

Across the Kitchen Table

By Mrs. Mac.

All countries throughout the world have their own customs and ways of celebrating Christmas. In Austria, emphasis is placed upon light to commemorate the eternal Light given to man in the coming of Christ. In a family ceremony, three candles are lit, one on Christmas Eve, one on Christmas Day and one on New Years Day.

In Serbia, each friend who enters a home on Christmas Day must throw a handful of grain into each corner to ensure a good crop for the coming year.

Christmas supper, in Poland, begins when the first star appears in the sky Christmas Eve. Songs play a large part in the Polish celebrations.

One of the nicest of all Christmas customs originated in Ireland, where on Christmas Eve, lighted candles are placed on every window sill and all doors are left ajar as symbols of hospitality, to show that there is room for the Babe that was the son of God.

The candles must burn all night and only those who bear the name of Mary are allowed to snuff them.

Antwerp, Belgium, has a cathedral that is five hundred years old and on Christmas Day ninety nine bells chime out a call to the people to come and wor-

where it is distributed to the poor of the parish.

One of the gay customs in Mexico is that of breaking the "Pinata" which is an earthen ware jug hung from the ceiling and filled with fruits, candies and good luck charms. The children are blindfolded and take turns hitting at the Pinata until it is finally broken and in the scramble for its contents each one may keep what he gets.

Bringing in the Yule log and the processions of carolers are highlights of England's Yuletides. The carolers are as much a part of Christmas in the tiny villages as in the famous cathedral towns. England is famous, too, for Dickens Christmas Carol with Scrooges's ghosts and Tiny Tim's "God bless us every one."

THE BIBLE TODAY

It is sometimes by devious routes that Bibles reach their destination air-mail from God is the description given to his novel method of distribution by a young missionary in Mexico. He packs Gospels, into an aeroplane and drops them in remote villages in sections of the country bound by mountains and forest.

As he flies slowly and low over a village, he drops the Scripture portions in a steady stream. Old and young rush out and search the streets and country-side for the little books. They return in triumph to read "the message from the sky".

The young missionary pilot often visits the same villages later to find the books have been well received. An old man will be quietly reading under a shade tree; a woman will have one tucked into her market basket; a group of boys may be found slowly spelling out the words one by one. He claims he has never heard of a copy being torn up or thrown away.

In Europe various similar efforts have been made to get the

Bible behind the Iron Curtain, the book that seen more variety in its method of delivery than any other, has been attached to gas-filled balloons when the wind direction was right, and cast aloft to be carried over national and ideological borders.

One new-Canadian devised a scheme to send copies of the Scriptures to friends in Central Europe. When they failed to arrive by regular mail in their own right, she baked other copies in

bread or cake, and thus secured their secret delivery.

Suggested Bible readings for the week.

- Sunday- Phil. 1: 1-21
- Monday- Col. 1: 1-23
- Tuesday- Jude. 17-25
- Wednesday-Psa. 67:1-7
- Thursday-Psa. 23:1-11
- Friday-Psa. 46:1-11
- Saturday-Psa. 100:1-5

DANGER IN RAW MILK.

Unless milk is pasteurized, it may be the carrier of the germs of undulant fever, typhoid or paratyphoid fevers, dysentery, bovine tuberculosis or other diseases which can affect humans.

Commercially sold pasteurized milk is safe but raw milk obtained from other than commercial dairies should be pasteurized at home, if necessary. The operation is simple-- just bring the raw milk to a temperature of 145 degrees F., keep it at that heat for 30 minutes and then cool quickly.



Wedding

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May the message of the first Christmas dwell in your heart this joyous season, inspiring renewed devotion to its shining ideal of Peace on Earth, Good Will towards Men.

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As young voices are lifted in carols of beloved memory, may they strike a responsive chord in every heart, inspire us all anew with the true spirit of Christmas...of Peace on Earth, Good Will towards Men. To everybody, everywhere: our warmest season's greetings!

WHITBY'S PHARMACY




May the bright and shining joys of Christmas light your way to a whole new year of health and happiness... deep contentment and peace.

SANDERSON
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Our sincere good wishes go out to you.

Bill Fleming and Staff
P.-F. HARDWARE



Some gifts come in big packages
And other gifts are small,
But some of the very nicest are
Things you can't see at all.
Good health, good cheer and
Friendship are the richest
treasure.
We hope you have them,
every one,
For your Christmas pleasure.

HAILEYBURY LUMBER COMPANY LIMITED
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Is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia's Letter

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. "Some of my friends say there is no Santa Claus."

Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so."
"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-fifth Street.

THE ANSWER:

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down what would they prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

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Season's Greetings from

CLARENCE CONNELLY and STAFF
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