

Food, fellowship hit height at yule

"For Food and Fellowship, Thank God," says the simplest of all graces, and of these two blessings there has never been any lack at Christmas time. A vast dinner of roast turkey, with all its trimmings, plum pudding and mince pies appears every year on countless tables throughout the world.

Turkey, though now traditional, is a comparative newcomer, unknown in Europe before about 1542, and appearing then only as one among a variety of festive dishes. Goose or beef for Christmas pies were the early favorites in ordinary families, while in great houses there were swans, venison, peacocks and the boar's head.

Boar's head was eaten during the Scandinavian Yule in honor of the Sun-boar. At the great medieval Christmas banquets the head was garlanded with

SHEPHERD MAIDEN
Shepherds are familiar figures in Christmas stories and carols such as "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night". More novel, but equally established in tradition, is the story of the shepherdess who visited the stable on the first Christmas night. "D'ou viens-tu, bergere?" (or "whence come you, shepherd maiden?") was brought to Canada in the 17th century by early French settlers. In the carol, a questioner asks the shepherdess where she has been and what she has seen, and she in turn describes the manger scene.

rosemary and bay, and an orange or an apple was thrust between the teeth.

Christmas puddings, as we know them today, date only from about 1670, and began as a stiffened form of plum porridge. This was made of meat broth, raisins, fruit juices, wine and spices, thickened by bread crumbs.

Committee gives advice on buying toys for Canadian tots

Canadians spend many millions of dollars each year on toys—much of it unwisely—because shoppers are not as informed about toys as they are about food and clothing.

The Canadian Toy Testing Council, began as a committee of the Citizens' Committee on Children (Ottawa), the National Industrial Design Committee and Consumer Association of Canada, but in 1960, for practical reasons, decided to set up as an independent organization. In the many years of its existence it has tested many hundreds of toys.

The very abundance of playthings has confused consumers and made toy selection difficult. The results of the C.T.T.C. have been a real guide to parents, educators, retailers and manufacturers, and especially to the child who has been served, by interpreting his play needs.

When shopping for table games, select those which fit the child's interest and ability; games that may encourage participation by the whole family; games that offer quiet play for the child who can't sit still.

Look for adequate size of board with wide spaces; adequate size of accessories; and ability to intrigue and teach.

Generally construction sets encourage development in creative, constructive, dramatic, manual and artistic areas. Try to supply a variety. A preschooler needs the smallest set which should be made of large units. An older child can handle a



WHAT'S INSIDE? Older brother Christopher, 7, watches as Theresa Conroy, 5, opens her gift from Santa at the Legion Christmas party. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Conroy.

(Photo by Esther Taylor)

each child is different in ability and interest.

Look for ease in assembling and taking apart, versatility, balance and steadiness of the finished article.

Wheel toys have the highest play value when used as accessories with other playthings. Quantity is a factor. Try to supply a variety of smaller inexpensive cars along with a few bigger and better ones. By adding accessories (cars, animals, etc.) basic playthings, like unit blocks, take on new life.

Wind-up mechanism makes toys costly. They usually break after a few hours of use, then the child either gets bored or frustrated with the toy and out of sheer curiosity may take the thing apart to see why it doesn't work. Don't mistake this for destruction.

Large dump trucks as a whole, encourage development in constructive, dramatic, physical and social areas. Look for ease in wheeling backwards and forwards, ease in manipulation, efficiency in dumping device, finish and lack of sharp edges and ability to withstand weathering. Play value in all trucks is high.

Manufacturers have moved away from the dolls that clip and break. The preschooler needs the simple vinyl doll, with moulded or short hair, of medium size, 12 to 18 inches, with pliable limbs for easy dressing and complete washability is desired. As the girl grows older she will want and can manage bigger dolls with more detail and fussier clothes. She will want matching sets to complete costumes.

Some older girls like to collect miniature dolls of many lands and professions with their accompanying costumes.

Girls who learn what is good design in doll houses usually become discriminating home-owners. There is a real need for good doll houses for girls between the ages of 5 and the teens.

A few requisites for a good doll house are ease of assembling, sturdy and well balanced when assembled, room sizes in right proportion to one another, overall design should be simple and attractive. Play value of doll houses is enhanced by using them from the roof rather than from one wall.

Doll furniture should be compact, light, easily cleaned and simple, should have balance and steadiness and be realistic.

Infant toys are designed to stimulate the developing senses. The C.T.T.C. test these toys for bright colors, pleasant sound, suitable weight, shape, texture and washability. For safety sake the C.T.T.C. recommends buyers to check for smooth finish, firmly attached eyes, squeakers, bells, etc., non-allergic, non-inflammable materials, durable joints, seams and moveable parts.

All toys are not tested, therefore before you buy the following may help shoppers select un-tested toys.

What are the child's play needs now?

What toys will meet those needs?

Is the cost in proportion to the estimated life of the toy?

Are they designed with use in mind?

