

Trees, Dogwood And Christmas

Some historians trace the custom of lighting the Christmas tree to Martin Luther. The story is told that he was strolling through the countryside alone one Christmas Eve under a brilliant starlit sky, and his thoughts turned to the nativity of the Christ Child. He was awed by the beauty of the heavens and the wintry landscape, the blue light on the low hills outside Weimar and on the evergreens, and the snow flakes sparkling in the moonlight. Returning home, he told his family about it and attempted to reproduce the glory of the outdoors. To a small evergreen tree he attached some lighted candles to portray the reflection of the starry heaven.

Apparently candles did not come into wide use at once. Mention of the Christmas tree custom in Strasbourg a century later did not include lights. For two centuries following Luther, the Christmas-tree custom appears to have been confined to the Rhine River district. From 1700 on, when the lights were accepted as part of the decorations, the Christmas tree was well on its way to becoming an accepted custom in Germany, and during the Revolution the tradition of the Christmas tree bridged the Atlantic.

Just how Christmas-tree decorations other than lights developed is vague. At first, the trimmings, if any, consisted mostly of small tufts of cotton and strings of popcorn. It may be that these were used on the branches as a substitute for snow in the manner Martin Luther used candles to represent lights on the snow-flecked evergreens. Other decorations were flowers, replicas of food-stuffs, paper ornaments and strings of cranberries. These could have begun as a carry-over of the forest dwellers hanging food-stuffs in trees.

Many people are troubled about cutting evergreens for Christmas trees. President Theodore Roosevelt, as a conservationist, felt so keenly about the matter that he used to forbid their use in the White House. He called it wasteful. One year, however, his sons, Archie and Quentin, smuggled one in and set it up in Archie's room. The President's friend and advisor on conservation measures assured him that the supervised and proper harvesting of Christmas trees was good for the forests. From then on the White House had a tree.

Actually if properly directed, there is no reason why the joy associated with the Christmas evergreen may not be a means of arousing in the minds of children an appreciation of the beauty and usefulness of trees, and keen appreciation of the beauty and usefulness of trees is a long step toward the will to plant and care for them.

When the purpose of the Christmas tree has been served in homes, the tree should be disposed of properly. A Twelfth Night ceremony, in which the Christmas trees, wreaths, and boughs are collected from several homes and burned in a blaze of glory, is observed in some American cities.

The community burning of the trees, which appears to have originated in Germany, was instituted to commemorate the

light of the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the Three Wise Men to where the infant Christ lay in the manger. This seems to be a more fitting end for a tree of tradition and sentiment and much better than disheap.

This is the fourth in a series of articles on Conservation prepared and presented by the Conservation Committee of the Louisburg Garden Club. We hope you will find them interesting as well as informative.

Since our last article concerned trees, we thought you might be interested in hearing the "Legend of the Dogwood" and the beliefs of some about the beginning of the tradition of Christmas trees.

There is a legend, that at the time of the Crucifixion the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber of the cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and in His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said: "Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross." Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross.....two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember."

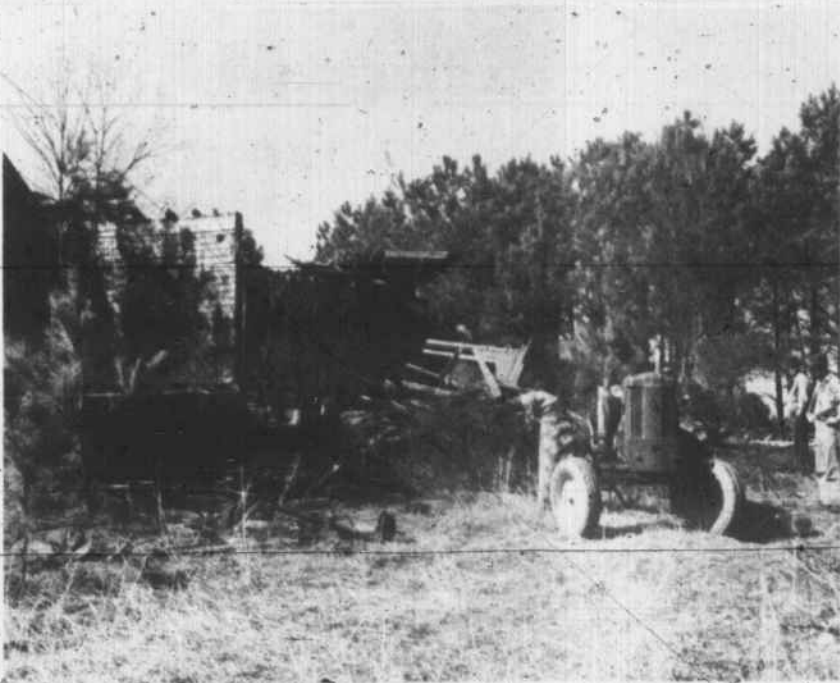
Trimmed Christmas trees were first used in the United States apparently during the American Revolution, when Hessian soldiers softened their homesickness with them. In a description of Christmas festivities at Fort Dearborn, Ill., in 1804 mention is made of a Christmas tree.

