

## Symbolic Use Of Christmas Goes Back Some 4,000 Years

From the dim ages of long ago have come many of the festive rites and customs of our Christmas season.

The symbolic use of a tree dates back at least 4,000 years, when Egyptians celebrated in honor of their Sun God in the month corresponding to our December. They believed that the sun died every night and was torn again in the morning, and that late December and January brought the turning point, when the sun remained with them a little bit longer each day. This was a season of rejoicing and the palm trees became their symbol, as it put out a leaf every month and the twelve leaves symbolized the complete year.

A few thousand years later came the feast of Saturnalia, also held in December, but the tree the Romans used was a tall conifer, loaded with decorations. Roman legions carried this symbolism over the Alps into Gaul; and about 15 B. C. the tree was used in Yuletide celebrations of the Germans.

Hundreds of years passed, and a tree became the symbol of celebrations connected with the patron saint of Russia and of children—Saint Nicholas, who in his lifetime was Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor.

An old legend tells us that the Kindly St. Nicholas unintentionally originated the custom of hanging stockings by the fire at Christmas. St. Nicholas was rich, and loved to make mysterious journeys bearing secret gifts to the poor. For a long time his identity remained hidden but he was caught at last with his sack of gifts on his back.

St. Nicholas knew an old nobleman who was very poor and who did not want anyone to know of his poverty. Wishing to give him a gift of money St. Nicholas crept

to a window of the house and saw the old gentleman asleep by the fire. The good Bishop climbed to the roof and dropped his gift down the chimney, thinking it would fall on the hearth at the nobleman's feet. However, it so happened that the gentleman's daughter had

hung some stockings to dry by the fire and the money fell into one of them; and from the kindly deed of the good Bishop has grown the widespread custom of hanging stockings at Christmas. The anniversary of St. Nicholas' death in 1087 became a festival in the Russian church, and in time the name became corrupted to Santa Claus and associated with the festivities of the Christmas season, with its tree, its decorations, the holly and the mistletoe. These are the joyous symbols of Christmas.

Season's best wishes

and may you count

this Christmas among your

very happiest...

may its spirit long dwell

in your home and your heart.



CAROLINA PHARMACY

## Great Christmas Story Recorded In Year 1776

The time was Christmas night. The year was 1776. The place was near the Delaware River. Some 2,400 tattered and bleeding men stood silently about uncomplaining.

This Christmas night was a crucial moment for a new republic which had yet to gain its freedom. But the course was charted by a great leader and a great American president, George Washington. His words of inspiration remain to this day: "This is it, gentlemen—victory or death. That is our only watchword."

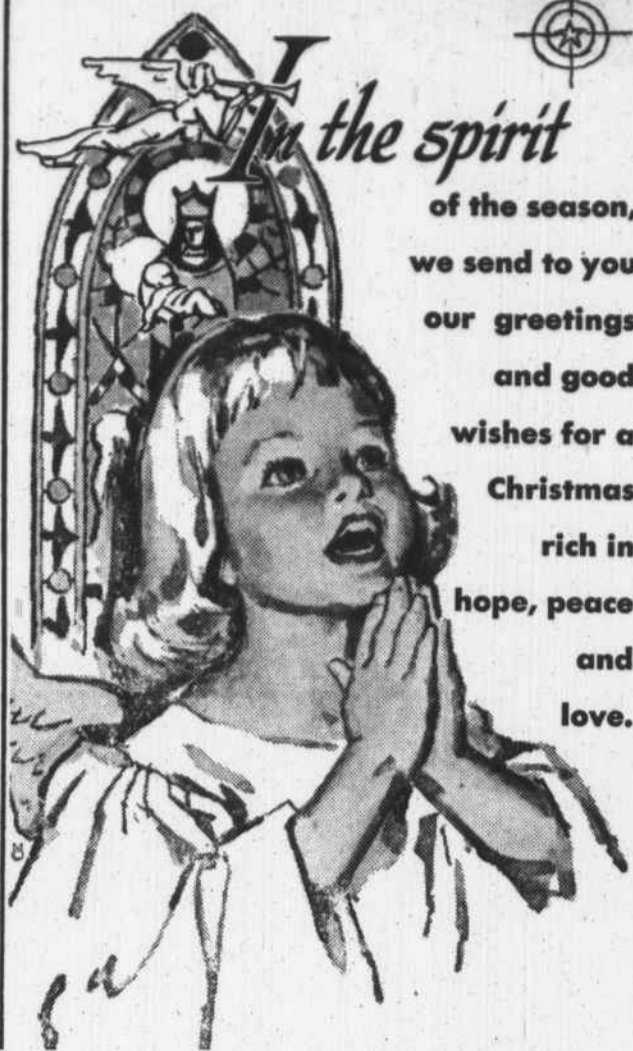
And victory it was. Fired by the courage and inspiration of the man who became known as "the father of his country", a tattered band of patriots crossed the dangerous river of ice and marched to Trenton where they surprised and humbled the Hessian mercenaries and recorded a great Christmas story in the pages of American history.



