### Most Christmas 2 是 eans

fir is the tree most people it of when they sing "O littmas tree, O Christmas, how lovely are thy

with there are close to be of firs found in Cemnd Southern Europe, orth of the Himalayas, with America, the hollirevite — the Douglas fir x even a true fir.

Ingly named false hemitith yew-like needles, wells, apruce nor fir.

does have some of the teristics of all four feristics of all four hens, and its identitiv

Next popular Christmas tree is the balatan fir. Also called Canada baltam or Balm of Gillead, according to The Encyclopedia Americana, balsam grows from Newfoundland to Virginia, west to lowa and north and west, deep into Canada. confused botanists for years.

The Douglas fir's graceful, upturned growth and ability to hold its needles when cut have put it in the top spot for Christmas use. It also produces top-quality lumber. The state of Montana is an important

HOIIDW.

dacere hope that it proves to be the

S MACKENZIE

ROETOWN ACTON



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ear long, our many friends as well by continued loyal pape. We take this happy opporto express our gratitude and Ę

Morld

MANAGEMENT

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### Christ Church o Meaning Expressed Holy

in tree-trimming and package-wrapping and go to find once again the holy meaning of Christmas, in special services held by local churches.

Catholic churches will proclaim the birth of the King of Christendom by solemn midnight masses. To commemorate the Nativity, Protestant churches will hold candielight and communion services and children's programs.

The custom of saying mass at midnight derives from an old bellef that Christ was born at that hour. Actually, mass mass at that hour. Actually, mass mass his the night before Christmas, and in some countries the first Christmas mass is said at four or five in the manning "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the

Like the shepherds who left their flocks to seek the Babe of Bethlehem, men, women and children of this community will put aside not only their everyday concerns but the more immediate interest

nd give off a pleasing fra-rance. It is especially well-ked in the Eastern United

Included among the many other Christmas choices are the Eastern red cedar, black spruce and Scotch pine.

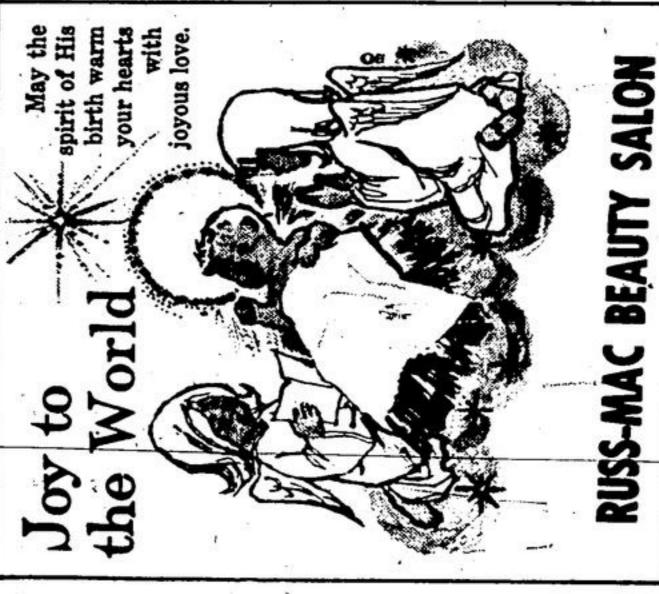
Canadian Christmas trees, from seven provinces, are part of the holiday scene in many countries. The United States, alone, accounts for about 90 per cent of Canada's annual production of trees. Still others are shipped abroad, from Ethiopia to Venezuela.

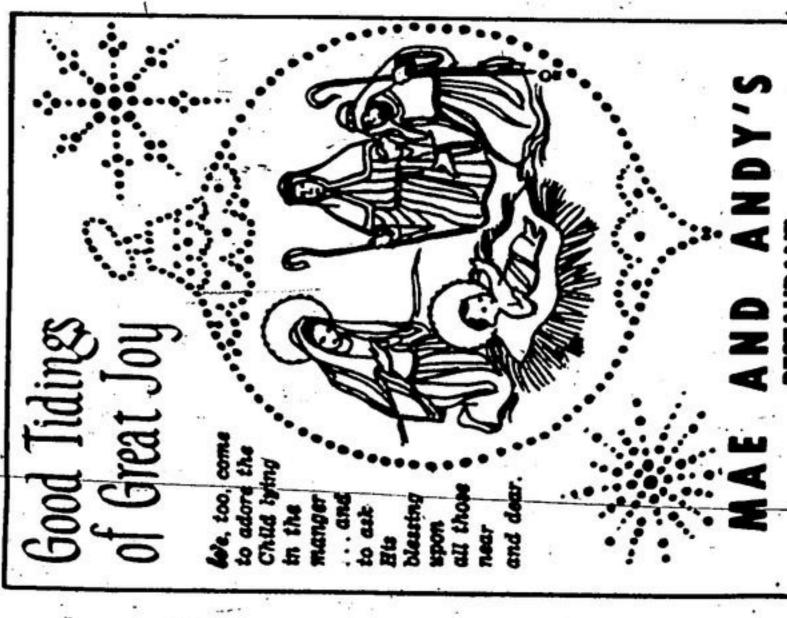
JREETINGS WISHINGS

Christman

You probably don't think it could have happened in our country but it did. An entire generation of American children grew up without Christmas! From 1659 - 1681, puritan leaders banned Christmas celebrations. The disputes arose over the abuses of Christmas. These abuses of Christmas. These abuses reached a fever pitch in 17th century England and the result was the forbidding of the Yuletide ceremonies by the puritan parliament in 1644.

