Poinsettia Blossom Not Red But Yellow

A fun-maker at Christmas is to ask family or friends this question: What color is the blossom of the poinsettia plant?

Chances 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 at the centre of the red clusters.

A comparative newcomer to the traditional Yule greenery, 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.

STORE HOURS

Open Christmas Eve until 10.30 p.m. — Christmas Day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GLENLEA

Smoke & Gift Shop

296 Queen St. E. 853-0540

SHORTILL SHEET METAL

Narrative of That First Christmas . . .

(Continued from Page Three)

This year the Lutheran Hour will tell millions throughout the world the real Christian meaning and significance of the Christmas story in two ways. As they do every week, more than 1,000 radio stations will carry the Lutheran Hour's regular Christmas broadcast in 40 languages to an estimated 30 million persons in 115 countries. In addition, a special Christmas program produced by the Lutheran Hour will be carried on many stations and networks that are normally closed to Gospel broadcasting.

In past years these Christmas "specials" have even been carried on government networks in six Soviet satellite lands. These specials have a tremendous potential audience, including oppressed Christians behind the Iron Curtain and people who might never hear of the Christchild in any other way. Last year's special program "Christmas with Marian Anderson," was considered the most extensive single broadcast ever made.

Pagan Origin

Many of the customs we observe at Christmas time today come from pagan rites to the sun. Ancient peoples in Egypt, Persia and Southern Europe all worshipped the sun. Since their lives and livelihood depended on its course, they held elaborate ceremonies to their sun gods at the winter solstice.

In the north the sun grew weaker and further away in mid-December. The people held feasts and built great bonfires to bring the sun back to life. The idea of the sun's return in early winter was fused with Christ's coming as the Light of the world.

The Druids worshipped the mistletoe, gathered it in special ceremonies and hung it in their homes. The Saxons used holly, ivy and bay. These customs later clustered around the celebration of Christ's birthday. Burning the yule log in England and lighting candles became part of the Christmas celebration.

Who lighted the first Christ mas tree? The Romans may have started the idea when they hung a fir tree with lit candles at their annual Saturnalia — week-long winter festival dedicated to the sun god. They decorated their homes with green boughs and exchanged presents.

Accounts persist that Martin Luther introduced the tree lighted with candles as a Christian observance. The Christmas tree was introduced in America by German Lutheran immigrants in the 1840's. The evergreen came to mean our eternal salvation through Christ. The gifts were before God's great gift to mankind, His Son, Christ.

Hymns and chants in Latin were the music of the early Christmas and not until the 14th century were carols sung. These new songs were written in every European language, in festive yet familiar style.

Today Christmas is rich in carols and bells, candles and gifts, evergreens and fires, all to celebrate Christ's birth.

It was December 23, 1818 in a tiny mountain village in Austria. The night was cold and clear and a heavenly canopy of stars stretched over a peaceful earth as far as the eye could see.

Father Joseph Mohr, a young parish priest, had just administered the last rites to a dying woman. Walking thoughtfully homeward, he looked down at the twinkling lights of the village and the bright stars above. A soul was about to depart from this world, to sleep forever in heavenly peace. Tomorrow at midnight the village and the Christian world would reverently observe the greatest birth—the Nativity that took place that holy night so long ago.

How sad, the young priest thought, that the church organ was broken and the musical program for the holiday services had been cancelled. Franz Gruber the organist, had suggested they find a simple melody that could be sung to the accompaniment of a guitar. Give him the words, he'd said, and he would compose the music. Give him the words . . . and there would be music.

As he thought of birth and life and death and looked down upon the sleepy, starlit village below, Father Mohr found these words. They sing the praises of the Holy Infant born to the world, and we wonder if they do not also ask for the departed soul "rest in peace."

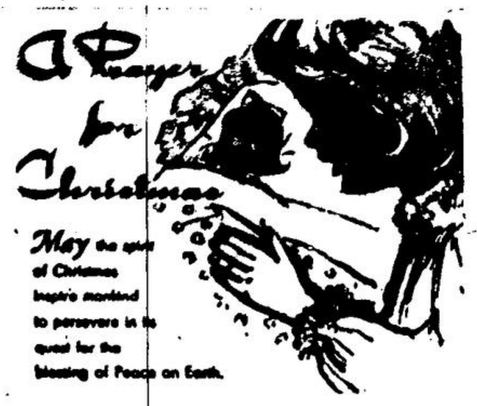
Thus came the famous "Silent Night, Holy Night." Franz Gruber, true to his word, put Father Mohr's words to music that will endure till the end of time.

