

Parties Are Fun Can Be Impromptu

Parties on Christmas Day are not only fun, they're always inevitable! The family gets together, neighbors drop in, other friends arrive to deliver gifts and greetings and suddenly, it's a party.

EXCHANGING GIFTS. Attach each gift card to a long string, then fasten the string to the gift package. Make a gift chimney from cardboard covered with Christmas wrapping paper, or cover a round container such as a wastebasket.

Finding the Gifts
Place the gifts in the fireplace and have guests or members of the family find their gifts by following the name cards and strings through the other entangling strings, to the gift packages.

CAROLS. Singing carols to piano, radio or record accompaniment is a favorite Christmas Day pastime. For larger groups, a variation on this is to have a "carol mixer."

Using several carols, give everyone the name of a Christmas carol. Each person walks around the room humming the assigned carol, and listening for others humming the same tune. Those with the same melody band together in a group.

Then each group sings its selection for the others — and as a finale, all groups sing their separate carols at the same time.

ARTISTS' MARCH. Have each person pin a card or sheet of blank paper on the person in front of him. The leader starts a single-file march around the room, to Christmas music.

Drawing Reindeers

While marching, each person struggles to draw a reindeer, or other appropriate Christmas subject on the card pinned to the player in front of him. To add to the difficulty and the fun, the leader can take the file around in circles or weave in and out of the line.

After the march is over, the results are exhibited and, if an extra gift is handy, a prize can be awarded to the person judged to have drawn something that best resembles a reindeer.

