

# The Yancey Record

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## Christmas Suggestion:

# Keep Tree Firesafe With These Safety Tips

Preparations for the holiday season are about to begin, and in more than 50 million American homes Christmas trees will be lighted as part of the holiday observance.

A Christmas tree, properly cared for, can be a joy. A Christmas tree that is allowed to dry out becomes a fire hazard.

To assist you in enjoying a Merry Christmas and a fire-safe one, the American Insurance Association presents these suggestions about the purchase and care of your Christmas tree:

- When you buy a tree this year, take your time. Feel the needles to be sure the tree is a fresh one. Brush the needles with your hand, and if some of them drop off, choose another tree. If needles, when brushed, drop off of all trees, choose another seller. Don't be afraid to shop around.

- When you have taken your tree home, if possible keep it out of doors until you are ready to place it in its stand and decorate it. If you have no place to keep it out of doors, keep it in a non-heated garage or some other cool place. And, immediately, stand the tree in a pail of water. A freshly cut tree will "drink" water and help keep itself fresh and green.

- And don't bring the Christmas tree inside until just before Christmas.

- You can keep your Christmas tree fresh longer by placing it in the coolest part of the room. Select a location which is away from radiators, hot air ducts, heaters, and fireplaces.

- When you buy a stand for the tree, select one which has a water container in which the trunk can rest. The tree will continue to "drink" water indoors, and more than you probably imagine. Check the metal container every day and refill it regularly.

- Always use flameproof decorations when trimming the tree. Preferably, you should use those made of glass, metal or fire-resistant material.

- Check the wires and sockets of Christmas tree lights several days before decorating the tree. If a string of lights has frayed wires, it should be discarded. Buy new ones and when you make your purchase, be sure the lights bear the UL label of Underwriters Laboratories.

- If possible, Christmas tree lights should be controlled by a switch some distance from the tree. A switch away from the tree makes it easier to shut off the electricity in case of trouble in the wiring.

- If part of your Christmas display includes an electrical train, the tracks should be set up away from the tree. A spark from a toy train under a tree could cause a Christmas fire.

- Turn off Christmas tree lights at bedtime, and when there is no one in the room—and always when nobody is home.

- Your Christmas tree should be checked frequently for dryness. In particular, check the needles on the tree near lights. If needles near a light are dry and brittle, change the position of the light. If the tree becomes so dry that the needles are falling in volume, take the tree down.

- Never decorate metal trees with Christmas lights—with metal trees there is always danger of an electrical shock or short circuit, the American Insurance Association says. Off-the-tree lighting should be used to give both a safe and attractive illumination.

- When Christmas gifts are opened, gather up gift wrappings immediately. Fold and put away any wrappings you may want to save and other paper, boxes, cords or ribbons should be gathered together and disposed of.



"HOW TO KEEP YOUR PRESENCE SAFE ON CHRISTMAS"

## Smoking Nonetheless

When the question of smoking comes up, many a grown-up is likely to recall the fun he had smoking "rabbit tobacco" cigarettes as a boy. It really wasn't very enjoyable smoking, but it made a small tike feel that he was a man.

We doubt that there are many youngsters around nowadays who have had this experience. But back in the days when our towns were much smaller and most people lived in the country the boy who had never smoked rabbit tobacco or corn silks was considered either a sissybritches or a plain curiosity.

"Rabbit tobacco" is a rank-growing weed with leaves that are brown on one side and whitish gray on the other when dry enough to smoke. Some people

called the plant "Life Everlasting" for reasons we kids never ascertained. Some other common names for it were cutweed, jewel weed and balsam.

Now, some of the erstwhile puffers of those nicotineless leaves will probably be surprised to learn that as far as science is concerned there is no such thing as "rabbit tobacco." The botanical name for the plant, as Brown and Williamson researchers have discovered is "gnaphalium."

