

Slavic Dancing Ushers in Christmas Season



Christmas ushers in a season of gladness and merrymaking that is marked in most Slavic countries by the gay and spirited performance of traditional folk dances. Among the most colorful is the fast and furious sword dance of Ukrainian Cossacks which is portrayed here by the dancing group of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox church of Chicago.

Christmas Holly Makes Tasty Tea

Holly is useful for something besides Christmas wreaths. Yaupon, a shrub which grows profusely in certain sections of North Carolina, can be brewed into tea and is actually on the menu of one Carolinian hotel.

It's an old story to old-timers of the region. They've been drinking Yaupon tea for centuries and swear that it has all kinds of good qualities. The Indians before them used it, and John Lawson, an early historian, said the shrub was so highly valued that it was carried into the inland where it fetched a fabulous price from Indian tribes.

Actually, Yaupon is an American holly, but is closely akin to Mate, the drink so popular in South America. Both drinks are prepared much the same way. The leaves are cured with hot stones in a barrel and then chopped up, twigs included, and dried out in an oven. Leaves and twigs are then steeped in hot water and syrup, orange juice, lemon juice and cinnamon are added.

So at Christmas, instead of throwing away that dried up wreath, try brewing it up into a pot of tea.

Serbian Glorify Abundant Harvest

The Serbian strews his table with hay or straw at Christmas time and he is likely to eat roasted suckling pig for Christmas dinner. Weather permitting, a fire is built outdoors on Christmas morning and the pig roasted over it on a spit.

The Serbians, as well as the Croats, have several Christmas customs in common. Both plant wheat on a plate on December 10th. By Christmas day there is a miniature field of wheat which serves as a decoration, usually placed on a window sill.

Before sunrise on Christmas morning, the men of the family go into a nearby forest to fell a young oak tree. It is selected with great care and traditional rites must be observed in cutting it down. It must fall toward the East at the moment of sunrise. It is brought home in state and lighted candles are held on each side of the door through which it is carried.

Corn and wine are sprinkled on this Yule log while wishes for an abundant harvest for the next summer are expressed. As soon as the log is placed in the fire and is burning brightly, a neighbor, chosen beforehand for the ceremony, enters the house to bring Christmas blessings. He pours a little wine on the log and places a coin on it, a symbol of prosperity for the coming year.

Biblical 'Stables' Were Hewn Caves

The "stable" in which Christ was born does not conform to the modern conception of the word.

In Biblical times, places of shelter were hewn in rocky ledges; Judean travelers, frequently housed in such caves, welcomed joint tenancy with beasts because of the extra warmth provided by the animal's bodies.

The birthplace of Jesus was such a cave. Now a grotto beneath Bethlehem's Church of Nativity, the entire surface has been elaborately ornamented.

Yule Log Fires Prevented Evil

Centuries ago huge fires were built in the great baronial halls in England on Christmas eve and the servants brought in a log that was to burn throughout Christmas.

It was customary to save a brand from each year's fire to light the next one with. If the log was properly burned it was believed that the devil was powerless to do any mischief to the household.

Christmas Trees Around The World

The Christmas tree is almost a universal symbol. It is common in many countries and its decorations mirror the cultural traditions and customs of the world.

The Japanese, who adopted American baseball, have also adopted the Christmas tree. They have given it an oriental appearance by decorating its branches with Japanese dolls, woodcuts, small tangerines and rice cookies called "sembai" that hold paper slips of fortunes.

In Germany, where the Christmas tree originated, chains and baskets made by hand—from ordinary newspapers when nothing else is available—are hung on the tree. Candles have been used for illumination ever since the time of Martin Luther, when the custom of decorating trees at Christmas first began.

The French Christmas tree is loaded with glittering ornaments and sugar-balls hang from its branches.

In Italy, the crib is the traditional symbol of Christmas and is carefully arranged beneath every Italian tree. This custom dates back to 1223 when St. Francis of Assisi arranged the first crib at Greccio, Italy, using a simple manger with a doll to represent the Christ Child and adding live animals for realism.

