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Coals To Newcastle: Firs Go To Alaska

SEATTLE (UP)—A shipment of Christmas trees from Alaska, land of the spruce, hemlock and other evergreens, is at least unusual. Yet a consignment of 130 boxes of firs is en route from Orin Fair of Rexford, Mont., to Sidney Eric of Woodrow, Alaska, adjacent to Seward.

Alaska steamship company officials said it will be the first such shipment in the "recollection of senior Alaska shipping men."

Longshoremen at Pier 42, where the S. S. Denali loaded, nearly threw the trees off the dock.

"The boys thought there must be some mistake," said Emil Hanson, Alaskan terminal and stevedoring superintendent.

First Lawn Tennis Site

Famed Legation road, Wick, England, claims to be the site of the first lawn tennis club in the world. Four lawn players, including one Spanish merchant, are said to have formed the club in 1872. Lawn tennis was introduced in Britain under the name of "pola".

Herbert Stein

Christmas In The U.S.A.

Author and Illustrator

Massachusetts did not celebrate Christmas until 1840. It was banned by the Pilgrim Fathers. Newcomers to the state, who put wreaths in their windows, were called "prophets" and were criticized by their neighbors. It is different today. In many villages carol singers make the round on Christmas Eve. The Worcester, Mass., Oratorio Society offers Handel's "Messiah" on Christmas Day. The Portuguese of Provincetown, Mass., celebrate with open house.

Florida Islands, Fla., near Fort Meigs, has a special Christmas celebration on the beach, a barbed Santa Claus steers from a speed boat and distributes gifts to spend children under the coconut palms. On January 6, the sponge fishermen from Tarpon Springs, Fla., celebrate not only the coming of the Wise Men, but the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. According to their calendar, it is Christmas Eve, a time both for prayer and revelry.

Rumanian singers in Ohio go from door to door on Christmas Eve. Yugoslavians decorate their houses with ivy and scatter straw on the floor to symbolize Christ's birth in a manger. In Hilton Park, Wilmington, N. C., stands what is claimed to be the world's largest Christmas tree, a live oak festooned with moss, 70 feet in height, 15 feet in circumference at the base, its limbs spreading 115 feet. This tree is always decorated for the Christmas season.

Rochester, N. Y., gives a Flower Show on Christmas. The old-fashioned community of Blanco, Texas, retains many of the customs of other days. On the night before Christmas the men and boys gather on the town square, "divide sides" and stage a sham battle with Roman candles.

York, Pa., sees its Christmas festivals opened by a colorful parade in which Santa Claus, escorted by the high-school band, comes down Congress Street on the back of an elephant. At Palmer Lake, Col., every year, the Sunday before Christmas, the ancient ceremony of hunting and burning the Yule log takes place. Christmas is celebrated with firecrackers in the southern part of Missouri. There is a Bethlehem in Pennsylvania, a Jerusalem in Maryland.

Christmas is the name of a little town in Florida which receives much mail during yuletide holidays, when more than 50,000 letters are run through the cancellation machines and relayed to all parts of the country. People throughout the world before the war mailed gifts "via Christmas" so they might be stamped with the "Christmas postmark."

Holly is the name of a town in Colorado. At Christmas time the farmers from the upper Bear River Valley, Wyoming, put away their wheeled rigs and drive into Evanston in hobdehs, where the Three Wise Men, their camels and the Star of Bethlehem, are outlined in electric lights on a snowy hill east of the city. Christmas brings the annual Community Sing and Pageant to Ava Harbor, Mich. El Dorado, Ark., celebrates with a Christmas Street Festival.

Roses bloom in Portland, Ore., at Christmas-time while the North and Northwest is covered with snow. In many Norwegian towns of North Dakota, Jule Bokke, or Christmas Fools, still make the rounds of the homes between

Christmas and New Year. They are young people dressed in costumes and masked, who call on the neighbors and are given food and drink at each home visited.

In many of the villages along the Mississippi river the folk use the driftwood to make Christmas bonfires. Huge sticks of wood, piled about tall center poles erected on the levee, are kindled with rose wax (tall weed) which crackle like firecrackers. Agua Fria, New Mex., is gay at Christmas-time, when the church is garlanded with paper flowers and red bells and small bonfires burn everywhere on Christmas Eve just as they do in Santa Fe nearby.

Santa Claus is a tiny, quiet, community in Ohio which becomes a beehive of activity with the approach of Christmas. An even greater volume of mail than received in Christmas, Fla., pours in to be re-mailed and stamped with the Santa Claus postmark. On the highest hill of the village is Santa Claus Park, in the center of which a towering, smiling granite statue of Santa Claus stands on a brightly silvered five pointed star. There is also a Santa Claus College which gives out degrees of B. S. C. (Bachelor of Santa Clausing).

