

The Joys of Christmas Past Live On

The Christmas season is a sentimental one, but as each year rushes by it becomes more difficult to capture the charm of earlier holiday celebrations. Time was when an orange in the toe of a child's Christmas stocking was a grand surprise, and most of the gifts under the tree were

made lovingly by hand. Then, Americans had the time to enjoy the simple pleasures of holiday fellowship—friends gathered around the parlor organ to sing Yuletide carols, families leisurely decorating the house with freshly-cut greens, or children pausing at the kitchen door to savor the

aroma of steaming mince meat tarts fresh from the oven. There is one place where the old-fashioned joys of Christmas live on. Its traditions are faithfully re-created each year at Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. This year, from December 8 through December 31, the Yuletides of yesteryear come to life once more.

In the Village, December snow doesn't turn into just a slushy traffic snarl. It's a carpet for horse-drawn sleighs gliding along the streets, past historic homes decorated as they might have been when their original famous owners observed the holidays.

A Christmas tree festooned with American flags and candles in tin holders stands in the parlor of the 1860 Henry Ford Birthplace. Old-fashioned Christmas cards cover the mantel of Orville and Wilbur Wright's family home. The Wright tree is decorated with glass balls, popcorn and cranberry strings and colored electric lights, first introduced in 1907.

The traditional Yule log, ready for the hearth, rests at the wellhead at the Cotswold Cottage, more than 300 years old. Inside, the rooms are decked with boxwood garlands and holly and ivy. A festive pyramid of luxury imported fruits—oranges from Seville, lemons and limes from the West Indies—graces the dining room table of the 18th-century Secretary Pearson House.

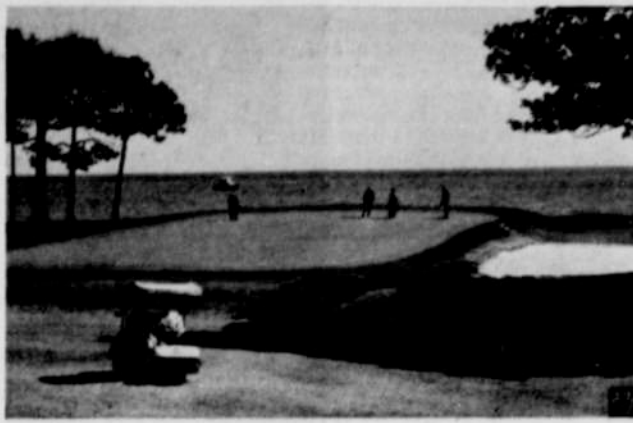
From the pillars and porches of historic Clinton Inn, cedar roping proclaims the holiday season, while inside visitors warm themselves at the fire, relishing food and drink just as their travel-weary forefathers did a century ago. Across the Village Green, complimentary hot spiced cider and Christmas cookies await chilly guests in the Town Hall. Outside, carolers wander down the Village streets, and the smell of freshly baked bread lingers near the pioneer cabin where it is baked in the hearth.

Along the Street of Shops in the Museum, craftsmen blow glass Christmas ornaments, make holiday wreaths and fashion tin cookie cutters, hooked rugs, quilts and pottery and other items like those found in early American homes. Nearby is a special exhibit of antique toys, where children peer into 19th-century doll houses and wonder at toys their great-grandparents might have found under the Christmas tree—carved wooden boats, Civil War drums and cannons, glassies, doll carriages and bobby horses.

In the Museum Theater, the classic tale of "Jack and the Beanstalk" delights children and parents alike, honoring the past tradition of holiday entertainment for the entire family.

The old-fashioned spirit of Christmas is alive and well at Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Winter Time Down South



Golf is a twelve month sport on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with ten championship courses lush and green the year round. Warm sunshine, the blue gulf and a semi-tropical setting make golfing a major fall and winter attraction on Mississippi's Riviera.

Most hotels and motels offer generous golf packages during this season for a real winter vacation bargain. Unlike many resort areas, the Mississippi

Gulf Coast does not close down during the fall and winter months so there is a complete choice of hotels, motels, restaurants and night life the year round.

While the Mississippi Gulf Coast is best known as a seashore resort, it is one of America's oldest areas with numerous points of historic interest. The famous seaport City of Biloxi celebrates its 275th birthday in 1974.

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'.

When the Christ Child came to bless the tree, he realized that the mother of the household would be dismayed. So He touched the webs... and they all turned to silver.

Ever since that time, Christmas trees are hung with shining tinsel.

Shining icicles are also part of the pretty Christmas picture. Another old story gives a reason.

