

For a United Nations Christmas

Your Christmas decorations can have a double value this year: lovely to look at—and interesting to talk about. Although the observance of Christmas is universal, individual traditions and practices are as varied as the countries from which they come.

Many of these customs are already a part of our Christmas celebrations, but there are many lesser-known ones which are, nonetheless, rich and meaningful. We mention some of them here with the thought that you will want to adapt them for decorations in your holiday-home.

How Far That Little Candle Throws Its Beam

It is an old Irish custom to place a candle in the window on Christmas Eve to light the Christ-child on His way, and the use of a candle appears in many other lands and in many different ways. In Armenia, myriads of candles are used in the Christmas celebrations, and in Czechoslovakia they are set upright in nutshells and floated in pans of water.

This Czech custom is one that you can easily adopt for a unique table centerpiece. Select one of your prettiest shallow bowls. Cut a piece of cardboard to fit the bottom and make a ribbon ruffle from three inch wide ribbon to fit around the edge of this cardboard. Attach it with scotch tape. Place water-filled bowl on this ruffled plate and set the candles floating in their little nutshell boats. Darken the room and light the candles just before your guests enter.

At church service in Labrador, each child receives a little lighted candle standing in a turnip (which is eaten later by the youngster). In Norway, families arrive at church on Christmas Eve in sleds, each carrying a flaming torch. These are stuck upright in the snow while the good folk attend services, bathing the outside of the church in a warm glow of light.

Why not make use of the Norwegian custom, and stick candles in the snow on either side of your

walk to light the way for your Christmas callers?

The Christmas Feast
Foods vary with each country. In England, for instance, the "Wassail Bowl" is a traditional spreader of holiday joviality.

If your festive board is to be graced by a bowl of holiday punch, set it in the middle of a Christmas wreath, and you will have a decorative centerpiece as well as a thirst-quencher. If you haven't an extra wreath, just remove the one that is hanging on the front door or in a porch window. Make two or three red satin ribbon bows to tuck in among the branches for added color. After dinner, the wreath may be restored to its original position.

If you're not serving a holiday punch, you may prefer to fill your bowl with figs and raisins and outside their doors—the traditional al "end" of any Christmas dinner. In so doing, you are following, in part, an old Greek custom called "the Luck of Christmas"—for Greek youngsters go out on Christmas morning to collect the same figs and raisins and walnuts and sweets that crown our holiday tables.

"A Visit from St. Nick"
Santa is known by many names: Pere Noel (Father Christmas) in France; Kris Kringle in Germany (from Christ, Knindle or Christ Child); St. Nicolas in Belgium; in Iceland, Santa comes in the form of a tiny elf, and though Syrian children have no Santa Claus, they know of a tiny camel that accompanied the Wise Men. They leave bowls of grain and water outside their doors in the hope that the little traveller and there, as here, the good children find gifts on Christmas morning.

A replica of Santa on your front door will serve notice to the neighborhood that the jolly saint has been in your house. Stuff a colored Santa mask with cotton; mount on colored poster board and surround with an assortment of seals or cut-outs. Hang from the door by means of wide ribbons, topped with a big bow.

The children will love it!

Down the Chimney St. Nicholas

In olden times, the English had a notion that it was necessary to sweep down the chimney at New Year's in order that good luck enter the home. Perhaps this is where Santa got the idea. In any case, the chimney is now a familiar Christmas symbol.

A miniature chimney can serve many purposes in your holiday decorated home. To make one, stand a suitably shaped box on end and cover with "brick" crepe paper. Glue a layer of cotton "snow" around the top end and place the chimney on a small table in a foyer or entrance hall. Place more "snow" around the base. Fill the fancy-wrapped little packages, each one of which has been tied to a long ribbon streamer which extends over the side of the chimney. As each holiday visitor enters your home, surprise him with a tiny gift pulled from this "chimney grab bag."

If you are planning a "sit down" party, with a specific gift for each guest, a chimney such as this can serve as a "jack horner pie" and a table centerpiece at one and the same time. Attach a small name card to the end of each streamer and extend them to each place; the cards will act as place markers and insure each guest receiving the gift intended for him.

"With Branches of Holly"
To the ancients goes the credit for the lovely tradition of having greens in the house at Christmas. Holding nature in reverence, primitive man sought to bring a blessing into his home through the woodland spirits which he believed dwelt in all growing things—a custom which has resulted in the popularity of using evergreens of all kinds at Christmas.

