

Mount Etna is located in Sicily.  
The United States produces the greatest amount of iron and steel in the world.

Twenty-eight pieces are used in the game of dominoes.  
Women first appeared as professional dancers on the French stage in the 17th century.



**REMEMBER LAST CHRISTMAS?**

December 27—Joseph Cardinal Mindenty, outspoken foe of Hungary's Communist regime, was arrested on charges of plotting against the government, spying, treason and blackmarket dealings in currency.

In an extemporaneous speech at Kansas City, President Truman made this remark that caught the interest of the world: "There are certain leaders in the government of that country (Russia) who are exceedingly anxious to have an understanding with us."

December 29—President Truman returned to Washington after a Christmas vacation in Independence, Mo.

December 28—Twelve stranded air force men were rescued by plane from an icecap in southern Greenland by Lt. Col. Emil Beaudry.

December 31—The 80th congress, denounced by President Truman as the second worst on record, passed into history with the adjournment of both houses.

December 31—At year's end, America's favorite popular song for the moment was "On a Slow Boat to China."

### 98 Years Ago a Lutheran Pastor Set Up the First Tree in Church

December 24 this year, the tradition of the Christmas tree in American church services will be 98 years old—for it was back in 1851 that a Lutheran minister in Cleveland, Ohio, lighted the first tree at such services.

The minister was the Rev. Henry Schwan, pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church on Cleveland's York street and his action brought on a storm of controversy which lasted several years. This was caused by the fact that the Christmas tree had so long been associated with pagan observance of the season that many conservatives believed it had no place in Christian ceremonies.

However, some of Rev. Schwan's congregation, especially the children, thought the glowing with candles, was just the spirit of the Christmas season.

But the objectors had their way and they were determined that Rev. Schwan's tree was to be the last of the Christmas trees erected in America.

Through the years that followed, the minister did all in his power to learn of the origins of the Christmas tree tradition in order that he might show that the tradition was far from the "heathen" ceremony it had been called.

He wrote countless letters to friends and acquaintances all over the world; he questioned strangers and made long notes of their conversations. And when he learned that a particular part of the world already had Christmas trees, he would mark that place on a large map which hung in his study—a

dark green tree where the tradition was established, a light green one where Christmas trees, at least, were known.

Pastor Schwan made his search for knowledge of the Christmas tree almost a crusade.

But as Christmas time approached in 1852, Rev. Schwan had not found enough church support for the tradition to light another tree at his Christmas service that year. So, with great regret, he resigned himself to the end of his hope of establishing the custom.

But on December 24, he received from the pastor of one of Cleveland's older churches the present of a new tree. Rev. Schwan realized immediately that the present meant the acceptance of the custom by a churchman far more influential than himself, and his sadness vanished.

There was a Christmas tree in the York street Zion Lutheran church that year—and once accepted in Cleveland, the custom spread all over the United States.

York street where Pastor Schwan's church once stood is changed now and long ago was renamed Hamilton avenue; and the first tree, decorated with candles and a gold star at its top, has given way to trees with brighter, more colorful decorations.

But the tradition of erecting and lighting Christmas trees, which is observed throughout the nation, is the same tradition which Pastor Schwan introduced to this country in the town of Cleveland nearly 100 years ago.

### Bringers of Gifts Come From Santa To Knight Ruppert

In America on Christmas Eve there is a merry throng of sleigh bells as Santa Claus drives up in a sleigh drawn by eight reindeer. He drives from roof to roof, pausing just long enough to climb down each chimney. From a huge sack on his back he fills the children's stockings with toys and goodies. Gifts that are too large to be stuffed in the stockings are put on the Christmas tree or stacked underneath it.

This is Christmas in America—but it is not always Santa who brings the gifts to children in other lands.

The Dutch children anxiously await the arrival on Christmas of St. Nicholas. He was the bishop of Myra, so he is dressed in the traditional bishop's robes of black, wears a mitre, and carries a crozier.

He rides a white horse and is accompanied by Black Peter, his page boy. Instead of hanging up their stockings to hold the gifts, the Dutch children place their wooden shoes in the chimney corner before going to bed. On the window sills they leave a bunch of hay for "Eieknper," the bishop's white horse. It is customary for St. Nicholas to overturn chairs and leave the room in general confusion for Christmas morning.

English children wait for a Santa Claus who closely resembles our own. They also find gifts tied to a green Christmas tree, but this custom has been in effect only since Queen Victoria was a young bride. She married Albert, a German prince, and it was he who introduced this Christmas custom to England from Germany.

It is an angel who leaves the gifts in Czechoslovakia. She descends on a golden chord to accompany Santa.

In Scandinavia gifts are distributed during the supper hour. They are brought by dwarfs and the children leave bowls of porridge on the doorstep for them. Santa comes riding on a goat instead of a reindeer.

The birds receive the largest number of gifts in Sweden. Each family places a sheaf of grain on a pole or on the fence posts for the birds' Christmas dinner.

