

Noah's ark once favorite toy for Puritan homes

"Oh, the wonderful Noah's ark! It was not found in a bush, but in a washing tub, and the animals were crammed in at the roof, and needed to have their legs well shaken down before they could get in, even there — and then, ten to one but they began to tumble out the door, which was but imperfectly fastened against it."

Merry Christmas

One of the special pleasures of Christmas is the opportunity to purchase a toy which is both fun and practical — with the added advantage of our excellent service.

JACK RIDLEY CARTAGE LTD. AND STAFF

pairs of animals, of Mr. and Mrs. Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth were carved from wood. The craftsmen in such wondrousware as ship signs, trenchers, bowls, spoons, moulds, candle stands and trays, also carved the figures for Noah's Ark. Some were so expert that the animals were truly a work of art. They were regarded with the awe accorded idols among aborigines, whose religion animals figure importantly.

It is stated in Toys Through the Ages by Dan Foley (pub. by Chilton Press). Noah's Ark became objects of veneration among natives of Africa and were equally popular in the Indies and America among the native tribes. The Austrian town of Oberammergau, which was famous for its carvings of religious figures in wood, produced Noah's Ark, distinguished for the linearity of the workmanship. Examples of these are prized today. Few complete sets exist because of the natural wear and tear individual pieces suffered at the hands of one or two generations of youngsters in Sunday play.

Noah's Ark pieces were also made from tin, lead, paper, compositions and ceramics. In modern times, they are found moulded from plastic and the animals also assembled and sold as "barneyard" play sets. Specialist collectors have found dozens of varieties. One factual handicap is that, though St. Nicholas lived in the fourth century, stockings weren't made with feet until the 11th century — but the Christmas stocking story is still a happy legend.

According to legend, he wanted to provide dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Since he wanted the gifts to be anonymous, he loaded bags of gold down the chimneys of the dowryless girls. He was so afraid the girls had hung stockings by the fireplace to dry. Factual handicap is that, though St. Nicholas lived in the fourth century, stockings weren't made with feet until the 11th century — but the Christmas stocking story is still a happy legend.

One of the many legends surrounding the poinsettia tells of a poor Mexican girl who, having no gift of value, humbly placed some roadside weeds at the foot of a statue representing the Virgin and Child. Instantly, the weeds became scarlet blossoms and thus, so the legend says, the poinsettia was created.

Rosemary, the symbol of constancy, was at one time widely used in England as a Christmas decoration. During the Victorian era, it lost popularity and is now seldom, if ever, seen as part of the Yuletide greenery.

It's Christmas!

May Christmas bring you all the joys of the season and all the warm satisfactions of sincere friendships. We thank you for your generosity during the past year.

Rachlin Jewellers

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While the exact origin of the practice of kissing under the mistletoe is not known, there are several popular stories about it.

The Druids of ancient Britain paid it more than lip service — they thought it could heal disease, neutralize poisons, and protect against witchcraft! They wore charm bracelets and rings made of mistletoe and fastened them plant over their doorways to ward off evil spirits.

A Scandinavian tale involves Frigg, the goddess of love and beauty. Researchers report that Frigg first made mistletoe an emblem of love and granted some lucky man a kiss beneath its branches — beginning a smacking good custom.

An old story says that the fragrance of rosemary was given to it when Mary placed the Christ Child's garments on this shrub. Like mistletoe, the brightly berried holly was early credited with magical and medical powers. It could even, legend said, tell girls the name of their future husbands.

Ancient peoples believed that mistletoe had powers to ward off evil or cure a variety of illnesses. Druid priests of Britain, long ago, believed that mistletoe should be cut with a golden knife, then hung over doorways as a protection from evil. The Greeks, too, used it to ward off evil.

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Merry Christmas

We wish you, one and all, a joyous, fun-filled holiday season.

ACTON WELDING

Rt. 4 ACTON

Of course, the Christmas tree is a center of attraction in most homes during the Yuletide season — a place of honor, incidentally, solidly rooted in history. For thousands of years before Christ's birth, evergreen trees were revered by German tribesmen as symbols of immortality. When the pagans were converted to Christianity, they transferred their feelings for the evergreen to Bethlehem. Today, with the help of modern players that can be rotated power or used as a regular piano by the accomplished, the custom is having a thrilling comeback in country.

And why not? It doesn't take long for a Poinola to become the centre of your Christmas festivities. The time honored feeling of togetherness is fostered by friends and family gathered around a modern player, singing any one of dozens of universally loved Christmas songs, along with hundreds of other music roll favorites.

The combination of lively feet and music, continuing to sound their player — pianos all over the country, began with early "carols". The word "carol" means to dance in a ring, and the man who popularized the practice was the beloved St. Francis of Assisi. To bring the Christmas message vividly

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Merry Christmas

Time for us to speed very warm wishes for the Yuletide Holiday to you. May your day be bright with joy and merriment shared with your loved ones. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas!

ALLAN'S COLLISION SERVICE

CREWSON'S CORNERS 853-2860

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Canadian Tire Corporation

ASSOCIATE STORE ACTON, ONT. ART GORDON, Prop.

Origin of Christmas customs explained

and directly to his 13th century villagers, most of whom could not read, he arranged a manger scene using real people and animals. When Francis led them in joyous celebration — "carolling".

Merry Christmas

Yuletide is the time to pass happy tidings... so spare with us this happy day! Have a Merry Christmas!

A. L. RIEMER LIMITED

CHRISTMAS CHEER

may we join with Santa in wishing you good cheer! It's been a joy to serve you and we sincerely thank you for the opportunity.

RELIABLE TAXI AND SNACK BAR

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