

**Yule Cards Salute Holly-and-Poinsettia Season**



**Christmas Cards Have Warm, Friendly Air**

The 1949 Christmas cards promise a gay Yuletide. Scenes of holiday skating, sledging, and juvenile pranks bedeck the brightly greetings. A Santa with feathery beard comes bearing "A wish so old . . . it has HUSKERS!" Publishers estimate that 1,600,000 Christmas cards will lighten the nation's holiday mail about 100,000,000 more good wishes than last year. Religious designs have come to the fore in popularity. Madonna and Child portraits, in soft pastel tones, lead the Holy Land scenes, ringing bells, midnight church services and suppled choirs express a modern reverent attitude toward Christmas. On the whimsical side, the three little kittens' of nursery rhyme fame have hung their mittens on the fireplace, drowsily napping. One card's in the shape of a barrel—to wear after you pay your Christmas bills. Yuletides have a warm, straightforward friendliness—

If me n' Santa were in cahoots—By gash you'd hafta hang HIP BOOTS!  
Novelty Yule cards are in heavy demand. Tiny angels and snowmen pop out of tiny watch springs. Several greetings contain card-board ornaments for decorating your Christmas tree. Other Christmas cards are guaranteed against getting dog-eared in the holiday mail rush—they're stamped from sheet aluminum!  
Incidentally, the Post Office Department asks that your out-of-State cards be mailed by December 15, and local cards a week before Christmas.  
"Special title" Christmas cards have multiplied, with affectionate individual verses for loved ones and valued friends. Whatever your taste, you'll have no trouble finding a Christmas card this Yule—publishers say 25,000 different designs are available!  
A "sponge" is the cleaned skeleton of a creature which lives at the bottom of the sea.



**BENLEE'S In Valdese**

**Your Name Smith? G. K. Chesterton Said It's Sacred**

Although one in every hundred Americans is named Smith, there's no good reason why anyone so named should feel that the commonness of his name cannot commonness in himself. Such a person may be impressed by Oliver Wendell Holmes' line: "Fate tried to conceal him by naming him Smith", but he hasn't heard all until he hears these words from Gilbert K. Chesterton:  
"In the case of Smith, the name is so poetical that it must be an arduous and heroic matter to live up to it. . . . This sacred name of Smith—this name of iron and flame. It would be very natural if a certain hauteur, a certain curl of the lip, distinguished everyone whose name is Smith. . . . From the darkest dawn off history this clan has gone forth to battle; . . . its name is everywhere; it is older than the nations."  
More information about the name of Smith and some of the

most prominent people who bear it is contained in an article in the October issue of Cosmopolitan magazine. The author? A Smith, of course—H. Allen Smith, who has also written of such things as Totem Poles, Horse Latitudes and Putty-Knife Factories.

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**STATE TO ADD PENNY TO GAS TAX JANUARY 1**

**Extra Money To Be Used Only For Helping Pay Rural Road Program.**

Raleigh — (AP) — When North Carolina adds another penny to its gasoline tax Jan. 1, the money must be used exclusively to help pay for the rural road program.  
So ruled Attorney General Harry McMullan in a special opinion handed down recently.  
The extra cent tax—which will raise the state's gas tax to seven cents a gallon—automatically goes into effect the first of the new year. It was contingent upon the \$200,000,000 rural road bond issue approved last summer.  
If the bond issue were approved—which it was—the gas tax rate was to automatically go up one cent Jan. 1.  
If an opinion prepared for the revenue department, the highway commission, and the state treasurer's office, McMullan said all income from the tax increase must be deposited in a secondary road bond fund.  
He pointed out that the fund was created in a provision of the act authorizing the \$200,000,000 bond program and that its purpose, as outlined in the act, is to repay the principal and interest on the bonds.  
The additional one-cent tax is expected to bring the state an extra \$6,000,000 annually.  
**PLANES SPOT POACHERS**  
Federal game officials are urging aerial photographs as evidence against commercial fishermen operating illegally in certain waters.  
The idea is showing special promise in Alaska, where rough waters sometimes make it impossible for a patrol plane to land.  
Albert M. Day, director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says the plane has replaced the dog sled in Alaskan patrols to the extent that only 13 miles were covered by sled last year, against 134,329 by plane, 300 by helicopter and about 100,000 by other means.

**Valdese Furniture Co.**