

A Very Merry Christmas TO ALL

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Governor Tom McCall Sends 1969 Christmas Message To Oregonians

"Christmas -- in all its bluff and hearty honesty -- is close at hand," wrote Charles Dickens, "the season of hospitality, merriment, and open-heartedness!"

Perhaps for some, on this last Christmas of a stormy decade, those words ring our ears. But somehow and somehow, this magic season always gets its message to the human heart. That is the strength and the immortality of this mid-winter festival.

Charles Dickens -- a great man of literature and widely remembered for his keen ability at the written evocation of Christmas -- was well aware of the delicate human blending of joy and remorse.

"Numerous indeed," wrote Dickens, "are the hearts to which Christmas brings a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families whose members have been disbursed and scattered, far and wide, in the restless struggles of life, are reunited, and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual goodwill, which is a source of such pure and unalloyed delight, and one so incompatible with the cares and sorrows of the world. How many old recollections, and how many dormant sympathies does Christmas time awaken!

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the de-

lusions of our childhood days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; and transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fireside and his quiet home."

The power of Christmas is that simple and that remarkable. It is a spiritual and social occasion. It reunites those who have been parted. It brings hope into every heart. It says to all mankind: live and love again.

On this Christmas, 1969, Mrs. McCall and I extend our best wishes to you and your family -- for the reuniting of loved ones, for the feast of joy, and for the return of hope.

But there is another quality of Christmas which should always be honored. General William Booth and the Salvation Army -- strong symbols of Christmas in themselves -- provide an anecdote which celebrates this quality:

One Christmas season many years ago, General Booth wanted to send greetings to every Salvation Army unit. But they were scattered over six continents and cable rates were expensive. He was forced to limit his message to one word. What would best express the spirit and the challenge of Christmas -- all in one word? After deep thought, he decided, and he sent the message. It read, simply: "Others."

"O Christmas Tree" Means Fir to Most

Traditional for trimming, source of Douglas firs. The fir is the tree most people think of when they sing "O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are thy branches."

Although there are close to 40 species of firs found in Central and Southern Europe, Asia north of the Himalayas, and North America, the holiday favorite -- the Douglas fir -- is not even a true fir.

Originally named false hemlock with yew-like needles, the Douglas fir is neither a yew, hemlock, spruce nor fir. But it does have some of the characteristics of all four evergreens, and its identity confused botanists for years.

The Douglas fir's graceful, upturned growth and ability to hold its needles when cut have put it in the top spot for Christmas use. It also produces top-quality lumber. The state of Montana is an important

Next popular Christmas tree is the balsam fir. Also called Canada balsam or Balm of Gilead, according to The Encyclopedia Americana, balsam grows from Newfoundland to Virginia, west to Iowa and north and west deep into Canada.

Balsam retains needles well and give off a pleasing fragrance. It is especially well-liked in the Eastern United States.

Included among the many other Christmas choices are the Eastern red cedar, black spruce and Scotch pine.

Canadian Christmas trees, from seven provinces, are part of the holiday scene in many countries. The United States, alone, accounts for about 90 per cent of Canada's annual production of trees. Still others are shipped abroad, from Ethiopia to Venezuela.



Santa Claus visited the Nursing Home at Malheur Memorial Hospital Monday afternoon, and here he can be seen wheeling in the presents. Santa distributed gifts to each resident, most of the gifts supplied by the ANK Garden Club, the Hospital Auxiliary, the Y-Teens from Parma, and the Avon Company. Carolers have also been active serenading the nursing home residents, and they included the Boy Scouts, the young people of the Nazarene Church, and the Junior High School Chorus. Brownies from Troop 113 brought the folks fruit and nuts.

Tradition's Sheen Gives Christmas Gleam

Christmas without tradition is like bread without yeast; flat; a shoe without polish; dull; eating apple pie with a cold-festiveness. Most of our Yuletide customs are ancient beliefs and practices passed down to us from past generations. We have

accepted these customs and have been using them year after year without really knowing what most of them mean.

