

BOXING DAY

The day after Christmas is still celebrated as Boxing Day in both England, where it originated, and Australia.

The holiday goes back to early England, when landlords and employers would set aside gifts that they didn't want, to give to the

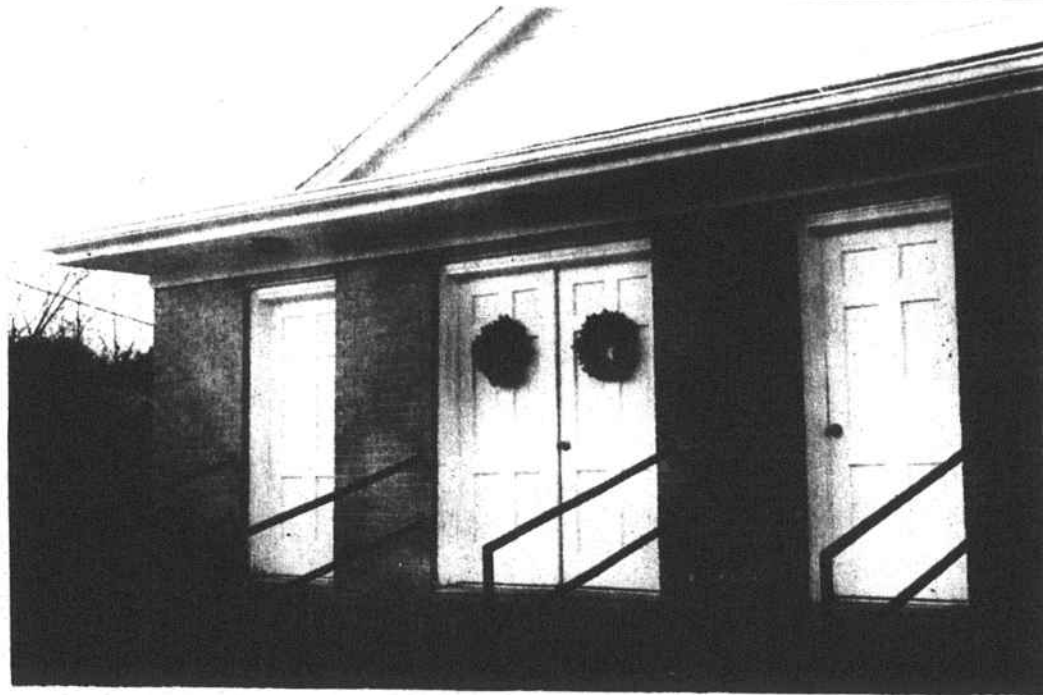
needy and to tradespeople.

Today in England and Australia, Boxing Day is observed as a holiday from work, giving weary parents a chance to rest from the rigors of shopping and preparing Christmas feasts, and giving youngsters a chance to play with their new toys.



How nice it is to be able to thank all of our wonderful customers and wish them a happy holiday season!

Holland Fence and Landscaping Company



Evangelical Methodist Church

Joy & Tears In Mistletoe Myth

From Scandinavian mythology comes a sad tale of a god's envy of the beloved son of the goddess of love. Although seeking the promises of earth, air, fire and water to protect her son, he was slain by the jealous god from a dart of mistletoe, a parasitic plant which attaches itself to trees and does not grow from any of the four elements. The tears of sorrow from the god's mother became the white berries of the plant and she decreed that mistletoe would never again be used as a weapon, but as a symbol of love, and that she would place a kiss under anyone who passed under it!

The legend of kissing under the mistletoe during the Christmas season came from an ancient custom which deemed that the girl who received no kisses under the mistletoe by the end of the year would not marry in the new year!

Gifts from the Past

A Christmas made richer by the legends and customs, both religious and secular, of all the peoples of the world, has become a beautiful heritage from the past.

The tree as a symbol of Christmas comes to us from Germany where it is said that Martin Luther first cut a fir tree to bring into his

home. But the association of trees at Christmas began in the tenth century. A legend recounts the night that Christ was born wherein all the trees in all the forests, even those in frozen countries, blossomed and bore fruit.

From lands separated by water from the Holy Land, such as Holland and England, ships are revered in song and legend for it was on Christmas morn that a ship arrived bearing Jesus, Mary and Joseph and a cargo of gifts.

In Northern and Middle Europe, cattle are given special attention on Christmas Eve, because it is

thought that the cow in the stable breathed on the Babe Jesus to keep him warm.

Music in honor of the birth of Jesus has been part of church festivals from the beginning of the Christmas era. Some of our most beloved carols were written so long ago that their origins are lost in history. Caroling has been enjoyed by so many people in so many lands that it has become a universally loved tradition.

There is no other celebration on earth like Christmas and the meaning and joy and beauty of it survives today through these treasured rituals and customs and legends.



We would like to wish all of our wonderful patrons a joyful Christmas holiday. We have enjoyed working with you and we hope that you will return to us in the future. We value your friendship and your patronage. We hope that you enjoy your holidays during this wonderful, festive season.

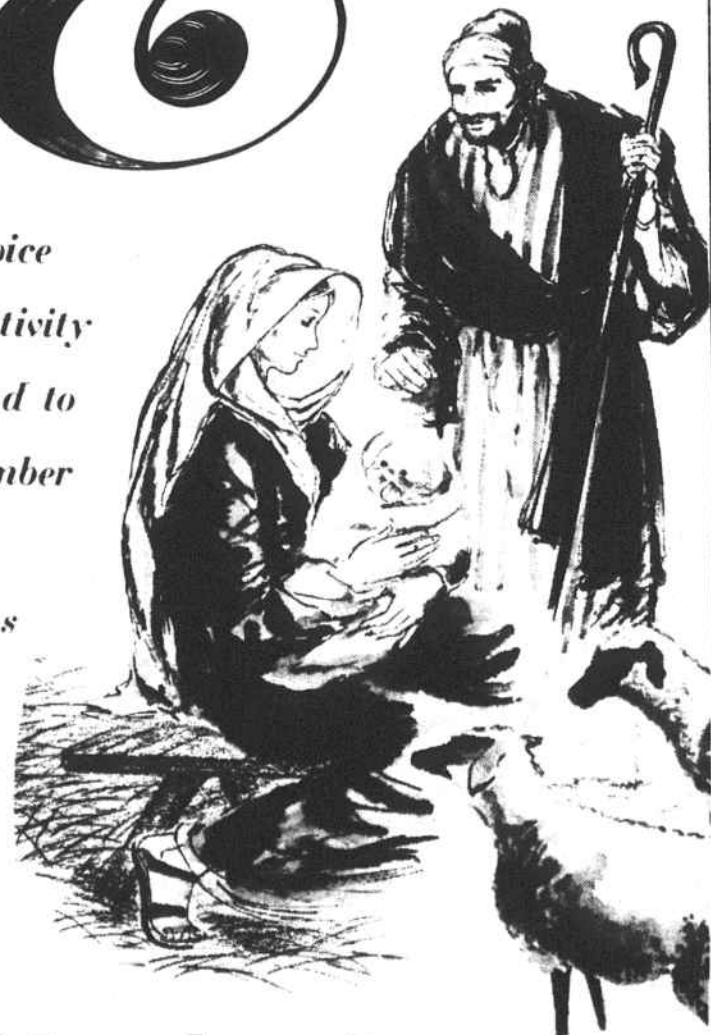
RAEFORD OIL COMPANY

We Will Be Closed Mon. Dec. 27

NOEL

'Tis a time to rejoice and honor the Nativity of our Saviour and to reflect and remember His teachings.

Let us give thanks for the great gift of His birth.



Raeford Lumber Company