



A DISPLAY OF ELECTRIC TRAINS is enough to catch the attention of most any youngster, and little Bobby Hawkins, 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hawkins was not a little curious over the operation of this model railroad display at Fyock's. Harvey Martin was on hand to see that nothing untoward happened during Bobby's inspection of the trains. Model railroading is growing into quite an indoor sport for adults as well as youngsters, and some of the models are dead ringers for the real thing.

# Tree Use Isn't Old

Had you been alive in the year 1851, you might have wanted a Christmas tree for the holidays. But if you had been living in Cleveland, Ohio for elsewhere, for that matter, and had put up a tree, you would have been boycotted in business, possibly threatened with discharge by your employer and otherwise placed under community pressure.

The Christmas tree, which we now take for granted, wasn't known in this country a hundred years ago. It was introduced first to the startled members of Cleveland's Zion Lutheran church by the Rev. Henry C. Schwan, their pastor.

He remembered nostalgically the Christmas trees of his youth in Germany. The tree was prettily decorated with candles, apples, gill, tinsel and candies.

Its effect on Clevelanders was immediate and electric. The tree threw the town into an uproar. But despite the high feeling about it, the Reverend Schwan and his flock had another tree the next year. First, Clevelanders got used to the idea, then they took it to heart.

Though the practice of having a tree as part of the Christmas celebration is thus only a century old in this country, it dates much farther back in Europe. St. Boniface, an English monk living around 700 A. D., brought the custom with him to Germany when he was sent there as a missionary.

He replaced the sacrifices to idols with fir trees adorned in honor of the Christ child. This custom came from early tree worship and is also related to the laurel of the Romans and many pre-Christian festivals.

Eventually, what became a German custom traveled back to England, in 1841, by means of Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. The German prince had a Christmas tree at the palace that year and soon English families were imitating the royal family.

In Seventeenth-Century France, travelers reported seeing Christmas trees beautifully decorated with roses made of colored paper, apples, wafers, gold foil and sugar. And Paris, the City of Light, can lay claim to having had the very first community Christmas tree at the Tuileries around 1840.

The beauty of the tree has made people see it as a symbol of goodwill and joy. There are even songs in its honor. One of the oldest of these, and the best known in the German: "O, Christmas Tree" (O, Tannebaum). To the familiar melody, its lyrics run: "O, Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree, how sturdy God hath made thee!"

Thus, no matter what the color of the tree you bring home this year—blue, pink, white or the traditional green—you're following a custom dating to the druids and made merry and bright through the passing of years.



WHEN ENOUGH SNOW falls this winter, the Klamath Falls city recreation department will again put into operation its controlled sliding areas which probably has saved numerous aches and pains and broken bones which are common to sledding accidents. The city's program of roping off certain slopes for sledding only makes it safe for the youngsters, even the size of this little Dan'l Boone photographed last year on Washington street.

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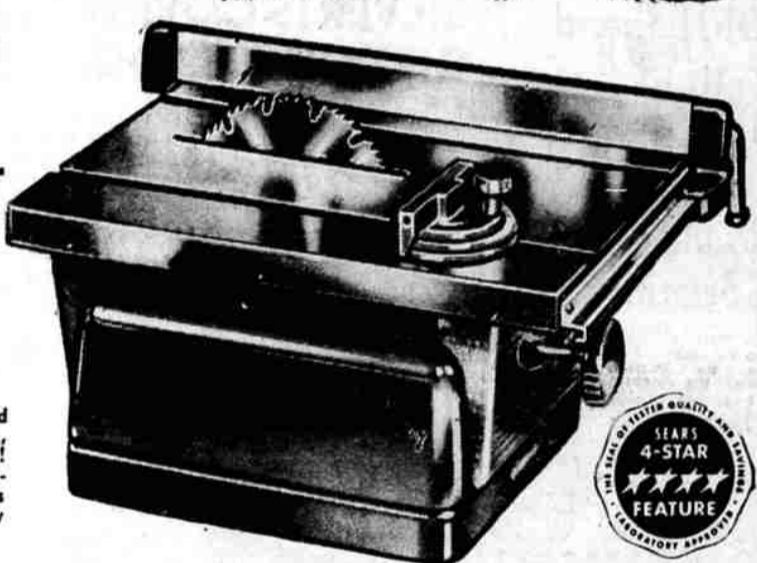
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