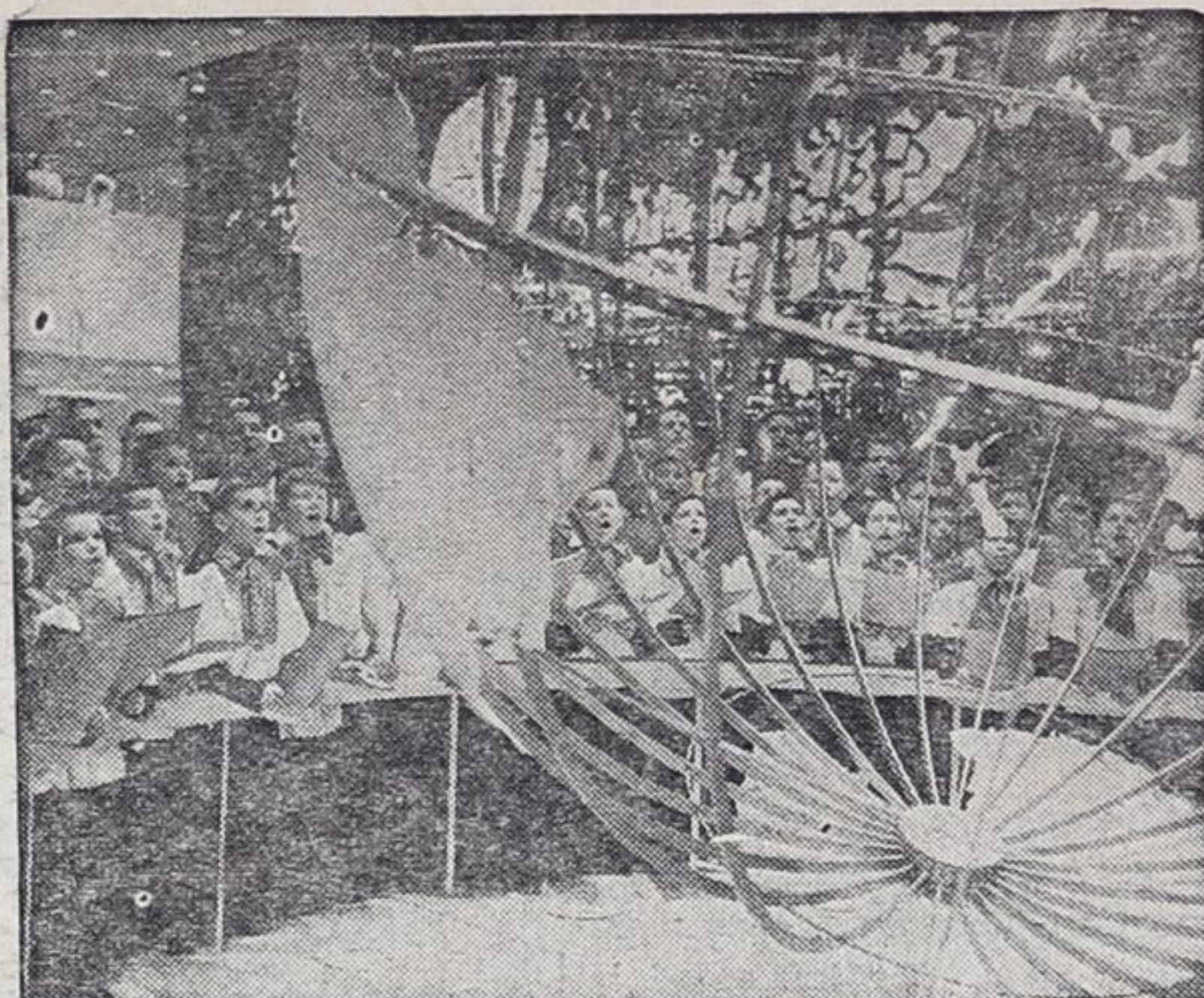
Santa Claus Now A Changed Man

Santa Claus has undergone quite a metamorphosis in his time. Before Dr. Clement Moore, Santa's appearance was a problem left mostly to individual discretion and personal taste. He might be short or tall; plum or thin, merry or solemn.

The European St. Nicholas was pictured as a tall, thin man who rode a gray horse. In 1809, Washington Irving described Santa as a jolly fellow who wore a wide-brimmed hat.

After Dr. Moore wrote "Twas the Night Before Christmas," in 1823, St. Nick acquired definite external characteristics. Ever after, children "knew in a moment it must be St. Nick" by his well-fed, merry appearance — twinkling eyes and a rosy face — and his sleigh and reindeers for transportation.

The image of Santa was affirmed in 1869 when Thomas Nast's cartoon was published, picturing Santa in his now-familiar red garb, smoking a pipe. Like all famous men, Santa today finds it difficult to travel anywhere incognito.



PEACE ON EARTH . . . New York's Incarnation Boys Choir carol before Fifth Avenue shoppers from two-story glassed-in ticket office of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. The boys participate in annual Christmas carol festival arranged by the airline.

A CHRISTMAS OF OLD

When our elders talk about an "old-time" Christmas among the pleasure and anticipation associated with the preparations for the holiday.

There were no "commercial" Christmas trees in the "old days" — everyone went out to the nearest hillside or forest and chose one to their liking — for free. Tinsel, ornaments, electric tree lights, these too, weren't to be had. Decorations for the tree were all homemade — and usually the entire family lent a hand in the preparations.

