

New Christmas More Delightful

No two Christmases are ever alike, but this one, surely, must be the most memorable of all. Each year it's true. Every Christmas is more delightful than the last, if only because it is enriched by one more memory of Christmas past.

Memories and traditions mount up to make the Christmas customs of today. Most such customs began so long ago that their origin is hidden in the mists of time, and several theories may be put forward to explain why and how each custom developed.

Happily, the wealth of legend and lore woven about Christmas is pleasing rather than confusing. Especially at this season, a touch of the magical and mystical is more to be welcomed than a deluge of precise fact-

ual detail, and one of the special charms of Christmas customs is the hint of mystery surrounding them.

Decorating of Trees Devised

Candles, apples, colored papers—these were among the early tree ornaments.

Later, individual countries developed their own tree-decorating ideas. Straw windmills and birdcages appeared on Lithuanian trees, while the Poles devised ornaments from feathers and ribbons.

Tree decorations contributed by Scandinavian countries were as various as fish nets and miniature flags.

The modern array of tree ornaments is vast and imaginative, but even so many families like to add their own personal, "old-fashioned" touch to the tree, with decorations such as strings of popcorn or cranberries.

In England today an hour's wage buys 18 ounces of round steak; France, seven ounces; Russia, four ounces.

Vernonia Eagle

THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1964



On Christ's Birthday,
Our own Christmas carol:
Old Friends and new,
We wish a Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year to
you.

C. J. and Essie Nance



Praying God above will
bless your Christmas with
happiness, and keep you in
His loving care, every day
and everywhere.

Mrs. Lum Brown

at CHRISTMAS

May your holiday be
happy and
your blessings
many.

COFFEE BREAK — Edna Berg
— OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY —

ALL ABOARD
FOR
CHRISTMAS!

The Christmas spirit has been very much a part of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway this past week. We've seen it expressed in the special warmth with which strangers exchange greetings. We've seen it reflected from the faces of happy folks traveling to a reunion with loved ones. As a matter of fact, even the rails seem to sing a song of Yuletide! So, to these happy sights and sounds, we add our own best wishes that your holiday may be a truly joyous occasion.

SPOKANE, PORTLAND and SEATTLE
RAILWAY SYSTEM
General Offices: American Bank Bldg., Portland, Oregon



Seeking Log Family Ritual

The traditional Yule log survives today more in art, song and story than as an actual "blazing Yule." After all, not every home has a fireplace nowadays, and even when a fireplace exists, its proportions are usually far from sufficient to accommodate the Yule logs of yesteryear.

During ancient times in England, however, it was a solemn family ritual to select the log, dry it and burn it according to custom. Logs from fruit bearing trees were preferred.

The whole family went along to select the log, as this was thought to bring good luck for the coming year, and to frighten away witches.

If the log burned out quickly, or did not burn brightly, it meant bad luck ahead.

On Christmas morning, the children of the house beat upon the log and called for gifts to come forth. They were scolded by their parents, sent outside and, after a time, called in to open the gifts, which had been set near the log.

TALLEST TREE

Tallest Christmas tree? In the U. S. the title probably goes to the Indianapolis, Indiana, "tree" — the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. At Christmas, the 246-foot structure is decorated with electric candles and stars.

Few things are busier than idle minds and idle tongues.

Scriptures Tell Of Holy Night

"And lo, the Star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." Matthew 2:9.

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:16.

From two who became His disciples come the words that tell the story of that Holy Night, the first Christmas. Matthew the tax collector wrote of the Star that shone in the east, and of the wise men who followed it to find and worship Him.

Luke the physician wrote of shepherds watching in the fields and herald angels singing in the heavens.

At church services during this Christmas season the words of the tax collector and the physician will be read and studied once again, with ever-deepening meaning.

And as the story is told anew, it is also reflected in the many observances of Christmas, both in churches and in homes.

The joyful sound of carols harks back to the first of all carols, the words of the heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The glow of candles symbolizes the birth of Christ as the Light of the world, and it also mirrors the eternal gleam of the Star of Bethlehem.

The spirit of giving takes guidance from the gifts of the Wise Men, who brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to Him.

Above all, at Christmas, mankind experiences once again the reverence, wonder and rejoicing of the wise men, of whom Matthew says,

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him."

Boat Owners To Get Data

Oregon boat owners will soon be receiving notices that their annual boat registrations are due to expire. Also being sent are applications for renewing their annual boat numbers for 1965.

The Marine Board reports that the notices and application forms are ready for mailing but it has selected December 28 as the mailing date in order to avoid the heavy Christmas mail.

Also, the State Marine Board is reminding Oregon boat owners that, effective January 1, 1965, Federal regulations require the fibre filling in all life preservers, buoyant vests, and buoyant cushions to be enclosed in a heat-sealed plastic bag.

As the state boating laws require lifesaving equipment in boats to be Coast Guard approved, the regulation automatically applies to the equipment used in Oregon boats.

The forthcoming change in Federal specifications was first announced in 1960. All Coast Guard approved lifesaving equipment having fibre filling and manufactured since 1960 is protected by the plastic bag.

IN HOLLAND

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer and Rudolph would cause no excitement in the Netherlands, where children believe that a horse pulls St. Nicholas' sleigh.

The great horse is named Sleipner, and the Dutch children fill their wooden shoes with hay for him. This gives him energy to get St. Nick to every house.

IT'S A HOLIDAY

First of the United States to give recognition to Christmas Day as a legal holiday was Alabama, in 1836.



GIFT IDEAS

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GREETINGS

Joy unconfined, hope
unrestrained . . . our
Christmas wish for you.

The Vernonia Hotel
Edith and Bill Meadows

Joy

And glory
shone in
the heavens.
May great joy be yours.

KATE'S CAFE
Closed Christmas Day

Merry Christmas

As you gather 'round the
Christmas tree with
family and friends to
sing the glad songs,
remember our
wish: A hearty, happy
Christmas to all!

VERNONIA TRADING
COMPANY, INC.