

Christmas Customs, Foods Largely Survival of Saints' Day Celebration

By Maxine Buren
Statesman Woman's Editor

A mention of Christmas leads naturally to eating, and the season's foods bring us to special feast days in the lands of our remote origin. Usually religious in beginning these festivities in Europe were in observance of Saints' days which usually terminated in feasting on delicacies prepared especially for the occasion.

While much of the original sentiment has worn off, and the cooking has changed through modernization or merging of ideas from several nationalities, much of the original significance remains.

BEGINS TODAY

December 24 is actually the beginning of the year's cycle of religious festivity, but through the centuries December 8, the birthday of St. Nicholas patron saint of schoolboys and sailors has begun the observance.

Especially in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany and Switzerland did children wait eagerly for a visit from St. Nicholas and his companion the Devil. Spicy ginger cookies were made for the occasion, and the children enjoyed the treats immensely.

Precious white flour was substituted for dark flours for bread to be served during the Christmas season in some countries. Rich food and feasting were part of the celebration of Christmas eve and Christmas day. The Scandinavians served fluffy white lute-fisk, the Germans carp, goose and roast pork were the traditional meats in many countries.

Basically, fruited spiced breads were alike in most of the European countries. The Scandinavian favored cardemon, the Slavic woman flavored her's with poppy seed; in The Netherlands, dried fruits were added to the dough; spices and raisins or currants went into the English woman's bread and almonds were the German favorite.

RICH AND SWEET

The bread was a sweet yeast dough made rich with butter and eggs, but the flavor made it popular and designated the country of origin. Feasting and celebration continued through January 6, Epiphany, which commemorated the visit of the three Magi to the Christ child.

On St. Nicholas eve, December 5, he appears with his companion known as Knecht Ruprecht, Krampus or Swarte Piet, who carried witches with which to chastise bad children. The fear of the evil companion was overshadowed by the sweets which the good saint distributed. In Belgium it was spicy ginger cookies, called Specalau or Specaloes, often in the figure of St. Nicholas. In France and Hungary it was bon bons; in Germany sweets, oranges and apples and in Switzerland cookies, prunes and apples. Dutch children received crisp ginger cakes and sweets and ate roast goose at dinner.

NEXT SAINT'S DAY

December 13 is St. Lucia's day which officially opened the Swedish yule. Cat-shaped saffron buns called Luccia cats had raisin eyes.

Foods to be served on Christmas eve and Christmas day were varied in the countries of the world. Albanians served chicken soup with lemon and egg. Belgians ate cookies baked in the shape of angels and called engels koek. Bulgarians had kraval, a large round cake; Danish, German, Austrian and British families dined on roast goose, red cabbage, and there were different variations of cakes, cookies and pies. In England, boar's head was also served.

Italians ate eels in wine and panettone, a currant loaf; Poles ate beet soup, spiced fish and poppy seed cake. The Smorgasbord and lutefisk, boiled potatoes, potato sausage, lingon berries and ham were favorites of the Swedes, while their neighbors, the Norwegians ate roast pork ribs, boiled potatoes and sauerkraut along with certain cakes. Most of the Scandinavians like a rice pudding also on the menu.

OLDEST DRIVER

SHEET HARBOR, N.S. — (AP) — Nova Scotia's oldest licensed automobile driver is 99-year-old Henry Hall of this eastern shore town.

Active and alert despite his years, he has had only one accident in 36 years of driving—he knocked the hub cap off another car while passing on a narrow road 35 years ago.

Designing Woman



CAKE TIN CHRISTMAS PICTURES

Still short an idea for the Christmas bazaar? Here's a Santa picture that's bound to catch everyone's eye and it's easy to make. Shiny square cake tins make fine shadow box frames. Pictures of Santa are everywhere to be cut out, and of course the picture subjects can also be his reindeer, snow scenes, a bedecked Christmas tree, anything seasonal and bright. Some cards from last year will be large enough because the shelf ruffling that outlines the pictures fills in the frame. Shelf ruffling might be red or green chintz made gayer by an edging of tinsel. Sew the tinsel to the shelf edging and use strong clear cement to affix both the picture and the ruffling to the tin. While you're shopping at the pot and pan counter, look for smaller pans and molds for picture frames. Pairs of little pictures can be as big sellers as larger ones. Omit the shelf ruffling and use only the tinsel.

