

Strange Facts

Jap Women Writers
Pagan Mistletoe
Russ Air Trains

Japan is believed to be the only country in which all the best writers are women. In fact, Japanese literature, for more than a thousand years, has possessed few, if any, works of outstanding merit that have been written by men.

Up to a century or two ago, mistletoe was excluded from the floral decorations of churches at Christmas because it was considered to be an unholy plant, having been tainted with paganism before the time of Jesus through its use and worship by the ancient Druids.

Using "air trains" consisting of airplanes towing seven gliders each, the Russian army has demonstrated that it can drop, by parachute, as many as 2,500 infantrymen at one time.—Collier's.



Small Difference
How small the difference between thoughtlessness and cruelty.



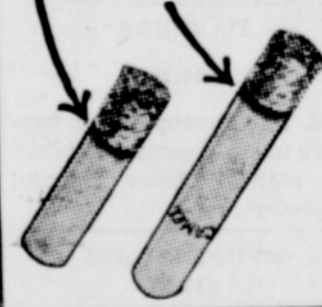
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EXTRA SMOKES
PER PACK!

'Merry Christmas, Mary Christmas,' Says Santa Claus

What's in a name? Plenty, if it happens to be Mary Christmas, or Santa Claus, and that's actually happened.

Both Evansville, Ind., and Racine, Wis., have their Mary Christmas, and at Marshall, Mo., there's a jolly fellow whose last name is Claus, and whose parents christened him Santa.

Evansville's Mary Christmas comes from an old family which has had a Mary in each generation. Racine's Mary Christmas got that way by marrying a fellow named Samuel Christmas, and she's now a telephone operator. Which explains that strangely personal and timely message long distance operators hear out of Racine around Christmas time: "This is long distance, operator—Mary Christmas!"

Racine's Mary Christmas, who is short, chubby and looks just like the artist's conception of Mrs. Santa Claus, gets hundreds of fan mail letters every year. Three years ago she appeared on a Yuletide radio program and has been so deluged with fan mail ever since that she's founded a "shut-in" club which has members in 40 states, Canada, Hawaii, India, China and New Zealand.

Marshall's Santa Claus is similarly Christmas-minded. Each Yuletide he tries to answer the fan letters which come from all corners of the globe, many in such strange foreign languages that he can't reply. He's much in demand for church parties and other Christmas affairs. Santa is a plumber on weekdays, a vegetable gardener on the side and a preacher in the Church of God at Blue Lick, Mo., every Sunday. Two years ago, when plumbing business was bad, he was grateful for a \$250 check sent him by Mae West, the actress.

In Rosindale, near Boston, lives an Ambrose Claus who with his wife last year celebrated his golden wedding anniversary. Like all other folks named Claus, they seem to have a lion's share of Christmas spirit.

DON'TS Safety Is Watchword For a Merry Christmas

Here are a few "don'ts" for Christmas, recommended by safety authorities:

1. Don't give small children toys involving alcohol, kerosene or gasoline engines. They may tip over and set the house on fire.
2. Don't permit small children to run electrical toys without the supervision of an adult.
3. Don't permit small children to use toy movie projectors without using safety film which burns slowly. Ordinary film burns explosively and gives off smoke and fumes which may cause death if inhaled.
4. Don't use candles or light extra fires without being extremely careful, especially in regard to candles on trees.
5. Don't wear inflammable costumes, especially Santa Claus beards, without fireproofing them.
6. Don't use inflammable ornaments and evergreen decorations.

Superstitious Villagers Fear Year of Bad Luck If Candles Die on Tree

LONDON.—Early Christmas traditions still endure among English Yule celebrants.

No Christmas tree is considered complete in rural areas unless it is bedecked with little candles of different colors. Many people count it an ill sign if once lit the candles go out or are snuffed out before they have burned to their ends. In old days the candle was made such a size that it would burn from the time it was lit until midnight. If it went out before that, evil was portended to the family for the coming year.

The Yule log, which many hold should be lit by a brandy preserved from the previous year's stock, should be blown into a blaze by the maids, but these must have clean faces and hands or the log will not light easily. In the north of England it was once customary to let the servants have free drink so long as the log burned.

Ex-Detroit Paper Boys Aid 65,000 at Christmas

DETROIT.—Twenty-five years ago the late James Brady conceived the idea of raising funds to insure needy children a merry Christmas by organizing a group of men who as boys had sold newspapers in the city. The idea was for them to return to their old corners at a stated period and sell papers to all who passed. Last year this organization of oldtimers raised about \$150,000.

How Other Lands Mark Christmas

A melting pot of the world, America has created its Christmas traditions from countless customs brought across the seas from foreign lands. In these far-away places the Yuletide symbols of bygone ages still endure. Here are a few of them:

ENGLAND:

Christmas to rural Englishmen means not only the observance of Christ's birth, but also a parting of the ways between the old year and the new. Preparations are started for the next year's farm work, which begins right after Christmas. Throughout the island such trappings as the holly and mistletoe remain undying traditions, nor is any Christmas complete without the Yule log burning. On clear frosty nights the carol singers raise their voices over the countryside. To many Englishmen's despair, such American customs as the turkey dinner are gaining a foothold.

