

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Music and Song Always Associated With the Yuletide.

Original Sacred Character of Carols Was Almost Lost Sight of in Thirteenth Century.

MUSIC and song have always been associated with Christmas.

In Roman Catholic countries, as early as the Third century, it became the custom to usher in the Christmas festivities with musical masses.

The practice of singing carols or canticles was supposed to recall the "In Excelsis Gloria" of the angels and the song of the shepherds on the first Christmas night.

A very old carol, published in 1521, gives an amusing description of church revelries:

A wooden child in clouts on the altar sat,
About the which both boys and girls do
dance and timely jet,
And carols sing in praise of Christ.

The priests do roar aloud!
And round about the parents stand
To see the sport, and with their voice
Do help them, and with hand.

At first, carols were generally religious in character, and were written with Latin and English words in alternate lines, or with a Latin refrain. The well-known carol

When Christ was born of Mary free
In Bethlehem, that fair city,
Angels sang with mirth and glee
In Excelsis Gloria,
and another with a chorus,
Christus natus hodie
The babe, the son,
The holy one
Of Mary.

are good examples of this class.

When the tendency to ribaldry became marked, some of the carols got to be very peculiar in subject and language. Joseph is treated with a great want of respect, for one carol runs:

Joseph was an old man,
An old man was he,
When he wedded Mary,
The Maid of Galilee.

Another relates the story of the shepherds watching their flocks by night:

A shepherd upon a hill he sat,
He had on him hys tabard and hatt,
Hys tarbox, hys pipe and hys flaggatt;
Hys name was called Joly-Joly Watt.

Having been informed of the birth of Christ, the shepherd sets off for Bethlehem, and on arriving, says:

Jhesu! I off Thee my pype,
My skyrte, my tarbox and my scrype,
Home to my fellows now will I skrype,
And, loke unto my shepe.

In the Thirteenth century the sacred character of these Christmas songs was almost entirely lost sight of. The Puritan parliament abolished Christmas and carols altogether, but feasting and revelry returned with the Restoration.

Carol singing, which had fallen into disuse, was revived by a collection of carols published by D. Gilbert, in 1822, but carolling, which was formerly ushered in by the chiming of church bells, and the sallying forth of choirs which chanted their way round villages until their throats were hoarse and their noses red from cold and friendly Christmas potatoes, is now almost a thing of the past.—Tit Bits.

CUSTOMS AND THEIR ORIGINS

merous Yuletide Ideas Are Relics Pagan Observance, Especially Those of Druidism.

MANY Christmas customs are relics of pagan observances, especially those of Druidism, the religious system of the ancient Gauls and Britons. Groves of oaks were their chosen retreat, and today the acorn is found as a Christmas symbol on some Christmas greetings, although it is not used as much as formerly.

Druidism considered mistletoe most sacred, and when growing on an oak tree, parasite as it is, it was cut with a golden knife by a priest clad in a white robe and two white bulls were sacrificed on the spot.

The Yule log in England is a relic of Druidism. Its name is considered a corruption of "wheel log," a wheel in Druidical symbolism typifying the march of the sun. The lighting of the Yule log harks back to the sacred fires kindled by the Druids at mid-winter in the round towers which yet remain in many parts of Great Britain, Ireland, France and Spain. The use of the Christmas tree has descended from the German Druids. The dressing of the tree with candles and presents was a feature of their mid-winter festival.

Ivy is not used for Christmas decorations, as it was once sacred to Bacchus and constituted almost the sole leafy adornment at the Roman saturnalia. The early Christian clergy, desiring to wean the people from their pagan practice as far as possible, forbade the use of ivy, and the precedent still obtains.

In medieval Europe a peacock was the favorite dish for Christmas dinner. After being skinned carefully the bird was cooked. Then the skin with the plumage intact was replaced, and the bird served in a manner as nearly as possible resembling real life.

Mince pies are first mentioned in 1596 as in common use at Christmas times. Authorities in the matter then said they might be eaten as early as December 14.

