

Mistletoe Myths

Like frankincense and myrrh, also associated with Christmas, mistletoe was once hailed for its medicinal properties. The ancient Druids of Britain attributed mystic powers to the mistletoe plant and believed it effective against diseases, poisons, and witchcraft. To announce an engagement with a kiss beneath its berries was considered the best guarantee of happiness, good fortune, fertility and long life.

Fine Wrapping Enhances Gifts

Decorative wrapping can do much to enhance the appearance and value of the most simple gifts.

Here are a few suggestions to help you to better gift wrapping:

Always work on a solid surface — a kitchen table, for instance — that affords plenty of "extra" room.

Carefully measure paper before cutting. Cutting away excess paper after gift is half wrapped is cumbersome task, does not make for neat wrapping.

Make your bow separately and do not attach it until rest of wrapping is completed.

Be sure that ribbon matches at least one of the colors in wrapping paper.

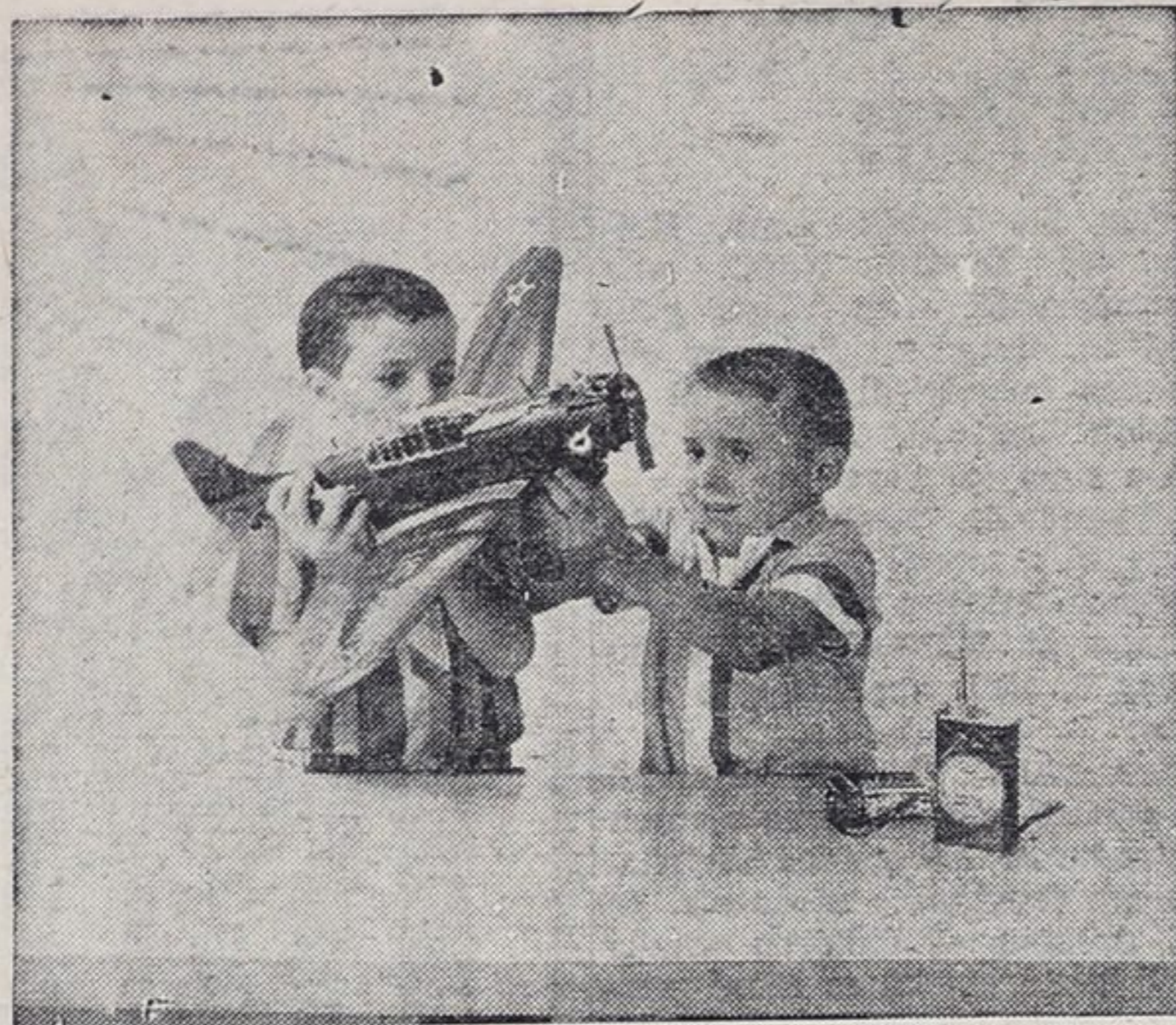
Don't use dainty designs or pastel paper for a man's gift.