Theriot's, La., inhabitants celebrate Christmas in the middle of February. They are all trappers and December 25 is the height of the trapping season which each year finds them scattered over the vast marshes, hard at work trapping muskrat, mink and other fur-bearing animals. Instead of a Christmas tree the belated celebrants content themselves with live oak boughs or saplings, covered with Spanish moss, a native holly called yaupon, and winter berries.

Milwaukee's Polish children believe in Gwiazdor, the Polish Santa Claus. Polish Christmas wishes are exchanged by "breaking with you the wafer"; the head of the family breaks a wafer and gives half to his wife; both break their wafers and hand half to others and so on, each time the season's greetings are exchanged. During the holidays colored lights are threaded overhead in the streets.

Alabama farmers, many of them, still loyally celebrate "Old Christmas" on January 7. They solemnly affirm that pokeweed puts forth sprouts and all the farm animals kneel with their heads toward Jerusalem at first daybreak of the day. This "first daybreak" occurs, they say, about an hour before the usual daybreak and reaches almost the brightness of sunrise. Then darkness returns, the poke sprouts wither, the animals arise and ordinary daybreak comes.

Sussex County, Del., still celebrates Old Christmas, observing it on the Twelfth Night, January 6. This goes back to the resistance of families of English descent to the change made in the calendar by Pope Gregory. The St. Mary's Choral Society of Burlington, N. J., still follows the old English custom of singing the "Waits" on Christmas Eve.

Now put the first letters of each paragraph together and what have you? Thanks! And the same to you!

Cotton in Automotive Trucks Enough cotton to make a new dress for every housewife in America is used each year in the manufacture of automotive trucks.

PLAY IT SAFE Don't Mix Gaiety With Danger When Celebrating Christmas

While Christmas is the merriest of all seasons of the year it can also be a time of tragedy if certain hazards aren't avoided and some particular precautions taken.

The National Safety Council annually points out that the Christmas holidays are the most dangerous of the year, usually replete with casualties, home accidents, fires and falls.

The council has listed the following "don'ts" and precautions which if remembered will help make this Christmas season a safe one:

The Christmas tree shouldn't be placed near a stove or fireplace.

Don't give children any toys that could prove dangerous, such as those with sharp points. If toys are operated with electricity, be sure some grownup supervises their use.

The Christmas tree should not be decorated with lighted candles. Carefully-wired electric bulbs definitely are much safer.

Don't leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time. One should be on the lookout for fire all the time the tree is lighted. Especially dangerous is the practice of some families in leaving the Christmas tree lighted and unwatched all night long.

One should never use a rick-

ety, unsafe ladder in decorating the tree.

Don't place Christmas candles near the tree, curtains, paper wreaths or any other inflammable decorations.

Remember, the Christmas tree can be made fire-resistant. According to the United States forestry service, it can be done in this manner: Divide the weight of your tree by four and buy that many pounds of ammonium sulphate. Dissolve it in water—one and one-half pints of water to each pound of ammonium sulphate. Cut the end of your tree trunk on a diagonal. Put some of the solution in a jar and stick the diagonal butt of the tree into it. Add more solution as the tree drinks it up.

Don't be excessive about Christmas "spirits."

Keep toys out of places where people might trip over them.

Remove the tree from the house before it dries out.

During Christmas you'll probably have many guests, so sprinkle salt or sand on icy steps and sidewalks.

Druids First to Use "Magic" of Mistletoe

The greens which are used for Christmas decorations found their way into early festivities because of certain virtues attributed to them by the ancients, and many of them which adorned pagan seasonal rites were later taken over to grace the ceremonies and celebrations of Christmas Day.

In both England and America, the holly and the mistletoe are associated with Christmas as invariably as are the plum pudding and Christmas tree.

It was the Druids who first used the mistletoe. "Heal-all" was their name for it. The plant was supposed to have curative values, and gradually they assigned to it all manner of magic powers.

Their priests, each year around the time when we now celebrate Christmas, would have high platforms built around the sacred oak trees which, in a manner of speaking, were "hosts" to the mistletoe. Robed in ceremonial vestments of white, they ascended these platforms, and with golden sickles especially made for the solemn occasion they cut away the mistletoe.

The Saxons also prized it and it was they who gave to it the name of mistletoe.

Eventually the green came to be regarded as a symbol of peace. Opposing warriors who met near it would call a truce, and it was customary to hang it over the entrance doors so that they who entered might be assured of friendship.



