

# Our Christmas Traditions Date Back Many Centuries

By ELIZABETH G. PARHAM

Christmas is the holiday of happiness and cheerful giving since it celebrates the Greatest Gift of all time. Every country has its Christmas traditions and customs.

Christmas carols, for instance, are said to have originated in Italy in the 13th century by that gentle saint, St. Francis of Assise, or at least, composed by the monks around them. Those were the days of great religious revival, and carols expressed the simple religious fervor and joy of the people. With their universal appeal, carols spread to Spain, France, Germany and England, and later, across the ocean, until the carols of all nations are familiar to us in our land.

Less universal is the custom of the Yule Log. In England, Scotland, and France, the yule log tradition has come down from ancient times. It was a huge log, big enough to burn all Christmas Eve. The bringing home of the yule log was a family affair, and has given rise to Christmas songs and pictures. It was brought home with great ceremony, and lit with a piece saved from the yule log of the year before.

Before the coming of Christianity, mistletoe was a sacred plant. When enemies met under it, a truce was held for a day. The custom grew — mistletoe hung over

a doorway implied a pledge of peace and friendship sealed with a kiss to the one who entered under it. Later it implied hospitality and welcome.

Most beloved of all Christmas customs, and doubtless the first Christmas memory of most of us, is genial St. Nicholas perhaps, better known as Santa Claus. He has been immortalized by our own American "The Night Before Christmas" and pictured forever as the plump, jolly, red-cheeked, white-whiskered fellow we all know. But generations before that he delighted youngsters in France, Germany and Holland. There really was a St. Nicholas, a bishop, who lived in the early fourth century in Asia Minor. He helped those in need but did not like to be thanked. For years, no one knew who the generous giver of gifts in time of need was — but the secret benefactor was eventually discovered and the tradition grew that St. Nicholas brings the gifts that arrive on Christmas Night when the children are asleep.

The hanging of stockings is just part of the Santa Claus tradition. There is also a very old custom in some lands for shoes to be left outside the door filled with oats for Santa's steeds. In Spain, slippers were hidden in the bushes so as not to be too bold in hinting they be filled. Maybe these customs

## REDS SPURN U.N. OBSERVERS



**DESPITE PROTESTS** from Imre Horvath (right), Hungarian Foreign Minister, the United Nations General Assembly in New York was urged by the United States and 13 other nations to demand that Russia and the puppet Hungarian regime allow U.N. observers in Hungary. Horvath, who is shown talking with Arkady A. Sobolev, Soviet representative, declared the U.N. was violating its charter provisions which rule out intervention in domestic affairs. (International)

## Fines Creek Team Gets New Uniforms

By MRS. SAM FERGUSON  
Community Reporter

New uniforms have been bought for the basketball team of the Fines Creek School.

Mrs. Willie Price has returned to her home after spending a few days in the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Rector of Newport News, Va. spent the weekend with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Rector.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Price of Detroit, Mich., announce the birth of a daughter. Mr. Price is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Price of Fines Creek.

Berlin Haynes of Salisbury spent last week with members of the family at Fines Creek.

Mrs. Pearl Brummitt has resumed her teaching position in the Fines Creek School after an absence due to illness. Mrs. Frank Rathbone substituted for her.

## This Is The LAW

By ROBERT E. LEE  
(For The N. C. Bar Association)

### HAIR RINSE

Mary purchased a hair rinse at a drug store. She read the directions on the box for its use, and followed these directions the three times she used the preparation to rinse her hair. Each time her scalp became irritated. Prior to its use she had never had any trouble with her scalp or hair.

After its third use she consulted a doctor, who found that she had weeping dermatitis of her entire scalp, behind her ears, on her face, and somewhat down the back of her neck. She was taken to the hospital, and incurred considerable expense.

As her witness in court, the doctor testified that Mary's scalp ailment was caused by some chemical coming in contact with the skin, but he could not say what that chemical might be. There was made no chemical analysis of the hair rinse.

Mary had a girl friend who testified that she had rinsed her hair with the same rinse and that it caused her scalp to become red and inflamed.

Mary sued the corporation that

## SANTA ARRIVES EARLY IN TOKYO



**CHRISTMAS** comes early at a Tokyo department store, where a Yuletide party is being held for a group of Japanese orphans. Also present were American school children. The youngsters are shown eagerly reaching for presents distributed by Santa. (International)

operated the drug store. Was Mary able to recover a judgment for damages?

