

Forest Service Produces Greener Christmas Trees

Washington — Many Christmas trees were greener, bushier and fresher this year, thanks to scientists of the United States Forest Service.

Botanists at the Forest Genetics Laboratory in Placerville, California, have been perfecting new hybrid pines with more branches, thicker needles, and longer-lasting cones.

Improving Christmas trees is just one of myriad jobs carried out by the Forest Service, the 60-year-old branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Tenth Of All Land

Federal foresters administer 154 National Forests covering 182 million acres in 39 states and another four million acres of National Grasslands. The area represents a tenth of the Nation's land, and stretches from the frigid fiords of Alaska to the cypress swamps of Louisiana. Tonto National Forest in Arizona is bigger than Connecticut.

As more and more Americans take to the woods, more trained foresters are needed. As a public service, the National Geographic Society recently joined with the American Forestry Association in a nationwide talent hunt for potential foresters. A Society grant enabled the booklet, "So You Want To Be A Forester," to be sent free to 30,000 secondary schools across the country.

Dr. Melvin M. Payne, executive vice president and secretary of National Geographic Society, said, "Participation in the project reflects the Society's long interest in conservation."

The green and khaki clad forest ranger must be a professional jack-of-all-trades — woodsman, scientist, engineer, economist, accountant, public relations expert, and somewhat of a nomad. To take care of a forest's multiple-use resources — recreation, wildlife, timber, forage, and water — rangers organize means of controlling fires, forest pests and tree diseases; plan reforestation; administer the sale and harvesting of timber; grant grazing permits; survey boundary lines; track down timber rustlers; and conduct scientific research in the management of forest lands. The government foresters work closely with state and private foresters.

As one ranger described his job, "I'm the man between — between the timber cutter who wants to log the whole forest; the picnicker who wants electric lights and running water behind every tree; the wilderness lover who wants no roads and no people; the sportsman who wants good hunting and fishing; and the citizen who wants to know all about how his taxes are being spent. The problem is how to satisfy everyone."

"Smokejumpers" To do these varied jobs, some 17,000 rangers operate their own fleet of 60 planes and 10,000 trucks. There is a 300-man force of "smokejumpers."

The Forest Service is the only major government branch that shows a cash profit and growing inventory. Last year, timber sales, grazing permits, and other fees amounted to more than \$149 million. The profit is, of course, a pittance compared with the benefits that don't show up in bookkeeping — recreation, wildlife, increasing timber, and growing water resources.

First Of Christmas Gifts Are Described

In New Testament history, St. Matthew describes the first of all Christmas gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh. After the wise men had knelt at the manger, he tells us, they opened their treasures to select these special offerings for the newborn Babe of Bethlehem.

To the modern mind, gold is instantly recognizable as a treasure, but the value of frankincense and myrrh is not so readily apparent. Actually, frankincense and myrrh were costly items in the time of Christ, and they are still costly today. Both are resins used in making incense, surviving today at many a Christian altar.

As further evidence that frankincense and myrrh were precious treasures, worthy gifts for an Infant King, there is the old poem which expressed the ancient belief that "incense owns a deity nigh."

Lights Long A Part Of Yule Celebration

Since the Star shone on Bethlehem, lights have been a part of Christmas celebrations. Today, candlelight services are traditionally held by many churches at Christmas.

Something unique in the way of Christmas lights are the "luminarias" used to decorate the city of Albuquerque, N. M., at Christmastime.

Outlining the borders of streets, sidewalks, yards and even the roofs of homes, the luminarias shine everywhere. Made of paper bags, weighted down with sand and lighted from within by a candle, thousands of luminarias all over the city offer a soft light.

Magazines began in the 17th Century as book catalogs and today, as then, constitute a major medium of communication throughout the world.

SUDAN TEMPLE WINS COVETED TROPHY



Illustrious Potentate Harvey W. Smith accepts Shrine Bowl trophy on behalf of Sudan Temple. Sudan Temple, through its Sudan Temple Bowl Game, played annually in Riddlek Stadium, Raleigh. Its many fish fries and other activities throughout eastern North Carolina promoted in behalf of its Crippled Childrens Hospital contributed \$101,000.00 to the Shriners Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina. The two temples of North Carolina and the two temples of South Carolina compete annually for this trophy which is awarded on the basis of greatest percentage increase over the previous years contribution. Nineteen Crippled Childrens Hospitals and three hospitals for the treatment of third degree burns represent America's greatest philanthropy supported by Shriners and Shrine activities.