Spanish children place their straw-filled sleeves on the window sills so the Magi may feed their horses while they leave gifts. The older people fill an Urn of Fate from which the gifts are drawn on Christmas Day.

Knight Ruppert, who is the German Kris Kringle, is represented by a young girl wearing a golden crown and gown in a flowing white robe. She carries a small tree laden with gifts which she distributes.

The children of Switzerland have their gifts brought to them by a radiant angel who rides in a sleigh drawn by six reindeer. She brings them goodies to eat as well as toys.

And in Poland, at least before the Communists came in, the people called at the parish house on Christmas morning where the priest presented them with "peace wafers," which symbolized peace on earth, good will to men. The people exchanged Christmas wishes as the wafers were broken and eaten before returning home.

As Americans observe this Christmas in the comfort and luxury of modern civilization, who among them will pause for a thought of how their forebears kept the holy season?

An example of Christmas of the past in America is provided in a study of the history of the old village of Kaskaskia, first capital of Illinois, where the pioneers braved the rigors of a new and unsettled world.

Despite the hardships and discomfort which prevailed in the days of the early settlers of this land, there was hardly a cabin so humble, but what its occupants found some way to keep Christmas.



OLD, OLD STORY . . . If teacher could get this kind of attention as she lectures on the three R's, she'd have a room full of geniuses. She is reading the ageless Clement Moore classic "Twas the Night Before Christmas." And not a creature is stirring.

Prefixes Fitz, Ben and Mac mean "son of."

Rhode Island was the first state in the Union to build its own airport. When landing at an airport, an airplane has the right-of-way over planes taking off.

**THAT HITS IT!**

Instead of thinking of the many fancy ways to express our wish, we simply say with appreciation and sincerity,

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**George Conis**  
"The End Man of Plattsmouth"

411 Main Phone 4133

**Greetings**

At this Holiday Season we desire to express our sincere appreciation for our pleasant relationships and extend to you and yours best wishes for a

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**Farley Furniture Store**  
118 South 6th Phone 260

**Merry Christmas**

It Adds Much to the Joy of Christmas to Send Our Very Best Wishes to Those Whom We Serve

**Wescott's**  
Since 1879



Yuletide Greetings

May this Christmas bring to your fireside every joy that is dear

**YULETIDE GREETINGS**

**Wee Wardrobe**

May Christmas blessings fill your heart with true happiness, and bring you joy and peace all through the coming year.

**Gambles**  
Herb Freeburg, Owner

**CHRISTMAS SYMBOL** . . . The light of the deathless spirit of the Yule burns steadily in every mind at this season of the year, but nowhere is it more beautifully typified than in the delighted, wide-eyed look of a child experiencing the shimmering delights of his first Christmas.

### Naturalized Citizen—That's Our Santa

Santa Claus as Americans know him is a naturalized American citizen, and as such is America's contribution to the Christmas legend. That's the opinion of Dr. Gustav O. Arit of the department of Germanic languages on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California.

"The Norwegians who settled early in America brought the first version of the modern Santa Claus, who in Europe had never been known as St. Nicholas, but never adequately personally described," said Dr. Arit.

"When the American Clement Moore described the jolly, rotund gentleman in minute detail in his poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas,' he assumed the proportion of living legend and thus became an integral part of Christian legend and folklore," the professor stated.

### Archaeologists' Findings Bear Out Bible Stories

Archaeologists' findings oftentimes serve to further establish the authenticity of the story of Jesus. Only recently a group discovered the name of Jesus, carved before 70 A.D. and perhaps by an eyewitness to the crucifixion, among inscriptions on 11 early Christian burial urns found in a cave on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road.

The urns may provide the "oldest archaeological record of Christianity" and an historical confirmation of the trial and crucifixion of Christ, the archaeologists said.

A sect of Hebrews, who followed Jesus, denounced Pontius Pilate and mourned the crucifixion of their leader, was believed to have left the writings on the urns in the cave.

The Hebrew and Aramic inscriptions contained common names like Miriam, Simeon, and Matti. The Greek inscriptions and symbols beside them contained references to Christianity and, it seems probable, to the crucifixion.

Mohican Indians are not entirely extinct.

With Kindest Remembrances and all GOOD WISHES for CHRISTMAS

**Solomon's Coffee Shop**  
Closed Christmas Day

**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS**

**Soennichsen's**

An orphan car is one that is no longer manufactured.

**SANTA**, swell fellow that he is, has told us that you've been mighty good folks the past year and so we're hoping that you will enjoy the festive occasion of Christmas to its fullest extent.

**Plattsmouth Transfer**  
Bob Sedlak — Bob McClanahan

**Merry Christmas**

We are thinking of you at Christmastime and wishing you

*Good Luck* in all you do

Your Westinghouse Store  
**Wm. Schmidtman**  
**W. R. Herring, Electrician**

**A Merry Christmas**  
TO YOU AND THOSE ABOUT YOU

**Joe J. and Freda Stibal**  
(Stibal Variety)