

Facts and Fancies Of New Year's Day

New Year's with its open houses, parties, exchanging of New Year's cards, horn tooting, Auld Lang Syne and New Year's resolutions, is one of the oldest of celebrations. As a holiday it has been observed since ancient times, and has been marked throughout history by the giving of gifts and the exchange of greetings.

The early Persians said "Happy New Year!" with colored eggs. They regarded New Year's in much the same way we, today, regard Easter — as a time of renewal of all things. And on New Year's Day, pagan Britons received branches of sacred mistletoe from their Druid priests.

According to some authorities the custom of gift-giving at New Year's originated in 747 B. C. when the Romans presented Tatius, king of the Sabines, with boughs from trees consecrated to Strenia, the goddess of strength. Consequently, New Year's gifts became known as "strenae" and were exchanged among friends and neighbors and exacted by emperors from their subjects.

The Emperor Claudius showed unprecedented concern for the "populi's" pocketbook by serving notice to the Roman citizenry that the cost of all "strenae" given to him should not exceed a specified amount.



While the observation of New Year's dates from early Persian time, the modern version with its noise and celebration is a vastly different affair than the B. C. period.

Henry III of England, however, wasn't so considerate. He followed the Roman tradition of exacting New Year's gifts from his subjects, and this custom was carried on by succeeding monarchs up until the time of Charles I.

It was this practice which caused one of Henry VIII's most embarrassing moments. One "Honest Old Latimer," instead of presenting his sovereign lord with the usual purse of gold, gave him the New Testament with a leaf conspicuously folded down at Hebrews XIII, 4, which passage bore certain appropriateness to the monarch's domestic failings.

Most noted for fabulous New Year's "baule" was Good Queen Bess. Her presents ranged from jewel-embroidered petticoats to fat-tail geese for the royal larder.

However, when Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans took over the English government, they put an end to this extravagant practice, only to have it revived later by the royal Stuarts.

In Merrie Old England, the common New Year's article of exchange amongst the ordinary citizenry was a pair of gloves. Occasionally the gloves were accompanied by sums of money which came to be known as "glove money."

A story is told of Sir Thomas More, lord-chancellor, who decided a case in favor of a certain young lady. On the following New Year's Day, she sent him a pair of gloves with 40 gold coins enclosed. Sir Thomas returned the coins with the following note: "Mistress, since it were against good manners to refuse your New Year's gift, I am content to take your gloves, but as for the 'living' I utterly refuse to take it."

Pins, too, were a common New Year's gift at this time and the money accompanying them was referred to as "pin-money" — hence our modern term.

Today, in England and America, the practice of exchanging New Year's gifts is practically obsolete. But the spirit of hope and good will and resolution that characterizes the coming of the New Year is kept alive by the friendly and growing custom of exchanging New Year's cards with their colorful holiday symbols and hearty messages of cheer.

Lincoln Issued Famous Emancipation January 1.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on New Year's Day, 1863.

The Proclamation abolished slavery in those states and parts of states which were in rebellion on that date and, though other days are observed in various parts of the country, January 1 is the date most generally observed as Emancipation Day.

French Celebrate New Year's
The famous "Jour de l'An"—New Year's Day—is probably the gayest day in the calendar of the French. That is the time of family reunions and of exchanging gifts.

PATTERSON GROVE NEWS AND COMMENTS

By Mrs. Thurman Seism

The Christmas Service will be held at Patterson Grove church Sunday evening Dec. 22 at 7 o'clock. The entire Sunday school will be treated after our pastor brings us the message. The Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Roberts will be pounded. So come one, come all.

The regular Teachers' meeting and prayer services will be held Wednesday night at 7 o'clock, Dec. 18 with Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Roberts of Shelby.

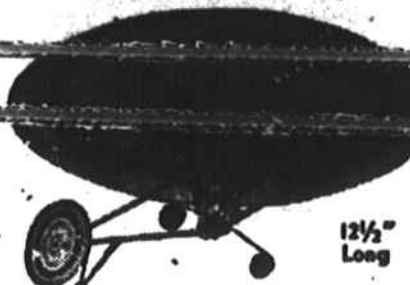
Mrs. Wayne Putnam will be hostess to her Sunday school class Saturday afternoon, Dec. 21.

The young Married Ladies class will have their Christmas Party Saturday night, Dec. 21 at 7 o'clock with Mrs. Ira Wright who lives near Bessemer City. Each member is urged to be present and bring a gift.

Mrs. Eugene Patterson's Sunday School class will have a party Thursday night Dec. 19 at 6:30 at the school house.

Mrs. Merle Seism and Mrs. Grady Seism were joint hostesses to a show

America's Sensational New Toy HELICOPTER



IT FLIES!

Wind Like a Top — Up It Goes 50-100 Feet High Lands Itself Safely

It's a Beauty

Shining Aluminum Durable Plastic Construction

Ready to fly when you get it—nothing to build. If you can spin a top, you'll fly the MAGIC HELICOPTER 50 to 100 feet high... make it circle and come back to you... fly it for distance records... new thrills on every flight... lands itself always right side up. Even after crash or careless handling, you can adjust it to fly again in just a minute or so. Ideal Christmas Gift for Boys 8-15 Years

READY TO FLY \$1.98

Shop by Mail This Christmas. Shipped same day order received. Add 15c for Mail Orders.

KINGS MOUNTAIN DRUG COMPANY

Russell Putnam Saturday night Games were played and the newly married couple were presented with a large selection of gifts and then sets were enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wright and family, Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Turner had as their Sunday guests Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Queen, Mr. Sloan Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Logan and children and Mrs. Thurman Seism, Charles and Nell.

Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Roberts were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. David Smith and family.

Uncle John Parker, an aged negro living on Mr. W. A. Seism's farm had the misfortune of falling out of the farm left Saturday night and breaking his leg just above the ankle. He is in Shelby hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerty Seism and children visited Mr. and Mrs. Foster and Family Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Seism and children Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser Barrett Sunday.

Mrs. Earl Seism had as her visitors Mrs. Ben Hamrick, Mrs. D. P. Wright, Mrs. Raymond Seism and children, Mrs. Tom Hamrick, and daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Phifer, Miss Mae Seism, Mrs. Thurman Seism, Mrs. Marvin Wright and Mrs. Loyd Turner.

Master Charles Seism will celebrate his 5th Birthday Wednesday, December 16.

Fuffy Potatoes
If the milk is heated before it is beaten into mashed potatoes, the potatoes will be fluffy and light.

Fires Destructive
— One-fifth of the national fire loss is on farm property.

GIVE HIM SOMETHING PERSONAL
GIVE HIM SOMETHING SPORTY
GIVE HIM SOMETHING BRIGHT
GIVE HIM SOMETHING WARM AND WOOLY
GIVE HIM SOMETHING COMFORTABLE
GIVE HIM SOME

FOR MEN

Gifts that please the hunter, the church-goer, the stay-at-home man. Find them at—

WOODWARD'S

SHOP IN THE Treasure House of Toys

PARTIAL TOY CHECK LIST

- Dolls
- Doll Beds and Cradles
- Wood Burning Sets, an "Ungar" Electrocraft Unit, ideal for any boy!
- Doll Furniture
- Kiddie Books
- Carom Boards
- Pull Toys
- Tea Sets
- And Many Other
- Santa Claus Extras

All Children love toys, and **BELK'S TOYLAND** is the place to find them. Not only are there the usual delightful toys for children, but there are many new creations which will please the children and Dad and Mom, too. Recent shipments have been received so come in at once while selections are best.

Belk's Department Store

REMEMBER — You Always Save At BELK'S