GERMANY:

Two years ago storm troopers in Berlin lit bonfires in the public squares as a revival of the pagan custom of celebrating the winter solstice. But this distraction will not stop the Christmas-loving Germans from decorating their trees in every town and village, and joining in the famed Christmas hymn, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht."

ITALY:

Most Italian families celebrate Christmas eve and spend the following day quietly in their homes. Here it is a feast more for grown-ups than for children, whose merry-making day comes 12 days later, on January 6. On Christmas eve fami-



IN ITALY—Children of the Italian Alps at Christmas Time, praying before a wayside shrine.

lies gather around the "ceppo" or Christmas log blazes. At nine p. m. begins the "cenone," or big supper, at which no meat may be served. Gifts for children, which come on Epiphany, are brought not by Santa Claus but by an ugly witch whose name is "Befana."

FRANCE:

Exchange of gifts comes not on Christmas but mostly on New Year's day, which in France is the big family day for reunions of cousins, aunts and uncles. Santa Claus is "Pere Noel," who leaves his gifts in wooden shoes. Christmas eve is not spent at home but in revelry and feasting.

BELGIUM:

Neither Santa Claus nor Pere Noel visit children here—but St. Nicholas makes the rounds, surprisingly, on December 6! A quaint Belgian custom is the putting up the chimney of a few carrots for the little donkey on which St. Nicholas makes his visits.

RUSSIA:

This anti-Christian nation forbids celebration of the Yuletide but no longer compels foreign residents to import their own Christmas trees. Making an about-face, the Soviet government uses this emblem of childhood for its New Year's celebrations when Dadja Moroz, or Uncle Frost, appears with gifts for good children.

POLAND:

This Christmas celebration lasts until February 2 and is preceded by fasting which is not broken until the first star appears on Christmas eve. In all homes the tablecloth is placed over a layer of fragrant hay in commemoration of the manger.

HUNGARY:

St. Nicholas leaves boxes of candy for children early in December, after which the youngsters must be on their good behavior. They write letters to the angels, who, they believe, bring the presents. If they find bits of tinsel on the floor, they claim this is angel's hair and proof that the angels are everywhere, observing which boys and girls are good.

HOLY LAND:

Where it all began nearly 20 centuries ago, worshippers reverently hail each Christmas at the church of Nativity which is built over Christ's traditional birthplace. It has remained unchanged more than 1,500 years. There pilgrims gather from all over the world to intone "Glory to the New-Born King."



FOR THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY
(See Recipes Below)

Household News By Eleanor Howe

Foreign Parties Are Fun

For your New Year's eve party, why not plan one that is foreign in flavor? Whether you like to sway to the rhythm of the rumba, or prefer a swing, you'll find a rumba party with a menu of Cuban delicacies, full of charm for your guests.

There are all sorts of amusing, inexpensive favors to give an authentic note to your rumba party decorations—little pottery figures and tiny dolls dressed in Cuban costumes; and for noisemakers, a pair of maracas, those gourd-like rattles filled with seeds that rumba orchestras shake to emphasize the beat of the music, and tiny wooden castanets that the dancers manipulate with their hands as an accompaniment to their steps.

Refreshments, too, can be distinctly Cuban. A dish that has gained fame among visitors to Cuba is rice with chicken—"Arroz con pollo." With rolled sandwiches and plenty of coffee, you have a delicious, satisfying supper.

The Cuban idea of coffee is small cups and plenty of them, filled with strong, black coffee. If you like, use decaffeinated coffee, so that your guests can drink many cups in the Cuban manner, without fear of sleepless hours later. Remember that decaffeinated coffee needs a little extra brewing to bring out the rich flavor.



After-Dinner Coffee or Demi-Tasse. (Extra Strength)

Use 1½ heaping tablespoons coffee, regular grind, for each cup (½ pint) of water. Make by any method desired. If using decaffeinated coffee, drip grind, measure well-rounded tablespoon instead of heaping tablespoon.

Arroz Con Pollo.

Cut a chicken into small pieces and wipe dry. Melt ¼ cup butter or other fat in a sautépan and fry the chicken and a cup of diced sliced ham, uncooked, until golden brown. Add a cup of canned tomatoes or tomato paste, half a dozen small olives, a teaspoon of chopped parsley and salt to taste. Then add ½ cup of rice. Brown the rice lightly, stirring constantly. Then add 1 cup of boiling water and cook slowly, in a casserole in the oven, keeping tightly covered, until chicken is tender and rice is done.

Vegetable Salad Bowl.

1 head lettuce (cut in wedges)
Raw spinach leaves (coarsely chopped)
1 cucumber (peeled and sliced)
1 green pepper (cut in rings)
1 bunch radishes (sliced)
Onion (cut in very thin slices)
Prepare vegetables and dry thoroughly in clean towel. Chill. Place all the vegetables in a salad bowl and toss together with well-seasoned french dressing. Serve at once.

Garlic Bread.

