



Vol. X No. 6

Week of December 23, thru December 30, 1986

EL EDITOR



Have A Blessed Christmas

Nuestros empleados y sus familias le desean

-FELIZ- NAVIDAD



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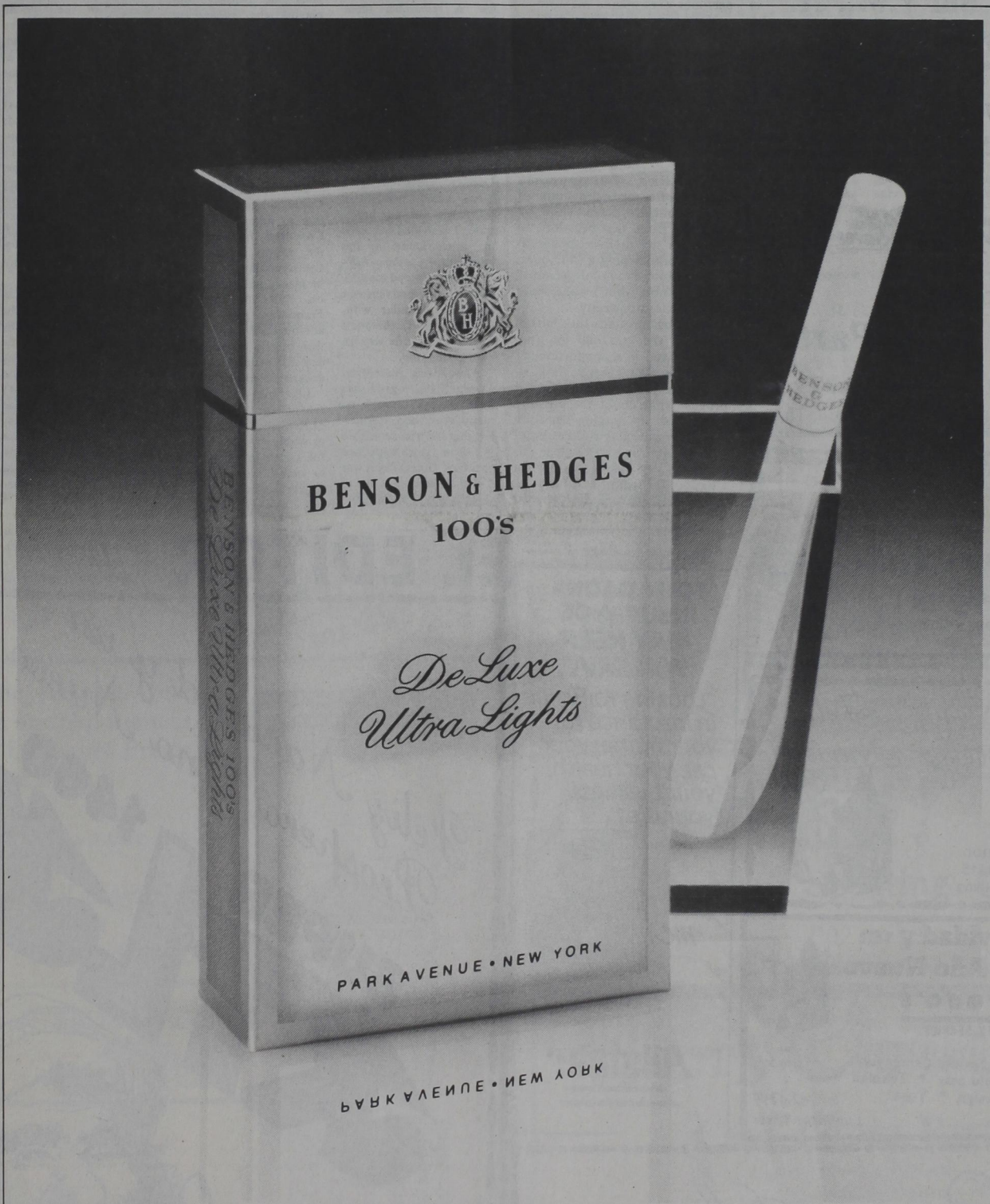
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Feeding The Camels of The Three Wise Men

By Julio Ojeda
At age 6, this Puerto Rican kid was in materialistic, consumeristic heaven. After Santa bargared me with toys on Christmas morning, I could count on los Tres Reyes Magos - The Three Kings - to unleash a second torrent on Jan. 6.

All that the reyes asked in return was a plate of cookies, three glasses of milk and - this was the most important part - three show boxes full of grass for the camels.

At age 8, I suffered double heartbreak. Santa was exposed as a transparent phony, and the kings were also revealed as a trio of fakers. What a revelation: my parents had purchased the gifts at the mall.

But a mystery remained. Though I could imagine Mom and Dad munching the cookies and drinking the milk, I had considerable difficulty picturing them with grass in their mouths.

At age 9, I realized with a certain adult pride that I would no longer have to venture out, shoe box in hand, to pluck grass from the neighbor's lawn. Such childish pastimes were behind me now.

Not so fast, said Mom. "If you want to find any presents next to your bed tomorrow, you better get grass for the camels."

"But, Mom," I replied, "there are no camels."

"You heard me," Mom said, handing me a shoe box. My mother, the extortionist.

At age 19, home in Santurce, Puerto Rico, for Christmas vacation after my first semester of college-cooked dorm food, I emerged from my bedroom to encounter my mother approaching and brandishing a shoe box.

"But Mom, I'm in college now." "You know what I want," said the extortionist sweetly.

