

Fire Precautions at Christmas

Here Are A Few Safety Suggestions

(Underwriters Laboratories of Canada)

During all the joyous festivities of the Christmas Season, cigarette butts, a match, a screenless fire place, or a faulty electrical circuit may at any time change the joy and gladness into heartbreak as it did in many homes last year throughout Canada.

An even greater tragedy is that most of these fires could have been avoided by following a few simple rules. A little extra care may save a home—yours.

Two factors contribute to the danger of the Christmas Season. Firstly, added decorations are too often not flameproofed. Secondly, the increased tempo of entertainment increases the hazard from misplaced cigarette butts and gift wrappings which will blaze like tinder if ignited.

Let's look at a few safety suggestions:

1. Use flameproofed decorations. For greatest safety, many manufacturers produce flameproof materials that were tested and classified by Underwriters Laboratories, and these products bear the familiar Underwriters' label as your guide to safety.

2. In selecting the tree, pick one that is small. A small, well-formed tree can be decorated easier and more attractively than a large one and does not produce the same hazard. To preserve the tree, place it in water or moist earth, thereby keeping the needles from drying out. Dry Christmas tree needles are a dangerous fire hazard and a dry tree should not be given house room. To further help preserve your tree, keep it in a cool corner away from drafts.

3. Avoid decorations of paper and candles on the tree. Here again, many of the electrical decorations and Christmas tree lights bear the label of the Canadian Standards Association or the Underwriters Laboratories, signifying that they have successfully passed rigid fire hazard tests.

4. Watch your electrical circuits. All the added decoration lights may threaten to overload the circuit in your house. If this happens, you can either have qualified electricians check your circuits, being extensions in from circuits that are not heavily loaded, or scale down your decorative scheme to fit the load your circuits will bear. Remember, the fuses are there for your safety and installing heavier fuse is an invitation for fire. And this menace is always too ready to accept, leaving its trail of grief behind.

5. After your Christmas entertaining, check your furniture for lit cigarettes. A butt will stay smouldering under the sofa cushion for hours and come to life in the dead of night.

6. Remember, children and candles don't mix. If you must use candles, keep them out of the children's reach. Better still, use the electric variety and be certain.

7. And on Christmas Day (mischief, this will be your chore) pick up those gift wrappings as soon as possible. When they are safe in the garbage can, we know they can't add to a fire under the tree. Obey these simple rules and those which your own Fire Department will give you. Remember your Fire Department stands ready in the background, supported by national safety organizations such as Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada, Dominion Board of Insurance Underwriters, Dominion Fire Prevention Association and Canadian Standards Association, hoping that you and yours will have the merriest (and safest) Christmas ever.

Chemical Solution Protects Christmas Trees From Flames

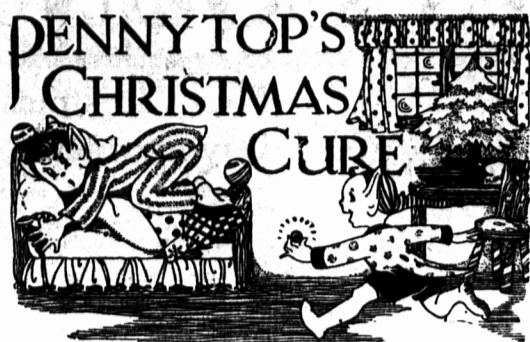
To fireproof your Christmas tree, which is still a hazard even with electric lights, select your tree four to six days before you intend to decorate it. Then weigh the tree and buy one-fourth as many pounds of ammonium sulphate as the tree weighs. This chemical is available in most stores that sell seeds and fertilizers.

For each pound of ammonium sulphate use 1-2 pints of water to make the fireproofing solution. Mix the solution in something tall and narrow that will hold the tree upright. Then saw off the tree diagonally so as to give a large cut surface. Set the tree in the solution in a cool place, away from the direct sunlight, and leave it there until most of the solution is absorbed.

Christmas Tragedy

Two of the worst accidents in the history of the railways in Britain occurred during the Christmas season. On December 28th, 1879, a terrific gale swept Scotland, and in the wintry darkness of that Sunday evening the Edinburgh to Dundee mail train crashed to destruction as part of the Tay Bridge collapsed into the raging river far below. No one saw the train hurtle to its doom, carrying 75 passengers and crew to death. It was not until the following morning, when the gale had subsided, that the magnitude of the tragedy became known.

The second of these sad Christmas railway disasters occurred in 1910 at Kirby Stephen, Westmorland, when a Scottish express crashed into two stationary engines. The telescoped coaches burst into flame, and 33 Christmas travellers perished.



by Violet M. Williams

Pennytop, the elf, looked at the laden table. It was covered with all things needed to make Christmas a happy time; presents to wrap, cards to write, mince pies to make and the Christmas tree to dress.

Pennytop groaned. "We shall never get through all this work by Christmas Eve," he sighed.

The door opened and in bustled Pip, Pennytop's friend, who lived with him. "I don't believe you have done a thing, Pennytop!" he said indignantly. "I have cleaned the house and done all the shopping, but what have you done?"

"There is so MUCH to do!" grumbled Pennytop. "Of course there is," retorted Pip. "And why? Because you sit and look at things instead of working hard. Now I am off to gather the holly and mistletoe. You must have made the mince pies by my return."

