

Yule Log Legend Always Retold In Old Virginia

In Virginia, the old Dominion, storied land of early American history, there is an old tradition of the origin of the Yule log that is retold every Christmas.

As the family sits around the Yule log and sips their Christmas eggnog on Christmas eve, the ancient legend is recounted again.

One very cold Christmas eve, when the frosty wind howled across a world of snow, an old man was sitting in his little cabin wishing that he had a fire to warm him.

Suddenly he heard the cry of a little child away out in the cold. The old man hobbled to the door and gazed out across the snow. The wind and the snow came rustling in and the old man shivered until his "onliest two tee" chattered with cold.

The plaintive cry of the child came again above the whistle of the wind. It went straight to the old man's heart and he wished with all his power of longing that he might have the strength to go out and find the unfortunate babe.

The cry came a third time—and then a wondrous thing happened. A miraculous power filled

the old man's veins. His muscles became strong and tense, his crutch fell back into the cabin and he stepped from his threshold out into the snow.

Hurrying over the snow with a speed he had not owned since boyhood, by and by he came to a little child lying in a snow bank.

He bent down and touched the child and a great new strength flowed over him, a strength which seemed to give him wings as he sped back to his cabin.

Arriving there, he placed the child upon the bed, tenderly drew the ragged coverlet about it and then looked to see if there were a bit of furniture he could use to make a fire with which to warm the little one.

At that precise moment a great log rolled across the threshold and into the fireplace. The little child looked at the log with eyes like stars—stars which sent gleams of light that kindled the log with the most brilliant fire the old man ever had seen.

The dingy little room immediately was filled with radiance and warmth, and as the light enveloped the child he laughed and laughed with a melody like a song from the heart. The old man turned and watched the flames leap in beautiful rainbow tints over the log, and as his old eyes watched, the colors seemed to form the shape of the Cross in the fire.

The flames of the Cross leaped higher and higher, blue, red, yellow and white, and as the old man watched this display, suddenly and

OH, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O Little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above, While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wondering love. Oh morning stars, together Proclaim the Holy birth, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

magically there appeared a table in the center of the room, covered with a Christmas feast such as never before had been spread before his eyes. And never again was the old man hungry or cold, and never after that was there a Christmas in old Virginia without the Yule log and the Christmas Child to give light and warmth.

And that is the story of the Yule log as it is told in Virginia every Christmas eve.

Want Ads bring quick results

Worldwide Christmas Found In Washington

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON—You can celebrate Christmas around the world without heading your reindeer outside Washington, D. C.

You hear carols sung in many languages, including one of the oldest known Christmas songs—that sung to the Greek "Santa Claus," St. Basil, founder of the Greek Orthodox Church, who died in A.D. 330. You meet the jolly old fellow in the red suit everywhere, though his name might be Santa Claus, Yultome, Krampus, St. Nicholas, Father Christmas or Vie-jito Pascuero.

Even the aromas of Christmas have their nationalities. You can sniff them along Embassy Row as the diplomats' cooks prepare for the holiday feast.

At the Irish embassy, the family of Ambassador Joseph Hearne will begin its Christmas night dinner with kidney soup, followed by goose, stuffed with sage and onion dressing, apple sauce, brussels sprouts, creamed celery and a pudding the whole family had a hand in making. Maurice, 19, Justin, 17, David, 15, and Mary Elizabeth, as well as the ambassador and Mrs. Hearne, each took a stir in the plum pudding, making the traditional wish.

Mrs. Hearne says the Irish make four or five puddings, sometimes two months in advance, and try to save one for Easter.

The Irish always go to midnight mass Christmas eve, after which they come home to a breakfast of spiced beef, minced pies and tea or coffee. Candles are lighted in the windows to show the way for the Infant Jesus. The Irish sleep late Christmas day and after a light breakfast exchange the gifts which "Father Christmas" brought them.

The American custom of celebrating Christmas on Dec. 25 with feasting and exchange of gifts has been adapted by the Philippines, but Filipino youngsters get another set of presents Jan. 6, the day of the arrival of the Three Kings bringing gifts to the Infant Jesus. The holiday season begins Dec. 16 and lasts 22 days, but is mostly a religious observance. After Christmas Eve midnight mass comes the big feast known as the "Media Noche," with roasted pig, sweet potatoes, squash, string beans, many different kinds of rice, cookies, a pudding and hot chocolate or a native wine.

Total assets and premium collections of Connecticut insurance companies rose to \$1,899,350,269 in 1952, more than double the amount of 1942.



NEY KINSLAND, son of Mrs. Jessie Kinsland, has been promoted to Pipe Fitter, second class. He has been serving on the Y.O.G. 79 in Guam, prior to entering service. Kinsland was a graduate of the Crabtree-Iron Duff High School and entered the Navy in January, 1951.

Declamation Contest Held By Bethel

The annual fall recitation and declamation contest at Bethel Elementary School was held last week. Preliminary contests were held in the various homerooms to select one boy and one girl for the finals.

Divisions and results in the finals were as follows:

Primary (Grades 1-3)—Girls' division—First, Jean Burnette, Mrs. Messer's third grade room. Second, Evelyn McNeil, Mrs. Gregory's second grade room. Boys' division—First, Charles Burnette, Miss Ward's special primary room. Second, Edward Henson, Mrs. George's third grade room.

Lower Grammar (Grades 4-6)—Girls' division—First, Emma Sue Teague, Miss Moody's sixth grade room. Second—Mary Sue Pressley, Miss V. McElhannon's fifth grade room. Boys' division—First, Steve Rollins, Miss V. McElhannon's fifth grade room. Second, Freddie Rogers, Mr. Calloway's sixth grade room.

