

First U.S. Christmas Tree Set Up In Ohio In 1851

December 24 this year, the tradition of the Christmas tree in American church services, will be 98 years old—for it was back in 1851 that a Lutheran minister in Cleveland, Ohio, lighted the first tree, at such services.

The minister was the Rev. Henry Schwan, pastor of the Zion Lutheran church on Cleveland's York street and his action brought on a storm of controversy which lasted several years. This was caused by the fact that Christmas tree had so long been associated with pagan observance of the season that many conservatives believed it had no place in Christian ceremonies.

However, some of Rev. Schwan's congregation, especially the chil-

dren, thought the beautifully-decorated tree glowing with candles, was just the spirit of the Christmas season.

But the objectors had their way and they were determined that Rev. Schwan's tree was to be the last of the Christmas trees erected in America.

Through the years that followed, the minister did all in his power to learn of the origins of the Christmas tree tradition in order that he might show that the tradition was far from the "heathen" ceremony it had been called.

He wrote countless letters to friends and acquaintances all over the world; he questioned strangers and made long notes of their conversations. And, when he learned



A TOTAL OF 28,130 PIECES OF MAIL went through the cancellation machine at the Waynesville postoffice Tuesday—breaking the existing record (set in 1954) by approximately 5,000. Here

Mrs. Kenneth Parrott, clerk, and Herman Francis, assistant postmaster, sort through the thousands of pieces of mail.

(Mountaineer Photo.)

that a particular part of the world already had Christmas trees, he would mark that place on a large map which hung in his study—a dark green tree where the tradition was established, a light green one where Christmas trees, at least, were known.

Pastor Schwan made his search for knowledge of the Christmas tree almost a crusade.

But as Christmas time approached in 1852, Rev. Schwan had not found enough church support for

the tradition to light another tree at his Christmas service that year. So, with great regret, he resigned himself to the end of his hope of establishing the custom.

But on December 24, he received from the pastor of one of Cleveland's older churches the present of a new tree. The Rev. Mr. Schwan realized immediately that the present meant the acceptance of the custom by a churchman far more influential than himself and his

sadness vanished.

There was a Christmas tree in the York street Zion Lutheran church that year—and once accepted in Cleveland, the custom spread all over the United States.

York street where Pastor Schwan's church once stood, is changed now and long ago was re-

Wool Togs Win Vote Of Women

Ask milady about her suits or separate skirts for cool weather, and she'll mention wool—automatically. She's familiar with wool, knows its various qualities from experience and prefers it, giving as her reasons its warmth, its good wearability, the way it holds its shape, and the fact that it doesn't wrinkle or soil easily.

She also likes wool for its rich smart appearance and because it cleans well and looks well after dry cleaning.

This, briefly, is what the U. S. Department of Agriculture's learned from a survey of women's attitudes toward wool, which included personal interviews with 2,425 women representing the U. S. feminine population between 18 and 65 years old.

The aim of the survey was to learn consumers' opinions as a help in expanding the market for agricultural fibers. Women were asked about sweaters as well as suits and skirts—what kind they owned, had bought in the past year, had experience with and preferred. The women reported both their likes and dislikes for various fibers.

Often the women's preference was for the fiber they had most experience with. In suits and skirts—for all seasons except summer—this "loyalty vote" went to wool. About 8 out of 10 of those women

named Hamilton avenue; and the first tree, decorated with candles and a gold star at its top, has given way to trees with brighter, more colorful decorations.

But the tradition of erecting and lighting Christmas trees, which is observed throughout the nation, is the same tradition which Pastor Schwan introduced to this country in the town of Cleveland nearly 100 years ago.

Sad Days For Clowns

HILLSDALE, Mich. (AP)—Sad-eyed circus clown Hal (Happy) Kellems wishes his audience would quit throwing things at him.

"I can't understand," said Happy. "It's getting so we hate to go on."

Kellems said children used to laugh and applaud when the clowns put on their acts. "But now," he said, "kids, and some grownups, think it's funny to throw peanut shells or shoot iron staples at us."

having the most experience with wool said they preferred it. In sweaters a little more than half of those most experienced with wool said they preferred this fiber, while 9 out of 10 most experienced with Orlon sweaters said Orlon was best. Warmth, appearance, ease of care, and texture were the chief advantages of wool for sweaters, according to their wearers; Orlon was liked for washability, wearability and softness.

More than 5 million of the 23 million bicycles in the United States are ridden by adults, says the Bicycle Institute of America.

Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year To All!

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Our warmest wishes to all for a bright holiday.

HAYWOOD PRINT SHOP
Everett Camp
Waynesville

Gladness in your heart, joy in your home and good cheer wherever you go...all these we wish for you, this holiday season.

May the Yuletide be one you'll long and happily remember.

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A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS to ALL

As the joyous songs of Christmastide ring out again, telling the happy story of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" we extend the Season's greetings to our many friends. May your Christmas be one of contentment and good cheer. May the New Year bring you a full measure of happiness and good fortune.

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