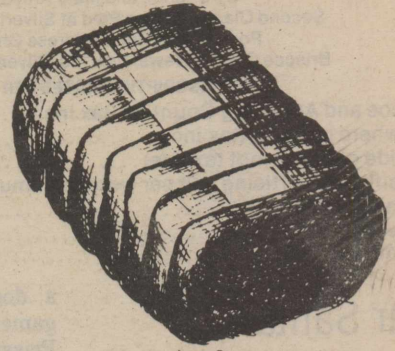
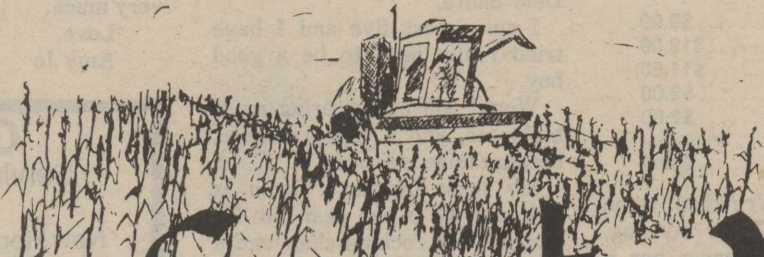


Baze Bookbinding XX  
514 W. 7th Street  
Amarillo, Texas 79101



# Briscoe County News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1986

VOLUME 78

NUMBER 52

## Merry Christmas



**GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS**—Mrs. Tina Nance's kindergarten students were busy last week stringing popcorn for the Christmas tree in their classroom. After Christmas, they plan to put it outside their window so they can watch the birds eat the popcorn off the tree. They are (back row, left to right) Misty Wilkinson, Lorn Estes, Paul Segura, Lindsey Weaks, Debbie Vargas, Bobby Martin, Jeremy Holt, Matthew Martin, David Gamble, Windy Wood, Lindsey Jennings, Dara Ramsey; (front row) Juan Palacio, Jared Wood, Colter Gilmore, Mickey Juarez, Donny Burson, Holly Tiffin, Nesa McFall, Vince Cruz, Junior Castillo and Amanda Harris. Their wish for you today is to have a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

—Briscoe County News Photo

**BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS**  
(SECD-065280)

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By Charles and Mary Ann Sarchet  
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Cards of Thanks	\$2.00
Charles R. Sarchet	Publisher
Mary Ann Sarchet	Editor

**Dear Santa . . .**

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Dara Johnston. I am four years old. For Christmas I would like to have a doll named Cricket, a Pig Pong game, a Kid Sister, a Barbie doll, and lots of candy. Please bring my Daddy and Mama something. They have been pretty good this year.  
Merry Christmas, Santa,  
Dara

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Dedra Johnston. I am eight years old. I have been pretty good this year. For Christmas I would like to have a doll named Cricket, an animator,

If you need work done on your vehicle, just call 995-3565 during the day, or call 823-2039 (Joe)

or  
823-2150 (Doc) after 7:00 p.m.

They will pick up your vehicle in the morning, drive it to Tulia, make the repairs needed, and return it to you in the evening.

Remember, we're just a phone call away!  
**GRABBE-SIMPSON Motors, Inc.**

a dog named Wrinkles, some games and candy. For my dog, Prissy, would you bring her a rawhide bone.

Merry Christmas, Santa,  
Dedra

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Rock Man, a Fright Fighter, a bicycle, a My Pet Monster, a gold horn, a Batman, an Aquaman, a Clawman, a Beast Man. I have tried to be a good boy. I will leave you milk and cookies.

Your friend,  
Ryan Grady

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Popple, a Teddy Ruxpin, a Tweety Bird, a My Little Pony, a tricycle. I will be at Mom's and Papa's with Ryan. I have been a good girl.

Love you,  
Lindsey Straley

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy this year. Please bring me Tyco black night castle, Leader One or Gobot Puzzler set. Have fun on Christmas Eve.

Love,  
Daniel Reagan

Dear Santa,  
My name is Katy. I am four

years old. I would like a new baby doll and some clothes. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

Love,  
Katy Hester

Dear Santa,  
I am almost five and I have tried really hard to be a good boy.

Would you please bring me a bulldozer, and a tape recorder, because mine is broken.

My little brother's name is Eric, and he is one year old. He would like a rocking chair and a stuffed animal.

I will leave you a snack for your long trip home.

Thank you,  
Ryan

Dear Santa,  
I would like Legos and a tent for me and my brother. My brother wants Legos and a watch for Christmas. My sister wants a baby or a doll.

The end  
Written by  
Brandon  
Michael  
Sarchet

Dear Santa,  
My name is Tanner Wood. I am four years old. I have been a pretty good boy.

I want a B.B. gun and a tent. I love you, and I will have some cookies and milk for you.

Love,  
Tanner

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a cooking thing. I also want some bear whiskers like Uncle Jim's and vacuum cleaner. I would also like some fruit and nuts in my stocking and some surprises. Please remember to bring Cody something, too.

Love,  
Magan Whittington

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a pedal lawnmower. I would also like to have some fruit and nuts in my stocking and some surprises. Please remember my cousin, Magan. We have tried to be good (as good as two and three year olds can be).

Love,  
Danny Dunn

Dear Santa,  
My name is Amy Jo Maciel. I



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995-3525  
**CITY DRUG STORE**  
Hwy. 86 & Maxwell  
Tulia, Texas

am three years old and this is what I want for Christmas. I would like a Teddy Ruxpin, Barbie doll, clothes for Barbie, Popples, Pound Purrie, Chubbles, and a Baby Talk. I love you very much.

Love,  
Amy Jo

Dear Santa Claus,  
How are your reindeer doing? Please bring me Crystal Castle, Scophia, Sapphire, and Onyx.

Thank you for the things last year.  
I guess that's all.  
Laura

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**Thank You**

To Those Who Participated In  
Our Weekly Drawings.

The November and December Winners are:

- Danny Francis
- Obra Watson
- Walter Bean
- L. B. Ivory
- Roscoe Jontra

**Silverton Oil Co.**

**The Congregation of the  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Meeting at Rock Creek**

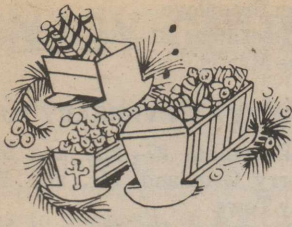
EXTENDS A GRACIOUS WELCOME TO ALL TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL OF OUR SERVICES.

**Sunday**

Morning Worship .....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship .....6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Evening .....7:00 p.m.



**Cute Christmas Cradle Cups**

Since the cradle has always been an important part of the Christmas Story—make some cute cradle containers.

Each cradle is made from 4 pieces of stiff cardboard. The end pieces are 6"-7½" high. Level the bottom of rocker to prevent the cradle from tilting. Side pieces are about 7" long.

Thin balsa wood can connect the top of cradle and rockers if you wish. Paint and trim with foil and colored tapes.

Fill with candy sticks, nuts, popcorn or tiny gifts.

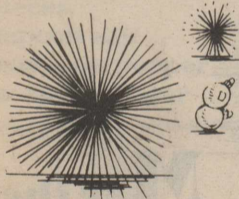
**Glitter and Glue**

Gather pine cones and sweet gum balls; let the children (even preschoolers can help) dab them with a little glue, sprinkle on a little glitter and hang with pretty yarn or ribbon to make lovely ornaments. The cost is practically nothing and children love to make them.

**French Festivities**

Many French tables preserve the ancient custom of burning the Yule log at Christmastime by baking a "Buche de Noel," a rich cake in the shape of a log, covered with chocolate and colorful decorations.

Red roses are liberally used in decorating, along with greenery, baubles, and bright ribbons. Almost every holiday table contains a centerpiece of carefully arranged red roses.



**Strawburst Sparklers**

Use Styrofoam balls of varying sizes. Make holes in the balls large enough to insert drinking straws. (For smaller balls, cut straws into the lengths you desire.)

Dip the end of a straw into glue, then insert in a hole until a ball is full of straws. Now spray with red Krylon. Let dry and spray with adhesive. Sprinkle with silver and red glitter. After letting the adhesive dry, shake off the excess glitter.

**The Long Christmas Wait**

Waiting for Christmas sometimes becomes so hard for children. One way you can help the days pass is to give them last year's Christmas cards. They will keep busy and have fun cutting out Santas, puppy dogs, etc. and you will end up with pretty gift tags.

"One must have a good memory to be able to keep the promises one makes."  
Freidrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

# HAPPY YULETIDE



We're never too busy to pause and wish you the best for this holiday season. Thank you for letting us serve you.

## BRISCOE COUNTY OFFICIALS

Dick Roehr, Sheriff  
Bess McWilliams, Clerk  
Fred Mercer, Judge

Mildred Reid, Treasurer  
Josephine Anderson, Surveyor  
Fairy McWilliams, Tax Collector  
James Edwards, Justice of the Peace

Shafe Weaver, Commissioner  
Beryl Long, Commissioner  
Bryant Eddleman, Commissioner

# Looking Back

through the files of the  
Briscoe County News

December 16, 1976—Owls and Owlettes win championships of Springlake-Earth Tournament . . . Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Roy Weaver are parents of a son, John Paul . . . Danna Garvin is soloist in the Clarendon College musical production . . . Class of 1967 to have Christmas reunion . . . Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Whitehead

to celebrate golden wedding anniversary . . . Junior Class to sponsor "Santa's Doll" pageant . . . Jackie Vaughn, Gary Turner, Jack Robertson and Dayne Mayfield named to All-District football team . . .

December 23, 1976—Mr. and Mrs. Delvin Wadlow are parents of a son, Christopher Dell . . . Mrs. Polly Cagle to be buried this afternoon . . . Two doctors to open clinic in Silverton . . . Don Garrison received two by-passes and other repair during open heart surgery at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock . . . Paul Ray McWilliams receives law degree at Texas Tech . . . James Patton

is continuing to receive treatment at Central Plains Hospital . . . Dear Santa, I love you. I want a big stove and refrigerator. Love, DeLynn Fitzgerald . . . Dear Santa, I would like Star Trek communicators and a phaser gun. I would also like a Dr. McCoy and a Kingon. Thank you. Love, Jamie Frizzell . . .

December 22, 1966 — John Baird of the U. S. Navy, who is home on leave for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Baird, accidentally almost took a drink of a very potent poison about 10:00 a.m. Sunday. He thought the colorless liquid was water. He became nauseated and vomited upon smelling the powerful insecticide . . . Willie Amel Smithee underwent surgery at Memphis Memorial Hospital Wednesday . . . Mr. and Mrs. Leo Comer attended an open house at Shirley Hall in Canyon Tuesday evening of last week. Their daughter, Camellia, lives in Shirley Hall . . . Dear Santa, Please bring me a Susie Home Maker, a Baby First Step, an electric blanket. Love, Donna Hale . . . Dear Santa, Please bring me a pool table, crane and some fruit. Love, Clayton Fowler . . .

December 29, 1966 — Funeral services held for Henry L. Long . . . Mailboxes protected by federal law, Postmaster Fred Strange reminds . . . Pam Waters is bride of Adron Lee Gamble . . . Carolyn Ann Smith exchanges marriage vows with Terry Don West . . . Mrs. Andy Fish honored at coffee . . . Fred Brannon is a patient at Northwest Texas Hospital . . . Members of Rock Creek Church of Christ enjoyed a singing, fellowship and refreshments Sunday night following the evening services in the J. D. Nance home . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jack Vines, Tommy, Larry and Clint have moved back here and are

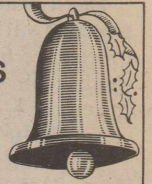
residing on the J. W. Brannon farm southeast of town . . .

December 10, 1936 — A double wedding ceremony in Clovis, New Mexico Saturday night united in marriage Miss Norma Lee Burleson and Jimmy Long, and Mrs. Geraldine Winn and Lawrence Dendy . . . Miss Martha Reagan is the bride of Mr. Aubrey Preston . . . J. R. Foust, a commissioner-elect and proprietor of a grocery store here for many years, closed out his stock here this week and announced that he is quitting the grocery business . . . Emmett Daniel injured rather severely when the car in which he was riding was struck by another car on the street intersection in Tulia . . . Editor Roy Hahn wrote: "Judge Martin is serving his 24th month in office and Tuesday of this week married his 24th couple. The Judge ties a hard knot for every one of those ties is still binding" . . . Evelyn Coffee celebrates her eleventh birthday . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee Francis and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Simmons were shopping in Amarillo Wednesday . . . Miss Lucille West spent Friday night with Muriel Faye Phegley . . .

Van Breedlove  
December 31—Robby Weaks, Sue Martin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .  
December 27—Mr. and Mrs. Terry Grimland, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Towe  
December 28—Mr. and Mrs. Barry Francis  
December 29—Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hutsell  
December 30—Mr. and Mrs. Rex Fuston  
December 31—Mr. and Mrs. Mart Self

## Christmas Bells



Bells have announced the glad tidings of Christ's birth for hundreds of years. A bell was considered a perceptive, living thing in Medieval times. In fact, the bell received a special dedication in a ceremony much like a baptism and if not properly dedicated it was felt it lost the power to call believers to prayer or the power to drive away storms. Folding bells of red and green tissue paper for decorating the house became popular around the turn of the century.



The first botanic garden established in what is now the United States was in Philadelphia in 1728.

Felt, the most ancient of carpeting materials, probably originated as bark felt, during the Upper Paleolithic period some 30,000 years ago.

*There's no better time than the present to wish all those near and dear to us a very Merry Christmas.*

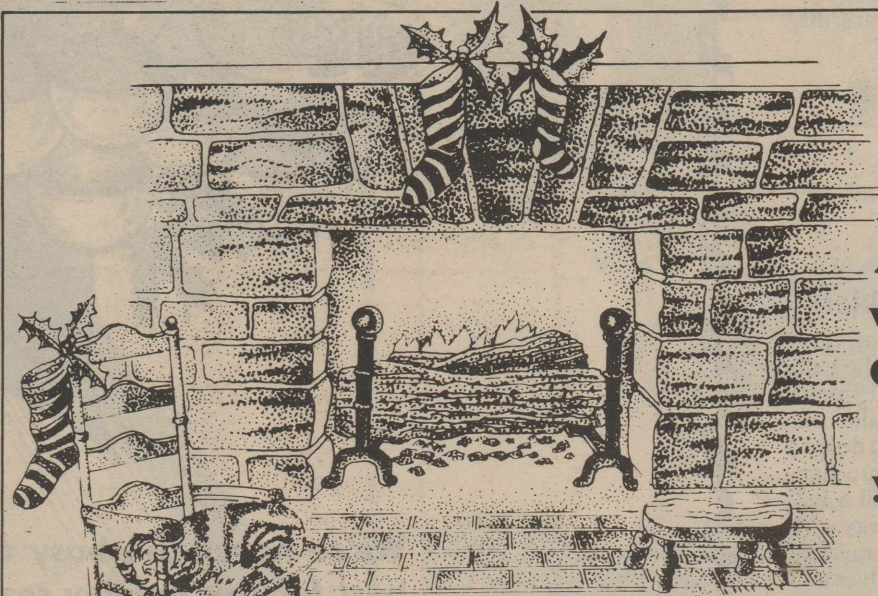
## Francis Aerial Spraying

Glenda and Alvie Francis and Family



*... and wise men still seek HIM*

**Lighthouse Electric Cooperative**



**May the warmth of Christmas abide in your home forever.**

**GREETINGS TO ALL!**  
BROWN HARDWARE

Carol, Mary and Max Davis





**Kissing Ring**

1. Form wire into a circle. Bend three wires to each form a half circle. Attach these half circles to the top of the wire circle, equally spaced. (An old lampshade frame saved from year to year would be nice.)