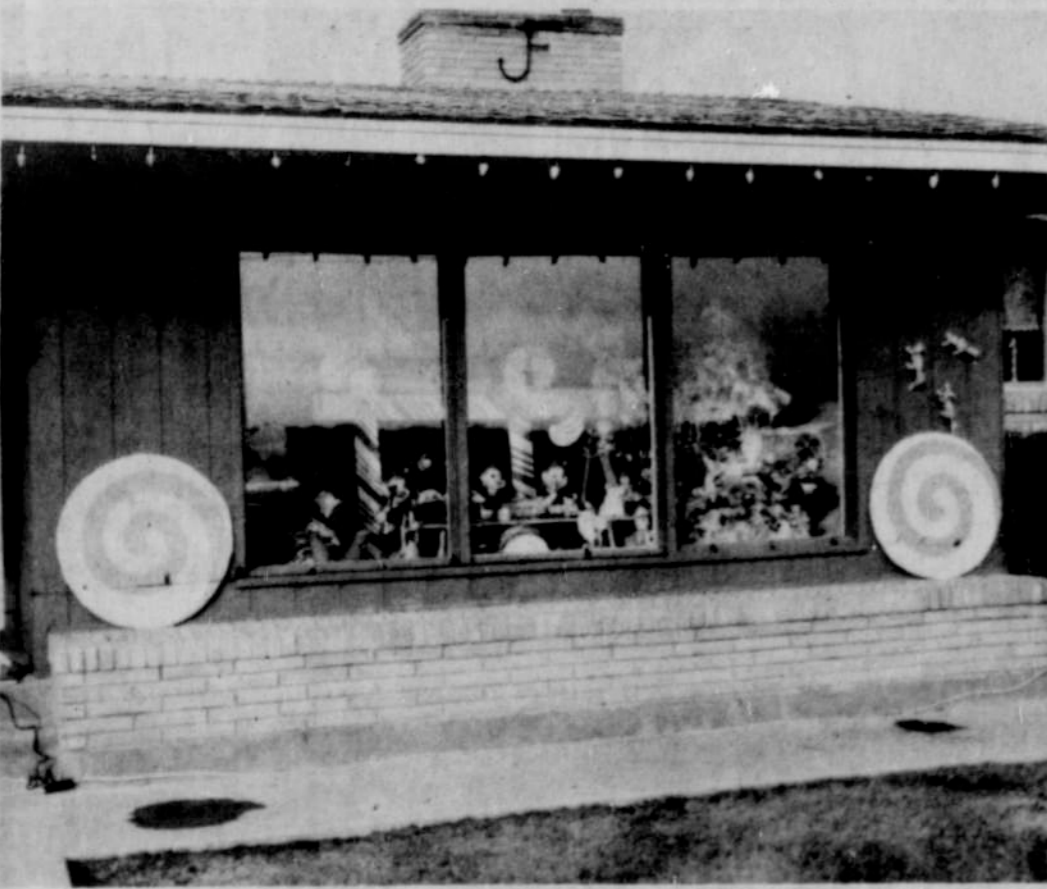
The tradition of decorating evergreen trees started in Germany. Saint Boniface adorned an evergreen tree to symbolize the new non-pagan faith which replaced the pagan worship of a sacred oak tree.

Ancient Druids believed the mistletoe had medicinal powers and that it protected a house from witchcraft. Therefore, mistletoe was hung throughout the home. Because the mistletoe was also considered a plant of peace, enemies often met beneath it to settle their differences. This is where the traditional kissing beneath the mistletoe first began.

Correct origin of the Christmas wreath is not known for certain but its circular shape symbolizes God's love which has no beginning and no end.

Medieval Christians believed in Him. To help guide Him to their homes, they set candles in the windows. This is how the candle became a part of Christmas.

Dr. Joel Poinsett discovered a flower in Mexico in 1828 and introduced it into the United States. People in Mexico and Central America called this flower "Flor de la Noche Buena" which means Flower of the Holy Night, because it reaches full bloom at Christmas. In the United States it is called the poinsettia in honor of -- you guessed it -- Dr. Poinsett.