Creche Dolls To Be Displayed In Churches

On Christmas morning, little girls throughout the land will lovingly cuddle new dolls and declare to one and all how wonderful a gift they have received. At the same time, beautiful creche dolls will be displayed in churches and homes as part of the Christmas setting.

This dual role — as toy and as religious symbol — is a function that dolls have filled for centuries, according to Encyclopedia Americana. And it is generally believed that the first use of dolls was religious, rather than for entertainment.

Historians report the doll originally was used as a representation of human figures in religious sanctuaries. The word "doll" itself, in fact, is derived from the Greek word "eidolon," meaning "idol."

Archaeologists have unearthed dolls in the ruins of tombs thousands of years old. And their presence in the tombs is assumed by some historians to mean the objects were included as idols.

Among some ancient societies, dolls were thought to possess mystical powers. Many primitive tribes included such figures in burials as a spirit to keep the deceased company in another world. Today, in addition to the creche dolls of Christendom, dolls hold a religious importance in the Orient, where annual doll festivals are held to celebrate the birthday of Buddha.

As toys, dolls have existed for centuries. The earliest toy dolls known were discovered in the Near East and Greece. These primitive dolls were made of clay, stone or bone. Typical was the legless paddle doll of ancient Egypt which was made from a single, flat piece of pottery or wood.

Although dolls today may be extremely complex and filled with electrical gadgets, dolls of the 17th and 18th centuries frequently were even more elaborate.

They became so elaborate, in fact, that they were sent to court, and in times of war special dispensations were made to assure their safe transport to a peaceful refuge, like works of art.

Complaint Quite Far From New

"Christmas is getting too commercial!"

This modern complaint, while it may have force, is somewhat lacking in originality.

"I hate the crafty arts of giving presents," said the witty Roman poet Martial, who lived and wrote from about 40 to 104 A. D. "Gifts are like hooks."

His complaint was expressed in a series of poems written for a wealthy patron, at the time of the Saturnalia, the pagan festival from which came many Christmas customs.

Martial, however, was not always adverse to presents. After listing a large number of small gifts, such as toothpicks, figs, napkins, which had been delivered to him, he pointed out that it would have been much easier for the messenger to bring him "five pounds of silver plate."

Angora cats, dogs, rabbits, goats and other animals in the Angora district of Turkey grow long, silky hair, but when taken elsewhere they gradually lose this characteristic.

U. S. Giant Redwood Is Official Christmas Tree

The U. S. National Christmas Tree, officially designated in 1926, is not an evergreen but a giant redwood, located in Kings Canyon National Park, Calif.

This unusual Christmas tree, called the "General Grant," is 3,500 years old.

Many families prefer the "permanent" Christmas tree, often made of aluminum.

Despite all this, the time-tested favorite tree is still the evergreen. Most people, if asked, would probably vote for the "fir tree."

Actually, there are nearly 40 species of the popular "fir tree," found in the mountainous regions of Central and Southern Europe, Asia north of the Himalayas and North America.

A frequently-seen Christmas tree variety is the "balsam fir," also called "Candad balsam" or "Balm of Gilead," according to the Encyclopedia Americana.

This is one of the most common trees of eastern North America, extending from Virginia and West Virginia in the United States to Labrador and Newfoundland.

The balsam fir may grow to 40 to 50 feet tall. The southern fir is of about the same height and is found in the mountains of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Other American firs are essentially Western. They include the Pacific silver fir, the white fir, the grand fir, the Alpine fir, the red fir, the Shasta red fir and the noble fir. These firs may attain 250 feet in height.

In Canada, the exporting of Christmas trees, including firs, pine and spruce, is important business. Seven provinces export trees, to countries as far away as Venezuela.

The Grand Canal of China is the longest in the world.