Shulking around the bushes next to the parking lot (my parents lived in a condo now), I cursed my mother's holiday obsession. What was she trying to prove? What could she possibly accomplish by making her fully grown son pick at grass like a cow?

Now I am 23, out of college and reporting for a newspaper in Chicago, far from Santurce.

The other morning, I awakened with a strange longing to hear aquinaldos, the music sung by

Continue on Page 7

Cuitla's

Christmas Gift

By José Antonio Burciaga

I almost didn't get this story. I was searching for one or two obscure Mexican legends on the poinsettia flower. One of them I remember filing away years ago, but my files have since swallowed it completely - the fate of many legends.

With the help of three librarians, I combed the two main Stanford University libraries. I recruited the aid of an anthropology professor who specializes in Aztec culture. I called the Redwood City library nearby and the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, as well as a friend who works in the library of the University of Texas, El Paso. All to no avail.

Hispanic Link News Service editor Charlie Erickson even tried the Library of Congress for me. A researcher there wasn't able to find anything, either, but he suggested contacting the American Poinsettia Association in Mission, Texas.

Without the least bit of faith, I decided to exhaust my last lead and call the association. Mrs. Maurine Duncan answered. Her Texas accent brought a nostalgia for my home state. I provided her with the Aztec name for the poinsettia - *Cuitalxochitl* - and she provided me with a couple of legends she was somewhat familiar with.

Neither was like the one I had lost, but one was an even better story. According to Mrs. Duncan, the legend has been filtered through so many years and storytellers that the true details are lost. Some say it happened to a boy. Others say it was a girl. Personally, I like to think it was a little girl and that her name was Cuitla.

With full creative license, this is the story of Cuitla's Christmas gift, based on the brief account Mrs. Duncan gave me:

It happened in Mexico, in a small Indian village. Cuitla came from a humble but proud and devoutly Catholic family. Christmas was nearing and she wanted badly to give the Baby Jesus a gift, but there was no money and very little of anything in her home. She decided then that when Christmas day came, she would pick a bouquet of flowers along the way to the Mission Church and give it to the Baby Jesus.

Everyone in the village looked forward to Christmas day. All would go to Mass, pray, and sing *Las Mañanitas*, an ancient but popular Mexican birthday song. The local musicians would accompany the carolers, one playing the guitar, the other a violin.

The whole town would be there. A long procession would form inside the church as each one edged toward the front railing of the altar, kneeling before the beautiful Nativity scene and kissing the feet of the Baby Jesus.

Days before Christmas, Cuitla had gone to church just to admire the little Christmas figurines and the empty manger. On Christmas day Jesus would be placed in his crib. And on Jan. 6, the old Franciscan priest would add the three wisemen and their camels. It was on that day that people in Mexico exchanged gifts.

Like everyone else in that village, Cuitla didn't expect much. Her parents probably would borrow for a little sugar and milk to make *caramelo* candy for their children.

It was the spirit of



Christmas

Christmas that fascinated and inspired Cuitla to give, not receive.

Christmas day came. Cuitla awakened with a beautiful felling. She dressed quickly and tiptoed across the dirt floor and opened the splintered front door. As she walked into the crisp morning, she thought of the colorful flowers to be picked. Then she looked down the road. There were no flowers at that time of year, she realized.

Cuitla walked past countless clumps of weeds and odd-shaped plants. She detoured around the few streets in the village, hoping but finding nothing. Then a single large plant with limp green leaves caught her eye. It had tiny yellow buds. It was more of a weed, but it would have to do.

She picked some of its stalks and walked to the cold church with its many burning candles. At the foot of the altar railing others were crowded around the Nativity scene. Sad because she had no flowers for the Baby Jesus, Cuitla stood in line with her handful of weeds.

When she saw the manger, her down-turned mouth reformed into a smile. The Baby Jesus was even more beautiful than she remembered from the year before.

Cuitla kissed the feet of

the Baby Jesus and automatically made the sign of the cross. She placed the weeds on the side and began fantasizing that she was witnessing the birth of Jesus Christ. Cuitla thought of the bleating sound of the sheep, the curious shepherds, the joy of being a mother and a silent St. Joseph.

Then the top leaves of Cuitla's plant turned scarlet red. They formed a beautiful flower.

The flower became known as *Cuitalxochitl* - *xochitl* being the Nahuatl word for flower. In Spanish it became known as *La Pastora Roja* - the red shepherdess; and *La Flor de Nochebuena* - the flower of the Good Night; *La Pastora Roja* - the red shepherdess; and *La flor de Fuego* - the flaming flower.

In 1828, Joel R. Poinsett, of Charleston, South Carolina, the United States Minister to Mexico, introduced the flower to this country and it became known as the poinsettia.

Whatever the name, I'm sure Cuitla would be thrilled at its popularity every Christmas - and the fact that this year it is commemorated on a U.S. Christmas stamp.

