



Christmas Tragedy If Safety Tips Neglected

A happy Christmas can change in a few moments into a family tragedy, warns fire chief Ken Bulkema, in homes where fire safety precautions are neglected. Such precautions should head the list of every sensible family's preparations, he says.

The fire chief urges the public to exercise special care in the setting up and decoration of Christmas trees, and draws attention to the following important points:

If plans call for a natural tree it should be bought fresh and green, and kept outdoors or in an unheated garage before being brought into the home for decorating. Then, one or two inches should be cut diagonally from the butt, and the tree should be set up with the butt in water which should be maintained above the level of the cut.

Check strings of electric lights carefully for worn insulation, broken plugs or loose bulb sockets. Only CSA-approved lighting sets and only non-flammable decorations should be used. Declare the tree a no-smoking area and keep matches out of the hands of children. Do not allow discarded gift wrappings to accumulate under the tree. Dispose of them as soon as the gifts are opened. Even a green tree will burn if ignited by burning paper around the base.

Set up the tree away from heat sources such as fireplace TV sets or radiators. Do not allow it to block access to doors or windows in the event of fire. Switch off tree lights at bedtime or when leaving the house.

The evergreen Christmas tree, safe with intelligent use, can present a serious fire hazard if improperly handled. The difference lies in the tree's moisture content—a condition over which you have a surprising degree of control. There are three simple steps to safe enjoyment of your favorite tree:

1. Don't purchase a tree that has dried out. Trees that are too dry have brittle branches that shed needles easily. Test twigs and needles for flexibility.
2. Store tree outdoors, preferably under shade, until it is to be used. If it must be stored indoors, re-cut butt and immerse in water. Maintain water supply.
3. When tree is to be erected, re-cut butt diagonally. Stand tree in water and maintain water supply for duration of tree's use.

TWO IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS

1. A tree whose moisture content has dropped to a critical point before immersion will not recover, but will continue to dry out, even when standing in water. Check tree again for flexibility 24 hours after erecting. If there is any sign of lessened flexibility in needles or twigs, the tree should be removed.

The Spirit Of Christmas

from the Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens

Of all the old festivals...that of Christmas awakens the strongest and most heartfelt associations.

There is a tone of solemn and sacred feeling that blends with our conviviality, and lifts the spirit to a state of hallowed and elevated enjoyment.

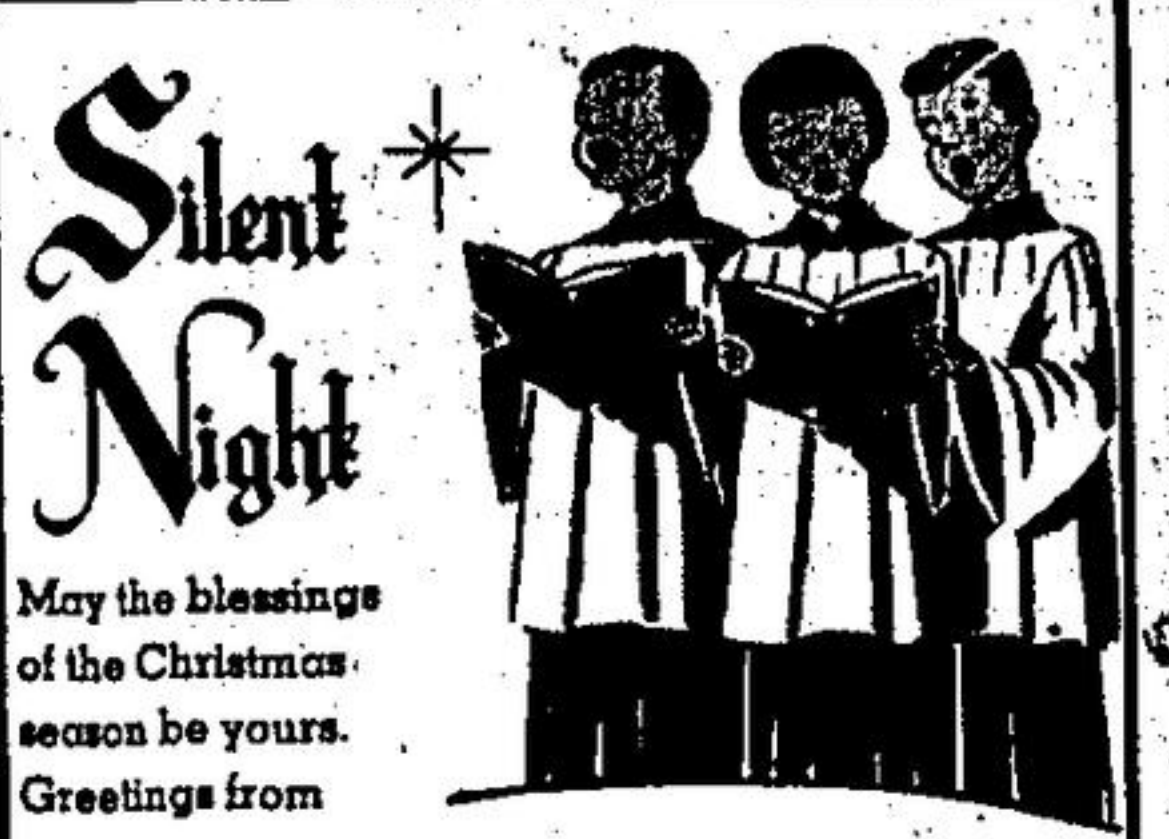
There is something in the very season of the year that gives a charm to the festivity of

Christmas. At other times we derive a great portion of our pleasures from the mere beauties of nature. Our feelings rally forth and dissipate themselves over the sunny landscape, and we "live abroad and everywhere."...But in the depth of winter, when nature lies despoiled of every charm, and wrapped in her shroud of sheeted snow, we turn for our gratifications to moral sources...Our thoughts are more concentrated; our friendly sympathies more aroused. We feel more sensibly the charm of each other's society, and are brought more closely together by dependence on each other for enjoyment. Heart calleth unto heart; and we draw our pleasures from the deep wells of living kindness, which lie in the quiet recesses of our bosoms; and which when resorted to, furnish forth the pure element of domestic felicity.