Evergreen Favorite For Christmas Tree

In Christmas trees, it's the spirit that counts.

Almost anything can be — and is — a Christmas tree. In Minneapolis, Minn., they even made a tree out of water pipes, fastened like spokes to a telephone pole, and appropriately decorated.

In Wilmington, N. C., a live oak more than 300 years old is adorned at the Yuletide with

colorful ornaments and electric lights. In Indianapolis, Ind., they decorate the 246-foot Soldiers and Sailors Monument with electric candles and stars.

Thawing and refreezing of frozen foods should be avoided because of the adverse effect on nutrient content and flavor and the possibility of spoilage.



Silent Night

May the manger and its miracle live in your heart. And to you, Christmas joy.

Warrenton Beauty Shop

WARRENTON, N. C.

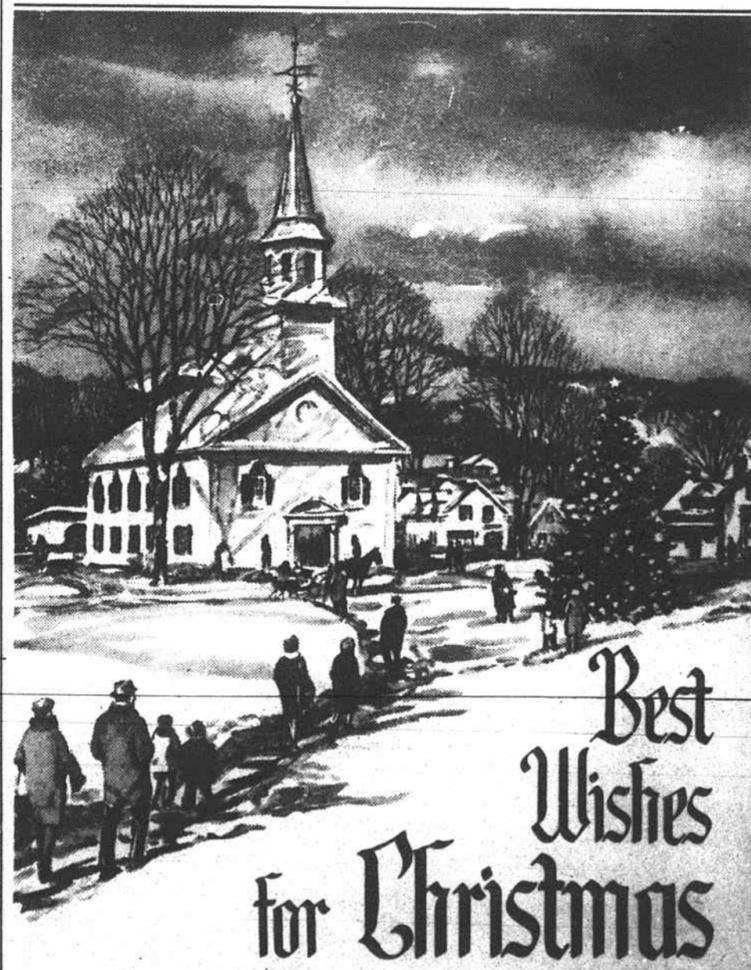


Merry Christmas

The star shone and the angels sang to tell of the great joy of the first Christmas. We wish that joy and a Merry Christmas to all of you.

MUNN'S ESSO

WARRENTON, N. C.



Best Wishes for Christmas

As we celebrate this joyous occasion of the birth of the Christ Child, let us remember especially the hope that was born anew and the love that filled the world on that first Christmas. May their light shine today, so that peace and understanding will prevail among men.

Warrenton Furniture Exchange

WARRENTON, N. C.



CHRISTMAS Greetings TO ALL

May this Christmas be a happy one in each and every way; may your heart be filled with gladness upon the joyful day.

BEAUTY BOX

ANNE GOTTSCHALK, Owner WARRENTON, N. C.



We want to take this opportunity to wish you cheer...and to thank you for letting us serve you.

Pridgen's Market

NORLINA, N. C.

All of us here at the bank wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a New Year filled with happiness.

We will be closed Christmas day and the following day.

THE PEOPLES BANK

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