

# Buds AND Blossoms

By MAMIE MILLER



"When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the fields is man's life) to employ them in the siege."—Deuteronomy 20:19.

At this time of year, when we are thinking about getting or deciding what kind of tree we are going to use for Christmas, we shall think about the traditional holly tree.

Holly was used by the Romans during the Saturnalian festivals. Sprigs were sent to friends and neighbors as a symbol of friendship. It is used today as a symbol

of everlasting life, both in the home and church.

There are over 300 varieties of holly. The eastern states are covered with holly, yielding red berries in winter. It usually takes about eight years to see if a holly tree will have berries.

American holly and English holly grows to a height of 50 feet. The hardiest kind of holly is American holly (Ilex). American holly may be propagated from cuttings by putting in a greenhouse cold frame. Put 4 to 5 in cuttings from the current year's growth. This may be done in August or September.

There is a legend that when the enemies were chasing Jesus, holly sprang up around Him and prevented Him from being harmed. Animals never harm holly. It was also said that the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head was holly bearing white berries, but the thorns pierced his head and the blood caused the berries to always be red.

Use different trees from the woods for Christmas trees. When it is possible, plant the tree in a bucket, so it can be transplanted in the yard after Christmas. If you cut the tree, let it stand for 3 days in a bucket of water, with two cups of sugar in it to help keep the

foliage fresh and green during Christmas.

In this locality we have the largest holy tree known to man. At Wilmington we have the largest Christmas tree in the United States, but this tree is a live oak tree.

Remember when you select your tree this year to read and respect this "Code of Outdoor Ethics":

1. Your outdoor manners tell the world what you are when you are at home.
2. What belongs to the public isn't your own—play fair.
3. Respect the property of rural residents—ask before using.
4. Save fences, close gates and bars, go around planted fields.
5. People, livestock, trees and birds were never meant to be used for target practice.
6. Respect the law—catch enough legal fish to eat, then quit.
7. Protect public health—keep springs and streams clean.
8. Carelessness with fire is cus-ness.
9. Clean up your camp, and don't litter the camp site with trash.
10. Leave flowers and shrubs for others to enjoy.
11. Do your share to make America beautiful.

—From Izaak Walton League of America.

We love our Christmas poems and carols, so this week we shall enjoy this poem by Inez Culver Corbin:

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY**  
Light the Christmas candles  
With devoutest care,  
Hang a wreath of holly  
At the window there.

Trim the tree with color,  
Decorate the rooms;  
Clean and shine and polish  
Til the whole house blooms.

Have the merriest Christmas,  
Yet not lose the sight  
Of the Little Stranger  
Born one starlit night.

Speak no word unkindly,  
And no grumbling start;  
Let the Christmas story  
Sing within your heart.

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# TOT TALK

This is the season of peace on earth and good will toward men, but a visit to the North Pole might make you wonder.

There you would find that Santa Claus has his largest crew of helpers working the year around on the manufacture of pistols and guns. In fact, warehouse after warehouse is stored full of these armaments.

No matter what else a small boy wants for Christmas, he never forgets to include a make-believe deadly weapon in his long list of requests. Most of the moppets already have plenty of artillery on hand, but there's always an urgent need for one more gun.

This craving for firearms is disturbing to some of New Bern's adults, and they blame the popularity of pistols on television. It could hardly be denied that TV programs do little to diminish juvenile enthusiasm along this line, but to place the blame on such a medium is unfair.

It didn't take television, or radio before it, to get kids steamed up about guns. Dad had nothing of the sort to encourage him, yet he toted a pistol in early boyhood. As for Grandpa, he was even worse, if worse is the right word.

Any parent who attempts to alter the pattern of behavior is doomed to defeat. Deny your youngsters the privilege of owning a toy pistol, and he'll borrow one from a chum. All you accomplish is the conversion of an honest and upright cowboy into a cowboy who sneaks around corners to fool his Mom and Dad, when he should be devoting his efforts solely to the track-

ing down of outlaws.

Leave us never forget that all of us once got quite a bang out of guns ourselves. You were quick on the draw, so don't be a draw-back now.

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