Slice French, Italian, or white bread in thick slices, but not through, the bottom crust. Crush one clove of garlic. Add to ¼ cup of butter and heat over a low flame for about 5 minutes. Strain out the garlic. Brush slices and top of the bread with the garlic butter. Heat in a moderately hot oven (375 degrees) for about 15 minutes. Serve at once.

Rolled Sandwiches.

Cut fresh bread in thin, even slices. Trim off crusts. Spread with soft butter or with any desired filling. Roll and fasten with toothpicks. Place sandwiches in a deep pan, and cover with a cloth wrung out of hot water (this must not touch the sandwiches). Let stand for 15 minutes. Just before serving, tuck a sprig of watercress into one end of each sandwich, for garnish, and remove the toothpicks.

An Italian "Help-Yourself" party is a grand idea for informal entertaining—especially when you plan to have a crowd. Cover tables with brown wrapping paper in place of linen, or use coarse cotton tablecloths in red and white checks.

In the center of each table place a basket or a wooden bowl of fruit, to be served, later, as dessert.

Menu
Italian Spaghetti
Vegetable Salad Bowl
Garlic Bread
Fresh Fruit
Coffee

Italian Spaghetti. (Serves 8)

- 1 can imported Italian tomatoes (large)
- 1 can tomato paste
- ¾ cup water
- ¼ teaspoon soda
- Salt and cayenne pepper to taste
- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 clove garlic (grated)
- ½ large onions (sliced)
- ½ cup parsley (chopped)
- ½ pounds ground meat (beef, pork and veal)
- 1 package spaghetti (approximately 8 ounces.)
- 1 cup grated Italian cheese (bulk preferable)

Strain tomatoes, add tomato paste, water, soda, salt and pepper. Place olive oil in frying pan and add garlic, onions and parsley. Fry in the oil until lightly brown. Add meat and continue to fry until it is cooked through. Combine the above two mixtures and simmer about two hours. Stir frequently.

Meanwhile, cook spaghetti until tender in large quantity boiling water (salted). Serve tomato sauce over spaghetti and top with grated cheese. Serve very hot.

Coming, Next Week!

All this talk about entertaining this way and that, and not a word so far about planning parties for the younger members of the family! Something must be done about that right away—and next week Eleanor Howe will do it—with an entire column devoted to young people's parties.

You'll find lots of recipes for holiday entertaining in the specially prepared leaflet "Holiday Recipes," by Eleanor Howe. You'll find old favorites, and brand new recipes, too, for Christmas cakes and cookies, plum puddings, and confections. To receive your copy of this leaflet, send 10 cents in coin to "Holiday Recipes," care of Eleanor Howe, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Frequent Cleaning Is Protection for Woodwork

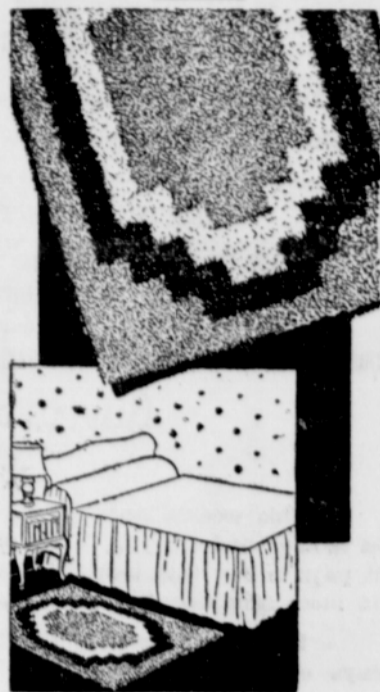
Interior woodwork finish will last longer and look better if subjected to frequent and thorough cleaning. It may be kept clean by periodic removal of surface dust and by preventing the formation of grease film. Woodwork should be washed or cleaned when dusting is inadequate. For cleaning varnished or painted surfaces, solvents that will attack the covering must be avoided as well as abrasive preparations.

A good quality of soap will usually do a satisfactory job. When the paint is flecked, marred, or discolored, it is necessary to resurface the woodwork.

Refrigerator Tips

Perishable food always should be placed in the refrigerator as soon as possible. Raw fruits and vegetables are best washed first under running water and the outside of milk bottles wiped with a damp cloth. Left-overs should be cooled, if necessary, and placed in spotless, tightly-covered containers to keep odors from escaping and uncomplimentary flavors from mixing. Foods with strong odors, such as cheese, if put into the refrigerator, should be kept on a top shelf.

Rich Rug to Crochet In Exclusive Design



Pattern 2051.

You can have this thick-piled rug suitable for various rooms and show it as your handiwork. It's crocheted in squares which makes it excellent pick-up work. Pattern 2051 contains directions and charts for making rug; illustration of it and of stitches; materials required.

Send 15 cents in coins for this pattern to The Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Please write your name, address and pattern number plainly.

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Culture's Effect
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WATCH the Specials

You can depend on the special sales the merchants of our town announce in the columns of this paper. They mean money saving to our readers. It always pays to patronize the merchants who advertise. They are not afraid of their merchandise or their prices.