(José Antonio Burciaga, of Stanford, California is a writer and an artist.)
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EL EDITOR

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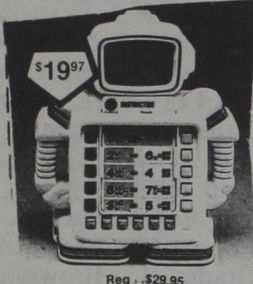
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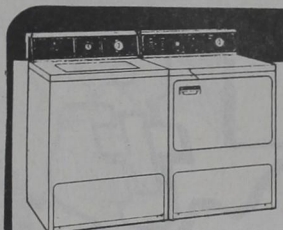
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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year El Origen de Pancho Clos

Pancho Clos y Santa Claus son primos, carnales. El siguiente relato, lo hago con dos propósitos. El primero, es con el fin de definir un ramo sobresaliente del árbol genealógico de Pancho Clos, mientras el siguiente lo hago con el propósito de aclarar de una vez y por todas, la contraversia popular que existe entre estos dos personajes. El padre de Pancho Clos y el de Santa Claus eran hermanos. Eran hijos del Original Santa Claus viejo. Cuando su padre murió, sofocado en la ceniza de una chimenea, le siguió su hijo mayor, Santa Claus No. 1, el Santa No. 2, tenía el trabajo de ayudar a su hermano mayor. Y con todo los hermanos mayores, llegó a depender en Santa No. 2, tenía el trabajo de ayudar a su hermano mayor. Y como todos los hermanos mayores, llegó a depender en Santa No. 2 para que le hiciera todo su trabajo. Mientras que él se la pasaba haciendo monos de nieve y paseándose en su guayin, el pobre de Santa No. 2 partía la leña, cuidaba los venados, envolvía los regalos para repartir a los niños y hasta tenía que ir con su hermano mayor a distribuirlos en Navidad, mientras que Santa No. 1 lo esperaba fuera y se quejaba de no encontrar Parking space.

Un día Santa No. 2 ya no aguantó más, y en seguida le dice a su hermano: ¿sabes qué? Que ya me cansé de ser tu Flunkie, o tu "puerquito", pues ahorita mismo me largo y me voy a poner mi Santa Land en otra parte. Al fin y al cabo que yo donde quiera lavo, plancho y saco mis garritas al sol.

Santa Claus No. 1, no dijo nada por un rato. Luego se rio con esa risa tan popular de él, y dijo: "Pues para que veas que yo no esto enojado contigo, hasta te voy a cantar una canción de despedida." Pues nada, que no alcanzó a acabar de decir canción, cuando empezó el mariachi "Santa's Helpers" a tocar el acompañamiento. Le cantaron "Te vas porque yo quiero que te vayas" y "Que seas feliz".

Por fin, se fue el hermano de Santa Claus y no se detuvo hasta llegar al Polo Sur. El primer año, extraño mucho a los niños a quien le ayudaba a su hermano a entregar los regalos. Como no sabía hablar español, consiguió a una persona que le enseñara el idioma. Fue en esta forma como llegó a conocer a "Pura Nieves" a quien luego hizo su esposa y más tarde tuvieron un hijo a quien le llamaron "Pancho." Esta familia entonces consistía de Santa Claus

No. 2 (hermano de Santa Claus No. 1), Pancho Claus (hijo) y Pura Claus, "Puri Clos" le decía Santa.

Un día, Santa Claus No. 2 decidió ir a visitar Santa No. 1 que se había quedado en el Polo Norte sin saber que en ese mismo momento, su hermano ya venía en camino a visitarlo. Se encontraron en el viento y se pararon a platicar, sin saber que el "Apollo 13" venía de regreso a la tierra en ese mismo momento.

Fue un acontecimiento bastante trágico. Las noticias de este grave acontecimiento, no se publicaron, porque eso podría dañar el programa espacial (space effort). Los restos de los dos Santas fueron llevados a una isla que le nombraron "Christmas Island." Está situada cerca de "Easter Island" donde fue sepultada la Coneja.

Si, la coneja que fue la Coneja Original, fue sepultada en Easter Island. Sabes que cuando la Gallinas se dieron cuenta que la Coneja las estaba explotando de sus recursos naturales, cuando vieron que por más huevos que pusieran, no le daban abasto a su insaciable empeño de repartir canastas llenas de huevos en el día Easter, se organizaron todas y empezaron un plan para eliminar a la Coneja. Este movimiento, se llamo "G.U.E.N.A." (Gallinas Unidas en Accion).

Pero esa, ya es otra historia. Para seguir con nuestra historia, cuando se mataron los hermanos Santa Claus en el choque espacial con el Apollo 13, cada uno dejó un hijo en los 2 distintos puntos Polares.

El que se quedó en el Polo Norte, siguió el trabajo de su papá y hasta la fecha, lleva el mismo nombre de su ilustre padre. En cambio, el hijo del hermano de Santa Claus, que se quedó en el Polo Sur, se llama Pancho Clos.

Santa Claus siguió la tradición y no quiso cambiar nada de las costumbres de su padre.

Pancho Clos, en vez de traer un (sleigh) trineo con venaditos, estira una carreta con burritos.

En vez de gritar: Ho-Ho-Ho-Ho, grita: "Ajuuuuuua", y prefiere usar un zarape y un sombrero grande en vez de gorra roja. Así es, aunque estos dos son primos hermanos, existe cierta diferencia entre ambas personalidades. Y no es de sorprenderse si lo oyen que grite: Viva La Raza, porque también pertenece a La Raza Unida, es bilingüe, y además es miembro del American G.I. Forum.