Pictured is the living room window of Jake and Nona Fischer, showing the annual Christmas scene prepared by Nona. Each year the scene is different, and each year Nona starts from scratch preparing her own brand of magic to delight Nyssa area residents.

is something that everyone should make an effort to see.

Other homes beautifully decorated are the Anna Tensen and S. P. Bybee residences on Columbia, about a mile and a half west of the highway.

Many folks have gone to extra efforts to make Nyssa a very attractive town at Christmas, and a drive around town in the evening is most worthwhile.

The Fischer's live west of the hospital on Alberta Avenue, and the scene at night

Lutz Kliche, Foreign Exchange Student, Tells Of German Christmas

Days are getting shorter now and the nights are getting longer. The Christmas season has arrived. Perhaps some of you will be interested in hearing what Christmas in Germany is like.

Germany's Christmas season starts with the first of the four Sundays before Christmas, called the First Advent. The second Sunday is called the Second Advent and so on. These four weeks before Christmas are the time of shopping, baking cookies and decorating the house.

Everyone wants to have a white Christmas, "weisse Weihnacht," but usually we get most of our snow after Christmas. If it does snow, the snow sometimes melts two or three days before the great day, December 24.

In the morning and afternoon of the 24th, last preparations are made. The Christmas tree is decorated and gifts are wrapped. In the evening, the whole family dresses up and attends church services. Going to

church on Christmas Eve is a social event and after a walk through the village, which is always very nicely decorated, we meet with other members of our clan and some friends in an old cafe. Here we sit and talk, the men about their business and the women about the latest gossip.

When we arrive home at ten, nobody is really hungry because everybody is anxious to open his gifts. We just have a cold snack and then go into the living room, where around the tree the gifts are decorated. Before presents are unwrapped, it is traditional to sing some Christmas songs. We stay up very late having a good time.

December 25, the original Christmas day we usually go over to a relative's or friend's house for dinner. The young people soon find something to do while the parents sit together and talk. The second Christmas day, December 26, is usually spent the same way. In the evening I go to the armory or attend a show with my friends.

Malheur Memorial Hospital Auxiliary members provide the Christmas party for the nursing home residents, and some of them can be seen visting with Santa Claus. They are Mrs. Richard Forbess, Mrs. Jessie Morgan, Mrs. Gerrit Stam, Mrs. Joe Maughn, Mrs. Louise Heldt and Mrs. Herman Towne. Miss Carol Sitts, nurse aide, can be seen in the background.

Not pictured are Mrs. E. D. Michaelson, chairman of the committee providing the nice party; and Mrs. Ralph Lawrence, Mrs. Wilbur Holcomb, Mrs. Joe Cundall, Mrs. George Patterson, and Mrs. Robert Wilson are other members of the committee.

Churches Celebrate Holy Day

With special services, churches of this community celebrate Christmas -- a holiday that is, first of all, a holy day. Festivals of light, music and prayer are dedicated to the birth of a Holy Child in Bethlehem, nearly two thousand years ago.

For Christian believers, each of these -- light, music, prayer -- has a special meaning associated with Christmas.

"And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matthew 2:9-10.

The Star that guided the Wise Men shines as symbol of Christ, the Light of the world, and it in turn is symbolized by all the bright lights

The star used at Christmas represents the Star of the East that guided the tree wise men to Bethlehem. Likewise, lights at Christmas symbolize Christ as the "Light of the World."

The year 1843 was historic when in England Sir Henry Cole sent the world's first Christmas card. To whom he sent it is not known. It took more than 30 years for the Christmas card to become popular. They were first introduced in the United States in 1875 and today most everyone sends greeting cards to his family, friends and business associates.

From the Norse and Anglo-Saxons we get the traditional yule log. They burned a huge oak log once a year to honor Thor, the Norse god of thunder. After becoming Christians, they made the yule log an important part of their Christmas ceremonies.

