

Bonchevalier and Tree of Humanity

The tale of Bonchevalier and the tree of humanity, told with minor variations throughout France and Germany, is one of the most charming of all the Christmas tree legends.

Bonchevalier was traveling through a dense forest once upon a Christmas Eve. In the distance one tall evergreen stood apart from all the others; it seemed aglow with lights and, from afar, a star appeared to rest among its topmost branches.

As he drew nearer, Bonchevalier saw that the tree was covered with candles—some standing upright and others inverted. The star at the top seemed to be the vision of a child whose beautiful head was surrounded by a pale amber halo.

Word spread through the village that Bonchevalier had seen a vision,

dreamed a dream, or perhaps experienced a phenomenon. The knight himself admitted that the whole thing seemed incredible; if it was a vision, he could not interpret it; but he was absolutely certain he had seen it and his story was always the same.

Learned citizens of the community questioned him and shook their heads—so did everyone else, except his mother.

The tree of humanity had been revealed to her son, she said proudly, and all the world would be blessed by his vision.

Indeed, Bonchevalier's vision symbolized the tree of humanity; the good ones standing upright; the bad ones inverted; and the child at the top was the Infant Jesus who watches over all the world of humanity.

Saint Nicholas Day in Holland

When Christmas rolls around in Holland, it is quietly and religiously observed: St. Nicholas Day, December 6, is the day of gift-giving and jollification.

For weeks, life-sized figures of St. Nicholas have decorated shop windows and men dressed as Nicholas have stood in front of business establishments, and driven around in horse-drawn carts delivering parcels.

At last the great day arrives: if there are several children in the household, sometimes they are gathered together from neighboring households. Bishop Nicholas (dressed in full vestments and accompanied by his Moorish servant) attends the children's party and impresses them by his knowledge of their shortcomings and chides them fatherly before distributing the trinkets and gifts he has brought for them.

After the youngsters have had their fun, the grown-ups sit around a festive table and open their surprises. Small gifts are baked in loaves of bread, packed in enormous crates, wrapped in bales of paper—each wrapper directing the present to a different person; the longer the donor and final recipient remain unknown, the greater the general jollification.

Indicative of the spirit of the season, packages containing gifts are often entrusted to strange passers-by who are instructed to leave the parcel on such and such a doorstep and ring the bell.

Wassail Bowl For Auld Lang Syne

The Wassail bowl goes around in Scotland—and elsewhere—at New Year's time.

The origin of the custom is really lost in antiquity: Saxon ancestors probably quaffed their ale from the polished skulls of defeated enemies, and the Rowena legend must be classified as "presumably fiction."

Rowena is reported to have offered her father's guest—Prince Vortigren—a bowl of wine with the salutation "Lord King, wass-hael," literally, "To Your Health." Draining the bowl with one draught, Vortigren fell in love with Rowena and they lived happily ever after.

Anyway, in time the bowl itself became an ornament of graceful design—decorated with branches of greenery which formed a canopy over the bowl. The mixture within was warm and included ale, sugar, spices, sweetened wine was added by hosts who could afford it, apples floated on top of the decoction, sometimes called "lamb's wool" or the "old man's beard." The poorer classes carried a bowl decorated with ribbons around the neighborhood, begging that it be filled, so they, too, might enjoy the Wassail.

'White Christmas,' Modern Day Carol

Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" has definitely joined the procession of Christmas music! Let us hesitate to admit so recent a creation to the inner sanctum of cherished traditions, let's see just how old some of our Christmas favorites really are.



Denmark launched the annual Christmas Seal campaign against tuberculosis in 1904; Dickens' "Christmas Carol" was written in 1843; Samuel Clement Moore wrote "The Night Before Christmas" in 1822; W. C. Dobson, one of Queen Victoria's favorite artists, dispatched the first Christmas card in 1845, and, historically, the first Christmas tree was set up in 1804.

One can imagine the first Christmas carol—the "Gloria in Excelsis" of the angels. However, of our popular Christmas carols today, "Adeste Fideles" is undoubtedly the oldest. Its origin is controversial: some say it was a graduate of the Cistercians, others date its composition variously—from 1250 to 1680. Even accepting 1680, "O Come All Ye Faithful" antedates—for example—"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" (1730), "Silent Night" (1818), and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (1868).

There's a lot of Christmas tied up in the confident expectancy of childhood and the nostalgic memories of grown-ups; so, "May your days be merry and bright And may all your Christmases be white."

Democrat Want Ads Pay

Merciless
"They took away my car. Then they took my house. Then my job."
"But you still have your wife."
"Yes, that's the trouble."
WSB sets Jan. 15 for the completion of action in wage cases.

About two-thirds of the poultry diseases in North Carolina trace their beginning to poor care and management of the flock, says Prof. Roy Dearstyne of State College.
Budenz says all Communists here are fifth-columnists.

