in a blaze of glory—and a safe one, too. Custom sets a date for the disposal of the tree by burning. It's January 6, the Twelfth Night of Christmas, or Epiphany—traditionally the night when the Three Wise Men, or Magi, made their visit to the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

The modern world, reviving the Twelfth Night custom of bonfires for disposing of the tree and other greenery, combines the safety factor with community spirit and fun.

Twelfth Night celebrations are planned in many communities in public parks for neighborhood groups. It's a great night for the kids and their parents.

Children bring the trees to the park, or the town collects them. On Twelfth Night everyone gathers around the bonfire or trees and greenery to sing carols.



in its fourth year. During this period more than 730 sturgeon, mostly whites, have been captured and tagged between Bonneville and Astoria. So far, 40 tags have been returned. The B. C. migration is the longest journey so far recorded and the first recovery in waters other than the Columbia.

A FAMILY AFFAIR
When 15-year-old Martha Webster of Brookline, Mass., hooked and landed a 410-pound blue shark eight miles east of Rockport's Salvages on Aug. 17, she tied the existing all-tackle record and 80-pound test mark on the species.

Martha's father holds the other half of the tie with a 410-pounder boated in the same area in 1960. The pint-sized fisherman she pulls the scales to 105 pounds and measures 5-3—also grabbed the women's all-tackle and 80-pound test marks.

The deposed champ? Martha's sister, Cassandra, who came up with a 334-pounder in 1964.

CORN IS CORN
Most all species of wildlife, whether bird or mammal, are lovers of corn.

Even meat eaters will nibble on corn and to ducks and geese, it cannot be surpassed as being a real feast. Not only the corn itself by the "juice" distilled from the product, and when bottled, is a favored drink among men.

Before the days of mechanized farming, ducks and geese stayed in the marshes and fed on the seeds and roots of aquatic plants. That's because there was nothing left in the harvested corn crops of yore. For when the early settlers hand-husked corn, they husked ALL the corn. There was none left for the birds. But the mechanical picker changed the picture later on in years. It's a lot cheaper than hand picking but will shatter up to 20% of the total crop.

Many farmers glean this harvest loss with pigs and cattle. But waterfowl, as well as pheasants, quail and others birds, still find plenty to make an easy living. But, of course, ducks being ducks, they naturally prefer to feed in the water when afforded the opportunity to do so.

In order to complete this

"corny" article, may we bring into the picture something of a nature relative to corn that may prove of interest to some of you readers. Here you are: To a Scottish person or an Irishman, don't say "corn" to either one of them should you be traveling in their respective countries. For in both Scotland and Ireland, "corn" is "oats." Should you be talking to an Englishman, you'd better call it "maize." Because to the English, "corn" is "wheat." And furthermore, they don't shock it, they "stook" it. With

THIS young lady threw modesty to the winds in her desire to get away from the jolly man in the red suit during the Christmas party Monday.

these exceptions, "corn" is "corn" most every place, and most every place all species of wildlife love it.

FREE BOOKLET
"Shooting For The Future" is the name of a new booklet just recently published by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc., and contains in-

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW MEDICAL OFFICE OPENS in Bandon

Dr. H.R. Nicholas, Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon

... wishes to announce the opening of his office for general practice ... in the new Kronenberg Building across from the Coquille Valley Dairy Co-op in Bandon on Friday, December 22.

TELEPHONE 347-2311 for appointment

formation concerning the many fine things that the sportsmen themselves have done for conservation. It is a reminder to the public in general of what the hunter himself has done for wildlife. Too often the hunter does not realize many of the valuable contributions his license and his tax money make to conservation. For a free copy, write: National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc., 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Conn. 06870.