No matter how you say it -- Zalg Kerstfeest, Gledelig Jul, S Rozhdsvom Kristovym, Prettige Kerstdagen, Felices Pascuas, Boas Festes, Froehliche Weihnachtsen, Joyeux Noel, Kung Hei Shin! Tian, Glaedelig Jul, Buon Natale, Merry Christmas -- Christmas is Christmas in any language!

that twinkle at Christmas today.

Candlelight services reflect the radiance of the holiday, in Christian observances everywhere.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14.

Since the angelic chorus brought "glad tidings of great joy" to shepherds watching in the fields, hymns and carols of rejoicing have told of the wonder and glory of Christmas.

That the words of the angels composed the first of all Christmas carols is a thought repeated again and again in favorite songs of the season.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" makes this thought its theme, and another familiar carol, "It Came upon the Midnight Clear," is devoted to "that glorious song of old," on the night when "the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing."

Christmas music in the churches celebrates the joy of the Nativity.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him." Matthew 2:11.

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Luke 2:20.

Thus wrote two of Christ's disciples, Matthew and Luke, telling of the awe and wonder, the joy and reverence experienced alike by wise men and shepherds.

Especially at Christmas, in church services and private devotions, Christians give prayerful thanks to God, for the miracle of the manger.

Why Pick Chimney? St. Nick Has Reasons

Why does Santa come down the chimney?

Of all the traditions connected with Santa, his unconventional mode of entry might seem the most puzzling. Surely the magical gift giver, who has the power to drive reindeer through the skies and who can cover the earth in a single night, could find an easier way to enter a house.

Like most of the lore of Christmas, Santa's choice of the chimney has several explanations. For instance, legend has it that the original Santa, St. Nicholas, presented three maidens with gifts of gold for a dowry. Modestly concealing his generosity, he tossed the gold down a chimney, in secret.

Another theory claims that Santa copied a goddess, who was the first to deliver gifts

via a chimney. According to this legend, when the Vikings of Norway celebrated the Yuletide or winter solstice in their great halls, a festive feature of the occasion was the appearance of the goddess Hertha in the fireplace.

As her name indicates, Hertha was goddess of hearth and home, and most appropriately arrived by way of the chimney, to deliver her Yuletide gifts of good luck and good cheer.

Still another explanation takes a practical point of view. Housewives of Northern Europe, cleaning house for the New Year, used to coax children to help with the chores by saying, "Let's clean the hearth. St. Nicholas will soon be coming down the chimney."

The children willingly set to work, and thus, says legend, a tradition was born. Even when he takes to helicopter or jet plane, Santa delivers his gifts by way of the chimney!

Manger Scene

Dated at 1224

A beautiful custom from Latin lands is the building of the manger scene, a small model of the stable where Christ was born. In Italy it is called "presepio", in Spanish it is called "nacimento", and in French it is called "creche."

Nearly every Catholic Church has its manger scene. St. Francis is said to have initiated the custom when he set up a stable on Christmas Eve in 1224.

Nowadays the manger scene is made of stones which are covered with moss or greens, with figures of Mary and Joseph near the cradle, animals, shepherds and wise men in the background.

Yodeling Yule

An old custom of the Austrian Tyrol is the Christmas yodel. Traditionally, the Yuletide yodel -- a song without words -- may be improvised, or it may be based on the tune of a familiar carol.

CARDS WERE GENERAL

Most of the popular Christmas cards of the later 19th century in Europe had no particular Christmas significance. There were some manger scenes and others of religious nature, but these were far outnumbered by landscapes, flowers, kittens, and similar subjects.



Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Kelley presented the two lovely paintings shown above to the Malheur Memorial Hospital. Here Ernest King, hospital administrator, and Sid Kelley hold the pictures painted by Sid in recent years.

WEATHER

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PREC.
Dec. 17	42	33	.02
Dec. 18	42	34	
Dec. 19	40	33	
Dec. 20	49	34	.49
Dec. 21	51	35	.26
Dec. 22	43	33	.07
Dec. 23		33	.09

OWYHEE RESERVOIR STORAGE

12/22/69	461,770	Acres Feet
12/22/68	164,250	Acres Feet