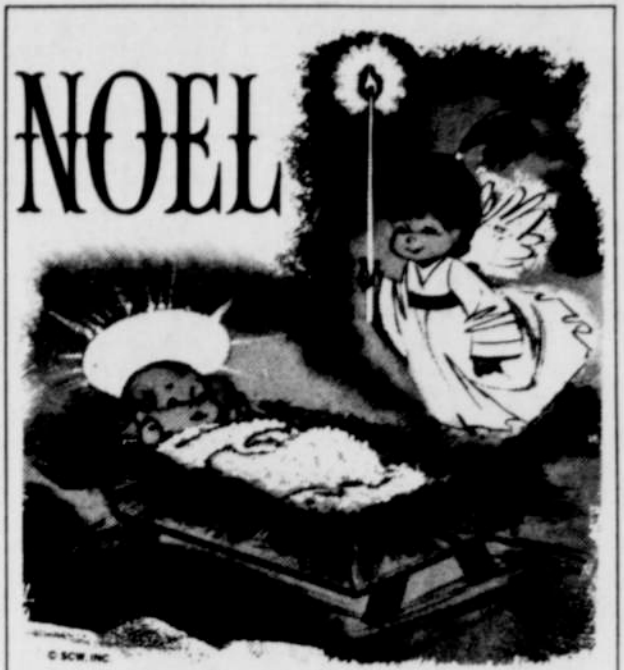
One wintry night the Christ Child was wandering through a forest. It was cold and he knew he must find shelter for the night. The trees were bare. But a pine tree with low-hanging branches offered some protection from the wind.

When the pine tree, with 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 froze into icicles.

In the morning the pine tree had been transformed into a vision of dazzling brilliance.

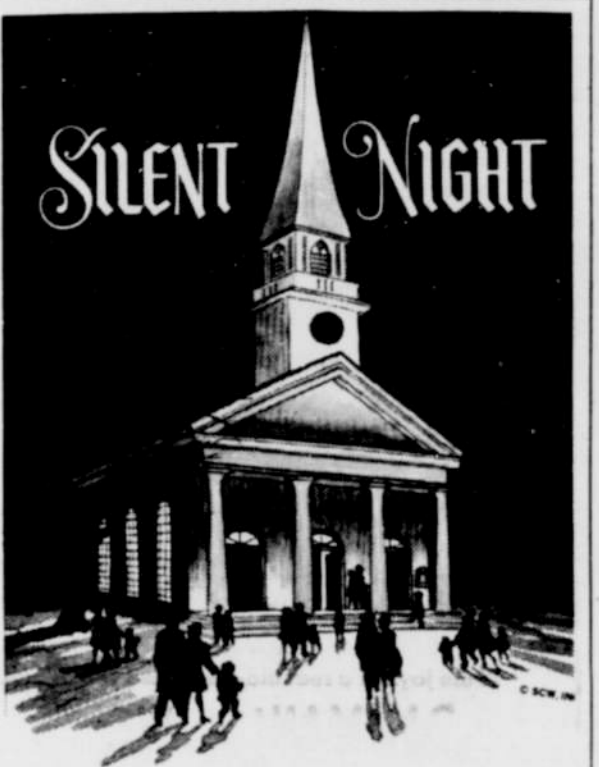
And that is why at Christmas time we trim the tree with icicles.

Christmas Tree
A Christmas Tree game that everyone can play is a guessing game. In "Christmas Tree" the person who is "it" leaves the room while the other players decide on a secret word. It must be a verb, or a word showing action, such as run, eat or swim. When "it" comes back, he tries to guess the word by asking questions using "Christmas Tree" in place of the word. He may ask, "Do children Christmas Tree?"



May the Christ Child bring joy to light this glorious, holy season.

RODRIGUES BAKERY



We pause from wordly labors to give our thanks for kindness in the past, and to wish you Christmas joys that last and last.

Ore-Ida Foods, Inc.



Just want to say we hope you have the merriest of Christmases. The very best from **Stout Appliance & T.V.**



Peace on Earth

Our reverent wish is that our many friends will find in this Christmas all the hope and joy of that most wondrous night.

Steer-in Drive-Inn



Christmas Blessings

Blessed be the Day of Christ's birth, and may this Christmas season bring us all lasting joy and peace.

DR. J.R. CUNDALL



Our Christmas Wishes

May all your wishes for the holiday season come true and happiness be with you and your family.

PALMERS EQUIPMENT CO.



Add to the good things of Christmas—our wishes for a joyous holiday!

OPEN SATURDAY, DEC. 22
CLOSED MONDAY, DEC. 24

Zimmerman Plumbing & Htg.



