

A Child Is Born



"SING FORTH THE HONOR OF HIS NAME"

Christmas Legends Explain Origins Of Decorations

There are many legends concerning the origin of Christmas trees and why we decorate and cheerish them through the Yule season.

Why the evergreen? The most beautiful legend of all goes like this:

As Christ lay in the manger after his birth, the wise men came to worship bringing their many gifts.

After them came the trees to pay homage to the Christ child. First the native palms from the hills around Bethlehem, and then the stately maples and oaks and birches and hemlocks.

Then, last of all, timid because of his smallness, came a tiny fir from the frozen north. It was so small and modest that none paid any attention to it until suddenly a star dropped from the sky and twinkled on a bough of the tree.

Another and another fell until the little tree was the most beautiful of all—aglow as if from a celestial light.

Holly has become an accepted decoration for Christmas. Reference to it has been made in numerous stories and carols, such as:

"Deck the hall with boughs of holly

"Tis the season to be jolly!"

The custom dates back to the time of the ancient Romans who used holly in connection with the celebration of their Saturnalia which occurs about the same time as Christmas.

The holly tree was most beautiful at a time of year when other trees were barren and for that reason was ideal for decorations. And because it was most beautiful at Christmas time, many persons thought the tree must be sacred.

Correct Use of Water Keeps Holiday Greens Looking Fresh, Bright

JUST A LITTLE WATER, correctly used, is the answer to keeping Christmas greens fresh and bright throughout the holiday season.

Since the decorations are usually cut well before Christmas, they dry out rapidly unless given plenty of water. The greens not only look dilapidated, but form a serious fire hazard.

For many years it was thought necessary to use chemicals in water to keep the Christmas tree and other greens fresh and bright. It is known now, however, that water does the trick just as well.

To condition the house for better survival of Christmas greens, the first thing to do is to keep the heat down. High temperatures hasten drying by increasing the water loss from plants. Then, keep a pan or two of water on the radiator or heating stove to add moisture to the air.

Water house plants often during the Christmas season.

Growing plants transpire a lot of water into the air. These precautions will increase the humidity in the house and prolong the freshness of evergreen decorations.

Taking care of the Christmas tree itself is no more difficult. Nail a small wooden base (6 inches square) to the bottom of the tree. Stand the tree in a pail of water. Weight the tree with gravel to hold the tree erect.

Trees kept standing in water will remain in good condition for as long as 30 days.

Body of St. Nicholas Buried at Bari, Italy

The body of Santa Claus—otherwise St. Nicholas, the onetime bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, is buried at Bari, Italy.

The body was stolen from its original tomb in Myra by Italian sailors in 1687 and taken to Bari. Europeans in those days thought that a saint's body brought prosperity and good luck to the town where it was buried. For that reason it was stolen from Myra.

Christmas Seal Idea Conceived By Danish Clerk

Credit for conceiving the idea for Christmas seals belongs to a Danish postal clerk, Einer Holboell, who in the holiday season of 1903 was sorting mail in the postoffice of Copenhagen. As he went through the stacks of Christmas mail, it occurred to him that if each sender bought a sticker and attached it to each package, the proceeds would aid in fighting tuberculosis and add color to the gifts.

He mentioned it to some of his fellow workers. The scheme appealed to them and it was passed along through the office. The clerks discussed it with customers. The idea spread about Copenhagen, and eventually King Christian heard about it. The ruler approved and decided in favor of trying it with Queen Louise's likeness on each stamp.

It was too late to put the idea into execution that year, but in 1904, four million seals were sold in the Copenhagen postoffice. So popular did the stamps become that Holboell heard of one old woman who returned some letters without Christmas seals, declaring emphatically that she didn't want to know people who didn't use the stamps.

A woman, Miss Emily Bissell, who worked with the Red Cross, started the sale of seals in this country. She was seeking \$300 for a little open air hospital for tuberculosis patients. She designed a stamp and persuaded friends to help with the printing and sale of them. When the campaign bogged down, she went to Philadelphia where she met Leigh Mitchell Hodges, a columnist for the Philadelphia North American. He heard Miss Bissell's plans and discussed them with E. A. Van Valkenburg, city editor. Van Valkenburg gave full approval and told Hodges to give the project his entire time. He also asked for 50,000 seals to be sold in the newspaper's office.