Merry Christmas



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ONE SOLITARY LIFE

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through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. He was laid in a borrowed grave. Nineteen centuries have come and gone. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

El Editor's Coloring Contest Winners:
1st Grade-Rebecca Gonzales-Lubbock & Pedro Franco-Petersburg
2nd Grade-Carlos Gonzales-Lubbock & Sylvia Torres-Brownfield
3rd Grade-Nicole Sedeno-Lubbock & Christina Paniagua-Lubbock
4th Grade-Pedro Garcia-Lubbock & Jeremy Sedeño-Lubbock
& Kindergarten-Angie Maya-Lubbock & Lisa Marie Olivarez-Lubbock

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Mike Blanca Jr., grade 3, Lubbock; Omar Medrano, grade K, Lubbock; Kathy Para, grade K, Lubbock; Cindy Mata, grade 1, Lubbock; Joe Lee Hernandez, grade 2, Lubbock; Andy Rodriguez, grade 1, Lubbock; Carlo Rios, grade 1, Lubbock; Andre Kay Alvarez, grade K, Midland; Cynthia Lorenzo, grade L Plainview; Sonya Guterrez, grade 4, Brownfield; Vidal Luijan, grade 3, Post; Paul Jr. Herrera, grade 2, Post; Christopher Brown, grade K, Levelland; Meagan Justine Lopez, grade K, Lubbock; Erica Lee Lopez, grade 3, Lubbock; Michael Shane Sierra, grade K, Abernathy; Patrick Lee Lopez, grade 4, Crosbyton; Sunney Gail Lopez, grade K, Amarrillo; Lisa Lynn Angelo, grade K, Woodrow; Tina Carrillo, grade 4, Brownfield; Mark Alexander, Grade 4, Brownfield; Michael Perez Jr. Grade K, Midland; Richard Jr. Cruz, grade 2, Levelland; and Michael Patrick Reyna, grade K, Amarrillo.

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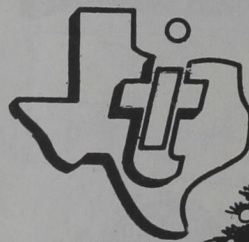
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El Arbol Aromatico de Navidad

El árbol de Navidad, no es una tradición de México. Este tiene su origen en los países nórdicos y por la vía, Estado Unidos, llegó a México impuesto como tantas otras...

En la mayoría de los hogares mexicanos no falta el llamado "Arbol de Navidad", vistoso y alegre, el que anuncia el mes más bullicioso del año.

Peró, ¿cómo es que ha desplazado al Nacimiento? ¿Las costumbres paganas se imponen a las cristianas? Nos hacemos otras preguntas, que muchas de ellas se quedan sin respuesta.

Existe una leyenda, una preciosa fábula en la que se combina el "Arbol de Navidad y el Nacimiento", en una amalgama de fantasía con realidad, la que esclarece las dudas.

Al tener noticias de que en Belén había nacido el Rey de Reyes, de todas partes de Jerusalén se desplazaron paatores llevando sus humildes presentes al niño recién nacido. No solo los pastores se acercaban al pesebre; los animales le expresaron su júbilo, y lo que nunca se había visto desde los tiempos bíblicos de Noé, todos los animales convivieron en fraternal armonía.

Quando terminó el desfile de los animales — que lo mismo se veía el feroz león, que al humilde venadito — empezaron los vegetales hacer su aparición, también como homenaje y sumisión al Rey de la Creación hecho hombre. Se dice, que se desprendían de sus raíces y llegaban al pesebre. Las flores más aromáticas fueron las engargadas de perfume el ambiente.

rodeaban al Niño y con sus finos pétalos acariciaban sus picotitos desnudos impregnándolos de aroma.

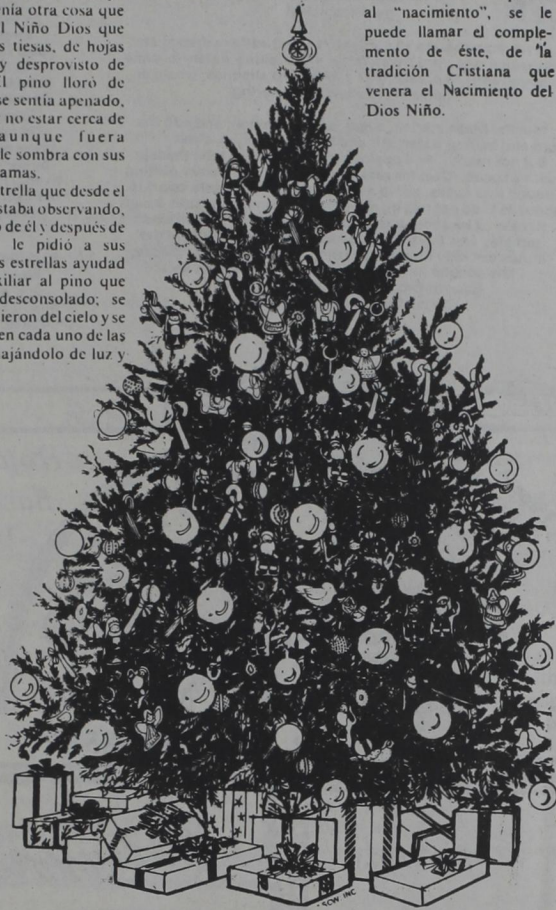
Todos, pasaban frente al pino el que no se atrevió a desfilarse; se sentía triste ya que no tenía otra cosa que ofrecer al Niño Dios que sus rancias tiesas, de hojas porosas y desprovisto de flores. El pino lloró de tristeza; se sentía apenado, triste por no estar cerca de Jesús aunque fuera haciéndole sombra con sus asperas ramas.

Una estrella que desde el cielo lo estaba observando, se apiadó de él y después de un rato, le pidió a sus hermanas estrellas ayudada para auxiliar al pino que lloraba desconsolado; se desprendieron del cielo y se posaron en cada uno de las ramas cuajándolo de luz y

así el pino iluminado llegó hasta el Niño Dios, que al verlo tan lloroso y enjugándose el llanto sonrió con él. Tendió sus manita y cogió una

estrella. Dice la leyenda que la primera sonrisa la tuvo el Niño Dios para el pino iluminado.

