

### Ancient Yule Log Legend Is Favorite In 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 teef" 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.

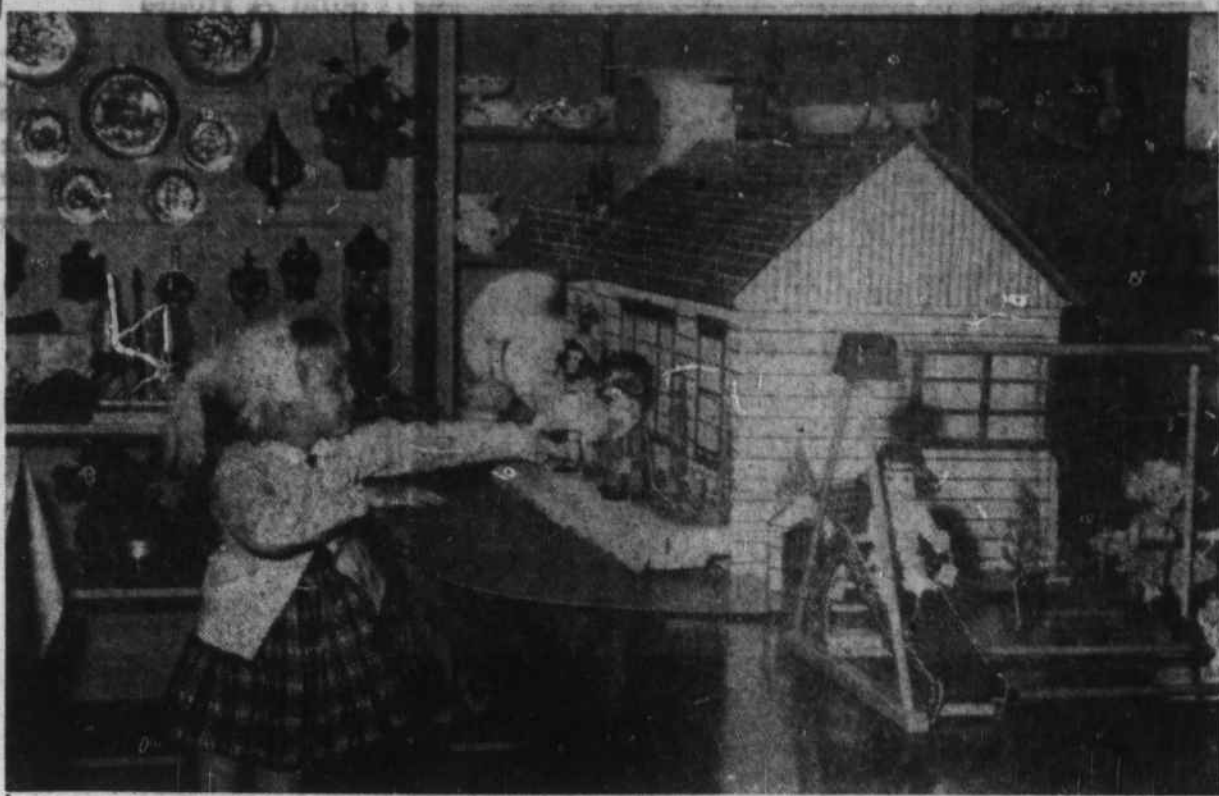
Hurrying over the snow with a speed he had not owned since boyhood, by and by he came to a little child lying in a snow bank.

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



GIRL MEETS DOLLHOUSE and the feeling is mutual. Here Charlene Whitman, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitman of Waynesville, is shown in a local store—doing a little bit of Christmas wishing. (Mountaineer Photo.)

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 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.

The federal government owns about 21 per cent of all property in the United States.

Edwin L. Drake, a railroad conductor, drilled the first United States paying oil well in 1859 at Titusville, Pa.

### England Once Forebade Christmas Observance

ENGLAND ONCE FOREBADE... Did you know that the observance of Christmas was once forbidden in England—the home of the Yule Log, the Carol-singer and the wassallers?

During the Reformation many believed the undue jollity of Christmas day as sacrilegious. Parliament, on December 24, 1552, ordered that "no observance shall be held of the five and twentieth day of December, commonly called Christmas day; nor any solemnity used or exercised in churches upon that day in respect thereof."

This edict proved to be very unpopular with the masses of the people. It was not until many years later, however, that Christmas was once again regarded as a holiday.

### Christendom Glimpses The Star Of Bethlehem

Once again Christendom sees the Star of Bethlehem and, like the Wise Men of old, rejoices with exceeding great joy.

Astronomers have discounted possibilities that the star may have been a natural phenomenon since such phenomena occur too far from the earth to serve as any sort of local guide. Modern opinion is, however, inclined to hold that there was a Star—although the story probably has been touched by Oriental imagery.

St. Matthew suggests that even the Wise Men may have lost sight of the star while they were in Jerusalem; hence, they rejoiced when it reappeared to their vision as they approached the Manger of Bethlehem.

Pressing close to that sacred Manger, Christendom glimpses the Star of Bethlehem once more and

rejoices in the light of righteousness and peace which has conquered every tyranny that evil men could think of, the light that shineth in the darkness and shall not fail.

### No Medical Plan

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. George O. Myers of Blue Creek are hoping for wholesale rates from Charleston General Hospital.

Son Michael, 7, went to the hospital for an appendectomy and within six days was followed by: Tony, 1, pneumonia; Norma, 12, inflamed glands; Joyce, 10, fever; Jo Ann, 16, appendectomy; Ricky, 8, possible appendicitis; Beverly, 3, pains in throat and ears.

Two days later, Linda Sue, 13, and Nancy, 6, underwent surgery for appendicitis.



### Season's Greetings

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