

# Merry Christmas



Thoughts Of Sugar Plums Danced In Their Heads

## An Old Spanish Legend: San Froilan Of The Wilderness

Many years ago a pilgrim monk, Brother Froilan, came to live in the wilderness. With him he brought an old rug for protection against the elements, some packets of healing herbs and seeds for growing. Around his waist hung his crucifix, and a short-bladed Damascus sword. His neighbors were the remnants of the Germanic tribes, all pagans, believing in gods of wood, stone and sacrifice.

With one of the few gold pieces he had brought he purchased a small gray donkey, which became his companion and friend, as well as his beast of burden. This was his only friend among the hostile families nearby with whom he could not communicate by the spoken word. Only the children treated him kindly. They loved to watch him sit by the fire, take his knife and carve some small animal which they knew — a

goat, a calf, a sheep, even a wolf or fox, traditional enemies.

As the months went by, the older people began to trust him; they began to share language, and he read to them the story of Christmas, and some of the teachings of Jesus from the breviary he carried at all times. Even in Latin the stories had a rhythm and cadence they could enjoy. But the monk knew that the tribesmen did not really identify with the meaning of his stories. The children seemed to be the only humans who warmed to his spirit.

Brother Froilan pondered how he could reach the minds and souls of the older folk. Out of a quiet mind he summoned what might be the answer: through the wooden figures he made — things these people could see, touch, feel.

The little animals he carved represented that first Christmas. Perhaps he could also

## Did Sages Foretell The Journey? The Star And

Through the ages the impression given in history and legend is that the miracle of the Star of Bethlehem and the Journey of the Wise Men happened spontaneously.

Another legend tells of a certain nation in the extreme East which possessed a writing ascribed to a person named Seth. From this it would seem that the Star and the famous journey had been looked forward to for generations. To paraphrase the old account: "Twelve of the learned men of that country were disposed to watch for that Star; and when any of them died, his son or one of his kindred was appointed to his place. Year after year these (men) ascended into a certain high mountain, having in it a certain cave, most pleasant, with fountains, into which, ascending and bathing themselves, they prayed and praised God in silence three days. Generation after generation, watching ever, until it should appear descending on the mountain having within itself the form of a man-child, and above the similitude of a cross; and it spoke to them that they should go to Judea. And journeying thither for space of two years, neither food nor drink failed in their vessels."

Now, as in ancient times, may the guiding light of Christmas be yours.

**HOUSE OF FLAIR**  
136 Guelph St. 877-8721

**Holiday Greetings**  
The STARKS & ROBINSONS of  
**Starcrest Farms**  
R. R. 3 - Georgetown

wish their friends and neighbours a  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
AND  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Soviet's Yule Is Like Our's Except . . .

A visitor to the officially atheistic nation of the Soviet Union at Christmastime would see very little that differs from western nations' customs.

Colored lights, decorated trees, gift-laden shoppers and images of a bearded, befeathered old gentleman delivering toys from a sleigh... these and other traditional sights greet the eye.

The one significant difference is that the Russian Christmas has been shorn of any religious meaning, officially at least.

There are some isolated instances of Christian worship in Russia at this time.

The Russian Orthodox Christmas is celebrated with an 8-hour Christmas Mass at midnight in a few churches. This mass takes place, not on December 25, but on January 7, in conformity with the old Julian calendar. To this day the Mass is splendid, involving all the rich orthodox pageantry of the 19th century, in the days of the Czars. It still brings thousands of faithful souls into cathedrals to participate.

The richest mass is sung in Moscow's Yelokhovskiy (Epiphany) Cathedral. Six priests, resplendently garbed, sing the Slavonic ritual in rich baritone and bass voices with accompaniment from two choirs high in a loft above the altar.

Usually the plain, rough attire of many of the worshippers contrasts sharply with the splendor of the altar and the priests.

Thank you for your loyal support

**DAVE WILLIAMS**  
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R. R. 1, Georgetown 877-3322

**Merry Christmas**

'Tis the season to be jolly! We hope your holidays are filled with good cheer and lots of good things! Thank you so much for your patronage throughout the past year.

**Silvercreek Service Centre**  
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**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

Ring in with good wishes for you at Christmas!  
Hope your holidays will be filled with good cheer.

**BROCKTON MOTORS**

**Holy Night**

As we rejoice in the message of Christmas, our prayer is that your life may be blessed with love.

**McNAMARA JEWELLERS**  
Cec. McNamara & Irene Graff.

**YULE TIDE WISHES**

We can think of nothing better to wish our many patrons than this: lots of love, plenty of good friends, a houseful of laughter and a treeful of gifts!

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

And peace on earth, good will toward men! May the Christmas message inspire us with love for all.

**R. H. WEST INSURANCE**

**Merry Christmas**

At this time of year, it's the oldest of traditions to pause and greet friends old and new—it's a pleasure to wish you the happiest of seasons!

FROM THE FOLKS AT  
**DELREX SMOKE SHOP**  
GEORGETOWN MARKET CENTRE  
877-9284

**Season's Greetings**

...It's our favorite time of year and one of the most enjoyable customs of the season is greeting our many good friends and patrons and wishing them the best that life has to offer. Merry Christmas to you all!

**PRESTON'S LUCKY DOLLAR STORE**  
AND STAFF  
GLEN WILLIAMS

We're never too busy to pause and wish you the best for this holiday season. Thank you for letting us serve you.

Best wishes from Bill, Doug, Jim and Brian

**GOODLETS**  
DOWNTOWN

...We're stirring to wish our many friends and patrons a very Merry Christmas!

**BARBER'S JEWELLERY**