

Traditions of Christmas Cover Many Continents, Generations

By Wendy Rogers

Noel in France, Nativita in Italy, Navidad in Spain, Weihnachts in German, Kerstmis in Holland, Christmas to us—all mark the birth of the Christ Child on earth, the Child who was to lead men to salvation.

According to St. Matthew, "Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King."

Exactly where and when the keeping of Christmas began is hidden in obscurity. But, according to Clement A. Miles in his book on Christmas, the earliest celebration of the birth of Christ on Dec. 25 was in Rome about the middle of the fourth century.

The observance of the day spread from the western to the eastern Church, which had before kept Jan. 6 as a joint commemoration of the Nativity and the Baptism of the Redeemer.

Nativity

The first mention of a Nativity feast on Dec. 25 is found in a Roman document known as Philocalian Calendar, dating from the year 354, but embodying an older document belonging to the year 336.

From Rome, according to miles, Christmas spread throughout the West, with the conversion of the barbarians.

In 567 the Council of Tours from Christmas to Epiphany to festive time. The laws of Ethelred (991-1016) ordained it to be a "time of peace and concord among Christian men, when all strife must cease."

In some early segments of Christianity, the celebration of the Baptism of Christ (Jan. 6) and his carnal Birth (Dec. 25) were attached to the same day. Later, however, the Birth of Christ was celebrated singularly on Dec. 25.

Roman Use

Gradually, notes Miles, the Roman use spread: at Constantinople in 380; at Antioch

in 388, and Alexandria in 432. As the Middle Ages passed, Christmas became increasingly "merry," warm and homely. The spirit of Christmas grew as the Nativity was reflected in the carols and tradition.

According to Earl W. Count in "4,000 Years of Christmas," Christmas may be likened to the web in a loom.

"There are many weavers, who work into the pattern the experience of their lives."

"When one generation goes, another comes to take up the web where it has been dropped. The pattern changes as the mind changes, yet never begins quite anew."

Pattern

At first, we are not sure that we discern the pattern, but at last we see that, unknown to the weavers themselves, something has taken shape before our eyes; and that they have made something very beautiful, something which compels our understanding.

The legend of our American Santa Claus, who "exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist," according to an American newspaper editor, has derived from the son of well-to-do Christians of a province of Asia Minor.

"Saint" Nicholas lived during the reigns of the Roman Emperors Diocletian, Maximilian, and Constantine, late in the third century and into the fourth.

While he was still a young man, Nicholas was consecrated Archbishop of Myra, a seaport town. He died in the year 326.

Saint

Probably one of the hardest-working saints of all, Nicholas was invoked from England to Greece to Orthodox Russia.

According to legends he rides the storm at sea, saving

ships and the lives of sailors for whom he is the last and only hope. He is the protector of all humble and small folk, and the special guardian of unmarried girls.

Nicholas, it seems, had the habit of slipping gifts into the homes of worthy people under cover of darkness.

Nicholas the saint is often pictured with three bags of gold—sometimes these take the form of three balls—to symbolize that he will protect a man's goods.

Christmas Tree

Another tradition symbolizing the spirit of Christmas is that of the Christmas tree. In Northern Germany in the 18th and 19th centuries, it was regarded as the symbol of the Tree of Life which stood in the Garden of Eden—in Hamburg, one could buy small figurines of Adam and Eve and the serpent to place under the tree.

No specific account of the first Christmas tree was ever written, and it was frowned upon by the religious clergy at first. The tree seems to have come from a long standing

tradition of the Northland when the house and barn were decorated with greens at New Year's.

16th Century

In the 16th century, some southern Germans cut cherry and hawthorne boughs on St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30) and put them in a pot of water in a warm room. By Christmas they spread and put forth full bloom. The number of flowers determined the prosperity of the coming year.

In other countries, such as eastern Germany, England, Holland, and Russia, people constructed "pyramids" of greenery.

Our brightly decorated Christmas tree appeared when the decorated Alsatian fir tree, moving east and north, finally met the lighted pyramid in Germany.

By the late 18th century, all of Germany had an ornamented, brightly lit Christmas tree.

Poland

By the 19th Century the tree had moved to Poland, then to Britain, Scandinavia, the Lowlands, and France.

According to one legend, the Christmas tree first came to America with the Hessian soldiers whom King George sent during the Revolution. They celebrated Christmas as in their homeland while Washington and his Continentals were in winter quarters at Valley Forge.

Christmas is the long-lasting drama of the world and of mankind or as Count put it, Christmas "remains an affirmation that all things can be made anew."

Moot Court Team Scores Victory

The law school moot court team placed second in the nation in the 12th annual National Moot Court Competition held Thursday.

