

Luck With Catfish
UPTON, Mass. (U.P.)—In a single evening, 76-year-old Mrs. Mabel Alexander caught five hornpout ranging from 10 to 14 inches long and weighing a total of nine pounds.

College Record
MANHATTAN, Kan., (U.P.)—Kansas State College has granted more degrees in 1949 than any other 12-month period in its 86-year history.

Druids First to Use "Magic" of Mistletoe

The greens which are used for Christmas decorations found their way into early festivities because of certain virtues attributed to them by the ancients, and many of them which adorned pagan seasonal rites were later taken over to grace the ceremonies and celebrations of Christmas Day.

In both England and America, the holly and the mistletoe are associated with Christmas as invariably as are the plum pudding and Christmas tree.

It was the Druids who first used the mistletoe. "Heal-all" was their name for it. The plant was supposed to have curative values, and gradually they assigned to it all manner of magic powers.

Their priests, each year around the time when we now celebrate Christmas, would have high platforms built around the sacred oak trees which, in a manner of speaking, were "hosts" to the mistletoe. Robed in ceremonial vestments of white, they ascended these platforms, and with golden sickles especially made for the solemn occasion they cut away the mistletoe.

The Saxons also prized it and it was they who gave to it the name of mistletoe.

Eventually the green came to be regarded as a symbol of peace. Opposing warriors who met near it would call a truce, and it was customary to hang it over the entrance doors so that they who entered might be assured of friendship.

Justice Triumph

SAN ANTONIO (U.P.)—Police officer E. J. Fivel wanted to be helpful when he saw a stalled motorist. He gave him a push in his patrol car but the bumpers locked. When the officer got out, the motorist thought it was time to depart—on foot. It developed the motorist was driving a car stolen four hours earlier.



AMERICAN CHRISTMAS SCENE... Symbolic of our nation at this festive season of the year is this picture of little Eithel Gorman, 4, daughter of a guide at the Statue of Liberty, as she admires a Christmas tree on the porch of Newell M. Foster, superintendent of the statue staff on Bedloe's island. Over her shoulder, Miss Liberty herself stays right on the job, blazoning her message of peace and good will.

COOKIES AND CANDIES & CHRISTMAS

LIKE Santa's pack, your stock of holiday goodies should be plentiful and interesting. Since callers will be as much present as holly and gifts during the holidays, do your baking of cakes and cookies, so your cupboard will be ready for any who might drop in.

Home-made delicacies served during Christmas and New Year's are as heart-warming as the sound of the yule log crackling on the hearth. If you have a fruit cake, a variety of cookies and perhaps a few candies, and if you serve these with a festive beverage, you will have gone a long way in spelling holiday cheer to those who come to say "Merry Christmas" at your home.

Here is a simple type fruit cake which does not need the aging that a traditional cake requires. The recipe makes two 9x4x3 inch loaves and is the perfect answer as to what should be served during the holidays:

- Raisin Fruit Cake**
(Makes 2 loaves)
- 4 cups seeded raisins
 - 2 tablespoons grated lemon rind
 - 1 tablespoon cinnamon
 - 1 tablespoon allspice
 - *2 1/2 cups liquid
 - 2 1/2 cups chopped nutmeats
 - 4 cups sifted cake flour
 - 5 teaspoons double acting baking powder
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 1/2 cup butter or shortening
 - 2 eggs, well beaten
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla

Combine raisins, lemon rind, spices and water in a saucepan. Cover and simmer gently for eight minutes. Drain, pressing out as much liquid as possible. Measure liquid and add water or coffee to make one and one-half cups, and reserve. Grind raisins with nutmeats.

Sift flour once, measure and add baking powder, salt and sugar; sift three times. Cream butter thoroughly, and add flour mixture, eggs, vanilla and reserved liquid. Stir until all flour is dampened. Beat vigorously for two minutes. Add raisin-nut mixture and mix thoroughly. Turn into two 9x4x3 inch loaf pans which have been greased, lined with brown paper and then greased again. Bake in a moderate (350°) oven for one hour and 15

minutes, or until done. Let stand five minutes on cake rack, then remove from pan, leaving paper attached until ready to serve. Cool. Wrap in a clean cloth and store in tin container to keep moist.

*The liquid may be water or lemon juice.

Kris Kringle Cookies
(Makes 30 balls)

- 1 cup butter cookie crumbs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 cup finely chopped, pitted dates
- 1 cup black walnuts, chopped
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Combine cookie crumbs, salt, baking powder and flour. Add dates and nuts. Add sugar gradually to



RAISIN FRUIT CAKE

for a spicy holiday

beaten eggs. Blend in cookie crumb mixture and vanilla. Bake in a greased and floured nine-inch square pan and bake in a slow (325°) oven for 30 minutes. While still warm, cut into 30 squares. Roll each square into a ball, turning the top, crusty portion inwards as you roll. Place confectioners' sugar in a bag. Shake the balls in the sugar to coat evenly.