Czechs decorate their trees with clusters of gilded nuts, apples, and cookies made to resemble animal figures, peasant girls, stars and village huts.

Placing wooden shoes on the doorstep for the good Saint to fill with toys and sweets is traditional Dutch fashion. Carrots are left in the shoes for the white horse which St. Nicholas rides in Holland.



Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

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Old Roman Holiday Like Christmas

Long before Christ was born the Romans observed a holiday that was very much like modern Christian celebrations of Christmas. The day was December 19, known as the Feast of Saturnalia.

The Romans ornamented their homes with green boughs. Also, the Druids observed the Feast by gathering and decorating with mistletoe, while ancient Saxons used holly, ivy and bay.

Ancient Swiss Legends Recalled on Christmas

Winter beauty and winter sports reach the acme of perfection in Switzerland by Christmas time—and ancient Christmas legends rule.

Legend has it that all you have to do on Christmas eve is cut an onion in half, peel off 12 layers and fill the same with salt. Each layer represents a month and those which are still salty the next morning predict rain.



"GO TO sleep, Dickie. Tomorrow is Christmas and you're going to have a busy day."

He wondered if he'd be well enough to appreciate his "busy day" and stifled a sob with a heavy sigh for he knew he would be unable to ride the tricycle Santa Claus had promised him. His legs were stiff and painful and they felt as though he would never be able to walk on them again.

His mother brushed soft tendrils of hair from his feverish brow and bent down to kiss him tenderly. "Goodnight, Dickie; pleasant dreams."

He watched her leave the room, closing the door softly behind her. He lay quietly for some time, then turned to look curiously at the huge tree across the room. In deference to his illness his bed had been moved into the living room so that he could see the decorations and await Santa Claus' arrival.

The scene of the Nativity had been beautifully reconstructed by his father and its tiny plaster models now caught the boy's attention. A strange sight met his eyes. The donkey that had been sprawled on the ground was now standing and stretching himself. The lambs were in their same positions but their eyes were glittering with life.

"It's Christmas Eve, Dickie, and you should be happy." There was a trace of reproach in the voice.

Dickie was bewildered by this time. "How—how—" he stuttered feebly, and halted.

"How do we talk? Why that's simple, Dickie. All animals talk on



He watched her leave the room, closing the door softly behind her.

Christmas Eve. Didn't you know? That night everything comes to life.

"What seems to be the matter?" "I don't know. I'm all burning up inside and I can't move my legs without hurting them."

He saw two of the animals exchange a knowing glance. "You mean . . ."

"Something has to be done for him," the donkey interrupted swiftly.

"You mean you can cure me?"

With a glance at the tiny crib, the donkey said, "I'm sure you will be cured, Dickie." All animals were silent for a moment, then the donkey continued, "Now go to sleep, Dickie, and when morning comes you will feel better."

"You mean I'll be able to get up and ride my tricycle and play with my other toys?" Dickie asked excitedly. But there was no answer.

When he awoke, both mommy and daddy were sitting at his bedside and his mother's pretty face was flushed with happiness.

"Mommy! Daddy!" he cried, "I can move my legs!" Mother threw the covers back and the three watched with fascination as his legs moved slowly up and down.

Mother began to cry. She hugged him tightly and then threw herself into daddy's arms.

Dickie was happy, too. But he stopped moving his legs long enough to tell his mother gravely, "Dr. Benton's medicine didn't help me, mommy."

"Oh, Dickie dear, of course it did. It cured you and soon you'll be running around again!"

He started to protest, but before words could come, his eyes fell on the Nativity scene where his friends, the donkey and three lambs, reclined. Leaning over, he stroked the plaster backs of the models and made a momentous decision.