2. Wrap dried moss or straw around the wires to make a firmer and easier base on which to attach evergreens.

3. Tie a candle to the center of the inverted bowl. Hang mistletoe around the candle.

4. Make a ribbon loop at the top to hang the "Kissing Ring" and place a bright red bow at the top.

**Easy Entertaining**

If you, by chance, need to entertain while trying to get all the jillion pre-Christmas things accomplished—why not make a big pan of lasagna with salad and garlic bread?

Or consider a long hero sandwich—enlist other family members to fill them with cheese, tomatoes and cold-cuts. Let your guests spread on relish, and other dressings as they wish.

**Wreath Legend**

One legend of the Christmas wreath has it that when Christ was crowned with the thorns of the holly branches, the white berries turned to blood red. The use of holly wreaths at Christmastime became popular because of this legend. A lighted candle soon was placed in the wreath's center as a reminder of the new Light of the World, Jesus.

**Holiday Safety Helps**

Often in the excitement of opening gifts the wrapping gets pushed off into a corner where they may be forgotten. As busy as you may be, do take time to properly discard Christmas wraps by placing them in a covered metal trash barrel or burn them in an incinerator. Burning wrappings in the fireplace can be dangerous -- sometimes because of the chemicals used in their make-up.

In the busy holiday kitchen avoid accidents by wiping up spills immediately. Instead of letting children carry anything heavy or hot to the table, use a rolling serving cart.

Clear sidewalks and porches of snow and ice and make sure a bright porch light is left on for those who arrive after dark.

If you cherish your friends and loved ones lives, avoid serving them alcoholic drinks -- especially when they will be driving soon.

Sit down with your family and plot an emergency escape route for all rooms just in case there could be a fire in spite of all your holiday safety measures. Keep doorways and hallways free of obstacles.

The modern skyscraper made its appearance in the U. S. soon after the Civil War.

The first portable timekeeper or watch was produced around 1500.



REGULAR, SOUR CREAM & ONIONS, BARBECUE, BACON & SOUR CREAM, CHEDDAR & SOUR CREAM

**Ruffles  
Potato  
Chips**

REGULAR  
\$1.39

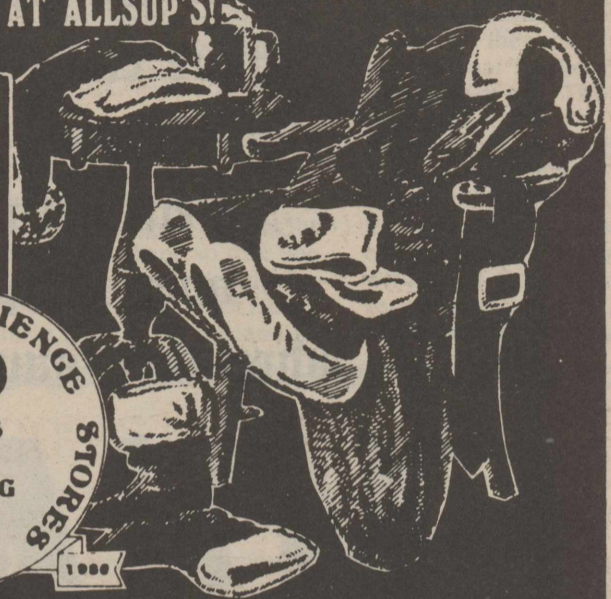
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COOKED FOODS-SELF SERVE GAS



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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Wishing You  
A Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year


BORDEN'S Squeeze- Ups 6 CT PACK <b>99¢</b>	BORDEN'S Butter- Milk QT CTN <b>49¢</b>	ORIGINAL OR CRISPY Borden's Frosticks 6 CT PKG. <b>\$1.19</b>	BORDEN'S REGULAR Egg Nog QT CTN <b>99¢</b>
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ALLSUP'S RIB-BQ Sandwich HOT & READY TO GO ONLY <b>99¢</b>	Gallon Allsup's MILK <b>\$1.99</b>
MINUTE MAID REG/COUNTRY ST. Orange Juice 64 OZ. CTN. <b>\$1.79</b>	

ALLSUP'S Coffee Mugs FILLED WITH FRESH HOT COFFEE <b>99¢</b> REFILLS ONLY 25¢ AT ALL LOCATIONS!	PERFECT FOR THE COLD WEATHER - ALLSUP'S Hot Chocolate 8 OZ CUP <b>30¢</b>	ALLSUP'S Breakfast Burrito WITH A LARGE COFFEE OR REGULAR HOT CHOCOLATE ONLY <b>89¢</b>
---	--	--

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Available**  
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DIET PEPSI  
Mountain Dew**  
6 Pack 12 oz. Cans  
**\$1.89**



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi came from the East to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him" "...And behold, the star that they had seen in the East went before thee, until it came and stood over the place where the child was. And when they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly.

Josephine Anderson  
 Georgia Allard  
 James and Barbara Allison  
 Anna Lee Anderson  
 Iris Burson  
 Luree Burson  
 Effie Beavers  
 Seymour and Ruby Brannon  
 Jerry, Jealeta, Kerry and Kori Baird  
 The Clemmers  
 Perry, Marsha, Bradley, Brandi and Lacy Brunson  
 Jimmy, Rhenda, Kim, Keely and Kenzie Burson  
 Bill, Della and Brenda Boling  
 Roy and Zollie Brown  
 Don, Mary and Kathy Brown  
 Virgil and Eudean Crow  
 Lee and Ada Clay  
 G. W., Venita and Stacie Chappell  
 Vance and Nadyne Childress  
 Beulah Collins  
 Bud, Glenda and Julia Couch  
 John and Michele Crowell  
 Frances LeNoir Crass  
 Pete and Pauline Chitty  
 Oner and Elsie Cornett  
 Leo Comer  
 Larry and Cindy Comer and children  
 Virginia Clardy and family  
 Stanley, Waynelle and Kirk Couch  
 Ione Cushing  
 Don and Arlene Curry  
 Carver and Iwana Monroe  
 Mike, Sherry, Justin and Jennifer Delano  
 James and Annell Davis  
 Jim Davis  
 Bill, Shirley and Lee Ann Durham  
 Kirk Durham  
 Bryant and Ruby Lee Eddleman  
 Fred, Pat, Tammi and Neal Edwards  
 Sylvia Fogerson  
 W. H. and Flo Fitzgerald  
 Barry, Michelle, Jared, Nathan, Andrew and Caleb  
 Donald and Carlye Fleming  
 Guinn, Pat and DeLynn Fitzgerald

Stan, Lynda, Kristy and Penni Fogerson  
 Lynn, Kathy, Jamie and Casey Frizzell  
 Danny, Donna, Aimee and Matt Francis  
 Margaret and Snooks Frizzell  
 Leo and Peggy Fleming  
 John T. and Maebelle Francis  
 Berle and Aloha Fisch  
 Raymond and Ravenel Grewe  
 Pascal and Donny Garrison  
 Country Cut-Ups, Scott and Vestine Garvin  
 Bessie Garrison  
 Garner, Dorcas and family  
 LaRue and Beefie Garvin  
 Brett, Judy and Corye Gill  
 L. D. and Roberta Griffin  
 John and Wilma Gill  
 Santos, Maria and Lupe Garcia  
 Don and Lottie Garrison  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gallington  
 Mikel D., Liz, Taylor and Lori Griffin  
 Mrs. Annie Grabbe  
 Mule and Mary Grantham  
 James and Geneva Griffin  
 The Lane Garvin Family  
 Jack, Ruby and Julia Graham  
 Mike, Valrie and Kallie Graham  
 Clay and Myrt Guest  
 Garvin Oil Company, Billy and Peggy Garvin  
 David and Debbie Holt and boys, Lance, Zeb, Jeremy and Jared  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hill  
 Dwain, Shirley, Wayne and Zane Henderson  
 Emma Jean Ivory  
 Ross, Sharon, Jason and Stan Jontra  
 Miriam Jowell  
 James and Lallie Patton  
 Victor, Debbie, Jeff, Misti and Dusti Weaks  
 Elvira Weaks  
 Gary, Cathey, Robby, Leslee and Lindsey Weaks  
 Carl, Fern, Melissa and Amy Minyard  
 Mike and Laura Long  
 Carol, Mary and Max Davis  
 Doc and Mary Dee Minyard  
 Dirk, Cindy and Colt Aaron  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Redin

Pauline Jarnagin  
 Louie and Ruby Lee Kitchens  
 Duane, Barbara and Sean Knowlton  
 Ted and LaVern Kingery  
 Allen and Frances Kellum  
 Anthony, Kathy, Kara and Shauna Kingery  
 Mattie Lawrence  
 Coach Bob, Julie, Adam and Amber Loy  
 Leon, Pat, Lisa and Genie Lavy  
 Jewell Lyon  
 Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Long  
 Mary and G. W. Lee  
 Letha Lanham  
 Lillie and Joe Mercer  
 John, Darrah, Marshall and Laura McCammon  
 Joe and Ruby McWaters  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Ashel McDaniel  
 Harvey and Patricia McJimsey  
 Doug McJimsey  
 Robert and Betty McPherson  
 Rick, Beverly, Ryan and Eric Minyard  
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Morgan  
 J. D. and Lois Nance  
 Wayne, Tina, Tara and Holly Nance  
 Virginia May  
 Zelma Lee Mayfield  
 Jack, Jo Ann, Jena and Justin McFall  
 J. D. and Daphne McGavock  
 Mary Miller  
 Zane, Kim and Bryn Mayfield  
 Betty Olive  
 Charlie and Fern Parker  
 J. E., Mary Jane, James Alan, Mark, Eric and Alesha Patton  
 David, Sheila, Michael and Daniel Reagan  
 Duane and Shirley Reynolds  
 Gayle and Corey Robertson  
 George and Roy Reed  
 Wayne, Colleen and Ty Reed  
 Bob and Mary Ann Rauch  
 Clifton and Joy Stodghill  
 George and Agnes Seaney  
 Jack and Eloise Strange  
 Jerry, Brenda, Craig and DeLyn Patton  
 Joe, Vaughnell and Cal Brannon  
 J. L. and Faye Self  
 John, LaQuetta, Bryan, David and Clay Schott  
 Rena Schott  
 J. C. and Loretha Rhoderick  
 Bertha Rhoderick  
 Eddie and Charlotte Rhoderick, Kimmi, Kendra, Cody and Chance  
 Joe and Jane Self  
 Charles and Mary Ann Sarchet  
 Ken, Jonann, Brandon, Jordan and Molly Sarchet  
 Gerald, Raye and Lance Smith  
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 Vinson and Jerry Smith  
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 J. R. and Gladys Steele

Wade and Zoe Steele  
 Jimmy and Madeline Stone  
 Elbert and Juanita Stephens  
 Homer and Lola Stephens  
 Wayne, Betty, Jeannita and Christina Stephens  
 Verlin and Addlene  
 Emmett, Sandi, Donna and Tracy Tomlin  
 Ray and Nelda Teeple  
 Oil of Mink Skin Care Products by Rose Marie  
 David, Reba and Dwaide Tipton  
 Mrs. W. H. Tennison  
 Jay, Patsy, Julie and Braden Towe  
 Kate Turner  
 Pauline Turner  
 Spud and Betty Nan Tiffin  
 Jeff Tiffin  
 Juanell and Billy Turner  
 Gary, Karen and Erica Turner  
 Freeman and Jackie Tate  
 Mae Tennison  
 Bud and Norma Vaughan  
 Girtha Mae Vaughan  
 John, Gail, Ashleigh and Trey Wyatt  
 Diamond Williams  
 Lem and Valeria Weaver  
 Mary Lee Watters  
 Roy Mack and Lois Walker  
 Max, Sheryl, Shannon and Julie Weaver  
 Shorty and Ruth West  
 Dock and Wanda Wallace  
 Ben and Pat Whitfill  
 G. H. and Mary Wilkinson, Sheila and girls  
 Ken and Nancy Wood, Leland, Kenda and Monty  
 Berniece Wood  
 Mrs. M. L. Welch and family  
 Riley and Lois Ziegler  
 Buck Wesley  
 Shafe and Jonnie Weaver  
 Obra and Jessie Mae Watson  
 Joe Bob, Connie, Keri and Lori Watson  
 Aaron, Mary Lane and Rhett  
 Gary and Susie Younger



### A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

Let us remember the meaning and the message of the first Christmas.

Those whose names appear on these pages extend to you their personal Christmas greetings. They have donated to the L. O. A. Junior Study Club Christmas Greeting Fund instead of sending greeting cards locally, and have helped make possible the repair of street signs in Silverton.

## DPS Expecting Death On Highways During Holiday Season

The Department of Public Safety is estimating that 41 traffic deaths will mar this year's peak holiday travel periods in Texas.

"Christmas and New Year's should be two of the best times of the year for everyone, but each holiday season, many traffic deaths that could have been prevented occur on our roads and highways," said DPS Director Jim Adams. "Our intention in reminding Texans of the grim possibilities is not to sound a discouraging note as people prepare their travel plans, but to encourage driving safety by showing what could happen. I hope our estimate proves to be too high."

During the 54-hour Christmas holiday period, an estimated 23

persons may die in traffic accidents in the state, Adams said.

The estimate for the New Year's period, which also is 54 hours, is 18 traffic deaths.

In 1985, because of the day of the week on which Christmas fell, the prime travel period was 30 hours long. During that time, 15 persons were killed in traffic mishaps. Two other persons later died of injuries suffered during the period, bringing the final 1985 Christmas death toll to 17.

Last year, 17 persons died in traffic accidents during the 54-hour New Year's period, with seven later deaths making a total of 24 fatalities associated with the period.

"The way to help make this year's estimates inaccurate is to refrain from drinking alcoholic

beverages before driving or while behind the wheel and hold driving speeds down," Adams said. "Those two steps will go a long way toward keeping drivers from having traffic accidents. But, if worse comes to worse and you are in an accident due to the carelessness of another driver, your chances of survival will be greatly improved if you are wearing your safety belt."

This year, the DPS Operation Motorcade period will begin at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 23, and continue until midnight Christmas Day. The New Year's counting period will begin at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 30, and continue through midnight New Year's Day.

During both periods, as part of the Department's Operation Holiday effort, additional Highway Patrol Troopers will be out to assist motorists and enforce traffic laws, with particular

emphasis on DWI arrests, speeding and safety belt violations.

### Ornament Tradition

A nice family tradition is to give each child a special tree ornament—maybe a glass bird, a little wooden rocking horse, a teddy bear, etc.—something they will remember from year to year as their own contribution to the family Christmas tree.

### Long May Christmas Live!

Christmas is a medicine—it heals broken relations with its oil of love smoothing the rough places.

Christmas is a tonic—it often turns the selfish into true givers of one's self.

The sweet spirit of Christmas helps to cover the repulsive things that have happened through the

year as we look away from Earth and the predicaments it has gotten into to the peace that Christ can give to our hearts. Hope, joy, love, courage, generosity find their places at Christmastime. Savor this Christmas feeling—long may it live throughout a new year!

### Too Pooped To Party?

If you feel all tense about having those Christmas parties you usually have, why not consider if your potential guests would just as soon be invited to a party in the slow months of January or February? They may also feel more relaxed, not wondering how they will ever have time to go to all the parties.

### And A Partridge In A Pear Tree

The carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is about all that is left of the old tradition when Christmas was celebrated during the 12 days between December 25 and Epiphany, January 6.

This carol originally was a singing game played at Twelfth Night parties. All the gifts were to be repeated in order without mistake. If a guest made a blunder, he had to pay a penalty.

Some versions include such gifts as a goose was that grey, five Limerick oysters, a papingo-eye (peacock) and an Arabian baboon. The four calling birds are the same traditional four colly (black) birds.

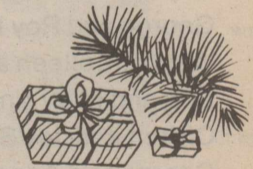
### Christmas Verse

"'Tis the season of kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart."

