

### Customs Vary In Other Lands

Although such things as family dinner and the custom of gift giving are a part of the Christmas observance almost everywhere, this universal holiday is celebrated differently around the world.

In the United States, of course, we have the Christmas tree, holly and mistletoe, Santa Claus and

**Christmas cards.**  
In Italy the shepherds gather in villages on Christmas Eve to play musical instruments as boys and girls sing sweet Nativity songs. And thousands come from all over the world to attend Mass in St. Peter's in Rome on Christmas day.

In Holland, the land of Old St. Nicholas, forerunner of our Santa Claus, it was custom in former years for the Dutch to celebrate for about a month. St. Nick scattered his gifts about the floors of Dutch homes as early as December 6.

In Greece, decorated trees, greeting cards and the exchanging of gifts mark the observance of the holiday. New Year's eve is the time for a really big celebration with dances and parties for both young and old.

In Mexico, during the nine days before Christmas, candlelight processions are formed nightly. Called Posadas, which literally means "lodging," this ritual reenacts the holy family's journey to Bethlehem and its difficulty in finding a place to stay. At a prearranged household, the marchers are barred at first, then admitted with rejoicing.

### Special Cancellations Mark History Mileposts

Anniversaries of two schools in higher education will be observed with special postal cancellations from January 1 through June 30, 1959. One, at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, will mark the "Wake Forest College 125th anniversary 1834-1959," and the other at Valparaiso, Indiana, will note the "Valparaiso University Centennial 1859-1959."

On January 2, 1959, Montgomery, New York, will begin use of a cancellation reading "Sequentennial Celebration June 28-July 4, 1959." This cancel will be used through July 4. Finally, from January 18 through July 18, 1959, Cando, North Dakota, will utilize a special cancellation reading "Diamond Jubilee Cando, N. Dak. July 16-18, 1959."



### Special Centennial 4-cent Stamp Ready for Oregon Birthday Date

The 4-cent Oregon Statehood Centennial commemorative stamp to be first placed on sale February 14, 1959, at Astoria, Oregon, will symbolize the end of the long overland trek of its original settlers, according to Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

Robert Hallock of Newton, Connecticut, is the artist who designed the forthcoming commemorative stamp. It emphasizes a rear view of an unhorsed covered wagon, typical of those used over the Oregon Trail by the early settlers.

The stark realism of the stamp design depicts the covered wagon in the center, with Mount Hood to the right. The terrain slopes to the left, or west, meeting the Pacific Ocean.

In the upper portion of the design, in dark Gothic lettering arranged in two lines, is "Oregon Statehood 1859-1959." In the sky, to the left of the wagon, is a white star, symbolizing Statehood, while across the bottom, in white Gothic lettering against a solid background, is "U.S. Postage 4 Cents."

The new stamp, measuring 0.84 by 1.44 inches, arranged horizontally, will be printed in a blue-green color in sheets of fifty, electric-eye perforated and printed by the rotary process. An initial printing of 120,000,000 has been authorized.

Collectors desiring first day cancellations may send addressed envelopes to the Postmaster, Astoria, Oregon, with remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed. An enclosure of medium weight should be placed in each envelope and the flap either turned in or sealed. The outside envelope to the Postmaster should be endorsed "First Day Covers Oregon Statehood Stamp."

Oregon is one of the three "West Coast" states—the others being California to the south, and Washington to the north. It was named for its greatest river, now the Columbia, which was called the Ouragan by the Indians.

In area it ranks ninth, having

96,315 square miles. Its first explorers landed in 1788, from a boat commanded by Robert Gray of Boston. The first actual settlement was at Astoria, by John Jacob Astor's fur trading company, in 1811.

By 1848 Oregon was made a territory, and eleven years later it became a state. Its first capital was Oregon City, and later Salem.

It is interesting to note that the Oregon Trail stretched across the country for roughly two thousand miles. It began at Independence, Missouri, crossed the Rocky Mountains, and ended at what is now Vancouver, in the State of Washington.

The beginnings of the Oregon Trail were blazed by Indians and fur trappers. The first explorer to travel over the whole trail is believed to be Nathaniel J. Wyeth, in 1832.

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### Some Ornaments Prove Poisonous

Children may be seriously poisoned by drinking or inhaling the contents of some Christmas tree bubbling-fluid decorations, the state board of health warned parents this week.

The bubbling fluid, methylene chloride, can severely affect the central nervous system, according to Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer. Dr. Erickson reported that reliable sources have notified the state board of health of several instances in which central nervous system depression following ingestion of the bubbling fluid by very small children.

"One Christmas tree bubbling-fluid decoration contains enough methylene chloride to constitute a lethal dose," he said. He urged parents to keep the decorations out of reach of small children and to warn older children of the po-

isonous nature of the fluid. Children who drink the bubbling fluid should be taken to a private physician immediately to have their stomachs emptied. Further treatment may be necessary.

Fireplace colors made from metallic salts are also poisonous when ingested. The burning of different metallic compounds, which brings forth varicolored flames when the salts are thrown on a blazing fire, is harmless. However, children who eat the fireplace colors are in danger of moderate to extreme poisoning, depending on the metallic compound ingested. In case of ingestion of the fireplace colors the stomach must be emptied as soon as possible and further treatment if necessary, be directed to the specific compound ingested.



To all our friends and neighbors in and around Vernonia, our wish for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BOB & IRENE SPENCER



### Christmas Wishes

May this truly be a most enjoyable holiday for you and all those you love.



Union Oil Company

Loel Roberts, Consignee



Christmas Greetings  
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### Season's Greetings



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