To bring the "smell" of Christmas—that wonderful spicy, woody smell—as well as the "look" of Christmas into your home this year, tuck sprigs of pine behind picture frames; have ribbon-tied baskets of pine and other greens standing in corners, on tables, on mantles, on window sills, anywhere and everywhere. To add to their natural loveliness, to accent their greenness, tie them with red ribbons and tuck short white bare branches or twigs in among them.

(To whiten branches, dip them in a paste made from two cups of corn starch and one cup of flour, mixed with enough water to give it the consistency of thick batter. Allow to dry slowly—overnight. All-white branches mixed with the greens, just add to the paste a bit of bluing from the laundry; red ink from the library; or green cake coloring from the kitchen!)



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GREETINGS

At this joyous Christmas season...we extend to everybody our heartfelt wishes for a happy holiday, a prosperous New Year.

Toth Motors

MERCURY - LINCOLN - METEOR
SHELL OIL PRODUCTS
Acton Ont.

PERSONALS

Mr. Jean Wilhelm of Waterloo visited on Wednesday in Acton.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hollinger and family of Belleville are holidaying in Acton for Christmas.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gibbons is visiting in Kitchener with her family over the Christmas holiday season.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Wansborough are spending the winter at the Hotel Alma, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Mrs. Stella Adamson of Galt visited with the ladies of the United church Friendly Circle group on Wednesday.

Mrs. and Mrs. M. Blow and Mrs. J. Graham visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Wood in St. Catharines.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil McNabb, 50 Alice Street, received telegrams of congratulation from Prime Minister J. Diefenbaker, and M.P. Alexander Sturdy Heat on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary last week.

POET'S CORNER

THE NATELITE

Little Lieka is up in the sky,
Where man's curiosity has started to pry,
Way, way up in magnetic whirl;
The thoughts would make man's blood curl,
When man conquers the outer space,
Serious threat to the other race.

Little Lieka is up in space.

Where earthly things have no place,
Who will be first in the nations' race—
To conquer the ships of outer space.

Little Lieka goes round and round.

No greater speed ever was found,
Good-bye little doggie up so high,
To your lonely tomb way up in the sky.

—Albert Brooks.

Tops my list too!



MANNING ELECTRIC

54 Mill St. ACTON Phone 230

FREE PRESS WANT ADS FOR QUICK RESULTS

Births, Marriages Deaths, Etc.

MARRIED

WATERHOUSE-SMITH—On Saturday, December 14, 1957, by the Reverend T. Rutherford of Highland United Church, Guelph, Ontario, Ruby Mae Smith, daughter of Mrs. M. J. Smith and the late Mr. J. Smith, to John Waterhouse, son of the late M. and Mrs. J. Waterhouse, both of Acton.

BORN

FOLSTER—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Folster are happy to announce the arrival of their son on December 22, 1957, at the Guelph General Hospital.

WATKINS—To Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Watkins (nee Ruth McCullough) at the Civic Hospital, North Bay, on December 16, 1957, a baby girl, Tammy Lee, weight 8 lbs., 14 oz. Mother and baby fine.

DIED

LANGFORD—At Toronto Western Hospital on December 11, after an illness of three months, Ivo (Sam) Langford, husband of Irene, father of Harry, Vancouver; Marjorie, Malton; Ralph, Acton. Funeral service was held Saturday, December 14 from Ward's funeral home, Weston. Interment Elmbank cemetery, Malton.

CARDS OF THANKS

I wish to thank all those wonderful neighbors and friends who helped with my family during my stay in hospital, also for cards and gifts. I am truly grateful to all those who called and visited. My special thanks go to Mrs. Lily Higgins for unfailing attention. Our heartfelt thanks to all who extended comforting sympathy and help in our recent sorrow. For the beautiful service, floral offerings, cards and other kindnesses, we are deeply grateful. a-26-772 The Langford Family

We wish to extend a sincere "thank you" to all our friends and neighbors for their flowers, cards and the many acts of kindness at the time of our recent bereavement. Also Dr. Kenney, the Ramsey funeral home and the Ford Plant of Oakville. We are truly grateful. The Lazenby Family a-26-775

Coming Events

Euchre at Bannockburn school, Saturday, December 22, sponsored by the Bannockburn W.I. Good prizes. Admission 35c. Lunch served. a-26-776

