



READY TO SET SAIL in his rubber boat, Jerry Perkins warns twin brother Terry he'll have to swim. Strong rubber, inflated bottom has rubber teepee. Just right for a sail on the swimming pool. The boat is getting lots of attention in the toy department at Kern's.



ALIKE AS TWO PEAS. Jerry and Terry (you guess which is who) Perkins, identical twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Perkins, 2021 White Avenue, skipped a day of school to do a little shopping with Santa Claus in mind. Here the seven-year-old first graders at Mills start the trek down Main street with their attractive young mother.



WHAT WOULD CHRISTMAS BE without a sockful of candy? Eyes popped when this gamboling pair found cartwheel size, peppermint suckers at the Pelican Candy Jar. Jerry's eyeing, (or is it Terry) eyeing Jerry?



WOULD BE DANIEL BOONES. The twins agree these con skin caps found at Tots-To-Teens would be quite the thing for wind and winter weather.

Enduring Beauty Is Yule Miracle

By ANNETTE GREEN
NEA Staff Writer
The miracle of Christmas seems to be one of the last enduring beauties of our time. For who, indeed, can resist the brightly lit trees, unsleed windows, warm-hearted greeting cards, caroling voices. These well-loved yule customs reach far back into the past. And their true traditional meaning was, of course, inspired by the birth of Christ.

The very idea of Christmas gifts began with the gold, frankincense and myrrh brought to the Infant Jesus by the Three Wise Men. Candles are burned in church as a symbol of enlightenment. It's also an old Irish custom to place a lighted candle in the window on Christmas Eve—to guide the Christ Child on His long journey from heaven. Another ancient legend says that when Christ was born the devil died, and all the bells on earth rang in celebration. Just as they will ring again on Christmas morning. In Sweden, she is given to the cattle on Christmas Eve in honor of their presence at the manger in Bethlehem. In the German Alps, legends persist that all animals can speak on Christmas Eve. As the years have passed, many other symbols of love and devotion have taken their place next to the deeply religious tributes to Christ. The Christmas tree, for instance, has become an indispensable part of the holiday. Martin Luther is credited with having brought the first Christmas tree indoors over 400 years ago. Luther used candles, symbolizing the starlit skies of Christmas Eve, to decorate his tree. And who can imagine Christmas without the magical presence of Santa Claus? Early Dutch settlers at New Amsterdam brought the legend of St. Nicholas with them, changing his name first to Santa Nikolaus and then to Santa Klaus. Washington Irving, beloved colonial author, gave Santa his reindeer-drawn sleigh in 1809. Thomas Nast, the cartoonist, added Santa's red, ermine-trimmed coat. The popular custom of hanging stockings originated with the Dutch settlers at New Amsterdam, too. In Holland they had tucked their gifts for one another into wooden shoes, but as their style of dress changed, little Dutch boys and girls began hanging up their stockings to catch Santa's eye. Christmas cards developed from English "school pieces" of 250 years ago. Written as expressions of good will at Christmastime, they were actually lessons in penmanship for school children. It wasn't until 1842 that William Maw Egley Jr., a 16-year-old engraver's apprentice, designed the world's first Christmas card. By 1850 the Christmas card custom was popular through England, and in 1875, Louis Prang of Boston introduced the first line of Christmas cards in America. Today, their colorful designs help keep many of the old and wondrous Christmas customs alive. And their warm-hearted verses recall the words of Charles Dickens: "Christmas messages are a great accumulation of friendly recollections."

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