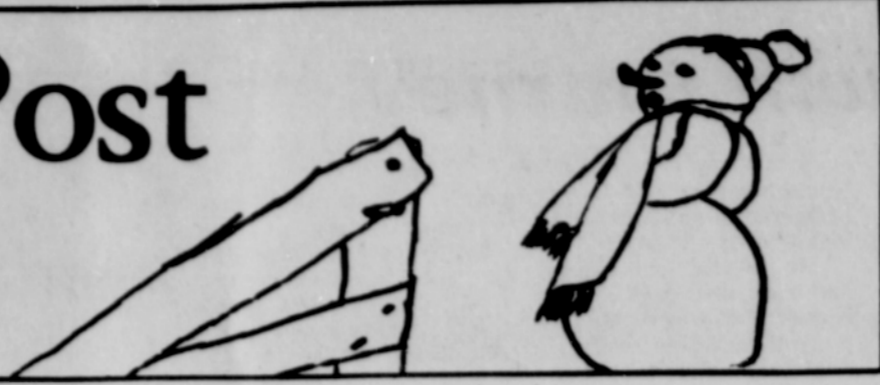


Pioneer Post

Sandy Union High School,

District No. 2



Norwegian lass anticipates United States Christmas

by Orinda Anderson and Pam Ague
A Norwegian girl, Marit Skille, is experiencing her first American Christmas this year. The cheerful Scandinavian is a sophomore at Sandy High.

Marit, from the northern part of Norway, is visiting relatives in Redland. She isn't sure what to expect of an American Christmas but she is excited about it.

In Norway, children imagine Santa in his jolly red suit being pulled by his flying reindeer. Rudolph is not included in their tradition. Santa comes down the chimney and places presents under the decorated tree but no stockings are hung by the fire place.

On Christmas Eve, the gifts are handed out by the youngest child and the bubble of suspense is popped.

Oriental guest tells of holiday traditions

by Julie Gould
What is Christmas like in Japan? Do the Japanese believe in Santa Claus? These are some of the questions that were asked of the Japanese guest staying with Ellie Hermanson, journalism teacher at Sandy High.

Her name is Hisae Matoi, and she lives in Tokyo. Coming over here was a really exciting experience for her, and the American celebration of Christmas is just as exciting.

Most Japanese people do not believe in the celebration of Christmas because only six percent of the 112 million people are Christians. Instead they celebrate New Years starting December 25, the New Year festivities being just as important as Christmas is to us.

Before New Year's Eve, the people try to clear up all their debts and clean everything up, such as their houses and any old business, to start the New Year right.

They exchange gifts and money between relatives and dress up in their best traditional kimonos to visit friends and relatives and to watch the parades of dragons

Christmas celebration lasts about a week, starting on St. Thomas's Day, December 21. The housewives bake cakes especially for St. Thomas on Christmas Eve. The family spends the week visiting their relatives. A custom is "shooting in Christmas," which goes back to the ancient belief that witches appear on Christmas night. When young people go visiting, they creep up to the house and shoot a gun to frighten any witches.

A traditional meal consists of boiled fish. "The boiled fish tastes terrible, looks ugly and stinks!" Marit admits.

The baking and eating of cookies is a favorite traditional treat of all Norwegians. A Norwegian Christmas pudding contains an almond. The people say

and Japanese dancers. They have elaborate meals with lots of food, but they don't decorate their houses as we do.

"The Christmas lights and trees are very beautiful," Miss Matoi observed.

When children get off for two weeks vacation from school, they enjoy skiing in the snowy areas of Japan. Although Tokyo rarely gets snow, the island of Hokkaido and northern Honshu get plenty. People load up in trains and go there from all over to ski the sparkling hills of Nikko and Sapporo.

Ice skating is also very popular in Japan, and there are ice rinks for skating all year around.

Children in Japan particularly love the snow as children in America do. They have snowball fights, build snowmen and slide on the ice.

Miss Matoi really likes Oregon and she is enjoying her stay in this area. She has been visiting here for three months and attending school every day with Mrs. Hermanson. She plans to stay three months more.

that the person who gets it in his portion will be the next to be married.