Washington Irving

"December, month of holly, pine, and balsam, of berries red, of candles' mellow light; of home and fireside, laughter, happy faces, of peace that came upon the holy night."

From an Old Carol



### Hanging Packages

Cover small matchboxes with colorful gift wrap and tie them with a bright bow. Now hang these packages on the tree for cute ornaments.

### Christmas Toys

Children get bored with playthings that only have one function—like an elaborate mechanical game, cannons that fire rockets, cars that race on a special track. They will get excited with them for awhile but these are one-action toys that repeat the same thing over and over again.

A child likes to experiment or pretend that an object may be something quite different. He likes to create his own new drama—letting him have a real hammer and nails and blocks and boards, or even an old clock to take apart as he wishes may mean more than the most expensive toy.

## One Solitary Life

*He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never had a family or owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never wrote a book, or held an office. He never went to college. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.*

*He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends deserted him. He was turned over to his enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had — his coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.*

*Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure for much of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as this "One Solitary Life."*

★ ★ ★

Although this poem has become popular in recent years, it is not a contemporary piece. The poem actually has tracings back to medieval times, and the poet to this day remains anonymous.

**We pause to reflect on his life during the Christmas Season, and celebrate his birthday on Christmas Day.**

Merry

**CHRISTMAS**  
from

**SWISHER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**



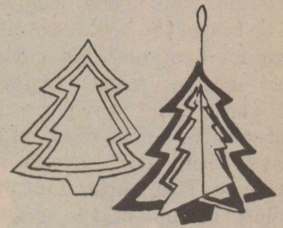


An early snowfall made everything look "a lot like Christmas" in Silverton. Pictured are the trees on the south side of the Leo Comer Home on South Braidfoot Street.

—Briscoe County News Photo

**Lazy Giving**

The heart-warming gift is a carefully-chosen one. It's not much fun to receive socks or soap year after year from the same person—that's a lazy way of shopping. Plan a surprise but be sure it is something that person really would enjoy.



**Three-Dimensional Tree**

Draw the outline of a Christmas tree and its base on stiff green paper. Draw inside this shape to make a smaller tree and again inside that outline to make an even smaller tree. Carefully cut around each shape with a craft knife. Glue fine but strong thread down the center of the tree. Leave enough thread at the top to hang, and if you wish to hang several trees as a mobile, leave the thread long enough at the bottom for other trees. Carefully push the trees out and around to form the three-dimensional shape.

Glue on star stickers, sliced gum drops, or sequins to decorate if you wish.

**Italian Christmas Legend**

In Italy, it is not Santa Claus who brings the gifts to good children but rather it is Le Befana.

According to an ancient legend the Italians tell of the Wise Men

stopping to ask an old woman directions as to where to find the Baby Jesus. Le Befana was so full of awe as she saw their magnificence that she just couldn't speak. The Wise Men invited her to go with them to worship the newborn

King, but she could only shake her head no.

It was not until the Wise Men had gone that she suddenly found her tongue and hurried out to catch them, but she never could

catch up.

At each place she stopped along the way she left a little gift, hoping that one day she would find the Christ Child.



"This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

(Psalm 118:24)

A Blessed Christmas to one and all!

MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE



The students in Fern Parker's first grade class are sending you their wishes for a HAPPY HOLIDAY! They are (back row, left to right) Andy Bullock, Eddie Martinez, Trey Ziegler, Molly Brooks, Kenzie Burson, Will Hester, Amanda Cruz, Lacy Brunson; (front row) Leland Wood, Trey Wyatt, Jared Francis, Shauna Kingery, Darren Payne, Trista Davis, Miles Comer, Brandy Hurst, Melissa Barraza and Jamie Casilla. The letters they wrote to Santa can be found elsewhere in this issue.

### Letters To Santa From Mrs. Parker's First Grade Students

Dear Santa,  
I want a Nintendo game and B-Bs and a pellet gun and a Rope.  
Love  
Santa  
from Leland Chaney Wood

Dear Santa,  
I want football and BB gun and I football suit. For my brother a football suit and my sister a doll. Please bring it.

Please  
Love Darren

Dear Santa,  
I want a bike.  
Love

—Briscoe County News Photo

Amanda Cruz  
I love you, Santa.

Dear Santa,  
BMX Bike, BB gun pistol, remote control robot, super mario, scope, chaps.  
Trey Z.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Karate Kid house and a Karate Kid car. I love you, Santa.  
Love,  
Miles

Dear Santa,  
May I have a baton and a bike. I live at Haylake.  
Love,  
Molly

Dear Santa,  
I want tendrill. I will leave you milk and have a good nite.  
Love,  
Michael

Dear Santa,  
I want a pacifier doll and a bear.  
Love,  
Brandy

Dear Santa,  
I want a BB gun and chaps.  
Love,  
Jared Francis

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me My Little Pony, Baby Bonnett School of Dance. And please bring me The Heart Family. And please bring my mom a microwave.  
Love,  
Shauna

Dear Santa,  
It is fun. Will you bring me toys to behave.  
Love,  
Eddie

Dear Santa,  
I'm writing to you because I

want a Cabbage Patch Doll and a Care Bear for Christmas. Hope you can get it for me cause I been a nice girl and may God bless Santa.

Love,  
Melissa Barraza

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Cabbage Patch Kid. My sisters would like something too. I will leave some cookies.

Love,  
Kenzie

Dear Santa,  
Remote Control Robot, Atari, B Foot Bear and chaps, BB gun, Skateboard.

Love,  
Will

Dear Santa,  
I want a talking doll with blonde hair.

Echo.  
and Barbie doll house. Or bring me anything you want to.  
I love you, Santa.  
Trista

Dear Santa,  
I want a Cabbage Patch Kid and a bike and a ball. Please eat the cookies.

My brother wants a robot that moves and a boy Cabbage Patch Kid.

Love,  
Tamra

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a Pund Puppy, Cabbage Patch, big ball and get something for my Mom and Dad.

Love,  
Lacy  
And I will leave cookies.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring a Cabbage Patch bike and a stroller and crib.

Love,  
Jamie

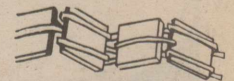
Dear Santa,  
I want a football suit and BBs and for my sister a pup and for my Mom earrings and neeklace and for me underwear.

Love,  
Trey W.

Dear Santa,  
My name is Andy and I'm seven years old. I have been a good boy this year.

I want a play tractor and most of all a play truck I can really drive and runs on tires. Could you please bring my best friend Tonya computer?

Thank you, Santa.  
Love,  
Andy



#### Clatter-Blocks

Remember those clatter-blocks you used to grasp at one end and tilt them forward and back to make them do somersaults down the tapes? You could have fun making them for some special kids or grown-up kids.

1. You'll need 7 plywood blocks, sanded smooth, 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1/4."

2. Loosely weave two twill outer tapes around blocks. Staple tape at top of each block.

3. Weave a center tape through the blocks in the reverse direction. Staple at bottom of blocks.

# HAPPY HOLIDAY



May your holidays be merry and filled with the good things in life. Our sincere thanks for your patronage.

## SILVERTON OIL COMPANY

TREELITEFUL CAKE IS DELIGHTFUL



A festive tree cake is easy to make with a shaped pan and simple decorating techniques.

Entertaining friends and relatives is a natural part of the holiday season. This year, why not host a tree trimming party a few days before Christmas?

After the ornaments and lights are in place, the volunteer tree trimmers can enjoy dessert and simple refreshments. In keeping with the party's theme, offer guests a clever "Treeliteful" cake, baked from your own fruit-cake or pound cake recipe and decorated with ornaments, garlands and stars piped with icing. This kind of decorating takes only a few simple-to-learn techniques, yet produces spectacular results.

First-time cake decorators can produce a festive cake like the one pictured with the help

of Wilton Enterprises' shaped cake pans, decorating tips and bags. These items help to ensure that even inexperienced decorators can produce beautiful cakes with a minimum of effort and fuss.

The Treeliteful pan from Wilton can be used at other seasons as well. Each kit includes easy-to-follow decorating instructions that allow the home baker to ice and decorate the cake to look like a Halloween gnome or a festive birthday cake.

The pan, as well as other high-quality Wilton bakeware, cake decorating tips, bags and utensils are available in your favorite department, or discount store, cake specialty shop, or directly from Wilton Enterprises, Woodridge, IL 60517.

Children's Christmas quiz

How much do you know about Christmas?

Here's a quiz that will test your knowledge! Just fill in the blank spaces, then check the answers below to see if you were right.

1. The Wise Men followed a \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
2. A popular Christmas carol is called Jingle \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus was born in \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Santa Claus wears a \_\_\_\_\_ suit.
5. Presents go under the Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Santa's sleigh is pulled

- ed by \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The mother of Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The shepherds heard about the birth of Jesus from an \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Everyone exchanges \_\_\_\_\_ at Christmas.
10. Santa lives at the North \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Star.      | 2. Bells.    |
| 3. Bethlehem. | 4. Red.      |
| 5. Tree.      | 6. Reindeer. |
| 7. Mary.      | 8. Angel.    |
| 9. Gifts.     | 10. Pole.    |

"The most useful part of wisdom is for a man to give a good guess what others think of him. It is a dangerous thing to guess partially, and a melancholy thing to guess right."  
Lord Halifax



A wooden sled runner found in Finland has been dated from 6500 B.C.



The most common last name in the English language is Smith. There are an estimated 2,382,509 Smiths in the United States.

HAPPY YULETIDE



It's the season

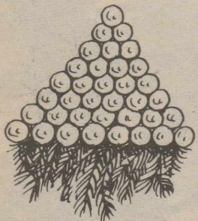
to decorate our hearths and homes with holiday cheer...and to wish our many friends a truly joyous Yuletide!

NANCE'S FOOD STORE



Miss Jane Self's seventh grade class contributed their money to the Silverton Volunteer Ambulance Service in lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts this year. Pictured at their party, they are (kneeling, left to right) Josh Brooks, Abel Maciel, Lyndell Ivory; (middle row) Albert Espinoza, Jeff Smith, Jeffrey Grimland, Jeannette Brosig, Misti Hurst, Langdon Reagan, Elvira Leal; (back row) Brian Martin, Genie Lavy, Jennifer Grimland, Amy Ramsey, Gwen Clardy, Brian West and Bryan Breedlove.

—Briscoe County News Photo



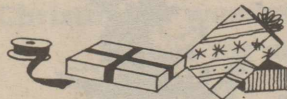
### Apple Christmas Tree

This unusual door decoration comes from Canada. Cut a thick triangle from plywood. Screw a strong hook into the apex, to hang it. Wire sprigs of evergreen together, spreading them out along the triangle's base to cover the board's edge. Nail into position. Securely nail rows of apples to cover the triangle. Sprinkle with artificial frost.

### Christmas Cleanliness Customs

Throughout the world the December weeks are a time to attach great importance for cleanliness—all in preparation for Christmas Eve.

Before the days of vacuum cleaners and running hot water, the week before Christmas was spent repairing, sweeping, and white-washing. The last Sunday before Christmas in Norway is still called Dirty Sunday. Their houses are thoroughly cleaned and everything polished. Everyone, even the animals, gets a thorough bath. In Finland, everyone who can at all possibly find the time, gets a Christmas sauna.



### Excitement Comes in the Wrapping

A great deal of the excitement of receiving a Christmas gift comes in seeing how pretty the package is. It's far better to buy a lot of cheaper paper than it is to buy a few pieces of expensive paper and then have to skimp with it. Instead of a long strip of tape, if the paper is folded properly it only takes a few tabs of tape to hold the wrapping together neatly.

Pretty, pastel, inexpensive tissue paper can become a beautiful package when dried seedpods or flowers are spray-painted gold or silver with a pretty ribbon and tiny baubles attached.

### Christmas Happiness is Sharing

Something equally as welcome as a purchased gift at Christmas-time would be a gift of your time:

Invite a foreign student or a new couple in your community to share in your family's Christmas dinner. Discuss this with the rest of the family, first, in order that each member can have the feeling of having a part in this sharing plan.

There may be a disadvantaged, city child who would love to have a Christmas gift certificate inviting him or her for a vacation at your summer cottage or at your country home.

Your family might like to "adopt" a child through some organization by giving a small amount each month for the needs of a certain child. Your children might really enjoy having a part by giving a small part of their allowance or money that they have earned to chip in with the rest of the family toward this project.

### Christmas Beginnings

Since no date is given in the Bible as to the time of Christ's birth, in the early days of Christianity Christmas as we know it did not exist. Around the end of December the old Roman festival of Saturnalia was celebrated in gay revelry. The days had been growing shorter and shorter but now they were growing longer. It was a time of rejoicing because of spring's certain approach. Hence the Church decided to transform the pagan festival rather than try to abolish it. The ancient practices were incorporated into Christianity and given Christian significance. The Roman Christians were persecuted and even put to death for observing Christes Masse (Mass of Christ).

The Emperor Diocletian in the year 303 ordered churches to be burned where Christmas was being celebrated. Later Emperor Constantine allowed the festivals to be celebrated. The celebration of Christmas soon became an established custom.

### Christmas Diary Memories

Before becoming queen, Victoria, at age 13, wrote in her diary for December 24, 1832:

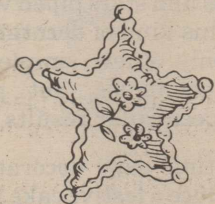
"After dinner we went upstairs. I then saw Flora, the dog which Sir John was going to give Mamma. Aunt Sophia came also. We then went into the drawing-room near the dining-room. After Mamma had rung a bell three times we went in. There were two large round tables on which were placed two trees hung with lights and sugar ornaments. All the presents being placed round the tree.

"I had one table for myself and the Conroy family had the other together. Lehzen had likewise a little table. Mamma gave me a little lovely pink bag which she had worked with a little sachet likewise done by her; a beautiful little opal brooch and earrings, books, some lovely prints, a pink satin dress and a cloak lined with fur. Aunt Sophia gave me a dress which she worked herself, and Aunt Mary a pair of amethyst earrings. Lehzen a lovely music-book. Victoire a pretty white bag worked by herself, and Sir John a silver brush...

"Mamma then took me up into my bedroom with all the ladies. There was my new toilet table with a white muslin cover over pink and all my silver things standing on it with a fine new looking-glass. I stayed up till half past 9."

### Swedish Ginger Cookies

- 1/2 pint whipping cream
- 1 1/2 cups dark brown sugar
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 1 to 2 tsp. grated lemon peel
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon or cardamom
- 1 1/2 to 2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tbsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3 cups all-purpose flour



Beat cream into soft peaks, then gradually beat in: brown sugar, molasses, spices, lemon peel, baking soda and salt. Gradually stir in the flour and mix well until a dough is formed. Wrap the dough in plastic and leave in the refrigerator overnight. Roll out to 1/4" thick on a lightly floured board. Cut into fancy shapes; place 3/4" apart on a lightly greased baking sheet. Brush cookies lightly with cold water and bake 350° until light brown, about 10-12 minutes. Cool on a rack. Decorate if you wish with powdered sugar to hang on the tree or for cards. If you wish to hang them, make a hole with a skewer while they are still hot.

### Peace at Christmas

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:14

With newspaper, radio, and TV, the daily news from all around the world has reached us speedily all year long. There have been heroes proclaimed; there have been great achievements broadcast and church and civic programs for the betterment of mankind announced—but far too often the news has been of crime, of earthquakes, and airplane crashes—things far from peace and joy.

And then comes Christmas at the end of the year and just before a new year to help us remember good, stable things of life—to remember the birth of the Prince of Peace, Christ, who came to pay our redemption price and to give us a pattern to help us live together peaceably. He taught us to "do unto others as ye would have them do unto you"—so simple, but it works for true peace. He taught us how to put others above ourselves and to pray even for our enemies.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"—it was true, this message of the angels at Christ's birth. He brought us His peace and bids us this season to have good will toward men.

