

What Children believe about Santa in other countries

In AUSTRIA, children put notes to "dear child Jesus in Heaven" on the window sill for St. Nicholas to take so that the Christ Child could bring the requested gifts on Christmas Eve.

In BELGIUM, children place shoes, baskets, or dishes under the tree for St. Nicholas to fill on Christmas Eve. They put water, hay, and carrots outside the door to attract his gray horse to their home. St. Nicholas wears a bishop's robe and a mitre, and he carries a pastoral staff. On Christmas morning the children find chairs tipped over in their rooms and further disarray to show evidence that St. Nicholas has been there. Good children find their shoes filled with gifts. Bad ones find switches stuffed in theirs.

In FINLAND, Father Christmas brings children their gifts from England. In some sections he is known as Wainamoinen or Ukko. He is an old man with a long white mustache. He wears a white peaked cap with blue trim and a red coat.

In HUNGARY, the children believe that a male Krisz Kringle brings their gifts. He is dressed in white and rides a white horse.

The SOUTH AMERICAN children leave notes to "Little Jesus" during Posada. They leave them in front of the crib for the angels to take to heaven for answering.

In SWEDEN, Julnisen in his red robe, pointed cap, and long white beard, riding his goat, brings gifts to good Swedish children.

In the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, shoes are put in the window by the children on Christmas Eve. They expect the Three Kings to fill them.

In MEXICO, Santa is not as popular as the figure of Quetzalcoatl, the Aztec god of the sun. He is an old man with a long white beard and flowing white robes. Before Christmas children write letters to the Christ Child listing what they want. And on the eve of Epiphany, January 6th they place their shoes at the foot of their beds for the Three Magi to fill.

In SWITZERLAND, the tradition of St. Nicholas is observed. He arrives on December 6th and distributes fruit, candy, and toys. Sometimes there is a parade in his honor. A giant figure of St. Nicholas leads a group of children dressed in long white nightgowns and masks. The paraders blow long Swiss horns and bells ring.

SPANISH children fill their shoes with straw for the camels of

the Three Kings, on the eve of the Epiphany. It is thought that each year the Wise Men repeat their journey to Bethlehem and pass through Spain on the way. As they pass by, the camels eat the straw and the shoes are filled with gifts by Bathhoor, who rides on a donkey.

In Poland, children write letters telling what they wish to receive and place them on the window for the Wise Men. Then on Christmas Eve, after supper, the children are examined on their knowledge of religion by the Star Man (the village priest). If they do well, they receive small gifts from the Wise Men. Gifts are believed to come from the stars, and the Wise Men act as emissaries.