The older generation enjoys telling their experiences with Santa Claus to the young. They keep the young wide-eyed with belief that Santa is only waist high and runs joyfully through the fields in his bright red suit. While running through the fields, he stops to eat food left out for him.

Marit is living with her cousin, Ruth Hodges, in Redland. She will be here until next summer.

Italian relates holiday custom

by Connie Swinford
"Christmas in Italy isn't much different than Christmas here," Walter Lazzarini, AFS student, believes.

Unlike many European countries, Italy doesn't have any set traditions, according to the amiable young man. They got shopping and exchange presents between family and friends.

The greatest tradition is connected with the Christmas day meal. They serve a special cake from Verona, Italy, which is very light and sweet. They also have a big dinner with champagne.

In Italy, school vacation lasts from Dec. 23 to Jan. 4, but Jan. 5 is very important to Italian children because La Befana, a kind of aged fairy queen, comes down the chimney with gifts for the children on the eve of Epiphany, Jan. 6. Children listen eagerly for the bell she is supposed to ring.

During Christmas vacation from Sandy High, "Walter plans to visit an AFS family on the coast and attend an AFS meeting Dec. 29. He would also like to go skiing, if he has the time.

For Christmas, Walter is getting himself a stereo, but he doesn't believe that Christmas is a good time to go shopping for yourself. He also is getting some new clothes, the kind that they don't sell in Italy. He would like to go to Hawaii, but has planned it for later on in the spring.

Busy baker creates

by Scott McLellan and Mark Cissna

Instead of having a green thumb, Jo Hlavka, senior, has sticky fingers! She makes cakes as a hobby in her spare time.

About four years ago, Jo sent away for a cake making kit that cost 35 cents, advertised on the back of a C and H sugar package. Since then she has taken a class at a church in Sandy and a year of classes in Portland.

The cheerful young lady has made around 200 cakes all together. For decorating her cakes, she has a set of different-sized tubes, around 40 colors for tinting frostings and about 50 various sized cake pans. The bedroom she shares with the family freezer is tightly packed with all this equipment.

Jo sells her cakes at \$6 for a regular cake with wedding cake prices up from that. Most of the time wedding cakes are vanilla, but the customer can have any flavor he wants.

When she makes a sheet cake, she usually makes it from scratch, but when she makes layer cakes, she uses packaged mixes because they are less crumbly. Jo also makes her own frosting because she thinks packaged frosting tastes funny.

"You can't make enough money to do it for a living," Jo said about her hobby. In the summer she can make many cakes, but during the school year, she has a lot of homework and not a lot of spare time.

Her worst experience happened when she was making an anniversary cake at her summer home near Tye Valley. The temperature was so hot that the cake fell apart and the frosting melted. There was cake all over the place, she said.

Decorating the sides with string work is the hardest, because if one cracks, they all crack like a chain reaction. Jo thinks that boys are

better at making and decorating cakes than girls because they have more patience.

Jo says that cakes purchased at stores are a rip-off for the consumer. Most of the decorations, such as string work, are pre-made.

Although Jo does not like cake much anymore because she has gotten tired of it, her father still eats it.



JO HLAVKA puts finishing touches on Christmas cake.

Symbols' origins traced

by Dawn Teplick

Three bags of gold may be what started the Santa Claus tradition.

During the third century A.D., Saint Nicholas was born at Patarece, Lycia in Asia Minor. When he was old enough, he was made bishop of Myra. During this time, he was credited with many miracles. He worked wonders converting nonbelievers to Christ.

The story that is believed to have the Santa Claus tradition in this. A young girl wanted to be married but didn't have the money for a dowry. So for three nights in a row, Saint Nicholas threw a bag of gold into her bedroom window.

On December 6 he died and that used to be a special holiday for European people, called feast day. Gradually because of his connection with children and because feast day was so close to Christmas, the tradition was passed on to Christmas, and Saint Nicholas took on the new role of Santa Claus.

by Zina Seal

The star is used everywhere in the world today as a Christmas symbol. It represents the star in the East that the wise men followed to Bethlehem.

There's a passage in the Bible in Matthew 2:1,2 that says, "Behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"

Jews: for we have seen his star in the East, and are come to worship him."

by Karen Woods

"Silent Night," "The First Noel," "Deck the Halls," and "Jingle Bells." Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without it's own special music.

