



By M. E. GARDNER N. C. State University

Many times the character of a family can be judged by the appearance of the home. We all have pride in the outward appearance of the home. We all seem that some of us just can't find the time to do the things that need to be done.

town or city by the appearance of the homes and industrial plants. A well-landscaped factory, warehouse or place of business denotes officers and employees as congenial and efficient as their pleasant surroundings.

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Religious Cards Take The Lead In Popularity

"Sorry, we don't have any more Christmas cards, only some religious ones."

These words, supposedly spoken by a saleswoman to a last-minute shopper for greeting cards a good many years ago, wouldn't be meaningful now.

During recent Yule seasons, greetings with a religious message have led the way in popularity. The wryly-humorous idea that anyone looking for cards wants some that show only the obnoxious side of Christmas was never very funny, and now it definitely isn't.

Early cards pictured dancing and skaters, holly and mistletoe, robins and other birds, beautiful women and charming children and flowers by the score.

Such themes still appear, but they take second place to religious messages—especially, "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Manger Scene Awe-Inspiring

Creche, Christmas crib, manger scene, crib of Bethany, presepe—in many countries, the representation of the Nativity through figures from miniature to life-size goes by many names.

Under any name the re-creation of the manger springs from one guiding and abiding purpose—bringing people closer to Christmas. The highest wonder of the Christmas story is its sheer simplicity and reality.

A Child, the Son of God, born in a manger on a starry, silent night is a concept all can comprehend because of its closeness to human experience.

Anyone who watches a child before a manger scene this Christmas will readily see, in the child's awe and enthusiasm, that re-creating the Miracle of Christ's birth is an exalting experience.

Christmas belongs to the people. So thought St. Francis of Assisi. His way of helping his Italian parishioners grow closer to

Christmas was to create the very first presepe, or Christmas crib. His carol, "The Song of the Creatures," made the Nativity still more real to them since it told of the lowly animals which were part of their lives and livelihood.

All this happened early in the 13th century. From that time, the idea of the creche or crib has spread to virtually every country on the globe.

Today, especially in Latin America and Europe, the manger scene sets the theme for aetan sordius emfwp shril wv holy and happy Shristmastide.

TOLD IN RHYME The story of the Nativity and its meaning for mankind is a ravished poetic theme, as is the holiday cheer of hearth and home.

Poets as diverse as William Shakespeare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Greenleaf Whittier and T. S. Eliot have made their contributions.

Numerous carols first were poem—witness Wadsworth Longfellow's "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." "I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols

play. And wild and sweet the words repeat, 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep'." Probably the overwhelming winner among widely-known secular Christmas poems is Clement Clark Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

The poem, written for his own children in 1822, is popularly called, "Twas the Night before Christmas."

INSPIRES MUSIC In serious music as well as popular carols, the Nativity scene lives on.

Handel's "Messiah," Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," Beethoven's "L'Enfance du Christ" are noteworthy examples of music performed year after year at Christmas.

More recently, Britten's "Ceremony of Carols," Honegger's "Christmas Cantata" and Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" have joined the holiday melody of musical treatments.

How To Keep Yule Plants

Yes, those cherished holiday plants can keep on growing into next year.

As a tropical plant, poinsettias like plenty of water and worth—70 to 80 degrees. Be sure to keep these plants in a warm place at night.

Though they blaze with fiery-red-colored balls, Jerusalem cherries are rather cool natured. For them, the temperature should be held at 60 to 65 degrees. Avoid over-watering.

Having A Christmas Party?

Let us help you with your plans. We will be delighted to discuss our special Christmas party rates. Large or Small groups up to 200.

ROYAL VILLA MOTOR INN I-85 in Kings Mountain 739-2544

11:18tfn

Advertisement for A&P Christmas Shop. Features a cartoon Santa Claus and text: 'Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings to all from all of us at A&P'. Includes a list of 'Frozen Food Buys!' such as Orange Juice 53c, Sliced Strawberries 41c, Borden's Ice Milk 39c, and Handi-Whip 39c.

Advertisement for 'SUPER-RIGHT' QUALITY MEATS. Features a turkey illustration and text: 'TURKEYS 39c Toms 35c'. Also lists 'Roasting Chickens 39c' and 'Smoked Ham Shank Portion 49c'.

Advertisement for ANN PAGE SPICES. Lists items like Black Pepper 49c, Cinnamon 49c, Ground Nutmeg 55c, and Poultry Seasoning 25c.

Advertisement for A&P Self Basting Grade A TURKEYS. Lists Hens 49c and Toms 45c.

Advertisement for 'Super-Right' Quality Roasting Chickens 39c, Smoked Picnics 49c, and Cooked Ham Halves 1.39.

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Advertisement for CLEAN FANCY NUTS IN SHELL. Lists Pecans 75c, English Walnuts 65c, Mixed Nuts 69c, Brazil Nuts 55c, and Filberts 59c.

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Advertisement for LAST MINUTE GIFTS. Lists Blankets \$3.59, Foam Pillows \$1.69, Coffee Mill \$14.95, and Punch Bowl Set \$2.99.

Advertisement for SHOP A&P FOR FRUIT. Lists Danish Carusel 89c, Potato Chips 59c, and Vanilla Wafers 41c.

Advertisement for SHOP A&P FOR FRUIT. Lists Ann Page Fruit Flavored Gelatin 10c, Vanilla Wafers 41c, and Pillsbury Flour 59c.

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Advertisement for SHOP A&P FOR FRUIT. Lists Ann Page Fruit Flavored Gelatin 10c, Vanilla Wafers 41c, and Pillsbury Flour 59c.

Advertisement for SHOP A&P FOR FRUIT. Lists Ann Page Fruit Flavored Gelatin 10c, Vanilla Wafers 41c, and Pillsbury Flour 59c.

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Advertisement for 100% Brazilian Eight O'clock Instant COFFEE 29c.