

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were the Gifts

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had

opened their treasures, they presented him gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)
Of these three gifts,

only gold is still today a familiar and precious commodity. However, in the time of Christ, both frankincense and myrrh were equally valuable

and well-known commodities, used in trade between the Middle East and Mediterranean countries. Gold, because of its

rarity and beauty has been the world's most precious metal since its discovery more than 6,000 years ago. Then, as now, it served as a

medium of exchange, and was considered a symbol of wealth and power. Because gold is soft and pliable, it was also used for making fine jewelry and artifacts.

Myrrh is a fragrant, bitter-tasting gum resin exuded from any of several shrubs, which grow in the same sections as frankincense. It was used mainly as a base for ancient cosmetics and perfumes. It was also used medically as a pain-killer and in mouthwash mixtures. It is used in some mouthwashes today. Myrrh also was used in many religious ceremonies.

Both frankincense and myrrh are gum resins of trees, which grow only near the monsoon regions of Ethiopia, Somalia and Southern Arabia.

Frankincense, which comes from a tree of the same name belonging to the balsam family, is an aromatic gum resin and was an important ingredient of an incense mixture used in Hebrew religious rituals. It was also used as an air purifier and as a remedy for certain physical ailments.

Anyone who is curious about these substances may find them at The American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The Museum usually features all three treasures as part of its December special exhibit.

Holiday fun prompts lively party ideas

Christmas gatherings just naturally turn into parties—friends and relatives drop in with holiday greetings, and all of a sudden it's a party! Party games designed specially for the season can spur on the fun.

For groups large or small, parties planned or impromptu, the following entertaining ideas are suggested.

One way to "break the ice," especially when all

of the guests are not well acquainted with each other, is to play a guessing game. A Christmas Personality game can be played by pinning a name such as "Rudolph", "Santa" or "Christmas Angel" on the backs of several guests. Then each tries to guess his name by hints others give.

Another way to start a party is to start the guests out thinking!

Have a little contest and see who can spell the most words with the letters in "Christmas."

Musical Cane
A lively combination version of Musical Chairs and Hot Potato makes use of some unbreakable symbol of Christmas festivities—a small package, one of the sturdier tree ornaments, a big candy cane.

One person who is not playing puts on a Christ-

mas record. Everyone sits in a close circle and passes the object around. When the music suddenly stops, the person who has the object in his hand until the circle is reduced to one—the winner!

Pin the star
Children never tire of exciting party games, while the adults may need a rest. One game that is loads of fun for kids to play and adults to watch is a seasonal version of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." This one is "Pin the Star on the Christmas Tree."

It's easy to cut a large shape of a Christmas Tree out of green construction paper and tape it to a wall or door, making sure it is low enough for the littlest

guest to reach the top.

Each child gets a paper star with tape on the back and takes his turn being blindfolded and spun around. The one who can place his star closest to the top of the tree wins.

Christmas tree
A Christmas tree game that everyone can play is a guessing game. In "Christmas Tree" the person who is "it" leaves the room while the other players decide on a secret word. It must be a verb, or a word showing action, such as run, eat or swim.

When "it" comes back, he tries to guess the word by asking questions using "Christmas Tree" in place of the word. He may ask, "Do children Christmas Tree?"

Get cracking those eggs

Here's a simple but elegant solution to the abundance of rich foods on the table during the festive season. Cut back your calories and your time in the kitchen and serve these nutritious egg appetizers to your drop-in guests!

Let your imagination run away with the filling of your choice, ranging from a creamed filling of yolk, mayonnaise, butter and seasoning, or cheese and tuna, to a more elaborate one of crab, shrimps, oysters and caviar.

Keep a few hard-cooked eggs in your fridge over the holidays, and when unexpected company drops over, get cracking and surprise them with these mouth-watering hors d'oeufs. They're simple to pre-

pare, easy on the budget, nutritious and there are no left overs!!

DEVILLED EGGS
6 hard-cooked eggs
2 tbsp butter
2 tbsp mayonnaise
1/4 tsp dry mustard
1/2 tsp lemon juice,
few drops of Tabasco
dash of salt

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks and mash in small bowl. Mix in remaining ingredients. (The butter gives firmness when the filling is refrigerated and improves storage quality).

Fill egg white halves with yolk mixture or one of the following:

- red or black caviar and a sprig of fresh dill
- crumbled cooked bacon

—smoked salmon

—a strip of smoked salmon spread with cream cheese, rolled up, then sliced into small "snails."
—smoked oyster; or place an oyster in half an eggwhite and pipe on a border of egg yolk mixture.

—shrimps

Crab Stuffed Eggs

To the basic yolk mixture, add 1/3 cup of boned crabmeat and 2 tbsp. finely chopped celery. Fill egg white halves; garnish with parsley.

