

Fire Precautions At Christmas

(Underwriters Laboratories of Canada)

During all the joyous festivities of the Christmas Season, a cigarette butt, a match, a screenless fireplace, 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 dry, 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.

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 circuits in your house. If this happens, you can either have qualified electricians put in new circuits, bring 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 fuses is an invitation for fire. And this menace is always too

ready to accept, leaving its trail of brief behind.

5. After your Christmas entertaining, check your furniture for lighted 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 (mothers, 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 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.

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.



(By Royce Fields)

The Jolly Santa, ringing his bell in an appeal for contributions for the needy, grinned his thanks as Dick Slater dropped a bill into the kettle. The donation was a salute, not only to the Yuletide spirit, but to Dick's own good fortune. He had a home, a lovely wife named Jean, and a smaller reproduction of himself named Pete. What more could a man want?

One other thing made this a great day for Dick. He was on his way to fulfill a dream. While they were still engaged, he had bought a strand of simulated pearls for Jean. Somehow the feeling had grown on him that, until he could replace the phoney baubles with a string of real ones, he wouldn't be a success in the eyes of his dark-haired, brown-eyed Jean.

"But this card on the outside of the package," he told the clerk who wrapped his gift. On the card he had written: TO A REAL PEARL—A STRING OF THEM!

It was beginning to get dark when Dick got off the train in suburban Roseville where he lived. He started to walk briskly toward his home, two blocks away. Happy in the glow of having, at least, realized his cherished dream, he didn't see the figure lurking in the dark alley till the man stepped out and thrust the gun into his abdomen.

"This is a stickup!" the thug snapped hoarsely. "Turn around and get your hands up!"

A feeling of relief flooded Dick as he remembered he had spent



The thief merely stepped back and brought the heavy gun crashing down on his victim's head.

most of his money on the necklace. Then the thought hit him—the necklace itself was in his pocket!

"Listen fellow," he pleaded, over his shoulder, with the gunman, "I have a Christmas present for my wife in my pocket. Take my money but leave me that!"

The hoodlum didn't answer. Methodically, he continued taking everything out of Dick's pockets. As his hand started to remove the precious little package, Dick Slater went wild! He whirled, slapping with his left hand at about where he thought the gun would be. He caught nothing. The thief merely stepped back and brought the heavy gun crashing down on his victim's head.

As the darkness cleared away, Dick became aware that he was in a hospital. Gradually, he realized that Jean and Pete were beside his bed.

"Hello," he said groggily. "Dick!" Jean half sobbed, half laughed. "I've been scared! The doctor says you only have a slight concussion, though, and you're going to be all right!"

As his head continued to clear, the realization of his loss overwhelmed Dick. The necklace—his precious gift was gone!

"I had a present for you, Jean..." he began.

"I know, Foolish," his wife cut in, "and you almost lost your life trying to save it!"

"But it was the string of real pearls I've always wanted you to have, Jean. You know how much they meant to me!"

"Yes, I've known the silly obsession you've had about my wearing simulated pearls," Jean said almost sternly. "It never seemed to occur to you that my husband and little Pete were the real pearls in my life!"

"Well, this is going to be a bum Christmas for you," Dick said glumly, "and I thought it would be the best yet."

"It's going to be," Jean told him. "Look!" She put her arm under his shoulder and lifted him to a sitting position. In one corner of the room was a beautiful little Christmas tree. Piled high under it were the gifts he and Jean had wrapped for little Pete. Jean went over and brought back two of the packages. One was her present to him—a watch he had wanted. The other package...

Suddenly, he recognized it—the pearls!

"Yes," Jean said, "my pearls. When the police caught the thief, he hadn't time to open them even."

Dick pulled his wife to him and said huskily, "It is a wonderful Christmas, darling, and you're right. The real pearls are the things we carry in our hearts!"

WHY CHRISTMAS CANDLES?

On Christmas Eve the Christ Child wanders all over the earth seeking deserving people—people who are kind and thoughtful of others, and people who have loving hearts. Lighted candles are placed in the windows by such people so that He may not stumble and fall. In the course of His search he visits every castle and hut, no matter how rocky and rough His path may be.