My goodness! If some of us had known we were smoking something with a tongue-twisting "handle" like that it could probably have scared us stiff with the fear of being poisoned. Maybe in this case ignorance really was bliss. — Winston-Salem (N. C.) Journal.

## The Lady Answers The Doctor

Said the Vice President of the House to the President of the family establishment: "Honey, I've found a way to cut some expenses and you'll benefit too."

The Little Lady looked up from her darning. Oh, oh!, she thought, here we go again. He's got another great idea!

"It says right here," the Vice President of the House said, "if we cut out one of the extension telephones we'll not only save money but you'll keep trim, too."

The head of every family knows the Little Woman has a way of her own of putting the President of the House on the defensive. It was coming. He wished he hadn't said it that way.

"So I'm too fat! Go on and say it! You may as well."

"No, Honey, I didn't say it! It's this heart specialist. He says women have too many extension phones and that they save steps, yes, just like phone company says, but they're keeping you women from walking so much and you need the exercise. He says women with extension phones don't need them. The exercise in running to answer just one phone will be just the exercise you women need to maintain good muscle, adequate circulation and con-

trol weight."

The Little Woman had her answer, as was to be expected.

"The phone company says a woman saves 76 miles of walking by having an extension phone. Okeh," take it out, but let me tell you something. You're going to make up for it by saving me some steps. You're going to stop scattering dirty clothes all over the bathroom, the bedroom, and you're going to start emptying ash trays. And one other thing, stop making me walk behind you to close the back door every time you go out!"

"Oh well," mused the Vice President of the House, "It was some doctor's theory."

"It sure was," snapped the Little Lady.

But the Vice President of the House wasn't in sight or hearing distance. He had vanished into the den where he turned up the TV so loud he couldn't hear. He also had a hunch the doctor who suggested taking out the extension phone also wished he could vanish, too.

Don't blame the world if it places too low an estimate on your capacity. Its judgment is necessarily based on what you actually accomplish — Arcola (Ill.) Record-Herald

## The Human Dilemma

(a sonnet)

Arising from the dust in nobler aim,  
Mankind survived by dint of tooth and claw;  
Yet still remains essentially the same —

His mind h's weapon and his cave the law.  
Who has not seen the ghost of Justice cringe,  
And Honor oft retire behind a farce

While Mercy deafened by a fall door hinge.

Threw Pity to the waiting does by force?

Humanities? Ah, what a subtle word!

What ruses can unhuman minds conceive

To subjects those of the common herd

Who bow to those who live but to deceive!

Why should we boast of culture and pretend

When evolution serves no nobler end?

— William L. Rathburn

## No Breakfast

It's hard to believe that some school children are leaving home on school mornings on practically empty stomachs.

So many are showing up in classrooms in this condition that there is some talk that school lunchrooms may have to start serving breakfast.

A goodly portion of the children who do not get a half-decent breakfast, strange as it seems, are from families of higher-than-average incomes.

These children who do not get an adequate breakfast become hungry before lunch is served at school. They become inattentive, restless, and unwilling to learn, or at least uncooperative, says Louise Sublette, southeastern director of the American School Food Service Association.

Some of the blame goes to the shifting patterns of life, more working mothers and smaller dwellings, she said.

It might also be pointed out there has been a trend toward nibbling at breakfast. A cup of coffee, some toast and jelly and this usually is eaten on the run.

This may be enough for some adults, although there is some question about that, it is not enough for the growing child.

Most doctors and dieticians agree that everyone, adult and child, should eat a good, solid breakfast. The reasoning is simple. Many hours have passed during the night when the body fuel supply has not been replenished. To wait until lunch time to do it is not adequate.

Actually, there's nothing like a good solid breakfast consisting of eggs, ham, bacon, or other meats, toast and coffee, and eaten in a leisurely manner. Even if it means giving up the late, late show and getting up a bit earlier.

Put whatever the menu and the routine, let's at least see that the school kids get enough to eat to last them until lunch time.

The Treasury Department says it is acting upon the assumption that silver coins may disappear. That's an assumption?