

This Gift Problem

Want a few unusual suggestions to help you purchase those difficult last-minute Christmas gifts?

- (1) A little garden of cut flowers in a tiny house... (2) Even people-who-have-everything welcome jelly you've made yourself... (3) A cheese connoisseur will bless you for a tawny crock of full-flavored cheese...

A Christmas Snowstorm

(By Sarah Jane Clark)

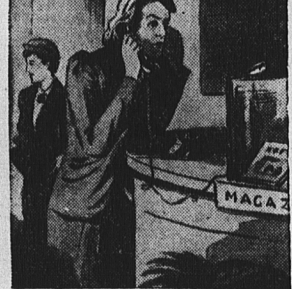
Three hours late, the snow-bound train reached Chicago. Mary Lou gathered her baggage together and took the bus across to the other station, to find her connecting train had left on schedule.

"Going out soon?" a cheery voice near her asked. She looked up to find the chief usher standing beside her. A middle-aged, friendly-looking fellow, Mary Lou told him of her missed connections.

"What are you doing with the kid? Is she lost?" Eddie asked sharply, turning away from Mary Lou.

"Annette Pollard, I am three years old and I am going from Cheyenne to Rio, Wisconsin, to my grandma Pollard. My daddy is there. It was a lesson she had been taught.

Mary Lou held her close. "I had a little girl almost as old as Annette when she died," she said



Mary Lou heard the voice of Annette's father.

brokenly to Eddie. "Let me keep the child tonight, and take her to her home. I missed the same train she did."

Eddie studied her face. What he saw satisfied him. Still he hesitated for a moment. "That sounds good to me. But I'd better get the conductor to authorize it."

It was soon decided that Mary Lou should keep her. But she must not leave the station. "I'll largest functions in the area today to give the maximum number of people the opportunity of seeing this picturesque side of English country life.

"We'll let Annette say hello to her daddy herself, if she wants to," Mary Lou exclaimed. And so it was done. Mary Lou heard the voice of Annette's father, tense with concern, and then joyful as he realized where his baby was and heard her childish treble over the phone.

The sun was shining dazzlingly bright the next morning when the train stopped at Rio. The red-haired man who was waiting expectantly on the platform had only time to thank Mary Lou, and get her address, before the train pulled out leaving him holding Annette as she waved a good-by to Mary Lou.

UNDER THE MISTLETOE Marion—Jack is getting near-sighted. Myrd—It doesn't follow that there is anything the matter with his eyes because he can't see you under the mistletoe.

Old Christmas Customs

In France the whole month of December is a time of singing. From the first to the last everyone who can utter sounds is singing, singing. Strolling musicians go from house to house playing and singing Noels, and old and young of all classes in society, at home and abroad, on their way to church or market, at work or at play, may be heard singing these fascinating carols. Noel signifies 'good news', and it has been the greeting of the season since the earliest observance of Christmas.

At Christmastime in many villages of Holland and Lithuania, it is the breaking and eating of the Peace Wafer. The village priest supplies each member of the family and each guest in the house with the wafer, which are symbolic of 'peace on earth.' The parakeets break and eat the Peace Wafers as good Christmas wishes are exchanged.

In Russia and in Poland "every-one waits for the shining of the Christmas star. Near it is placed a table which is covered with straw as a reminder that Christ was laid in a manger.

It was not many Christmases ago that all trolley-car tickets and transfers in Tokyo, Japan, were transferred by having her appendix out, emergency case. They told me to turn the kid over to you," the boy grinned as he handed her over to the chief usher.

"The countries of South America have many special ways of celebrating Christmas. In some of them Christmas comes in the warmest weather of the year, and having no snow or holly or lighted evergreen trees they put brighteners and colored lights on the day by setting off fireworks. But, everywhere, in the churches and in the homes of the people, little models of Bethlehem and the stable where Christ was born are made, some of them in wood, some in paper, and many very elaborate, showing the Christ child lying in the manger, with the Virgin Mary and Joseph near, and the Wise Men bringing their gifts, and all the animals about on the hills beyond, the shepherds can be seen with their flocks, while above them are angels with bright wings. These little models become a kind

of Christmas shrine, prayers are offered by them and the children stand before them and sing their songs. Little scenes like this are also set up in Spain, and in France and in Italy, and often the children help in making them." But for a day such as this Christmas youth must content itself not with a miniature replica of the manger scene, but must in reality bring its gifts to a Christ new-born in our hearts and in our purposes.

