

Ladies of Division 1 of WILLING WORKERS will have charge of

# Maust's Skating Rink

## Monday Night

Come and skate for the benefit of the New Christian church

Hot Coffee and Sandwiches Served  
Everybody Come

# Edward Daeschner

General Blacksmithing;  
Horseshoeing and Auto Repairing  
Gasoline and Oil

TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND PATRONS:

I desire to express my appreciation for their kind and liberal patronage during to past ten years and especially during the year 1910 which is just closing.

I can truthfully say that our business relations have been pleasant with but very few exceptions. I have always endeavored to conduct a modern, up to date shop, serving the trade as the different seasons demand. As this is the season in which we have snow and ice, I particularly call your attention to the fact that we are better prepared than ever to take care of your horseshoeing. Having installed a Barcus Shoeing Rack, we can handle all your horses from the gentlest to the most unruly ones, with perfect safety to man and beast. I therefore invite you to bring in your shoeing. SATISFACTION ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED.

### Our General Repair and Job Work

is fully kept up to the highest standard possible and we are ever ready to serve you to the best of our ability. We solicit a continuance of your valued patronage. If we have failed to please you in the past, we assure you we will endeavor to please you in the future, if that is possible.

Come and make this shop your headquarters, whether you have been a regular customer or not and we will treat you right.

So here are best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Fraternally yours,

EDWARD DAESCHNER

## A Christmas Carol

Pause a while, O earth and heaven;  
draw ye near in wonder dread,  
For the Lord of Life Eternal lieth  
in a stable bed;  
Cradle lowly!  
Yet made holy,  
By that resting Infant Head.

Come, ye shepherds, come, ye  
wise men—high and low your  
homage bring,  
For the sleeping Babe you worship  
cometh as your Saviour King!  
'Tis the Christ-Child,  
Who, self-exiled,  
Left His throne on love's swift wing.

Come ye here, and taste the  
earnest of a joy above!  
Ye shall find within this manger,  
guarded by the Holy Dove,  
Life immortal,  
Through the portal  
Opened by a Saviour's Love!

## CHRISTMAS AND MISTLETOE

Nature Worship Reflected in Use of Mistletoe at Christmas Time.

A great many years ago, before the time of Christianity, the oak tree, and especially the mistletoe, growing out of the heart of the oak, were revered for their supposed affinity with the sun. The Druids worshiped the sun as the one supreme god, and believed the oak to be in some way associated with the sun because they made fire by rubbing oak sticks together, the oak being at once the most common tree and the most suitable for the purpose. Twice each year these Celtic priests gave a religious festival in honor of the sun, their places of worship being in the oak groves. In June, when the sun was known to have ceased mounting higher in the heavens, the Druids gave thanks, because a nearer approach of the sun was thought to be possible, and this, of course, would result in the burning up of the earth. In December, at the time of the shortest days, the Druids prepared a celebration in honor of the sun's turning back from his downward journey, which was recognized as the days began to grow longer. This second celebration was quite naturally the happiest time, the people holding the sun in such fear in June. It was then the mistletoe was honored as being the very essence of the oak.

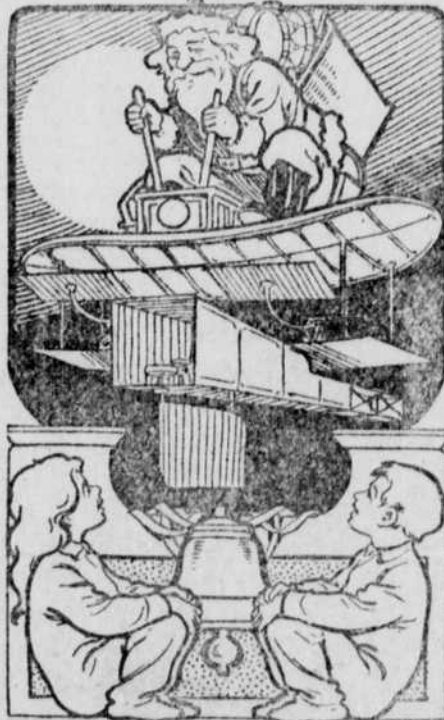
When eventually the church was established and its followers turned the ancient December celebration into Christmas, the mistletoe was hung up by way of compromise, although it had nothing to do with the new religion. And so even today, in our use of evergreen and holly, and eke the occasional sprig of mistletoe, we reflect the nature worship which gave us, perhaps, not only the foundation of our Christmas, but for our love of nature as well.