(Copyright by John F. Dille Co.)

Dance Committee Named

Mill City — The third annual GAA Christmas formal dance will be held December 22 in the Mill City High School auditorium. Committees for the formal dance will include: refreshment, Patricia Brown, Patricia Cree, Alona Daly, Hazel Neal, JoAnn Kunkles, and JoAnne Leach; down 'airs decoration, Hazel Caudle, Marlene Walker, Marjorie Umphress, Lynn Waite, Beryl Mason, and Dorothy Downer; music, Jerry Hamblin, Willa Loucks, Gay Peltier, and Patricia Davidson; Christmas tree, Carol Jane Blazek, Sharon Gallagher, Barbara Smith, Vera Loucks, Donna Cooke, and Arlene Kuhlman; program, Betty Lou Cree, Joan Johnson, Donna Nelson, and Elnora Albright; dishes, Darlene Woodard, Maxine Scott, Nola De-Vall; upstairs decoration, Patricia McGinnis, Beverly Timm, Joyce Westgaard, Ardith Jones, Dolores Poole, JoAnn Joffman, Wanda Sue Moore, Patricia Nibler, Donna Bengston, and Elaine Clark. Barbara Barton, GAA vice president, will act as general chairman.

Buying for Your Home

New Swedish Furniture Soon to Hit The U. S. Market, Very Light Weight

By Sue Gardner

Light weight functional furniture from Sweden is about to hit the market.

One of the trickiest items among the imports is a folding tea cart. The top tray is 17 by 30 inches and stands 25 inches high. A second shelf folds up with the legs under the top tray to a width of three inches for easy storing. The cart is mounted on heavy casters for easy rolling.

Although the whole cart is light, it is not a knockdown construction but completely assembled for the homemaker. It comes in birch, beech, walnut or mahogany finish.

Molded plywood frames combined with jute woven backs and seats appear in a group of all weather furniture. Designed for porch or terrace, many of the pieces also fit into indoor groups where occasional chairs, rockers or a chaise lounge is needed.

There are two sizes of rockers in the group, one for the man of the house and the other for his wife. The seats of the rockers can be adjusted to just the right height.

There are also straight chairs

for use as occasional seats and the chaise lounge is in two parts, an arm chair and an ottoman. You can use the parts of the chaise separately for extra seats.

In testing the terrace furniture for weather resistance, one piece was left for days in water without any damage to the natural jute or the frames.

The jute and plywood designs are by E. H. Astron of Umea, Sweden, and will be offered here in a moderate price range, a comfortable, yet sturdy group of modern furniture.

(Copyright 1961, General Features Corp.)

Wiesendanger Heads Committee On Conservation

Albert Wiesendanger, executive secretary of the Keep Oregon Green association, is chairman of a new committee to correlate the conservation programs of western states' Keep Green groups.

His appointment came at the recent conference on western forestry in Portland.

The Keep Green associations at the meeting also approved a new set of special awards to be made next year to loggers with top records in improving fire protection.

A. G. Rempel, Retired Polk Farmer, Dies

DALLAS—Abraham G. Rempel, 74, Dallas area resident since 1897 and prominent retired Polk county farmer, died Wednesday at his home after an illness of three years.

He was for many years active in farmers union cooperative work. He was one of the principal founders of Dallas cooperative warehouse, for several years its manager and a member of the board of directors.

Rempel retired from farming in 1934 and resided at the time of his death at 209 E. Salem rd. in Dallas.

He was born Feb. 26, 1877, at Mountain Lake, Minn. He moved with his parents to California until he was 20 years old, when he came to Dallas.

