

# Lighted Christmas Tree Began in Luther's Day

By MARGARET MAGEE

Why do we have Christmas trees? And how long have we had the decorated tree in connection with Christmas?

According to historians the lighted Christmas tree goes back to the time of Martin Luther (1483-1546) and the first record of a trimmed Christmas tree in the United States was in the period of the American revolution, when Hessian soldiers, recently from Germany, had them.

The story that has been passed down about the first Christmas tree is that Martin Luther one Christmas Eve was strolling through the countryside under a brilliant star-lit sky, thinking of the Christ Child.

Observing the evergreen trees sprinkled with snow and sparkling in the moonlight and the bright beauty of the heavens, Luther on returning home tried to reproduce the outdoor scene, placing lighted candles on a small evergreen tree to simulate the reflection of the star-lit heaven—the heaven that looked down on Bethlehem the first Christmas Eve.

The use of candles, however, apparently did not at once become firmly established in decorating the tree, for the mention of the Christmas tree custom in Strasburg, a century later, does not refer to lights.

Indications are that the Christmas tree custom was confined to the Rhine river district until about the 18th century, after which the Christmas tree rapidly became a tradition in Germany.

When the Hessian soldiers crossed the Atlantic during the American Revolution, they apparently brought the Christmas tree tradition with them for the description of Christmas festivities at Fort Dearborn, Ill., in 1804, mentions a Christmas tree.

A bulletin of the U. S. department of agriculture lists Finland as accepting the Christmas tree custom about 1800, Denmark, 1810, Sweden, 1820, and Norway about 1830. From the Scandinavian countries the custom spread to France and England about 1840 and in 1890 records show 35,000 Christmas trees sold in Paris.

**ARROW STOPS MACHINE**  
Keene, N.H. (AP) — This city's biggest power shovel was put out of action when a steel-tipped arrow pierced the big machine's radiator.

## ACCESSORIES FOR THE HOME



Authentic Teles! From the magnificent collection of quality Teles lamps created by HERBERT KASHINS comes this style that spells distinction in gift giving. These smart lamps are wonderful accessories to any home, and are excitingly decorated-by-hand in designs to blend with almost every decor.

## TV ACTRESS TO WED

Santa Monica, Calif. (AP) — New York television actress Christine Cooper, 28, and Fred L. Williams, makeup department head of the National Broadcasting Co.'s Hollywood studio, plan to be married New Year's Day.

## LOOK WHAT SANTA BROUGHT ME!



# Cutting Christmas Trees Helpful to Forest Growth

According to the American Forest Products Industries, it's just not so that the annual harvest of young evergreen trees (for the use as Christmas trees) is a wasteful practice.

This organization explains further that nearly half of the 21-million evergreens that make up the American Christmas tree harvest are farm-produced.

Nearly nine-tenths of the entire Christmas tree crop is cut on privately-owned timberland. In addition, about five million evergreens are imported annually — most of them from Canada.

## Make Yule a Furry Flurry for the Lady

You'll captivate the heart of any gal on your Christmas gift list—if you make "hers"—furs! And, this Christmas, you don't have to be a millionaire to give gifts of fur! You'll find exciting lineups in every shop that bespeak the "flurry flurry" of fashion.

See the exciting little collars, and cuffs—circlet muffs and large barrel types, too, exciting belts that team up with matching collars, or handbags—little fur earrings—and "tails" and bracelets—all of furs!

Mink of all types...ermine and white mink...little "lamb of persian"...leopard and ocelot—these are the little furs that spell the excitement of the holiday season.

In any case, most of the American crop of Christmas trees are thinned from natural growth forests. An original stand of from five to ten thousand trees will actually mature only a few hundred saw-log size trees.

Most of the trees cut at Christmas eventually would have been eliminated in the life-and-death struggle for forest space.

Americans have definite preference in Christmas trees, with the best seller being the balsam fir, a product of the Northeast. Six and one-half million of these are sold each year. Second most popular is the Douglas fir, with black spruce, red cedar and white spruce, following in that order, as American's favorites.

# Hints on How To Trim Tree

When it comes to trimming the Christmas tree—you, like many others, probably have some very definite ideas of your own. If you haven't, the following suggestions may prove welcome as well as practical.