## SHEPHERDS WATCH AT NIGHT

Refutation of Contentment That They Could Not Have Watched on December Night.

Some historians contend that the shepherds could not have watched by night on the Bethlehem plains in December, it being a period of great inclemency. In answer to this a well-known student says: "Bethlehem is not a cold region. The mercury usually stands all the month of December at 46 degrees. Corn is sown during this time, and grass and herbs spring up after the rains, so that the Arabs drive their flocks down from the mountains into the plains. The most delicate never make fires till about the end of November, and some pass the whole winter without them. From these facts I think it is established without doubt that our Saviour was born on the 25th of December, the day which the church throughout the world has united to celebrate in honor of Christ's coming in the flesh."

## The New Way.



Nellie—I don't like the man who invented typewriters.  
Jack—Why?  
Nellie—'Cause papa says they carry very much, and if they use one he can't bring all the things I want.

## FOLK LORE OF DAY

### BELGIAN CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS THAT ARE DYING OUT.

Celebration of Festival Still Presents Much That is Interesting—Old Customs Traceable to Heathen Rites and Practices.



ALTHOUGH not so keenly followed up as in Germany and England, the festival of Christmas, as celebrated in Belgium, still presents a certain amount of interest, especially in respect to its traditional aspect. Many of the old customs, which today are but a mere mockery of their original selves, are traceable to old heathen rites and practices.

The priesthood, realizing the veneration in which these customs are

still held, not only refrain from discountenancing practices which the holy church regards as heretical on account of their origin, but even enjoins the due observance on the people. Wherever possible, details of these customs have been modified with a view of bringing them into as close obedience as possible with the instructions of the Vatican.

One of the easiest tasks in this respect was the encouragement of the old custom of ceasing work for 12 days after Christmas and postponing the discussion of all differences and legal disputes for the same period. Among the "seasonable customs and beliefs" which have for the most part been dying out, if they are not already dead in many parts of the country, are the following:

Christmas eve being dedicated to Adam and Eve, boys born on that day were christened Adam, and girls Eve.

Fortune telling on Christmas day was indulged in; at Brussels, for example, the burghers assembled around the fire and roasted chestnuts, listening to their "fortunes" meanwhile. At Spa, a handful of salt was cast upon the table by the host; if it melted there would be a death in the family or else a wet year in the country, though if the salt remained hard a guest would die, if, by chance, one of the lights went out at the critical moment.

Among the metal workers of the province of Hainaut molten lead was plunged into water, and the figures produced by the operation were supposed to represent incidents in the life of the "plunger."

In the Ardennes, the weather for the coming year was determined by placing lighted candles in walnut shells, which were allowed to float on a basin of water. If the candles went out the year would be a bad one, agriculturally speaking; if the remained alight until the end it would be a good year.

Nuts thrown on the fire by lovers foretold joy if they burned with a sputtering; sorrow, if there was any noise.

According to an existing belief, everything living changes its position at the hour of midnight on Christmas day. Everything sown in the fields that day is bound to bear fruit—even though it be sown on the snow itself.

While it is considered unlucky to spin flax on Christmas day, a shirt made from flax on that night is "good for many ills." Christmas day eggs always produce fine chicks. A farmer could ensure good crops from his fruit trees by striking them with an ax on Christmas day, always provided that nobody went near the trees with a spinning wheel within 24 hours.

In the province of Antwerp the peasants say that a "hellwagen" or chariot of blood is driven through the sky at full gallop on Christmas night, the explanation being that some impious peasant dared to go out wood gathering with his wagon one Christmas night, and that, by way of punishment, he is condemned to drive through the sky year by year.