The campaign brought startling results. Miss Bissell found she had \$3,000 instead of \$300 she had started to raise. And the Christmas seal campaign became a nationwide institution.

First Yule Card Designed in 1842

Supplying the U.S. with Christmas cards is a \$100,000,000-a-year business, employing 500,000 Americans. Yet the first Christmas card, engraved a little over a century ago, was a financial failure!

The world's first Yule card was designed in 1842 by William Maw Egley, a 16-year-old engraver's apprentice in London, England. Space was left at the bottom for the sender's signature. William printed 100 copies, intending to sell them to his friends.



This is a facsimile of the first known Christmas greeting card published in England in 1842.

But the conservative English scoffed at the idea. Egley and his cards were forgotten, until one of the historic greetings was accidentally discovered in 1941 in the British Museum.

With changing social customs, Christmas cards rapidly won popularity after being reintroduced by a courageous publisher in 1862.

Dunce Cap

The Capitelli is a special feature of the Christmas feasting in Italy. It is served on a plate and looks for all the world like an aggregation of miniature dunce caps.

These little caps are made of noodle dough and encase a filling consisting of white meat of chicken and chopped pork mixed with egg and spices.

A whole plate of these inch-high 'dunce caps' are served with sauce or dressing known as Moutarde de Cremona which, made of fruits, mustard and spices, has a tingle of mustard but does not bite and is therefore known as "a mustard which is not."

Christmas Weather

You may not believe them, but here are a few of the varied—and conflicting—beliefs about Christmas weather:

If the sun shines through the apple tree on Christmas day, there will be a good crop the following year.

A warm Christmas means a cold Easter.

A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

Bouquet for Vaughan

SOME PEOPLE will hardly believe it, but herewith is a bouquet to my old deep-freeze pal, Gen. Harry Vaughan.

Ever since the Korean war, 10,000 servicemen have been wandering the streets of Washington with no place to go and none of the hospitality shown them during World War II. For the nation's capital—like a lot of other cities—hasn't realized that with the cold war now warm, we civilians ought to shift our hospitality from cold to warm.

An exception in General Vaughan, who has been quietly raising Cain with the treasury and Jess Larson, chief of the general services of supply, in order to pry loose the old Belasco theatre for the use of the American Legion and other veterans' groups in entertaining servicemen.

The Belasco theatre enjoys one of the most central locations in Washington. Diagonally across Lafayette square from the White House, it is adjacent to the old Dolly Madison house where the wife of the fourth president of the United States entertained in the early days of the republic. But because legitimate theatres have long been closed in the nation's capital, the Belasco—believe it or not—is filled with old government files and canceled checks.

And the treasury department, whose files are chiefly concerned, won't release the theatre to the veterans for entertainment purposes.

More Red Tape

First stumbling block was a treasury claim that it would cost \$20,000 to transport the files to another building. Whereupon Maj. Gen. T. W. Herren, army commander in the District of Columbia, offered to transport the files in army trucks, free.

Then the treasury came up with a new argument—that it would cost the government \$75,000 to find other storage space for the files. Furthermore, the treasury wants an armed guard to be placed over its canceled checks and it's more convenient to keep a guard over them in the Belasco theatre.

But what Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder doesn't seem to realize is that \$75,000 a year is chickenfeed compared to the morale and morals of 10,000 young Americans who don't want to be away from home, but who in serving their country have to be away from home, and need some place to relax evenings.

General Vaughan, recognizing this problem, has done his best to cut red tape. But so far his friends John Maragon and Joe Major seem to have been more successful with Jess Larson regarding surplus property in the past than the general is now regarding hospitality for servicemen.

Protecting the President

The folks back in Independence, Mo., still are talking about the strict security precautions taken by the secret service during the President's recent visit to his home town. It wasn't at all like other visits, when Mr. Truman casually walked around the main streets, waving to neighbors and chatting with old friends.

Milton Morris, a deliveryman for the Independence Ice and Creamery Co., is one who knows how different Harry's visit was this time. For when Morris wheeled his ice truck into the parking lot at the Reorganized Latter Day Saint auditorium where Truman was being entertained at lunch, he was met by two secret service agents. And a new method of delivery was set for the iceman that day.

Morris was told to leave his pocket knife, his ice pick, and his ice tongs in the truck. He was required to carry the 50-pound chunk of ice to the door of the building in his arms. There the ice was washed—twice—and then handed to a worker inside the building.

