

Spirit of Giving Lives In Quebec's Colorful Tradition

The traditional spirit of giving that's world-wide at Christmas takes on a special form and meaning in French Quebec. This year, as every year, will see the enactment of a measure known as the "La Guignolade" in the poor of Quebec.

"La Guignolade" was begun by the first French colonists who followed along behind the Druidic the which celebrated the arrival of a new year: the cutting — with golden spears — and the gathering of mistletoe that grew in the sacred forests.

Dress Like Trappers.

The French version of "La Guignolade" has been kept alive for modern Quebec by such organizations as the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It involves a door-to-door collection for the poor by "Les Guignoliers."

Since 1901, the role of "Les Guignoliers" has been played by members of the Commercial Travelers Club of Quebec, Inc.

These modern businessmen dress like the Canadian trapper of old with their red knit caps and colorful sashes. Singing the songs of "La Guignolade," they approach each household with a long, red woollen stocking, to be filled by gifts for the poor.

"Les Guignoliers" of early Quebec had a very different method of obtaining their goal. Arriving at the homes of the villagers, they sang a song that asked for a contribution or threatened the abolition of Christmas.

the eldest daughter of the household.

Fishes Did Happen

The master and mistress of the house, or someone representing them, then opened the door and allowed "Les Guignoliers" to enter.

They were piled into a cart that followed along behind them through the village, accompanied by a swarm of children and dogs.

Sometimes, when two different groups of "Guignoliers" faced a fight ensued and the treasure of one cart would fill up the cart of the winners.

Aiding the Needy

Originally, food and clothing as well as money was collected. But for the past twenty years it has been only money, and the generous money of Quebec have contributed as much as \$50,000 for the poor.

The money is deposited in a bank, and checks for the poor are drawn from the fund. The money is given to aid all the needy, regardless of religious denomination.

The Danish Christmas Pie dinner, featuring the porridge containing a "manger" almond that brings good luck.

TOO MERRY

Christmas celebrations once were so merry that the Puritans in England in the early 1600's asked for a contribution or threatened the abolition of Christmas.



Joyous CHRISTMAS

The story of Christmas lives anew, inspiring all with peace and joy. May many blessings be yours on this Christmas.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Across the Years, Music Reflects Holiday Joy, As Carolers Sing Traditional Songs of Christmas



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"Carol, brothers, carol. Carol joyfully. With the coming of Christmas, almost everyone excepts the injunction of the old song to 'carol joyfully.' From special church services to family gatherings, a 'carol sing' is a traditional pleasure.

The custom of singing carols at holiday time is an ancient one — begun, perhaps, even before the first Christmas, at celebration such as the Roman Saturnalia play musical instruments, at a given carol singing the family can be depended on to provide instrumental accompaniment for carols — and the instrument may vary from the old favorite piano — and the currently popular guitar.

Music in any form has long been especially beloved as a means of expressing Christmas joy. Early Christian believers were forced to worship in secret — and therefore, quietly. Then, in the fifth and sixth centuries, Christianity came out of the catacombs — and exultation for freedom of worship was expressed in the glad ringing of church bells.

Early hymns and carols, however, were in Latin. Carol singing in its modern form — in the common language of the country — probably originated in the little town of Greccio, Italy.

From this beginning, the practice of erecting a crèche or crib scene became a Christmas tradition in many towns. Around and sing. Often, the crèche was constructed in a churchyard or on a public street. Thus it was natural for the worshippers to stroll away from the devotional service — formal or informal — and continue singing the beloved carols as they made their way home.

This spontaneous action may well have led to the custom of going from place to place to sing carols. In later centuries, the "wassailing" or "gooding" expeditions helped the growth of caroling. Singers went from house to house, receiving treats as rewards for carols. Even oppression could not put an end to carol singing. When the Puritans abolished Christmas observance in England, printed sheets of carols were bootlegged for a penny and poets and musicians went right on composing carols, as they do today.

Variety of games for Christmas fun

Everyone's a child at Christmas time, and that's why there's so much fun to be had in family and friends gatherings when game playing. Since Christmas games usually include both children and adults, games that both can enjoy are best. The following games can be played with no special equipment, other than that on hand.

CHAYADES

Christmas charades is a lively game that the whole family will enjoy.

Divide the group into two teams. Individual members of teams are then called upon to act out a word, character, phrase, scene or situation — and since it's Christmas, all the charades should have Christmas overtones.

Subjects are supplied on a slip of paper by the opposing team, and, then passed on to the "actor." From here on, it's his job to see how quickly he can get his team mates to guess what he is acting out.

The Night Before Christmas, Jingle bells, A partridge in a Pear Tree, and filling in the Christmas stockings are just some of the many subjects that can be used.

SANTA'S SLEIGH

Santa's Packing His Sleigh is a quiet Christmas game that provides fun and hearty laughter. It starts simply enough with one member of the group saying, "Santa's packing his sleigh and he's bringing a toy dog."

Then each person repeats the sentence, adding another gift to Santa's sleigh. The object of the game is to repeat correctly, in order, the complete list of gifts. In Santa's sleigh — and it's harder than it sounds.