The trend seems to be, as always, towards as large a Christmas tree as the room will permit. The old-fashioned, floor-to-ceiling tree is still the standby in many homes, and, where space is available, a big tree is always most cheerful and "Christmas-y."

You may be one of those fortunate who remembers the tree trimmed with garlands of popcorn, or lots of cranberries, or both. Maybe you still find a tree "bare" without a manger or ice skating scene beneath it to simply amplify your feeling of Christmas.

To some extent, the type and size of tree used depends on the section of the country. People in the northeast and east favor the big, long-needed balsam, while the south and west prefer the Southern and the Douglas fir.

Many families like happily-lighted trees, decorated with multi-colored glass ornaments of all sizes, shapes and colors topped with a gaily large gold or silver star.

## Why Not a Puppy as Your Christmas Gift?

When buying a puppy for gift giving remember that, barring sickness or accident, your dog will live 10 or 12 years, perhaps longer. Be sure to select a type or breed compatible with the receiver's environment and personal temperament.

Buy from a reputable breeder or kennel. Get a pedigreed dog—if possible. It costs money to raise a healthy pup, so be prepared to pay a fair price.

Puppies make cute gifts, so be sure that your gift looks "Christmas-y"—tie a red or other colored ribbon around his neck with a bell or two. To add a real Christmas touch, try sprinkling artificial snow in its coat!

## Here Are Some Yule Party Ice Breakers

Here are several "ice-breakers" for holiday parties:

**Balloon - blowing contest:** Each couple is given a balloon and various items such as cotton, candy mints, marshmallows, to stick onto it—and convert the balloons into comic characters.

**For New Year's Eve, revise charades to fit into the holiday mood.** Write a few resolutions on strips of paper and have guests draw a strip each. Each guest has to act out the resolution while the others try to guess what it is.

## Calif. Has Officially Designated Yule Tree

While Washington, D. C. can boast of cherry trees, California goes the nation's capitol one better; for California is the home of the Official Christmas Tree of the U. S.

Not quite living room size, this tree towers 267 feet in General Grant National Park, 64 miles due east of Fresno, Calif. It was designated America's Official Christmas Tree on December 25, 1925.

**To Keep Poinsettias**  
When a Poinsettia plant ceases to bloom, place it in a dry, dark place away from frost. Let the soil dry. Next May, cut stems back two thirds, repot in new soil and handle like any potted plant. Softwood cutting, rooted will bloom by next Christmas.

## Christmas Decorating Originated in Germany

The daily decorated and lighted Christmas tree which brightens two out of every three American homes during the Yule season originated in Germany centuries ago, but was unknown in the United States until early in the 19th century.

Legend tells us that Christmas trees had their origin when early Christian missionaries cut down the oak tree, worshipped by the Druids, and made a decorated fir tree a symbol of laughter and love for God and for one's fellowmen.

## Protect Floors, Rugs From Resin Drippings

Unfortunately Christmas trees will drip a sticky resin—so, protect your rug under the tree. Cut a circle of green and red crepe paper, cover it with fire-proofed cotton batting and frost with sparkling artificial snow flakes.

If resin from your tree does drip onto your polished floor, it may be cleaned with a soft cloth wrung out of hot suds. Rinse with clear water.

If resin marks your rug, work suds into the spot with a sponge or brush; rinse thoroughly.

# PENNEY'S Shop ahead

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The glamour of the Orient in elegant acetate satin with frog closing and pagoda appliques—a picture-pretty gift! Egg-shell with red, black with gold color, red with navy... 12-18.

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Soft, luxurious, warm—gay, bright, colorful! With deep cuffs and exciting scroll design overlay trim. Here's the robe value of the season! Put it on your gift list, now... melon, peacock, carmen, equa... 12-20.

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**WARM MOCCASIN SLIPPER LINED WITH SHEARLING**

**3.49**



Her toes will stay toasty in this gifty slipper! Mock suede upper has natural shearling lamb collar and sock lining, napped fabric vamp; hard sole gives added comfort, wear, Royal, red. Sizes 4 to 9.

DOWNSTAIRS STORE



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