Christmas music first started as hymns sung in Latin by priests in the fifth century A.D.

Carols came later, in the 1400's. People in the Middle Ages began to act out parts of the nativity, and their songs played an important part in the telling of the story.

The work "carol" means a traditional song of a joyful nature, usually associated with a religious or seasonal festival.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful," or "Adeste Fideles" is one of the oldest and most traditional Christmas carols. It was originally in Latin and was translated by Frederick Oakley. The author of the original version is unknown.

Another especially traditional carol, "Silent Night," was written on Christmas Eve, 1818, by Joseph Mohr, a parish priest in Okerdorf, Austria. Franz Gruber composed the music on that same night, and the complete song was sung at the Midnight Mass.

by Rita Carpenter

The tradition of burning a yule log came from the Norse and Anglo-Saxons who burned a huge oak log once a year to honor Thor, the god of thunder. After the Norse became Christians, they made a yule log an important part of their Christmas ceremonies.

The Christmas word that the Scandinavians adopted is yule, meaning Christmas. In Lithuania, the word for Christmas actually means log evening. It became important in England to keep

an unburned part of the log to light the next year's yule log.

by Marc Daniel

Christmas lights at Christmas represent Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. People all over the world use lights in different ways to celebrate Christmas.

Martin Luther was perhaps the first man to use lights on a Christmas tree. People in Ireland put a candle in their window to light the way for the Christ Child on Christmas Eve.

In the Netherlands, young men in colorful costumes carry a star, or actually a lantern containing many candles, as they walk through the streets singing Christmas carols.

In the U.S., many churches hold candlelight services on Christmas Eve.

by Neville Loftis
Mistletoe is a plant that grows as a parasite on the trunks and branches of various trees around the world.

It grows most often on apple trees, but may grow on other trees such as lime, hawthorne, sycamore, poplar, locust, fir, and occasionally oak.

Mistletoe is an evergreen with thickly clustered leaves, and it has tiny yellow flowers that bloom in February and March.

Hundreds of years ago, Europeans used mistletoe as a ceremonial plant. Many think the customs of mistletoe at Christmas came from this practice.

Many years ago in Scandinavia mistletoe was considered the plant of peace. If enemies met under it, they declared a truce for the day. This could be the origin of the popular custom of kissing whoever stands under a sprig of mistletoe.

Historians say the Druids, or ancient priests of the Celts, cut mistletoe and gave it to people for charms.

New teachers fill recent vacancies

by Bob Johns

New teacher, Pat Amberg replaces Margaret Trachsel who went to Scio as principal.

Miss Amberg, who taught in Iowa, Kansas and Oregon in the past, now teaches speech, freshman English, American literature and Bible literature here in Sandy.

She teaches only two-thirds of a day because she wants to have some free time to work on her doctoral thesis. The thesis is on the welfare of children in the U.S. during the Hoover administration.

Miss Amberg got her education at Iowa University and Kansas State University where she majored in history.

Miss Amberg comes to Sandy with 12 years of teaching experience. Her hobbies are photography, swimming, and investments. She says she likes living in Oregon because of the good variety of scenery.

by Nanette Fleischman

Britt Tucker was added to the mathematics department to fill in for Chris Hanson who recently quit.

Tucker is presently teaching math and computer programing. He has been

teaching for five years. He taught eighth grade math and English in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also taught at an all-girls school, instructing in 12 different classes but mostly history.

Tucker was teaching at San Diego until Measure 13 passed in California which put him out of a job. One of his friends in San Diego knew Principal William MacFarlane and had heard Mr. MacFarlane talking about needing another teacher; so Tucker applied for the job and got it.

He earned his bachelor's at Calwestern University in San Diego and his master's at the University of Cincinnati. Altogether he has attended college for six years. He is presently thinking about going back to college and getting his doctorate.

The last four months before coming to Sandy, Tucker worked on an avocado ranch that he and his brother own.

The tall, dark-haired young man has traveled around the world a great deal, and he attended college in England for awhile. He likes to golf, backpack and play frisbee, basketball, racketball and many other sports.