AND I WANT... This is a candid camera shot of a little girl being interviewed by a genial Santa on the subject of her desires in the line of Christmas presents. The rapt expression on her face is typical of small girl-and-boyhood when a lovely crisis like this presents itself.

On Christmas

While the litter from Christmas packages is still about, be particularly careful of smoking. Hot ashes dropped on tissue paper or a carelessly-tossed match could result in tragedy.

December 25 was decreed as the date of Christ's nativity by the Roman emperor Julian who began his reign as a Christian, but reverted to paganism before his death.

Electrical Note Do not kink electrical appliance cords or bend them sharply when you are storing the appliances.

Rise in Farm Values Farm land values in the U. S. went up 7 per cent in the year ending March 1, 1948 to equal the record high point of 1920.



Merry Christmas Good Luck Good Cheer and Many Happy Days

CURTIS DRUG STORE

Elk Or Bison Steak Offered To Public

LAWTON, Okla. (UP)—Those who might relish a juicy hunk of braised elk or a sizzling buffalo steak can find it here.

The Wichita Mountains wildlife refuge for the past 15 years has slaughtered and sold bison and elk considered surplus. The federal refuge last year grossed \$18,000 from sale of meat, hides and by-products of the slaughtering.

An estimated 160 bison and elk will be butchered and sold this year. Bison sells at \$75 for one-half carcass and \$150 for a whole carcass, dressed, ready for shipment and delivered to transportation facilities. Butchered elk prices are \$42.50 and \$85.

The usual buffalo carcass weighs from 240 to 500 pounds.

Buyers' requests are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis during the slaughtering season each fall. Markets, shops, public eating places and clubs may buy one carcass each. Individuals can get one-half a carcass.

The National Press Club and the Anteaters Society, a scientists' group, in Washington, D. C., are among the customers they submit their orders far in advance, knowing the demand always exceeds the supply.

Pepping Up Cottage Cheese

Bland flavor of cottage cheese can be pepped up with skillful seasoning. Onions, herbs like parsley and sage, chopped olives and pimento, green pepper, celery and tomato are all tasty with the cheese. Any of these combinations could be used to make sandwiches or salads.

Real Estate Men Report Home Sales Booming

NEW YORK (UP)—Builders of 17 metropolitan areas report having sold more than 7,000 homes valued at about \$63,000,000 during national home week, which was observed in September.

The spot check made by American Builder Magazine showed the average selling price was about \$11,000.

In the metropolitan area of New York, Long Island builders reported that 250,000 people inspected the 300 houses on display and bought more than 2,000. The average selling price was estimated to be between \$11,000 and \$12,000.

In the Chicago area and in 15 other cities, builders reported selling 1,276 houses valued at more than \$13,000,000.

Christmas Tree Bulbs Again Plentiful

BLOOMFIELD, N. J. (UP)—Christmas tree light bulbs will glow their gayest greeting ever this year, the first Yuletide that the bulbs have been plentiful since pre-war.

A Westinghouse estimate indicated that American manufacturers have ready a mountain of 400,000,000 of the colored miniature bulbs, enough to supply 11 to each of the nation's 36,500,000 electrical homes.

Part of the bulbs are included with new strings of Christmas tree lights while the others are sold across retail counters to replace old bulbs.

Want Ads Bring Quick Results

WE HOPE YOU ARE SURROUNDED by Christmas CHEER

HAYWOOD ELECTRIC SERVICE Hazelwood



TO EXPRESS OUR CHRISTMAS JOY The spirit of love and kindness, generosity and good will creeps into every heart this Christmas season. With hope for the future we sing our songs and give our gifts. The lighted tree is a symbol to us that our faith is the light that overcomes darkness. In reverent memory of the Blessed Child born so long ago, we say, now and always... MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FIRST STATE BANK HAZELWOOD, N. C.

Silent night Holy night All is calm All is bright WISHING YOU ALL THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS CHARLES SHELL SERVICE Charlie Balentine, Owner

A Merry Christmas TO YOU AND THOSE ABOUT YOU

RELIABLE JEWELERS WAYNESVILLE'S OLDEST JEWELER "It's Easy To Pay The Reliable Way"

No greater wish could be ours than this: MAY CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR BE THE MOST GLORIOUS OF YOUR LIFE AND THAT THE NEW YEAR MAY BRING YOU HEALTH, GOOD FORTUNE AND GREAT HAPPINESS. We very much appreciate the opportunity you have given us to serve you in the past and even more do we appreciate you as a friend. May we deserve this friendship always. WALKER'S ESSO SERVICE