Paper with large designs or broad stripes should not be used to wrap small packages.

Epiphany Cake Helps French Choose 'King'

"La Galette des Rois," the "King's Cake," is the French form of Epiphany cake, according to the editors of The Encyclopedia Americana. Epiphany cake is baked all over Europe, either at Christmas time to eat until Twelfth Night, January 6, or on Epiphany day.

French peasants put a bean into the cake mix, and the finder of the bean, when the cake is baked and cut, is "King" for the evening. He then chooses a "Queen" to share his honors.



AIR-MINDED . . . Rockets and satellites are popular, yet the model airplane still holds great fascination for boys of all ages.

Caroling Everywhere, But Start of Custom Obscure

"Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant."

"Silent night, holy night."

"God rest you merry, gentlemen."

"It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old."

"Oh little town of Bethlehem."

"Deck the halls with boughs of holly."

"On the first day of Christmas."

Wherever people gather, the glad sounds of hymns and carols ring out at Christmas time, as they have for centuries.

Although the words and music of favorite carols are well known, the meaning of the word "carol" itself is obscure. One explanation holds that it comes from the old French word, "caroler," meaning "to dance." The first carols were often sung by worshippers dancing in a circle.

There is also the belief that "carol" comes from the Greek word for flute player, in compliment to the musicians who played for the Christmas ring-dances. Still another thought is that carols ori-

ginated with the songs of the Roman Saturnalia.

The name, "Father of the Christmas Carol," is often given to St. Francis of Assisi. At Greccio in 1224, he arranged a Nativity scene and led the singing of songs of praise to the Christ Child. Although carols had been sung earlier, this act by St. Francis gave impetus to the idea of happy singing at the Christmas season.

Early carols were in Latin. As carols gained popularity during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, many people preferred to sing in their own languages, and new carols were developed.

The growth of carols was helped along by "wassailing" or "gooding" expeditions. Children went from house to house, singing songs and receiving treats.

Wynkyn de Word, apprentice to the famous English printer, Caxton, issued the first printed book of carols in 1521.

Later, English people learned carols from printed "broadsides" which sold for a penny. When the Puritans abolished holiday observances in the seventeenth century, the broadsides were still printed and "bootlegged" to the public.

Students of Christmas stories might be puzzled whether it was a case of carol singing or carol stinging in an English legend. According to the legend, bees used to gather on Christmas eve to hum carols.

Mystery of Magi Leads to Legends

Familiar to all the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem — and yet little is known about it. In the books of the New Testament, only St. Mathews reports the visit.

St. Mathews called them "wise men from the East." In the legends that have developed, they are sometimes called "Magi," because this word, meaning "august," was the name given the priests of the ancient Medes and Persians.

Tradition says they had heard that a bright new star would announce the coming of a Saviour to the world. After years of watching, they saw the star and set out from Babylon to find Him.

In Bethlehem, they gave the Christ Child gold in a shrine-shaped casket, a sign that they accepted Him as their King; frankincense, a symbol of His deity; and myrrh in a golden horn, a prophecy of His death.

CANDLE CARE

Candles are popular at Christmas, but they can be dangerous. If a candle is too large for the opening in the candlestick, dip the base of the candle in very hot water and you can then press it gently into the holder. Coat all but the wick of your candle with soap suds and allow to dry before lighting. The candle so treated will neither smoke nor drip.



BUSTER'S LUNCH BAR

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Rejoice, He is born in Bethlehem. We wish you and yours great peace and joy.

B. J. BRODA JEWELLER

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DR. W. C. ARNOLD

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

"Merry Christmas" ... in these two words we wish to express our appreciation for your unwavering goodwill and friendship.



LEO'S APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE

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Greetings to all

It certainly

is a great

pleasure to

serve

fine folks

like you!

S. G. SMALLMAN, DRUGS

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