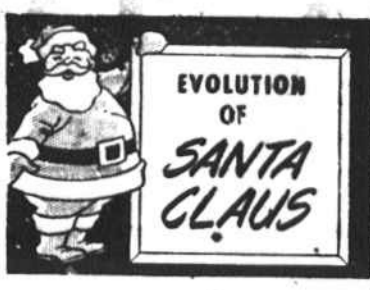


**Keep Christmas Tree Standing in Water**

"Keep that Christmas tree standing in water!" is the advice which Miss Ruth Current, State home demonstration agent for the State College Extension Service, gave to North Carolina farm families this week. This, she explained, is the most practical, satisfactory, and con-

venient method for reducing the Christmas tree fire hazard and preventing the needles from discoloring and falling. Miss Current says the following procedure is recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., for the water treatment:  
1. Obtain a tree that has been cut as recently as possible.  
2. Cut off the end of the trunk

diagonally at least one inch above the original cut end. Stand the tree at once in a container of water and keep the water level above the cut surface during the entire time that the tree is in the house. If the tree is not to be set up for several days, it should be kept standing in water meanwhile in a cool place. If started in time, this treatment will prevent the needles from drying out and becoming flammable, and will keep them fresh and green. It will also retard the fall of needles of such species as spruce, which loses needles very easily, in contrast to balsam fir, which retains its needles even after the branches have become dry and the needles brittle. Freshly cut spruce or balsam fir trees standing in water cannot be set on fire by candle or match fires, but, of course, will not withstand a large source of heat. As the Forest Service points out, householders should take all possible precautions against fire around the Christmas tree, including the elimination of defective electrical connections, and avoidance of the accumulation of combustible decorations on or beneath the tree. Also, the tree should be placed so that its accidental burning would not ignite curtains or other combustible furnishings, nor trap the occupants of a room or building.



Christmas has rolled around once again and Santa Claus with round red cheeks, jolly smile and chunky figure looks the same as he did nearly 90 years ago.

His creator was Thomas Nast, one of America's greatest cartoonists. During the early 1860's he was asked to illustrate Clement Clark Moore's poem, "A Visit to St. Nicholas, better known to us as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas." The result was Santa Claus as we know him.

Santa's creator was born in Bavaria in 1840, son of a musician in a Bavarian army band. When he was a fat little boy of six, Thomas' father left Germany to enlist in the United States navy, and Thomas' mother brought the boy to New York to live.

Along about the time stocky Tommy was 15 he landed his first job as an illustrator for Leslie's Weekly at \$4 a week. By the time he was 20 he was sent to England by the New York Illustrated News to sketch the Heenan-Sayers fight, an outstanding sports event of the day.

In 1862 he joined the staff of Harper's Weekly and began the series of emblematic drawings which continued throughout the Civil War. From those he created certain trademarks that have been the inspiration of cartoonists down to the present—notably the Republican elephant and the Democrat donkey.

Famous as the political symbols are today, Nast's Santa Claus probably holds first place in the hearts of Americans. Before Nast's day, a few artists had drawn Santa on one occasion or another, but could not seem to agree on how the old gentleman should look.

Nast changed all that. He located Santa's home at the North Pole and gave him a sleigh drawn by reindeer. He drew the familiar, fat, merry old fellow with red cheeks and white beard, dressed in red, wearing a cap and boots, carrying a pack of toys and smoking a short pipe.

The artist then gave Santa a spy-glass so that during the year he might pick out the good children from the bad, and also a big book in which to write their names and keep their records.

This conception of Santa Claus first appeared in 1863. Since that time, the pictured Santa has been the same, although the spy glass and pipe seem to have been dropped by the way.

**MEDICAL INSURANCE**

Federal Security Administration Oscar R. Ewing has charged that opponents of the Truman Administration's health insurance proposal for this country have "tried to mislead the American people" by misrepresenting the British health program. Just returned from a trip to Great Britain, Mr. Ewing said his study had showed that the British program was working "remarkably well" and that a similar plan would be good for this country.

**REAL NEIGHBORS**

Washington Court House, Ohio—The Christmas holiday season looked pretty bleak to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Riley and their 16-year-old son, when fire destroyed their home and their personal possessions. However, their neighbors decided to do something about the situation and held a "shower" or them. Two hundred came, all bearing gifts—canned food, kitchenware, linens, a set of silver, and much-needed cash.

**Cycloidal propulsion is being tested on Army vessel.**

Having qualified as the administrator of the estate of A. J. Hicks, late of North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased, to present them to me for payment within 12 months of the date hereof or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All those indebted to the estate are asked to make immediate payment. This December 1, 1949. WINDSOR HICKS, Adm. Rominger, N. C. 12-8-49



**When is a Fool?**

The story is told of a king's fool whose job was to entertain the royal family. He was given a staff and told to keep it until he met a greater fool than himself. One day the king was taken suddenly ill. He became weaker and weaker. The fool came to the king's bedside. "Alas," cried the king, "I am going on a long journey." "Where is my lord going?" asked the fool. "Ah," sighed the king, "I do not know." "And when will the king return?" asked the fool. "I shall not come back." "And has my lord prepared for that journey?" asked the fool. "Alas... I have not... and I am afraid," cried the king. As the fool knelt by the bedside he slipped his staff into the king's hands. "My lord," he said, "thou art a greater fool than I, for you are going on a long journey from which you will never return and you have made no preparations." A man is a fool when he neglects to prepare for his eternal destiny. This life is so crowded with duties and activities that it is very easy to forget about eternity. But eternity is ahead, and everyone must take that long, long journey... into eternity! How wonderful it is that God has pointed out just how to prepare for this long journey. God has spoken through His Son, Jesus Christ; and Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." To miss Him is to miss salvation—to miss Him means that you are unprepared for that journey into eternity. The reason Jesus is the way is that God judged Him for the sins of the world—for your sins. The moment you believe in your heart that Jesus died for you, and accept Him as your Saviour, you are saved. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

COVE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

**PAYROLL REDUCTIONS**

The Joint Committee on Reductions of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures has reported that the Executive Branch's civilian payroll was reduced by 50,711 employees in October, the greatest monthly decrease since June of 1947. Total employment by the Government still stood at 2,006,385. Ninety-five per cent of the October reduction occurred in the Defense Department.



**Merry Christmas**

WILSON'S FEED STORE

Here Is an **OLD TIME Wish**

That you may spend Christmas always **IN THE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WAY.**

**SMITHEY'S STORE**

**DEMOCRAT ADS PAY**



You don't buy a suit in 3 stores

No. Because you want the coat, vest and pants to match. You buy 'em all at the same place.

Likewise, well planned personal and family and home and car insurance should "match up"—should be bought of one agent.

We can suggest complete America Fore insurance protection for you with "tailor-made" combination policies that save you money while fitting your particular needs perfectly.



**Watauga Insurance Agency**  
Jerry Coe, Manager  
217 Main St. Boone, N. C.  
Appalachian Theatre Bldg.

**Along the Way**

It has been a pleasure to serve you in times gone by and it is our sincere wish that we may continue to have an opportunity to serve you in the days to come.

Merry Christmas to you, one and all.

**BOONE TIRE and BARGAIN STORE**