Merry Christmas through true giving—shed a little joy around!



Here's a very special holiday greeting to all our special friends and patrons. We hope this joyous season brings you joy, love and happiness.

**BRISCOE IMPLEMENT**

# Holiday Gift Ideas

## A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO GIVING

Getting the right gift for the little ones on your list may seem like child's play if you're game for following these tips.

- Playing with toy dolls and characters can teach children compassion and build their imaginary skills. A line of 12 round, bouncy colorful Nerfuls™ give them the characters. All they have to come up with is the plot line.
- Coordination is a skill that can be learned from games and applied to a variety of life endeavors. Nerf® Indoor Golf turns your home into a nine-hole miniature golf course—safely. The next stop: the U.S. Open?
- Toys should teach children about other lands. Don't Wake The Dragon,™ is a three-dimensional action game where players hop their penguins from iceberg to iceberg on the frigid waters of Antarctica, trying to retrieve their eggs. Play can be accompanied by discussions about this far-off land.
- Challenge the notion that toys are only for entertainment. Your children can mix business and pleasure as they stretch their minds with Eyewitness,® the VCR Newsreel Game. This fast-paced memory game is based on correctly answering questions posed by team members about authentic historical news clips everyone views. You'll see scenes of Hollywood and



**The right gifts for children meld entertainment and learning. Look for those qualities when you shop.**

- history, daredevils and disasters and inventions and industry.
  - Remember: toys that test and exercise the memory also can be helpful later in schoolwork and job-related tasks. Two board games—Penny Candy™ and Fluppy Dogs™ test your child's memory. The games are both played on platforms with slots to accommodate playing cards or pieces. Clean-up is easy. The game board never leaves the box.
  - Consider toys that teach the difference between right and wrong. The aim of one such set, Centurions: Power Xtreme, is for players to stop Dr. Terror from upsetting global peace. Designed for two to four children, ages six to twelve. Older children can be involved in a discussion about peace.
- Play with this concept: Toys can be educational, as well as entertaining, for everyone in the family.

### Angel Frost Punch

(Approx. 14, 5-oz. servings)

- 2 6-oz. cans frozen pink lemonade concentrate
- 2 10-oz. pkgs. frozen sliced strawberries
- 2 cups water
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream
- 2 7-oz. bottles (about 2 cups) lemon-lime carbonated beverage, chilled

Combine 1 pkg. strawberries, 1 can lemonade concentrate, 1 cup of water and half the ice cream in the blender. Blend till smooth and thick. Pour mixture into punch bowl.

Repeat with the remaining strawberries, lemonade, water and ice cream.

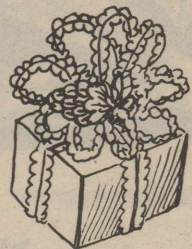
Gently pour the lemon-lime drink down the insides of the punch bowl. Carefully stir to mix.

### Theodore Roosevelt's Christmas Musings

An interesting note in history—on December 26, 1902, Theodore Roosevelt wrote the following in a letter to James Garfield's grandson:

*"Yesterday Archie got among his presents a small rifle from me and a pair of riding boots from his mother. He won't be able to use to rifle until next summer, but he has gone off very happy in the riding boots for a ride on the calico pony Algonquin, the one you rode the other day."*

The word "caricature" comes from the Italian "caricare" meaning "to load", and caricatures can be seen as exaggerated, "overloaded" drawings.



### Pretty Package Hints

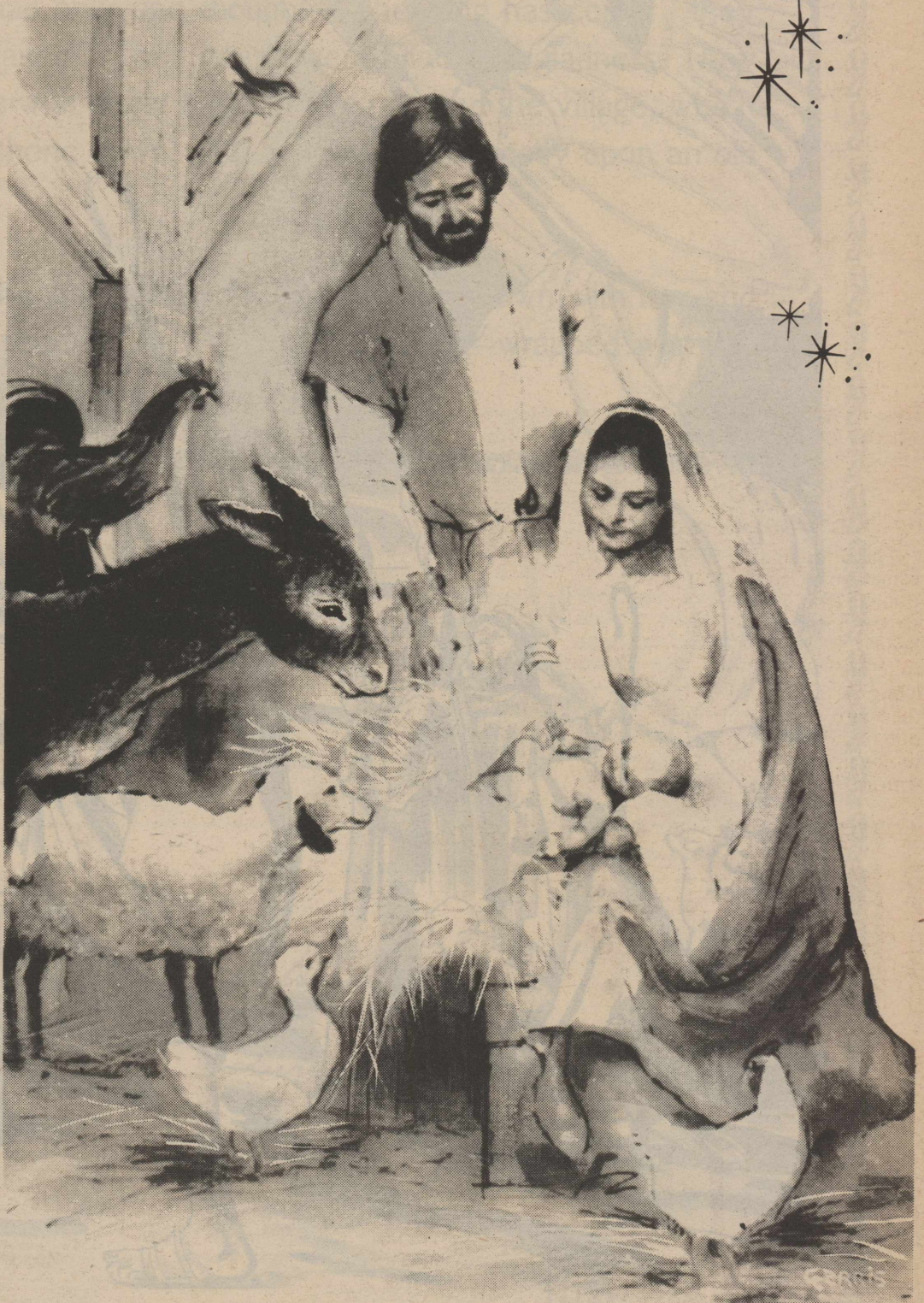
Make fancy bows from edgings and laces that you keep in your sewing box. Tuck in a poinsettia, pine cone, or holly sprig, or a bauble or two.

Paper lace doilies make neat package decorations.

A tiny sprig of evergreen, a shaft of dried grasses, or a cluster of berries enhance bows and plain-colored packages.

# NOEL

**At His birth, the angels sang: "Peace on earth to men of good will." May this peace, the gift from the Prince of Peace, be yours this Christmas!**



## BRISCOE COOPERATIVES

Raymond McJimsey, Manager



*First*

# A KING IS BORN

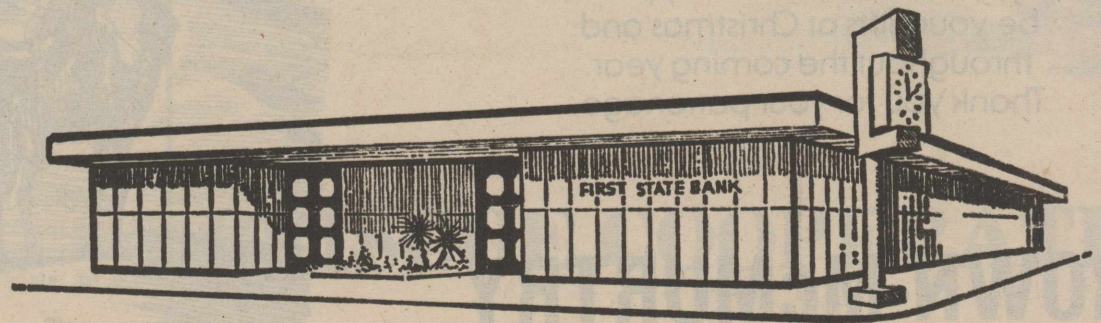
One cold winter night, a wonderful thing happened. A great light began to shine from the heavens. Brighter and brighter it beamed down upon the shepherds.

Startled by this heavenly vision, these men had only one thought: "The King has come!" they cried out. "The King we have watched and waited!" Their hearts were filled with gladness. They went at once to Bethlelem—climbing the hills with eager haste. They reached the village, which was all in darkness. In the sky a lustrous star shone down, with a silver light, directly upon an old stable.

The shepherds hastened to the stable where the star pointed the way. It was strewn with hay and dusty cobwebs. Behold, in a manger lay the beautiful baby—The Infant King—wrapped warm in swaddling clothes.

Jack Stenge	Betty McPherson	Patricia McGinsey
David Lipton	Madelene Stone	Lura Brown
Steve Jannaj	Ada Clay	Ruby Brannon

## State Bank





Mrs. Leonard Morgan's sixth grade contributed their money to the Silverton Volunteer Fire Department instead of exchanging gifts at their Christmas party this year. They are (kneeling, left to right) Justin McFall, Cecilia Castillo, Letisia Ramirez; (standing) Casey Frizzell, Mrs. Morgan, Wil T Bomar, Clint Payne, Johnny Patino, Dusty Martin, Lance Holt, Christy Nease, Frank Ramirez, Lance Bradford, Aimee Francis, Melissa Woods, Jose Arajo, Amy Minyard, Christene Casillas and Stan Gamble.

—Briscoe County News Photo

## 'Tis The Season For Electrical Safety

Electrical safety is important all year 'round—especially during the holidays. To help assure that your family has a safe and happy holiday season, Southwestern Public Service Company offers the following electrical safety tips.

**Treat Christmas trees with care.** Place live trees in tree stands or other containers with water reservoirs, then water frequently. Place trees away from heat sources such as wall heaters or fireplaces that could cause trees to dry out. And make sure trees don't block doorways or frequently used pathways in

your home.

After the holidays, dispose of Christmas trees safely. Don't try to burn branches in the fireplace; evergreens can burst into flames unexpectedly.

If you prefer an artificial tree, chose one that is certified fire-resistant, and never put electric lights on a metal tree. If the lights should malfunction, you could get a dangerous electric shock from touching any part of the tree. Instead, illuminate an artificial tree with colored floodlights or spotlights.

**Make sure Christmas lights are in good repair.** Buy only

those that are safety-certified by recognized testing agencies like Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Then, before hanging lights on your tree, check for frayed or bare wires, loose connections, damaged plugs or sockets.

When decorating the tree, position bulbs so they are not touching branches or needles. Use fire-resistant decorations, not lace, paper, or other flammable items, on your tree.

Remember to turn Christmas lights off before you leave the house or go to bed for the night.

**Hang lights in their proper places.** Don't use indoor lights outside. These lights are not waterproof and could short-circuit in rainy or snowy weather. Don't string outdoor lights inside, either. Outdoor lights burn hotter than indoor lights and can create a fire hazard if hung on a

Christmas tree.

Be especially careful when hanging outdoor lights on rooftops or in tall trees. Stay clear of electrical lines and make sure neither you nor your decorations come into contact with those lines.

**Buy safety-approved electrical gifts.** When buying electrical toys or appliances, look for labels certifying that the items have been approved by a recognized safety testing agency.

Don't overload electrical circuits. During the holidays, people often plug in extra lights, appliances, and portable heaters, and run extension cords throughout their homes. Overloading electrical wiring can cause the circuit to overload and start a fire.



Need to add an evergreen tree to your landscape? Have your nurseryman save a balled-and-burlapped evergreen to be delivered near Christmas. After the tree arrives, let the ball soak up some water in a tub; later remove the burlap and let the access water drain. Then wrap the ball in a sheet of plastic and tie securely. The foliage can be sprayed with an antidesiccant which you can buy at garden centers. This solution will also be good for cut trees. It dries in a thin, transparent film allowing carbon dioxide and oxygen passage to continue yet it helps prevent the drying of needles.

The tree may be placed indoors a couple of days before Christmas but it's advised not to keep it inside more than a week. After the holidays plant it in a hole you've probably dug and mulch it to keep it from freezing.

**A blue whale 100 feet long and weighing 150 tons makes a ten-ton elephant look small.**

### Fruity Christmas Tree

Turn a trellis upside down and attach to a wall with a pretty green or red plastic waste can underneath. Fill the spaces between the trellis bars with plastic fruit and greenery.

Place pretty, wrapped packages in the waste can. Attach a bow at the top.

### Noisy New Year's

In years past it was thought that to start the new year, last year's evil spirits had to be driven away. (This practice continues in some countries today.) The easiest way to do this, of course, was to create a fearful lot of noise. Today, even in countries who do not believe in evil spirits, the New Year is ushered in with the old custom of a lot of noise.

### Christmas Candles

Who first started lighting candles as a Christmas custom? No one really knows but it is said that medieval Christians thought that on Christmas Eve the Christ Child wandered from home to home looking for those who believed in Him. So it was that people lit candles to place in their windows to guide the Christ Child in the darkness to their homes. Also, any stranger who might be drawn to their door by the candlelight was a welcome guest to each home.

### Christmas Tree History

It is said that the first English Christmas tree appeared at a court party for children in 1821. It was a number of years, however, before common people adopted the Christmas tree. A garland of greenery was still hung like a double-looped May garland. The garland was decorated with candles, a ring of red apples, and ornaments. Suspended from the center was a bunch of mistletoe with long ribbons attached from which sometimes small gifts were tied. This was called the Kissing Bough.

## We Three Kings of Orient Are...

May peace, love and happiness be your gifts at Christmas and throughout the coming year. Thank you for your patronage.

**BROWN-McMURTRY  
IMPLEMENT**





# AUTHENTIC CAJUN COOKING

Chicken smothered with black-eyed peas, dirty rice, sweet potato pecan pie...these are some of the 17 recipes found in Chef Paul Prudhomme's 30-page booklet, "Authentic Cajun Cooking."

