

**Origins Of Christmas Customs Explained**

With the exception of Christmas greeting cards, which were first used in 1846, nearly all the Christmas holiday customs can be traced to a non-Christian origin, according to researchers for "Star of Bethlehem," now being presented at the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill.

The Christmas tree, usually an evergreen, is derived from the Roman Saturnalia and the Norse worship of trees. It was in Ger-

many in the 16th Century that the tree was first used as a symbol of Christmas. The custom was brought to England and to America in the early 1800's.


The mistletoe was the sacred plant of the Druids, who were the priests of ancient Britain and Gaul (France). Holly and the symbolized protection against evil spirits in the Norse festivals. The customs of exchanging gifts can also be traced to the Roman Saturnalia. The early Christians of Rome hung boxes in their churches to be filled with offer-

ings and distributed to the needy at Christmas.

The most popular Christmas legend is that of Santa Claus, who comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve to fill children's stockings with gifts. The name "Santa Claus" is a Dutch corruption of "Saint Nicholas," the patron saint of children.

Prune non-flowering shrubs during the winter.

Poultry ranks second only to tobacco as a farm income producer in North Carolina.



**Brady's  
BLARNEY**  
By A Brady Called J. P.

Mr. Jones' comments on the editorial page in Strictly Personal about Christmas of long ago, takes me back a few years too. Of course, his generation and mine are separated by many years. My generation was unusual in that it had its growing pains during the depression years.

I, too, can recall when one gift at Christmas was more welcome than a dozen to this generation.

Why, I even remember one Christmas in the mid-30's when I got one skate for Christmas and the other for my birthday in April. And what fruit and nuts of Santa put in my sock (I only had one pair) went down the hatch that very same day as Christmas dinner.

Yes sir, we sure have come a long way.

Still on this Christmas bit, I had a Christmas card this week all the way from Anchorage, Alaska, where undoubtedly they're having a White Christmas.

It was from the Cecil Wilsons and they sent greetings to all in Macon County.

Mrs. (Mary) Wilson also penned a greeting:

"Thanks for The Press. I sure enjoy reading it. Gives an old mountain gal a lift to hear from her home town."

We're delighted, Mrs. Wilson, that you're delighted. It gives us a lift to know that Maconians away from home get a lift from our efforts.

This bit of poetry about Christmas was too good to pass up. It was composed by a man who prefers to remain nameless. However, he does dedicate it to the children of H. T. Collins.

**Christmas Time Report**  
Now listen here you young'uns at dis tale I'se 'bout to tell, About de man called Santy Claus, who climbs dat chimbley well. But fust you git my corncob pipe an' de ole tobaccy pouch. And while I lites it yawl recline, dare upon dat couch. Den after you gits in comfort and wipes off Susie's grin, I'se gonna try and wreck-olect jest zactly where to begin. It's bound to've been 'bout twenty year since dis man came around. And ast me to be his 'sistant wid de chilluns of de town. So, I think it out 'bout a week befo' I ever answered him, 'Cause if I'se to tell him ebberthing, yore chancee would be slim. But, finally adder prayerful thought, I 'cided to give in, An' help him for a year or so, wid jest the nearest kin. And dey must be a million men in ebber town and port, Dat listens 'round 'til Christmas time and 'den makes der report. I has to answer all kinds ob things dat Santy ast me, And if you hain't you'd better git as good as you kin be.

He asts 'bout de meanest boy dat runs 'bout de place, An' whedder or not ol' Tom and Dan forgits to wash der face. And if deys hoped their maw and pa 'til all de chores is dun, And if dey sez their bedtime prayers befo' de sandman comes.

Oh yes! he asts 'bout the gals, but 'specially 'bout the boys, An' 'termines jest how mean deys been when passing out de toys. Now wait until I lites my pipe and finds anudder chair, An' den I'll make out my report on how you'se been dis you.

Ops! Joe's a noddin' half a-sleep an' 'bout fell off my lap, But ebberthing 'bout him's good, so let him take his nap. Now, let's git 'round to the 'portant facts 'bout you udder boys, An' see jest how well you kept from makin' too much noise. Fust I'll check upon de lime what marks de golden rule, An' put a double check mark dare if you'se been to Sunday School.