The idea and tradition spread widely through the young land; we read that people in Cambridge, Mass., put up Christmas trees in 1832; in Philadelphia, 2 years later; Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia, put them up in 1846.

Through the years the tradition has become so well established that two-thirds of all American homes now follow the custom. The Christmas tree is a symbol of a living Christmas spirit and brings into our lives the fragrance and freshness of the forest.

Egyptians for ceremonials brought green date palms into their homes as a symbol of "life triumphant over death." Romans raised an evergreen bough at the feast of Saturn they observed. To the Druids, sprigs of evergreen in the house meant eternal life; to the Norsemen, they symbolized the revival of the sun god Balder. To the superstitious, the branches of evergreens placed over the door would keep out witches, ghosts, and evil spirits. The early Scandinavians are said to have done homage to the fir tree: This does not mean that our present Christmas-tree custom might have evolved from paganism, but some feel it was the origin of the eventual use of the evergreen.

The fir seems to be the tree



Seven Paths To Build Community House

Workmen are shown above removing the old Seven Paths school building last Saturday and plan to build a new community house there. Projects will soon get underway to raise the necessary funds with which to complete the new building. The local Home Demonstration Club has acquired the location. -Times Staff Photo.

That's Why

"Pardon me sir," said the hotel clerk. "Would you mind telling me your name?"
"My name?" snorted the new guest. "Can't you see where I signed the register?"
"Yes, sir," was the reply, "that's what aroused my curiosity."

most commonly mentioned in reviewing the evolution of the Christmas tree. The fact that the twigs of the balsam fir resemble crosses more than do other evergreens, may have had something to do with it. Also, it seems that extracts from the fir, especially balsam fir, were used for medicinal purposes; probably for that reason it was widely sought after and used.

Trees were worshiped by many early dwellers of the forest and gifts of food were often hung in the branches of offerings or sacrifices to the deities. Such giving was a Christian trait; thus the gifts were hung in "Christian trees" or Christmas trees. Also, certain foodstuffs were hung in trees to get them out of reach of prowling animals. The suggestion has been made that the idea of decorating trees is an outgrowth of these practices. At any rate, if the fir tree predominated as the Christmas tree, then our forefathers selected wisely, for the fir is the favorite of today.

ASCS NEWS

John R. Davis
Franklin County ASCS Manager

Cotton growers who do not wish to plant all of any part of their 1965 cotton allotment should release their unwanted cotton acreage to the Franklin County ASCS Committee. The final date to release acreage is March 5, 1965. February 19, 1965 was the final date for producers to request additional acreage to plant.

Each year, a producer must plant and/or release at least 75% of the farm's effective allotment if the allotment is to be preserved. A producer may release all of his farm's cotton allotment for two years but the third year all of the allotment can be released except for one-third of an acre which must be planted to preserve the allotment. All producers who do not release any acreage should make a special effort to plant at least 75% of their 1965 effective allotment so no allotment will be lost because of underplanting. Producers who plant within their Domestic allotment will receive a price support payment based on the planted acreage. Any producer who has an effective allotment over 15.0 acres should visit

the County ASCS Office in Louisburg, not later than March 29, 1965, if he wishes to be eligible for the price support payment on cotton. Feed Grain producers who have not signed up in the 1965 Feed Grain Program should visit the County ASCS Office and examine the benefits of the program. The 1965 Feed Grain Program is designed to permit producers to reduce their feed grain production and earn a payment. Also, for those who wish to divert a portion of their base and plant within their permitted acreage for the farm, a payment will be made for the land taken out of production and for acreage planted in feed grain. A producer who signs up in the program on one farm must stay within the feed grain base on all farms in which he has an interest. For more information concerning this program, please contact the County ASCS Office in Louisburg. Freedom of speech is not valuable unless somebody will listen.

about you

and your neighbors . . .

Louisburg

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Horne and children, Celia and Lisa, of Burlington spent the weekend with Mrs. Horne's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hudson of Louisburg.

Miss Joyce Gilliam of Raleigh spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Gilliam, of Louisburg.

Mrs. Thomas Copley of Virginia Beach, Va., spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hight, of Louisburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Hight, Jr., and Mrs. Jimmy Martin of Louisburg spent the weekend in Baltimore with Mr. Martin, who is in school there.

Miss Mary Conn, a student at East Carolina College in Greenville, is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. E. P. Conn, of Louisburg.

Mrs. C. M. Vaughn has returned home from a two months' visit with her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Vaughn, in Boynton Beach, Fla.

Bobbitt

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Woodlief from Raleigh were visitors in the homes of Mesdames H. J. Johnson, Ruby Hayes, E. L. Kittrell and J. T. Hight Friday.

Miss Emma Montgomery of Washington, D. C. was weekend guest of Misses Mary and Maurice Rogers.

During the week, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Rowland visited Mr. and Mrs. Richard Blitts and family at Cary.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Abbott visited Mrs. Myrtle Abbott and family and Mrs. E. G. Collins, Jr., in Raleigh Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mitchell were in Zebulop Monday to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Broughton. Glad to report that Mrs. Broughton is improving.

