

How Other Lands Mark Christmas

A melting pot of the world, America has evolved its Christmas traditions from countless customs brought across the seas from foreign lands. In these faraway places the Yuletide symbols of bygone ages still endure. Here are a few of them:

ENGLAND:

Christmas to rural Englishmen means not only the observance of Christ's birth, but also a parting of the ways between the old year and the new. Preparations are started for the next year's farm work, which begins right after Christmas. Throughout the island such trappings as the holly and mistletoe remain undying traditions, nor is any Christmas complete without the Yule log burning. On clear frosty nights the carol singers raise their voices over the countryside. To many Englishmen's despair, such American customs as the turkey dinner are gaining a foothold.

GERMANY:

Two years ago storm troopers in Berlin lit bonfires in the public squares as a revival of the pagan custom of celebrating the winter solstice. But this distraction will not stop the Christmas-loving Germans from decorating their trees in every town and village, and joining in the famed Christmas hymn, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht."

ITALY:

Most Italian families celebrate Christmas eve and spend the following day quietly in their homes. Here it is a feast more for grown-ups than for children, whose merry-making day comes 12 days later, on January 6. On Christmas eve fam-



IN ITALY—Children of the Italian Alps at Christmas Time, praying before a wayside shrine.

lies gather around the "ceppo" or Christmas log blazes. At nine p. m. begins the "cecone," or big supper, at which no meat may be served. Gifts for children, which come on Epiphany, are brought not by Santa Claus but by an ugly witch whose name is "Befana."

FRANCE:

Exchange of gifts comes not on Christmas but mostly on New Year's day, which in France is the big family day for reunions of cousins, aunts and uncles. Santa Claus is "Pere Noel," who leaves his gifts in wooden shoes. Christmas eve is not spent at home out in revelry and feasting.

BELGIUM:

Neither Santa Claus nor Pere Noel visit children here—but St. Nicholas makes the rounds, surprisingly, on December 6! A quaint Belgian custom is the putting up the chimney of a few carrots for the little donkey in which St. Nicholas makes his visits.

RUSSIA:

This anti-Christian nation forbids celebration of the Yuletide but no longer compels foreign residents to report their own Christmas trees. Taking an about-face, the Soviet government uses this emblem of childhood for its New Year's celebrations when Dedja Moroz, or Uncle Frost, appears with gifts for good children.

POLAND:

This Christmas celebration lasts until February 2 and is preceded by fasting which is not broken until the first star appears on Christmas eve. In all homes the tablecloth is placed over a layer of fragrant hay in commemoration of the manger.

HUNGARY:

St. Nicholas leaves boxes of candy for children early in December, after which the youngsters must be on their good behavior. They write letters to the angels, who, they believe, bring the presents. If they find bits of tinsel on the floor, they claim this is angel's hair and proof that the angels are everywhere, observing which boys and girls are good.

HOLY LAND:

Where it all began nearly 20 centuries ago, worshippers reverently hail each Christmas at the church of Nativity which is built over Christ's traditional birthplace. It has remained unchanged more than 1,500 years. There pilgrims gather from all over the world to intone "Glory to the New-Born King."

EDWARDS SPEAKS

(Continued from page 9)

One thing we are most interested in and I am sure you gentlemen will be also, is to secure the location here of some large industry that will make the railroad and at the same time double the population of your city. Although I have had very little time to devote to such matters, I have made some study of your resources and the possibilities for some large industry that could prosper here and according to my preliminary survey here is the most ideal spot in the entire South for a large paper mill and I believe that if the right efforts are put behind it such a plant can be located here. I was instrumental in locating a 10 million dollar paper plant in Panama City, Florida on the railroad I operated there and it had the effect of doubling the population of that town and giving the railroad about 100 car loads of traffic per day.

Here you have everything that is needed for such a plant: Abundant supply of raw material, the cheapest possible means of transportation of the raw material to the plant. Pulp wood can be brought in here from 20 counties by water and as far back into the

interior by rail as they may wish to go. For outboard movements they would have ocean shipping, for export or coastwise, the Inland Waterway and by rail.

We have a proposition to make such a plant that cannot be duplicated by any community which makes me confident we can land an enterprise of this kind.

There are two things essential to such a plant that I have not yet investigated, namely: An abundance of fresh water and a low tax rate. The mill I referred to as having located in Florida was granted a 15 year tax exemption and they dug 65 wells for their water supply.

I presume the water is available here and the tax matter can be fixed by legislation.

What I want to bring out here is first make an extensive survey as to what kind of industry can prosper here and then get organized and keep everlastingly after it until it is landed.

We pledge you gentlemen our wholehearted support in any project that you may initiate for the betterment of this community.