A team from New York University School of Law walked off with first place honors.

The Nebraska team presented the best oral argument.

In the semi-finals earlier Thursday, Nebraska defeated the University of Tennessee College of Law and New York University defeated the University of Michigan.

The competition is sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Members of the Nebraska team, coached by Law College Professor John Gradwohl, are Dick Peterson, Dick Shugrue and Robert Weigel.

The debating teams vied in a hypothetical courtroom situation involving an American plaintiff whose assets were seized by an imaginary Latin-American Dictator.

AWS Closing Hours

All women's organized houses and residence halls will be closed by 5:00 p.m. Dec. 22, according to Jeanne Garner, president of Associated Women Students.

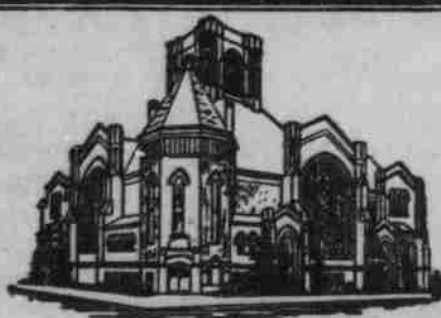
Special permission slips must be obtained from housemothers in order to return later than the regular closing hour on Sunday, Jan. 7. All residences will be open at 3:00 p.m. on that day.



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On Films . . .

(Continued from p.2)

lind Russell and Alec Guinness, and the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, "Flower Drum Song," with Miyoshi Umeki of the Broadway cast.

Deborah Kerr stars in the filmization of "The Innocents," based on the play of the same name by William Archibald, which was based on the Henry James novel, "Turn of the Screw." Ingrid Bergman won a "Best Actress" "Emmy" award for her performance in the television version.

And adaptations continue into 1962 releases via films already completed or currently being filmed. Among them are: "Mutiny on the Bounty," "The Music Man," "Advise and Consent," "Requiem for a Heavyweight," "Five Finger Exercise," "The Ugly American," "Sweet Bird of Youth," "The Chapman Report," "Billy Budd," "The Miracle Worker" and "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Among the year-end releases, one original gem shines right along with all the adaptations and versions and interpretations. It's Billy Wilder's comedy "One, Two, Three." The man who presented "Some Like It Hot" and "The Apartment" now tackles the Cold War with Russia, and delivers a satirical comedy. After Russia, Wilder's has only one more supreme power to use as a film topic—the Sintra clan.

Over Sixty-Five Students Attend Big 8 Conference

Over 65 students from all of the Big Eight universities will attend the Dec. 28-30 Big Eight Student Government Association conference at the Nebraska Center.

Outstanding speakers for the conference include Ed Garvey, president of the National Student Association (NSA); and Kay Wonderlic, president of the Students Committee to Accurate National Representation (SCANR), the strongest opposition to NSA.

Garvey and Wonderlic will explain their programs Friday morning Dec. 29 at 9:20 and 10:30 respectively and the two organizations will be studied and debated that afternoon.

Bill Dawson, founder of the university People-To-People (PTP) will speak Friday evening, Dec. 29 at 9:00 p.m.

Jed Johnson, national field representative of the Collegiate Council on the United Nations (CCUN) will precede Dawson at 7:30 p.m. on the evening's program.

A Peace Corps representative will outline the goals and efforts of the program Saturday Dec. 30 at 9 a.m.

The conference will be open to the public, said Sukey Tinnan, co-chairman of the conference committee, although individuals attending sessions must pay a nominal registration fee to be admitted.

Meals can be eaten at the Nebraska Center under this

arrangement," Miss Tinnan added.

Governor Frank B. Morrison will address the conference at the Friday evening banquet and Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin will speak to the group at the opening session that morning.

Other features of the conference include a discussion of the special project and problems encountered by the Big Eight universities Saturday morning and the election of officers and acceptance of a new constitution drafted by the University Student Council that afternoon.

A majority of Council members will attend the conference. John Nolon, Chip Kuklin and Jim Samples were elected to act as the University's official delegates.

Two Fraternities To Hold Formals

Getting the last bit of socializing in before the big Christmas vacation, students have been caroling and having Christmas parties for the children of their alums.

With most students counting the hours and minutes before they leave the campus for vacation, only two formals are planned for tonight.

Phi Delta Theta Christmas formal, 8-12 p.m.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Winter formal, 7:30-12 p.m.

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Star of Bethlehem Is Symbol of Faith, Hope

By Nancy Whitford

The Star of Bethlehem is a symbol of the faith, dignity and hope inspired by the Christmas message, but what caused it to shine so brightly on that first Christmas night? What clue did it give to the Wise Men in their search for the Christ Child?

The staff at the University Planetarium ventures several guesses.

