

Christmas Carols



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Drawing by Ray Walters.

ONE of the interesting developments of the celebration of Christmas in America is the revival of the ancient custom of singing Christmas carols on Christmas eve and the increasing observance of that custom in all parts of the country. Of course, we have always had some Christmas carol singing, varying in prevalence in different parts of the country and confined mainly to the Christmas exercises in church and school by the children just before the holiday. But in the hurry and haste of this modern high-speed age and our departure in many respects from the old forms of observing the day, the singing of carols is one custom which has been allowed to lapse to a great extent.

It is interesting to note, however, that the Christmas carol is "staging a comeback" and that in places where its appearance seems all the more surprising because it is in the very center of our modern commercialism. In many of the big department stores in the large cities, in hotels and in restaurants groups of musicians, dressed in the costumes of Old England, are playing and singing Christmas carols during the week before Christmas. In some of the railroad stations in the big cities hurrying commuters and other railway travelers are surprised to hear the sound of voices, singing old-fashioned Christmas carols, pealing out through the cathedral-like spaces of these great structures and upon pausing for a moment they see that the singing comes from a balcony overlooking the concourse and that it is a trained choir of many voices which is thus adding to the Christmas spirit in evidence everywhere.

The first Christmas carol is said to be that sung by the heavenly host when the birth of Christ was announced to the shepherds. Here is a description of that singing as told by St. Luke:

"There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and singing, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Probably the practice of singing at Christmas rose in imitation of this, as the majority of the carols declare the good tidings of great joy. The word "carol" itself comes from two Latin words meaning "to sing joyfully." Or as it was defined long ago in a curious old stanza:

"Know you what is a carol?
'Tis singing, with praise of God
If you praise God and sing not,
You utter no carol.
If you sing and praise not God,
You utter no carol.
If you praise anything which does not appertain
To the praise of God,
Though, in singing, you praise,
You utter no carol."

It is a curious fact that the singing of carols, like many of our other Christmas customs, owes something to a pagan as well as a Christian origin. The early church found that all pagan religions celebrated the birth of a new year. The Druids gathered mistletoe on what is our day of Christmas, the Romans held their saturnalia, the Persians held agricultural ceremonies, as did the Chinese.

Theophilus, bishop of Caesarea, toward the middle of the Second century, recommended "the observance of the birthday of our Lord on what day soever the 25th of December shall happen." There follows a definite statement that the first official carol was "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" and the year in which it was sung on the new date was 129 A. D. Thus the church was able to profit from the mood of merriment created by the pagans. The spirit of joy from many religions was merged into that of one.

Many high churchmen in the ancient times opposed the introduction of song into the solemn moments. No power, however, could stem the tide of innocent song which had invaded religious observance. The first crusade preached by Urban in 1095 gave impetus to the troubadour movement and the holidays for five centuries were to resound with the songs of their inspiration. By 1500 carol singing was widespread in Europe and was being introduced into England.

In the England of today wandering bands of minstrels or "watts" preserve the old customs by going from house to house piping Christmas tunes on reed instruments and singing carols. It may be this that they sing: "Wassail, wassail! to our town! The bowl is white, and the ale is brown;

The bowl is made of the rosemary tree, And so is the ale, of the good barley. Little maid, little maid, tirl the pin! Open the door, and let us come in!"

Or they may lift up their voices in this equally old carol: "Here us comes a wassailing, under the holly green, Here us comes a wandering, so merry to be seen, Good luck good Master Hodgkin, and kind Mistress also, And all the little children that round the table go!

Your pockets full of money, your cupboards full of good cheer, A merry Christmas, Gutzards, and a Happy New Year!"

The poor women and children also sing carols on the streets and are given cakes by those who listen. Some of the carol singers carry peaked lanterns to light them on their way. The bringing in of the Yule log in Eng-

land was the occasion of a joyous ceremony and the singing of merry songs, such as the "Boar's Head" carol, still sung at Oxford at Christmas which goes as follows:

"The boar's head in hand bear I
Bedecked with bays and rosemary;
And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivio
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino!"

"Our steward hath provided this
In honor of the King of Bliss,
Which on this day to be served is,
In Regimini Atrio
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino!"

Almost every land has its own Christmas carols. They are called Wiegeliieder or Kristlieder in Germany, Noels in France, and carols in England. In Russia the ancient Kolyada songs, once sung to pagan gods, now dedicated to the Christian saints, are sung about the streets.

