

# Happy Christmas Is A Safe Christmas

The number of shopping days are decreasing, holiday songs play intermittently on the radio, twinkling lights begin to appear all over town — Christmas is fast approaching.

Decorating your home for the holiday season can increase the risk of fire and accidents.

Christmas trees, decorative lighting, gift wrappings — all part of the Yule spirit — can pose special safety hazards.

For a safe holiday season, the following safety tips are offered:

- Purchase only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed lighting strings. The UL label indicates which light strings and extension cords are suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

- Check all new and used lighting strings carefully. Each should be checked for frayed or bare wires, cracked sockets and plugs and loose connections. Be on the safe side and discard all unsafe equipment. Do not overload the electrical circuits. Electrical wiring that is forced to carry more than it is intended to handle may overheat and result in a fire. Check the wire capacity listing and follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

- Never place electrical

lighting close to flammable materials.

- String lights should never be used on a metal tree. A short circuit in the insulation could make the tree electrically "live," resulting in severe electrical shock. Use spot lights to illuminate a metal tree.

- Remember: Always turn off lighting when leaving home or retiring for the evening.

The public is reminded that the selection of a Christmas tree, whether natural or artificial, is an important matter. Artificial trees should carry a flame resistant label. A natural tree should be checked for freshness. Remember fresh trees dry out rapidly in heated rooms. Make sure you keep the base holder full of water by checking it daily.

When trimming the tree and fireplace mantel, use only noncombustible and flame-retardant materials. Never place trimmings near open flames, heat or electrical connections. On Christmas Day, remove all wrapping paper immediately after presents are opened. Place paper in covered metal trash con-

tainers or burn them in an incinerator. Do not burn them in the fireplace. A flash fire may result since wrapping paper can ignite suddenly and get out of control.

### IN CASE OF FIRE BE PREPARED

In case a fire does occur, the best direction is preparation. It is suggested that you sit down with your family and draw up an emergency escape plan, selecting a common meeting place outside.

And, also consider the following:

- Keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher handy. Every member of the family should be familiar with its location and how to operate it properly. Don't place it next to the tree; you may not be able to get it if needed.

- Keep fire department, police, ambulance and emergency phone numbers posted on or near your telephone.

The holiday season is a time for enjoying yourself. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots and plan for safety. There is no substitute for common sense.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



DECORATIVE — The use of holly garlands and bright bows adds a decorative holiday touch to this side entrance at the Ann A. Nowell home in Belvidere.



FOR THE BIRDS — The Ann A. Nowell family in Belvidere did not forget their feathered friends during the Christmas season. This front yard bird feeder, like the rest of the house, is decked out for the holidays.

# Holly Adds To Season

The Christmas holiday just wouldn't be the same without the favorite plant of the season, holly.

This plant's association with Christmas is so strong that at one time it was the only Christmas tree. That was before the growth in popularity of pines, spruce, cedar and similar evergreens.

You can grow your own holly, if you're not satisfied with the quality or price of what you buy. Holly is found around many Tar

heel homes, but some people object to it as a yard plant.

You may prefer to buy nursery-grown hollies for transplanting rather than selecting a wild specimen. They will become too big to move safely from the woods without special equipment. Very small hollies have a large proportion of unproductive (no berries) trees among them.

There are special holly varieties that bear even more heavily than the wild

kinds. One of these — Burford holly — has become very popular because the foliage is glossy and thrifty, and the berries are even more numerous than those of the wild holly.

Also, every plant will produce berries, there being no "drones" in Burfords.

Transplant hollies in sheltered places for best results. They need protection from the wind. The most familiar kinds, those with red berries, are generally too large for a base planting except at large buildings. They do fairly well out in an open area, especially if sheltered slightly by distant evergreen trees.

The soil for hollies should be on the acid side. No lime should be used near them. Decayed leaves and common soil make an ideal growing medium. A ground cover of oak leaves around hollies helps keep the soil moist and maintains the acidity the plants require.

# Speedy Gift Delivery

Sleigh bells ring and children sing and Christmas shoppers hurry to get gifts on their way to see Grandma, Aunt Emma and Cousin Timmy.

In these times of hurry and scurry, it's nice to know you don't have to send presents early to get them there by Christmas.

Many bus companies offer their services to shoppers needing to send gifts in a hurry. For gifts traveling

up to 300 miles, the shopper can wait until Dec. 23 even and they'll still be there by Christmas Eve. Cross country takes longer, but gifts can still travel rather quickly.

When sending gifts by bus, packages should be securely wrapped and taken to the nearest terminal. They must be no more than 60 inches in length and may weigh up to 100 pounds. The first \$50 valuation is free. Value up to \$250 can be declared for a small charge.

# Unique Gift Idea Offered

Just as small packages at Yuletide often are the most prized, so too is an almost invisible gift, soft contact lenses. Although you cannot give the actual lenses on a special day, you can wrap up a gift certificate or an eye doctor's appointment card to make the day a very special one.

Prospects for this gift are women and teenage girls who want to enhance their

appearance and men who are active in sports.

Many prefer soft contact lenses because they usually are comfortable from the start, they rarely pop out accidentally, and because they fit so close to the cornea there are few problems with dust, even on windy days.

Only an eye doctor can help you decide whether contact lenses would be an appropriate present.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

We hope Santa's got you on his list for all the good things of the season! Best wishes from

**TOWE MOTOR CO.**

"The Best in Used Cars"

PHONE — 426-5661

Christmas Greetings

**WINSLOW OIL COMPANY**

**O Holy Night**

May the Blessings of Christmas stay with you this Holy Season.

**YOUTHLAND**

Happy Holidays

It's such a pleasure to say thank you to our many friends and customers at Christmas.

**Ned's Gulf Service**

426-7033

**JOYOUS HOLIDAY**

Best wishes for a merry Christmas to you, our friends and patrons...

**Elliotts Beauty Shop**

Ann Young - Brenda Bass  
Carolyn Trueblood

**Our Best to YOU**

We are expressing our joy at being able to serve you during this holiday season and for years to come. Thanks for your patronage and have a great holiday!

**CHAPPELL GROCERY**

WINFALL

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

Santa is on his way to fill your home with the joys of the Christmas season. May this be a special time for you to remember and enjoy as we have enjoyed your patronage.

**Johnson & White**