

Ornament Making A Cottage Industry

Those colored glass ornaments that we hang on our Christmas trees used to come from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland. A small number were made in Japan. When the war cut off these supplies, American glass manufacturers, who had never bothered with these products before, turned part of their facilities over to making the pretty gewgaws. Mechanical methods were soon developed that could blow as many ornaments in an hour as a European glassblower could make in a month. Thus modern efficiency may doom this picturesque little industry, carried on in the mountainous towns of eastern Europe.

Ornament making is a typical "cottage industry" in the little villages that cling to the steep mountainsides. Families specialize in certain shapes and designs, patterns that may date back for hundreds of years unchanged. The father, using a burner, carefully blows the thin glass tubing to the desired shape, with the aid of an iron mold. His son, acting as mold boy, removes the hot ornament to a cooling table. Next the mother silvers the inside, and finally the daughter applies paint and perhaps decorative designs.

Christmas Rose Has Real Significance

Legend tells us that a young shepherd girl was weeping bitterly as she watched the Wise Men on their way to take gifts to the Christ Child.



An angel appeared, and after ascertaining why the young girl was crying, she waved her wand, and instantly the ground was carpeted with glittering white Christmas roses. The young girl quickly gathered these blooms. When she presented her gift, the Christ Child smiled, and as his fingers touched the white flowers the petals became tinged with pink.



This custom originated with the Dutch. They used their wooden shoes instead of stockings. When the Dutch came to New Amsterdam, this custom came with them—the wooden shoes being gradually replaced by stockings made for the occasion out of net-like materials. As nearly every home had a fireplace, the stockings were hung over the mantel.

Treating Trees To Preserve Needles

Dropping needles or leaves of Christmas trees, which strip the trees of color and litter the floor, long have been a Yuletide bane. Therefore, the discovery of the New York State College of Forestry that waterglass spray will prevent the spruce leaves from falling comes as welcome news to family and housewife alike.

Besides preserving the foliage, the waterglass spray adds to the decorative effect of the spruce by leaving a slight silver sheen to the green of the needle-like leaves. The waterglass also has been found to be a good fire retardant. The college found that the shedding of spruce leaves also can be retarded by placing the base of the tree in a bucket of moist earth, peat moss or water. Users have reported the success of this treatment.

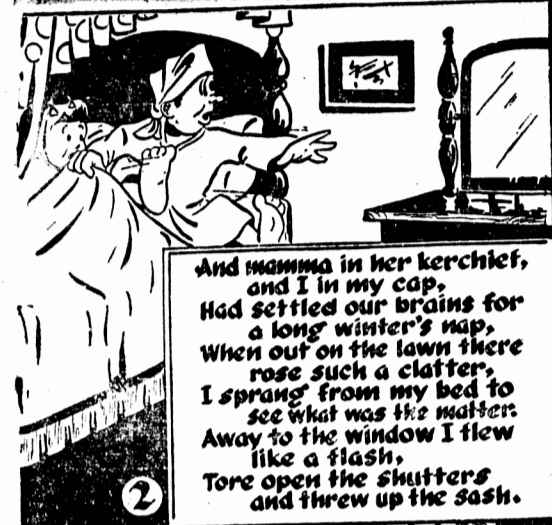
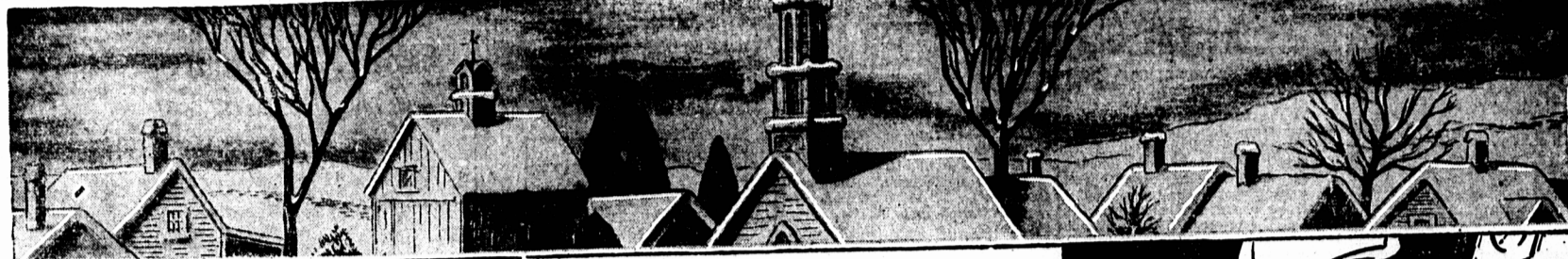
Our Most Famous Christmas Trees

Most famous of the nation's Christmas trees are growing on the wooded rolling acres of the Roosevelt estate at Hyde Park, N. Y. Developed as a result of a hobby which occupied much of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt's spare time, the groves of Yule trees now are scattered on odd patches and parcels of land throughout the estate. The trees, about 270,000 in number, are principally of Norway spruce, white spruce and Douglas fir, with a few balsams also included.