Santa Affected By Restrictions

It's difficult to understand, but the genial spirit of Christmas, Santa Claus himself, hasn't always had it easy. There have been occasions when laws or traditions or regulations have put certain curbs on the old gentleman. Here are some examples:

In Newark, N. J., Santa is required to pass a stiff physical examination before he can serve in a department store. And even then he is barred from kissing any of the children who perch upon his knee.

In Charleston, S. C., charity Santas have been forbidden to make a pitch on public streets on the grounds that children flocking in to see them may create a traffic



hazard. And in Washington a few years ago, when the postmaster general was asked to print a Santa Claus stamp at Christmas time he rejected the proposal with a scornful, "I should say not!"

Outside the U.S.A., Santa has had trouble, too. In Montreal, Canada, an influential organization fought against holding of the city's annual Santa Claus parade on the ground that it was "merely a display of grotesque and vulgar buffoonery." A prominent journalist in Rio de Janeiro fostered a movement to do away with Santa Claus ("Papa Noel") in Brazil and substitute a toy-bearing grandfather Indian. In Mexico City the minister of education recommended that the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, instead of St. Nick, should bring gifts to children.

In the field of opinion, Santa has encountered some detractors. A Prof. Ivan E. McDougle, sociologist at Goucher college, Baltimore, declared: "The Santa Claus myth has lived too long. Parents should substitute philosophy"—whatever that is.

A Toronto psychiatrist got in his blast. "It should be made clear to children," he said, "that Santa Claus is not necessarily a real man any more than any other character out of a story book."

Electricity Makes Good
MOUNT WASHINGTON, Mass. (U.P.)—This town has decided that electricity is here to stay. Mount Washington is the last community in Massachusetts to become electrified. Only five dwellings now have electricity, but more are expected to have it before the end of the year. The town has 54 inhabitants.

Exercise Becomes Game
NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (U.P.)—Women's college basketball first was played at Smith college. Instructor Senda Berenson introduced it as a class ex-

ercise in 1892. She later developed the set of rules used in the women's version of the sport.

Thief Takes All
MINNEAPOLIS (U.P.)—Gerald Rienersina, Brewster, Minn., told police that someone broke into his automobile and stole a rod and reel, a suit of clothes, one hunting knife, one pair of shoes, a jacket, a canvas bag, one pair of overalls, three shirts, a war souvenir, a contract for a house and a marriage license.

Only two legs of lamb are obtained from each animal.

Merry Christmas
The Season of
GOOD CHEER AND HAPPINESS
May you have a full share,
our wish for you.

Continental Oil Company
Jim Bridgewater, Agent

IT'S A FACT

That we wish each and all of our friends and customers the very

MERRIEST CHRISTMAS

Ladies' Toggery

SEASON'S greetings
Brown Floral Co.

Greetings of the Season

The C. K. Company

WISHING YOU Holiday Cheer

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shellenbarger and Family

Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season!

"GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE"

May the coming New Year bestow upon you good health, happiness and friendship—the most important possessions in life that money alone can't buy!

Many thanks for your valued patronage in the past year. May we have the pleasure of serving you again in 1950.

Kent Oil & Cafe
1101 Avenue D Phone 215

Don't Mix Gaiety With Danger When Celebrating Christmas

While Christmas is the merriest of all seasons of the year it can also be a time of tragedy if certain hazards aren't avoided and some particular precautions taken.

The National Safety Council annually points out that the Christmas holidays are the most dangerous of the year, usually replete with casualties, home accidents, fires and falls.

The council has listed the following "don'ts" and precautions which if remembered will help make this Christmas season a safe one:

The Christmas tree shouldn't be placed near a stove or fireplace.

Don't give children any toys that could prove dangerous, such as those with sharp points. If toys are operated with electricity, be sure some grownup supervises their use.

The Christmas tree should not be decorated with lighted candles. Carefully-wired electric bulbs definitely are much safer.

Don't leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time. One should be on the lookout for fire all the time the tree is lighted. Especially dangerous is the practice of some families in leaving the Christmas tree lighted and unwatched all night long.

One should never use a rick-

ety, unsafe ladder in decorating the tree.

Don't place Christmas candles near the tree, curtains, paper wreaths or any other inflammable decorations.

Remember, the Christmas tree can be made fire-resistant. According to the United States forestry service, it can be done in this manner: Divide the weight of your tree by four and buy that many pounds of ammonium sulphate. Dissolve it in water—one and one-half pints of water to each pound of ammonium sulphate. Cut the end of your tree trunk on a diagonal. Put some of the solution in a jar and stick the diagonal butt of the tree into it. Add more solution as the tree drinks it up.

Don't be excessive about Christmas "spirits."

Keep toys out of places where people might trip over them. Remove the tree from the house before it dries out. During Christmas you'll probably have many guests, so sprinkle salt or sand on icy steps and sidewalks.

The Best of all Good Wishes for CHRISTMAS

Norfolk Packing Co.
Processors and Canners of Fine Foods