

THE Miracle OF Christmas



There is so much about Christmas that is all too obvious. Colored lights are everywhere. Store windows come alive with beautiful decorations and a seemingly endless array of toys and gifts. Up and down every street in town, windows and doorways are beaded in mistletoe, holly and evergreen.

Christmas cards and street-corners Santas, the sound of the postman at the door, the sight and aroma of good things to eat . . . these are undeniable signs of the season.

Less obvious, perhaps, is the change that comes over people, with very few exceptions. Each individual seems to find new purpose, new incentive. He hurries more than usual, yet he is quicker to smile, less impatient and somewhat more tolerant of his fellow human being.

We cannot describe it adequately except to say that it must be in some small way the miracle of Christmas at work. It has to be; it comes from the heart. It is irresistible. It is compulsive. There is no other explanation.

Amid all the outward trappings of the season—and, perhaps, in spite of them—the miracle of Christmas shines forth from the human heart.

The miracle of Christmas—mankind's greatest heritage — was brought with quiet unassuming dignity into the hearts and minds of living men and women. There it has remained, through centuries of oppression, persecution, and the impartial attrition of time.

Despots, dictators and disbelievers have had their day in history's pages. Good "isms" and bad "isms" have made their mark upon the walls of time. But these

Of Greens . . .

At early Christmas celebration, the most popular 'greens' were holly, ivy, mistletoe and rosemary. An old story says that rosemary, emblem of constancy, was endowed with fragrance when Mary placed the Christ Child's garments on this shrub.

It was used at Christmas for many years, especially in England, but for some reason lost popularity as a decoration, about the time of the Victorian era.



Greetings and best wishes for CHRISTMAS

Reavell Grocery OS 2-3611 Haileybury

Plan Schedule For Happy Holiday

With "visions of dancing sugar-plums," it's almost impossible to keep children out of the kitchen during the holiday season — a time when the average homemaker is busiest of all.

Amid all the confusion, the family sometimes gets on an irregular eating and sleeping schedule, with the result that tempers get short and the family misses the full enjoyment of the season. A wisely planned schedule will prevent this unhappy set of circumstances.

Reserve a small space in one corner of the kitchen for the children. Let them entertain themselves with a small amount of dough and a rolling pin. Wait until the children have gone to bed to make cookies and candies.

Plan hearty evening meals—with enough left over for a tasty lunch the following day. Leftover roast is ideal for noontime sandwiches—served hot or cold. Prepared foods that need only be heated and served, will cut down on preparation and clean-up time in the kitchen.

If cookies and sweets are made available to youngsters, offer them nutritious snacks as well. Alongside the cookie plate, place an assortment of small sandwiches, carrot sticks and fruit slices.

The man who lives by the golden rule today never has to apologize for his actions tomorrow.

change their patterns with the progress of humanity.

Down through the ages the one, single dominating influence upon generations of men and women has been the miracle of Christmas, the simple affirmation of the heritage and dignity that belongs to none but mankind among myriad creatures of land and sea and sky.

Man is a special creature, created in the image of eternity. It is through—and because of—the miracle of Christmas that hope springs eternal in the human breast.

"For on this day is born unto the world a Saviour" In these simple words we find the strength of Christianity . . . the miracle of Christmas which bestowed upon mankind the inalienable right to merit eternal salvation.

Cranberries Custom At Christmas

Cranberries, so much a part of our holiday dining, tradition, was i-bimi, or "bitter berry" to the Indians, who pounded the fruit with meat into a paste called pemican; used cranberry poultices on wounds and used the juice as red dye.

The Pilgrims, noting the berries were a favorite food of cranes, called them cranberries, and this eventually changed to cranberries.

Pioneer Grower

Cranberries were harvested from wild vines until 1816, when Henry Hall, a veteran of the Revolution, transplanted wild vines to a swampy site near Dennis, Massachusetts. Hall had observed that the choicest wild berries were usually found in sandy areas, so he spread sand over his fields and produced an excellent crop.

