

Russian People Are Also Able to Say "Merry Christmas"

"S Rojdestvom Kristovym." That's what a Russian would say to you if you were in Russia on Christmas day and he wished to extend the season's greetings. The phrase is the Russian way of saying: "Merry Christmas." In the past, the Russian Christmas was closely associated with his church; but how the day is observed now that the religious life has been subjugated in the Soviet, one would have to be behind the "iron curtain" to know. But it was not always like that. In other days, the Russian Christmas was much like the Ukrainian. There was a Santa Claus known as "Dedushka Moroz" and there were traditional gifts of red boots for children and golden slippers for young girls. In certain parts of the country the "baboushka" (grandmother) was the legendary dispenser of gifts. According to one story, she repented of unkindness and ever since has tried to make amends by distributing gifts to children at Christmas.

PLAY IT SAFE Don't Mix Gaiety With Danger When Celebrating Christmas

While Christmas is the merriest of all seasons of the year it can also be a time of tragedy if certain hazards aren't avoided and some particular precautions taken. The National Safety Council annually points out that the Christmas holidays are the most dangerous of the year, usually replete with casualties, home accidents, fires and falls. The council has listed the following "don'ts" and precautions which if remembered will help make this Christmas season a safe one: The Christmas tree shouldn't be placed near a stove or fireplace. Don't give children any toys that could prove dangerous, such as those with sharp points. If toys are operated with electricity, be sure some grownup supervises their use. The Christmas tree should not be decorated with lighted candles. Carefully-wired electric bulbs definitely are much safer. Don't leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time. One should be on the lookout for fire all the time the tree is lighted. Especially dangerous is the practice of some families in leaving the Christmas tree lighted and unwatched all night long. One should never use a rick-

ety, unsafe ladder in decorating the tree. Don't place Christmas candles near the tree, curtains, paper wreaths or any other inflammable decorations. Remember, the Christmas tree can be made fire-resistant. According to the United States forestry service, it can be done in this manner: Divide the weight of your tree by four and buy that many pounds of ammonium sulphate. Dissolve it in water—one and one-half pints of water to each pound of ammonium sulphate. Cut the end of your tree trunk on a diagonal. Put some of the solution in a jar and stick the diagonal butt of the tree into it. Add more solution as the tree drinks it up. Don't be excessive about Christmas "spirits." Keep toys out of places where people might trip over them. Remove the tree from the house before it dries out. During Christmas you'll probably have many guests, so sprinkle salt or sand on icy steps and sidewalks.



GAULT'S SELF SERVICE



Remember Last Christmas? These were the major goings-on in the world during Christmas week in 1948: December 27 — Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, outspoken foe of Hungary's Communist regime, was arrested on charges of plotting against the government, spying, treason and blackmarket dealings in currency. In an extemporaneous speech at Kansas City, President Truman made this remark that caught the interest of the world: "There are certain leaders in the government of that country (Russia) who are exceedingly anxious to have an understanding with us." December 29 — President Truman returned to Washington after a Christmas vacation in Independence, Mo. December 28 — Twelve stranded air force men were rescued by plane from an icecap in southern Greenland by Lt. Col. Emil Beaudry. December 31 — The 80th congress, denounced by President Truman as the second worst on record, passed into history with the adjournment of both houses. December 31 — At year's end, America's favorite popular song for the moment was "On a Slow Boat to China."



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NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of stockholders of the First National Bank will be held in the lobby of the First National Bank, Kings Mountain, North Carolina, on Tuesday, January 10th, 1950, at 4 p. m. This the 16th day of December, 1949. L. E. ABBOTT, Cashier. d-16-j-6

The state of West Virginia is a heavy producer of soft coal, having ranked first in this field for many years. With the exception of Arkansas it is the largest producer of hardwood timber in the U. S. Its mineral production is large and varied, including petroleum, natural gas, glass and glassware.