Season's Greetings

Our warmest wishes to you and yours for a house full of love and happiness all through the holiday season.

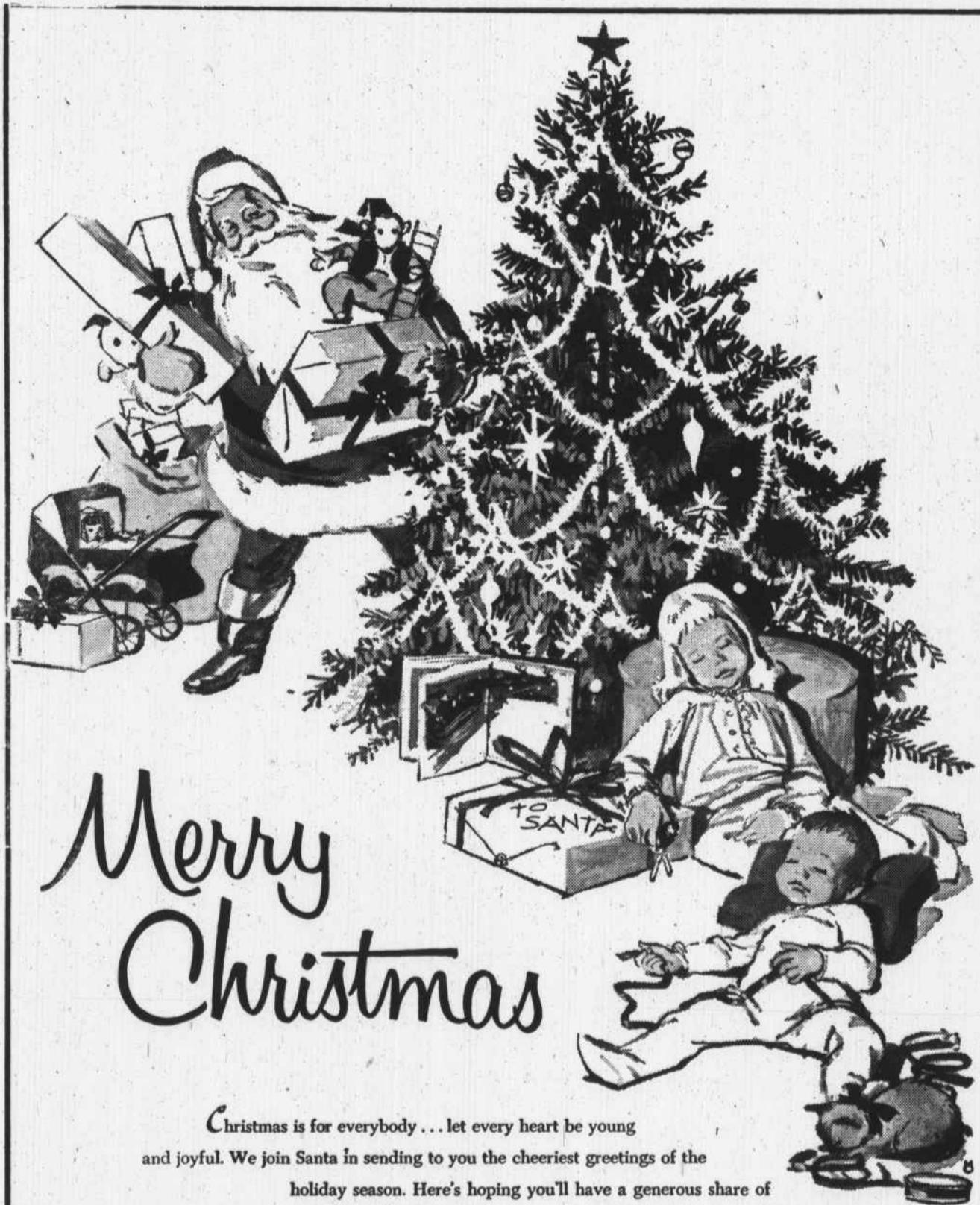
THE FASHION SHOP



In the spirit of the season, we send to you our greetings and good wishes for a Christmas rich in hope, peace and love.