Firemen's Euchre and Dance, Rockwood Town Hall, Friday, January 3, 8:30. Dancing 10 pm. Good prizes. Music by Rhythm Ramblers. a-26-781

New Year's Eve Dance, Eden Mills Hall, December 31. Dancing 9 to 2. Merv Woods' orchestra of Fergus. Prizes and novelties. Admission \$1.25 per person. Auspices Eden Mills W.I. a-26-686

Christmas party, euchre and dance, Friday, December 27, in Stewarttown Hall, Cards 8:30 sharp. Doria Hull's orchestra. Sponsored by Ballinacree W.I. Good prizes. Admission 50c. Lunch served. a-25-2-757

For Sale

FOR SALE—Buggies, young and breeding pairs. 150 Tidy Ave., Lakeview, phone 417. a-24-3-726

FOR SALE—Ford 4 ton pickup truck, good condition. Price \$325. Phone 984-M. a-26-773

FOR SALE—3,000 lbs. good quality mixed hay. Call Bruce Frame, Milton, TR 8-0012. a-26-977

FOR SALE—Christmas special, egg-not drink. Delivered or call at the Dairy Bar, Market Dairy, phone 74. a-26-770

FOR SALE—Coal and wood stove with warmer and reservoir, good condition. Phone 1080-W-4. a-26-774

FOR SALE—Large glossy prints of any staff photo appearing in the Acton Free Press, 5 x 7 size 75c, 8 x 10 size \$1.00. Enquiries now at the Free Press office, 54 Mill St., or phone 600-1. a-17

SEWING MACHINES
Repairs to all makes. Rental machines by the week. Portable used, from \$2.00. See the latest Singer's. Free Home Demonstrations. O. DYSON, SINGER AGENT, GORDON'S HARDWARE, ACTON. PHONE 76 a-17

Wanted

HALTON POULTRY PRODUCTS—Poultry and eggs wanted; poultry custom packed and cut up. Phone Milton TR 8-4461.

WANTED
Highest cash prices for dead or disabled horses or cows. Old horses and cows. For prompt service phone collect Preston 223 or Hamilton 303. a-17

DEADSTOCK removed promptly for sanitary disposal. Large animals picked up FREE, reasonable collection fees for small animals. Phone Collect Guelph Taylor 8-601 or Simira MO 8-501. Gordon Young Limited. a-17

WANTED (continued)

WANTED—Housework by Dutch lady every morning from 8:30 until 12. For information, phone a-26-771.

DEAD ANIMALS \$2.00
\$2.00 each for dead or disabled cows and horses. O. L. MOORE & L.R. One of our trucks passes your district daily. Call Belwood 2311, or phone A 2875 or Fergus 2311 collect. 24 hour service. George Gibson. a-17

Hilton Junior Farmers are holding their annual New Year's Eve dance on December 31, 1957, in the large hall, Harold Butten's orchard. Admission \$1 couple or \$1 single. Dancing starts at 8 p.m. to 12. Everyone welcome. a-23-2-2334

WANTED

Applications will be received by the undersigned till 12 o'clock noon, January 10, 1958, for the position of

CARETAKER

For Nassagaweya Township Hall. Duties of the Caretaker are posted in the Town Hall.

L. W. McMILLAN, Clerk. a-26-3

Miscellaneous

KITCHENER UPHOLSTERY—Have your Chesterfield suite re-upholstered by us and save refashioning. One week service. Call Watson's Music Store. a-17

REIMER UPHOLSTERY—Add looks and comfort with skilled re-styling. Your furniture can be handsome and new again. Lowest cost. Call us. One week service. Phone 88, Acton. a-17

FLOOR REFINISHING—We now have a modern sander and edger. We will refinish your floors or rent you the equipment to do the job yourself. J. B. Frank, phone 377, 47 Frederick St. S., Acton.

Get the facts. Let us show you how we have helped others to be financially independent selling Hawleigh Products. Good locally now available in Halton County. See the equipment, Dept. L-111-011, 4005 Richeleu, Montreal, Que. a-23-3-680

Why not reclaim the nest normally lost up the chimney from your heating equipment? Buy our bits with a Heat Reclaimer. Get full information from Home Maintenance Supply. a-23-3-680

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AUCTION SALE IN ACTON

Of Furniture and Household Effects, Modern and Antique

The undersigned auctioneers have received instructions from

To sell by public auction at his home, situated just north of the C.E. building on the Second Line, Acton, on

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1958
At 1:30 p.m. following:
LIVING ROOM—3 piece chest-of-drawers; wicker arm chair; six-piece rocking chair; Mason's kitchen piano with bench; full length wall mirror; hall mirror; hall tree; leather rocker; old-fashioned wooden rocker; clock; floor lamp; brass table lamp; desk lamp; braced hand hooked chair; 7 velvet blinds; cushions, etc.