Laughs The Schoolboy Leaves Behind

MANY A TRUE WORD WRITTEN IN TESTS

—By— Cecil Hunt

If any schoolmaster tells you his Christmas is spoilt by marking exam papers, laugh like fun. For Hunt Minor (if I may bestow my name on the standard British schoolboy) can always be counted on to produce delicious humour.

I've never been a schoolmaster, but I have examined in other subjects and if I ever encountered a batch of papers without any howlers, I should blame myself. It would mean that I had failed in one of the first duties of a teacher—to stimulate the imagination.

And Hunt Minor has prodigious imagination; I've never been duller if he hadn't. I've collected schoolboy and schoolgirl howlers for years, and have published many

'Lord Of Misrule,' 'Hodening Horse' Make Noel Jollier

A different playtime observance for your Christmas festivities is the game "Lord of Misrule."

When your guests have all arrived and have been greeted by the music of the minstrels and the song of the carolers, it is time for the most honored guest of the evening to arrive. With much fanfare the "Lord of Misrule" is announced. He enters with great pomp and ceremony and takes his place as the "master of ceremonies" for the evening.

The Lord of Misrule comes to us from the Tudor courts where he was elected annually to reign over the Christmas festivities. His word, during the festivities, was law, and the ridiculous commands he laid upon the guests had to be obeyed. The introduction of the Lord of Misrule into our festivities offers an unusual method for introducing the many games with forfeits which are traditional for Christmas.

At your party, the Lord of Misrule will command each guest to do his bidding. He may call for singing, dancing, pantomime, imitations and stunts of all kinds. Failure to do the bidding of the Lord of Misrule results in the payment of a forfeit. And here another unusual note may be injected. The forfeit, instead of being paid to the Lord of Misrule may be paid to another Christmas character, the "hodening horse."

It was the custom in Kent, England, for young men to go from house to house with the hodening horse, an imitation of a horse's head attached to a long stick. Two lads, forming the body of the horse, were hidden from view by a covering of cloth resembling horse's skin. The hodening horse was accompanied by paraders who rang the bells throughout the town and begged for money or food.

thousands of them. There are several causes: ignorance; the desire to "have a go"; on the basis that anything is better than a blank paper; mis-spelling; the mixing of similar sounding words; incomplete or misunderstood teaching; the confusion of subjects taught in the same surroundings.

French King's Sticky End

I've never invented a howler, if only because there has been no need; they come to me from all over the world, an inexhaustible goldmine of laughter.

Take the mixing of similar sounding words; a fault from which adults are not immune. A mosquito is the child of black and white parents.

A Conservative is a kind of greenhouse where you look at the moon.

Louis the Fourteenth was gelatinated.

Every morning my mother does exercises to stretch her abominable muscles.

I like the lad who wrote: "Cleopatra ended a remarkable life rather curiously; she was bitten by an aspidistra."

Or the one who, asked to name two sports of Ancient Rome, replied: "Anthony and Cleopatra." Maybe he wasn't all that wrong.

Definitions Of The Unwed

"Sinister means a woman who hasn't married," wrote one girl, and not to be outdone, another said: "A bachelor is a man who has done without marriage."

Forgive the lad who said: "The Decalogue is a very low-necked frock" for the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, must be mightily confusing to the young mind.

Slovenly explanation, I suspect, was the reason for "Tarzan is the short name for the United States flag." The full name is Tarzan Stripes.

It's so easy for a teacher to think that what's simple to him or her is equally transparent to the pupil. But not always, as is clear in the answer: "Queen Elizabeth was a good queen. Her character, however, was not so good—but what can you expect of a woman who had six mothers?"

But the answer I delight in came after a lesson on various games and sports and the particular value they had in developing the body and the mind.

A listener was asked: "Why is fencing good for the body?" He replied, divertingly: "Because it keeps the draughts out of the garden!"

The Tactless Portrait

Of course the enterprising child often guesses from association—I remember doing it myself. C.I.D. means Copper in Disguise. Faux pas: Bad feet.

A cypher is a bottle that squirts. Who said "Kiss me Hardy?" Laurel.

Quinine is the bark of a tree; canine is the bark of a dog. Mis-spelling is always a fertile

the desert, where she became a pillar of salt by day and a pillar of fire by night."

Hard On The Councillor

As a literary man I love the essay. The extract: "I lay stretched in a gondola on the canal; drinking it all in; life had never seemed so full before." Or the potential thriller writer who opened: "Three shots rang out. Two servants fell dead the other went through his hat."