Rogers Super Market

Open every day INCLUDING CHRISTMAS

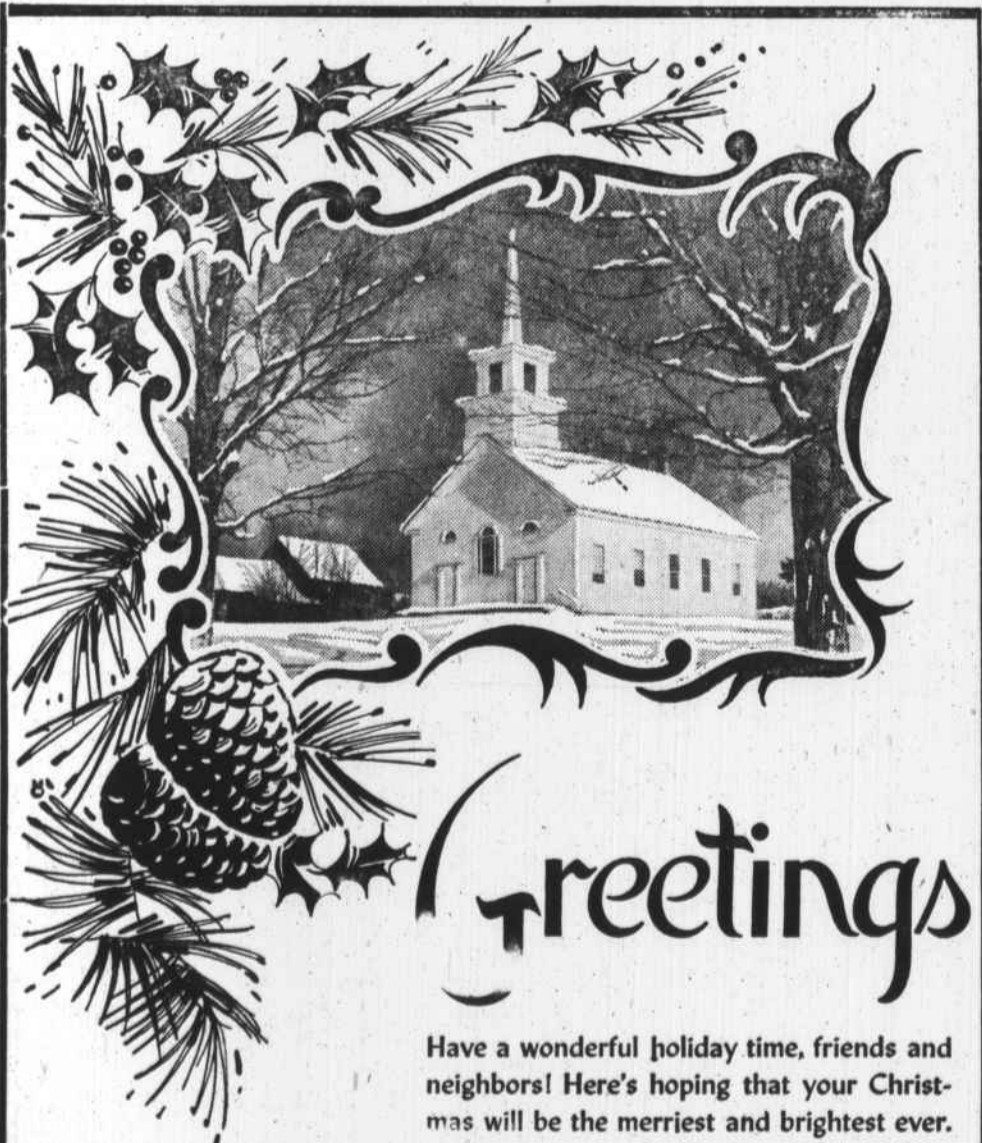


Merry Christmas

Christmas is for everybody... let every heart be young and joyful. We join Santa in sending to you the cheeriest greetings of the holiday season. Here's hoping you'll have a generous share of all the things that belong to Christmas... lots of laughter and singing, gifts and good wishes, fun and feasting, love and fellowship, peace and good will.

STORES TO SERVE YOU

Bower's



Greetings

Have a wonderful holiday time, friends and neighbors! Here's hoping that your Christmas will be the merriest and brightest ever.

BROWN & CARSON