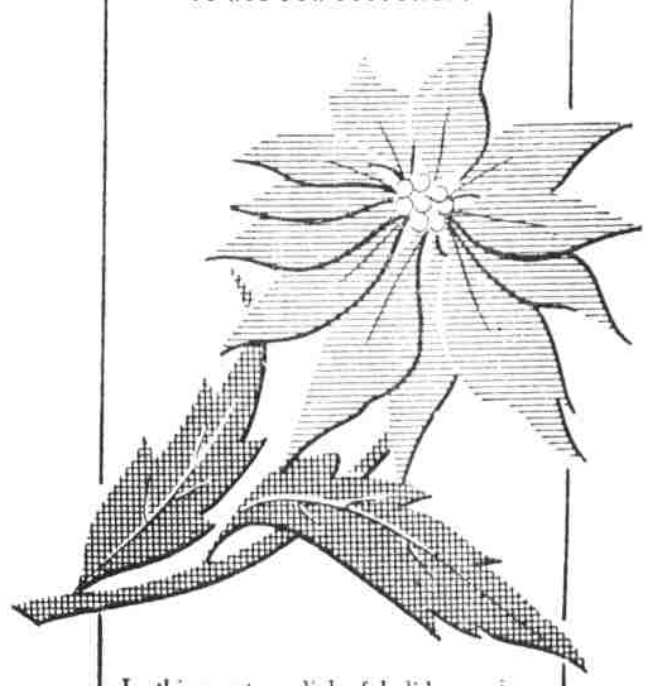


THE YULETIDE SEASON

BRINGS A
JOYOUS GREETING
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS



In this most cordial of holidays, when joy prevails everywhere, may we bring a message of Good Cheer to each of you, and express a sincere wish that the coming year holds the realization of your fondest hopes and ambitions.

MASSIE FURNITURE CO.

GUY MASSIE . . . FRANCIS MASSIE

HAROLD MASSIE

Office or Lodge Decorated With Little Effort

Have you been chosen to arrange your office or lodge Christmas party this year?

Don't look at it as a chore, or something that can be done in the last few days before the actual holiday. Make preparations for it ahead of time—and you will see how much more enjoyment everyone will get out of it.

Christmas is the season for parties when people spend much of their time indoors either entertaining or being entertained. It is during this season that everyone is looking for new ideas for decorating homes, offices, recreation centers or gathering places.

Christmas greens are the favorite decoration and most univer-



sally used in all countries. In America, the pines, holly and mistletoe are displayed in wreaths or hung about the room to give a holiday atmosphere.

Other natural materials may be added, such as pine cones, shells, seed pods, ground pine or fruit. If color is to be added, paint the gourds or pine cones with poster paints and fasten them on the pine boughs with wire or string. Pine cones painted in white and edged with red or blue are especially striking when hung against a dark green background.

Three dimensional posters make effective decorations, and are easily made from cloth, stiff paper or other material. This type of decoration is particularly effective made up in the traditional Christmas scenes such as the bringing in the Yule log, Nativity scenes, or caroling.

Christmas cards are a good source to go to for suggestions if you need a design for a poster or bulletin board as a central piece in your scheme of decoration.



IN THE street crowded with holiday shoppers Mrs. Weston couldn't see the couple behind her but their words added to her mounting despair and fury. Overhead, tinsel-wreathed placards exhorted to buy fur coats, diamonds, perfume. She shut her eyes to them but she could not shut her ears.

"That was one swell party last night," sighed the man. "Oh, boy!" The girl squealed. Mrs. Weston cringed. The high laughter was like the whistle in Puppo, the rubber dog they'd given Harvey Jr. his third Christmas. Puppo had become more than a toy. He still lived in glory, a kind of household god enshrined in the whatnot in Harvey's room. "Love to Puppo," Harvey ended his letters. Puppo always topped the



"Lady, you have the wrong angle."

Christmas tree. There'd be no tree this year. It was worse than childish of Harvey to want one. She wouldn't have it. A package had been sent to Harvey Jr. overseas in October, but there'd be no Christmas at home.

Wicked, horrible, thought Mrs. Weston, that people are going through all the old motions of a Merry Christmas. No one has a right to be merry.

"You looked super last night," said the man. "You are super, honey. You're so beautiful." Mrs. Weston turned slightly and caught a glimpse of a flat pretty face surrounded by blond curls. "You rate orchids, honey," the man went on, "and you're goin' to have them."