Joy the





## The tree is forced by the control of and Hearts les Brighter ommo

Season's Sights, Sounds Proclaim

It's a Joyful, Peaceful Time

By Anna MANG

It's Christmas, time to street a irlend, wrap a gitt, help the needy. It's Christmas, time to sing a carol, light a candle, trim a tree. It's Christmas, time to send a card, surprise a neighbor, delight a child. It's Christmas, time to welcome visitora, spread the festive board, gather the family together for everything good from food to fellowship.

Most of all, it's Christmas, time to say a prayer, count many blessings, rejolee. It's Christmas, time to case a prayer, count many blessings, rejolee. It's Christmas, time to case a prayer, count many blessings, rejolee. It's Christmas, time to case a prayer, count many blessings, rejolee. It's Christmas, time to case a prayer, count many last christmas and throughout this community the sights very first Christmas and throughout this community the sights and sounds of a joyful, festive season appear. All through the town, twinkling lights, fragrant flowers and greens and a myriad other decorations show to every beholder the glad spirit the wonderful news.

Christmas is here. And because Christmas is here, steps are lighter, smiles are brighter, hearts are merrer.

On the way to Christmas, there may have been hours when everything seemed just too heetic—too many plans to make, too much to do, too little time. But as the great day arrives, there is time to pause, to see and to treasure the glow and the glory of Christmas. Then it is clear that every moment of preparation, every personal effort to make Christmas more complete was indeed well worth it.

Shop

Barber

Holloway

Later, individual countries developed their own tree-decorating ideas. Straw windmills and birdcages appeared on Lithuanian trees, while the Poles devised ornaments from feathers and ribbons.

Tree decorations contributed by Scandinavian countries were as various as fish nets and miniature flags.

The modern array of tree ornaments is vast and imaginative, but even so many families like to add their own personal, "old-fashioned" touch to the tree, with decorations such as paper chains and strings of popcorn or cranberries.

ur comes a big truck from its carbon as Jimmy Pink opens his gift at the firefighters' Christmas party. 

Feasts Of Customs Source Pagan

according to The Encyedia Americana. SaturnaRoman feast celebrated
id-December, provided the
if for many of the merryng customs of Christmas.
this celebration, for exe, were derived the elabfeasting, the giving of
and the burning of

hts also played an imporpart in most winter solfestivals. An obscure fign the early mythologies
East emerged as a sun
From the 1st century
his figure, Mithras, was
ed by an increasing
er of Roman soldiers and
f. Mithras' greatest feswas that of the winter
e, the time when the god
to return to his wor-

RICH'S BP DICK AND RENNY VOSKAMP

**Aight** 

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In the 5th century the Western church ordered a feast
celebrating the birth of the
Savior to be observed on the
day of the Mithraic rites of the
birth of the sun and at the
close of the Saturnalia.

Among the German and
Celtic tribes the winter solstice was considered an important point of the year and
to commemorate the return
of the sun they held their chief
festival of Yule, which, like
other pagan celebrations, became adapted to Christmas.

The Teutonic Tale feast also provided customs for the Christmas festivities, such as the Yule log and wassail bowl.

OTOR

Holy Wight.

tell of a huge tree in a force, lighted with many candles, some of which were straight and some bent. At the top was an infant with a halo.

The tree was meant to represent humanity, the candles, people good and bed; and the infant, the Baby Josus.

Another explanation links today's Christmas tree to ancider, of the winter equinox, when trees were

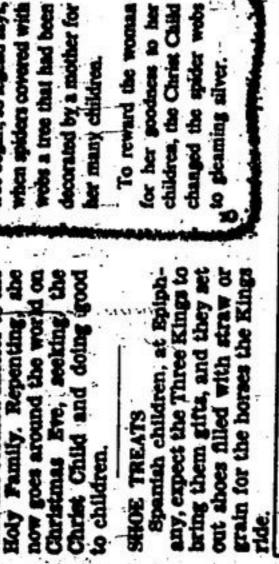


Never leave small children alone at Christmas. The employment of a reliable beloy sitter is the best assurance of freedom from worry if you plan a get together with

Tinsel 4 Santa Claus is graining favor with Italian children, but the traditional citt-giver, especially south of Rome, is Befana. Usually represented as a gray-haired witch who rides a broomstick, she brings toye for good children, but a stocking full of coal or ashes for naughty ones.

Legends say, variously, that she misdirected the Magi or that she refused shelter to the Holy Family. Repenting, she now goes around the world on Christ Child and doing good to children.

orated by a m







ROOFING SMOND

# The Ministerial

## All the Blenstings

to join the millions of Christians around will celebrate the birthday of the Christian ipping Him in the church of their choice. **Annyous** 

Christmas

Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. The Presbyterian Church in Canadi Wiebe Van Dijk Beth-El Christian Refor

Dwight Engel, B.A., B.D. The United Church of Ca Stanley Gemmon

McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.