It is to Austria, however, that we are indebted for one of our best known of all Christmas songs. For "Silent Night" had its origin in a simple pre-Christmas party to which a young priest, Joseph Mohr, was invited in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria, in 1818. At Oberndorf it was the custom shortly before Christmas for wandering comedians from the near-by village of Laufen to give crude representations of the Christmas story as recounted in the Bible. A shipowner named Maier invited Joseph Mohr, young assistant priest who had recently come to the village from Salzburg, to be his guest at a little party. As a special surprise for the priest, Maier arranged for the comedians from Laufen to stage their festival play at his home.

The thoughtful hospitality of the Maier couple and the touching simplicity of the festival play so stirred the young priest that instead of going straight home he climbed the so-called "Totenberg" (mountain of the dead), overlooking Oberndorf, and stood there in silent meditation.

The silence of the night, the blinking of the stars, the murmur of the Salzach river all inspired him. Quickly he descended to his parish house, and late that night the words to "Silent Night" were written.

The next day he hurried to his chum and co-worker, Franz Gruber, village organist and school teacher. He requested his friend to write the music for his song. Happy at this opportunity, Gruber composed the melody that is known perhaps to more people than any other single melody.

Christmas eve of 1818 came and the priest and the teacher were ready to offer the song for the first time. Unfortunately the organ of St. Nicola was out of commission that night. For a moment it seemed as though the congregation were to be cheated out of this unique premiere. But Gruber ran back to his home and got his guitar. To its accompaniment Mohr and Gruber then sang "Silent Night" for the first time as a duet.

(By Western Newspaper Union.)

ASKS FOR MILLIONS TO AID UNEMPLOYED

Hoover Predicts Crisis Will Be Over in Six Months.

Washington.—In his second annual message on the state of the Union, President Hoover told congress, in effect, that good times are just around the corner.

He enumerated various indications that the tide has already turned and made clear his belief that a fair degree of prosperity will have been restored by summer.

To cope with the crisis which exists in the meantime, the President asked congress for an appropriation of from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 for the acceleration of public works construction in order to give employment to men out of work.

Later President Hoover sent to the house a detailed explanation of where and how he would spend the \$150,000,000 emergency employment fund.

Chairman Will Wood of the house appropriations committee immediately introduced a bill to carry out the President's recommendations.

President Hoover told the house in a letter that speed was the essence of his request; that the \$150,000,000, to be helpful in the present emergency, must be made available promptly for expenditure during the rest of the present fiscal year, ending June 30.

Republican leaders declared their purpose to press for passage of the bill within the next ten days with a view to final action in the senate before Christmas so that the President can begin spending the money.

Wood's bill places the fund directly at the disposal of President Hoover. "Our immediate problem," said the President, "is the increase of employment for the next six months, and new plans which do not produce such immediate results, or which extend commitments beyond this period, are not warranted."

Surveying the finances of the country, the President broke the news gently to income tax payers that the income tax reduction allowed on 1929 incomes cannot be continued on 1930 incomes, the tax on which will be payable next year. The rates automatically revert to the regular levels.

Mr. Hoover did not specifically state that the income tax reduction is to be discontinued, but the financial statement he submitted is clearly based on this assumption.

On the basis of the income tax reduction now in effect, applying to the last six months of 1929 but not to the first six months of 1931, the President calculates that the government will wind up the current fiscal year with a deficit of \$180,000,000 instead of the surplus of \$123,000,000 which the treasury estimated a year ago. Then, assuming that "the temporary tax reduction of last year be discontinued," the President said that a surplus of only about \$30,000,000 is in sight for the next fiscal year.

"Most rigid economy," the President added, "is therefore necessary to avoid increase in taxes."

Mr. Hoover recommended that the appropriation of between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000 be made distributable upon recommendation of a cabinet committee approved by the President. With that amount available, the President said it would be possible to expend a total of \$850,000,000 upon construction of all kinds in the next 12 months.

At the instance of the administration, Senator Otis F. Glenn (Rep., Ill.), member of the senate appropriations committee, immediately introduced a bill providing for the appropriation of \$150,000,000 as the emergency unemployment fund requested by the President.

Loyola University Bans Intercollegiate Football

Chicago.—Loyola university has abandoned intercollegiate football and will confine itself to intramural sports on the gridiron, President Robert M. Kelley, S. J., announced. The school built and dedicated this year a fine new stadium. Father Kelley stated that "it is our belief that the interest and appeal of these spectacular football games are getting away from the colleges and universities and are being centered on the public; or, in other words, the colleges and universities are competing with entertainment agencies for the patronage of the amusement-seeking public."

Four Hunters Die When Forest Shack Is Burned

Otis, Mass.—Four hunters perished and six were burned and wounded by exploding shells when a camp in which 14 men were housed was destroyed by fire near here. The dead were Otto Rittner and Joseph Genniv of New Britain, Conn., and Thomas Hill and Daniel Reilly of Shelton, Conn.

