



FAMILIAR SCENE . . . The little white church by the side of the road . . . it could be anywhere in America. And, come Christmas morning, boots will crunch through the snow as worshipers come from near and far. This scene is near Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

Twelfth Night In Old Plays

During the Middle Ages, Epiphany, or Twelfth Night, was commemorated with plays presented in churches. Solemn observances largely disappeared in Elizabeth England, and they became a time for revelry.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" reflects this mood. It was probably presented in a command performance at Whitehall Palace on January 6, 1601, according to historians.

Today child "kings" crowned with golden paper coronets roam the streets of Europe on Epiphany, singing hymns and carols. In Italy, millions of children awake to find their stockings filled with presents from La Befana, the good-hearted witch who takes the place of Santa Claus.

In France, a portion of the Epiphany cake is often set aside as "la part de Dieu"—God's share. It is given to the first poor person who comes to the door.

In Greece, three pieces of cake are cut: one for Christ, one for Mary, and one for St. Basil. In Britain, Twelfth Night cake is washed down with Lamb's Wool, a drink made with hot, strong ale spiced with nutmeg and sugar.



GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

Let us glory in God's promise of Joy and Peace on Earth, Good Will to all men.

A. C. DEMPSTER
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Novel Decoration Theme

If you would like to dress-up your Christmas card display this year be business-like about it — by borrowing the bulletin board idea.

It is inexpensive and easy. All that is required is a suitably-sized piece of wallboard and, if you want to be fancy about it, some half-round or narrow moulding. Sometimes these materials can be unearthed from your let's save it, it may come in handy" stockpile in the basement but they can always be picked up from your local building supply dealer.

The wallboard, trimmed either square or rectangular to your requirements, should be painted with two aims in view — to blend in with the wall on which it is to be hung and to provide a suitable background for the cards.

Fortunately, the best paint for wallboard is the easy-to-use, no-muss latex paint. This requires no sizing for, unlike oil-based paints, it is not absorbed by the porous wallboard. And practically any shade you desire can be found in latex paint.

The painted board can be hung in hall or livingroom as is, or framed with half-round of moulding for a more finished look. Frame can be painted to match

or, for contrast, in white or gold to complement almost any color. Then with your prettiest cards pinned on it, you have a decorative and festive holiday conversation piece.

If you have lots of cards and lots of room you can expand the bulletin board idea into a screen. Two or three oblong - panels of wallboard nailed to hinges of three-quarter round, (which also serve as legs) and suitably painted, make a striking decorator screen.

Either method will pose no storage problem after Christmas — bets are bulletin board or screen will be grabbed by younger members of the family for year-round pinup duty in their room.

Mistletoe

One cannot help but wonder how mistletoe came to be the "kissing plant." The mistletoe is a parasite, or "thief" which attaches to a host tree and under certain circumstances will sap the life out of a healthy, sturdy tree.

Mistletoe usually grows on oaks, mostly in the top branches. The seeds are probably scattered by birds.



Some folks pick up a box of Christmas cards and mail them out.

Others snap a picture of the children under the tree to illustrate their Yuletide greetings.

But for 25 years, a State College, Pa., couple have been doing it differently, and their friends won't let them stop now.

They are David and Madeline Campbell who for the past quarter of a century have collected zesty little bits of news from mutual friends — who broke their legs, were married, or had some other dramatic adventure — then boiled the information down and flavored it with Campbell poetry for an annual Christmas letter.

How did the Christmas letter get started?

"Who knows how it got started?" says Madeline. "How do you quit? Our friends won't let us quit."

Campbell is a retired Pennsylvania State University professor who for nearly 30 years taught engineering drawing.

Now, he is a once-a-year author and some 500 friends of Dave and Madeline Campbell — in a half dozen foreign countries and most of the United States — refuse to let the dynamic Campbell Christmas letter give way to a conventional card.

Aerosol 'Snows' Aid To Novel Decorations

For the party-minded, aerosol "snows" can be used in making novel table decorations from such simple materials as pine cones, boughs, and sprigs of holly. Colorful centrepieces for candlelight suppers can be made with a short length of birch log, drilled to hold red candles, and then sprayed with the snow.

With a little ingenuity and imagination, the homemaker can use the white and colored snows in "spray painting" simple Christmas designs on window panes or glass surfaces. Cut-out paper or cardboard masks can be made for each color area.

For best results, the aerosol snow should be sprayed from a distance of about 24 inches—the greater distance, the fluffier the deposit of simulated snow.

MISTLETOE CUSTOMS

The ancient Druids worshipped mistletoe because it grew on their sacred oak. At the end of each year, a Druid priest would cut down the mistletoe with a golden sickle, and not one twig was allowed to touch the earth. Later, sprigs of mistletoe were fastened over doorways to ward off evil spirits.



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