Cheese Stuffed Eggs

To the basic yolk mixture, add 6 tbsp. of crumbled blue cheese, 1/2 cup of softened cream cheese, and finely chopped parsley. Fill egg white halves and garnish with more parsley.



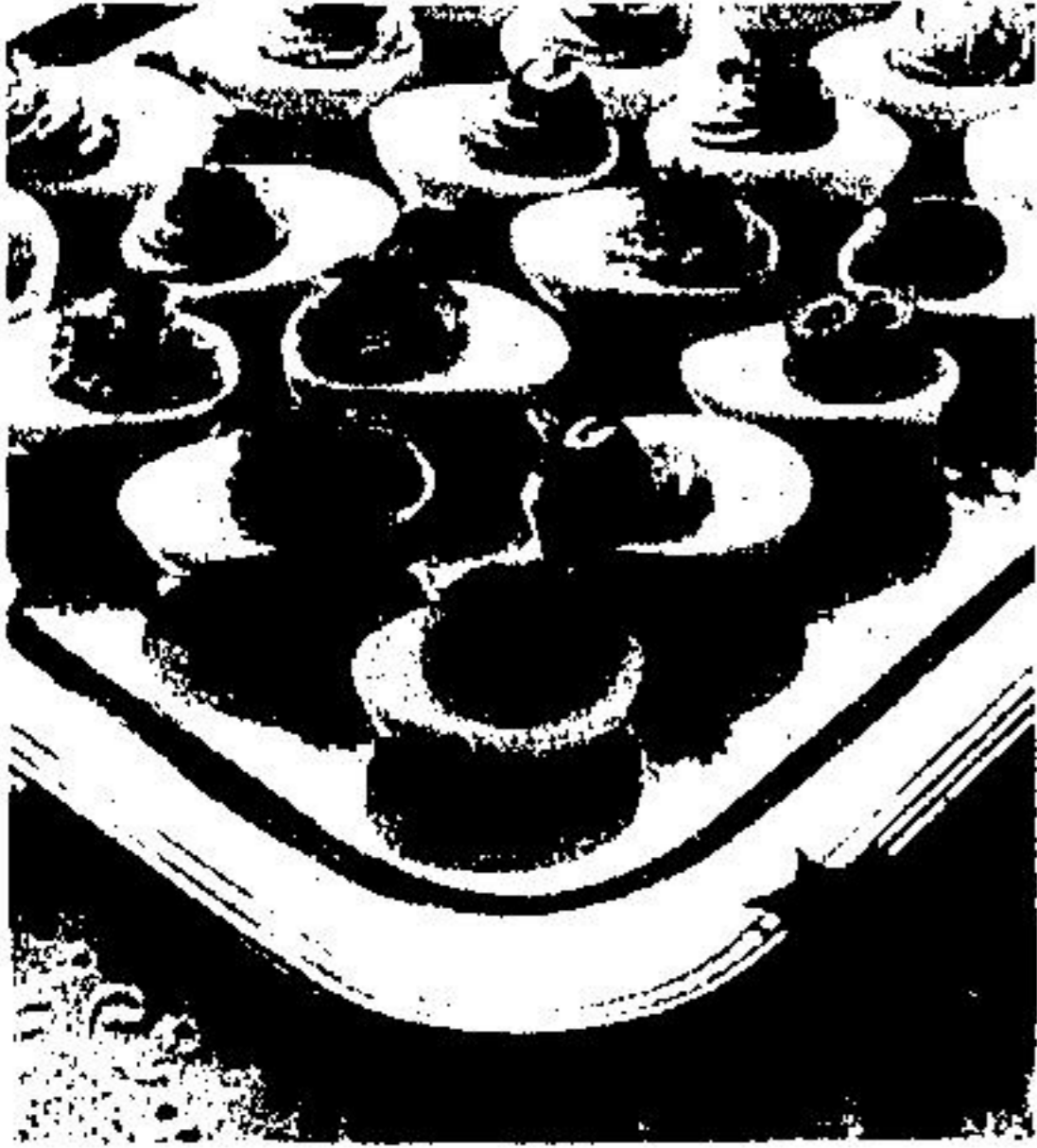
Wise shepherds watched their flocks by night...



Warm Wishes for Christmas

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fill your homes with lots of cheer. May this season be warm and jolly, for our friends and patrons dear.

BILL STUCKEY
Photography



Old Santa's stocking is full of our appreciation for our customers and friends.

Denny's Insurance Agency

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Peace on Earth

The true meaning of Christmas stems from the message, that heralded His birth... "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All Men."
We wish a generous share of spiritual happiness for you.
And we take this opportunity to thank you for your friendly good will.

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kinal and Staff



from

Chris, Pam, Monika and Bev



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