Upper Grammar (Grades 7-8)—Girls' division—First, Joyce Riddle, Mr. Carver's eighth grade room. Second, Mitz Edwards, Mrs. Calhoun's seventh grade room. Boys' division—First, James Sparks, Mr. Meadow's eighth grade room. Second, Troy Ledford, Mrs. Shipman's seventh grade room.

The contests were judged by members of the High School Forensic Club, Mrs. Alice Cathey, adviser.

A similar contest will be held during the spring semester.

Interesting Christmas Items

Speaking of Christmas... Through the world wherever Christmas is celebrated it is customary to place a lighted candle in the window... The legend is that candles originally were set out to light the Christ child's way as he made his visits through the children... One explanation of the custom of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve recalls the baronial halls of England where huge fireplaces were constantly in use... Each Christmas a special log, the Yule log, was thrown on the fire... This log burned steadily as long as the feasting and celebrating continued. Naturally, it burned with a pungent odor and

stockings were hung over the fireplace to absorb some of this odor and to protect the owners from evil spirits... Christmas Eve, 1863, saw a near tragedy in Virginia City, Nevada... Two friends celebrated with a terrific round of festivity... Just as dawn was breaking, they embarked on a perilous promenade over the town's rooftops... A policeman, mistaking them for burglars, drew his revolver and prepared to shoot—but a passer-by stopped him... Had he fired and the bullets found the mark, the world would have been deprived of two great humorists—Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne) and Mark Twain (Samuel

Clemens)... Mince pie, a part of our Christmas originally had a deeply significance... The pies were patterned in shape, after the manger Christ was born... The presented the gold brought the frankincense and my On May 1, 1659, the general of Massachusetts Bay Christmas... Anyone stopping work, serving hot or deviating from normal would be fined five shillings... The righteous Puritans they were acting wisely—could good Christians con pagan origin of Christmas such a holiday encourage eating and drinking?

Greetings for Christmas

We would like each shining ornament on your Christmas tree to reflect joyous Season's Greetings and our best wishes for a very Happy New Year.

FARMERS FEDERATION
GL 6-5361 Depot St

Waynesville DRIVE-IN THEATRE

Children Under 12 Admitted FREE Show Starts At 7:00 P. M.

THURSDAY, DEC. 24 "Outpost In Malaya"

Starring CLAUDETTE COLBERT JACK HAWKINS

FRIDAY, DEC. 25 "It's In The Bag"

Starring JACK BENNY DON AMECHE —ALSO— 5 Color Cartoons

SATURDAY, DEC. 26 DOUBLE FEATURE

"The Homesteaders"

(In Color) Starring WILD BILL ELLIOTT —ALSO—

Thousands of Thrills In "Strange World" PLUS CARTOON

SUN. & MON., DEC. 27 & 28

"East Of Sumatra"

(In Color) Starring JEFF CHANDLER MARILYN MAXWELL

News And Cartoon

TUES. & WED., DEC. 29 & 30

"The All American"

Starring TONY CURTIS LORI NELSON

Cartoon & Short Subjects

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

"I Confess"

Starring MONTGOMERY CLIFT ANNE BAXTER

FRIDAY, JAN. 1

"Africa Screams"

Starring BUD ABBOTT LOU COSTELLO

Plus 5 Cartoons

Wishing You a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

—The Management

TUNE TO WHCC

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SUNDAY DEC 27

4:00 - 4:55 P. M.

when THE WHCC FAMILY sends Special Holiday Greetings To You and Your Family

PARK Theatre Program

LAST TIME TODAY WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23

"The City That Never Sleeps"

Starring GIG YOUNG MALA POWERS EDWARD ARNOLD

THURS. & FRI., DEC. 24 & 25

One of the Great Comedies of the Year!

"Mr. Scout Master"

Starring CLIFTON WEBB FRANCES DEE

SATURDAY, DEC. 26

"Marshall Of Cedar Rock"

Starring ROCKY LANE

SUNDAY & MONDAY, DEC. 27 & 28

"HOUDINI"

(In Color) Starring TONY CURTIS JANET LEIGH

TUES. & WED., DEC. 29 & 30

"Private Eyes"

Starring LEO GORCERY And THE BOWERY BOYS

THURS. & FRI., DEC. 31 & JAN. 1

"Stark River"

Starring STEVE COCHRAN CAROL MATTHEWS

Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas And A Most Happy And Prosperous New Year!

The Management

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Strand Theatre

WED., THURS. & FRI., DEC. 23, 24 & 25

"ESCAPE FROM FORT BRAVO"

Starring WILLIAM HOLDEN ELANOR PARKER

SATURDAY ONLY, DEC. 26

"THE KILLER APE"

With Johnny Weismuller Also SHORTS, CARTOON & LAST CHAPTER OF "SECRET CODE"

SUN., MON. & TUES., DEC. 27, 28 & 29

"WAR ARROW"

Starring JEFF CHANDLER MAUREEN O'HARA

In Technicolor Also Cartoon - News - Shorts

WED., THURS. & FRI., DEC. 30, 31 & JAN. 1

"WALKING MY BABY BACK HOME"

In Technicolor Starring DONALD O'CONNOR JANET LEIGH

Season's Greetings

TINKLING BELLS, holly wreaths, winter scenes with evergreens; logs on hearth, candles bright, little faces beam delight... these, to us, are all warm reminders that a very special time is here... so a very special wish is due... May this Holiday Season bring you abounding stores of good cheer, peace and happiness.

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