He was married Oct. 19, 1902, in Dallas to Katherine B. Friesen, who survives. He was a member of Grace Mennonite church at Dallas.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 9, at Grace Mennonite church with the Rev. J. M. Franz officiating. Direction will be by Bollman funeral home, Dallas. Burial will be at Salt Creek cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Katherine Rempel, Dallas; sons, Bernhard M. Rempel of Di-

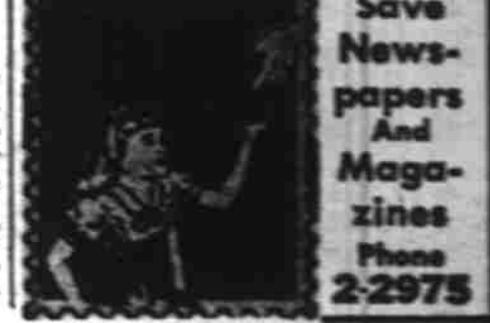
nuba, Calif., Gay V. Rempel, Dallas, and Earl F. Rempel, Salem; daughters, Mrs. Katharine A. Taves, Salem, Ruth R. Neufeld, Rickreall, and Helen S. Schmidt, Caldwell, Idaho; 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, five brothers and two sisters.

CABINET DRESS BEST
LONDON—(INS)—The magazine Tailor and Cutter, considers Winston Churchill's cabinet the best-dressed for years. The trade magazine said that on the whole the cabinet produced a "good average fashionable figure."

RETURN FROM KOREA

SEATTLE, Dec. 5 —(AP)—Thirty men from Oregon are among 2,914 army rotation troops from the Far East due at Seattle December 7 on a military sea transportation vessel.

The troop list includes: PFC Norval E. Bennett, 505 Tyon st., Albany; M/Sgt. Aaron A. Steele, box 35, Woodburn.



Save News-papers And Magazines Phone 2-2975



GIFTS OF DISTINCTION

Imported DRAKE 100

British Socks

Knit in the popular 6x3 rib of soft, shrink-resistant British wool with nylon reinforced heel and toe. Available in nineties colors . . . and so inexpensive, too \$1.25 pr.

HOME OF SOCIETY BRAND CLOTHES

HEWITT'S MEN'S WEAR SENATOR HOTEL

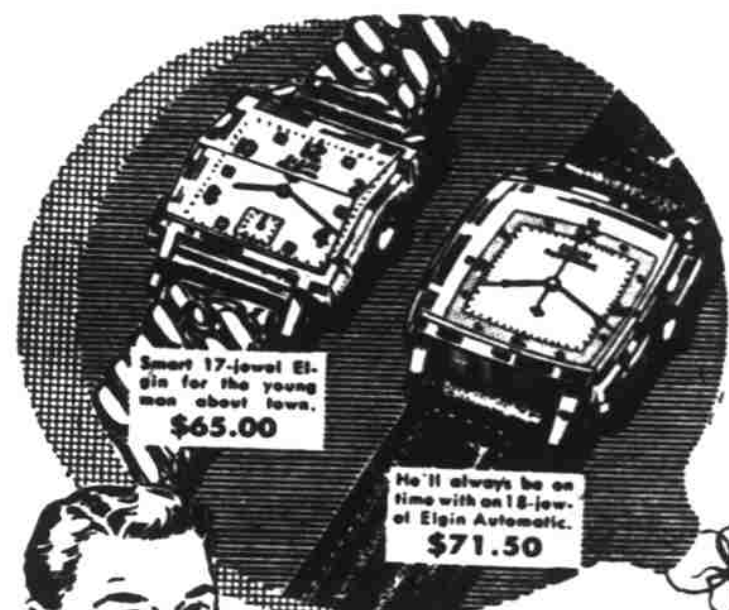
SANTA'S STAR PERFORMERS! — at Brown's

heart-catchers

— every one of them!

Gifts that shout "MERRY CHRISTMAS" to all your loved ones!