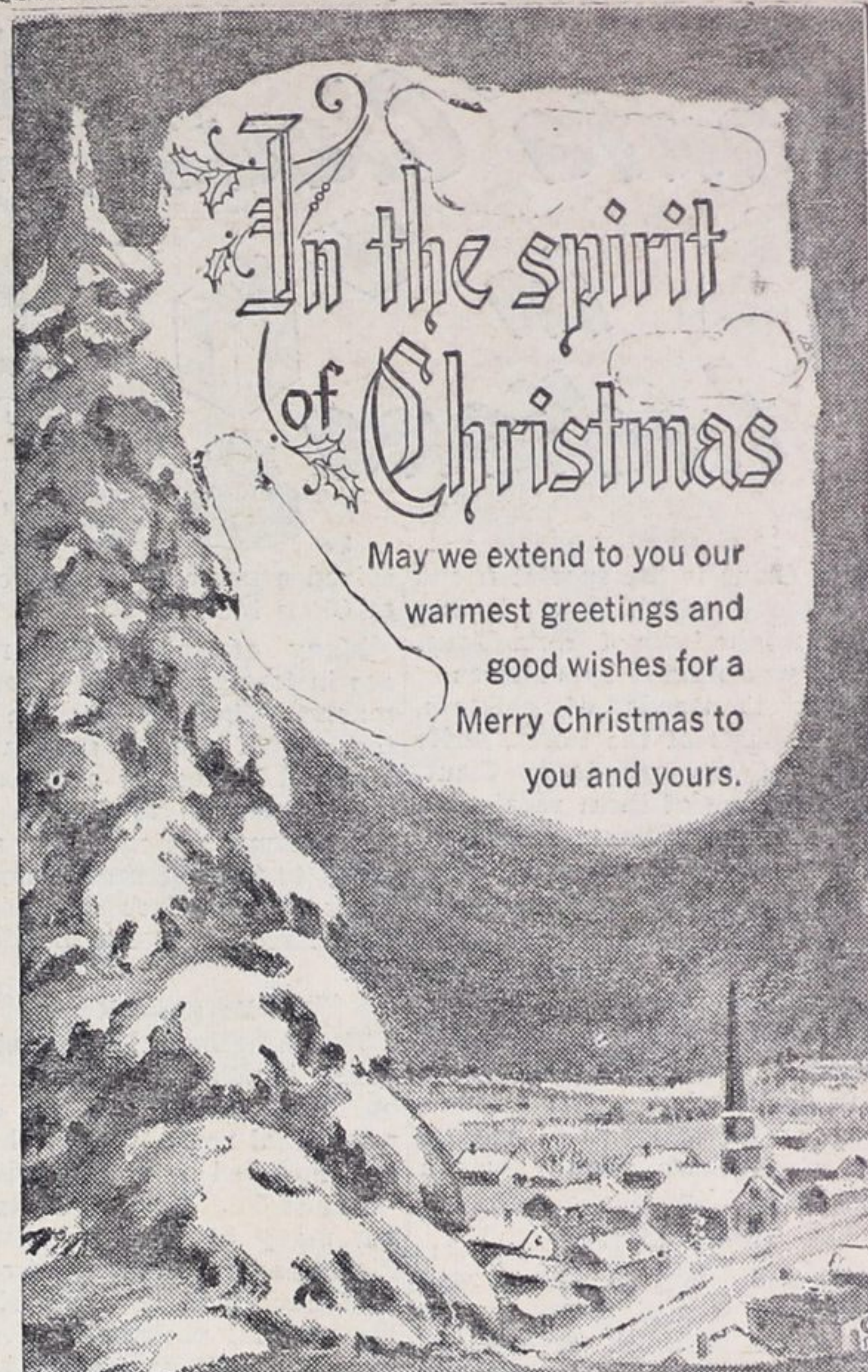
Today we would be foolish, of course, not to take advantage of the many beautiful and ornamental decorations available for decorating home and Christmas tree. Yet; we can still recapture some of the "spirit" of the "old-time Christmas" by making some of the Christmas tree ornaments and decorations as a family project.

A variety of ornaments are possible from such materials as plastic foam. A cookie cutter, for instance, can be used to outline such shapes as snowmen, Santa Clauses, gingerbread men, dolls, clowns and stars on a sheet of 1-inch plastic foam. Cut out the shapes with a sharp knife and then let each member of the family decorate an ornament.

Some can glue sequins to the cutouts to form features. Others can tint the foam with food coloring, or glue felt to the ornament to add extra details, such as hats or buttons.

A pipe cleaner, inserted and glued to the top of the ornament provides a hook.

Decorating the tree is usually a family project, enjoyed by both young and old. Preparing the decorations for the tree can be equally enjoyable and memorable.



HUGHES GROCERY
OS 2-3002 Haileybury

Poinsettia Puzzle Is Christmas Fun

A fun-maker at Christmas is to ask family or friends this question: "What color is the blossom of the poinsettia plant?" Changes are, the answer will be, "Red, of course."

Actually, the red "blossoms" of the poinsettia are not the flower of the plant — they are leaves. The real blossoms are the tiny yellow flowers in the center of the red clusters.

A comparative newcomer to the traditional Yule greenery, the tropical poinsettia was discovered in Mexico in 1828, by Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, first U.S. minister to Mexico. He aroused interest in its beauty, and the plant is named for him.

Albert Ecke, a California farmer, developed and improved the plant, and first marketed it in 1906.



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WE WANT TO WISH YOU ALL

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE
GRATITUDE FOR GIVING US THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU...

TOWN of HAILEYBURY

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