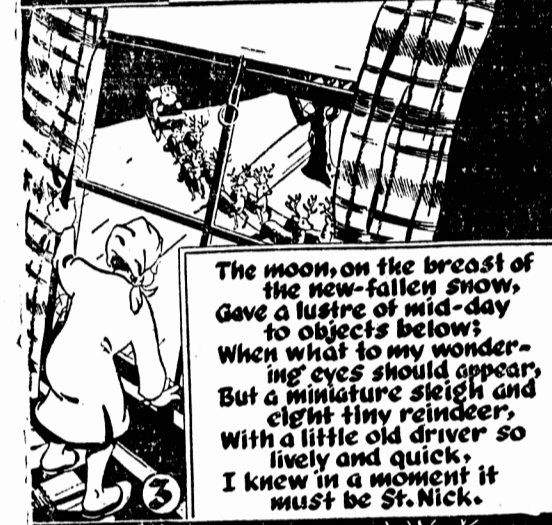
Although the tree growing was a hobby by the late president, he insisted that the project pay its own way. Consequently about 2,000 to 3,000 trees are marketed every Christmas season.

Quiz-Pics Solution

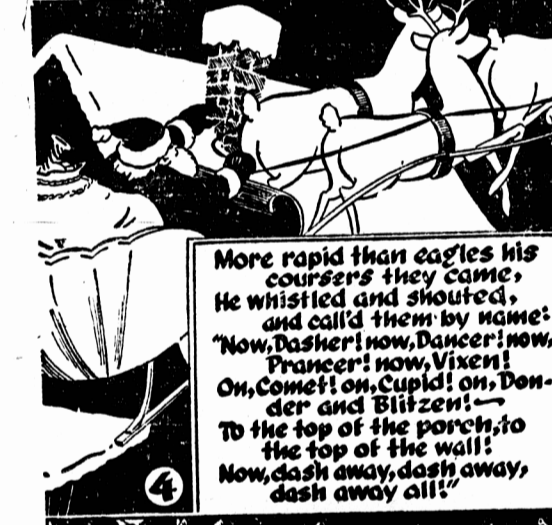
ANSWERS
1. Cricket; 2. Address; 3. Royal Air Force; 4. Organ; 5. Lightship; 6. Sherwood. The initial letters of these words make the word: CAROLS.



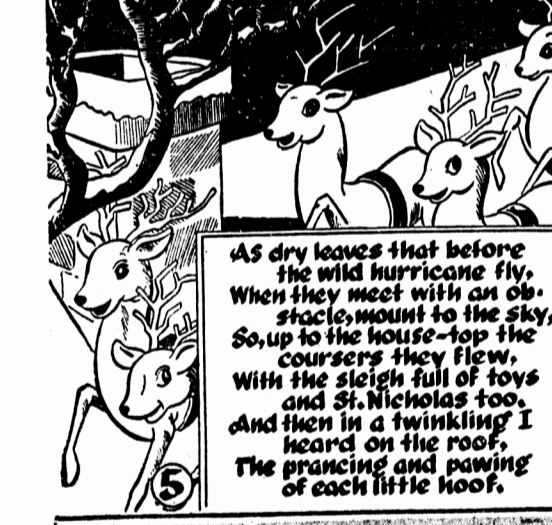
And mamma in her kerchief,
and I in my cap,
Had settled our brains for
a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there
rose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to
see what was the matter:
Away to the window I flew
like a flash,
Tore open the shutters
and threw up the sash.



The moon, on the breast of
the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of mid-day
to objects below;
When what to my wonder-
ing eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and
eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so
lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it
must be St. Nick.



More rapid than eagles his
coursers they came,
He whistled and shouted,
and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now,
Prancer! now, Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Don-
der and Blitzen!"
To the top of the porch, to
the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away,
dash away all!