Want Army Surgeon Executed
Kansas City, Kan.—Government attorneys announced they would ask the death penalty for Maj. Charles A. Shepard, fifty-nine, army surgeon, on trial in the Federal court on charges of killing his wife.

Farm Woman Kills Husband, Self
Allegan, Mich.—Ed Nickling, forty, was shot and killed by his wife, Maude, thirty-five, who killed herself, on a farm near here. She used a shotgun and fired eight shots.

MOTHER JONES IS DEAD



Mary "Mother" Jones.

Washington.—Mary "Mother" Jones, militant crusader for the rights of the laboring man, died at her home in nearby Maryland. She was 100 years old. The celebrated labor leader, who had championed the cause of the working man for 60 years, succumbed to the ravages of old age only after her death had been expected a number of times during the last year. The body was shipped to Mount Olive, Ill., where she was buried among "her boys" who were killed in 1898 in Virden mine riots.

FRENCH CABINET IS DOOMED TO DEFEAT

Tardieu Loses in Great Fight to Remain at the Helm.

Paris.—Amid an uproar not heard in the halls of the senatorial palace for years, Premier Andre Tardieu's second cabinet went down to defeat by a margin of eight votes, when the senate voted on an order of the day implying mistrust in the government. The young premier, who went down smiling and fighting to the bitter end, had previously posed a question of confidence against that procedure.

The actual vote was 147 to 139. It was the fourth time in the history of the third republic the senate had forced a government to resign instead of the chamber of deputies.

Premier Tardieu did not wait to hear the vote, for he had left the building a few seconds before, grimly grinding his teeth on his famous cigarette holder, realizing that all was lost despite his vigorous fight and the support of his predecessor, Raymond Poincare, who almost turned the tide of battle.

The premier and his colleagues visited President Doumergue at the Elysee palace and presented the resignation of the entire cabinet.

The overthrow of the Tardieu government creates the most serious governmental crisis in many years, and, coming on the heels of a month of futile bickering between the chamber of deputy groups, threatens gravely to discredit the parliamentary regime.

It is generally admitted that M. Poincare is the only man who can hold the "wild horses" in parliament together, but the ageing "savior" of France insists his health will not permit him to return to power, and steadfastly resists all efforts to draft him.

Iowa Girl, Missouri Boy, Healthiest in 4-H Club

Chicago.—Blue eyes, flaxen hair cut in boyish bob, a sweet, modest smile, a blue sailor dress, complete the picture of Marian E. Syndergaard, fifteen years old, of Grundy county, Iowa, winner of the national health club contest of the 4-H club.

She was the winner in a group of 20 girls from all parts of the United States, examined by nurses, dentists and doctors at the McCormick Memorial Institute. The 4-H club held its ninth annual congress in Chicago and 1,400 members were here, each a winner in local contests.

Fifteen boys also contested, and the high score here was made by William E. Bodenhamer, twenty years old, of Johnson county, Missouri.

It was a close contest and the doctors had to look over their candidates several times. Marian's score was 99.7 and William got 98.7. Marian is a senior in high school and is the seventh child in a family of eight, her parents being of Danish blood.

Brokers Who Failed Sent to Prison
St. Louis.—William and Fred Young, investment brokers, who failed in March for approximately \$2,300,000, were sentenced by Federal Judge C. B. Farris to serve six years each in Leavenworth prison for using the mails to defraud.

Ends Cuban Martial Law
Havana.—Martial law which was put into effect before the recent Cuban elections, was ended by decree of President Machado.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

The Clatsop county cranberry crop fell far below normal this season. The estimated crop for the county is 6400 bushels as compared with 12,000 last year.

Banking conditions in southern Oregon are in better shape at this time than for many months, according to A. A. Schramm, state superintendent of banks.

Out of approximately 146 miles of market road outlined by the Marion county court two years ago as its five-year program, 77 miles have been completed.

The total net indebtedness of Oregon and its political subdivisions on July 1 this year was \$185,643,456.88, says a report prepared by State Treasurer Kay.

Fire starting after midnight in the basement of the Mint cafe in Klamath Falls damaged several buildings in the block, with the total loss estimated at \$20,000.

Lawrence Pippin, 47, fireman's helper, was suffocated when he fell head first into a sawdust bin at a sawmill in Klamath Falls. He was not missed for 15 minutes.

Two does were killed when an automobile driven by Henry Mench of Bend crashed into a herd of five black-tails. The deer were turned over to Sheriff McCauley.

