



Christmas is the one great event that transcends the bounds of any one country and embraces the whole world. In much the same way there is no limit or bounds to our good wishes for you for a Merry Christmas.

Ware's Plumbing Shop

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The Holy Thorn Of Glastonbury

In honor of the Hawthorn, which legendarily shielded Christ while he rested in the woods before the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea chose a thorn staff when he started on his long journey to Britain shortly after the death of Christ. Arriving at last at his new home in Glastonbury, Joseph stuck his walking stick into the ground; the staff began to grow and soon acquired the habit of producing flowers each Christmas Eve.



The first literary mention of the thorn is contained in Hearne's History and Antiquities of Glastonbury, published in 1722. In this work, Mr. Eyston states: "Whether it sprang from St. Joseph of Arimathea's dry staff, I cannot find, but beyond all dispute it sprang up miraculously."

When Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1753, 2,000 persons assembled at Glastonbury on December 25—new style—to see if the Holy Thorn would bloom in a year.

It did not, many refused to participate in the usual observances of Christmas. The evil of changing calendars was proven when the thorn blossomed on January 5—Christmas Eve—old style—and many ministers in the vicinity of Glastonbury appeared their congregations by announcing that Christmas would be observed according to the old calendar.

A cutting of the Glastonbury thorn was brought to America in 1800 and planted near St. Alban's school in Washington, D. C., by the late Right Rev. Henry Gates Satterlee. The cutting grew into a tree, blossoming for the first time in December, 1918; since then, it has blossomed each year at Christmas-time and attracts thousands of visitors annually.

Minute Make-Ups

By GABRIELLE



Look your prettiest to greet the New Year! Pin flowers in your hair. Mistletoe, dipped in silver powder, makes a beautiful "frosty" hair decoration! You won't have to stand under the mistletoe—you'll be under it, just in case!

Veterans Administration is operating 24 former Army and Navy hospitals to meet the growing need for hospital space.

Miracle Play In Modern Texas Town

LOS PASTORES, the hybrid Spanish-Indian miracle play introduced to Mexico centuries ago by Spanish monks and presented in San Antonio during the Christmas season, is enacted primarily for its spirituality.

A group of amateur actors go from house to house by invitation and because it is traditional that no one prompted by idle curiosity should witness the performance, only the initiated can find the scene of presentation.

Usually someone's back yard becomes the stage; the doorsteps serve as background for the Nacimiento. Manger scene: various objects are set on the stairs; pieces of crockery, tinsel, pin cushions, patron saints—anything the household considers especially beautiful. In the center of the lowest step, the Christ Child (a life-sized doll placed on a platter with divers gaudy candy) is surrounded by plaster shepherds, donkeys, etc.



A tent opposite the Nacimiento gives evidence of representing hell: a bonfire has been built within and live devils emerge therefrom.

The play has no definite time for beginning, but finally, a girl starts to walk back and forth reciting. Overdressed shepherds drone a seemingly endless song. Ermitano, the comic relief, carrying a rosary of spoils, also represents the soul of its earthly journey and is often accompanied by the white winged Archangel Gabriel.

It is a never-ending performance: seven devils, six in sequined black with animal masks and the forth-tailed Lucifer in brilliant red, are finally vanquished; likewise, a wild Indian is overcome and kisses the Christ Child; the shepherds and all in attendance kiss the Child, solemnly and as slowly as possible.

Hunting the Wren In Old Ireland

Once upon a time in Ireland, the wren was hunted and killed on Christmas morning: a branch of holly and bright ribbons were attached to his body which was carried from house to house by wren boys who sang songs and expected to receive a dole from each household.

The story goes that during the Danish-Irish war, the Danes were resting after an arduous march and the Irish were creeping up quietly. All of a sudden a wren, spying a few crumbs which the drowsy Danish drummer had dropped on the drumhead, swooped down and began to peck at the crumbs. The pecking awakened the boy, who aroused the camp; the Irish, driven off and defeated, blamed the wren.

Modern Irish, ashamed of the once-honored tradition, say the guilty bird may have been a starling or a sparrow-anway, and now welcome the wren to their farms and homes.



Carefree HOLIDAY SEASON

Right now it's time to lay aside business cards and all that is complicated and get down to simple things. A little boy on the floor under the Christmas tree watching his choice toys which just the day before he had been playing with Christmas cards, says something down the hill.

Let's wish that merry Merry Christmas to you, and you, and you.

Blalock Grocery



CHRISTMAS IN THE MINISTRE AMERICAN REPUBLICS, bells play an important part in every country. This bell tower in Panama City plays a big part in their holiday celebration.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



MERRY CHRISTMAS

A SPECIAL TRIP FOR ST. NICHOLAS

Santa is making a special trip this year, and he's coming direct to your home laden with merry Christmas wishes from us to you.

Saunders' Dry Cleaners



MAKE GOOD CHEER FOR

Christmas

One need not be told it is Christmastime. The glowing faces of friend and stranger alike bespeak it. It gives us the same thrill as of old to wish all our friends, and those who are still to become our friends, a very Merry Christmas.

Tracy McGinnis Garage



Ho! Ho! for Christmas!

Merrily, merrily, jolly good friends, and a grand and glorious holiday to you all!

Elmer Lumber Co.

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For us oldsters, it is memory that makes up Christmas—memories of the old days when grandma managed the Christmas feast, and friends dropped in for a chat.

We are happy to say that among our most treasured memories are the many Christmas celebrations we have seen come and go, and the friends we have kept with us for all the years. A Merry Christmas to all of you!

Grigg's Garage

Glenn Grigg
Ray A. Kirby

Gene Tipton
C. F. Tipton