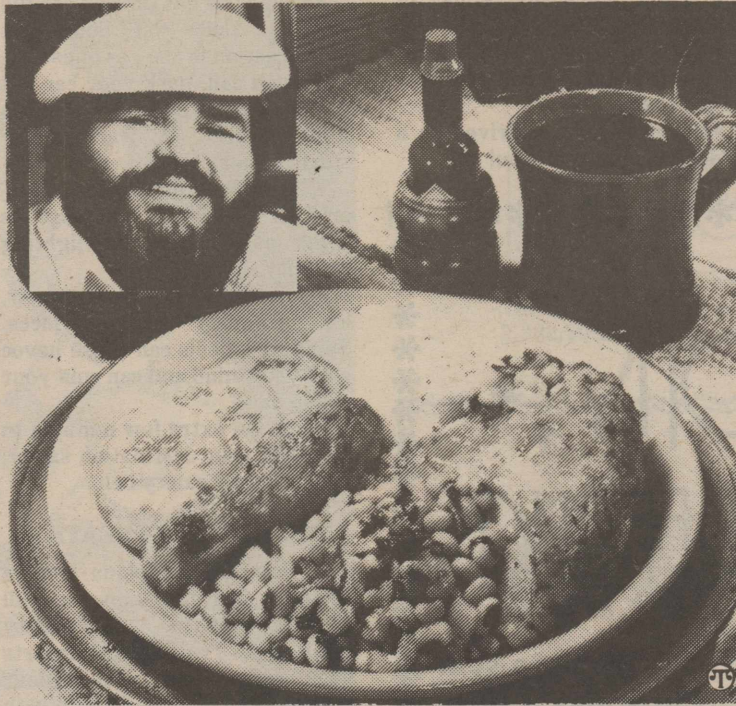
## CHICKEN SMOTHERED WITH BLACK-EYED PEAS

### SEASONING MIX:

- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon rubbed sage
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

- 1 (3 1/2 to 4 pounds) stewing or roasting hen, cut in 8 to 10 pieces
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 1/4 cup chicken fat (preferred), pork lard or shortening
- 9 slices bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 1/2 cups finely chopped onion
- 1 1/2 cups finely chopped celery
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon TABASCO pepper sauce
- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons rubbed sage
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 11 cups chicken stock (preferred) or water
- About 3 cups hot cooked rice

Combine seasoning mix ingredients in a small bowl. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon mix on the chicken pieces, patting in by hand. Combine remaining mix with flour in a plastic or paper bag. Set aside. In a large skillet heat 1/2 inch oil to 350°F. over high heat. Dredge chicken pieces in seasoned flour, shaking off excess; fry in hot oil (large pieces and skin side down first) until golden brown, about 5 minutes per side. (Adjust heat as needed to maintain 350°F.) Drain on paper towels. Set aside. In a 5 1/2-quart saucepan or Dutch oven, melt fat over high heat. Add bacon; cook just until it starts to get crisp, about 3 to 4 minutes, stirring often. Stir in onion, celery, bay leaves and 1 teaspoon TABASCO sauce, cook until vegetables start to get tender, about 3 to 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in peas, garlic pow-



der, sage, onion powder and thyme. Cook until oil and juice is absorbed and mixture sticks excessively, about 2 to 4 minutes, stirring often. Add stock or water, chicken pieces and remaining 1 tablespoon TABASCO sauce; bring to a boil, reduce heat. Simmer until chicken and peas are tender, about 1 1/2 to 2 hours, stirring occasionally. (Cooking time will vary according to toughness of hen.) Adjust salt to taste toward the end of cooking time. To serve, place 1 to 2 pieces of chicken on each heated serving plate. Mound

about 1/2 cup rice to the side, then top the rice with about 1/2 cup peas. Spoon extra sauce over the peas and chicken.

YIELD: 4 to 6 servings.

To receive a copy of "Authentic Cajun Cooking," send your name and address with a check for \$2.50 to:

AUTHENTIC CAJUN COOKING,  
McIlhenny Company,  
Avery Island, LA 70513.

You don't have to be Cajun to cook Cajun!

*Yes, Virginia,  
there is a Santa Claus*

One of the most famous newspaper editorials of all time has to do with Christmas. It first appeared September 21, 1897, in the pages of a leading newspaper of the day, the *New York Sun*.

Virginia O'Hanlon, eight years old, was torn between the doubts placed in her mind by playmates and her own sincere belief that each Christmas a jolly old man came to help spread joy through the world. To settle the matter, she posed the question to the editor of the *Sun*.

Francis Pharcellus Church replied as follows:

"Is there a Santa Claus?"

"We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the *Sun*:

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, 'If you see it in the *Sun*, it's so.'

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West 95th Street

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.



"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable their existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else more real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

## Dorothy's ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

Starts Monday, Dec. 29  
9:30 a.m.



Ladies, don't miss our best sale of the year!  
Sale prices you have to see to believe.  
Excellent selections from which to choose.

Don't Wait!  
Come In Now For Our  
After-Christmas Sale

Dorothy's Ladies Apparel

Gabriel-Wayland Shopping Center  
1511 West 5th Street  
Plainview, Texas

**BICYCLING AT NIGHT**

Although no more than four percent of all bicycling occurs at night, seventeen percent (17%) of all bicycle-car crashes and over 30% of all bicycle related fatalities occur at night.

Many children and adults will receive bicycles as gifts for the holidays. The natural tendency is to want to ride the bike and enjoy your new gift. During the

winter season, the days are shorter and it seems as if nightfall is upon us before we realize the sun has set.

Be careful when riding your bike. It is dangerous to ride at night and bicyclists are often hit by cars because drivers do not see them.

Follow these rules for bicycle safety:

- Do not allow children to ride at night.

- Ride only on familiar streets.
- Wear light colored clothes.
- Do not ride more than one person on a bicycle.
- Ride as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of roadway.
- Have a working white light on the front and a red reflector on the rear.
- Never assume a driver or a pedestrian has seen you!

**IT'S COLD OUTSIDE**

Winter driving requires a little extra care on your part. Here are some tips that you may use.

•Keep your gas tank on the full side so that you don't get condensation in the gas lines.

•If you can, park your car out of the weather or where there is some shelter. A warmer car starts easier.

•Clean your headlights regularly. A dirty lens can lose as much as 50% of its lighting capacity.

•Accelerate slowly on snow, ice or rainy road surfaces. Spinning wheels can cause havoc with your mind and can ruin your whole day.

•Take an extra few minutes to arrive at your destination safely. And use your safety belt!

**AIRPORT SAFETY SEATS**

If your holiday plans include children, you may know that all 50 states now have child safety seat laws. Two Texas airports have begun car seat loaner programs at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport (DFW) and at Intercontinental and Hobby Airports in Houston. Volunteer agencies, with the help of the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation—Traffic Safety Section, will supply child safety seats to visitors.

Contact Travelers Aid Society of Houston at 713 668-0911 and Airport Assistance of Dallas at 214 574-4420. Hertz, Avis, Budget, A-1, and other car rental agencies at many airports have child safety seats available for a nominal fee. When you make your reservation, ask the salesperson if child safety seats are available.

"You can cover a great deal of country in books."

Andrew Lang

Fleas are essential to the health of armadillos and hedge hogs—they provide necessary stimulation of the skin.

**Auld Lang Syne's Sentiment**

"Auld Lang Syne," which has become a popular song to be sung at New Year's goes back to the pagan times when they held hands in a meeting around a stone and sang this song. The song, itself, was not originally written as a New Year's song; in fact, it was in tune with the ancient belief that at the New Year, ancestors return to the family hearth.



**Snow Cream New Year's Party**

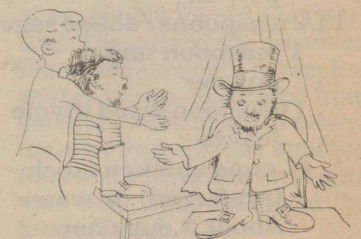
For an inexpensive New Year's party, have a snow cream party.

Fill a large pan with clean snow. Add sugar, vanilla flavoring, and milk a little at a time until you get just the right taste.

You can make orange ice or grape ice, etc. by opening a can of frozen juice (without water added) and stirring a few spoonfuls into snow until you get the taste you like.

**A Bit Of New Year Wisdom**

Charles Lamb wrote a bit of inspiration for the New Year: "Every first of January that we arrive at, is an imaginary milestone in the turnpike track of human life; at once a resting place for thought and meditation, and a starting place for fresh exertion in the performance of our journey. The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad indeed!"



**New Year's Disguise**

A cute disguise for an act at a New Year's party is the "Dwarf." A small child rests his hands in a pair of boots placed on a table. The child wears a false beard and moustache. A taller person stands behind the child, his arms over the child's shoulder.

A curtain is drawn so that only the child's head, the arms and boots show. A cape is thrown around the "Dwarf's" shoulders. The child's arms are clothed in a pullover to look like the "Dwarf's" body.

A New Year's story is told as the big arms make the gestures.

**English New Year**

The people of England felt that the beginning of the New Year should be as you want the whole new year to be: "To have plenty of money in your pocket, dine well, rise early, pay your debts and lend nothing."

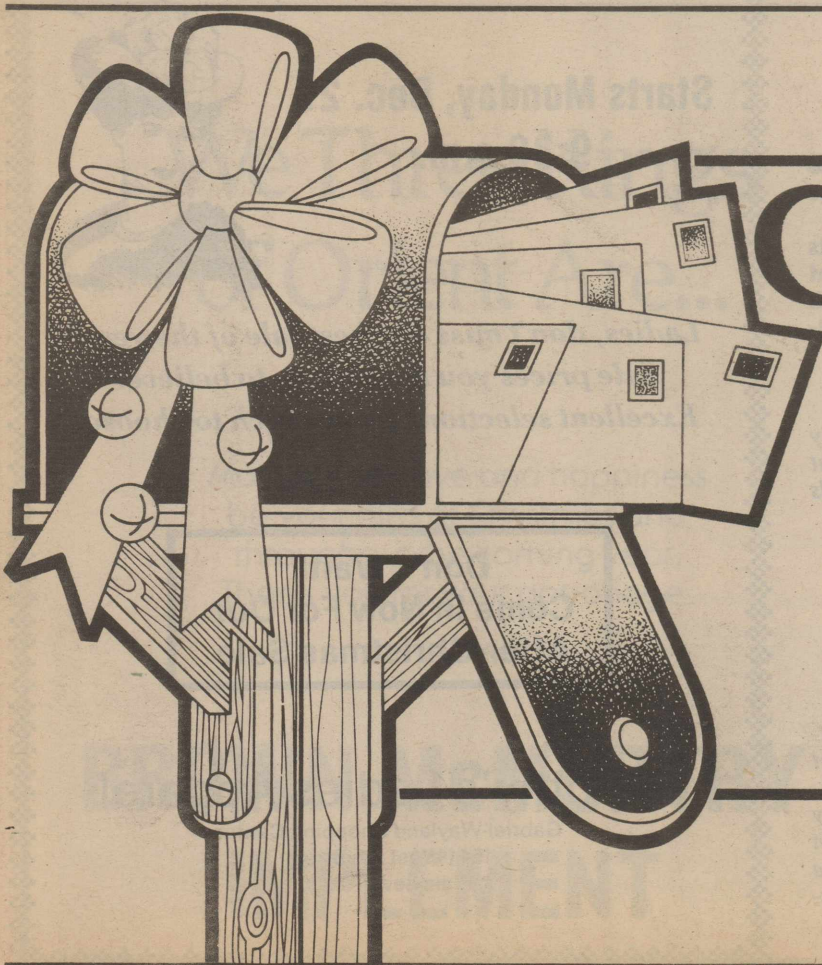
The giant among water lilies, the *Victoria regia*, lives in sluggish waters in the Amazon Valley. The leaves are broad and girl enough to support the weight of a child.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

We hope your Christmas is filled with love, warmth and happiness. Your continuing patronage has made this Christmas a wonderful one for us.



**Ray Teeple Fertilizers**



**Greetings**

Here's hoping that the season delivers Christmas joy to you and yours!

SILVERTON ELEVATORS

George Long

Roy Montague

### Conservation Corner

by John Crowell

We hope the following collection of soil facts will be of interest to our readers.

•The United States is losing 6.5 billion tons of soil each year due to erosion, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This amount of soil would fill 320 million dump trucks, which if parked end-to-end would extend to the moon and three-quarters of the way back.

•It takes 250 to 1,000 years for Mother Nature to build one inch of topsoil.

•Cropland erosion in the U. S. is concentrated on a small proportion of the land. In 1977, for example, 43% of the total tonnage of sheet and rill (rain caused) erosion occurred on only 6%, or 25 million acres, of total cropland.

•One teaspoon of soil contains as many as five billion bacteria and one million protozoa.

•An acre of soil may be the home for five to ten tons of animal life.

•Kentucky leads all other states in the amount of soil lost per acre from sheet and rill (rain induced) erosion. The most recent federal data indicates that each acre of cultivated cropland in the state is losing 11.7 tons of soil each year. Other states with high rates of sheet and rill erosion include Tennessee (11.5 tons per acre annually), Missouri (11 tons per acre), Iowa (9.6 tons per acre), Virginia (7.9 tons per acre), Pennsylvania (7.7 tons per acre), Alabama (7.6 tons per acre), North Carolina (7.1 tons per acre), Illinois (7.1 tons per acre) and Massachusetts (7.1 tons per acre).

•In terms of sheer tonnage, Iowa experiences more sheet and rill (rain induced) erosion than any other state. The most recent federal data indicates that Iowa each year is losing 245.2 million tons of soil from cultivated cropland. Other states losing vast quantities of soil from sheet and rill erosion include Illinois (171.7 million tons annually), Missouri (144.7 million tons), and Nebraska (103.7 million tons).

•Earthworms make the soil richer by digesting organic matter and recycling nutrients. One earthworm can digest 36 tons of soil in a year.

•The nation's cultivated cropland is eroding at an average rate in excess of eight tons per acre each year, more than the rate at which eroded soils are replaced through natural processes. In some places the losses are much more severe. For example, some Tennessee farms are losing 150 tons per acre per year and some eastern Washington farms are losing 200 tons.

•Topsoil is essentially the "cream" of the soil. It has the most nutrient matter and the best soil structure for aeration, moisture and temperature.

•When we see soil, we think of it as dirt. But that was not always the case. Originally the word "dirt" meant excrement, and "soil" meant earth or ground. In the 18th century, as industrial centers grew, "dirt" began to refer to mud, soil, mold, or earth. "Soil" became a verb, meaning to dirty, to contaminate with filth.

•There are about 70,000 different soil types in the United States which vary by origin, parent materials, age and climate. Some of these soils can claim surprising origins. The mid-Western American soils, for example, contain silt blown all the way from Asia.

•Erosion—the movement of soil by rain, wind and runoff—isn't always apparent. A soil loss of ten tons per acre is almost invisible. To lose ten tons of soil per acre, you need only peel off 1/15 of an inch—a piece about as thin as a dime.

•Nevada leads all other states in the amount of soil lost per acre from wind erosion. The most recent data indicates that each acre of cultivated cropland in the state is losing 26.7 tons of soil each year. Other states with high rates of wind erosion include Texas, with an annual loss of 13.4 tons per acre, and Colorado, which loses 10.4 tons per acre each year.

•In terms of sheer tonnage, Texas loses more soil from wind erosion than any other state. The most recent federal data indicates that the state is losing 436.1 million tons of soil annually from cultivated cropland. Other states that lose vast quantities of soil from wind erosion include Montana (143.2 million tons each year), Colorado (98.2 million tons), Minnesota (89.9 million) and North Dakota (83.7 million).

•At a depth of about two feet beneath the earth's surface, the temperature is more or less constant around the world.

•There are three types of soil erosion caused by rain: sheet, rill and gully.

•Sheet erosion is the most difficult to see. It is the gradual wearing away of a thin, uniform layer (or sheet) of soil. It occurs when there is not enough vegetation covering the soil. It is seen as muddy runoff water.

•Rill erosion occurs on gentle slopes that have little protective vegetation. Water runoff on the slopes accumulates into small channels of only a few inches deep.

•Gully erosion occurs when runoff water accumulates into rapidly moving water channels. The water causes the channels to grow wider and deeper. This happens on steeper slopes with little or no protective vegetation.

•In 1983, close to 87 million acres of cropland—almost one third of the cropland planted in the United States—were being farmed under some form of conservation tillage.

•Thirty million acres or 8% of the nation's total cropland are so highly erosive that no type of conservation practice can protect them. The only way to salvage these lands is to take them out of production, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

#### Holiday Houseplants

Add a little sparkle to your regular houseplants to make beautiful Christmas centerpieces. Wrap pretty pink foil around your purple African violet pots. Tie a 1" wide ribbon around the pots, ending in bows. Arrange the violets in a circle. Space three 10" pink candles and two 12" purple candles in low glass holders among the violets. Pile high with silver baubles. Sprinkle purple bows around the edges of the centerpiece.