ACTON HOME FURNISHINGS

47 Mill St. E. Acton, Ont.

WALTHO GROCETERIA

Young St. Acton, Ont.



WHITNAM'S GARAGE

42 Young St. Acton, Ont.

Bells ringing
carol-singing tell
the joys of Christmas.
We wish you all
the best of a merry season,
with warm thanks for
your good will.

AL'S SNACK BAR

A. LANGILLE

On this anniversary of the birth of our Blessed Saviour, accept our most sincere good wishes for a joyous Christmas to you and yours.

WATSON'S RESTAURANT

Three Wise Men

Little But Legend Known

Many legends have developed around the visit of the three wise men to adore the Infant Jesus. [illegible]

St. Matthew [illegible] the Persian Zoroastrian religion. As the religion moved westward it came in contact with Babylonian beliefs and practices and [illegible] demonology and magic. This explains the use of the [illegible]

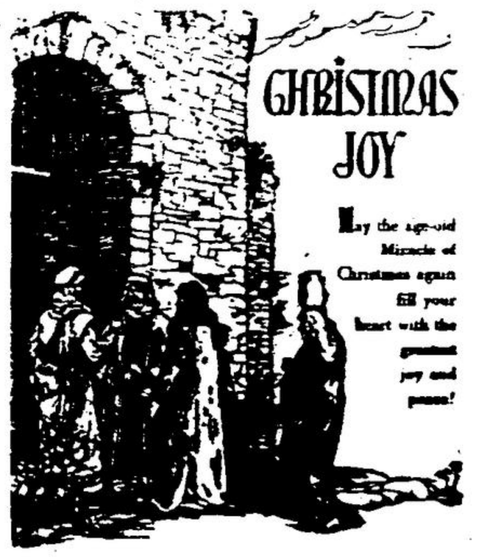
Stood for Priests

The magi originally stood for the priests [illegible] of the ancient Persian Zoroastrian religion. As the religion moved westward it came in contact with Babylonian beliefs and practices and [illegible] magic. This explains the use of the [illegible]

USE PINE CONES

[illegible]

BENSON'S SHOES



F. L. WRIGHT

ACTON

BILL TOTH'S SHELL SERVICE

Safety First In Yule Display

[illegible]

Burning Yule Log Is Dying Tradition

[illegible]

Gather Wood

[illegible]

Buy Yule Toys To Fit Child

[illegible]

DECKING THE HALLS

[illegible]

Buy Tree Close To Christmas

[illegible]

Nativity Scene First in Italy

Recreating the Nativity [illegible] Christmas, with [illegible] the Infant Jesus and the [illegible] of the manger, [illegible] scholars believe, with St. Francis of Assisi on Christmas Eve, 1223, in the little mountain town of Greccio, Italy.

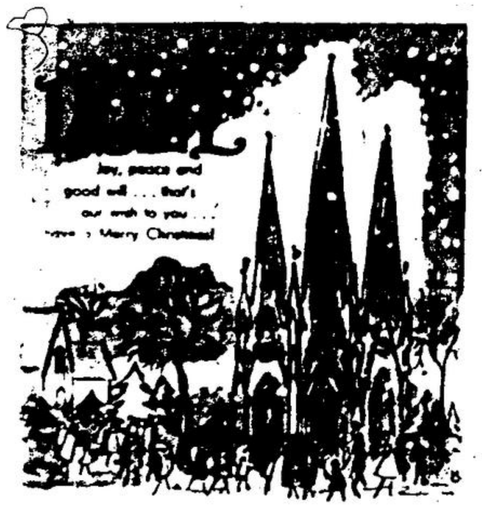
Wishing to dramatize the birth of Christ for his parishioners, St. Francis and his helpers set up a realistic representation of the manger scene.

Warmest wishes to all.

Frank Toth Sr.

Shoes and Shoe Repairs

ACTON



ACTON JERSEY DAIRY

No. 7 Highway E., Acton

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Phone 853-0441

Blessings...

Every Christmas candle becomes the light of the Star that shone over Bethlehem the night when Christ was born. May the holy, blessed meaning of that Birth be reflected in this Christmas season, for you.

EARL VAN NORMAN

ELECTRICIAN

135 Main St. N.