### Decorations in Middle Ages.

They did their Christmas decorations very thoroughly in the middle ages. "Every man's house, as also the parish churches, were decked with holly, ivy, bays and whatever the season of the year afforded to be green," we read in Stow, but he omits to mention that decking with evergreens in the month of December, like most of the details of our Christmas festivities, was heathen in origin. It originated, for all that, in a very poetic idea, for the Druids did it so that the woodland spirits might have a warm place in which to take shelter until the spring came round again and the trees out of doors once more had leaves of their own.

### No Leavings.

Tramp (to little Willie, who has opened the door)—Have yer had yer Christmas dinner yet, little boy?

Willie—No; we're just going to eat it now.

Tramp—Then perhaps if I wait around I can get some of the eatables left over?

Little Willie (feeling of his stomach)—There ain't going to be anything left.

### Christmas at Beulah.

In preparing for the Christmas exercises for our Mission this year of 1910 my mind goes back to the year of 1896, my first year in Falls City and my first meeting with the Mission Sunday School in the Beulah building. And as I now look in the faces of a number of those who have grown to manhood and womanhood my thought goes back to the time I first saw them in the Beulah Mission with bright eyes and tender hearts, each one eager to do their part in the Christmas exercises. And the most attractive object in the building to them was the lighted Christmas tree that charitable hands had so bounteously provided. And for a number of years after the Christmas tree seemed to be the crowning feature in the Sunday School, though through the mid-summer season coming to Sunday School would seem a burden to some; but when the leaves begin to fall and the cool days drew nigh and we would gather around the stove and read our Bibles as one family there was something that shone in each countenance that told of their thoughts of that dear old Christmas tree. Some have outgrown the Sunday School and its Christmas tree, but the writer feels that they cannot help but have a memory of the Sunday School and its Christmas treat. A few have passed to that Great Beyond carrying with them the memories of the Mission and to partake of the tree of Everlasting Life. So 1910 carries with it a number of bright eyes and tender hearts looking forward to the treat of the dear old Christmas. May the Christmas tree of today be a shadowy glimpse of the tree above which gives everlasting life.—Mrs. Sam Robinson.

### OHIO.

Bert Dodds was a guest of F. M. Shaffer, Sunday.

Mrs. A. Elshire and children spent Sunday at F. M. Shaffer's.

Nearly all the farmers in this vicinity are thru corn shucking.

J. Yocam is spending this week with his daughter Mrs. N. Peck.

Chas. McWain and family spent one day last week with Mrs. McWain's parents.

Guy Lichty and wife were the guest of Mr. and Mrs. D. Spiekler and wife, Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. Essley spent Monday in Strausville with Geo. Sturms and family.

Will Straus and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Beatty in Strausville.

Nellie Knisely spent last week at Rev. Blough's assisting Mrs. Blough with her sewing.

Pearl Fields was remembered by her pupils on her birthday by a postal hower. She received about thirty.

Mrs. Earl Shaffer and children left Monday for Mapley to visit her parents and other relatives till after X-mas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Nedrow entertained N. Forney and family and H. Beechy and wife at their home, Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Crook was surprised by about thirty of her friends last week one day, the occasion being a birthday celebration. A good time was enjoyed by all those present.

Rebecca Straus has returned from Verdon to spend the winter at home. Mamie Fisher and Hilda Seibeneibher visited at the home of Lola Sturm Sunday.

The series of meetings now in progress at Silver Creek are fairly well attended, and Rev. Watson of Falls City has delivered some excellent sermons.

Quite a number of invited guests spent Saturday evening of last week at a Somerset party given by Mr. and Mrs. Pat Gunn. All report a delightful time and appropriate refreshments were served.

Horace Greeley wrote: "To sell drink for a livelihood is bad enough, but for a whole community to share the responsibility and guilt of such a traffic seems a worse bargain than those of Eve and of Judas. What temperance men demand is not regulation of the liquor traffic, but its destruction; not that its evils be circumscribed or veiled, but that they be, to the extent of the State's ability, utterly eradicated."