Of Canvas and Ribbon



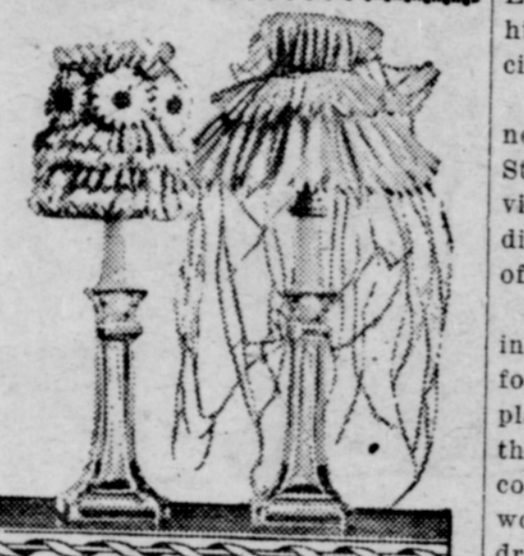
It goes without saying that bags of all sorts are among those gifts that are always welcome. There are many new ones this year made of coarse canvas, or unbleached linen and trimmed with narrow satin ribbon and ribbon flowers. Baby ribbon may be drawn through the interstices of the canvas. Drawing threads out of either the canvas or linen makes it possible to weave wider ribbons over and under the remaining threads, in borders or ornaments. Flowers cut from cotton or linen, in various colors, are applied to the linen bags and buttonholed along their edges with cotton floss or yarn. A case for holding playing cards and a bag which may be put to various uses are shown above in gifts suited to either men or women.

Sweets for Christmas



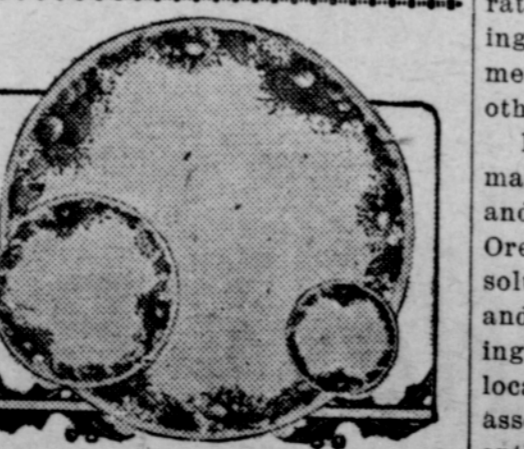
You cannot think of anyone who will not be delighted to receive a gift like that illustrated here. It is a half-dozen glasses filled with jelly, preserves and marmalade, very attractively arranged in a wicker basket. The tin covers of the glasses are lacquered with black lacquer and a white gummed letter is placed in the center of each one. A spray of fruit or blossoms painted on the lid with sealing wax, together with the letter, tells the kind of jelly or preserves the glass contains, as apple, with a spray of apple blossoms and the letter "A," or currant with a cluster of currants and foliage and the letter "C." Sealing wax in several colors simulates shirred ribbon on the center glass which contains marmalade.

Christmas Candles



This year's candle shades made of gay silks or of crepe paper are shown in such variety that every one may be pleased. Sparkling silver tinsel strays over some of them, adding a holiday glitter to the pretty colors through which the light gleams. A shade decorated in this way is shown at the right of the two pictured. At the left a foundation of plain paper is covered with ruffles of crepe paper in two alternating colors, in this case white and green, and has daisies made of paper set about it.