Sixteen members, representing Plank Chapel, attended the Raleigh District Lay Rally at Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Smith of Raleigh and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Houchins of Henderson were visitors in the L. W. Finch home Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Palmer Johnson is on the sick list this week.

Mrs. Ira Finch and Mrs. Ries Finch visited the C. M. Tip-

Some people pay their debts and others forget them, if they can.

pets in Oxford Sunday.

Miss Betsy Moss of Wilton was week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Moss and Mrs. Henry Parks.

Epsom

Mr. and Mrs. John Bowen and son Walt spent the weekend in Boone. They also visited other points of interest in the mountains including the ski resorts.

Miss Betsy Paige Renn of Raleigh visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Renn, during the weekend.

Among College students home for the weekend were Miss Carolyn Weldon of Peace College, Miss Phyllis Currin of East Carolina College and Mr. Sonny Duke of State College.

Mr. and Mrs. James Brown visited in Smithfield Saturday.

Franklinton

Dr. and Mrs. Fleming Fuller of Kinston visited Mrs. H. F. Fuller and Miss Inez Fuller on Wednesday.

Mrs. Yalman Balta of Durham visited her grandmother, Mrs. H. F. Fuller, on Friday.

Mrs. Eugene Pearce visited her mother in Greenville during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogers of Greenwood, South Carolina, were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Preddy.

Ben Williamson, a student at the University of Chapel Hill, visited his parents during the weekend.

Mrs. Fred Cooke has returned home after being a patient at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.



SHOWER-PROOF—New for young fashionables is the rain suit, seen here in tan cotton poplin combined with black and white polka dots. The suit is protected with Zepel fabric fluoridizer to repel oily substances as well as rain and to resist staining. By Suzy Brooks.

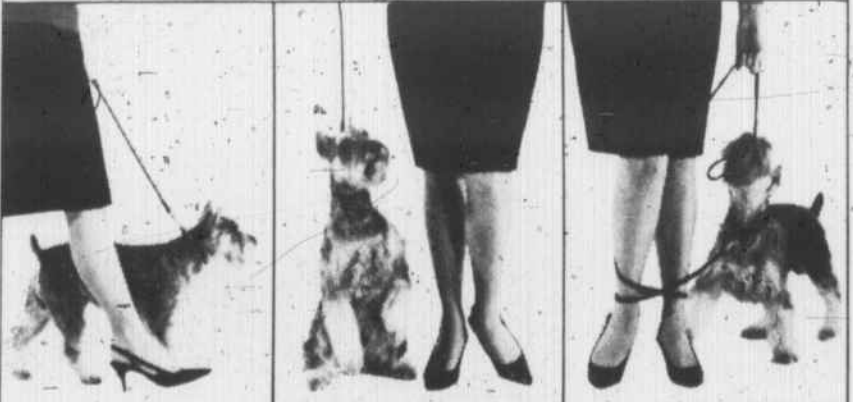
FACTORY OUTLET SPORTSWEAR
SLACKS, BLOUSES, SWEATERS
SHIRTS - SHORTS - SKIRTS - ETC.
SPECIAL!
Beige And White SUPPORT STOCKING 87¢
Boys And Girls SNOW SUITS --New \$6.95
1 Group DRESSES \$2.95 Each Or 2 For \$5.00
1 Group Of Little Girls DRESSES \$1.00 Ea (Value \$2.98)
NATIONALLY KNOWN BRANDS
SAVE UP TO 50%
3 Miles North U. S. 1 & 401
Across From King Of The Sea

"How much is that Dart in the window...?"

"I just have to give up chasing Dodge Darts... too tiring. For a change, I'd rather ride in one."

"Like that Dart GT... with all-vinyl bucket seats, padded dash, carpeting the works. It's so sporty I'm sure she'll notice it."

"But I'm not taking any chances."



Don't you take chances either... get a sure thing. Get a Dart.

Dart, the family-size compact. 111 inch wheelbase. Sound big? It is. Big, roomy and comfortable. More trunk space, too. Your choice of economical Sixes or quick V8's. And there's a little compact price in the rear window of every one.

'65 Dodge Dart CHRYSLER
J. O. GREEN MOTOR CO.
104 Main Street Franklinton, N. C.
N. C. Dealer License No. 1986
WATCH "THE BOB HOPE SHOW," NBC-TV. CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTING.

THE MIKE HIGHT SHOW
Monday-Friday
12 Noon-1 P.M.
On WIZ 1450
On Your Henderson Dial
1000 Watts
WIZZZZZZ.
The Best There Is.

NEED DRAPERIES? VISIT TAYLOR'S DRAPERY SHOP FEATURING **NORMAN'S** CUSTOM TAILORED DRAPERIES AND FOR YOUR CARPET NEEDS IT'S TAYLOR'S FLOOR COVERING SHOP FEATURING **Mohawk** CARPETS FOR HOMES AND CHURCHES FREE ESTIMATES **H.C. TAYLOR** HARDWARE FURNITURE

FREE !!

10" x 14" SIZE HAND PAINTED OIL PORTRAIT FROM YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPH.

WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY LIVING ROOM SUITE Retail Value Of \$179.00 Or More

Johnson Cotton Company