Many other early plantings failed, in Massachusetts and New Jersey, before growers learned that the cranberry would thrive only under certain conditions. Cranberry fields today are located in bog areas with peat soil, the fields are well-drained and can be flooded to protect vines from cold and control insects; sand is plentiful, and necessary to slow evaporation, provide a good medium for root growth, and keep down weeds.

Birds Welcome

Birds are welcome visitors to cranberry bogs. Some bogs are lined with birdhouses—homes for swallows, which eat destructive insects.

And with the birds, are the bees, who also perform an important service. Cranberry pollen is too heavy to be carried by wind, so bees are necessary to pollinate the flowers.

Christmas Holiday Once Forbidden

Christmas has not always been a "legal" holiday in this country. In 1659, the general court of Massachusetts Bay colony passed this resolution:

"Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting, or any other way, as a festival, shall be fined five shillings."

The first "legal" observance in this country is believed to have taken place in Boston in 1686 when Governor Andros conducted services in the town hall. And it was still many years later, in 1856, that the State of Massachusetts officially passed laws which permitted the observance of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

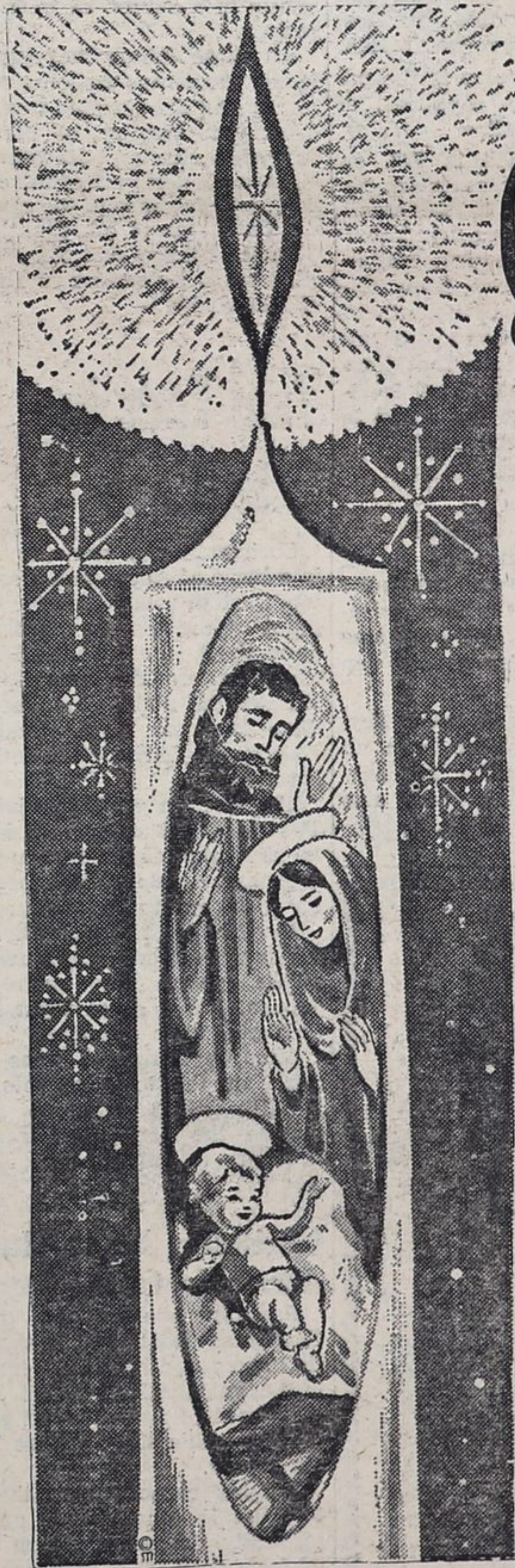
The scene of the blessed Nativity shines down through the years, with its inspiring message of happiness and Divine love.



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

OS 2-3033

Haileybury



Christmas greetings

May the peace and joy of Christmas abide with you -

TULLOCH and BUFFAM

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