



Season's Greetings

To our many wonderful customers, we wish the best of holidays. For letting us serve you, our thanks.
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Orval & Norman Shea's Garage - Norval

Christmas Tree Origin Has Religious Significance

A miniature tree hanging from a tree may be a striking sight, but actually is out of place there. Like many other Christmas symbols and customs, the Christmas tree has a deep and spiritual significance.

When and where did Christmas trees begin? Some say the Christmas tree comes from the ancient Yule tree and pagan fire customs. But this is mere guessing and doesn't fit the facts.

The Christmas tree is a combination of two religious symbols from medieval days, the Paradise tree and the Christmas light, and it began in Germany.

From the 11th century on, religious plays used to be performed in churches or outside in front of churches. One of the most popular of these 'mystery plays' as they were called, was the Paradise play. It told of the creation of man, the sin of Adam and Eve, and their expulsion from Paradise. This play closed with the comforting promise of the coming Saviour. For this reason the Paradise play was a favorite in Advent, the preparatory season for the coming of Christ.

BROKE THE FRUIT

In the play the garden of Eden was indicated by a fir tree hung with apples, from which Eve broke the fruit and gave it to Adam to eat. This 'Paradise Tree' attracted the attention of all onlookers, especially the children, since it was the only object on the stage.

After a while the mystery plays stopped, but people wanted the Paradise tree and brought it into their homes on Dec. 24th, the feast day in honor of Adam and Eve.

But Dec. 24 was also Christmas Eve. From early times, a beautiful custom was practiced on this day in all Christian countries. A candle called the 'Christmas light' was burned as a symbol for Jesus Christ, the light of the world that started shining at Bethlehem.

WOODEN 'PYRAMID'

In Germany the Christmas candle used to be placed on top of a wooden pyramid-like structure, adorned with glass balls and tinsel. But soon the people noticed that the Paradise tree itself was a beautiful and live pyramid. The next step was to take the lights, glass balls and tinsel from the wooden pyramid and put them on the Paradise tree.



When the Puritans reached New England, they brought with them their dislike for any observance of Christmas and levied fines on those who dared to celebrate the holiday. It was not until the nineteenth century (after many German and Irish immigrants had arrived) that holiday celebrations really became popular in that part of the country.

In the southern colonies, in Virginia, for example, there were gay gatherings of families and friends, with bountiful feasts and gala balls by candlelight. The aristocratic plantation owners carried on many of the holiday traditions that had prevailed for centuries in the home country. Often the slaves were not required to work as long as the yule log burned.

The Moravians who made homes in eastern colonies, because of religious persecution in the Old World, continued their unusual customs. On Christmas eve, carrying lighted

candles and singing a Christmas hymn, they marched into a stable, thus recalling Christ's humble birthplace. In the Southwest, people of Spanish and Mexican ancestry staged old holiday plays such as 'Los Pastores' and 'Las Posadas' brought here from Spain via Old Mexico. Scandinavian settlers in the Middle West, cherished their native traditions as have their descendants. Therefore, our American Christmas is a most interesting and unusual one, for it includes varied customs from faraway lands.

subjects. So, it is said, did the kings and queens of medieval England.

Long before the birth of Christ, Romans exchanged gifts of laurel, olive and myrtle branches, in conjunction with the Saturnalia, a pagan festival which occurred about the same time as the present date of Christmas.

The Druids of England and Northern Europe tied gifts on trees during the festival observing the winter solstice.

Gift giving today does not take the form of appeasement — it reflects the spirit of kind-hearted generosity.

It is a safe bet that even those who cry out that 'Christmas is becoming too commercial' have their own special gift list.

SUPERSTITIOUS PIE

Several writers say that mince pie originated in Germany — while others say that its beginning is lost in the annals of history. It was however, an essential part of the Yuletide celebration in early England.

Old superstitions held that any person refusing to eat mince pie would be unlucky for the coming year. Those who did partake, would have the same number of happy months during the year as the number of houses at which he ate mince pie.



Giving gifts during the Christmas season is a custom that most of us enjoy. Some of us even become reckless and spend more than we should for a particular gift merely because it seems the 'perfect' item for a special individual.

In ancient times and places, gift giving was sometimes compulsory. Roman emperors demanded Yuletide gifts of clothing, gold and silver from their

The Christmas crib which had stood at the foot of the pyramid, was now put under the tree. The 'star of Bethlehem' from the top of the pyramid was now fastened on the tree. Thus our modern Christmas tree was born.

Understanding the origin of the Christmas tree should give the parents a chance to get in some religious teaching amidst all the Christmas preparations. No child should have to spend Christmas without learning the religious meaning of his Christmas tree, a reminder that Our Lord is his Light and the Light of the World.



... TO OUR FRIENDS!

Best wishes for a Christmas that's both merry and bountiful — from all the folks at

Bob, Glad and Ed Caldwell

BILL BARBER AND ALL THE STAFF



Christmas Greetings

We offer best wishes and sincere appreciation to all our friends on this Blessed Christmas.

WE EXTEND A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

TOWNE SEWING CENTRE
26 Main Street North 877-4331

NEXT TUESDAY IS BOXING DAY

CHRISTMAS 1967

As are families,
so is society.
If well ordered,
well instructed,
and well governed,
they are the springs
from which go forth
the streams of national
greatness and prosperity,
of civil order
and public happiness.

William Roscoe Thayer (1859-1923)



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