Por lo tanto, no se debe pensar que el "arbol de Navidad" vino a desplazar al "nacimiento", se le puede llamar el complemento de éste, de la tradición Cristiana que venera el Nacimiento del Dios Niño.



Feeding the Camels From Page 4

jibaras in the mountains of Puerto Rico. Odd. I had never cared for that music when I lived in Puerto Rico. Van Halen is a lot faster and aquinaldos singers don't use bass guitars.

I called home and pleaded, "Mom, will you please send me some of that le/lo/lai music?"

She sent me Alegria Navideña, "Christmas Joy," by Hermán Rosario and El Indio de Bayamón.

Listening to El Indio on my Walkman as the icy lake Michigan wind bit through my coat, I was acutely conscious that this would be my first Christmas away from home. I had a sudden urge to stuff grass in a shoe box.

The only grass to be found in Chicago in December is dry, brown and crinkly. The camels would gag.

But wait a minute. I do have a shoe box in my closet and the botanical garden isn't far from where I live.

I could visit there, walk casually among its flowers and greenery, wait for the moment when no attendant is in sight and whip out my shoe box.

If I get caught and arrested, I know the policemen would never understand.

But my mother would.



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ENERGAS

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Gastronomia Navideña El Editor



CAPIROTADA
(bread pudding)

*1 c. sugar *2 c. water *6 slices toasted bread
*1 t. cinnamon *1 1/2 c. grated cheese *1 c. raisins
*2 t. fat

Melt sugar until lightly browned. Add water and cinnamon and boil until sugar is dissolved. Place a layer of bread in a casserole. Add cheese and raisins. Repeat until all ingredients are used. Pour syrup over mixture, add fat and bake in a moderate oven until the syrup is absorbed by the bread.

BISCOCHITOS
(cookies)

*1 1/2 c. pure lard *3/4 c. sugar *2 egg yolks (optional) *1 t. anise seed *8 c. sifted flour *3 t. baking powder *1/2 c. water *1 t. salt - Makes 10 dozen cookies

Cream sugar and lard until light and fluffy, add anise seed and beaten egg yolks beating for a few seconds. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together, add to mixture. Add water and knead until well mixed. Roll out, cut with cookie cutter and sprinkle with a mixture of sugar and cinnamon. Bake in 350 degree oven, twelve minutes or until golden brown.



TAMALES DULCES
(sweet tamales)

*4 c. masa harina *1 c. sugar *1 t. salt *3" crushed stick cinnamon *2 c. lard, room temp. *4 c. boiling water (to make dough soft) *1 c. raisins *1 c. blanched almonds, whole or halved *red vegetable coloring

Mix the Masa Harina, sugar, salt, cinnamon, and add the lard and boiling water; stir and beat until dough is soft but not runny. Add raisins and almonds and beat them in with a spoon. Cool for ease in handling. Just before putting dough into husks, stir in a few streaks of vegetable coloring about 1/4 t. do not mix in, stir only a few times, to make dough streaky. Use about a soup-spoonful of dough to each small tamale. Use the smaller husks for wrapping. While the fillings can only improve by being made a day or so before, the doughs never should be made more than an hour or two before cooking, and should be kept warm and spreadable.




EMPANADAS
(turnovers)

CRUST: *3 c. flour *1 1/4 c. shortening *1 t. salt *1 egg, well beaten *5 T. water *1 T. vinegar

Cut shortening into flour and salt. Beat egg, water and vinegar together. Pour liquid into flour mixture all at once. Blend with a spoon just until flour is all moistened. This is an easy crust to handle and can be rolled without toughening. It also keeps in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. Roll out chilled dough 1/4 inch thick and cut into four or five circles (three inch circles for miniature turnovers). Spoon filling on one side of each circle. Dampen edges of dough, fold over, and press edges together with fork. Brush with butter if you wish. Bake at 400° for about twenty minutes or until browned. If you wish you may roll the hot turnovers in sugar mixed with a little cinnamon. Makes twelve to fifteen turnovers, or three dozen miniature size.
PUMPKIN-RAISIN FILLING: Combine in a pan 1 c. canned or fresh cooked pumpkin, 1/4 c. sugar, 1/2 c. raisins, 2 t. anise seed and 1/4 t. salt. Bring to boil and simmer ten minutes. Cool before using.


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Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

Los profetas habian anunciado que Dios mandaria un Salvador. Y cuando se llevo el tiempo senalado para la venida del Redentor, Dios mando el angel Gabriel a Nazaret para que le anunciara a la Virgen Maria que ella habia sido la escogida para ser la Madre del Mesias prometido desde el principio del mundo.

