

Bulldog Staff Has Mild Disagreement; Reports Differ on Holiday Weather

By LOIS SPITZE
(Nyssa High Journalism Student)

Well, it looks like a snowless Christmas this year. We are sorry to disappoint you, but the weatherman won't take a bribe.

Seriously, though, this holiday can be just as beautiful without snow. Who knows if there was snow on the first Christmas? It might have been a beautiful autumn day or a misty, foggy evening when Christ was born.

Many people across the world have a wonderful Christmas without even seeing snow. It is the spirit of the people at this time, not the weather, that determines whether Christmas is beautiful or unsightly.

Christmas is more than a pretty season; it is a feeling of love of God and for man which is shared with others. The beauty of Christmas is more than the beauty of the weather; it is the beauty in the souls of the people who celebrate it.

If you're dreaming of a white Christmas, it looks like your dream will come true. The weather is all set for a snowfall.

Millions of soft, fluffy, sparkling snowflakes will fall from the sky. They will land on everything in sight, cling to your clothes and give your face a quick washing.

Slowly these tiny flakes will form a blanket covering the earth. This pure white blanket can be used for snowballs, snowmen or a game of fox and geese.

It is an excellent background for a sleigh ride or hay ride on

a moonlit night, with the stars twinkling overhead.

Snow just seems to bring the spirit of Christmas with it. After the first snow everyone begins to think of Christmas. They start shopping for gifts, practicing Christmas carols or planning parties and hay rides.

Perhaps the weather and your dream can get together and plan an extra white "white Christmas" this year.

Christmas Season Ends in Safe Blaze

Christmas can come to an end in a blaze of glory—and a safe one, too. Custom sets a date for the disposal of the tree by burning. It's Jan. 6, the Twelfth Night of Christmas, or Epiphany—traditionally the night when the Three Wise Men, or Magi, made their visit to the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

The modern world, reviving the Twelfth Night custom of bonfires for disposing of the tree and other greenery, combines the safety factor with community spirit and fun.

Twelfth Night celebrations are planned in many communities in public parks for neighborhood groups. It's a great night for the kids and their parents.

Children bring the trees to the park or the town collects them. On Twelfth Night everyone gathers around the bonfire of trees and greenery to sing carols.

Classifieds Get Quick Results!

Santa Claus Now A Changed Man

Santa Claus has undergone quite a metamorphosis in his time. Before Dr. Clement Moore, Santa's appearance was a problem left mostly to individual discretion and personal taste. He might be short or tall, plump or thin, merry or solemn.

The European St. Nicholas was pictured as a tall, thin man who rode a gray horse. In 1809, Washington Irving described Santa as a jolly fellow who wore a wide-brimmed hat.

After Dr. Moore wrote "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in 1823, St. Nick acquired definite external characteristics. Ever after, children "knew in a moment it must be St. Nick" by his well-fed, merry appearance—twinkling eyes and a rosy face—and his sleigh and reindeers for transportation.

The image of Santa was affirmed in 1869 when Thomas Nast's cartoon was published, picturing Santa in his now-familiar red garb, smoking a pipe. Like all famous men, Santa today finds it difficult to travel anywhere incognito.

Giant Redwood Is U.S. Yule Tree

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, the giant redwood tree that is now the U.S. National Christmas tree had already been growing for 2,000 years.

Located in King's Canyon National Park, Calif., the tree is a "Sequoia Gigantea"—a coniferous, evergreen tree—and its age is estimated, from its annual rings of growth, at 4,000 years. Its majestic redwood trunk rises 267 feet.

The U.S. Department of the Interior officially designated this redwood as the National Christmas Tree on April 28, 1926. Earlier, it had been named the General Grant Tree, for the 18th President.

In December, Christmas services are held annually at the base of the tree, climaxing a month-long Christmas Festival celebration by the citizens of Sanger and neighboring communities of Fresno county, Calif. Members of the National Park service place a wreath at the base of the tree.

Cheerful Colors Brighten Season

By JAN RINEHART
(Nyssa High Journalism Student)

One of the most beautiful things about Christmas is the beauty of decorations. Red and green are the basic colors of Christmas. They can be accented with white.