These animals were his friends and they had made him well again, but maybe they wanted him to keep it a secret. Next Christmas Eve, when they talked again, he could ask their permission to tell everybody about their kindness. Until then, he must not do anything that might sadden them. With a final pat, he turned happily to his parents. "Merry Christmas, mommy. Merry Christmas, daddy. My, it's going to be a busy day."

First Poinsettias Came From Mexico

Poinsettias owe their name to an early American diplomat and scholar—Joel Roberts Poinsett.

Nearly a century and a quarter ago Poinsett, then U. S. ambassador to Mexico, first brought cuttings of the "fire plant" to his South Carolina home. Carefully he tended the transplanted tropical beauty. Under his skillful hands the flower thrived and improved.



Average Farm Family Sees Income Recede

Buying Power Higher Now Than Year Ago

What, if anything, is happening to the average U. S. farmer with regard to the money he gets for what he raises, and does he have anything to worry about?

Although there has been a moderate drop in income of farmers, the average family has more purchasing power today than it had a



year ago, a reliable monthly survey of "real income" reveals. "Real income" is the relationship of revenue to living costs.

The national figures indicate that the average home has 2 per cent more buying power than last year. Wage-earners, salaried people and those with investment income are equally well off, while the farmer is now about 3 per cent below his status of a year ago.

It should be remembered, however, that such status a year ago was at a then all-time high.

Besides the recent drop in farm prices, the survey said, it is expected that there may be further tapering off during the next six months, but farm income will continue at a high level. In the same way, although surpluses are beginning to appear in the clothing industry, there are no signs yet that sharp price breaks are likely.

Overhauling the Land



Ten years' work in rebuilding the soil-depleted 300-acre Rio Grande college farm at Rio Grande, Ohio, were compressed into 13½ hours recently by 600 workers and hundreds of pieces of mechanized farm equipment. In this hilly Ohio valley country, chief problem was removal of excess water which had been carrying away top soil. Diversion ditches and sod water outlets were prepared. Two ponds were built. The course of a stream was altered. Years of cultivation had taken much of the life from the farm's soil, so the horde of workers also attacked the problem of soil rejuvenation. Great areas were tilled, limed, fertilized and seeded and overgrown pasture land was reclaimed and prepared for seeding. In the picture, a jeep, equipped with bush and bog harrow, is engaged in mulching as part of the work done on the farm.

2,4-D Winter Spraying Destroys Stumps, Weeds

Successful winter spraying with an ester of 2,4-D is the newest twist to the ever-broadening field of chemical weed control.

At East Lansing, Mich., agronomists Keith Barrons and L. L. Coulter of the Dow Chemical company announced that stumps sprayed in near zero weather during the past three winters have responded to treatment in the same manner as stumps sprayed during the summer season. The chemical used was Esteron 44 which contains 44 per cent of the isopropyl ester of 2,4-D.

Weak Egg Shells Mean Hens Require Calcium

Feeding oyster shells to laying hens to furnish the calcium needed for making strong egg shells is suggested by Irving J. Mork, agent of the North Dakota Agricultural college extension service.

"Hens that lay steadily will, as time goes on, lay eggs with weak shells," he said. "Usually this is due to a lack of calcium in the ration. It can also be due to a lack of vitamin D, however."

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

Dainty Pajamas for Tiny Girls Tailored Lingerie Easy to Sew



1835 2-10 yrs.

Butcher Boy Pajamas
FOR the young girls of the family—adorable little butcher boy pajamas that are sure to please. The tiny collar is finished in scallops, the shaped pocket is just right for a hanky.

Pattern No. 1835 comes in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. Size 4, 2½ yards of 36 or 38-inch.

A Double Duty Table For Children to Use



THIS table does double duty. It can be used as a play table or the top, being hinged, may be raised to vertical position and used as a blackboard. The top is finished with black presswood or the plywood top may be covered with blackboard paint. The table stands 24 inches high and has a top measuring 22x36 inches.

Send 25 cents for Blackboard Table Pattern No. 117 in East-Bld Pattern Company, Dept. W, Pleasantville, N. Y.