Greetings

'Tis the season to be jolly! The hurry and flurry of Yule preparations is over... it's time for the fun and the frolic. Enjoy it well... and accept our thanks for all you've done to make our season, and our year, a most happy one. Merry, merry Christmas!

Free Gift Wrapping and Candy Canes for the Kids until Christmas

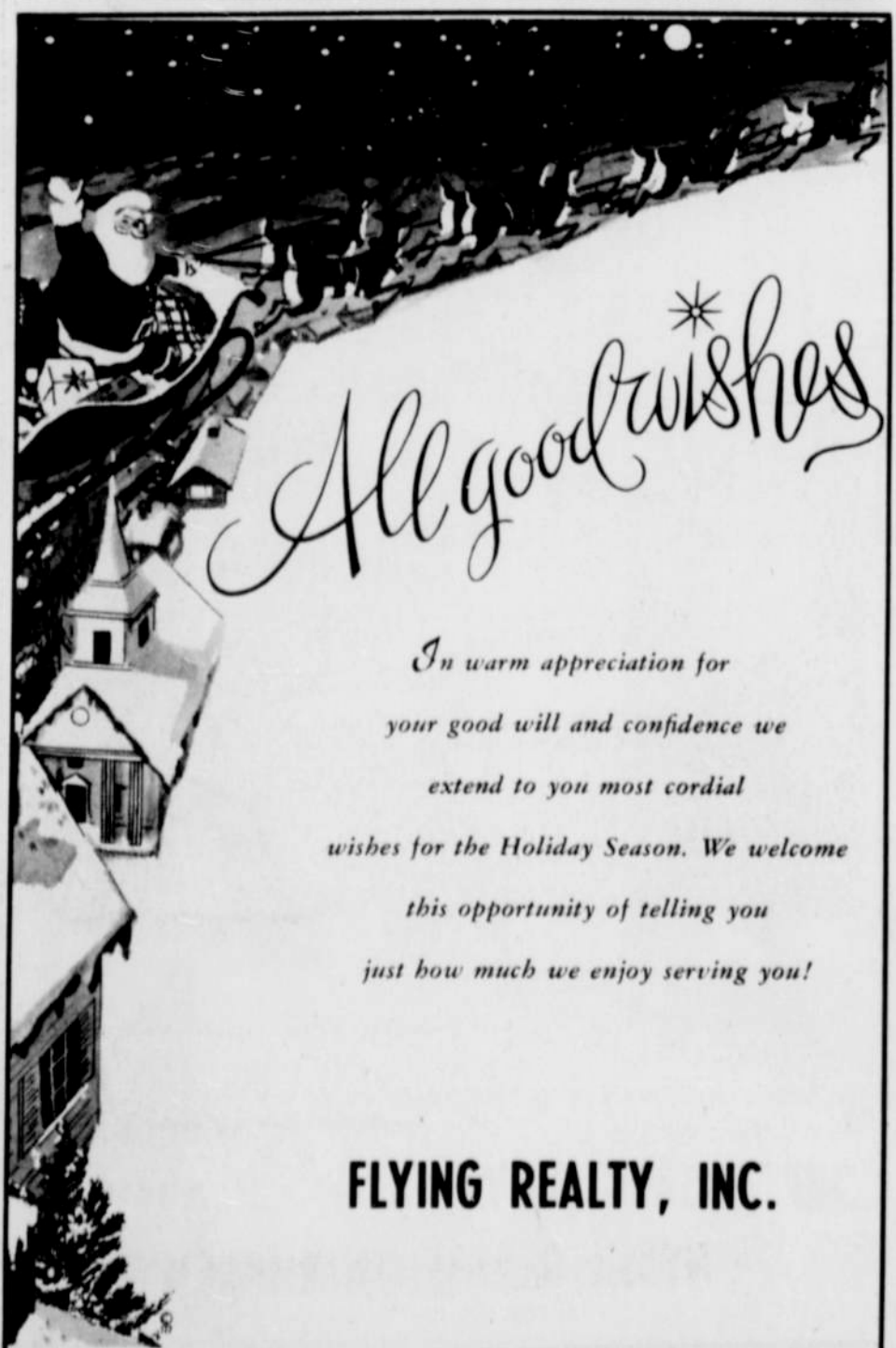
The MERC

STORE HOURS:
9:30-6 WEEKDAYS
12-5 SUNDAYS

TERRY SELLS, MGR.

OPEN EVENINGS 'TIL 8 P.M. THRU DEC. 22

SUNDAYS 12 - 5
CHRISTMAS EVE 9-6



All good wishes

In warm appreciation for your good will and confidence we extend to you most cordial wishes for the Holiday Season. We welcome this opportunity of telling you just how much we enjoy serving you!

FLYING REALTY, INC.