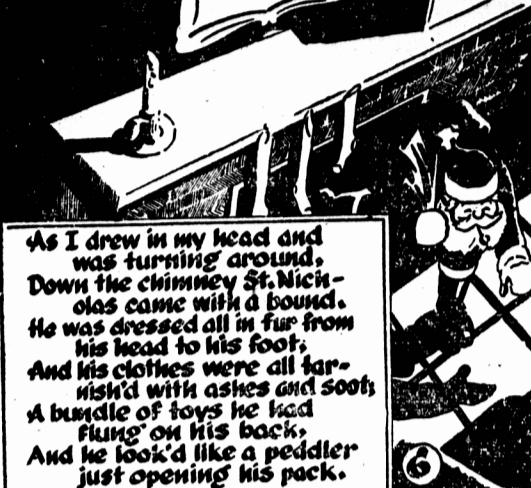


As dry leaves that before
the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an ob-
stacle, mount to the sky,
So, up to the house-top the
coursers they flew,
With St. Nicholas too,
And then in a twinkling I
heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing
of each little hoof.

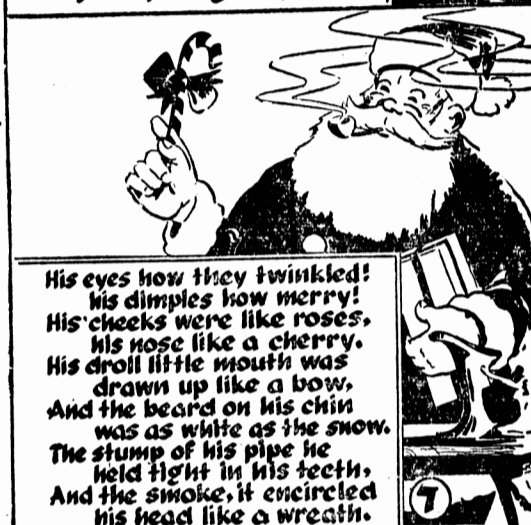
A Visit From St. Nicholas



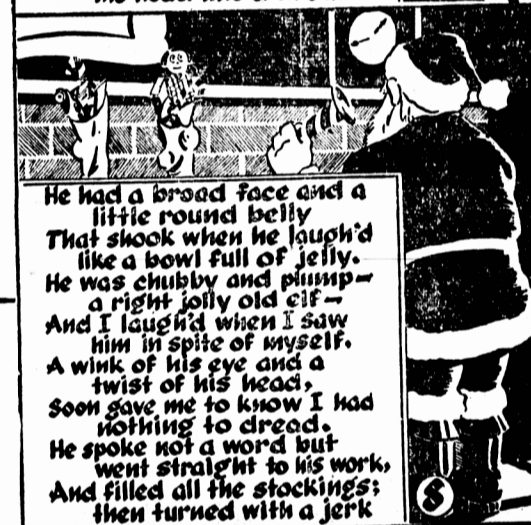
'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by
the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas
soon would be there;
The children were nestled all
snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums
danced through their heads.



As I drew in my head and
was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nich-
olas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur
from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tar-
nish'd with ashes and soot,
A bundle of toys he had
slung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler
just opening his pack.



His eyes how they twinkled!
his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses,
his nose like a cherry,
His droll little mouth was
drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin
was as white as the snow.
The stump of his pipe he
held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled
his head like a wreath.



He had a broad face and a
little round belly
That shook when he laugh'd
like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump—
a right jolly old elf—
And I laugh'd when I saw
him in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a
twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had
nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word but
went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings;
then turn'd with a jerk



And laying his finger aside
of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the
chimney he rose,
He sprang to his sleigh, to
his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like
the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere
he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all
and to all a good-night!"

CHRISTMAS 1948

The Holy Thorn Of Glastonbury

In honor of the Hawthorn, which legendarily shielded Christ while he rested in the woods before the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea chose a thorn staff when he started on his long journey to Britain shortly after the death of Christ. Arriving at last at his new home in Glastonbury, Joseph stuck his walking stick into the ground; the staff began to grow and soon acquired the habit of producing

flowers each Christmas Eve. The first literary mention of the thorn is contained in Bede's History and Antiquities of Glastonbury, published in 1222. In that work, Mr. Eyston states: "Whether it sprang from St. Joseph of Arimathea's dry staff, I cannot find, but beyond all dispute it sprang up miraculously." When Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1533, 2,000 persons assembled at Glastonbury on December 25—new style—to see if the Holy Thorn would bloom in agreement with the new calendar, when it did not, many refused to participate in the usual observances of Christmas. The evil of changing

calendars was proven when the thorn blossomed on January 9—Christmas Eve—old style—and many ministers in the vicinity of Glastonbury appended their congregations by announcing that Christmas would be observed according to the old calendar. A cutting of the Glastonbury thorn was brought to America in 1900 and planted near St. Alban's school in Washington, D.C., by the late Right Rev. Henry Gaies Saterlee. The cutting grew into a tree, blossoming for the first time in December, 1918; since then, it has blossomed each year at Christmas time and attracts thousands of visitors annually.