Down at Kelsey's restaurant on Truman road, the route usually taken from the Muehlebach hotel to Independence, a few of the townspeople waited patiently for the President's caravan to pass. But his limousine, followed by seven secret service agents riding in an open car, whizzed by a bit in excess of the Independence 25-mile-an-hour speed limit, and few saw Truman.

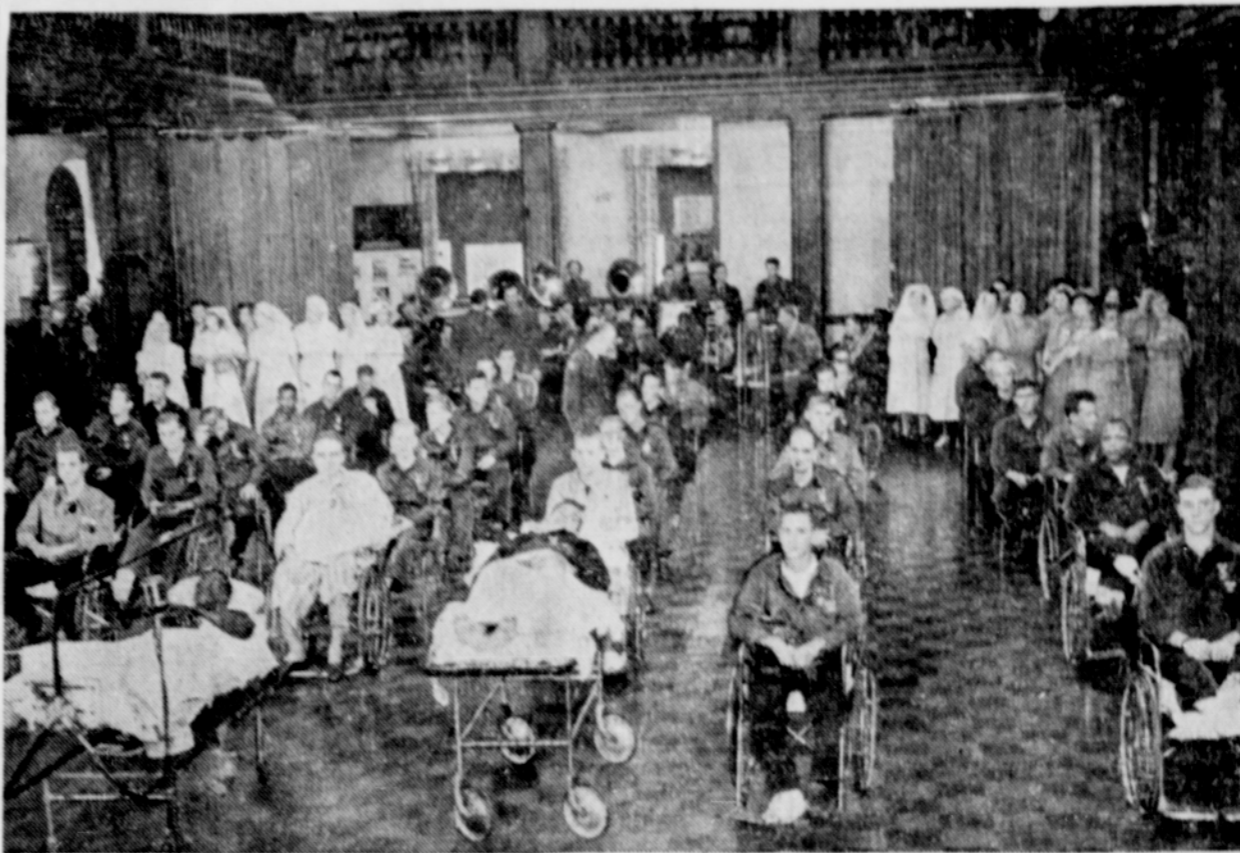
Ellen, a waitress, looking out at the seven agents in the open car, remarked: "Those guys looked darn cold."

Phone Strike

The senate labor-management subcommittee is rushing a report on labor and strike conditions in the Bell Telephone system.

(Ed. Note—The strike was settled after eleven days with the signing of a fifteen months contract.)