Maria estaba haciendo oracion, y de repente se ilumino la casita con la presencia del angel, que saludo a Maria con estas palabras: "Dios te salve Maria, llena de gracia, el Senor es contigo". Viendo que, por su humildad, se turbo Maria al oír ese saludo - tan "Raro" y tan "Elegante", el angel le dijo: "No tengas miedo, Maria, Porque has hallado Gracia delante de Dios, y vas a tener un hijo, a quien le vas a llamar -- Jesus. El va a ser "Un Gran Hombre" y va a ser llamado "Hijo de Dios." Despues que oyo las palabras del angel, que tambien le dijo que todo iba a suceder en una -- "Forma Milagrosa", por obra del Espiritu Santo, la Virgen Maria respondió con toda la fe y el amor de su alma: "Yo soy la Esclava del Senor: Que el haga conmigo como su Dices". (Luc. 1,26-38) El saludo del angel

fue la primera vez que en el mundo se pronuncio el Ave Maria. Al terminar de hablar la Santisima Virgen, el Angel desaparecio y en aquel feliz momento se cumplio el gran misterio de la Encarnacion del Hijo de Dios. Por obra del Espiritu Santo, es decir, por un milagro del poder de Dios, el Verbo de Dios, el Hijo de Dios, la Segunda Persona de la Santisima Trinidad, se hizo hombre en el vientre purisimo de la Virgen Maria. El hijo de Dios tomo un cuerpo humano en el seno virginal de Maria, no dejo de ser Dios, sino que, siguio siendo "Dios Verdadero", y empezo a ser tambien "Verdadero Hombre," para vivir con nosotros. Wow que grande Amor, y que grande y profundo misterio de amor, hacerse Dios Hombre por nosotros... Bajarse Dios del cielo y hacerse hombre... Si, ...Nuestro Dios, Nuestro Creador, Nuestro Senor, Sin dejar de ser Dios se hizo como uno de nosotros para vivir con nosotros... Que Maravilla Tan grande de su amor. Si la creacion nos llena de admiracion al ver el gran poder de Dios, y la grandeza de Dios, y lamajestad y sabiduria de Dios, y la bondad yhermosura de Dios, la Encarnacion del Hijo de Dios debe de llenarnos de agradecimiento y de profundo amor, porque el Amor solo se paga con Amor.

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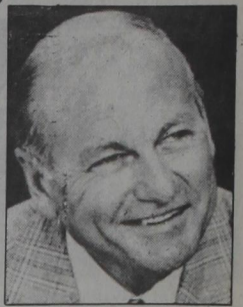
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letters that we think sports personalities may have written.

Sports Letters To Santa Claus

Dear Santa Claus
The North Pole

All I need for Christmas is one thing: a big center who can score and rebound on both the offensive and defensive boards.

And it may not hurt us, Santa, if this big center could also catch and pass the basketball. What a dimension that would add to our team!

(I've been good again this year. Notice the winningest team in Tech's major sports program--the basketball team--never has been implicated in any recruiting or academic scandals--and we're in the Southwest Conference, too!)

You've been very good to our team the last two years. We won the conference championship two years ago and have won the post-season tournament the last two years.

I know we won those two years without a lot of talent up front.

But in '87, the way Arkansas and TCU have been playing, we're going to need some extra fite power if we're going to repeat our successes of the past two years.

Sincerely,
Gerald Myers
Texas Tech Basketball Coach.

Dear Santa:

We had some year, Santa. We got a new head coach for Christmas last year, and David McWilliams led us to our first winning season since 1978 and our first bowl appearance since 1977.

But a few things happened after our regular season ended but before we went to the bowl.

McWilliams got hired away by the big school in Austin. Then he took every single one of our offensive coaches with him.

But we're made of tough stuff out here, Santa, and my requests are few. Our program will survive.

We can repeat as winners again next year with just a little development from our replacements in our defensive secondary and offensive line.

I guess we can use some good recruits as line backers, because we're losing a couple of good ones.

And speaking of recruiting, how about helping us out here in our own area, especially over in east Lubbock with all that talent at Estacado?

Sincerely
Spike Dykes
Football Coach
Texas Tech University

Dear Santa

Santa, I'm going to say up front that this is Tex Schramm and I need a whole lot of stuff, but quick.

Unless something drastic is done immediately, the hot air coming from angry Cowboy fans and media could blow your sleigh and reindeer back up North. And unless something is done quick, the tears from our fans could drown your reindeer if they try to land here or in west Texas.

You know what happened. That ho, ho, ho, you're hearing across the country is coming from fans in 49 states who are tickled to death that we're losing. We've spread Christmas cheer across America.

We lost seven of our last eight games. Not even Tampa Bay has a worse record over the last half of the season. And we were mightly lucky to win that one, Santa, when we blocked a punt against San Diego.

Everybody knows what we need most: we need five offensive linemen who can block. Well, four. Maybe someday Crawford Ker can play in this league but until he gets some help he'll be like Hans Brinker at the dike.

You know the latest joke. Even abused children are saying they want to be adopted by the Dallas Cowboys because the Cowboys can't beat anybody.

Sincerely yours, Tex Schramm.
P.S. send us every crying towel sleigh can carry if you can't get us some offensive linemen.

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Letters to Santa

Continue from Page 10

Dear Santa Claus
The North Pole:

Boy, am I asking a lot for Christmas, maybe as much as Tex Schramm.

Maybe I first should explain what I'm doing writing to you about a sports matter, especially because I'm a professor of theology here at SMU.

What in the world does a religion teacher have to do with a football program, you must be asking, and that's a good question (after all, what in the world does religion have to do with Christmas?).

Well, Santa, a lot has happened to our football program since last year. Yeah, I know, we were in trouble last year, but we're in a lot more trouble now.

Last month, a bunch of us teachers got together and rounded-up 200 signatures on a petition calling for an end to "Quasi-professional athletics" on campus.

There was a big uproar, but three days later, a couple of additional scandals broke. One football player allegedly was paid to play and another football player reportedly received a rent-free apartment.

And about a week later, the president of the University quit. More recently, the Athletic Director and the football coach also quit.

All that happened while SMU was already on a three-year probation that limits scholarships and bans television and bowl appearances.

