

RURAL ROUTE

by WALTER BAIL



Christmas origin

There are many legends, indeed, concerning the origin of the Christmas tree. The first Christmas tree mentioned in literature was in Strasbourg in 1604, but the one associated with Martin Luther is the most familiar. It is related that he wandered through the woods one starry Christmas Eve and became enamored of the wonders of the night for the sky was filled with stars. He cut a small snow-laden fir tree and, when he returned home, set it up for his children and illuminated it with numerous candles to represent the stars.

face persuaded the Teutons to give up their cruel practice of sacrificing a child before a great oak tree during their midwinter festival. Instead, he said, "Cut down a big fir tree, take it home, and celebrate around it with your innocent children."

He also told them that the fir was the wood of peace, from which their houses were built, that it was a sign of immortality, because its leaves were ever green and its top branches pointed straight to heaven.

STAY OVERNIGHT

Put safety in your party plans, suggests the Hamilton Automobile Club. Be "First A Friend... Then A Host"

Another legend, a much more ancient one, tells how in the eighth century, St. Boni-

'Christmas cheer' — be careful, courteous, considerate of others

When friends and relatives congregate in the holiday season, lots of food and drink are invariably the signs of togetherness and yuletide cheer.

Traditional drinks range from eggnog (laced with yummy brandy or rum), through various hot punches, mulled ciders, and other winter warmer-uppers, to even more traditional cocktails.

When you're hosting the festivities this season, keep a few delicate subjects in mind. Be considerate of those who don't drink. Don't make it hard for them by pressuring them or "kidding" them — and see that your other guests don't either.

For you, alcohol may be an enjoyable addition to a friendly social occasion — but for many others, (either from conviction or addiction) it's serious business.

Also, it's an unfortunate fact that highway accidents are very prevalent during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. And people are much more likely to crash if they have been drinking. (Icy roads are hard enough to drive on cold sober.)

So, drink up over the holidays — but please don't overdo it if you're not walking home. If nothing else, know yourself; know how much liquor you can handle.

Remember that an alco-

holic punch takes longer to "hit" you than a straight drink — which means, by the time you begin to "feel" it, you may already have drunk too much of it. If you're drunk, be grown-up enough to admit it — and stay put until you've recovered.

If you're the host, it's your responsibility to make sure your guests are sober enough to drive home safely after the party. If they're not, then drive them home yourself, or be prepared to put them up for the night!

Togetherness Is Traditional

When our elders talk about an "old-time" Christmas among the things they are remembering is the pleasure and anticipation associated with the preparations for the holiday.

There were no "commercial" Christmas trees in the "old days" — everyone went out to the nearest hillside or forest and chose one to their liking — for free. Tinsel, ornaments, electric tree lights, these too, weren't to be had. Decorations for the tree were all homemade — and usually the entire family lent a hand in the preparations.

Today we would be foolish, of course, not to take advantage of the many beautiful and ornamental decorations available for decorating home and Christmas tree. Yet, we can still recapture some of the "spirit" of the "oldtime Christmas" by making some of the Christmas tree ornaments and decorations as a family project.

A variety of ornaments are possible from such materials as plastic foam. A cookie cutter, for instance, can be used to outline such shapes as snowmen, Santa Clauses, gingerbread men, dolls, clowns and stars on a sheet of 1-inch plastic foam. Cut out the shapes with a sharp knife and then let each member of the family decorate an ornament. Some can glue sequins to the cutouts to form features. Others can tint the foam with food coloring, or glue felt to the ornament to add extra details, such as hats or buttons.

—Champion classifieds will help you solve your December shopping problems.