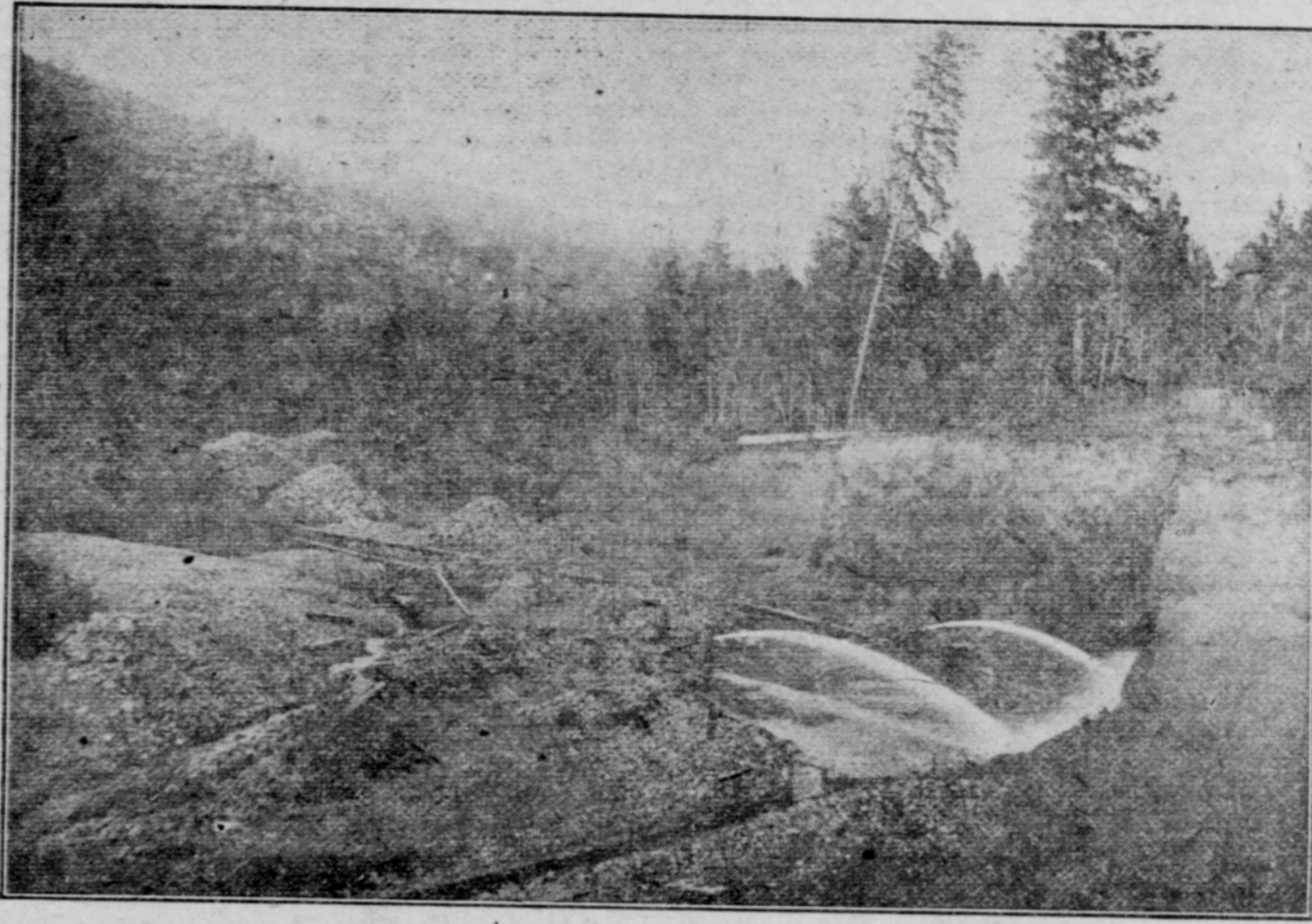
Oil Cloth Table Sets



No housewife will fail to enjoy the new table sets of oilcloth with their cheerful borders of gay flowers and fruits. They are much handsomer than the stenciled pieces and many women use them for the dinner as well as the breakfast table. These sets consist of a centerpiece, plate doilies and smaller doilies. The fruits and flowers in the set pictured are in their natural colors and the oilcloth in a deep cream color.

Gold Coin Placer Mine

Near Medford, Oregon



JACKSON COUNTY MINERALS

The great mineral region, a part of which is embraced in Jackson county, has been prospected in part only. There has never been a boom here. True, men flocked to Rich Gulch, as they did to other camps, but they did not remain. Montana drew its first influx of settlers as a result of finding placer diggings. With the working out of these, the miners gave their attention to quartz. The result is the great copper, silver and gold mines of Butte. Expert miners from the Butte district and other mining camps say that Southern Oregon's mining resources are unequalled anywhere. Tommy Cruse burrowed into the mountains near Marysville, Mont., for years before he found the vein in the Drum Lummond mine which made him a multi-millionaire and put his numerous friends in the position to count their fortunes in six and seven figures. And yet this property sold to and worked by an English syndicate did not assay as high as rock within ten miles of the city limits of Medford.

Mr. W. R. Davey, mining engineer and field agent of the United States general land office, made a visit of inspection to the mineral districts of this section. Speaking of what he saw, Mr. Davey said:

"If the surface showings of gold in the Rogue River valley were found at the North Pole—or in some place equally difficult to reach—in the deserts of Arizona, or in the cold, snowy hills of Colorado, there would be an excited rush, and hundreds of thousands of dollars would be expended in development. This is a fact. I have seen profitable development work costing thousands done with less favorable showing. It really seems that the very proximity of and comparative ease of access to the mining country here have been elements in dilatory development. The outlook in this district is most favorable both in the mining of gold and coal. The goods are here. Medford would do well to advertise more fully her wonderful mineral resources. A true, unbiased statement of facts would do much to allay public distrust and the suspicion that it is a gamble rather than an industry. The mining industry offers greater inducements for immense profits than any other."

