



The Lion: Cecil Hatchett, 3rd grade student at Boise Elementary School, represented The Lion of "The Wizard of Oz" in Boise's Book Week pageant.

Mistletoe more than "kissing" plant

To most people, mistletoe means an excuse to steal a kiss at Christmas time. But that's just one of many traditions that have been associated with this curious, parasitic plant, according to the current issue of National Wildlife magazine.

"For centuries, people all over the world have considered mistletoe to be a charm against disease, witchcraft, and infertility," says the bi-monthly publication of the National Wildlife Federation. Mistletoe superstitions probably came about because of the unusual and rather eerie way in which the plant grows.

Mistletoe flourishes in clumps on the trunks and branches of various hardwood trees, where it robs its host tree of water and nutrients. Often, the host tree is so weakened that it dies. But since mistletoe can produce its own food when necessary, the parasite remains green and moist.

Because they were unable to ex-

plain how mistletoe grew, ancient civilizations believed the plant had supernatural powers, says National Wildlife. Peasants in both England and Japan believed that barren women would be able to conceive after eating mistletoe. The Walos of Africa attached mistletoe leaves to their bodies, confident that they would then be protected from injury. The Swedes carved sword handles from mistletoe branches to ward off witches, while other Europeans wore mistletoe corsages to guarantee a successful hunt.

Mistletoe is not a very tasty plant. In fact, although there are more than a thousand varieties throughout the world, only one animal — the tiny Australian mistletoe bird — relies solely on mistletoe for food. But medical history reveals that despite its taste, mistletoe was often fed to ailing patients by physicians who thought it had curative powers.

French physicians used mistletoe

as an antidote for poisons. And one 17th century British physician observed that the plant is "good for the grief of itch, sores, toothache, and the biting of mad dogs and venomous beasts."

Even as late as the mid-1700's, National Wildlife reports, many European medical authorities thought mistletoe would cure epilepsy. Since mistletoe attaches itself so firmly to a tree that it cannot be blown down, they reasoned, an epileptic could not fall down if he consumed the plant regularly.

As it was thought that mistletoe possessed magical powers, it's not surprising that the plant was long forbidden in Christian churches. It was thought to be tainted with heathenism. But the Druids — the woodsy priests of the ancient Celts — considered mistletoe to be a warm refuge for the woodland spirits during the cold weather. They gathered and hung the plant

Calendar features Bits and Pieces Black women

by Ruth Spencer

Are you tired of the same type of calendar?

Bored with hearing about only Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth? The "Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds," is filled with exciting facts about many Black women who have "made-it" against the odds.

The Black Women Calendar has the calendar dates for 1978-1980.

Each page of the calendar depicts Black women of the past and contemporary Black women. For example: Jane Cook Wright was born on November 30, 1919, she is a specialist of internal medicine and Director of Harlem Hospital's Cancer Research Foundation. Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Billie Holiday, and Mary Bethune are also included.

"Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds" Calendar 1978-1980 can be ordered at A Women's Place Bookstore, 1300 S.W. Washington, Portland, OR. 97205 or by phoning 226-0848.

throughout their dwellings. This primeval practice may be the origin of the western tradition of decorating homes with greenery at Christmas time.

Centuries ago, on the sixth day of a new moon, a white-robed priest armed with a golden sickle could be seen harvesting mistletoe. The Druids believed the plant was too sacred to be collected by just anyone. Traditions change, of course, and today anyone willing to venture out into the woods can gather mistletoe with a pair of pruning shears.

But some traditions change very little. A kiss under the mistletoe dates all the way back to Norse mythology, which dedicated mistletoe to the Goddess of Love.

TAAC seeks board members

The annual election for The Albina Action Center will take place on Saturday, January 13, 1979. The election will fill eighteen vacancies on the Board of Directors. Board members serve from one to three years and are elected to serve as Low-Income Representatives of the poor or as Community-At-Large Representatives. All elected Board members must live in the TAAC target area. Community-At-Large representatives may come from any socio-economic level, they may be representatives of any social agency, organization or association. Agencies may petition via way of application and have their name placed on the ballot.

Applications to serve on the board may be picked up at the Albina Action Center, 707 N.E. Knott from 8:30-5:30 Monday thru Friday. Applications will be available starting Monday, December 11, 1978. The application must be turned in by Friday, January 5, 1979 before 5:30 p.m.

TAAC receives funds from governmental agencies designed to help America's poor. The Board of Directors participate in making the decisions that determine the kinds of service offered in the Albina target area.



Rustin Honored By Jewish Group: Bayard Rustin, veteran civil rights leader and president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, was presented with the Stephen Wise Award of the American Jewish Congress at a dinner in New York recently for "illustrious leadership in the cause of racial justice, world peace and human understanding." He is shown here with (from left to right) U.S. Secretary of

Commerce Juanita M. Kreps, another Stephen Wise Laureate, Felix Rohatyn, outgoing chairman of New York's Municipal Assistance Corporation, and Howard M. Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress. At the dinner, Mr. Rustin spoke movingly of the plight of the "boat people," and called on Blacks and Jews to assist them.

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