# **Customs of Many**

The modern Christmas, now traditional in most of the lands in which it is observed, is the result of amalgamation of the customs of many people. No other body of folk customs is so cosmopolitan as those surround- mas Night and Twelfth Night,

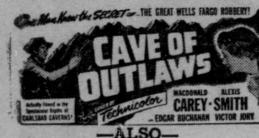
does the Christmas stocking, was the gold; the spices the but the physical concept of San- myrrh; the aroma, the frankin-The lighted Christmas tree we The The creche is from Italy.

The colored hard candles de-

## MILLER THEATRE

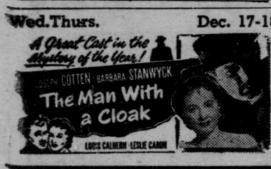
- Atkinson, Nebr. -

Friday-Saturday









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rive from Italy, nuts, gifts and raisins from Spain.

Lands Today's Xmas

Christmas fare also represents a melding of the traditions of various peoples. Oldest of the usual elements of the Christmas -before Luther. Holly and ivy also were identified with the holiday at a very early date. dinner is the mince pie. It goes back to the Middle Ages in Holly represented the master of the house, whereas ivy represented the mistress. Holly Europe, where it was originally baked in an oblong shape to repwas considered to be sacred resent the manager of the Nativity. One was supposed to eat 12 of them between Christ-

and sedate: ivy was assumed to be of a very riotous nature. Mistletoe among the early "Santa Claus" and the custom
of exchanging gifts comes from
Asia Minor and the Netherlands,

"Santa Claus" and the custom symbolism: it was supposed to represent the gold, franklncense and myrrh of the Magi. The crust Druids represented love. In the early Christian church it was made customary to bestow the "kiss of peace" at Christmas time. These two symbols have

become interwoven in the custom of kissing under the mistle-The Christmas turkey is an get from Germany; the tinsel and American innovation now well-established in England and other southern Europe; and Holly and countries. A boar's head was the as any, the yule log, is dying out ristletoe we owe to the Druids traditional Christmas course in this age of apartments with early England, and carols to England until the time of James gas logs and houses with oil-heating. In olden time, the Yule ordered fowl served at the royal log had to be brought home by table instead. This introduced a the menfolk on Christmas Eve

Crachits' Christmas dinner:

versal admiration. Eked out by

apple-sauce and mashed pota-

toes, it was a sufficient dinner

for the whole family . . .

custom of serving swan, peacock and kindled by the women with or goose. No one who has ever the remains of the previous read Dickens' "Christmas Carol" year's log kept specially for the forgets the description of the purpose. The girls had to first wash their hands before setting the log ablaze. It was believed "There never was such a that the devil was powerless to goose cooked. Its tenderness do mischief to households where and flavour, size and cheapthe yule log had been properly ness, were the themes of uni-

A Christmas tradition as old

I tion that it was a custom start-

ed by Martin Luther, but this is

Evergreen twigs were used for

decorating at the time of the

festival of the Nativity by Christ-

Cedars of Lebanon

Are Well Protected -On a shelf-like plateau, 600 feet "Yet everyone had had enough, above the Mediterranean, the and the youngest Crachits in par- world's oldest Christmas trees ticular were steeped in sage and stand where they have stood for onion to the eyebrows! But centuries. The cedars of Lebanon, now, the plates being changed 400 of them, are protected by re-by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Chachit ligion and law from harm at the left the room alone — too ner- hands of either Moslems or the vous to bear witness — to take Maronite Christians.

the pudding up, and bring it in.
"Suppose it should not be done enough! Suppose it should monarchs among trees long before break in turning out! Suppose Judah had her first king. Some of somebody should have got over them have a girth of 40 feet and a the wall of the backyard, and branch circumference of 300.

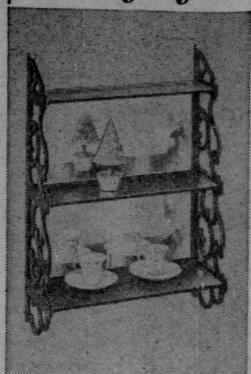
stolen it while they were merry | In the days of the conquerors thousands of conscripted Hebrew "Hallo! A great deal of steam! workers were sent into the Lebanons to take the Jerusalem "ceper. A smell like washing day! That was the cloth. A smell like result of one of the first building the control of the contr an eating house and a pastry- contracts, between Hiram of Phoecook's next door to each other, necia and King Solomon.