In fact, the idea that the NCAA could actually suspend football here for a couple of years is not far-fetched.

Well, like a professor giving a lecture, I've wasted some words. But all I'm asking for is a big-time college football program whose athletes are also students.

I know, a lot of people say we're crazy to try to amateurize college sports when commercial entertainment network television keeps waving megabucks in front of the schools and the jocks.

I guess what I'm asking, Santa, is can athletes in a program like SMU's also be students? Please answer.

Leroy Howe
Professor of Theology
President of the Faculty Senate
Southern Methodist University



New England won a thrilling 34-27 victory over Miami Monday night to earn the Patriots the AFC Eastern Division title and set the playoff schedule.

This Sunday, Kansas City meets the New York Jets on Channel 11 and the Los Angeles Rams meet Washington on Channel 13 in the NFL wild-cards games.

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Merry Christmas & Better Times in 1987

To: Dora, Kenyatta, Nino, Salvador, Estevan, Solluna and Simon
From Your Dad

Check Safety To Make The Holidays Bright

- Before hanging strings of lights, spread them on the floor and check for frayed or bare wires, cracked insulation, loose connections, and damaged plugs or light sockets.
- Check extension cords for wear or damage and don't run them across walking areas.
- Test lights before putting them on the tree. Unplug them before making repairs or replacing bulbs.
- Overloading circuits with too many lights can cause fire. Follow manufacturer's instructions about the number of lights allowed on one circuit.
- Choose a fresh, green tree, trim its base and keep it in plenty of water. If the needles are brown and break off easily, it could be a fire risk.
- If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it has been tested for flammability by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Place your tree away from the fireplace or other heat sources and out of the traffic pattern.
- Never string lights on a metallic tree. Light strings with damaged insulation can electrically charge a metallic tree. Instead, shine unattached colored floodlights or spotlights on the tree.
- Always turn off lights before leaving home or going to bed. You'll save money and be safer, too.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near evergreens. And don't burn evergreens in the fireplace.
- Do not use inside lights on the outside. All outside lighting equipment, including lights, cords and plugs, should be waterproof and made for outdoor use. Also, hang sockets downward and don't leave a socket empty.
- When hanging lights on the rooftop or in tall trees outdoors, stay clear of electrical lines. Make sure you or your decorations don't come in contact with them.
- Should you receive a CB radio or television this Christmas, let a qualified serviceman install the CB base unit or television antenna for you. This delicate job is best left to the professionals.
- Be sure electrical toys are tested for safety. Look for the UL mark.

Wishing You A Safe, Happy Holiday

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Un Regalo Para El Tata Dios

Por Jesse Reyes

En una pequeña aldea, no muy lejos de la gran Tenochtitlán, aquella antigua ciudad que hoy se conoce por Mexico, vivían Elisé y su esposa Esperanza en una humilde choza de tál y carrizos. Aunque esos eran solo nombres adquiridos después de ser bautizados por los sacerdotes Franciscanos después de la conquista de La Nueva España, (como llamaron los Españoles ese continente recién descubierto). Elisé y Esperanza recibieron la Fé con toda la resignación de una raza derrotada y la religión con todo el fervor de una civilización acostumbrada ya, al mandato y la obediencia de un ser supremo.

Cuando pasó el día 12 de Diciembre, día en que se rinde tributo y honor a La Virgen de Guadalupe, se acercaba el día veinticinco — día del nacimiento del Hijo de Dios. Una mañana, al sentarse Elisé en la mesa a comer su atole de maíz para irse al monte a cortar leña, se encuentra con la triste mirada de Esperanza.

"¿Que tiene mi viejita?" le pregunta Elisé a su mujer. "Ya sabe que no me gusta verla triste. Dígame qué le pasa."

"No es nada, mi viejo"
"Pero, ¿Como no? ¿Si lo 'toy viendo! ¿Apoco creés que no lo he mirado?"

"No ti 'nojes, viejo. ¿Cuantas veces ti echan mentiras?"

"Pos no serán mentiras, pero tampoco me quieres decir lo cierto," le contesta Elisé un poco disgustado.

Esperanza, entonces hizo por explicarle a su esposo, toda la causa de su preocupación. Mientras Elisé escuchaba con una formidable paciencia y sin interrumpir ni una sola palabra, su esposa le contaba la causa de su congoja. "¿Te acuerdas cuando 'Juimos' a la procesión de la Virgencita de Guadalupe, la Madre de Dios que se le apareció a Juan Diego? Bueno, por entonces fue

cuando y le hice una promesa a la Virgencita. A la Madre de Dios. Yo le dije, que si se nos lograba el maizito—que con tanto cariño

nabiamos sembrado—entonces con ese dinero que sacaramos al venderlo, le llevaria un regalito al Niño Dios en el día de Su nacimiento"

"Pero, si ya sabes," interrumpió Elisé, "que los centavos del maizito, nos lo quitó el patrón, por lo que dice que le debiamos."

"Ya lo sé," dijo Esperanza con resignación. "Y 'hora no tenemos nada que le podámos dár al Niño Dios. Es por eso que 'toy triste, mi viejo."

"Ah, pos tienes razon. Pero, ya no estes triste. Ya verás como Tata Dios nos dará entendimiento pá todo," dijo Elisé en plán de conformidad. Una conformidad que ni él mismo sabia como llevar a cabo.