Red is considered a warm color. It could symbolize the warmth that the birth of Christ has brought to all people. During the Christmas season small children have a warm feeling in their hearts for Santa Claus.

In many homes across the country you see beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Pine boughs are also used for decorating homes. The greenness of Christmas symbolizes life and growth. Jesus' birth on Christmas begins a new life and growth for all Christian people.

Tradition Assisted When Washington Crossed the Delaware

During the American Revolution, George Washington used his knowledge of Christmas celebrations to take an important step toward peace.

Puritan settlers in the New World disapproved of Christmas festivities, but Washington knew the Hessian soldiers, employed by George III to fight the colonists, would observe Christmas as they had done at home.

On Dec. 25-26, 1776, he crossed the Delaware river, attacked and put to route the surprised Hessians who had been obliviously sleeping off the effects of their holiday festivities.

Letter to Editor Written by Comet, Santa's Reindeer

By JEANIE SEUELL
(Nyssa High Journalism Student)

Dear Editor,
I am Comet, one of Santa's eight tiny reindeer. I am writing to tell your readers to please have mercy on us this year.

Every year we are bogged down with gifts for Americans. Santa nearly works his fingers to the bone trying to please you. He gets a bigger sleigh every year to hold the freezers, hi-fi's and Corvettes. Last year he even resorted to having Rudolph help pull the sleigh, as well as guide it, because it was getting too heavy to pull.

Now, with the Russians we have no problem. We never have to worry about them wanting washing machines or color TV's. We simply tell their leaders that the natives don't want any Christmas presents—and they don't.

So once again I plead, please go easy on us this year. Remember that your everyday heritage of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness would make anyone from behind the Iron curtain the best Christmas present of all.

'Season's Greetings' By CAROL YOUNG

(Nyssa High Journalism Student)

M—oney you have to spend on other people.

E—xpect your CARE package any day now.

R—ace to the Christmas tree in the morning.

R—elax!! (?) It's vacation!

Y—ogi. Ah, that's Santa's middle name.

C—areful Santa, that chimney is awfully narrow.

H—elp! Santa's caught in the chimney.

R—eturn all size 22 gifts.

I—wannna hippopotamus for Christmas.

S—end Clyde Swisher a new black whip.

T—ell Santa I love him.

M—ake your gifts—it's cheaper.

A—lvin wants a hulu hoop for Christmas.

S—anta's watching, but we don't care.

KING ARTHUR'S YULE

According to story, the first Christmas in England was celebrated at the famous Round Table of King Arthur.

Mystery of Magi Leads to Legends

Familiar to all is the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem—and yet little is known about it. In the books of the New Testament, only St. Matthew reports the visit.

St. Matthew called them "wise men from the East." In the legends that have developed, they are sometimes called "Magi," because this word, meaning "august," was the name given priests of the ancient Medes and Persians.

Tradition says they had heard that a bright new star would announce the coming of a Saviour to the world. After years of watching, they saw the star and set out from Babylon to find Him.

In Bethlehem they gave the Christ Child gold in a shrine-shaped casket, a sign that they accepted Him as their King; frankincense, a symbol of His deity; and myrrh in a golden horn as a prophecy of His death.



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Greetings of the season

And happy, hearty holiday wishes to all our friends and patrons. We hope you enjoy many festive hours, and many quiet ones, too, in the company of your dear ones. It's a pleasure to serve people like you, and we most sincerely thank you for your loyalty and good will.

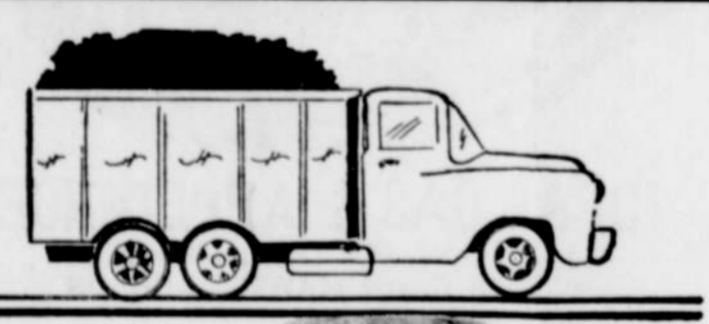
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