Yes, heart-catchers, every one of them! For an Elgin watch has the heart that never breaks—the watch with the exclusive DuraPower Main-spring. What finer way to say "Merry Christmas . . . I Love You" . . . on Christmas Day . . . and for years thereafter! Of all the watches in the world, only Elgin is timed to the stars in Elgin's own observatory.



Smart 17-jewel Elgin for the young man. \$65.00

He'll always be on time with an 18-jewel Elgin. \$71.50



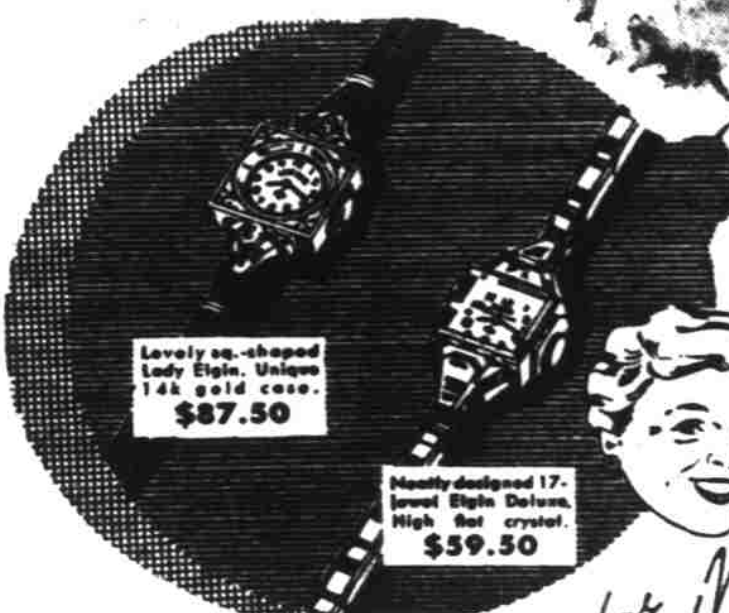
Elegant 19-jewel Lady Elgin. Come out with two diamonds. \$100

A dainty Lady Elgin for a dainty lady. High carved crystal. \$71.50



The distinctive Lord Elgin with that never-fades look. \$71.50

Dad will adore this smart 17-jewel Elgin. \$57.50



Lovely egg-shaped Lady Elgin. Valued at \$67.50

Beautifully designed 17-jewel Elgin. High set crystal. \$59.50

PEN & PENCIL SETS From 5.00



Every new Elgin, and only Elgin, has the DuraPower Main-spring that is guaranteed to never break.