# Holiday Hints

### SHOPPING SMART

Great gifts. You may be able to find them in some surprising places. For instance, an antique shop might have the tea cup an old-fashioned friend considers just her cup of tea. A florist may have the perfect plant to grow a glow in the heart of a friend with a green thumb. The hardware store may be where you hit the nail on the head getting a gift for a handy friend. A housewares department can be not just a great place for gifts but one where you can find a few gifts for yourself to help make your holidays easier.



Gala gadgets make great gifts — and help whip up some good-looking dishes for holiday parties.

Two items that can help anyone whip up better parties may be the new Creamwhipper and the Soda spritzer. With the whipper you can dish up desserts, perfect parfaits, decorate cakes — without having to deal with messy pastry bags — dress salads elegantly, do up some swell sauces and even make your own mayonnaise. Because it stores easily in the refrigerator, the Cream Whipper keeps cream fresh for two to three weeks.

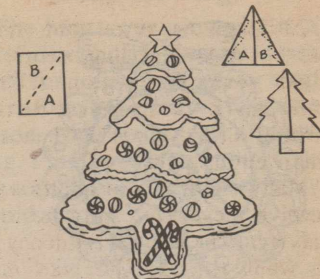
The siphon's attractive design means you can use it in bar or dining room as well as kitchen. It can make for some sparkling times when you use it with tap or bottle water to

create thirst-quenching low-calorie sparkling water. It keeps its effervescence for up to two weeks. You can even use it to spark up your most entertaining evenings with fruit or wine spritzers.

These easy-to-use items are made by iSi Siphon of America, Inc., and each comes with recipe cards to expand your food-fun-filled horizons. Many people call the housewares departments of their favorite stores to see if these items are in stock.

Of the five great lakes, only Lake Michigan is wholly in the U. S. The others are partly in Canada.

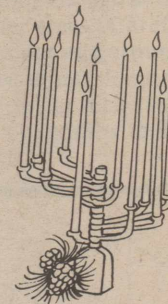
In 1984, it became illegal for cab drivers in Greece to chat with their fares.



#### Trimmed Tree Cake

Bake one 13" x 9" cake; cool. Cut and arrange the cake as shown. Mark the sloping sides into 4 equal parts; cut in about 1" at each mark and out diagonally to meet the second mark for the tree branches. Use these pieces for the trunk, as shown. Spread icing between these pieces to hold them together.

One special frosting is made from 4 cups of a non-dairy whipped topping to which you've added green food coloring and 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract. Swirl the icing on. Trim the tree cake with colorful candies.



#### Stairstep Candelabra

It looks like an eloquent silver piece of modern art but actually this stairstep candelabra is created from ordinary wrenches threaded through a dowel which is inserted in a block of wood. Long, tapered candles complete the scene.

Merry Christmas to All

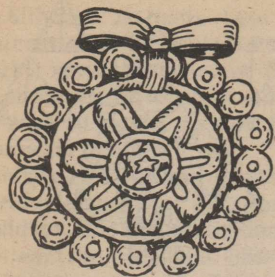
May the gentle blessings of the holy season touch you and yours this Christmas and always!

We Will Be Closed December 24-25-26 and January 1



Briscoe County Farm Bureau





**Bread Star**

4½ cups all-purpose flour  
 1½ tsp. salt  
 ½ oz. fresh yeast  
 1 tsp. granulated sugar  
 ½ cup warm milk  
 ¼ cup melted butter  
 1¼ cups warm water

**TOPPING:**

1 egg, beaten  
 1 oz. poppy seeds

Sift salt and flour into large bowl. Cream sugar and yeast with some of the warm milk. Mix remaining milk with melted butter

and add both mixtures to the flour with enough warm water to make fairly stiff dough. Knead on floured board until smooth and elastic. Let rise in well-greased plastic bag covered with cloth until double in size, about one hour. Take a small amount of dough at a time, keeping the rest covered, and roll into long snakes. Form star, using a little water where pieces are joined. Put star on greased baking sheet. Brush with beaten egg; sprinkle with poppy seeds. Cover with greased wrap; let rise 30 minutes. Bake 450° for 15-20 minutes. Tie ribbon at top and hang for decoration if you like.

**Helping Johnny To Be Peace-Loving**

If you want your Johnny to think of ways he can help others—to learn to always love instead of hate, don't buy him war toys—

especially at Christmastime when we talk of making a more peaceful world. Children can just as easily be taught caring ways instead of violence.



**Christmas Straw Symbols**

In the Christmas celebrations of northern and central Europe, straw plays a significant part.

Anciently straw was an appeal to the spirits for a good harvest but now it is considered to be a reminder of the fertility of the earth.

Four sheafs were placed in the corners of Polish homes—one each of oats, wheat, rye, and barley. Today many Scandinavian homes hang sheafs of oats out for the birds.

In Sweden a straw goat, "julbock," spends the Christmas season next to the tree or on the table. The reason for the Christmas goat is obscure but it may have been connected with the god Thor, a friend of mankind who it was said rode on a goat.

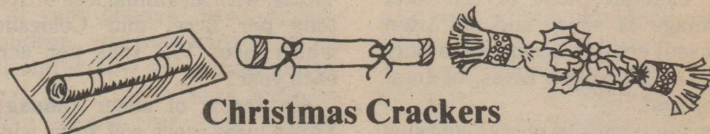
**Signal-In Christmas**

In many lands a literal signal is given for the start of Christmas. A Christmas proclamation for peace is given at midday from

the cathedral in Turku, Finland's oldest town. Church bells ring at 5 p.m. in Norway scuttling home the last people on the streets. The children of the Orthodox homes in Poland and Russia watch for the first star to appear. Greetings are exchanged and bread is broken before the traditional Christmas Eve supper.

**Strange Superstitions**

Down through the years there have been many superstitions about when and how to put up and take down the Christmas decorations. When holly was removed, after Christmas, it was often buried, burned, or given to the cows and if you dropped a piece you were unlucky.



**Christmas Crackers**

1. Place three cardboard tubes (like tubes inside toilet tissue) end-to-end. (You have already placed a small gift, candy, a motto, etc. inside the middle tube.) Trim the two outer tubes so that they are shorter than the middle one.
2. Put the tubes on a piece of double thickness tissue wrapping paper that is ½" longer than the combined lengths of the tubes and ½" wider than their circumference. Roll the tubes in the paper and glue the edges together.
3. Now roll the tubes in an outer wrap of crepe or fancy wrapping paper that is the same size as your tissue paper, or shorter than the tissue paper if you want the contrasting tissue paper to show at the ends. Glue the paper's edges together.
4. Wind strong thread several times around where the tubes meet. Pull the thread tightly and knot until the paper is pressed into shape, then remove thread. Remove the end tubes if you wish.
5. Fringe the ends of the paper or cut with pinking shears. Decorate with greenery, or sequins, paper doilies, feathers, etc.



**Santa Claus is Coming to Town!**

Your patronage is the foundation of our business and for that we say a very sincere, 'thank you.' Have a terrific holiday!

**PAYMASTER GIN**

**Season's Best**

May you find the inner peace and spiritual renewal which are the true gifts of Christmas.

**CAPROCK PLAINS  
 FEDERAL LAND BANK**

Floydada, Texas



### Club Enjoys Christmas Luncheon

The March of Time Study Club went to Plainview for an enjoyable Christmas luncheon at the Far East Restaurant.

Those attending were Jackie Mercer, Jewell Lyon, Jessie Mae Watson, Pauline Turner and Luree Burson.



Mrs. Ollie McMinn had all her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her son and his wife for a pre-Christmas dinner Sunday. All of the family except Fayree and Melvin Watkins was present.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Travis McMinn, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley McMinn and Kelsey, Mr. and Mrs. Richie Hubbard, Brian and Brent, all of Lubbock; Melanie Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Shoemaker, Todd and Mathew, all of Amarillo.

All had a wonderful day with much food and the exchange of Christmas gifts. The group from Amarillo attended church services with Mrs. McMinn, and it was a joy for her to be able to fill a pew. The Lubbock group was at her home when they returned from church.

All the grandchildren used to spent part of their summers with Mrs. McMinn when they were small, but this was the first time she had enjoyed having all of them at the same time since they've been grown and with children of their own. She said it was just like heaven to her.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Cantwell were in Canyon on December 18 to attend the Fall Commencement of West Texas State University. Their son, Roger, received a bachelor of science degree from the College of Agriculture. Roger is a 1981 graduate of Silverton High

School, where he received the Wood Memorial Scholarship. He is married to the former Shannon Swift and they have a two-year-old son, Devin.

On Saturday, December 20, the Cantwells attended the Texas Tech University Commencement in Lubbock. Their son-in-law, Jackie Gaskins, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science in education degree. He is a graduate of Lockney High School and TSTI, and is married to the former Brenda Cantwell.

The descendants of Alva and Willie Mae Davis had their annual reunion in the home of John and Maebelle Francis Saturday, December 20. Fellowship, laughs, picture taking, eating, games and exchanging of "white elephants" was enjoyed by all. Those in attendance were Nora Errington and Bill Branum, Durwood and Joyce Lewis, Corky and Doris Davis, Scott, Sonna, Shelby and Shatt Davis, Rose and Delton Fisher, Krissy Gilley, Jan, Earl and Cari Van Hoose, Gary, Lori, Page, Leah and Cara House, James, Lesa, Jonathan and Angela Johnson, Dave Francis, Lola Middleton and the hosts.

Enjoying an early Christmas dinner with the Vinson Smiths were his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Zimmell of Lignite, North Dakota; his niece, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Grim and Bobby of Dallas; his brother, J. B. Smith of Lubbock; Catherine Huntman of Hale Center; and their sons, Jim Smith and family, Monte, Linda and Angie Smith and two friends, all of Amarillo.

The Zimmells and Grims came Friday and left Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Olive of Petersburg visited Betty Olive Saturday.

The Navajo language was used successfully as a code by the U. S. during World War II.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enclosed is a check for renewal of paper subscription. Sorry it's late and hope it's correct amount. If it's more, please let us know. We enjoy the paper very much.

Hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a more prosperous New Year for us all.

Laudry Womack

great trunk of a large tree ceremoniously hauled in with the youngest member of the party astride the log as the Yule sprite. A piece of wood carefully saved from last year's log was now used to light the new Yule log. It was thought this would ensure the households fortune during the coming year.

### Yule Log of Yore

One of the main ceremonies at the medieval English castle was the lighting of the Yule log. The Yule log dates back to the time of the Saxons and Goths who burned a log at their winter solstice festival. The Yule log was often a

### Why Does The Christmas Story Never Grow Old?

Why does the world never tire of the Christmas Story? Why do the children's eyes glow as they re-enact the manger scene? Why do parents never get bored with

the same skit seeing their little "angel" or "shepherd" give adoration to the Babe? Why? Because the Star of the Show brings new miracles again each year! He brought us, first of all, the miracle of our own life—each of us is a separate identity. Then, He added to that the miracle of forgiveness—the forgiveness He gives and the forgiving hearts we each can have for one another. And not only that, but He gave us the miracle of changing our lives, giving us new hearts and most of all the miracle of a chance to live forever. Christmas is a time of miracles—miracles that keep happening because the Star ever lives—ever gives to us all what He knows is best!

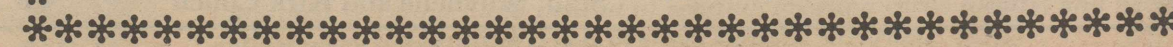


# Rejoice

May your happiness be so great that you treasure forever the many wondrous memories of this Christmas and all its joys.

## VERLIN B. TOWE, Inc.

Verlin and Addlene Towe Jay, Patsy, Julie and Braden Towe



## Blessings



...for a holiday season filled with happiness and good cheer!

### Mary John's Flowers & Gifts

## Mrs. Nance's Kindergarten Students Write Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,  
I want a bike and a tri-four.  
And I want a little ball and a bear.

Love,  
Vince

Dear Santa,  
I want apples and oranges. I want a turkey for dinner. And eggs.

Love,  
Jr.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Care Bear. And I Love You. I want a swing set. And I want a big car for us. You can just drive it down here. And I want some glue and stickers. And I want some grapes.

Love,  
Amanda

Dear Santa,  
I want new clothes, and a Baby Careful. And I want Rudolph. And some new crayons and a color book. I want a doll house and a unicorn.

Love,  
Celeste

Dear Santa,  
I want a bear and a teddy bear. And that's all. I love you.

Debbie

Dear Santa,  
I want a Christmas Tree and a house. I want a truck.

Love,  
Juan Palasie

Dear Santa,  
I want a electric cash register. I love you.

Matt

Dear Santa,  
I want a He Mans Quick Draw Deputy and a metropolplex and constrict decon.

Love,  
Lorn

Dear Santa,  
I want a sled and some clothes. I want a basketball and a doll that talks. Maybe a baby bird.

That's all.  
Love,  
Lindsey

Dear Santa,  
I want Rambo. Say "Hi" to Rudolph.

Love,  
Paul

Dear Santa,  
I want a train set. I want a bow and arrow and a stomper. I love you and I love Rudolph, too. Tell Rudolph "Hi".

Love,  
Bobby

Dear Santa,  
I want a bike. I want a My-Little-Pony, and a big trampoline, and a Kitty Cat. And I want a slide and a swing set. That's all.

Say "Hi" to Rudolph.

Love,  
Nesa

Dear Santa,  
Say hello to Rudolph for me. I'm sorry I couldn't see you at the courthouse.

I don't know what I want. I really want a computer. Mother's going to get us a TV.

I love you,  
Windy Wood

Dear Santa,  
I want a Cornsilk Cabbage Patch and a Keeper. I want a typewriter. That's all. I love you, Santa.

Lindsey Weaks

Dear Santa,  
I want a Thundercat Base and a GI Joe and House of Karate Kid. That's all.

Mickey Juarez

Dear Santa,  
I want a race car. I want a toy robot. I want Sticker for Christmas. That's all. And a Big Foot.

I like you,  
Donny Burson

Dear Santa,  
I want a new tape player with some new tapes and a basketball and that's all.

Thank you,  
Colter

Dear Santa,  
I want a Teddy-Rubskin. I want a Kermit Frog. I love you. How's Rudolph?

Holly Tiffin

Dear Santa,  
I want a race car, and a basketball, and a remote control dump truck. (Is that all I can get?)

I want an animal, those things Jeremy had. How do reindeers fly?

Thank you, Santa,  
Jared

Dear Santa,  
I want a 4 wheeler and a BB gun. What are you doing, Rudolph? That's all.

I love you,  
David

Dear Santa,  
I want some blocks and a workbench. I want a baseball bat. That's all.

I love you,  
Jeremy Holt

Dear Santa,  
My name is Misty. I would like a new basketball. I like Rudolph.

Misty Wilkinson

Dear Santa,  
I want you to tell Rudolph that I like him. I like you, too. I want a Babytalk and a computer and a

doll and a horse and a trampoline.

Dara Owayne Ramsey

### NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS— THE GREAT PRETENDERS

The holidays are here and it's time to prepare those holiday treats, meet with family and friends, and celebrate this festive season.

Good food and refreshments are a must for a party. Each year there are new and better drinks being created. This year "The Great Pretender" offers delicious non-alcoholic drinks that will make your mouth water.

Non-alcoholic drinks are now the "in-thing" and many famous bartenders are participating in contests to see who can make the most eye-pleasing, best tasting non-alcoholic drinks.

### THE GREAT PRETENDERS

The following receipes are some of the new "non-alcoholic" beverage ideas. Use these in place of alcoholic beverages and you can still be "the life of the party."

Hint: Simple Syrup . . . In saucepan, combine two cups sugar and one cup water. Bring to boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Boil gently for five minutes. Makes about two cups. Will keep six months in refrigerator.