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Announcement
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Beginning Monday, September 9th, and until further notice
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of Lenoir, N. C.
will be in his offices over the Western Auto Associate Store, in Boone, N. C., for
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Monday and Wednesday
Every Week
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"Car? It's a sewing machine."

Loss in strikes in year after V-J Day was 120,000,000 man-hours.



The custom of making short calls on New Year's Day was in full swing throughout America about 1900. Newspapers carried columns of "at home" notices specifying the hours during which visitors would be received. A succession of "open houses" and punch bowls sometimes minimized the courtesies accorded to hostesses—receptions were often "crashed" by bibulous strangers; hence, the publicly announced "open house" custom has fallen into decline and, New Year's calls now being exchanged only by intimates, the Wassail bowl goes 'round in private.



BELK'S IN BOONE has a timely array of Holiday merchandise that will delight everyone of our customers. Below are some of our Gift Suggestions . . .

FOR HIM—

- ...Shirts
- ...Ties
- ...Handkerchiefs
- ...Socks
- ...Pants
- ...Overcoats
- ...Jackets
- ...Billfolds
- ...Jewelry

FOR HER—

- ...Coats
- ...Dresses
- ...Lingerie
- ...Sweaters
- ...Skirts
- ...Pocketbooks
- ...Jewelry
- ...Luggage

And many other items too numerous to mention.

Our Toyland

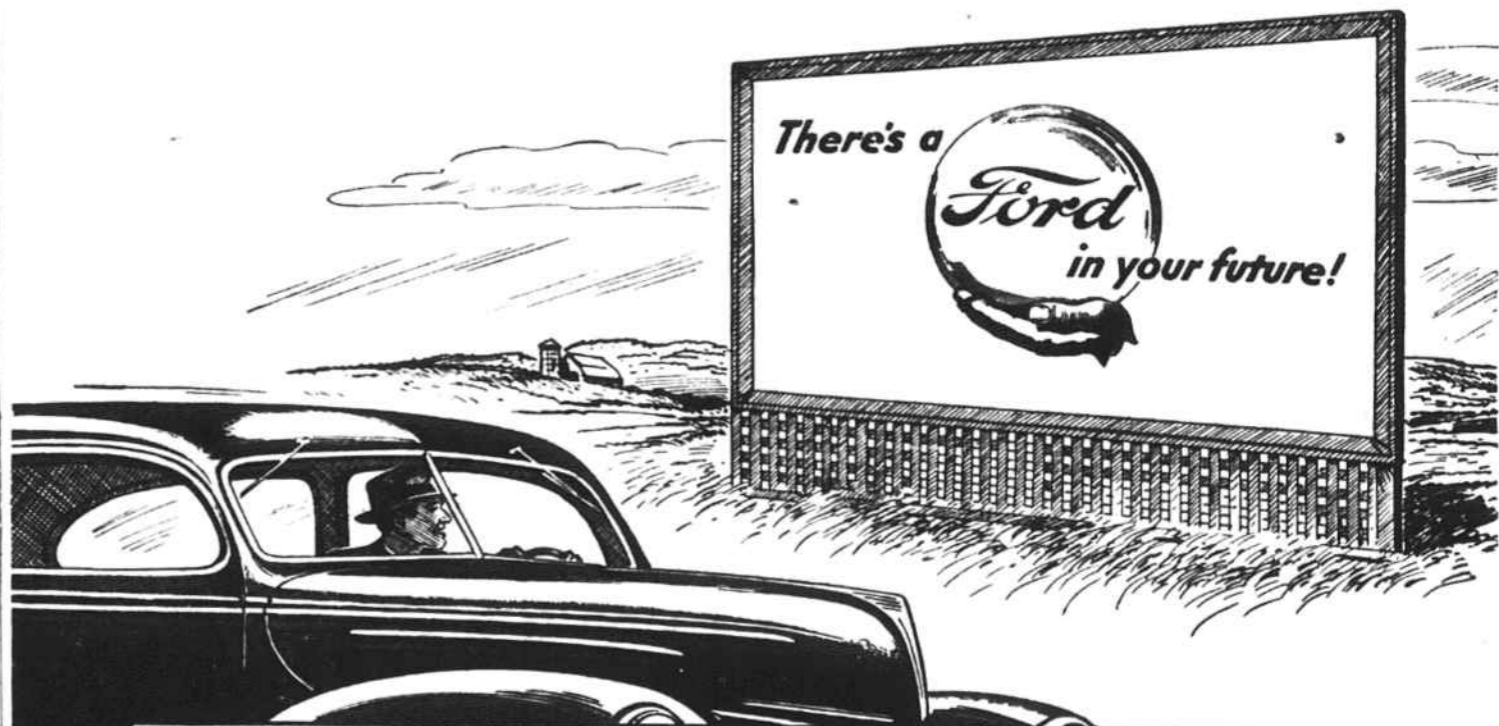
which is located in our Basement Store, is wide open. We invite the kiddies to come in and visit in our toy department.

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