Pine cones dandy child's project

Gathering and preparing pine cones for the holiday season can be fun! Pine cones are popular around the house and useful for indoor Christmas decorations. There is no problem in finding the cones as they are plentiful where pines are found.

Clean the cones thoroughly, and after drying, spray them

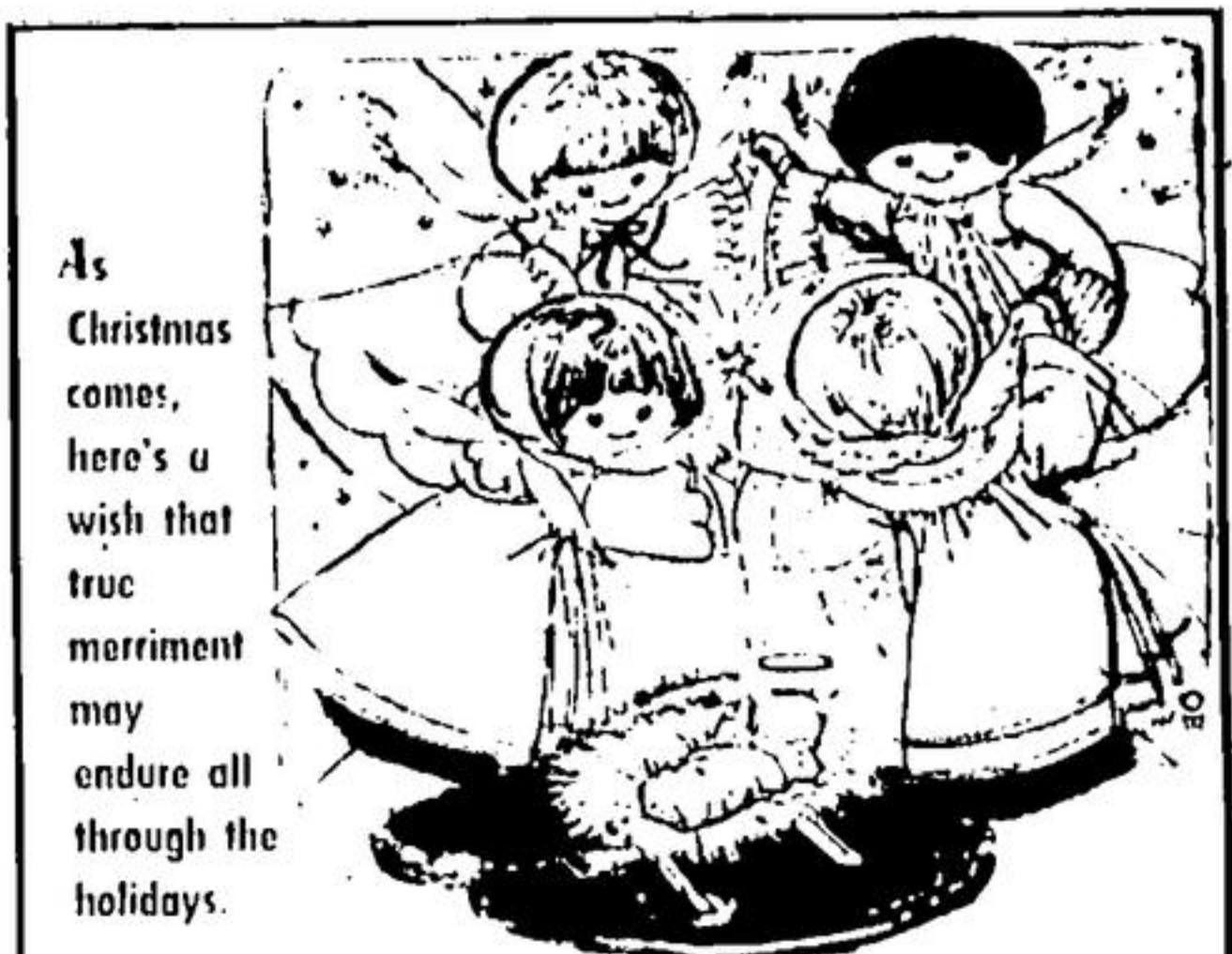
with shellac from an aerosol can. The shellac, in addition to preserving the cones, helps keep them looking bright.

Switch off the Christmas tree lighting when you go to bed or whenever you leave your home.



May the blessings of Christmas be with you always

MAIN VARIETY & SMOKE SHOP



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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Like the glow of the candle, happiness lights this Christmas season. May it shine for you every hour!

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AT Christmas

Let there be joy and laughter with friends, neighbors and family...

plus our sincerest Merry Christmas greetings!

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Merry Christmas to All!

Like the sparkling beauty of a snowy landscape, hearts are filled with peace and good will. Over the mountains, through the woods or wherever you'll be at Christmas, we wish you a merry one and sincere "Thanks" for your continued support.

"MANAGEMENT AND STAFF"

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CHRISTMAS

Reminding us of the miracle that took place on the first Christmas Eve, rosy-cheeked carolers lift their voices... and our hearts... in reverence and rejoicing.

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