As the list gets longer and longer, more and more players are added to the game. When the whole list and its order, consequently they drop out, until only one is left.

WORD PLAY

A popular pencil and paper game is called Word Play. The object of the game is to see how many words can be made from a phrase, such as Merry Christmas to All. A time limit



Christmas Questions

Let every heart rejoice! Christmas, source of joy and hope for all, is with us once again. We wish for you and yours a renewal of the blessings and beauty of their Holy Night.

ACTON ELECTRIC COMPANY
JAKE VANDERKOOY



May the blessings of Christmas be with you always

ACTON JERSEY DAIRY



SANTA CLAUS was starting to nod his head as the weekend's heavy schedule begins to take effect Sunday afternoon at the firefighters' Christmas party. Dennis Menes accepts his gift.

Play clay ornaments are so easy to make

Replacing your supply of Christmas tree ornaments each year is an expensive proposition. But if you and the children make your own set of homemade "play-clay," you'll save money. You'll also wind up with festive first-aid ornaments that won't shatter in either, or by pressing colored little spheres if they fall. And "play-clay" is made out of foods — it's safe in the smallest hands.

Here's how to make the clay. In a saucepan mix thoroughly together one level cup of corn starch, two level cups of baking soda, then add one and a quarter cups of water, mix and cook over medium heat stirring constantly until mixture reaches a dough-like consistency (about four minutes). Turn out on work surface; cover with a damp towel and let sit until cool enough to handle.

Traced and other Christmas decorations should be non-flammable.

Now here's how to make the ornaments. Roll clay into little balls, tear drops or bird shapes. Insert loop of colored cord in one end for hanging. Decorate with paint, felted markers, by rolling in shreds of birds for wings, pattern. Insert strip of aluminum foil in sides of birds for wings. Molden clay with water to help cord, glitter or foil stick.

Ornaments will have a overnight, faster if you put them in a wire rack in a warm, humidified oven. If you want the entire batch of clay colored, add food coloring or tempera paint to the water before mixing it in with the starch and soda.

LOWELIST DAY

For those inquisitive Christmas may be the fondest day of the year. Yet the visits and gifts of Salvationists bring a measure of cheer and comfort — perhaps, even the courage to start a new way of life. More than 4,000 men and women in correctional institutions are visited each year by Salvation Army members.



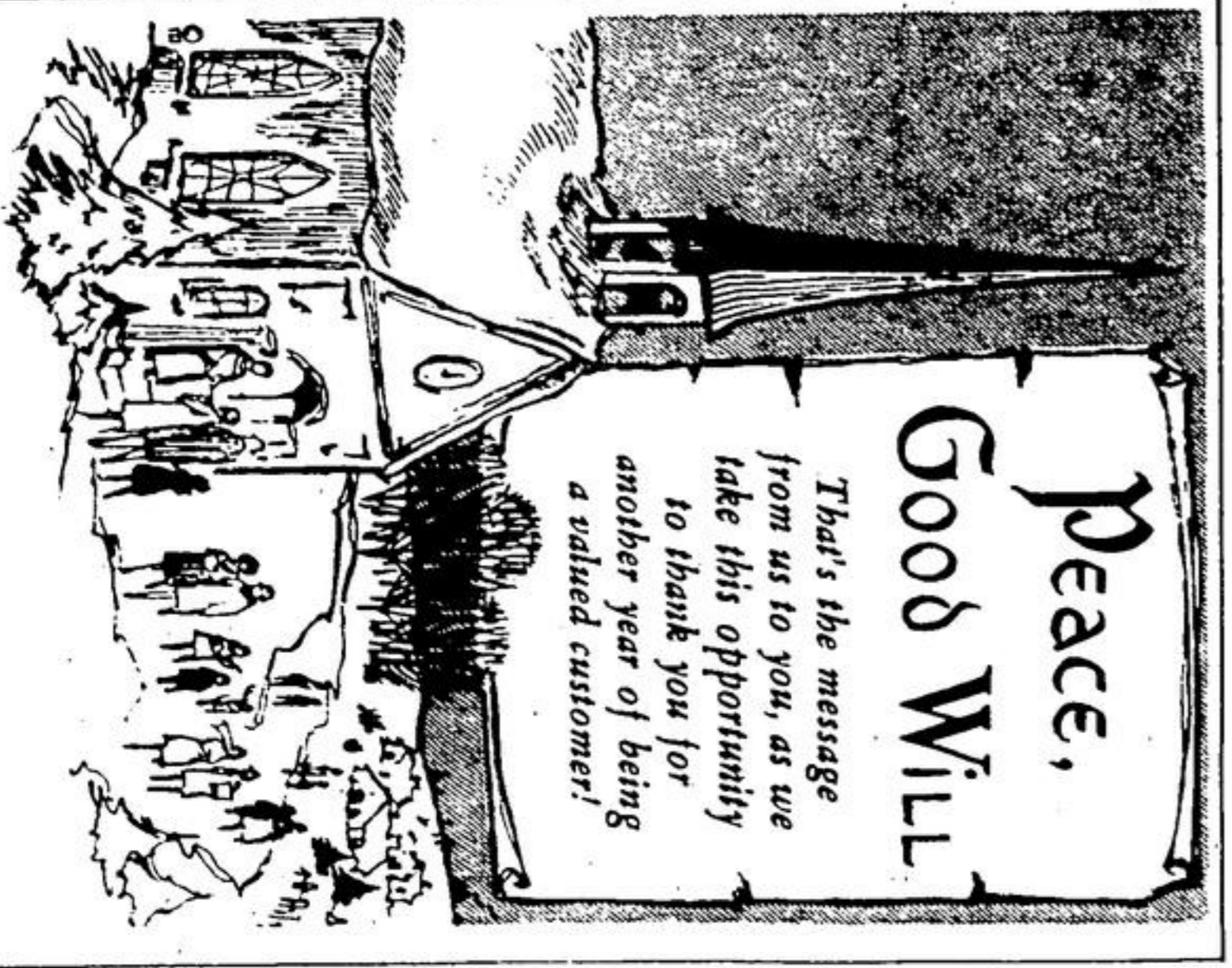
What we want from Santa is more great people like you! Many, many thanks!