The report will show that while American Telephone and Telegraph, the mother company, actually dictates labor policy for the entire system, the labor union is forced to deal independently with the local companies, and that chaos exists.



PURPLE HEARTS FOR KOREAN VETS . . . Fifty servicemen of the United States armed forces who received wounds fighting for the liberation of Korea from the Communist forces are shown as they were lined up at the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D. C., recently, just before they received Purple Hearts from the commanding general of the hospital. The commanding general is Maj. Gen. Paul H. Streit. He is shown in the center of the picture at the rear.



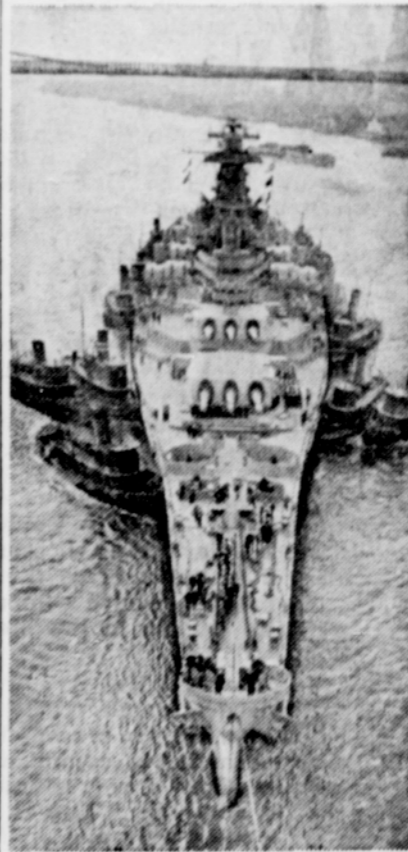
UNEARTHING REDS' FLOWING GOLD . . . Lieut. Joseph Booth of Morristown, Pa., holds his rifle while supervising a couple of Korean civilians who are digging up a hidden petroleum cache. It takes all and more oil to lubricate the wheels of war and the army that does not have an ample supply grinds to a stop. The retreating Chinese Reds buried their precious oil and gas stocks because they feared the intense allied air attacks. Advancing in the bitter North Korean cold, American infantrymen entered the border town of Hyesanjin.



STOCK SHOW ARRIVALS . . . Beauty and the beast—that might be the caption for this view of the steer and pretty girl. However, stock show enthusiasts might call them both beauties, for the steer is a prize winner from Wyoming. The girl is Lorraine Kurnath and she is pretty-pretty by the best by putting a bobby pin in her curls. The stage was being set for the 51st annual International Livestock Show at the International Amphitheater in Chicago. Steer is early arrival.



GREEK TROOPS FOR KOREA . . . Greece has decided to send a contingent of troops to aid U.N. forces battling in Korea. King Paul of Greece reviews a battalion prior to the departure of the men for the battle lines. The colorful ceremony took place in front of the tomb of Greece's unknown soldier at Athens. The king of Greece presented his troops with the flag of their nation. The United Nations' call for all member nations to contribute men is still in effect.



NEW JERSEY RECOMMISSIONED . . . The U.S.S. New Jersey is towed by tugs toward Brooklyn navy yard. Fleet Admiral William Halsey, who led naval push against Japan on the ship, was a guest at the recommissioning.



WIVES OF GUNMEN . . . Mrs. Carmen Torresola and Mrs. Rosa Collazo arrive at federal court in New York for hearing. Their husbands were the two gunmen who attempted to assassinate Truman. Torresola was killed.

Advertisement for Smith Brothers Wild Cherry Cough Drops, featuring the text 'Got a Cough? GET DELICIOUS COUGH RELIEF!' and 'SMITH BROTHERS WILD CHERRY COUGH DROPS'.

Advertisement for Musterole, featuring the text 'SPEEDY LONG-LASTING relief for RHEUMATISM ACHES-PAINS' and 'MUSTEROLE'.

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion, featuring the text 'Helps keep me on my feet!' and 'SCOTT'S EMULSION HIGH ENERGY TONIC'.

Advertisement for Standard Factors Corporation, featuring the text '10 TREASURERS whose companies need \$100,000 IMMEDIATELY!' and 'STANDARD FACTORS CORPORATION'.

Advertisement for Calox Tooth Powder, featuring the text '38% Brighter Teeth' and 'CALOX Tooth Powder'.