Perhaps the most significant Christmas custom of all is one that is observed in Poland and Lithuania. It is the breaking and eating of the Peace Wafer. The village priest supplies each member of the family and each guest in the house with the wafer, which are symbolic of 'peace on earth.' The parakeets break and eat the Peace Wafers as good Christmas wishes are exchanged.

December Twenty-Four Tomorrow you are born again. Why did we men from this light? Do you like the candle-light? Do you like the chimneys? Do you stop to wonder Why men never see How very close Bethlehem Approaches Calvary?

Of Carrots and Chop Even the animals have their Christmas, and in London two quaint customs take place. One the distribution of carrots to costers' donkeys at Camberwell and other a "feed" at the Home of Rest For Horses in North London, where "Roger", a four-legged war veteran, pulls a bell announcing the joyous event.

On Boxing Day (December 26) Britain goes out. Football grounds, cinemas and theatres are crowded. Should there be ice or snow winter sports become the cry. Every pack of fox hounds in England meets in the principal town of its area today to give the maximum number of people the opportunity of seeing this picturesque side of English country life.

Two seasonal functions commence on Boxing Day, the circus and the pantomime, without which no child, or grown-up, would think Christmas holidays completed.

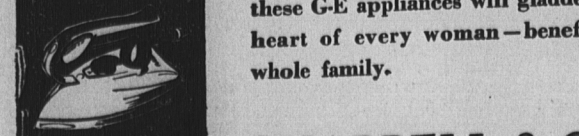
The Christmas Dinner For the rest, Christmas is still a home festival. Although within recent years there has been an increase among those who go away or dine out on Christmas Day, the whole family goes and even the largest functions in the area today to give the maximum number of people the opportunity of seeing this picturesque side of English country life.

Neighborhood at Christmas time is not only traditional, but active. For throughout Great Britain and Ireland, as in other countries, the table societies, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides busy themselves in their thousands with Christmas breakfasts for children and others. Santa Claus distributes food, coal and toys. Hospital wards are decorated and for days beforehand a great variety of good dishes

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G-E Hotpoint Coffee Maker—a gift every woman will want. Priced from \$21.95.



G-E Hotpoint Iron light weight, automatic—priced at \$21.95.

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The Origin Of The Christmas Cracker

(By EMMELINE VYNER)

When you throw a log of wood on to the fire on a winter's evening and then sit back and watch it burn, you will have noticed that it emits occasionally a tiny bang or explosion, not much louder than a mere "puff-ff" uttered under the breath. It was this sound that was the origin of the Christmas cracker as we know it to-day.

Eighty-five years ago, when crinolines and antimacassars ruled the quiet Victorian day, a certain Briton paid a visit to the Continent—quite an adventure at that time—and saw for the first time French bon-bons. These were miniature sweets wrapped in tissue paper of various colours; they were brought mostly to the Continent to the happy couples, much as we now use confetti.

Our visitor like the idea and thought it capable of development, so he brought a supply of bon-bons which he gave to a friend, a man who sat watching that log burn away. He had a quantity of brief mottoes printed on tiny slips of white paper. He folded one motto round each sweet inside the wrapping paper, so that when the sweet was opened the motto or mottoes would be revealed.

The Christmas Carolers Are Welcome Everywhere Here come the Carolers. So it used to be. Young faces, pressed against the windowpane, straining to hear the cheerful carols outside. Perhaps it was the story of the Christ child put to tune of the ballad of love and cheer. When the singers were done the householder invited them in for a bite and a sup or gave them a coin or two for their song.

Then on the next house, to sing again the stars or veiled behind sifted snow. An then in the early morning, home again to their own firesides. It was a good old custom, this midnight minstrelsy in the season of peace and goodwill. With the beginning of Yuletide twelve days before Christmas day, as Percival Chubb tells us in the Standard.

Bliss it is in New York by the American Ethical Union "small hand of musicians went the rounds and in the mire or on the road or on the steps, played the old folk tunes as a lyrical prelude to the great day of love and cheer. When the singers were done the householder invited them in for a bite and a sup or gave them a coin or two for their song.