Thieves entered the Clatskanie high school and stole 15 typewriters, two adding machines, and personal effects of teachers and students. The loss is estimated at \$2000.

A 2-year-old Aberdeen-Angus bull, owned by D. E. Alexander, Klamath Falls, won third place in the breeding cattle division of the national livestock show at Chicago.

Frank R. Neil, 63, native of Jacksonville, was killed instantly when his shotgun discharged while he was crawling through a barb wire fence on his ranch near Butte Falls.

Sleighting is in Pine valley—just enough snow to make the roads fine for sleighs or cars. With the thermometer around zero the young people are thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Roy Hise of Eugene has been awarded \$2250 in a suit against the city of North Bend for personal injuries. In 1925 Hise drove his automobile off a North Bend dock in a dense fog while passing through the city.

Fire believed to be of incendiary origin destroyed the old sawmill of Cobbs-Mitchell company at Falls City. The loss is estimated at \$75,000, partly covered by insurance. The mill had been idle eight years.

Marion county will pay about \$4000 more for transporting high school students this year than last. There are 753 pupils, and at the rate of \$40 each the total cost will be \$30,320. The cost last year was \$26,000.

Alfalfa grange is the third grange organization in Deschutes county to protest against the proposed removal of County Agricultural Agent McDonald. The other two granges protesting are Pine Forest and Eastern Star.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, 81c; soft white, western white, 69c; hard winter, northern spring, western red, 67c.

Hay—Buying price, f. o. b. Portland: Alfalfa, \$18@18.50; valley timothy, \$17.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$19@20; clover, 14; oat hay, \$14; oats and vetch, \$13.50@14.

Butterfat—28@30c.

Eggs—Ranch, 18@30c.

Cattle—Steers, good, \$8@8.50.

Hogs—Good to choice, \$9@9.25.

Lambs—Good to choice, \$6.50@7.00

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white, western white, northern spring, hard winter, western red, 70c; bluestem, 79c.

Eggs—Ranch, 22@33c.

Butterfat—33c.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$7.25@8.25.

Hogs—Good to choice, \$9@9.25.

Lambs—Choice, \$5.50@6.50.

Spokane

Cattle—Steers, good, \$7@7.25.

Hogs—Good to choice, \$8.75@8.85.

Lambs—Medium to good, \$5@5.6.

Our position on channel swimming, as recreation, remains as formerly: Anyone healthy enough to try is healthy enough not to have to.

Something else that does the nervous system no good is watching a four-year-old maneuver a large piece of currant jelly onto a small segment of cracker.

A working girl listing her living expenses in a western paper puts down \$22 a year for chewing gum. For \$22 you could start a chicle orchard in your yard.

Don't bother to "make this simple test"



But if you must convince yourself, try some ordinary tobacco in an old pipe. Note result in chalk on the bottom of your left shoe.

Then try some ordinary tobacco in your favorite pipe. Note on other shoe. Finally, try some Sir Walter Raleigh smoking tobacco in any good pipe. You won't have to note it anywhere, for you'll notice with the very first puff how much cooler and milder it is. It stays so, right down to the last puff in the bowl—rich, mellow and fragrant. Your regular tobacco-nist has Sir Walter, of course. Try a tin—today.



IT'S 15¢—and milder

Dried Peas 10c, Apricots 15c, Prunes 5c per pound. Money refunded if not satisfied. N. E. Jacobson, Hollister, Calif.

MULTINOMAH HOTEL
4th and Pine—Portland, Ore.
A Hotel where you are welcome
Fireproof Room—bath \$2.00 up

PARKER'S HAIR BALM
Removes Dandruff, Stops Hair Falling, Imparts Color and Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair. (Invent. Chas. W. Parker, Patchogue, N.Y.)
FLORESTON SHAMPOO—Ideal for use in connection with Parker's Hair Balm. Makes the hair soft and fluffy. 50 cents by mail or at drug-gists. Hileco Chemical Works, Patchogue, N.Y.

Dog Given Honor
Chinook, famous sled dog which died on the Byrd expedition, has been honored in New Hampshire, his home state. The road from Tamworth to Wonalancet has been officially designated as Chinook trail.

Blessings of poverty are imaginary. To have enough and not too much is the best condition.



Mother of Four Babies

"Although I am only 22 years old, I have four babies to care for. Before my first baby was born my mother urged me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound because I was so terribly weak. I had to lie down four or five times a day. After three bottles I could feel a great improvement. I still take the Vegetable Compound whenever I need it for it gives me strength to be a good mother to my family."—Mrs. Vern L. Dennings, 510 Johnson Street, Saginaw, Michigan.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound
Lydia E. Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass.

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