When Pip had gone Pennytop sumped further down into his chair and stirred the flour in the baking bowl with his finger. "I am not strong enough to do all this work," he complained to himself.

He said it so often that he began to wonder if it were true and he went across to the mirror to see how he looked. He looked very well indeed until he had the idea of dabbing flour on to his round pink cheeks! Then indeed he did see a pale and poorly-looking little elf peeping at him! He staggered cheerfully to his bed.



"Even Pip will feel sorry for me now," he thought, gleefully, as he snuggled down.

Pip bustled cheerfully in with an armful of gay holly and dainty mistletoe. When he saw Pennytop's pale face peering glumly over the bed covers he was most alarmed. "Poor, poor Pennytop," he cried. "It must bring the Wise Woman to make you better."

"No, no!" cried Pennytop. But Pip had gone and now Pennytop did not feel quite as cheerful. The Wise Woman was very wise and often saw through Pennytop's little tricks.

"But I am pale," thought Pennytop, anxiously, and he rubbed on a little more flour to make quite certain. "Hm-mm-mm!" frowned the Wise Woman, rubbing her pointed chin. "He is pale, isn't he? I had better give him some medicine."

She thrust her hand into the air, uttered a few magic words and pulled down a bottle of blue medicine. "One good dose after a large meal," she said, sternly, and off she went.

This was just the sort of treatment Pennytop liked. He enjoyed the meal and even the medicine tasted nice. Then he settled down for a pleasant snooze whilst poor Pip tidied up. Later Pennytop awakened up.

"How dark is has grown!" he thought. But it was not dark. He was

Match This Up



Take two more matches and re-arrange to make five diamonds.

Solution Page 8

Neither dream nor myth The child of the manger is a fact of history

By Viscount Hallsham, Q.C.

Man is a creature who desires good and does evil. Yet, even in the midst of all the wrong he does, he cannot altogether forget that Heaven is his home.

There is something inherent in human nature which spurs all human activity, even that undertaken in the highest hopes and with the purest motives. Man is a child with an infinite capacity for

muddying his face and hands, breaking his toys and tearing his clothes. Yet, in spite of all this, he is never content with the evil in his own nature and never slow to blame it when he sees it in others.

This is the fact which lies at the root of our religious longings and which explains and justifies our ceaseless quest and passion for redemption. From the earliest times, men have dreamt of a Redeemer, who, by some mysterious adoption and regeneration of human nature, would enable them to forget the sinfulness and corruption of their lives and walk in Paradise unashamed in the presence of perfect goodness and truth.

Such was Adonis, the ruins of whose shrine still exists in the Mountains of the Lebanon, and such also Osiris, who interceded for Egyptian souls in the palace of the underworld.

Men, so far apart as American Indians, the Hindus and our own Germanic ancestors, have all cherished legends of this fairy prince, alike a friend and brother of mankind, and secure of place by right of birth in the hierarchy of the Immortal Gods.

The Greek Mysteries honoured Orpheus in the same way, and in the same way pagan Rome, round about Christmas-time, celebrated the feast of the Saturnalia at which, amidst feasting and rejoicing, masters served their slaves at table and gave rich presents to their friends.

OUT OF THE DYING YEAR

Most of the legends and festivals have, in fact centred round the seasons of the year and round none more than the winter solstice, when in the middle of the cold and dark, the dying year is symbolised as eternally renewing itself in the likeness of a little child bringing with him the promise of Spring and the hope of human regeneration.

The meaning of Christmas is that this dream, woven for himself by pagan man, out of the immensity of his longing for salvation, is a

dream no more, but really true, a fact of history, an irruption of the supernatural into the world of space and time.

Man is no longer alone in the Universe, the one creature of sense and spirit in an irrational and material world of infinite spaces, shut up like a frightened child by himself in the darkness of a stranger's house.

NO FOND IMAGININGS

The world is not simply a terrifying medley of hostile and immensely powerful influences for evil as it seems to savages, nor yet as it is depicted by the materialists, a ghostly ballet of intellectual abstractions obeying inexorably perpetual laws, which, nevertheless, have no rational explanation or intelligible purpose.

Man is made in God's image and God has taken man's form. Man is fallen but redeemed, and by the same token, his hopes of reformation, his ceaseless striving after good, are not the fond imaginings of a creature conceived by chance forces, conscious for a time, and then doomed to everlasting destruction by the same blind destiny which gave him birth.

The reason in man's heart, the love of his spirit, his desire for immortality and salvation, are of the same pattern as the stuff of which the world is made, and the forces by which it is directed. The same Power determines alike the motions of the stars and the aspirations of the human heart.

HE IS A REAL PERSON

The Child in the Manger is, therefore, not just a pretty picture, a beautiful dream invented, like Osiris by human fancy to reconcile the human heart to the misery of a world otherwise intolerable in its cruelty and meaningless. He is a real Person, no fairy prince, no imaginary Redeemer, but a fact of history as solid as ourselves. He is the guarantee that our longing for righteousness is neither measured by the poverty of our achievement nor by the emptiness and shortness of human life viewed on the natural plane. The birthday of Christ is the festival of man's hope for man.

Christmas itself is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.

Rub out Christmas, and the last of Pandora's gifts vanishes for ever from her open, and empty box.

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