Lots of truth, probably, in another's claim that "We went to the School concert. They charged us nothing to go in, and it was well worth it."

Indeed, the most delightful howlers of all are those where the intention is clear—and often right—but the howler comes through quaint expression or inadequate vocabulary.

Some flowers fold up at night, like umbrellas in bud. The Scots do not go to the Church of England; they go to the Free Church.

Once convicts were assigned their own wives, but now the system is more humane.

White is the colour for hope. Brides wear it at weddings; the men wear black. As well as in church, you can now get married in an off-licence.

It takes several generations to be a gentleman, but you can be a councillor right away.

Full Marks For Tax Answer

Oh yes, some wonderful wisdom shines through many of the richest howlers: Hunt Minor is a great philosopher, even if unconsciously. Chivalry is the attitude toward a strange woman.

Income is a yearly tax. A pessimist is a man who is not happy unless he is miserable, and even then he is not pleased. Some people lose their consciences when they are ill. Sometimes, too, will come in an answer the perfect description. A boy was asked: "What is a spiv?"

He replied: "A spiv is a man who works in ways the Government hasn't thought of!"

And if you can think of a snapper definition than that, I wish you a particularly Merry Christmas.

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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

- CLUES
- 1 Marley's ghost, perhaps, showing reasonable gaiety? (9,6)
 2 Found in most Christmas puddings: money for the poor is outside! (7)
 3 Flavoured for a hundred mince-pies (5)
 4 With 19, he fills the Christmas stockings (6)
 5 Give three ----- for this Christmas ode
 6 Wardle's Christmas Carol—Pickwick Papers (6)
 7 43 Across must be, some time before Christmas (4)
 8 See 12 Across (8)
 9 All the pirate has left after Pat withdraws (3)
 10 They bore gifts of frankincense and myrrh (4)
 11 An excuse for uncertain pleasure (4)
 12 "As idle as a painted ----"
 13 Upon a painted ocean (Ancient Mariner) (4)
 14 Snake worn as a choker? (3)
 15 Needed for Christmas shopping (3)
 16 A popular sailor at the Christmas pantomime (6)
 17 Part of the mixture in the wassail-bowl (3)
 18 Make an effort, but not at Soccer (3)
 19 American film star in principal boy's part of a pantomime? (7)
 20 The boy who lives in the capital of Saskatchewan? (3)
 21 "On Christmas Day in the -----" (7)
 22 Contents of Christmas crackers (7)
 23 The Christmas one is upon us: relish it! (6)
 24 Little fellow in Panto! (3)
 25 Traditionally, part of the Christmas celebrations (4,4)
- Down:
- 1 This family had a merry Christmas, after all (8)
 2 An odd type of 1 Across? (3)
 3 "Unto us a --- is born" (3)
 4 Said at midnight on Christmas Eve (4)
 5 Transport for Santa Claus (6)
 6 This man brings your Christmas cards (4)
 7 This deer has a rooftop rendezvous on Christmas Eve (4)
 8 "Hark! --- sing" (3,6,6)
 9 "Not in that poor lowly stable With the ---- standing by" (Once in Royal David's City) (4)
 10 Herod's better half? (3)
 11 Part of the shepherd's flock (4)
 12 Game played at Wardle's Christmas party (10)
 13 Dressed fowl? (6)
 14 Name (4)
 15 Strips (5)
 16 May fog you at first, but provides fun at Christmas parties (9)
 17 Offer to pay (3)
 18 Ingredient for icing one Christmas cake (7)
 19 "God bless Us, Every One!" said this I Down (3)
 20 Skills which unsettle a star (4)
 21 Story of Christmas child about five (5)
 22 He appeared before the watching shepherds on Christmas night (5)
 23 The Scriptures include a cereal (3)
 24 "The stars in the bright --- looked down where He lay" (3)
- (Solution on page 10)

Our very best wishes go out to you at this holiday season — along with our sincere thanks for your patronage in the past!

MacDonald - Rowe Woodworking Co., Ltd.

36 Lower Water Street

Merry Christmas

To every one — everywhere — we offer this age-old wish... That the magic peace, contentment and happiness of the Yuletide linger on and bring joy to you and yours for all time to come

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