The constant ache in Mrs. Weston's heart sharpened to a stab. For such fools her Harvey was risking his life. Another block of their chatter and Mrs. Weston would say, "The money squandered on orchids, young man, would buy a good many war stamps," or, "This is no occasion for whoopee."

"Jack thinks the Army is going to get him this time." It was the girl speaking. "And he's scared!"

The woman next her got off and another squeezed in. "Certainly going to be a big Christmas," observed the newcomer cheerfully. "Were you downtown Saturday? Worst jam I ever saw."

"I was not," Mrs. Weston felt compelled to explain. "I am going to town now only to select a wreath for my mother's grave."

Behind her the young people were still shrilling about Jack and the Army. "Tell him we'll give him a farewell party. Tell him if he gets shot he'll have a pretty nurse." The man was chortling. "Let's get off next corner, beautiful. You can buy me a drink."

Liquor, thought Mrs. Weston furiously. That explained their incessant giggling over nothing. She raised her voice. "I don't see how people can think about Christmas. How they can drink and laugh and waste money on silly things. Life is so terrible—" her voice broke. Heavens, people were staring! "My son—somewhere in the Pacific," she added hurriedly in a low voice. "I—I'm thinking of him."

She felt a hand on her shoulder. "Lady you have the wrong angle." The man behind her leaned forward. Her eyes met compassionate blue ones in a face curiously pale. "It don't help your boy any for you to have no Christmas. Be as merry as you can. Like as not he'll be back, fit as a fiddle—like me." He lurched to his feet.

Something caught in Mrs. Weston's throat. He was limping to the door. The car jolted to a stop and the girl thrust a steady little hand under his arm. Drunk, thought Mrs. Weston, drunk with the joy of being alive. She sprang to her feet, without apology pushed through the crowd. "Wait!" But they were getting off.

She was halted by the crowds on the sidewalk. Standing on tiptoe she saw the couple turn in at the dairy bar. A drink. They'd laugh and make love over an ice cream soda. "Merry Christmas, soldier," she whispered. "Be as merry as you can."

Misty-eyed, she walked to the corner rimmed with Christmas trees. "A small tree," choked Mrs. Weston. She wiped her eyes and picked one up, testing its weight. "It must be strong," she told the vendor firmly. "Strong enough to hold up a good sized rubber dog, and—and our spirits."

War Casualty Total Equals Seven Major U. S. States

Kill or wound every man, woman, and child in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Sweden and the result is an indication of the vast toll of World War II in human suffering, according to an analysis of recent figures issued by the Vatican.

Based on surveys and compilations by several international agencies, the Vatican estimate set the total war casualty list at 56,460,000. This was broken down into 22,060,000 military and civilian dead, and 34,400,000 persons wounded.

Latest World Almanac census figures show the following populations for the four countries:

France	38,000,000
Belgium	8,386,553
Switzerland	4,263,702
Sweden	6,458,221

Total 57,110,477

The difference between this total and the Vatican estimate is 650,477, which means that a population about the size of that of metropolitan Kansas City, Kan., with 634,093, would be left with no injuries except a possible epidemic of the "jitters."

Carrying the comparison further, Austria-Hungary, with a pre-war population of 49,880,000 would have been completely incapacitated, and the United Kingdom, with a population of 47,888,958, and Italy, with 45,801,000 would have suffered likewise.

With the exception of the larger powers, almost any other nation in the world, or combination of nations, would have also had their populations incapacitated, while in the United States the seven leading states would have been knocked out. These, in their order, and population follow, with the total added:

New York	13,479,142
Pennsylvania	9,900,180
Illinois	7,897,241
Ohio	6,907,612
California	6,907,387
Texas	6,414,824
Michigan	5,256,106
Total	56,762,402

Again, there would be a slight balance on the side of "jitters only," with 302,482 comparing favorably with the population of metropolitan Worcester, Mass., with 305,293.

Meanwhile, the cost of the war in lives and dollars was still being studied by many agencies and some of the most recent figures showed an estimated casualty list of 1,246,025 for the British Empire, and a cost in dollars to the world of \$1,254,000,000,000. The British figure included 353,852 killed for all participating commonwealths and colonies. The financial figure did not include an estimated \$230,900,000,000 property damage.