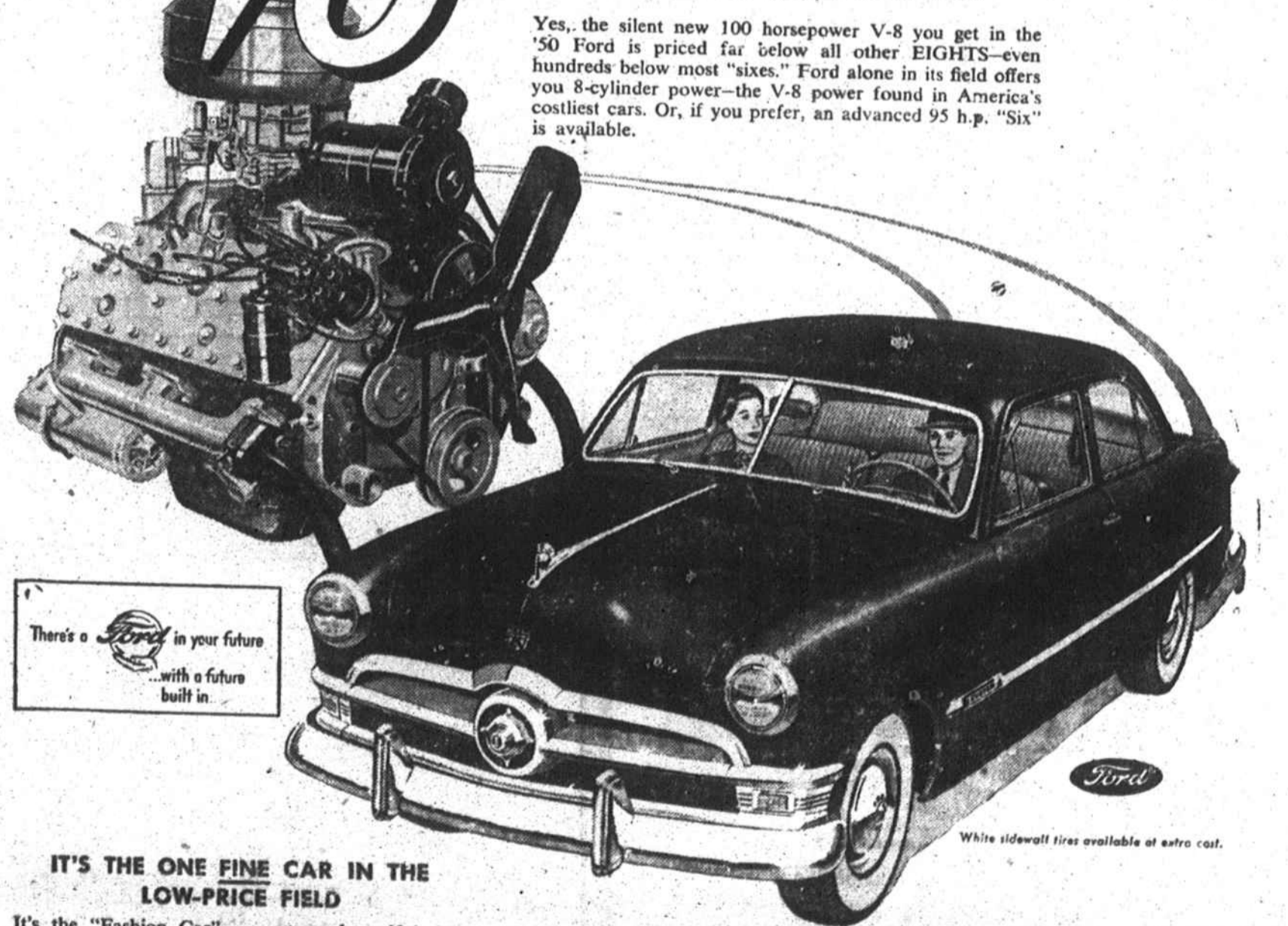
The state of Washington leads all others in the production of apples. Other important crops are wheat, barley, corn, potatoes. Huge herds of cattle graze throughout the state. The state is rich in minerals. The state is a leader in lumber output. Antimony, arsenic, tungsten and platinum are also found in the state. Vermont is preeminently a dairy state and is well suited to diversified farming. Its ration of dairy sows per capita is among the largest in the nation. It leads in maple production. It has more than 350,000 bearing trees in its apple orchards. ● SUBSCRIBE TO THE HERALD ●



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