DINING ROOM—Walnut dinette table and 4 wine leather upholstered chairs; 4 flower stands; 6 blinds; chairs; Beauty oil-glass heater; Duo Therm oil space heater; 300 gal. oil tank; 2 9x9 oil cloth rugs; 1 14x21 oil cloth rug; cutlery, dishes, plates, cups, saucers, etc.

BEDROOM—4 piece walnut bedroom suite; 3 piece oak bedroom suite with splendid bed and spring filled mattress; antique cherry dresser and wash stand; brown steel single bed with springs; white steel single bed with springs and spring filled mattress; chest of drawers; side mirror; bedroom chairs; day bed with mattress; drop sides; chest of drawers; pillow case, etc.

ANTIQUES—Glass churn; silver sugar bowl with spoon holder; 3 wooden butter bowls; 1 lace; butter print; rope bed; chairs, small seat with Buffalo horn legs; cherry dresser; coal oil lamp; candle moulds; candle sticks; clock; coffee grinder; picture hanging lamp.

KITCHEN—1 Force electric range; like new; 8 kitchen razors; armchair to match; stove; quart and pint jars; dishes; quilting frames with clamps; six drawers wash tub and stand; pair invalid's crutches.

Pair under cover.
Sale under cover.
No goods to be removed till settled for but everything must be removed by January 6 when new people are moving in.

HINDLEY AND ELLIOTT
Auctioneers
Phone Rockwood UL 8-4401 or 8-4402
Fred Jarvis, Clerk. a-23-3-638

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Details and application forms at National Employment Service and Post Offices. Apply to the Civil Service Commission, 26 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto 7, before January 7, 1958. a-38

PROCLAMATION

In compliance with the custom which has prevailed for many years

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26th will be observed as a Civic Holiday for 1957 and I hereby proclaim that day as a Civic Holiday for Acton and respectfully request that all our citizens observe it as such.

E. O. TYLER, Mayor

RATES

No charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, Deaths and Engagements. In Memoriam 75c plus 10c per line for verses. Articles for sale, rent, etc.—25c a word. Minimum cash 50c. Box No. to this office 25c additional. Coming events—15c minimum for first 5 lines, additional line 10c. Cards of thanks 75c. Billing charge of 25c added to all amounts if not paid until after insertion and added to each bill rendered.

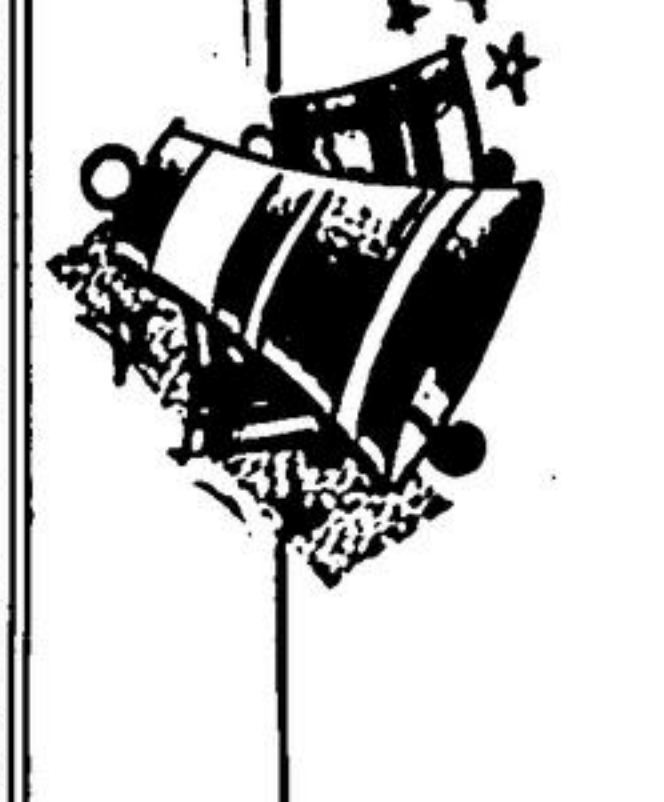
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