From March to December for Poinsettias



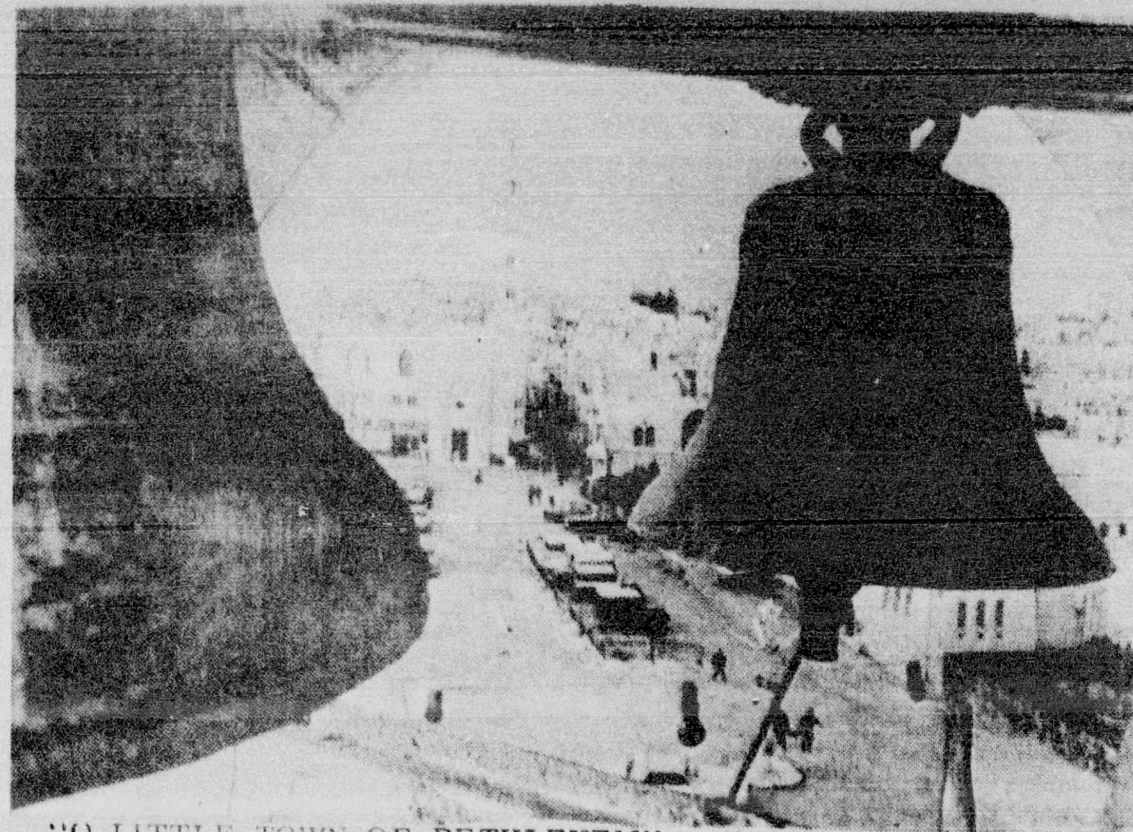
The Poinsettia originally grew as a wild flower. Today's plants have been under careful scientific cultivation in greenhouses since last March.

Most poinsettia stock plants are grown in California and shipped directly to growers for cultivation in the areas where they are eventually sold as our most popular Christmas plant.

In all stages of their growth, care is taken to safeguard them against exposure to extreme changes in temperature. For several months prior to Christmas their growth is precisely controlled and retarded in order to bring them to full bloom at just the right time for Christmas giving.

Though the red poinsettia is still the most popular, whites, pinks and partially double kinds are also available.

When you get your poinsettia plant home, make sure that it has a moderately warm, uniform atmosphere. Keep out of cool drafts and away from hot radiators or air vents. Use water at room temperature when applying moisture.



"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" - Bethlehem: Manger Square, a landmark in this town where Jesus Christ was born, is viewed from the bell tower of the Basilica of the Nativity in this photo from files. Below the Basilica is the grotto where the New Testament says the infant Jesus was born in a manger. (UPI).

Try To Prevent Christmas Neurosis

Many people suffer from what psychiatrists often call "Christmas neurosis." The season to be jolly often makes them sad and the holiday makes them lonely.

And in reaction to it, some people may drink too much or engage in other activities in which they don't normally engage.

The Thanksgiving-Christmas period is a time for family centered festivities and those who might have any various kinds of unfinished business with their family - or who have no family - have a greater tendency at this time to experience loneliness, depression, sadness - a missing of togetherness.

People with problems in family relationships tend to react particularly at the holiday season. Memories and nostalgia can bring to surface feelings which are ordinarily repressed. The past memories may be unpleasant, as over failure to receive or give gifts, disappointment with gifts, deaths in the family or ugly arguments at Christmas time.

The holiday neurosis usually ends after the holiday, but if a friend or relative has the blues, it doesn't do any good to tell him to cheer up, the person has a reason for his depression.

may **Joy** be yours

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Christmas Cheer

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The First Christmas Wreath

As people gathered outside the stable on that first Christmas night, they searched among their belongings for gifts to present to the Holy Child. One young shepherd girl could find nothing to give the little King, so she fashioned a tiny crown of green leaves from a small holly bush. When compared with the other gifts of clothing, food and jewels, the crown seemed of such little value that she wept when she presented it. But when the Babe touched the holly crown with His tiny hand, the leaves suddenly gleamed. And where the crown had caught her tears, scarlet berries appeared.

Through the centuries the lovely green and brilliant red of the holly has told us of the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Merry Christmas
Hudson & Belk