



HERALD ANGELS . . . Rehearsing for the annual Christmas candlelight service, the children choristers of the Crawford Methodist Memorial church in the Bronx, New York, make an impressive picture when viewed through a Christmas wreath in the foreground.

The first zoological garden in the United States was established in Philadelphia in 1774.

According to the U. S. Department of Commerce there are 147,993 barber shops in the U. S.



A truly Merry Christmas to our good friends and neighbors.

PASTIME
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Among the myriad problems which beset parents at Christmas time are the many questions from the small fry about Santa Claus. And the business of telling Junior or his little sister the truth about the jolly old gentleman in the red suit is really a major task.

However, the situation is bound to arise, and when it does, it does something to your heart strings—so you draw the little ones close and cast about for the best explanation.

Oddly enough, the true story is best—and the easiest to tell. So why not just tell the little ones this?

St. Nicholas (or Nicolas) is Santa Claus' real name. He lived in Asia Minor and was the beloved bishop of the Greek church of Myra in Lycia. He is the patron saint of the young, and in some European countries a person dressed as a bishop still assumes the children and distributes gifts of nuts, sweetmeats and other nice things to the good boys and girls.

Children loved St. Nicholas and trudged along beside him as he trudged the dusty roads of the Lycia countryside, bringing fruit and candy to the sick and needy.

One of many stories told of his goodness concerns a poor and honest man and his three good and beautiful daughters. The father was unhappy for poverty prevented his giving the customary dowries to his daughters, and for this reason they could never have suitable husbands.

One night a bag of coins was tossed in at the man's window. The next night the act was repeated. But on the third night the father watched, and the anonymous giver was detected. The jolly bishop stood with the third bag of coins in his hands. The father was very proud and would not accept the money. The good bishop begged the poor man to accept the gifts and use them for his daughters' dowries, requesting that his name never be revealed.

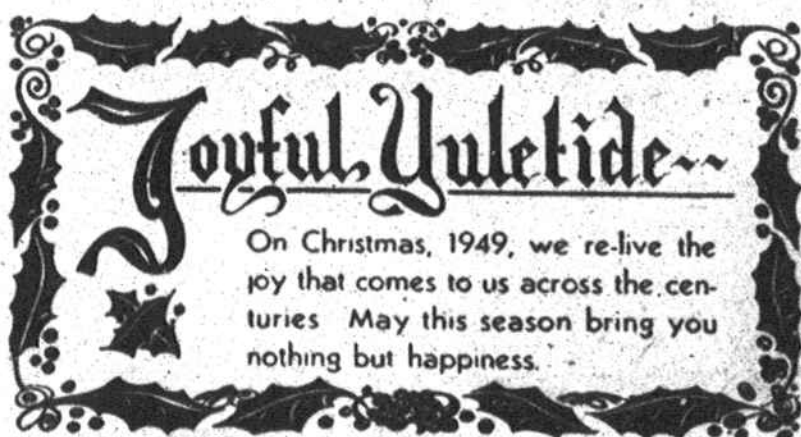
At last, the father accepted the money for his daughters, but he could not keep the name of the generous bishop secret—so the legend of the goodness of St. Nicholas was further spread and strengthened.

The practice of placing burning candles in the windows on Christmas eve is tied up with an Irish custom which holds the thought of the Christ child alone in the dark, needing light for his way.

When buying toys for children, remember that those of the constructive types are best—they develop the youngsters' ingenuity.

About ten percent of the Federal budget of Mexico in 1945 was for irrigating purposes.

The English made their first attempt to settle North America at Roanoke Island, in 1584.



On Christmas, 1949, we re-live the joy that comes to us across the centuries. May this season bring you nothing but happiness.



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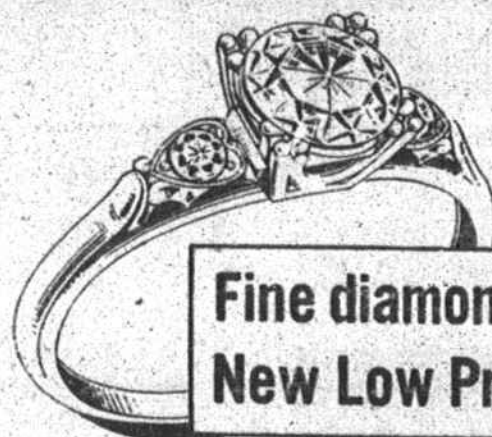


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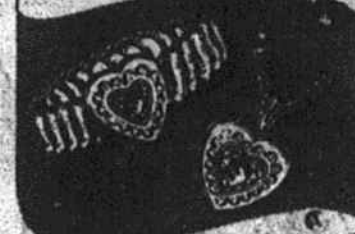
- 1847 Rogers Bros.
- Community
- 1881 Rogers
- Holmes & Edwards

GIFT RINGS



Men's Ruby Ring
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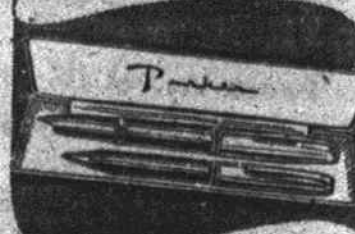
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- Wallace
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- Heirloom

Famous Crystal

- Duncan
- Heisey
- Fostoria

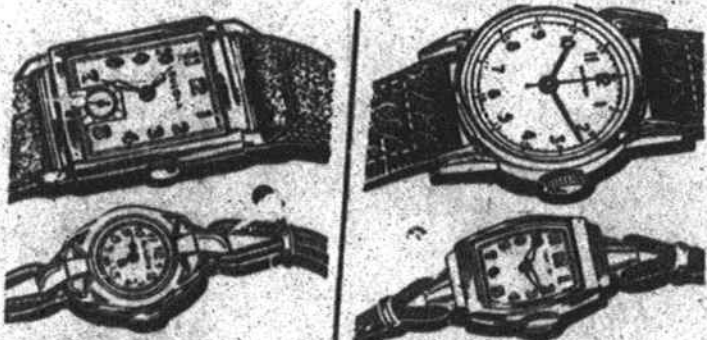
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