8-DIAMOND DUET 95.00

Others to 950.00



17-jewel Elgin, with elegant design. Her love at \$67.50

A watch to delight a girl's heart. \$42.50



A 17-jewel Elgin with handsome masculine styling. \$45.00

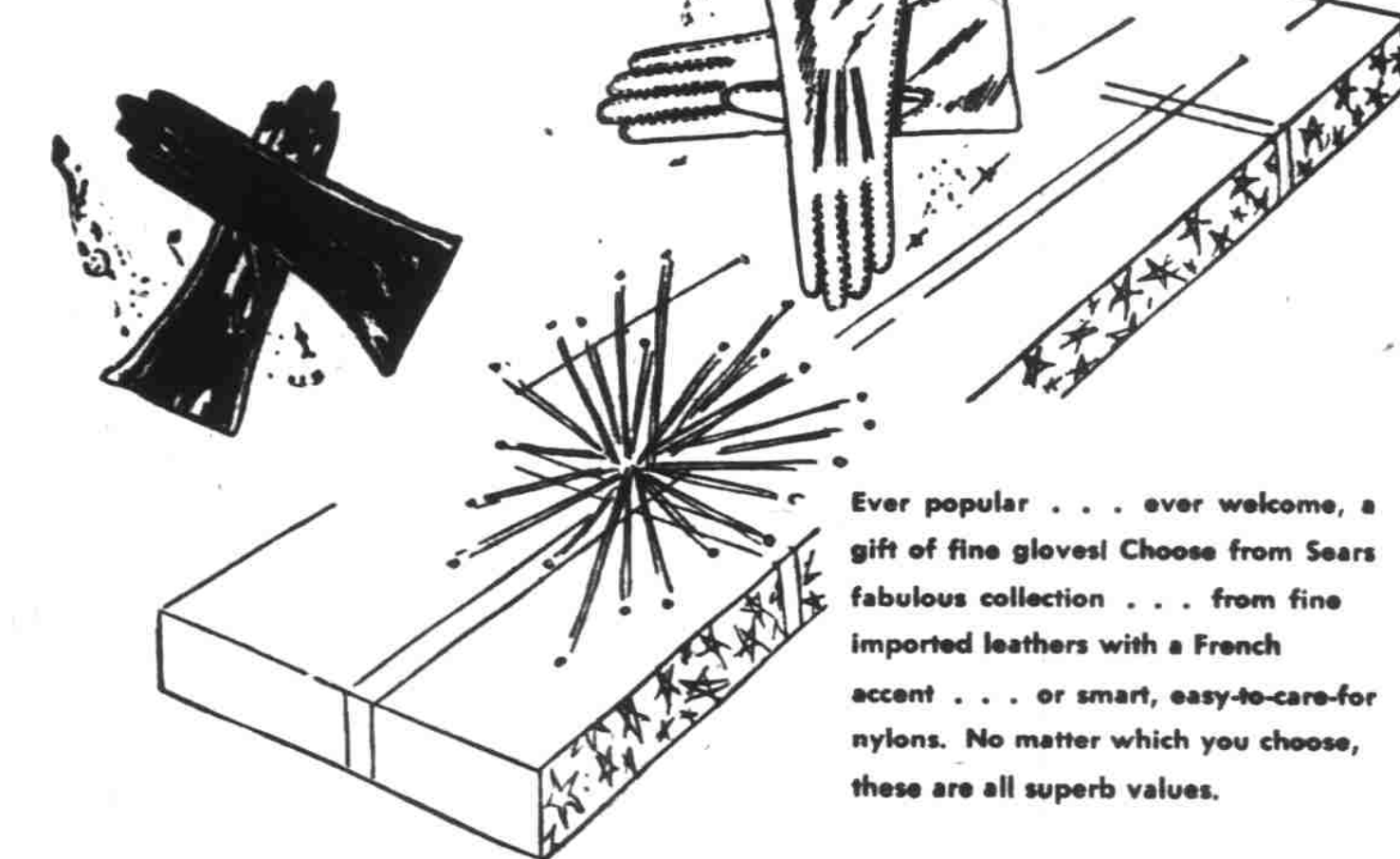
Smart Elgin for the young man. Fine for the smart set. \$33.75



low budget gifts, with the upper bracket look!

classic glove favorites

1.98 . . . 3.50



Ever popular . . . ever welcome, a gift of fine gloves! Choose from Sears fabulous collection . . . from fine imported leathers with a French accent . . . or smart, easy-to-care-for nylons. No matter which you choose, these are all superb values.

- French Imports! 3.50**
Exquisite collection of French imported leather gloves in quality kids. Cherished gifts! In popular colors, sizes.
- Woven Nylon 1.98**
Handsome quality gloves, with stitched fingers. Classic favorites . . . always welcome gifts. Popular colors and sizes.
- Fine Leathers 2.98**
Beautiful assortment of fine imported gift gloves in kids, capekins. Contrasting turn-back cuffs. In wanted colors, sizes.

Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back! SEARS Phone 3-9191 In the Capitol Shopping Center

Shop Mon. & Fri. 'Til 9 P.M.

EASIEST OF CREDIT TERMS

BUY A WATCH FROM A JEWELER—IT PAYS



Salem's Leading Credit Jewelers Price Includes Federal Tax