James H. Brady, research expert in Washington, provided the cost figures in collaboration with the American University. He estimated U. S. expenditures for War materials at \$317,600,000,000, while Allied costs were: Russia, \$192,000,000,000, and the United Kingdom, \$120,000,000,000. Cost of Axis was \$468,939,000,000.

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Schedule of Masses

Waynesville, every Sunday, 11:00 A. M.
Andrews, 5th Sunday, 11:00 A. M.
Bryson City, 1st Sunday, 8:00 A. M.
Canton, 5th Sunday, 8:00 A. M.
Cherokee, 3rd Sunday, 8:00 A. M.
Cullowhee, 3rd Sunday, 7:30 A. M.
Franklin, 2nd and 4th Sunday, 8:00 A. M.
Murphy, 5th Sunday, 8:00 A. M.
Sylva, 1st Sunday, 8:00 A. M.
Welch Cove, 1st Sunday (C.S.T.) 11:00 A. M.

Rust Spots

"Rust" spots on bathtubs and other white enameled surfaces usually can be removed by rubbing with a solution consisting of a tablespoon of chloride of lime to a pint of water. Rinse thoroughly with clear water when discoloration disappears.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

AMONG THE GOOD THINGS BESTOWED BY THE PASSING YEAR, OUR MOST VALUABLE ONE IS THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD WILL OF THOSE WHO SERVE

IT IS A PRIVILEGE, AT THE HAPPY SEASON, TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION AND TO WISH YOU ALL THE JOYS OF THE YULETIDE SEASON



S. E. CONNATSER

Special Agent

JEFFERSON STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE

Light after Darkness

This is our brightest Christmas in a long, dark time. Every light on every tree—every window that greets night with cheerful challenge—is a shining symbol of the passing of war's shadow.

There is radiant happiness in family gatherings this year. Men are coming home from war. And those who hear their Christmas carols under strange skies are closer, nearer to home than they have been in a great while.

For many, this will be a wistful Christmas—but a Christmas brave and strong in the knowledge that those who bought victory so dearly will make tomorrow's world a brighter place for us all.



Syria Camel of Jesus Blessed by Child Christ

In Syria, water and wheat await the Gentle Camel of Jesus who travels over the desert on Epiphany Eve bringing precepts to good children.

Legend says the youngest of the camels which bore the Wise Men to Bethlehem was exhausted by the pressing journey and, as it lay moaning before the Stable, the Christ Child blessed it with immortality.

HERE'S HOW TO SELECT A TREE

"How can we select a Christmas tree that holds its needles?" is a question fathers and mothers ask year after year.

The answer depends on the type of tree you buy and the care you give it once you set it up.

All trees tend to drop their leaves after they are cut and stored in a dry room. But some kinds naturally hold their needles longer than others. Trees used most commonly on Christmas are the spruces, fir, hemlock, pine and red cedars.

Spruce are the first to shed their needles. A spruce can be identified by grasping a branch tightly. Its sharp needles will prick your hand.

The ideal Christmas tree is the fir. It resembles the spruce except that its needles are not sharp. The needles stay on the tree for a long time, and become a golden brown before they finally drop off. Needles of the Douglas fir are flat and soft to the touch. This popular tree can be easily identified by examining the cones which have small appendages on each side.

Pines have never been very popular as Christmas trees, in spite of the fact that they do not shed their needles easily. This is most likely due to their unsymmetrical appearance which does not closely resemble the traditional Christmas tree.

No matter what kind of Christmas tree you select, it will hold its needles longer if it is standing in water. Place a little water in the base of your tree stand and you will be bothered less with falling needles than you were last year.

To Prevent Knotting

When you use a double strand of thread in sewing, tie a separate knot in each end instead of knotting both ends together. This goes a long way towards keeping the thread from getting knotted and twisted.

Frozen Bowl

Don't pour boiling water into frozen toilet bowls. A sudden and extreme change in temperature is very likely to crack the vitreous china bowl.

A FRIENDLY GREETING



As you eagerly await the occasion of an enjoyable Season with your friends and family . . . we trust you will pause just long enough to accept these few words of Christmas cheer from the personnel of this firm.

To have served you in the past has been a decided privilege, prompting us to express a Christmas Greeting that carries with it our best wishes for the coming year. The friendships formed these past twelve months, combined with those other friendships of long standing, lead us to again renew our pledge of service.



The First to Show the Latest

The Union