Dr. A. M. Knapp, president and manager of the Gold Coin Quartz and Placer association, of Medford, Oregon, says that Mr. Davey is absolutely correct in his statement, and predicts an unprecedented mining development and boom in this locality. He says that the Gold Coin association is doing things differently, that they are digging in the right places, and will continue to dig and develop their properties to the point where the larger interests will take them over and spend a million or so to make a real mine out of a property, to employ about a thousand men. This association is now actually working upon several properties, among them being the GOLD COIN MINE on the west

side of Forrest creek. This property has a fine gold quartz ledge fifteen to twenty feet in width, which is being constantly developed with tunnels at various levels. There is every reason to expect this to make a wonderful mine. The Doctor says, "I have always been successful in picking winners, and that is what I have done with this property—picked it as a big winner." Another of the Gold Coin association's properties is the Alice Mine, about fifteen miles out of Grants Pass, on the Applegate river.

Work has been steadily progressing on this property, and while this organization is not chasing pockets, the indications at the Alice mine are that in the course of developing the mother lode, that a pocket will be encountered in the class of the Boswell. Other properties, including are famous Bowden, Pears and Mankin placer properties, consisting in a combined acreage of 2100 acres, are included in this organization's active interests.

According to the evidence of their intelligent activity up to the present time, it is apparent that the Gold

Coin Quartz and Placer association is rapidly developing into the most aggressive organization within the Southern Oregon district, the probable results of whose present and future activities is at the present time inconceivable to the chronic skeptics relative to mining. Identified with the Gold Coin association are the well-known and prominent consulting and mining engineers, Messrs. Elmer & Hogg, of Portland, whose clients are the largest owners of gold mines in the United States. This class of technical advice and ability embraces every branch of effort of this organization, from top to bottom, which insures the most conservative, intelligent and practical application of effort in every undertaking—the results of which can be nothing but success for the institution, its members, and particularly for the entire Southern Oregon community.

Oldest Inhabitants.
Fossil turtles ranging from 3,000,000 to 7,000,000 years in age, have been found in San Juan county, northern New Mexico.

The Empty, Raggedy Stockings

What of the empty, raggedy stockings
That will hang by the chimney on Christmas eve,
With their mute appeals from the poor little owners
To the dear old Santa in whom they believe?
For their share of his presents they ask such a little,
"Just a dolly to hold in my arms while I sleep,
A little tin snare that runs when you wind it,
A sounding red drum or a woolly white sheep."
The only light in their dim, dark existence
Is that wonderful day when old Santa will come
With his treasure filled pack that he brings on his back
From his fairyland, snowland, toyland home.
What beautiful dreams will come to them sleeping
Under the coverlet shabby and worn?
But what of the empty, raggedy stockings
That will hang by the chimney on Christmas morn?
MRS. H. C. SEARCY, in the Chicago Tribune.

CHRISTMAS DOES NOT STAND ALONE

IF CHRISTMAS stood alone it would be an idle mockery. But it does not stand alone. It is part of a year. Yet it is a peculiar part. It is that brief period in which the child riles the world.

It marks nowadays the culmination of a civilization which has had a leading principle. The selfish, the hard, the grasping and the unsparring are out and apart that one week from the great flowing tide of the development of the world's progress. The man or woman who does not know this or see it or feel it is alien to the Christian spirit and to all the products wrought by the Christ spirit in the twenty centuries last past.

Christmas day, then, brings a message. But it also sings a song of hope and calls aloud a prophecy. The message is that gentleness is stronger far than force and that the greatest power on earth is the compelling power of tenderness.

Every Christmas tree is lit with that light. The great flood of presents bears this as its message. The cheer and charity of the whole season are fed by this love.

If the result of this process is only a century flower, however, or one that blooms even only once a year, then of what use is this more than that, this grotesque fact than that stranger plant? It is a curious phenomenon only, a hothouse spectacle and not an abiding food product.—Rev. Dr. David M. Steele, Philadelphia.

THE BUSINESS OF

Gold Coin Quartz and Placer Association

OF MEDFORD, OREGON

is to

Put Jackson County and Southern Oregon on the Map

in the scientific and intelligent development of the wonderful mineral resources of this district.

We predict that this district will within six months to one year experience a mining activity to eclipse any previous MINING BOOM ever heard of in this or any other country. Our policy is to develop the large low grade properties.

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