Dec. 17-18 with the laundress's next to that! Today, however, the trees are That was the pudding. In half protected by law and the departa minute Mrs. Crachit entered; ment of agriculture of the governflushed, but smiling proudly; ment sponsors the planting of with the pudding, like a speck- seedlings, so that the giant cedars led cannon-ball, so hard and will grow forever. firm, blazing in half of half-a-

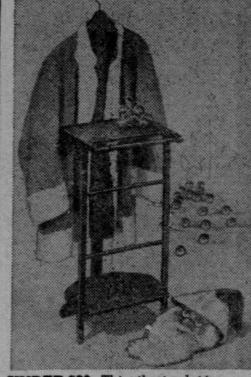
AN ANSWER ANYWAY

For awhile Tom Zeilinger of after he married future Queen they found a weather balloon Victoria. The tree had been an and parachute rigging which had established custom in Germany drifted 200 miles from the North for centuries. There is a tradi-

## A Gift for the Home at Any Price



UNDER \$10. She will love this mirrorbacked wall shelf to display her China prknick knacks to the best advantage yet safe from little prying fingers. Finish is mahogany. (Butler Specialty Co.)



UNDER \$20. This silent valet is a neat gift item for Santa Claus himself. Made of mahogany veneer, it is collapsible and may be hung in the closet when not in use. (Stickley Brothers, Inc.)



UNDER \$30. This Maple sewing table is an indispensible gift item for the busy home maker. It also doubles as an end table next to her favorite chair. (Lewisburg Chair and Furniture Co.)



UNDER \$70. For the television fan OVER \$300. Here is a big ticket itemthis dainty boudoir chair. Select one to match or harmonize with her color scheme. (Newton Mfg. Co., Inc.)



this TV rocker on a swivel base provides the very ultimate in luxurious seating comfort. (Fort Smith Chair Co.)

# Product of Clerk

UNDER \$40. A gift of great charm is

Credit for conceiving the idea for Christmas seals belongs to a Danish postal clerk, Einer Holboell, who in the holiday season of 1903 was sorting mail in the The Crachits could not have been expected to have a Christmas tree. The tree was not popular in England till one was introduced in the royal palace by the German Prince Albert in 1841, and airport officials investigated, they found a weather hallon. postoffice of Copenhagen. As he package, the proceeds would aid in fighting tuberculosis and add color to the gifts.

He mentioned it to some of his along through the office. The clerks discussed it with customers. The idea spread about Cop-

Christian heard about it. The Leigh Mitchell Hodges, a colum-ruler approved and decided in nist for the Philadelphia North favor of trying it with Queen American. He heard Miss Bis-

It was too late to put the idea into execution that year but in 1904, four million seals were sold in the Copenhagen

old woman who returned some she had \$3,000 instead of \$300 letters without Christmas seals, she had started to raise. And the didn't want to know people who a nation-wide institution. didn't use the stamps.

A woman, Miss Emily Bissel, who worked with the Red Cross, started the sale of seals in this country. She was seeking \$300 fellow workers. The scheme appealed to them and it was passed along through the office. The friends to help with the printing and sale of them. When the campaign bogged down, she went to was observed as a great public enhagen, and eventually King Philadelphia where the met holiday in England.

Louise's likeness on each stamp. sell's plans and discussed them with E. A. Van Valkenburg, city editor. Van Valkenburg gave full approval and told Hodges to give the project his entire time. He also asked for 50,000 seals to be sold in the newspaper's office.

So popular did the stamps be-come that Holboell heard of one ling results. Miss Bissell found declaring emphatically that she Christmas seal campaign became

> CAN YOU TOP THIS? Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spellman of Doniphan seem to have set a record of some sort recently - they became grandparents

In the Middle Ages, May day

Gift

Stationery

"Enchantment"

boxed stationery. 36 matched sheets and envelopes with gold deckled edge.

In a fancy gift box.

of four boys within one week.

### Have a Safe Christmas

Don't take the merry out of your Christmas this year. You can do your share by helping to keep it safe.

Christmas has always been thought of as the children's holiday - but besides being time for fun, it may be a time of danger. Children's curiosity and lack of fear often leads them into hazardous situations which adults know enough to avoid. Unsafe toys and flimsy costumes can spell disaster.

Fireproof Clothing.