Star of Bethlehem

The Star of Bethlehem has been the subject of extensive research and discussion. Modern astronomers have considered several natural phenomenon theories without attaching too much weight to any such hypothesis. Scriptures regard the whole thing as mere invention, coloured with Oriental imagery designed to honour Christ; and faith accepts the star as the supernatural phenomenon which proclaimed the birth of Jesus. The first chapter of the gospel

according to St. Matthew begins: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham And confirming Bethlehem as the city of David, the angel of the Lord declared: "For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Saviour which is CHRIST the Lord." ST. LUKE 2:11. Considering tradition, which accepts that King David's shield formed a six-pointed star, the Star of Bethlehem appropriately. . . . stood over where the young Child was." ST. MATTHEW 2:9. The first chapter of the gospel

Which Is Which?

Solution
ANSWERS
The correct pairs are as follows:—1 and 10 (ice hockey stick and skate); 2 and 11 (top and whip); 3 and 12 (cricket stumps and ball); 4 and 7 (tennis net and racquet); 5 and 9 (draughtsman and draughtsboard); 6 and 8 (dartboard and dart).
USED AS GOOD LUCK CHARM
Rings of mistletoe were worn around the neck in Sweden to prevent sickness.

Christmas Held Twice Yearly

If children instead of their parents were allowed to choose the family homestead, the tiny fishing village of Rodanthe, N. C., would become a metropolis overnight. Here's a place they celebrate two Christmases every year. Santa Claus, his reindeer scampering over the sands of North Carolina's outer banks, makes his first stop in Rodanthe during his annual world tour on the night of December 24. Hardly started as a celebration of the Twelfth Night, when the wise men came to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Christ child—that somehow got off schedule a day. Elsewhere the Twelfth Night is celebrated on January 6. But those celebrations are no different from Rodanthe's "Old Christmas," which only in recent years has been supplemented by the observance of December 25.



who takes care of the bad children while Santa administers to the good. The historical background of "Old Christmas" is uncertain. It may be a throwback to the Gregorian calendar or it may have started as a celebration of the Twelfth Night, when the wise men came to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Christ child—that somehow got off schedule a day. Elsewhere the Twelfth Night is celebrated on January 6. But those celebrations are no different from Rodanthe's "Old Christmas," which only in recent years has been supplemented by the observance of December 25.



The poinsettia has no Christmas legend and its adoption as a symbol or decoration for Christmas is of recent origin. In Spain it is known as the flor de noche-buena, and is connected with the sentiment of Christmas. Its beautiful flaming star is one of the favorite flowers of the Christmas season, and its use as an indoor decoration is universal.

Abbreviation, Xmas Of Greek Origin

There has been much unfavorable comment on the abbreviated form for Christmas that is commonly used. Many think it inappropriate and undignified to use the shortened form, Xmas. The explanation of its origin is that the initial letter of the Greek name for Christ is X and the coincidence of its cruciform shape led to an early adoption of this letter as the figure and symbol of Christ. X is frequently found on walls of the catacombs. When the early Christians wished to make a representation of the Trinity, they would place either a cross or an X beside the names of the Father and the Holy Ghost. From this came the shortened form Xmas, instead of Christmas.

Legends of Holly

Many beliefs are connected with the Christmas holly. Legends relate that the crown of thorns was plaited from the holly, turning red the drops of blood after the crucifixion. It is said that whoever brings the holly into the house first, either husband or wife, is the one who will rule in the ensuing year. For many years the superstition persisted that holly was hateful to witches. It was placed on doors and windows to keep out evil spirits.

Reduce Christmas Hazards With Care

To avoid tragic Christmas accidents in the home, the Fire Protection Institute issues these precautionary tips:—Use a flame-proof compound to spray wreaths and other pine decorations. —Use materials marked flame-proof for tree trimmings and home decorations if they are obtainable. —Inspect Christmas tree lights, and repair frayed wires or loose sockets. —Never leave Christmas lights burning unless someone is around. —Never unwrap gifts near an open fire or flickering flames. —Use paper or other inflammable wrappings immediately.

GIVES STRENGTH TO WRESTLER

In Holstein it is believed that it is not only a cure for all green wounds, but that it will insure success in the chase, if mistletoe is worn. In Holstein it is believed that it is not only a cure for all green wounds, but that it will insure success in the chase, if mistletoe is worn.