Hint: A lemon peel twist likes company. Skewer it with a cherry.

### STRAWBERRY-ORANGE FROSTY

2 scoops crushed ice  
10 fresh or frozen strawberries  
4 oz. fresh squeezed orange juice  
1 oz. simple syrup  
•Combine in blender, blend until smooth.  
•Serve in 16 oz. glass.  
•Garnish with orange twist and strawberry.

### CITRUS COLLINS

•Fill 10 to 12 oz. glass with ice

cubes  
2 oz. fresh squeezed orange or grapefruit juice  
1 oz. fresh squeezed lemon juice  
1 oz. simple syrup  
•Fill with club soda  
•Garnish with 1/2 orange slice and cherry

### CRANBERRY-ORANGE NOG

1 scoop crushed ice  
2 oz. cranberry juice  
2 oz. fresh squeezed orange juice  
2 oz. cream or half & half  
1/2 oz. simple syrup  
1 whole egg  
•Combine in blender; blend until smooth  
•Serve in 12 oz. glass  
•Sprinkle with dash of cinnamon  
•Garnish with 1/2 orange slice

### RONDO FIZZ

1 scoop crushed ice  
2 oz. fresh squeezed orange juice  
1 oz. cream or half & half  
1/2 oz. simple syrup  
1 egg white  
•Combine in blender; blend until smooth  
•Serve in 12 oz. glass  
•Fill with club soda  
•Garnish with 1/2 orange slice  
Hint: Grapefruit for a garnish is great in a glass.

Equivalents: 1 scoop crushed ice = approximately 1/2 cup

1 oz. = 2 tbsp.

1/2 oz. = 1 tbsp.

1 medium lemon = approximately 1 1/2 oz. juice (3 tbsp.)

1 medium orange = approximately 3 oz. juice (1/3 cup)

1 medium grapefruit = approximately 6 oz. juice (2/3 cup)

### BANANA FLIP

1 scoop crushed ice  
1/2 small banana  
1 1/2 oz. cream or half & half  
1 oz. fresh squeezed orange juice  
1/2 oz. simple syrup  
•Combine in blender; blend until smooth  
•Serve in 8 oz. glass  
•Garnish with orange wedge, banana chunk and mint

### PINK GRAPEFRUIT FIZZ

1 scoop crushed ice  
3 oz. fresh squeezed grapefruit juice  
1 oz. grenadine syrup  
1 oz. simple syrup  
1 oz. cream or half & half  
1 egg white  
•Combine in blender; blend until smooth  
•Serve in 15 oz. glass  
•Fill with club soda  
•Garnish with grapefruit wedge and mint

### SALTY PUPPY

•Salt rim of 9 oz. glass  
•Fill glass with 1 scoop crushed ice  
3 oz. fresh squeezed grapefruit juice  
Splash club soda  
•Garnish with grapefruit wedge and mint

### TOMATO BULL

•Salt rim of 10 oz. glass  
•Fill glass with ice cubes  
•Squeeze and drop in 1 fresh lemon wedge  
•Squeeze and drop in 1 fresh lime wedge  
•Fill with Bloody Mary mix  
•Garnish with celery stick

### SPARKLING SIPPER

•Fill 12 to 13 oz. glass with ice cubes  
1/2 oz. simple syrup  
•Squeeze and drop in 1 or 2 fresh lemon wedges  
•Fill with sparkling mineral water

"Virtue consists, not in abstaining from vice, but in not desiring it."

George Bernard Shaw



Lots of laughter, lots of cheer, that's our wish for Christmas and New Year to all our good friends and patrons. We enjoyed serving you and look forward to seeing you soon.

## CAPROCK FOOD

Stan, Waynelle and Kirk Couch

### Dear Santa . . .

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a barbie doll, a house for my little pony and a baby doll. Please bring my sister, Lori, a doll and a piano. We will leave you some milk and cookies. Please bring Papa, Granny, Andma and Andad a surprise.  
I love you,  
Taylor Griffin

Dear Santa,  
My name is Brandi. I am three years old. This is what I want for Christmas. I want a bicycle with training wheels, a shopping cart, a guitar and some other stuff, too.  
I love you, Santa,  
Brandi Rice

Dear Santa,  
I wrote this letter by myself. What I want for Christmas. I want a bubble mower, golf cart, the wheel, teeter totter, jumbo hden slide, baseball kid set, karate costume, chemistry set, rock tumbler, mocatroee car, g.i. joe, u.s.s. flagg, ninja costume, rambo costume, kids locker, basketball set, and a walkey

talkey.  
Your friend,  
Justin

Dear Santa,  
What I want for christmas. Is a baby talk, bounky brester doll, barby doll, toy speed boat, get in shape girl set, pepsi dispenser, vacuum set, popples, fun sweeper, car set, boxer costume, rocket loncher.

Your friend,  
Jennefer

Dear Santa,  
I want a Cabbage Patch Doll and a Pound Puppy.  
How are you? How are your elves doing? Dear Santa and I want three little cars for my brother. And he loves tractors and a trailer and a barn with some cows. My little brother can say tractor. I hope you like the sandwich I fixed you. My little brother just started to say cows.

Love,  
Lisa Comer  
Age 5  
P. S. We will leave some hay for your reindeers.

Dear Santa,  
Bring me a toy . . . a motorcycle, a Ken, my friend. I'd

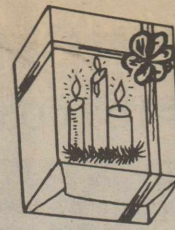
like all the toys.  
Richie Freddie Hill

Dear Santa Claus,  
How's life at the North Pole?  
I would like a slot machine, Snake Mountain, a crane, and a backhoe that I can ride all around the backyard.

Is everything all right at the North Pole? I hope the reindeer are fine and the machines aren't broken down.  
Love,  
Marshall

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby stoller and skating doll and baby bed and tennis shoes and shirt and pants and stove and play dishes.  
Lana Payne

**"It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."**  
Charles Haddon



### Inexpensive But Special Wrapping Paper

Buy a big roll of inexpensive shelf paper (not the plastic-coated type). Stick on Christmas seals or decorate with magic markers, or old Christmas card cut-outs can be attached.

### Cookie Ornaments

Place cookie cutters on stiff paper or cardboard and trace around these shapes. Cut out the center of the shape so that you have a frame. Paste colored cellophane on the back of the frame. Make a loop at the top and tie

to the tree or greenery.

### Boar's Head Ceremony

In old medieval England Christmas paintings, one sees a boar's head carried on a silver platter. After the invited guests who came to the castle were seated at the table a trumpet was blown—this was the signal to begin the Boar's Head ceremony.

It was dangerous to travel by foot through thick forests with the vicious boar attacks. Thus it was that the procession carrying the boar's head signified a victory over evil. The boar was their enemy.

The trumpeter, torchbearers, pages, heralds and two minstrels carrying the trophy made quite a procession. The minstrels placed the boar's head before the host with great flourish. Then the servants and guests joined in singing the "Boar's Head Carol."

## Glad Tidings

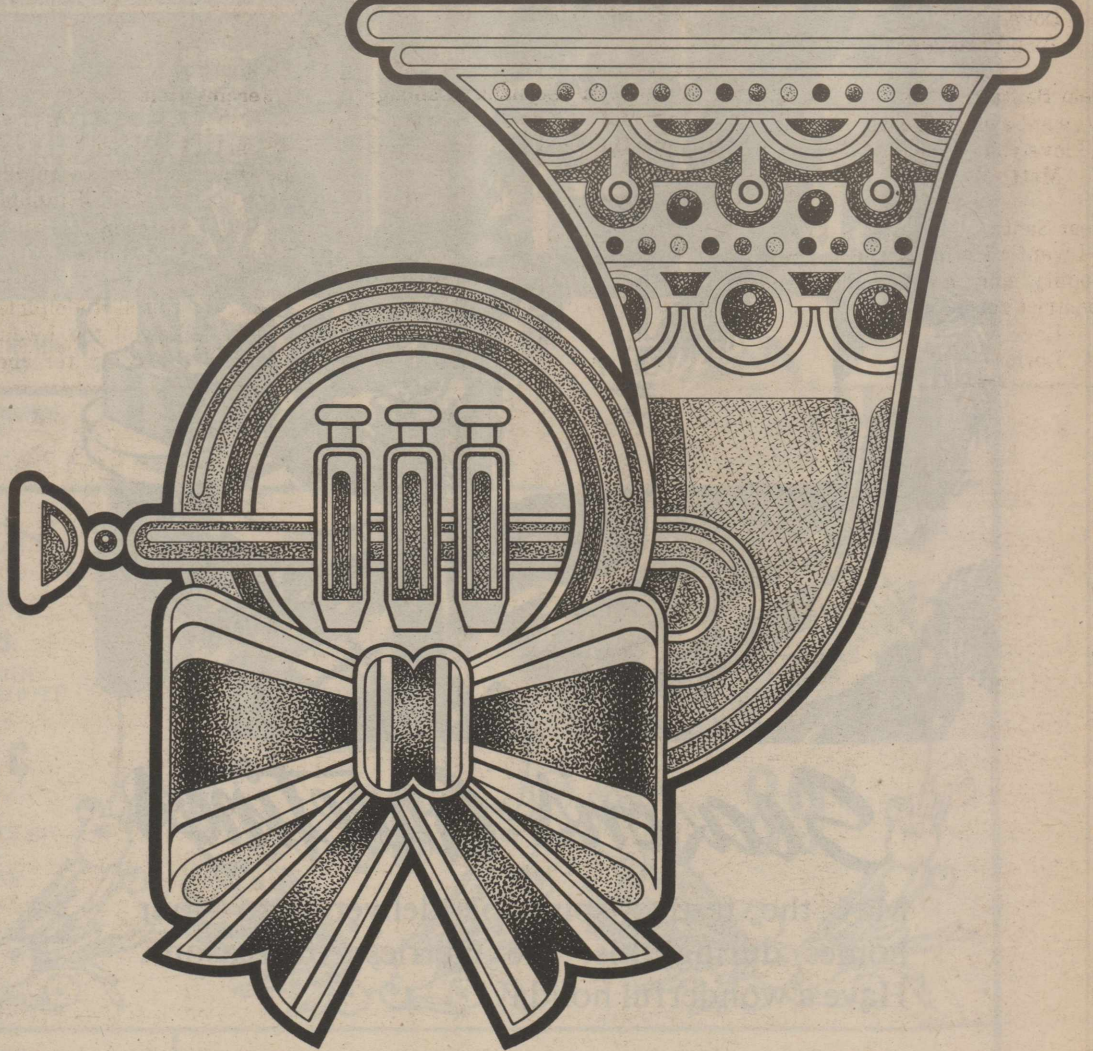


Wishing you love, happiness, peace and joy throughout the Holiday Season. Merry Christmas to all.

**SHEAR DELIGHT  
BEAUTY SALON**

SHIRLEY HENDERSON AND FAMILY

# NOEL



Your patronage has been a source of pride and happiness for us. Many thanks and a very Merry Christmas.

**JERRY'S MALT SHOP**

# GREAT MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

## RIDING THE RAILS TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

History is a splendid teacher. Patrick Henry recognized that and urged the founders of the new American government to learn from the mistakes of established nations and avoid repeating them. He said "I know no way of judging the future but by the past."

Today, many people feel that Congress should re-examine the mistake-ridden history of rail regulation and resist current pressures to re-regulate America's freight railroads.

Before 1980, the continued existence of our rail system was threatened. Debilitating regulatory measures prevented the railroads from functioning like other American businesses. Both profits and share of freight traffic declined steadily because restrictive regulation thwarted



efforts to compete in terms of prices and services.

In the 1970's more than 20 percent of our rail system was operating in bankruptcy; 43,000 miles of track were under speed restrictions; and industry return on investment sunk to 1.2 percent.

Recognizing that America needs healthy railroads, Congress acted. In 1980, the Staggers Rail Act lifted some of the most crippling regulations.

The remedy proved effective. With new freedom to market services and make contracts, railroad business increased. New investments produced improvements in service, and competition controlled prices more effectively than regulation had.

The majority of rail customers are pleased with regulatory reform. However, a few are pressuring Congress to reregulate the railroads. History shows this could jeopardize the future of the railroads and their customers.

For free brochures on this topic, write: Historical Perspective, Dept. NR, Association of American Railroads, 50 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Christmas. There may be "forgotten" friends and relatives, or you may wish to ask a nursing home if there are residents there with no one to share Christmas. Or you might like to contact your local churches who will probably be very happy to put you in touch with some known lonely ones.

State and county social services can often supply you with names.

Foreign students may be visiting colleges and universities near you.

You never know -- your Christmas new acquaintance may become your very best year-round friend.

### Christmas Bonus Bargains

The boss says the employees exercised such understanding about not getting a Christmas bonus last year that he's going to give them the chance to get more understanding this year!



The hairs on the back of a bee's legs serve to collect and transport pollen.

### New Christmas Acquaintances

The house can have the most beautiful decorations ever and Christmas dinner can be the most delicious ever, but the true magic of Christmas comes from sharing it with loved ones. Even though you may have many friends and family members to share Christmas with, the season can become even more special by making a welcome for a newcomer to your home. Yes, it will take extra time and effort -- maybe even some inconveniences but in exchange you can expect good feelings and happy memories. Welcoming someone new to your family's Christmas needs the endorsement of everyone in your home. If it's too hectic of a time at your house, you might like to try it at other times during the year.

The family members can have a "thinking session" to think of persons who might be lonely this



May the peace of this season enter your heart and home.

**RICK'S MUFFLER & SERVICE CENTER**  
Rick & Bena Hester & family



## Season's Greetings

May the festive spirit be delivered to your homes during this, the merriest of seasons. Have a wonderful holiday.

# GRABBE - SIMPSON MOTORS, INC.

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Joe Grabbe

H. B. Simpson

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## ENJOY COUNTRY INN "SPECIALS" AT HOME

Country inns are charming all year. But, they are especially inviting when the weather turns cold and people take to the roads in search of colorful fall scenery and quiet, winter weekends.

Country inns entice travelers with cozy surroundings, old-fashioned hospitality and warming, hearty food that combines the best of traditional country fare and an innkeeper's special touch.

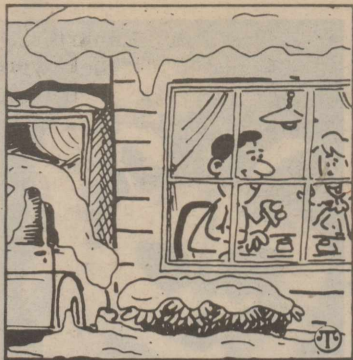
For the innkeepers discovered in a culinary search conducted by Smucker's, the "special touch" is the interesting flavor of fruit preserves. Innkeepers at three of the 22 fine inns featured in "Smucker's Best in American Country Inn Cooking" booklet surprise their guests with culinary treats like succulent Apricot Chicken, delicious Sweet and Sour Red Cabbage and fruity Woodford Pudding.

If you don't have the opportunity to visit an inn this fall, you can still treat your family to these delicious "house special" recipes from some of America's finest inns.

### APRICOT CHICKEN (Serves 6)

2 broiler-fryer chickens, about 3 pounds each  
1/4 cup melted butter or margarine

*Stuffing*  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 small onion, minced  
1/2 cup celery, minced  
1 cup apples, peeled and coarsely chopped  
1/2 cup chopped walnut pieces  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon sugar



4 cups corn bread stuffing  
1 cup water  
1/2 cup Smucker's Apricot Preserves

*Glaze*  
2 cups Smucker's Apricot Preserves  
1 cup apricot nectar

Preheat oven to 325°F.

To prepare stuffing, heat butter; add minced onion and celery; saute until onion is transparent. Add apples, walnuts, salt, pepper and sugar; mix thoroughly. Toss mixture together with corn bread stuffing and water. Heat and add 1/2 cup Smucker's Apricot Preserves. Spoon stuffing lightly into neck and body cavities; secure with poultry pins. Brush chickens with melted butter; place on a rack in large shallow pan. Roast, uncovered, for 2 hours or until chickens are tender.