An' den I'll take a peek to see if both yore han's is clean, Den last, the most 'portant line, dat asts if you've been mean. Now Tom you hold yo head up and look me in de eyes, An' tell de truf 'cause if you don't you'se got to 'polly-gise. Yet, I knows dat you and Dan hasn't dun yore very best, But de good dat yawls 'complished outweighs all de rest. So I'se gonna tell ole Santy in my Christmas time report, Dat yawl has tended Sunday School and is de nicest sort. But, don't you boys turn greedy and ast for many toys, 'Cause Santy's 'ready got a list of a million udder boys. An' den dares udder chillun what won't git none at all, So you has to share wid all ob dem, when Santy comes to call. Go hang your stockin' in its place and don't you have a fear. 'Cause you boy's been good enough for Santy Claus dis year. But reckyemember 'bout next year, when Christmas comes 'round, Dat I'se de one dat's got reports on the chillun of de town.

**Help Fight TB**  
1957 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
Buy Christmas Seals

**TAXES - TOWN OF FRANKLIN**

Don't forget to pay your town taxes so that they may be deductible from your taxable income.

1957 Town taxes are already more than two months past due.

**CHAS. O. RAMSEY,**  
Tax Collector,  
Town of Franklin

*Merry Christmas*



We're hoping that all our good friends whom we have had the pleasure to serve for so long will have the merriest Christmas ever.

**L. E. ENGLISH**  
"Your Case Dealer"

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**



Good times, good cheer, good fellowship... all these joys we wish for you this holiday season.

**Perry's Drug Store**

**GREETINGS**

To one and all of our loyal friends we wish that this Christmas may bring you many spiritual blessings... blessings that will lift your heart and enrich your life for years and years to come.

**Manson L. Stiles**



*Good Wishes for Christmas*

At this joyous season of giving and receiving, we take pleasure in extending to you our heartfelt good wishes for a very Merry Christmas! We hope that you and all your loved ones enjoy every minute of this happy holiday!

**Nantahala Creamery**

**Merry Christmas**

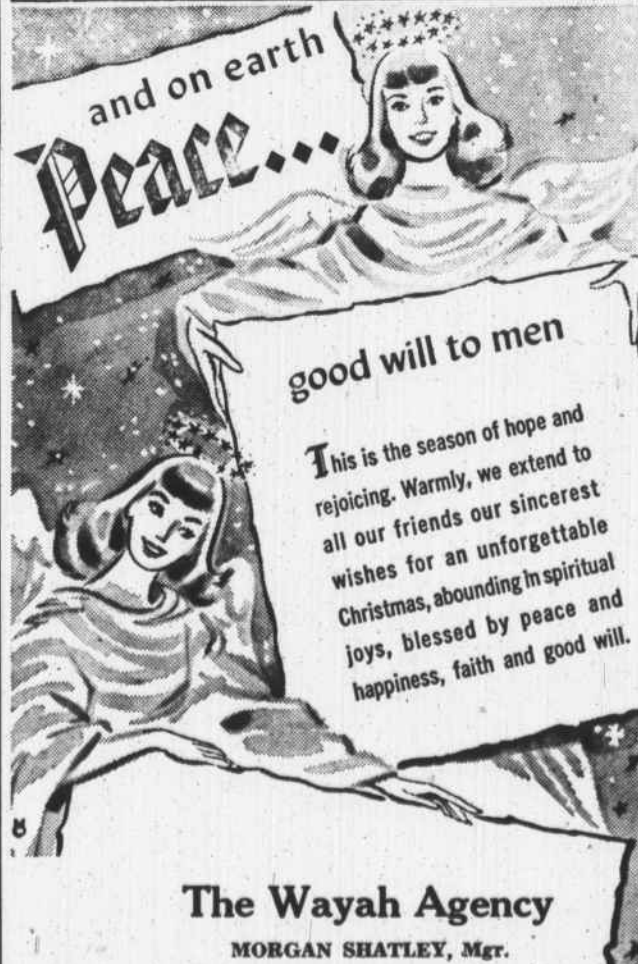


**Christmas**

It's the season to be joyful... to exchange with family and friends the greetings of the Yuletide. We gladly join in, with happy holiday wishes to each and every one of you.

**Franklin Hardware**

and on earth  
**Peace...**



good will to men

This is the season of hope and rejoicing. Warmly, we extend to all our friends our sincerest wishes for an unforgettable Christmas, abounding in spiritual joys, blessed by peace and happiness, faith and good will.

**The Wayah Agency**  
MORGAN SHATLEY, Mgr.