HOTCHEN'S BAKERY

Our good wishes are on their way to you this happy time...

Merry Christmas

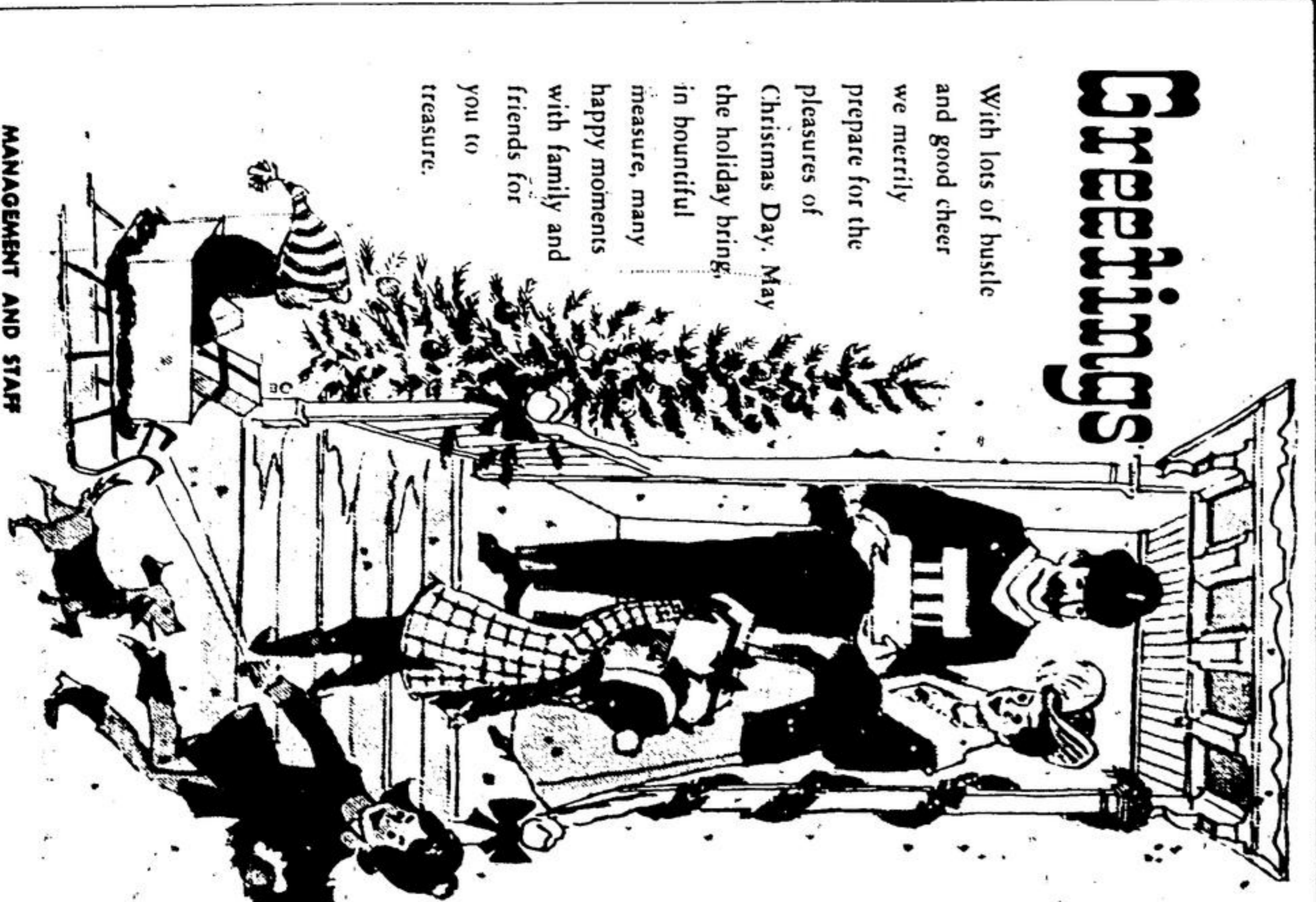
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Greetings

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