Trancurrida aquella conversación, Esperanza se dirigió a sus que haceres de costumbre y Elisé se dirigió al campo, donde se dedicaba a su oficio de leñador. Sus tareas diarias eran el acarreo de la leña para los fogones de la hacienda. En algunas ocasiones lograba "deslisar" algunos trozos de arboles secos y los vendía en la panadera de la comarca, con el fin de sacar unos centavos libres para su gasto.

Llegóse entonces, el día 24 de Diciembre — la víspera del natalicio del Redentór. Elisé, habia tratado de ganar dinero con los comerciantes de aquella comarca. Les ofrecía leña para sus hornos — nadie quizo. Se ofrecía a desempeñarles toda clase de trabajos — nadie quizo. Cuando trató de vender una cabra — su unico capital — se rieron de su oferta, por sér la mercancia tan flaca.

Esperanza, se dedicó todo ese día a moler maíz en el metate. En un rincón, hincada ante aquel artefacto de piedra volcanica, trataba en vano de purgar su pena por haber quebrantado la promesa que le habia

hecho a la Virgen Del Tepeyac.

Elisé, veía con tristeza, la agonía que sufría su mujer. Comprendía que todo estaba perdido. Además de sér los mas pobres de aquella comarca, serán además los mas olvidados de Dios, puesto que habian prometido algo que no habian podido cumplir.

"Déje de chillár pues, mujer," le dice Elisé a su esposa. "Yo mero le llevare un regalo a Tata Dios, el recién nacido."

"Pero," contestó Esperanza entre sollozos, "¿conoque centavos? ¿Si no tenemos ni un quinto! Semos muy probes, mi viejo."

"Tata Dios ama los probes, mujer", terqueo Elisé. "Y no hay Indios mas probes que nosotros. 'Ora verás, yo voy a pedirle que no te castigue por no poder cumplir tu promesa." Y con eso, salió al trotte rumbo a la Iglesia, a donde los demas fieles se dirigian para celebrár lo que los indigenas llamaban "La misa de gallo" puesto que se celebraba a las primeras horas de la mañana del 25 de Diciembre.

En el camino rumbo a la Iglesia, Elisé vio todos los regalos que llevaban para el Niño Dios. El, en cambio, no llevaba nada.

Pero, ¡No podía llegar ante el altar de la Iglesia con las manos vacias! al lado del camino, alcanzó a ver una planta verde que se llamaba "La Flor de Noche Buena", por su color brillante. Pero, no tenia ni una flor. "¡Que importa!" pensó Elisé. "Esta será mi ofrenda para el Niño Dios. Mi corazon hablará por mí, por medio de esta verde mata."

Elisé se entristeció al vér todos los maníficos regalos que los demas feligreses llevaban al Niño Dios. Haciendo un impulso por ignorár la critica de los demas, llegó hasta el sitio esperando. Al llegar al altar, Elisé cayó de rodillas. Con su corazon lleno de humildad y pesér, exclamo: "Mi Niñito querido, este Indio 'endino y bueno pa' nada, es tan 'probe' que ni siquiera tiene nada que darte. No sé como decirte, pero quiero pedirte que no vaya a enojarte con mi vieja. La probe tampoco pudo cumplir con lo que prometió darte. Por eso no vino. Y yo, pos allí por el camino, me jallé esta mata verde y, pos ¿que mas puede darte, si soy mas probe que las ratas?"

Seguía Elisé murmurando palabras inauditas al escuchar su



ofertorio ante el imagen del Niño Jesus.

Su afán en complacer al objeto de su veneración, era tan intenso, que no habia notado el asombro de los demas concurrentes. Cuando al fin tornó lo ojos a las verdes ojas de aquella planta que, tenia en sus manos, vió que aquellas ojas verdes, ¡habian tomado un color de rojo vivo!

Aquella ofenda tan humilde, se habia convertido en la mas aceptable. Ante el asombro y la maravilla de todos, aquella planta insignificante, se habia convertido en hermoso arbusto. Aunque sea conocida por algun otro apodo, jamás dejara de llamarse por los que realmente es:

La Flor de Noche Buena

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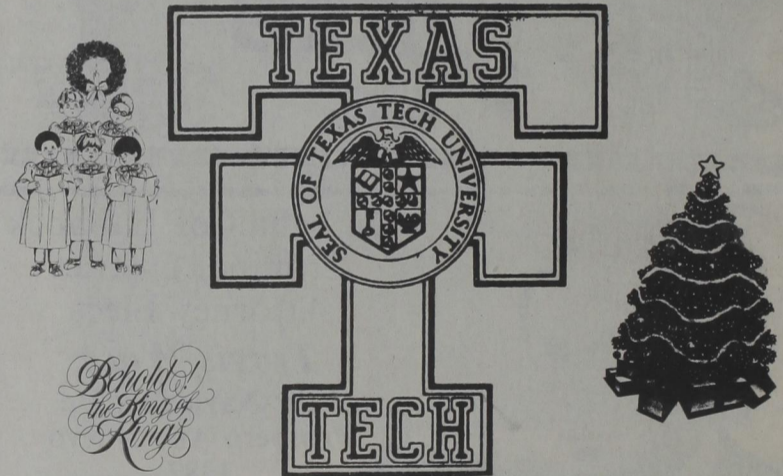
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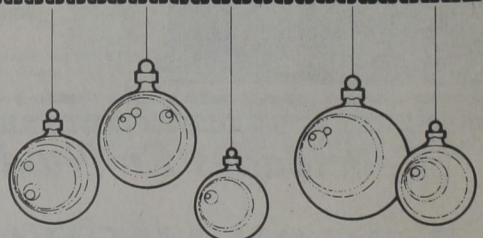
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