## the legend of the woodman and the little stranger

years ago, there lived a a little cottage deep in the forest.

When Christmas Eve came, the family sat down to a meagre meal, but their spirits were rich with gratitude that they had anything to eat, and a roof over their heads against the snowstorm raging outside. They were grateful too, for the fire burning briskly in the

As they were partaking of their thin soup there was a gentle knock on the door.

'Who. I wonder," said the woodman, "is coming to see us on such a bitter night?" But he opened the door, letting the snowflakes blow in. There stood a child,

in ragged clothes. The fam- Awed by the spectacle, woodman and his family in 'ily quickly brought him in, the woodman and his family put warm, dry clothes on knew at once that the little soup and bread. Then the and bowed in reverence. woodman's wife, a kindly usually slept.

> fall on mortal ears, for plenty at that season." when they looked out the

stood the little boy, dressed Christ Child. in splendid robes, and around him a radiance which out-dazzled the white

Old-Fashioned

**Greetings** 

Hope you and your family share

an old-fashioned Christmas decked

with friendship, fellowship, festivity.

Malheur Memorial Hospital

him and gave him some hot visitor was the Christ Child. Breaking a branch from a soul, gently put him to bed fir tree the Child set it in

on the cot where her son the ground, saying, "Because of your goodness to After a time the whole me, this branch will befamily went to bed. During come a tree. It will always the night they were awake- be green and will bear fruit ened by the sound of sing- at Christmas, and you will ing, the most beautiful to always be blessed with

And so, every Christmas window they saw it was after that, the woodman coming from a choir of and his family enjoyed delicious fruit heaped high on In the center of the choir their table, the gift of the

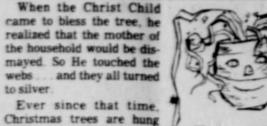


## Why the Christmas Tree Wears Icicles and Tinsel

One of the most beloved stories is about the little spiders and how they helped trim the tree

According to the old tale. one Christmas morning after the tree had been trimmed, it reposed there in all its glory, awaiting the children

Every old house (and many a new) has spiders; curious creatures that they are, they wanted to see the lovely tree, too . . . not just from the floor, but up close. So they crept all over it' until they had satisfied themselves completely that the tree was indeed a wondrously beautiful thing. But as they crept, they left cobwebs . . . beautiful, also, to Nature's eyes, but not so attractive to mothers'



with shining tinsel.

gives a reason.

picture. Another old story

One wintry night the

Christ Child was wandering

through a forest. It was

cold and he knew he must

find shelter for the night.

The trees were bare. But a

pine tree with low-hanging

branches offered some pro-

its prescience that is known

only to God, realized it was

caring for the Christ Child.

tears of joy fell from its

branches. As they fell, they

In the morning the pine

tree had been transformed

And that is why at Christ-

froze into icicles.

brilliance.

with icicles.

When the pine tree, with

tection from the wind.

## Piñata Fun Shining icicles are also Gets Break part of the pretty Christmas

A joyous Christmas mas tradition for Mexican boys and girls is the breaking of the piñata, a decorated earthen jar.

Sometimes, the pinata may be a caricature of people or animals.

The piñata is suspended by a rope that can raise or lower it. Each child is blindfolded and usually given three chances to poke at the piñata with a stick.

When it's broken, the piñata releases a bounty of delicious fruits, sweets, nuts and into a vision of dazzling

> The children scrabble to claim as many goodies as possible.





Nyssa Rexall Pharmacv

George and Jan Patterson



Joy to the world, it is the season of Christ's birth, rich in love and peace. We wish you a full share of holiday joy. Grateful thanks to all.

> HOME DAIRIES OF OREGON, INC.

## a Spanish Indian miracle play

Indian play, is given in chant a song which goes on Texas each year. It is given and on. Behind them, Ermiby every-day people who tano, which as his name work for a living, and find suggests, is a hermit; he is time to act at odd hours.

The rehearsals take place secretly in someone's back yard . . . and the play is performed in someone's back yard, unpublicized, unheralded. The objective is that no one shall see the miracle play just from mere curiosity; spirituality mals, and then Satan in is the raison d'etre.

Introduced into Mexico by Spanish monks, it is given from Christmas to Candlemas by an amateur group gathered by invitation from house to house.

The scene: at one end of the yard an altar of wood covered with black sateen. the background for the manger scene. On the steps. the family's prize possessions, while above ceilings are decked with roseentwined crepe paper. In the center of the lowest step is the Christ Child, a life-size doll, placed on a platter of colorful candies; nearby are creatures of the Manger, of odd sizes and

Opposite this scene, at the other end of the vard is a tent with volcanoes, devils, fire. From it "live devils" emerge



When the play begins, a girl comes out, dressed as an angel, and recites. Then come shepherds, in pink coats with tinsel braid, a beaded valise over the shoulder, hung on broad red ribbon. The shepherds car-

a comic character, and represents the good of the world, the soul on its earthly journey. Sometimes the Archangel Gabriel accompanies him.

Los Pastores, a Spanish- ry gaily ornate staffs, and bright red; all wear sparklers in their caps.

There is no formal end to the performance. The devils are vanquished, and the shepherds kiss the Child. A wild Indian enters and a fight ensues. He is overcome, and he kisses the Child. Then all solemnly and slowly approach the Behind him come seven altar and pay respects to devils, six in sequinned the Child. Candy and food





Good friends, good times - all the bounty of the Season to you!

TWILIGHT CAFE & LOUNGE

Fred and Jenny Bennett



It's that time of year when homes are aglow with festive decorations and sounds of Noel fill the air . . . a time to pause and think of our many wonderful friends. Merry Christmas to everyone!

Nyssa Co-op Supply

