

Use of holly once verboten

Love, the poets say, is like the wild rose briar and friendship like the holly tree. The similarity of love and wild rose briar may need proving but history records the use of holly as a symbol of goodwill and friendship even before the Christian era.

Holly wreaths, sprays and twigs were used too, in various rites throughout much of Europe in those early days. And large quantities of the shiny green foliage and red berries were brought indoors to brighten the scene during drab winter days. But even before the Romans set foot on English shores, the druids were using holly in their own pagan rites.

Due to this pagan association, early Christian leaders opposed use of holly during the Christmas season. In fact, the Christians were forbidden to decorate their homes with Christmas greenery during the mid-December Saturnalian revelries of the Roman Empire. Eventually, however, holly decorations became so well established and so popular they were given Christian acceptance.

YULE WHOPPER

The largest Christmas tree ever lighted is believed to have been 364 feet tall. It is located in California's redwood forest and was first decorated in December, 1945.



Merry Christmas

The best of hopes are extended to you for a warm, happy holiday with friends you hold near and dear. And it is time to thank you for your loyal patronage.

MILNE'S SUNOCO
24 HOUR SERVICE

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FROM SAINT NICHOLAS TO ST. NICK

How Santa Looks, Travels

His White Beard, Red Suit Are Recent Garb

Genial, jovial, red-cheeked and white-bearded. As any child can tell you, that's how Santa Claus looks.

But the benevolent giver of presents has not always been pictured like this, nor has he always traveled by sleigh or brought his gifts on Christmas Eve. In fact, he has not always been named Santa Claus!

"Santa Claus" is in truth a child's euphonic way of expressing the Dutch "Saint Nikolaas," or St. Nicholas, says The Encyclopedia Americana. St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop, was later honored, in Europe, as a friend to children. Legends find him making his rounds on December 5th, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, with gifts to reward children for good behavior.

Instead of a jolly red suit, St. Nicholas wore a robe, or tabard, and for that reason he even didn't need a sleigh, or really a horse. His robe enabled him to travel from place to place, instantly.

In Holland, however, he was said to use a horse for his journey at night over the roofs. Dutch settlers brought St. Nicholas to the New World, where he gradually changed his name to Santa Claus and traded his horse and robe for reindeer and a red suit.

It was Clement C. Moore, in his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," who made Santa into a jolly elf "Saint Nick," who rides "in a miniature sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer."

In more recent years, St. Nicholas in his new guise as Santa Claus has journeyed to many parts of the world, becoming the most widely known of gift givers.



ST. NICHOLAS, who preceded Santa as a Christmas gift giver, was pictured on an 1870 greeting card as a monk-like figure.



FATHER CHRISTMAS, a rather stern resident of the North Pole, appears on this turn-of-the-century greeting card.



METAMORPHOSIS OF SANTA CLAUS. FROM St. Nicholas in a monk's blue robe, to jolly St. Nick in a bright red suit, can be traced in the history of Christmas greeting cards — witness this 1909 card. The gift giver here, who looks somewhat like the modern Santa Claus, wears a red jacket, but his trousers, like St. Nicholas' robe, are still blue, and he is mounted on a hobby horse rather than a reindeer-drawn sleigh — the historical result of the introduction into American folklore, by early Dutch settlers, of St. Nicholas on a horse. The 1909 Santa carries his gifts in a straw basket, which later became the Christmas sack of toys. Cards shown are from the Norcross Historical Collection.

Distinguished scholar had doubts about poem

"Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring not even a mouse."

With these lines begins the familiar poem: "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Today, this poem is a treasured part of the lore of Christmas, often quoted and published at the Yuletide season. Surprisingly, the poet who created it was far from proud of his work.

A distinguished Biblical scholar and professor of divinity,

Dr. Clement Clark Moore wrote the poem for the amusement of his children at Christmas in 1822. A visitor in the home at the time copied it and had it published a year later in the Troy, N. Y., Sentinel.

The poem appeared anonymously, because Dr. Moore felt that he, as a professor of divinity, should not be associated with such 'undignified' work.

For more than 20 years, he refused to take credit for the poem.

Christmas Blessings

This we wish you— hale and hearty health, tranquility of mind, happiness of spirit. Have a Merry Christmas!

THOS. DEAR SHOES
221 MAIN ST. 878-6902

The Council of the Town of Milton

Extends its grateful appreciation to the members of the various municipal groups that contribute to the welfare of the town. Many hours of personal effort and interest are extended by these public spirited citizens who serve on the Boards and Committees and it is only fitting at the year end that this contribution to the Municipality be publicly recognized.



Council expresses its sincere appreciation to all participating individuals, groups and organizations who have assisted in making 1968 such a successful year.

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WE EXTEND A VOTE OF THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL STAFF FOR A JOB WELL DONE

THE COUNCIL TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING ONE AND ALL THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON AND A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN 1969

A special word of "Welcome" goes to all taxpayers and residents in those areas which will be annexed to the Town of Milton as of January 1st, 1969.