It might have been a single bright star called a super-nova that suddenly increases in brilliance and then fades. But there is no record of such a star recorded during the time when Christ is believed to have been born.

It might have been a meteor, but these are too common. Some 50 meteors fall every night.

It might have been a comet, but comets were generally regarded as evil, rather than good omens.

The most probable explanation can be found in a phenomenon called a "triple conjunction" which occurred in 7 B.C. in the constellation of Pisces the Fishes, said Byron Almqvist, Planetarium lecturer. (Because of a calendar mixup, Christ is believed to have been born earlier than 1 B.C.)

DAILY NEBRASKAN CLASSIFIEDS

POLICY
Classified ads for the Daily Nebraskan must be entered two days in advance and must be paid for in advance. Corrections will be made if errors are brought to our attention within 48 hours.

FOR RENT
2 bedroom apartment, completely furnished, very nice. Available Jan. 15. Married students only. GA 5-748.

RIDES
Wanted a ride to New York, share all expenses. GA 5-284.

LOST
One right hand brown leather glove. Contact David Hendrickson GR 7-7212.

PERSONAL
Hill in his nightshirt. Sister just a few feet away. He was alone like a choco-choco train. They'd have passed you Saturday about 12:30. Had you been between 8th Street and Vine.

TRIANGLE FRATERNITY. Any member from another chapter now on campus (either student or faculty) please contact William Spence at GR 7-9251 or 489-0222.

Disregard that ad for a ride to the Yukon for my dad. He has decided to spend the holidays in Nebraska. (down King) He says thanks anyway.

For sale — Valuable white broom. Was used at 29 Downing Street in London, England. Broom handle is half point pine, bottle opener, or back scratcher. Also glory in the dark.

Have a Merry Christmas and a New Year that begins.

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CALENDAR OF CHURCH SERVICES

UNITED CAMPUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, U. B. & Disciples of Christ) 333 No. 14 Rev. Alan J. Pickering, Rev. Ralph Hays, Rev. Dennis W. Patterson Sunday Corporate Worship 10:45 a.m. Crossroads Seminar 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Forum 5:30 p.m. Forum Discussion 6:30 p.m.	
UNIVERSITY EPISCOPAL CHAPEL 12th & R Sts. G. M. Armstrong, Chaplain Holy Communion . . . 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers . . . 10:30 a.m. Evening Prayer . . . 5:00 p.m. Canterbury . . . 5:30 p.m.	
UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL (The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod) 15th & Q A. J. Norden, Pastor Worship—8:45 a.m. Bible Study—9:45 a.m. Worship—10:45 a.m. Gamma Delta—5:30 p.m.	
TIFEREH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE 3219 Sheridan Rabbi Maurice A. Pomerantz Services: Fri., 8:00 p.m.; Sat., 9:00 a.m. Hillel Meetings Monday	
BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP Rayce L. Jones & M. Merle Burner, Directors of Student Work 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour 7:00 Evening Worship 8:00 After-Church Fellowship Groups Meeting at First Baptist Church, 14th & K Streets Second Baptist Church, 28th & S Streets	
CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER St. Thomas Aquinas Church Charles J. Keenan—Chaplain Robert F. Sheehy—Chaplain J. Rawley Myers—Chaplain MASSES: 8:00-9:30-11:00 & 12:15	
LUTHERAN STUDENT CHAPEL (National Lutheran Council) 535 No. 16 Alvin M. Petersen, pastor; Gwen Jacobson, assistant Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Lutheran Student Association, 5:30 p.m.	
WESLEY FOUNDATION (METHODIST) William B. Gould, Duane Hutchinson, Pastors Temporary Offices 833 Holdrege 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion (at Lutheran Student Chapel, 535 No. 16) 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship (at 535 No. 16) 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour and Discussion 6:00 p.m. Forum (Room 332, Student Union)	



The call of the Carols . . .

The spirit of Christmas is contagious. Clarion bells and holy music break through the hum of our busy world.

The spell of Christmas calls you!

And it makes you want to call others!

Christmas has always affected men this way. First the herald angels bringing their good tidings to shepherds . . . the star beckoning three Wise Men to Bethlehem. Then Wise Men and shepherds returning from the Manger to thrill others with their strange story of the birth of the King.

Is it enough to answer the call of the carols?

Brighten someone's life by sharing the vision.

Bring someone with you to worship the Christ.

This someone will understand Christmas better when he sees what it means to you!

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THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . .
ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Luke	1	26-35
Monday	Matthew	1	18-25
Tuesday	Luke	2	8-30
Wednesday	Matthew	2	1-12
Thursday	John	1	28-34
Friday	John	1	45-54
Saturday	Acts	5	1-10

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