Greetings

As Families Gather Together in Joyous Celebration, We extend Yuletide Wishes and a Happy New Year

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and **THE FABRIC BIN**

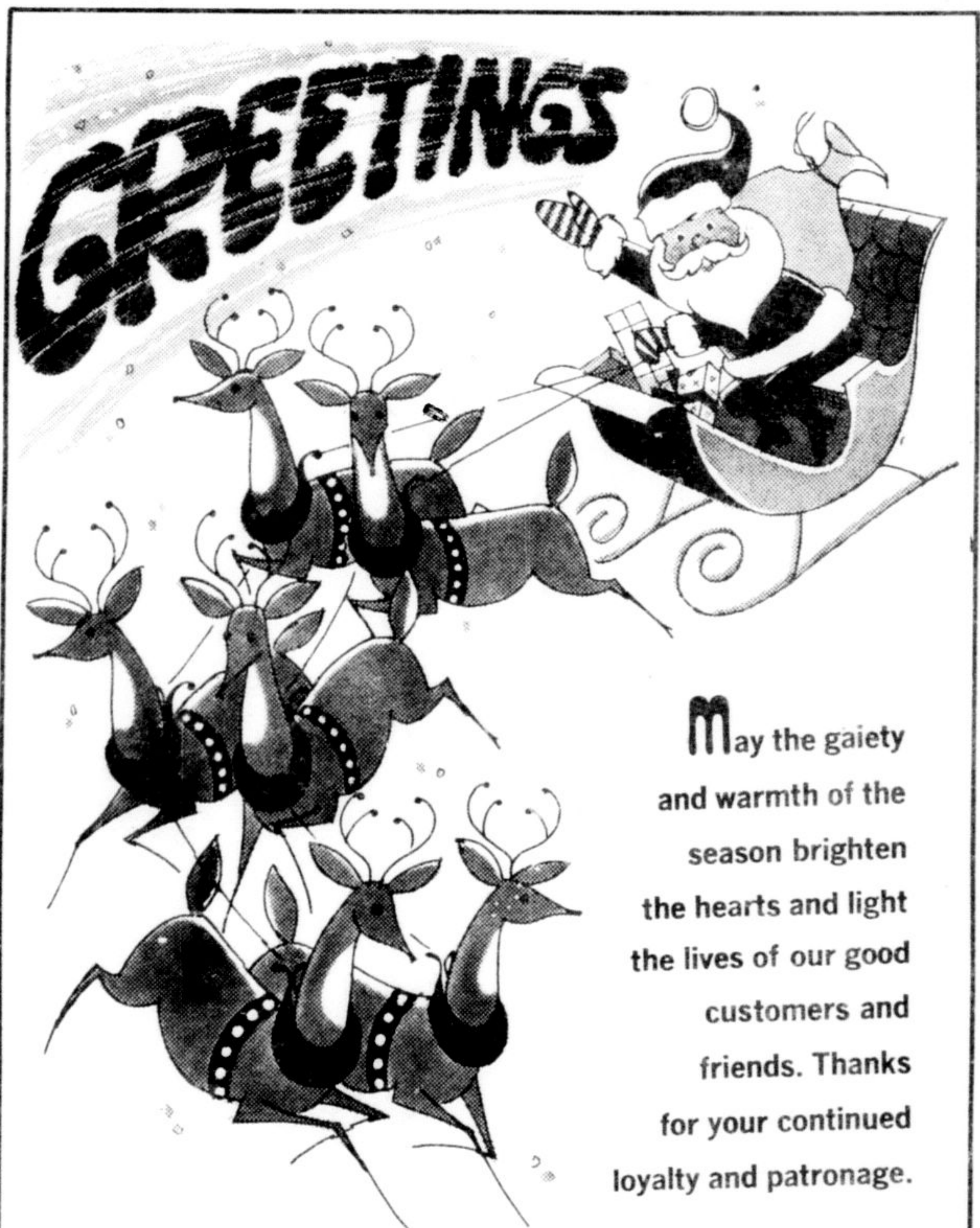
751 Steeles Ave.



May the joys of this Christmas season rekindle cherished memories, and fill your heart with great happiness.

WEST END MEATS

140 Main St., Milton.



GREETINGS

May the gaiety and warmth of the season brighten the hearts and light the lives of our good customers and friends. Thanks for your continued loyalty and patronage.

Knight's

MEN'S WEAR LIMITED

202 MAIN ST., MILTON 878-4472

Christmas Fare

We're taking orders for hearty portions of holiday joy for all our patrons. May every happiness be yours this Christmas season.

CHALET RESTAURANT

BEST WISHES FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF