

## Women Rule Christmas 1885

A picture of a beautiful woman on a current Christmas card would seem inappropriate to many. But feminine beauty enjoyed great popularity in Christmas cards during the late 1880's.

Until 1880, children and elderly women were most often pictured. Or, if adult young women did appear, they were shown as "tenders of the hearth," with their husbands, children or pets.

Later, classic Greek and Roman feminine figures were used to convey ideals of feeling and beauty.

Artists of the Royal Academy in London began the new fashion for using contemporary women in their Christmas card illustrations in 1881. One of the earliest of these was designed by W. F. Yeames and showed a richly-gowned young woman asleep in a chair, with winged cupids in a golden cage.

In 1885, fashion figures of elegant women were a typical subject of Christmas cards. An example is a Louis Prang card from the Norcross Historical Collection.

Mr. Prang, who published the best-known early greeting cards in the U.S., conducted a Christmas card competition. The \$1,000 first



APPEALING FAMILY GROUP IS SUBJECT of the 1885 Louis Prang Christmas card shown here. Illustration of the mother marks trend of 1880's greeting cards, which often pictured attractive young women. This card is from the Norcross Historical Collection.

prize was won by Elihu Vedder, a well-known American artist.

The model for his successful illustration was his wife, and the inscription read, in part, "Thy own wish wish I

thee in every place." Later Christmas cards depicted women as fashion plates, sportswomen, cyclists and, in general, growing participants in the life of their times.

World-wide, It's Merry Christmastime!

## Yuletide Customs Spread Around Globe

Mistletoe, Santa Claus, letters to Santa, Christmas customs galore — where did they all begin?

The customs of Christmas come from many lands and many eras. They evolve from pagan ceremonies into Christian rituals. And they stretch from West to East, from North to South, as each country contributes something special and traditional to the celebrations of the holiday.

When seasonal gaiety rings out in Canada, the merriment is echoed in Mexico. When North or South Americans gather for Christmas festivities, the people of Sweden are doing the same — and so are the peoples of Holland and France and Italy and Spain and countless other European countries.

In the far East, Christian communities spread the customs of Christmas, which mingle with the year-end ceremonies observed by those of other faiths.

That the legend and lore of Christmas knows no boundaries is illustrated in the following round-up of Yuletide customs, based on information provided by the editors of the Encyclopedia International.

### In England

From the north of England comes the happy custom of the kissing bough. A large hoop, twined with greens, is decorated with apples and candles. And in the center there's mistletoe—signal for exchanging kisses.

### In Austria

"Custom" of writing letters to Santa Claus may have begun in Austria, where, long ago, it was an Advent tradition for children to write letters containing lists of what they'd like to receive on St. Nicholas' Day.

### In Brazil

Brazilian lore and legend says that Three King's Day is a time for poetry contests. Verses accompanied by guitars are featured.

### In Chile

Unique among Christmas customs in Chile is a grand fiesta that centers around horse racing.

### In Switzerland

A Swiss custom that dates back to the Middle Ages is to start the New Year free of debts. December 6th, the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the first Santa Claus, is the day set to meet all monetary obligations such as rents and mortgages.

### In Venezuela

Hallaca, a native Venezuelan dish, is an awaited delicacy during the Christmas season. It is made of corn meal with pork and chicken stuffing and numerous other ingredients, and then wrapped in plantain leaves to form a type of pie.

### In Argentina

It's a mid-summer Christmas in Argentina, and the traditional feast is generally served outdoors. Rosebuds and jasmine deck the table, which has as edible centerpiece a whole roast suckling pig.

### In Italy

From Italy comes a most poetic addition to Christmas lore. For three weeks during the Christmas season, children traditionally go from place to place reciting Christmas poems. They expect coins in return, to buy holiday goodies.

### In Sweden

An ancient custom that is still observed in some Swedish households today is that of "dipping bread into the pot." Each person dips a piece of bread into pork and sausage drippings and eats it for good luck.

### In Holland

For St. Nicholas season, it's traditional in Holland to make flat cakes called *Klassjes*. Once exclusively made in the form of the bishop, St. Nicholas, *Klassjes* now take any form of bird, beast or fish.

### In France

At Salers in central France, old-time tradition calls for a king and queen to rule over Christmas festivities. Rulers pay for the privilege, since they are "elected" by bidding at an auction held on the church steps.

### In Germany

A procession which blends pagan and Christmas customs is part of the legend and lore of the holiday in Ruppין, Germany. A rider on a white horse, symbolizing the horse of the pagan god Wotan, leads the parade. He is followed by Father Christmas, who is decked with ribbons and carries candy and fruit.

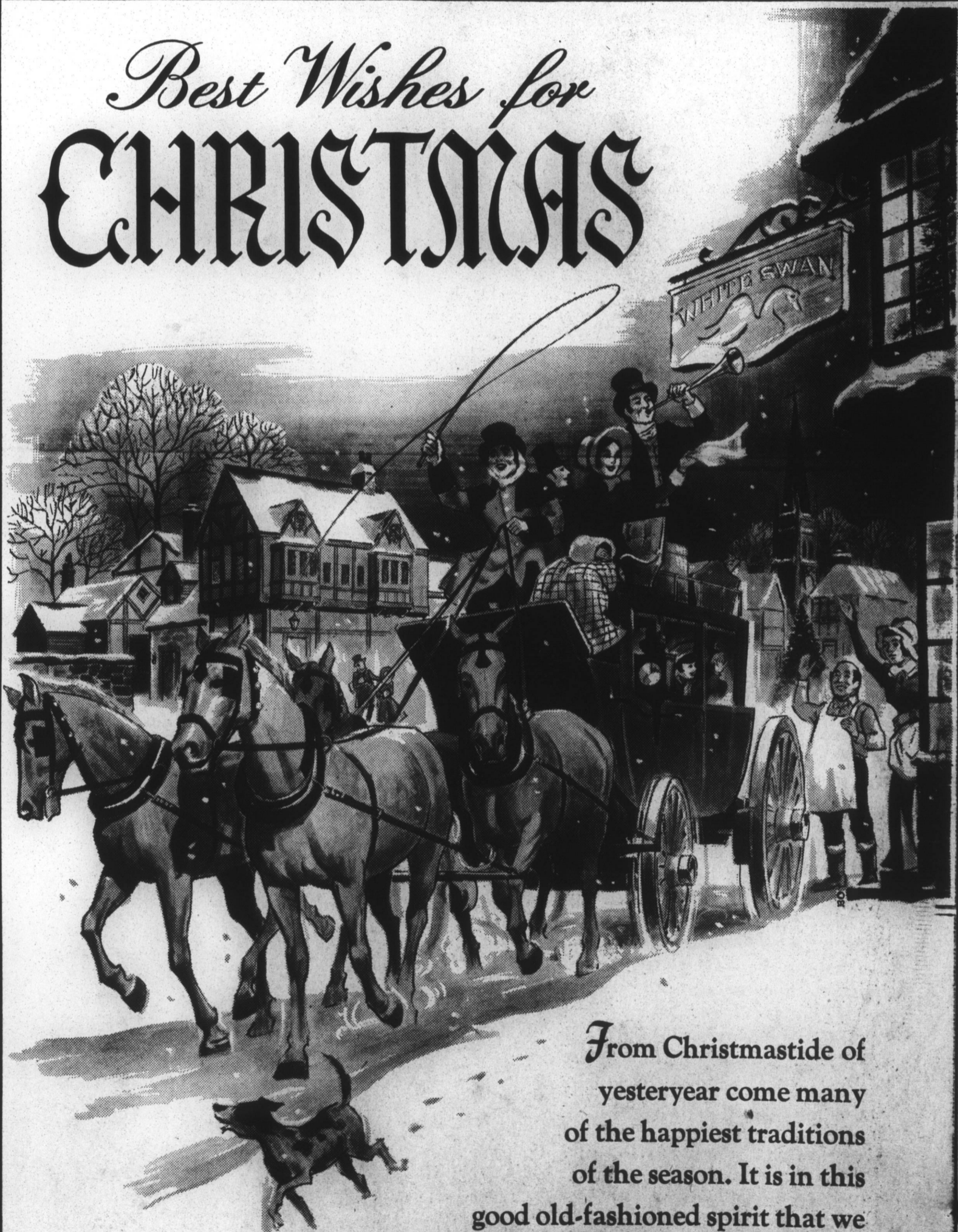


## GREETINGS

Allow us this moment, to send our sincere and hearty thanks and best wishes to all our friends and neighbors, whom we have served with pleasure and pride throughout the year. May the best of holidays be yours.

*The Herald Staff*

# Best Wishes for CHRISTMAS



From Christmastide of yesteryear come many of the happiest traditions of the season. It is in this good old-fashioned spirit that we greet you, and wish you all the best the holidays can bring. A very merry Christmas, everyone! We thank you, our customers, for your friendly patronage... serving you is our pleasure, and an enduring privilege.

## PHTHISIC'S SUPER MARKET

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY - DECEMBER 25th AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th

## Greetings

'Tis the season to be jolly...and to share with neighbors and friends the merriment of Christmas. To all, "Happy Holiday"!



**Chowan Veneer Company  
And Employees**