

Only One  
More  
Shopping Day  
Until  
Christmas

## Origin Told of Christmas Seals

When you see the Christmas seal do you ever wonder how it started?

It was born in Denmark, home of the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen.

Einar Holboell, a Copenhagen postal clerk, was sorting mail one snowy afternoon before Christmas, 1903, when he thought of the idea of a penny stamp to swell a fund for children's hospitals.

Authorized by King Christian, the first Christmas seals were sold in Copenhagen in 1904.

Holboell's scheme outgrew his wildest imaginations, for before his death in 1927, he lived to see it spread to 45 countries, includ-

ing Korea, India and French-Indochina.

The seals found their way to America on letters and packages and first attracted the attention of Jacob Riis who wrote an article about them. Few people, however were interested in the idea.

Then, in the autumn of 1907, Emily Bissell, a public health officer, concerned about the fate of a small sanatorium, recalled the article and sat down to sketch America's first Christmas seal, a wreath of holly encircling the words "Merry Christmas."

With 50,000 stamps printed and nowhere to sell them, Miss Bissell at last enlisted the aid of a columnist on a Philadelphia news-

paper. The idea caught and within a few weeks \$3,000 was collected.

The first nation-wide sale was held the following year and was backed by newspapers all over the country, religious and civic groups, and sponsored by the American Red Cross and the National Tuberculosis association.

## Burial Place of Santa in Italy

Santa Claus, otherwise St. Nicholas, otherwise the one-time bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, is buried in Bari, Italy. His body was stolen from its original tomb in Myra and swiftly borne to Bari by Italian sailors, who thought back in 1087 that a saint's body brought prosperity and good luck to your town.

St. Nicholas, who was tortured and imprisoned for his faith during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, found no rest in his first tomb at Myra. Always some expedition was attempting to remove his remains.

However, once buried again in Bari, the saint's body was credited with curing 30 people of distemper and performing other miracles. So Bari became a place of pilgrimage and the legends about St. Nicholas multiplied apace.

We owe our notion of Santa Claus as a secret dispenser of gifts to a story that St. Nicholas once saved three girls from a life of prostitution by throwing purses of gold through a window in Patara; thus permitting a poverty stricken nobleman to give his daughters suitable dowries as custom demanded.

In addition, St. Nicholas was credited with restoring life to some boys who had been slain and dismembered by a wicked innkeeper of Myra—hence the occasional stained glass windows in which the saint is shown beside three lads in a tub. There were many other stories about St. Nicholas in the dialect of the New York Dutch.

For treating burns, cover burned area with a clean dry compress or pad of cloth, if burn pads are not available. You can use the strips torn from a sheet, shirt, towel or pillowcase.

## Early Yuletide Thought Pagan

Christmas, like any other blessed institution, has had to fight its battles. The first great enemy of Christmas was the Roman empire whose pagan emperors determined to blot out all kinds of Christian rites.

Then when Roman Emperor Constantine Christianized the empire other enemies of Christmas arose. One course of contention was: Is December 25 really Christmas? Some said Christ was born on January 6; others held for March 29. Some set April 21 as His birthday. Nobody knew with complete confidence just when to celebrate Christmas. At last, in the fourth century, Pope Julius I, settled the matter in favor of our present date. His decision was universally accepted.

From the first there had been among Christians a certain hostility toward the Christmas festival. The celebration of birthdays in general was considered heathenish and something taken over from the pagans. Nor did the enemies of Christmas fail to observe that many pagan customs had crept into the festivities of the day. Christmas and the days of Advent that go before it occur at the time of the winter solstice, when the days cease to grow shorter, and begin to lengthen — when the sun, having declined its furthest from zenith, begins to climb again. The period was one of festival in many parts of the world, and was held sacred by many religions. Then occurred the Roman Saturnalia, with its wild excesses, and the people of the north, too, had a great midwinter feast with days of hearty eating and deep drinking. It was only natural that some of the old pagan rites peculiar to the season should be

held over and incorporated into the rejoicings of Christmas.

From the Saturnalia came banquets and dances and riotings in masks and the giving of gifts. Our Christmas dinner and Christmas presents and Christmas cards and in the wearing of Christmas masks in various parts of the world date back to the Saturnalia. The mid-winter feast of the northern peoples was called Yule, hence our Yuletide and Yule log. The burning of the Christmas log descends from northern tree worship. So does the Christmas tree. The ancient Druids gave Christmas its holly and mistletoe.

Santa Claus seems to date from later Christian times. He is good St. Nicholas, of course. The hanging of stockings comes from the legend that the saint, among

his other charities, used to provide dowries for poor girls. The older form of the Christmas stocking custom was for poor girls to hang up stockings in the hope that benevolent St. Nicholas would place marriage portions in them.

Fire caused 80 per cent of the damage to cities during World War II.

SEASON GREETINGS  
PHONE 853  
NEHALEM VALLEY  
MOTOR FREIGHT



Best wishes  
for your  
happiness  
this Yule-  
tide.

NEHALEM MARKET AND  
GROCERY



Season's  
Best Wishes  
The peace and  
happiness of  
Christmas belongs  
to you.  
1952

SAM'S FOOD STORE

SEASON GREETINGS  
RIVERVIEW  
RADIO SHOP  
SALES — SERVICE  
ADMIRAL LINE  
Guaranteed Repair  
ON  
RADIOS RECORDERS  
RECORD PLAYERS  
Full Line Raytheon Tubes  
Phone 774

We Extend Our  
Season's Greetings

Let a holiday spirit prevail, and  
giver and receiver alike cherish  
the happiest Christmas ever.  
May the faith of the  
children be strong in  
your hearts.

BUSH FURNITURE

Christmas  
1952  
May all  
Happiness  
be yours

You deserve a wealth  
of Yuletide joy  
and peace.

Vernonia Sanitary Service  
and  
Cason Transfer

CHRISTMAS  
GREETINGS

Let's all do our best  
to have the happiest  
holiday of our  
lives

NEHALEM SERVICE  
STATION