Traffic Light Controls Planes and Automobiles

What is believed to be the only traffic light which regulates both automobile and airplane traffic is located at Merrill field, Anchorage, Alaska. The light halts cars on the highways near the field while planes arrive and depart.

If you suffer from pocket-book pinch come the Yuletide season, here's a grand way to get around the gift-giving problem. For the smokers on your list, order cartons of mild, flavorful Camel cigarettes and pound tins of Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco—the largest-selling smoking tobacco in the country. When you give Camels or Prince Albert, you're giving smoking pleasure at its best—and a generous supply of it! The Camel carton, for example, contains 200 mild, cool cigarettes. Both Camels and Prince Albert packages will fit in perfectly with the spirit of the season, thanks to their colorful and gay wrappings. There's even ample space provided for a "Merry Christmas" message in your own handwriting. If you remind your dealer now to put away a gift-quota of Camels and Prince Albert, he can have them ready when you want them. (Adv.)



8364 14-44

Underwear Sets
SO EASY to sew you'll want to make several of these underwear sets. The princess-lined slip fits so nicely and can be edged with dainty lace. Panties are neatly tailored. Grand gift idea.

Pattern No. 8364 is for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42 and 44. Size 16, slip, 2¾ yards of 39-inch; panties, 1½ yards. The Fall and Winter FASHION contains 60 pages of smart, wearable styles you won't want to miss. Free pattern printed inside the book. 25 cents.

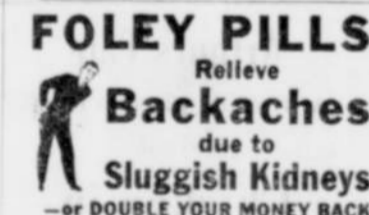
SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT., 539 South Wells St., Chicago 7, Ill. Enclose 25 cents in coins for each pattern desired. Pattern No. _____ Size _____ Name _____ Address _____



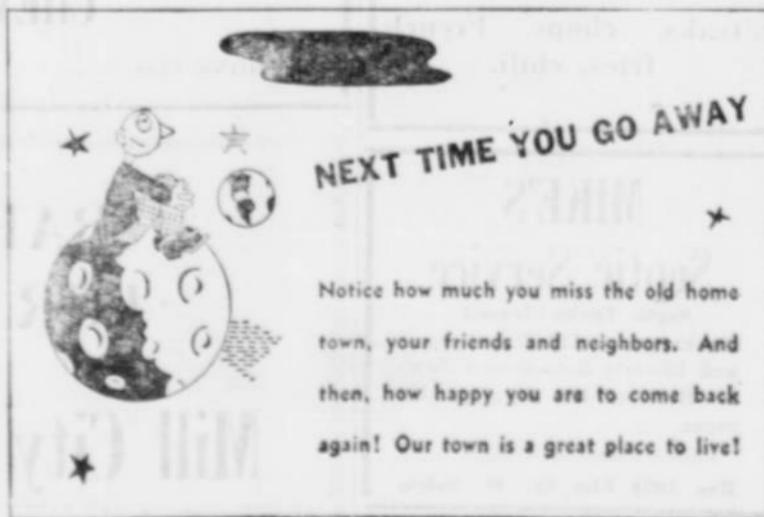
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NATURE'S REMEDY (NR) TABLETS—A purely vegetable laxative to relieve constipation without the usual griping, sickening, perturbing sensations, and does not cause a rash. Try NR—you will see the difference. Uncoated or candy coated—their action is dependable, thorough, yet gentle as millions of NR's have proved. Get a 25c box and use as directed.



Are you going through the functional "middle age" period peculiar to women (35 to 52 yrs.)? Does this make you suffer from hot flashes, feel so nervous, listless, tired? Then do try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's Compound also has what Doctors call a stomachic tonic effect! VEGETABLE LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S COMPOUND



Notice how much you miss the old home town, your friends and neighbors. And then, how happy you are to come back again! Our town is a great place to live!