Meanwhile, to make glaze, mix together 2 cups Apricot Preserves and apricot nectar. Remove chickens from oven and brush glaze generously over them. Roast chickens 10 minutes more. Serve immediately. Glaze spooned from bottom of roasting pan may be served in small bowl as an accompaniment.

### SWEET AND SOUR RED CABBAGE (Serves 6-8)

1 medium-size head of red cabbage, shredded  
1 apple, sliced thin without peeling  
1/2 cup water  
2 tablespoons cider vinegar  
2 tablespoons butter  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup Smucker's Concord Grape Jelly

Combine all ingredients in a 4-quart covered pot. Steam over medium heat about 5-7 minutes or until cabbage is just barely wilted. Toss before serving.

### WOODFORD PUDDING (Serves 6-8)

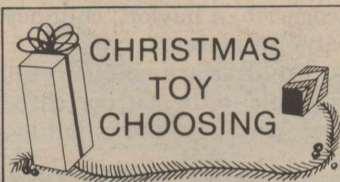
1/2 cup butter  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup Smucker's Black-berry Jam  
1/2 cup sour milk\*  
3 eggs, beaten

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Blend all ingredients. Bake in a 2-quart oven-proof casserole for 40 minutes or until lightly firm.

\*1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice or vinegar mixed with 1/2 cup milk may be substituted.

If you'd like to treat your family to more country inn delights, send 50¢ for postage and handling to: "Smucker's Best in American Country Inn Cooking" P.O. Box 388, Medina, OH 44258.



In choosing a toy for a certain child—the child asks only that it be "fun" to play with, but you will want it to be durable and most importantly—safe.

For safety's sake—check some guidelines:

1. Are there any springs or motors that could catch a child's fingers or hair?
2. Can glass or plastic parts be easily broken and cause cuts?

3. Are there any sharp points on the toy?

4. Does the toy have rough edges or unfinished surfaces that could cause harm?

5. Are there any small parts that a child could break off and swallow?

6. Is any part of the toy made of dangerous toxic substances?

7. Are eyes and ears, etc., of stuffed toys attached with spikes or pins that could harm if pulled out?

8. If it is an electric toy, does it have the Underwriters Laboratories label?

9. Will the toy tear apart easily—or is it constructed well?

### Children and Christmas Cookies

Children, as well as we grown-up children, love Christmas cookies—the more varieties, the merrier.

The family can have fun getting together with the children for a cookie bake. The secret ingredient for less hassle is to have the dough with all the dough rollers, cookie cutters, and decorations already prepared on the table so that little hands as well as big hands can get right into the fun-making.

### Whopper Wrapping

Wow! You have such a BIG gift to wrap. Where will you get

the paper? How about a Christmas paper tablecloth! Not only will it be easy to wrap but probably less expensive too. You might like to use leftover odds and ends of wallpaper for the smaller packages—especially some beautiful flocks or foils. Many wallpaper stores have old sample books to throw away when new designs arrive.

### Christmas Lighting Ideas

Rather than accept a sales pitch by a hurried holiday clerk, read the box label and tags attached to the string. Erratic lights can spoil your whole scene but most importantly they are extremely dangerous.

Buy individually lighted bulbs. If one bulb turns out, the others will still light.

It's smart to buy lights that have a safety fuse plug. If the circuit is overloaded, the fuse in the safety plug will blow instead of the main fuse.

For plastic trees, instead of the ceramic-coated bulbs or translucent bulbs, get the "optic sprays." They have tiny hairlike strands which contain no electricity but pick up light from below.

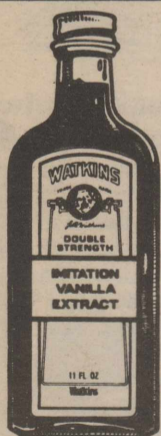
The palm tree gets its name from the type of palm that has blades that fan out, resembling the palm and fingers of a hand.

# JOY TO ALL

From all of us to all of you, a wish for a season that's truly joyful!



## GARVIN OIL COMPANY



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2 oz. \$2.59

### WHITE VANILLA

Same good flavor. Will not change the color of white cakes, frostings, toppings and candies.

11 oz. \$4.99  
2 oz. \$2.59

BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS  
Silvertown, Texas

# Raccoons Can Rob Your Sight

By Alton Blakeslee  
*Science Editor, Ret., Associated Press*

Be wary of those oh-so-smart raccoons because they can unwittingly sabotage your eyes, a scientist told a Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) seminar.

With their cunning brains and nimble hands, raccoons can goop up many human affairs, including raiding garbage cans despite "secure" lids. Sometimes adopted as appealing pets, one reportedly turned on all water faucets at his house, another painted rugs and furniture with mustard filched from the refrigerator.

But raccoons are also carriers of roundworm eggs that can seriously damage human eyes, and even kill, said Dr. Lawrence A. Raymond of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He described a medical detective story to Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), the world's leading voluntary organization in support of eye re-

search.

Raccoons are often infected with a species of roundworm that rarely harms the raccoon. But they excrete live roundworm eggs in their feces. If transmitted to humans or animals, the eggs hatch into larvae, or tiny worms the size of a pinhead.

Invading the eye, the worm burrows and makes tracks

through the retina, the "screen" of the eye. The tracks, which can be seen under microscope, can damage central vision, night and side vision.

Dr. Raymond spotted such a worm, and its tracks, in the retina of a 13-year-old girl who had acquired a pet raccoon only six weeks earlier. He zapped the worm with a laser, the first such case in history.

Just one or two worms can invade the eye. Bigger invasions strike into the brain. Investigators have retrieved roundworm eggs from firewood, wood chips, grass, a corncrib, a hayloft, chimneys and fireplaces.

Children are especially vulnerable to the raccoon threat because they tend to put into

their mouths their dirty hands or objects possibly contaminated with the eggs.



Don't let children or household pets go to places where raccoons have nested, experts advise.

Raccoons roam widely and abundantly in this country, Dr. Raymond said, and by one estimate, some 2 million are hunted or trapped each year. He quoted Dr. Kevin R. Kazacos, Purdue University veterinarian, as saying up to 70 percent of raccoons in vari-

ous areas are infected with roundworms, and that infected raccoons "are found as often in urban as rural localities."

No drugs exist yet to treat the roundworm eye disease, Dr. Raymond said. The defense: Wash hands for 30 seconds on coming indoors. Wear gloves for gardening. Cover children's sandboxes when not in use. Cover outdoor woodpiles. If you want to keep a pet raccoon, have a vet deworm it regularly.

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) supports scientific research into the causes, treatment and prevention of all blinding diseases. RPB headquarters are at 598 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Asteroids have become objects of increased interest over the past decade, partly because they are relatively primitive bodies carrying clues to the formation and evolution of the solar system.



# Bright Wishes

...for the warmest of holidays filled with radiant good cheer to all  
**Happy Holidays!**

## FLEMING WELL SERVICE

Leo and Peggy Fleming

# Season's Greetings



To one and all - the best of Christmas gifts - love and joy wrapped and tied with sparkling ribbons of good cheer.

## Silverton Auto Parts

H. A. and Jo Cagle  
Fred, Pat, Tammi and Neal Edwards

# CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

## CHOOSING A DIAMOND

By Lloyd Jaffe, Chairman  
American Diamond Industry  
Association (ADIA)

A diamond is a diamond is a...? No, unlike the popular saying about roses, each diamond is unique and must be chosen with care, as many holiday shoppers are discovering.

Characteristics known as the "Four C's" of diamonds give each polished diamond

distinctive luxurious qualities:

**CUT:** The shape of the diamond (round, oval, emerald cut, heart, marquise, pear-shape) is a matter of personal taste. A fully cut diamond has 58 facets so carefully placed they maximize the "fire" in the stone.

**CARAT:** The weight of a stone has a lot to do with its ultimate value. A carat is

roughly equivalent to one-fifth of a gram.

In 1985, over 17 million pieces of diamond jewelry were sold in the United States for a combined dollar value of over \$8 billion and many of those sales were generated during the pre-holiday rush. With the allowance of sales tax deductions through the end of 1986—the new tax laws prohibit deducting major purchase sales tax in 1987—there is added incentive for Americans to purchase luxury durable goods such as diamonds.



Jaffe

Friendly  
christmas  
greetings



And thanks for everything.

## Johnson's Gin

Rex, Dorothy, Iva June  
Derrel and Dixie



When shopping for a diamond, consider the "Four C's": cut, carat, clarity, color.

**CLARITY:** The imperfections in a stone can make the difference between a quality stone and a flawed one. The fewer the flaws, the better the diamond.

**COLOR:** Diamonds come in a variety of colors ranging from colorless to deep yellows. Extremely rare are shades of pink and deep blue.

Adornment, love, prestige, pride and the desire to have something that's one of a

## Abe Lincoln's Favorite Christmas Cake

The Polish "Gingerbread Layer Cake" is said to be Abraham Lincoln's favorite Christmas cake. An American version is:

### Gingerbread Layer Cake

- 1 cup honey
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves

Heat above ingredients together in small saucepan. Bring to boil. Remove from heat and cool.

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 salt

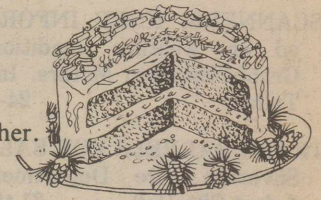
Sift the above dry ingredients together.

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine

Cream the brown sugar and butter in a large mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Then, using high speed of electric beater, gradually beat the honey mixture into the butter mixture.

Add and mix thoroughly 1/2 tsp. lemon peel, grated, and 1 egg. Add 1 1/4 cups buttermilk and the flour mixture alternately to the butter mixture. Stir well after each addition.

Grease and lightly flour two 8 x 1/2" cake pans. Bake 350°, 30-35 min. Cool in pans 10 min. Turn out on rack and completely cool.



### Topping

- 1 1/2 cups whipping cream
- 1 tbsp. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. orange peel, shredded
- 1 sq. (1 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate, grated into curls

Whip cream with sugar until soft peaks are formed. Just before serving spread the bottom layer with half the whipped cream. Sprinkle with half the chocolate and half the orange peel. Place the top cake layer on top; spread with the remaining whipped cream, chocolate and orange peel.

kind: these have been prime motives for buying, owning and giving diamonds for over 2,700 years. They are good reasons for choosing a fine diamond this year as well.

The American Diamond Industry Association represents cutters, importers, dealers and distributors in this country.

flanked the scene.

On December 17, a day honoring the Virgin of Solitude, customers buy a plate of puffy anise-flavored doughnuts called "Bunuelos," and smash the plate on the ground when they have finished.

## Christmas Cupcake Messages

Bake a batch of cupcakes for your neighbor, your child's teacher, etc. Frost and put an "N" atop one cupcake, an "O" atop another, etc. until they spell out "N-O-E-L," "M-E-R-R-Y C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S" or whatever message you would like to give. You might wish to use green cupcake paper cups and red letters, etc.

## Ecuadorian Christmas Tradition

The "Pesebre" or Holy Family and angel had a place of honor in the humblest hut or most beautiful hacienda in Ecuador. The figures were usually made of decorated bread dough. Candles

# Noel

Let us all rejoice in the glow of a warm and loving Christmas season. We thank you for your patronage.



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Ronnie and Cora Chestnut and boys  
Ashel and Mildred McDaniel  
Ted and Ruby Hester

PLAY IT SMART... GET INTO  
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**TRASH BARRELS FOR SALE:** Silvertown Fire Department. Ask at City Hall. 31-tfc

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**AT MARY JOHN'S: FRESH** Christmas Greenery—Holly, Spruce, Princess Pine and Cedar. 51-2tc

*Tiffin Talk*

**END-OF-YEAR CLEARANCE.** Savings up to 50%. Starts Monday, December 29, 9:00 a.m. Tiffin Dept. Store. 52-1tc

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**AT MARY JOHN'S: Christmas Sale—1/3 off** all stuffed toys, baskets and jewelry. 51-2tc

**Services**

**COTTAGE QUILT AND GIFT** Shop at my home 1 1/2 miles north of San Jacinto School. Mrs. Dallas Culwell. 44-10tc

**TREE AND HEDGE TRIMMING.** Emert's Nursery & Tree Service, 823-2567, after 6:00 p.m. 40-tfc

**GERMANIA INSURANCE:** Sound. Safe. If you want to save, call: Lee's Insurance, 806 469-5370, Flomot, Texas. 46-10tp

**IS SOMEONE'S DRINKING** causing you a problem? Call Al-Anon, 823-2160. 30-tfc

**SINGER SEWING MACHINES,** Vacuum Cleaners, Smith Corona Typewriters, Adding Machines, Kirby Sales and Service. Buy here, service here. Call in Silvertown, 823-2333. Office located at 620 Noel in Memphis, 259-2716. Here every two weeks on Thursdays. 21-tfc

**PET GROOMING IN TULIA.** Call Paw Patch Pet Grooming for an appointment, 995-3234. 47-6tc

**EX-CUB SCOUTS WHO HAVE** used shirts they would like to sell are asked to contact Mary Ivory at 847-2512. 51-tfc

**Real Estate**

**VERY NICE SMALL TWO** Bedroom house with Garage For Sale. Excellent Location. Call 823-2509. 50-tfc

**TWO BEDROOM HOME FOR** Sale in Silvertown. Has cellar, separate garage. 847-2580, Barry Francis. 48-tfc

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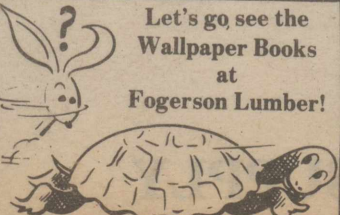
**BRICK HOME FOR SALE OR** Rent: Three bedrooms, two baths, utility and basement. Gene Whitfill, 864-3434. 32-tfc

**THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE** For Sale. Two full baths, lots of storage. \$10,000. 706 Main. Call 823-2108. 36-tfc

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Let's go see the Wallpaper Books at Fogerson Lumber!



**Cards of Thanks**

Dear friends,  
How can we say thank-you in an appropriate way when there just aren't words to express how much we appreciate the prayers, love, cards, flowers, visits, food and words of encouragement. We could not have made it the past months without the love and support of all our friends and loved ones.

A special thanks to everyone who helped with the children! We love you.

May God bless and keep you. Bill, Matt and Kassie Strange Harold and Dora Storie Norman and Peggy Strange Gary, Kena, Crystal and Nevin Storie Debbie and Terry Davis Max, Kay, Walt and Cody Garrison Bill, Diana, Bryan and Ty Wood

**Christmas Gift Cues**

Make notes during the year as to the type of Christmas present you could get for certain people. Ah, ha! Mable's always having trouble finding her car keys—I'll get her a big ring she can slip around her wrist. Or when you discover something especially handy that you are using for the kitchen, etc., think: I'd like to give Aunt Betsy one of those, too.

**Christmas Collections**

Do you know someone who collects stamps, or matchbooks? Keep a box handy to put these things into for next Christmas. An office-worker could save you foreign or unusual American stamps.

**More Play Fun**

Check with your local cabinet shop or other construction workers and collect small wooden blocks. Sand these and stack them in a pretty Christmas box. Children from age 2 to 12 will have more fun with these than they would with expensive gifts. They will make forts, bridges, tunnels, garages, skyscrapers, barns and houses galore!

**WATKINS ROOM FRESHENERS.** Get rid of stale odors and bring a fresh fragrance of Apple Pie, Cinnamon, Cranberry, Vanilla, Spice, Gingerbread, Fresh Air. \$3.29 each. Briscoe County News.

**Winter Weeds & Wheat \$2.50 Per Acre**  
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