This was an actual case decided by the Supreme Court of North Carolina within the past year. Mary was not permitted to recover. The Supreme Court said that the superior court was justified in nonsuiting the case — that is, in refusing to send it to the jury.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court said: "It would seem that the cause of plaintiff's dermatitis remains a matter of doubt and conjecture. It may be that she and her girl friend were allergic to the ingredients of this hair rinse. Although there are contrary decisions, it has been generally held — and it seems the sounder view — that in an action by the buyer of a product against the seller for breach of warranty to recover damages for injuries resulting from the use of the product, there is no liability upon the seller, where the buyer was allergic or unusually susceptible to injury from the product, which fact is wholly unknown to the seller and peculiar to the buyer."

"It may be that there was a poisonous substance in the hair

## Highlanders Meeting Today

Directors of Western North Carolina Highlanders, Inc., met shortly before noon at The Manor in Asheville to install new officers, directors, and committeemen, and to hear a discussion on the "100-Free Vacations" project by George Vogel of the Colgate-Palmolive Co., New York.

The program also calls for the completion of unfinished business carried over from the October 26 meeting — including program plans and projects for the year.

rise, but there is no evidence to support such a conjecture. "We cannot resort to a choice of possibilities; that is guesswork, not decision."

"We conclude that there is a total absence of proof of any damage to plaintiff proximately resulting from breach of warranty."

Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who died in 1558, had 27 pairs of spectacles to match each of his costumes.

## 947 Tar Heels Lose License For Driving Drunk

Driving and drinking proved expensive for 947 drivers in November the Motor Vehicles Department reported today.

That many were required to surrender their legal driving privileges following drunk driving convictions.

The agency noted one luckless driver up for his seventh offense. Regulations require permanent withdrawal of driving privileges after the third drunk driving conviction.

Also in the list of license revocable traffic offenses were 638, the majority of them in the over 70 m.p.h. class. A temporary suspension is secured against drivers

stem again from the generous bishop who one night crawled on a roof and tossed down the chimney a full purse, which fell into a sock hung by the chimney to dry.

The origin of the Christmas Tree is more obscure. By the 16th Century the custom was well established in Germany and the Scandinavian countries. Prince Albert had one set up in Windsor Castle in 1841. France, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, America have all adopted it.

The world over, well-loved Christmas traditions center around the home, reflecting the spirit of joy and happiness that came into the world the first Christmas Night.

## Lt. Abbott Completes Army Chemical Course

Army 2nd Lt. James H. Abbott, Jr., son of Mrs. J. H. Abbott, 62 Newfound St., Canton, recently completed the officer basic course at the Chemical Corps School, Fort McClellan, Ala.

The 12-week course was designed to familiarize newly commissioned officers in the duties of a Chemical Corps officer.

Lt. Abbott is a 1955 graduate of Clemson College. He was employed by Columbia Southern Chemical Corporation in New Martinsville, W. Va., before entering the Army. The lieutenant's wife lives in Anniston, Ala.

who operate passenger cars in excess of 70 the agency said. Nine truck operators suffered similar penalties for speeding over 60 m.p.h.

Including miscellaneous offenses, the department reported 1099 revocations and 1062 suspensions for November.

Since the first of the year 27,763 licenses have been withdrawn, the department noted.

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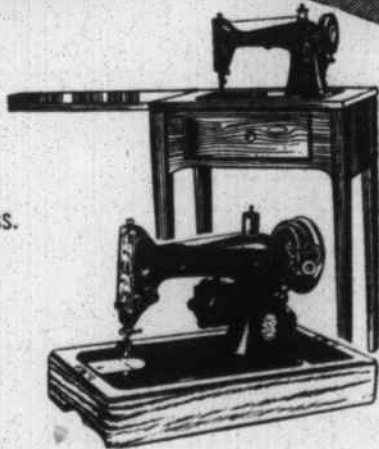
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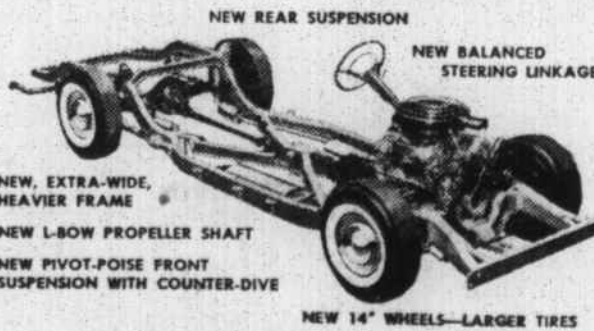
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