These simple days of the folk are gone, says Mr. Chubb; the glory is departed. The custom of making the rounds on Christmas eve to sing carols of peace and good will on earth still prevails here and there—Literary Digest.

Ancients Gave Presents as Most People Do Now The custom of making presents at Christmas is derived from very ancient usage. It was a Teutonic invention. In Latin countries gifts were exchanged at New Year's writes James Walford in the Washington (D. C.) Evening Star.

The decoration of churches with mistletoe and holly is likewise a pagan survival. Nativity plays and pageants trace back to the Christmas era. The sports of the Lords of Misrule in England are supposed to be an inheritance from the Saturnalia of heathen Rome.

Father Christmas or Santa Claus is identified with St. Nicholas or Nicolas, and also with Knecht Ruprecht; and Robin Goodfellow Grimm says that in some parts of Germany Knecht Nicolas is merely an attendant on the real gift-bringer, who sometimes takes the infant Christ and sometimes Dame Bertha, but who is also frequently conceived as an ugly dwarf called Krampus.

Carol singing by walls, strolling street musicians, is an old British custom. The first Christmas cards date from about 1846. The setting up in Latin churches of a Christmas creche is said to have been originated by St. Francis.

Doubt is the shadow of truth. Belief.

GIFT PROBLEMS

Solved!

HOUSECOATS AND ROBES In flannel, Chenille and Satin daytime—nighttime, every woman wants their glamour. A wide selection available priced from \$3.95 to \$7.98

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SCARVES An inspiration for your Christmas list—a vast and glorious array, at each \$1.00

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Gloves—Irrisistibly lovely—these wools that are so gay and comfy—so charming, too, for gifts—a host of lovely shades \$1.00 to \$1.49

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HOUSE DRESSES A Christmas gift that's sure to please the house-keeper. All sizes—long and short sleeves. Prices \$1.00 to \$1.59

Also CREPE DRESSES all sizes—Coats—Hats—and many other lovely gift suggestions.

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The Blessing Ploughing Will Go On "My hands are full." We use that phrase. So very often, nowadays. We say it with a sigh, for guess. Our hands are full of happiness. For work that is our very own. That we can do, and we alone. The happy meetings with our friends. Sweet leisure hours when duty ends. The care of children, pets and flowers. These tasks that occupy the hours From morning till the sun has set. Should we not lose them with regret? Thank God, for duties, grave and light. That fill our hands from morn till night. If these are gone, then joy departs. For empty hands mean empty hearts. —Claire Ritchie

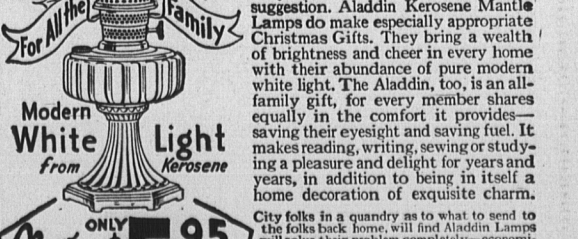
Girls Still Like Dolls In spite of all the advanced ideas of the rising generation, the average small girl still likes a doll as well as she likes any other Christmas present.

Christmas Candles Burning of candles in the window the night before Christmas is one of the features of the Swedish celebration of the festival. The candles, lighted on Christmas eve, are supposed to last till 6 a. m. the next day the traditional hour of the Swedish Christmas mass.

Nature's Fabrie The birch when it gets too big for its clothes, cracks the bark a few layers at a time, and the waxy pull of long, thin streamers of exquisite tints of silvery white or dusky brown, from which boxes and baskets may be fashioned for Christmas which are out of the ordinary. Rustic-looking place cards may be made for the friend who gives unique luncheon. The camper friends might find napkin rings made of it convenient.

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Many Beautiful 1936 Models at Low New Prices New Model Aladdins are available in both crystal and colored glass and in all-metal table, hanging, bracket and vase lamps, and all-metal floor lamp styles. A great variety of colors and finishes. A lamp for every purpose, place and purse. Beautiful new glass and decorated Whipple shades adaptable to all styles at surprisingly low prices.

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