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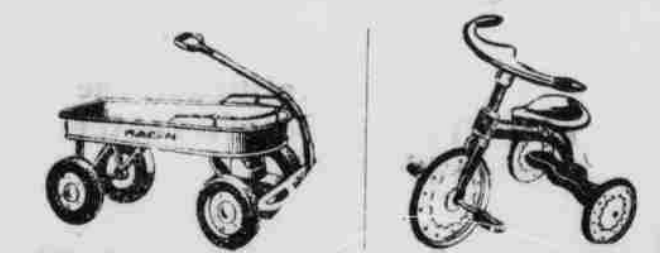
Shop with Confidence Furnish with Pride

This Christmas



at MILLER'S DOLLS—ALL KINDS DOLL BABY SUPPLIES TO PLEASE LITTLE LADIES

For Boys and Girls Velocipedes — Wagons — Scooters — Desks — Chairs — Rockers— and other Gifts



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FURNITURE COMPANY BEAUFORT NORTH CAROLINA

Merry Christmas!

By Helen Morton

IT WAS enough to make one hate Christmas! Betsy was so tired that she could hardly stand. This counter in the middle of the aisle had become a nightmare to her. The crowds hurrying by, pulling the neckties off as their coats brushed against them, fingering them over and then tossing them back on the table carelessly.

Still, it was good to have a job, even a temporary one. For she had been without work for a long enough time so that she had "eaten" and all her possessions she could borrow money on.

No time to be standing here thinking, though. That fat woman looked as if she was going to buy several ties. "These are very nice, madam. And so reasonable; 35 cents a piece, or three for \$1.00. This is an exceptionally pretty one," and Betsy showed her a navy blue. But the fat woman dropped the ties and hastened away with her friend, leaving a pile of ties on the floor.

Wearily Betsy leaned over and began picking them up. "Let me help?" a friendly voice asked. Betsy looked up into a handsome face, curly brown hair, deep blue eyes, and a mouth that curved into a smile at the surprise in Betsy's eyes.

"I want to get some ties for my family. I've been up here the past few weeks, and so I don't know what the kids want, but I think it'll be safe to give 'em ties. Socks are so commonplace."

"Your brothers?" Betsy asked as she held up one or two she liked particularly.

"Yeah. Three brothers and a sister. She's about your age, I reckon. What does a girl like, anyway, when you've only a little to spend?" He looked imploringly.

"Let's get the brothers fixed up first, and then see about her. How's this for the 17-year-old?" Betsy inquired.

"Fine. You know, I'm tickled pink to be able to do anything for the family. I struck a bad spell, was down with flu for three weeks, and lost my job. I just got another last week. But I'd have hated to have the day go by with nothing from the big boy." His face was shining.

"I'll have them wrapped as gifts. Then you go over to the counter there and select something for your sister. Here, I'll take you over and get a girl from my home town to wait on you. She'll help," and Betsy went along with him.

"You're not a city girl, then? No wonder you were so helpful. I'm



"I want to get some ties for my family."

scared of these sophisticated girls in most of the shops. That's because I've been here only a few months, and in my home town everyone knew everyone and it was, well, it was different. Say, you don't think I'm getting fresh, do you? I'm just so homesick." His face was red with embarrassment.

It was Betsy's turn to look troubled. "Sure, I knew how it was. I don't chatter away with every customer this way, either. I'm like you new here, and lonesome for my own people. I was hating Christmas time, with so much confusion and no real Christmas spirit. So I'm glad you told me about your family."

She turned him over to Marie at the women's wear counter, and went on with her tie selling. They seemed prettier, fresher and more attractive, than they had before the curly-headed fellow had come along to buy some.

ONLY a half hour off for supper, then she'd have to work until the store closed at nine. Christmas eve meant lots of last minute gifts to be bought in this big city. As she turned away from her counter to go out to eat, a friendly voice sounded at her shoulder.

"If you're going to snatch a sandwich, do you mind if I go along and we learn something more about each other? Your friend told me you'd have just a little while for lunch, and I want to get acquainted, if you'll let me." It wasn't just a "pick-up." This was a homesick boy, wanting to talk with a small-town girl who knew his language.

There was just a moment's hesitation before Betsy said, with a grin, "Sure enough. Lead me to the lunch counter. You're no more lonesome than I've been. As it is, I really feel like I can say 'Merry Christmas' when tomorrow comes."



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FIREWORKS!

Any person shooting FIREWORKS of any kind within the downtown business section of Beaufort, on Front Street between Orange and Queen Streets and extending 200 feet on both sides of Front Street between Orange and Queen Streets will be subject to arrest and upon trial and conviction will be subject to a MINIMUM

FINE Of \$5.00

This ruling also applies to those arrested and convicted of throwing Fireworks or Firecrackers on Porches in Doorways or Automobiles, at or under the Feet of Individuals in any section of Beaufort.

Warning

Even the smallest pieces of Fireworks can destroy the sight of an eye or start a fire !!

TAKE WARNING !!! THIS RULING WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE POLICE OF BEAUFORT.

Signed:

GEORGE W. HUNTLEY, Mayor
Town of Beaufort, N. C.