Fireproof their fun, suggests the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Their clothing, especially such things as flimsy party costumes and cowboy suits, can be flameproofed cheaply and easily at home with a solution made by dissolving nine ounces of borax and four ounces of boric acid in the solution, wring by hand and hang up to dry. This solution can be used on any material, which can be soaked in water and must be reapplied after every washing. Use too on curtains, drapes and other fabrics.

Other reasons for fires particularly at Christmas are open fires. heaters, and furnaces in operation—which, besides being dangerous in themselves, lower the humidity in the house and tend to dry

things out (this is especially true this year).

Never try to "speed-up" a fire by using gasoline or kerosene. Always keep a metal screen in front of a burning fireplace. Take care in handling hot ashes. It's best to deposit them in a metal container equipped with a cover (never a wooden or cardboard container.) Be sure to keep wood, coal and flammable liquid away from your furnace and the furnace room free from trash.

Besides these things, there are the seasonal hazards of combustible objects like Christmas greens and trees, paper wrappings and decorations, besides extra electrical wiring.

In the winter when roads are icy and drifted with snow, fires are especially dangerous. When fire strikes every minute counts so don't delay. Here are two important suggestions: first, write down the correct telephone number of your nearest fire department, and place it near the phone. Or make note if operator is to be called for a line ring. Second, give your address clearly and distinctly when you call.

Christmas Tree Hazard

Biggest holiday problem—and it's in a class by itself when we're discussing hazards—is the Christmas tree. Because it is full of pitch and resin, a fir tree is one of the most combustible objects known-and once ignited it burns so rapidly that it is just about impossible to extinguish. Choose a small tree. It's less dangerous than a large one. Place your tree in the coolest part of the house, away from fireplaces or radiators. Don't let it block an exit.

### Good Suggestions

Be sure you have adequate circuit wiring to connect your appliances, safe electric cords to conduct the current, proper size fuses in the circuits, all wires separated from furniture, wires run direct, not under rugs or draped over windows and curtains.

All connections run direct to appliances never through a door or window. Never use octopus connections.

All light bulbs safely separated from combustible materials like curtains, tinsel, paper, Christmas Tree limbs and decorations of all kinds.

Here are some good safety suggestions to follow:

1. Look for the UL label on all electrical toys. This means they have passed underwriters' laboratories tests for fire and shock

2. Be cautious in buying a chemical set for the children, and supervise their play with it. Also, it is unwise to let younger children have toys involving flame or pressure. They are dangerous in young hands.

3. Don't set up electric trains under the Christmas tree. Supervise the play of youngsters using electrical toys. 4. NEVER leave children at home alone!

5. Never use cotton or paper for decoration on or around the

6. Use only electric lights, never candles, and see that the

wires are not frayed. Be sure the wiring sets for the lights you choose are marked as having been inspected by Underwirters' Laboratories, Inc. 7. Provide a switch some distance from the tree for turning

tree lights on and off. Don't plug or unplug them beneath the tree. 8. Throw away gift wrappings as soon as the presents are opened; don't let them pile up near the tree.

9. Don't leave tree lights burning when no one is home. 10. If needles near the lights turn brown, move the lights.

Make this Christmas a harmless holiday for the youngsters, as well as a happy one.

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# HARLEY HARDWARE

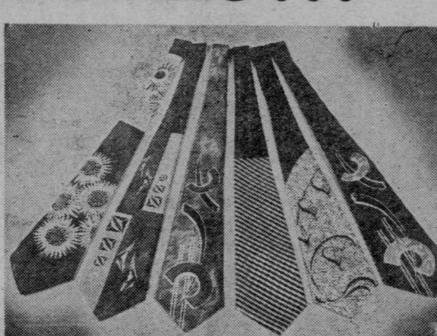
CHAMBERS, NEBRASKA

Color...

Color...

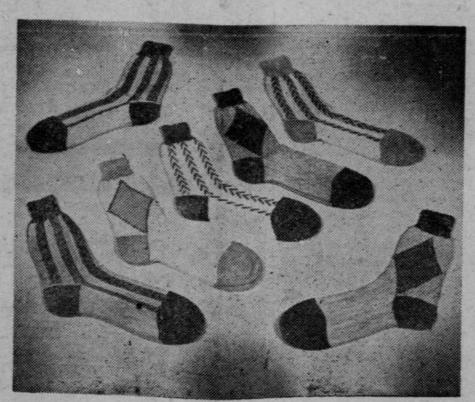
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