HOLLY, TRADITIONAL TO CHRISTMAS

Holly has long been considered the most sacred of Christmas greens; and the red berries are said to represent the blood of Jesus.

"Of all the trees that are in the wood, only the holly bears the crown!"



May the blessings of the Christmas season be yours. Greetings from

Barb, Shaun, Pat & Kay

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Why The Christmas Tree Wears Icicles And Tinsel

One of the most beloved stories is about the little spiders and how they helped trim the tree.

According to the old tale, one Christmas morning after the tree had been trimmed, it reposed there in all its glory, awaiting the children.

Every old house (and many a new) has spiders; curious creatures that they are, they wanted to see the lovely tree, too...not just from the floor, but up close. So they crept all over it until they had satisfied themselves completely that the tree was indeed a wondrously beautiful thing. But as they

crept, they left cobwebs...beautiful, also, to Nature's eyes, but not so attractive to mothers.

When the Christ Child came to bless the tree, he realized that the mother of the household would be dismayed. So he touched the webs...and they all turned to silver.

Ever since that time, Christmas trees are hung with shining tinsel.

Shining icicles are also part of the pretty Christmas picture. Another old story gives a reason.

One wintry night the Christ Child was wandering through a

forest. It was cold and he knew he must find shelter for the night. The trees were bare. But a pine tree with low-hanging branches offered some protection from the wind.

When the pine tree, with its presence that is known only to God, realized it was caring for the Christ Child, tears of joy fell from its branches. As they fell, they froze into icicles.

In the morning the pine tree had been transformed into a vision of dazzling brilliance.

And that is why at Christmastime we trim the tree with icicles.

"The Faith Of A Little Child" "Let Us Attempt To Regain It"

Almost everyone is familiar with the letter written to a little girl in the late 1900s by Charles Dana, Editor of the New York Sun newspaper.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

The words are famous all over the world, and have been translated into many languages.

In this year 1972 it epitomizes the same need to believe in the simple realities...not necessarily in the hard facts; sometimes they are immaterial, secondary to the spirit that is intended.

With the world full of torment and divisiveness, of raging wars and revolution, there is more need than ever today to hold to the Spirit of Christmas. Believe what you like about the divinity of the Christ, of the miracle birth, of the angels appearing to the watching shepherds, of the Star that led the Wise Men to the place where He lay. Believe or not, no thoughtful person can discount the beauties of the Christmas Season.

It may be necessary to strip away the tinsel (though in itself it is only an embellishment to something possibly very real). It may be necessary to close your ears to the commercial din which descends on American cities and towns as early as October!

It may be necessary to overlook the feverish exchange of gifts that pyramid in importance or monetary value without any spiritual substance whatever.

It may be necessary to dig deep for the true beauty of Christmas, in our own lives and in the lives of those who touch us, day to day.

This year let the spirit of Christ "do its own thing," on its own precious terms.

Let us go back to seeing Christmas with the eyes of a child...not the selfish little child who thinks only of what gifts Santa will bring, but the unspoiled little child who is as yet untouched by the superficialities and the meaningless trappings of Christmas.

Let us give freely of ourselves, without thought of return.

Let us put aside old resentments, old feuds, corrosive habits which splinter our souls. Let us "run" to welcome our neighbor, of any color or any persuasion—even the bigot, for he is the loneliest of all.

Let us be joyous, with hope that springs from faith that we and all mankind can work toward a new year with "goodwill to all."

Let us work. And let us pray to the Great Spirit, Father of all, that He will guide us along our path, always.

For, as Charles Dana wrote to Virginia seventy-four years ago: "The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see...Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond."

Greetings

May the true glory of Christmas be with you and your loved ones at this time.

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Christmas Greetings

May all Yuletide Joys be Yours

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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Phone 877-3414

JOYOUS NOEL

May the peace of Christmas be in all hearts this the most joyous of seasons.

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Georgetown Market Centre

Hope your holiday menu includes all the joys of the season! Best wishes for health, wealth, and happiness to all our good friends!

H. B. Plumbing & Heating

HARVEY & BETTY CLARE
BILL BULLIVANT

Hope your holiday menu includes all the joys of the season! Best wishes for health, wealth, and happiness to all our good friends!

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Season's Greetings

May the Christmas Season be a memorable and joyous time filled with blessings and love for all.

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H. B. Plumbing & Heating

HARVEY & BETTY CLARE
BILL BULLIVANT

Best Wishes of the season!

It's always a pleasure to greet our friends at Christmas and wish them the very best! Thank you for your patronage—and happy holidays!

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CHRISTMAS Greetings

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JOY TO ALL!

May this Yule be filled with wonder and happiness for everyone...

ADAMS PHOTOGRAPHY
40 PRINCE CHARLES DRIVE