

When It Was "Mother's Night"

The oldest English name for Christmas is Moddra Night, or Mothers' Night. In the early days, when our Saxon forefathers had just settled down in the country that was to be England, the day of December 25th was given over to feasting, but the night was dedicated to the special honour of mothers. They occupied the seats of honour, and everyone brought them gifts. Sons and daughters who had gone out into the world strove to be at home on that one night in the year.

A little later the name Yule was given to Christmas, and the rejoicing of the day were prolonged into night, when men sang and told stories sitting round the cheerful blaze of the Yule log.

The old customs of Mothers' Night gradually died out, though they still survive in a few parts of the country. Its place has been taken to some extent by Mothering Sunday in the North of England. On that day everyone who can do so still makes a pilgrimage homewards, and the mother receives the homage of her family.

CHRISTMAS TOWNS

Christmas names are found throughout the United States. There are two towns named Christmas, one in Florida, and another in Kentucky. Maine has a Christmas Cove, and there are Bethlehems in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Georgia, Kentucky and New Hampshire. Santa Claus, Ind., is the most popular Christmas post office. There is a Noel in Missouri and Virginia. Nazareth is located in Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Texas. Hollytree is in Alabama, and Kentucky has a Holly Bush and a Mistletoe. Thirteen post offices are named Laurel. Each of these towns handles huge quantities of mail each Christmastide.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The singing of Christmas carols originated in England. According to tradition, this is the chorus of the very first: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth, Peace, Good will toward Men."

Shoes Set for Santa in Norway

Youngsters in Canada, United States, Britain and many other lands set out their stockings to receive their gifts from Santa Claus. In Norway, on the other hand, the children set out their shoes for Santa's gifts. At least—they did before the arch-enemy of Santa Claus, the former paperhanging Austrian attacked Norway and over-ran it. This Christmas, it will take all Santa Claus' ingenuity to see that little children of Norway have any Christmas gifts at all. If they have shoes they will be afraid to set them out with the thieving gangsters in command of the country. Santa Claus, however, may find a way to help the little children of Norway this year.

Going back, however, to the old Christmas custom in Norway

before the present gangster warfare, the following article was written some three years ago:—

If you happened to walk into a home in Norway or Sweden on the night before Christmas, the chances are that you would see a long row of shoes in the hall.

Shoes Set Out

It's a regular Christmas custom in these two countries. It is meant to denote amicable feeling of everybody in the household. Before going to bed, every member of the household places his shoes side by side in the hall.

Also in accordance with custom, candles are left burning in the windows all night. This is done as a favour to Kristine, who brings the gifts. The candles light a path for the kindly Kristine, and so there is no chance of him missing any place.

Candles and pretty cakes are the chief Christmas tree decorations in Norway and Sweden.

Remember Poor

The richer households send good things to the poor, and everywhere among both rich and poor are the animals and birds remembered. The boys and girls save up their pennies during the year for this purpose. Sheaves of grain are fastened to window ledges in town, and in the country the sheaves are fastened to long poles and renewed every day for a week, and many are the birds that spy this feast. On the barn floors of the peasants, bowls of hot porridge are set for poor "Robin Goodfellow" to comfort him because he has no "soul." The cows and the horses share in the general happiness by having a double share of food given them.

It is a big skip from the Northland to the Southland or tropical countries where Christmas is celebrated without the ever-green tree to decorate and hang gifts on. In Brazil and other Spanish countries the holiday may be spent outdoors in the sunny flower-scented air.

Quaint Superstitions

They have quaint superstitions in these summer lands relative to "Youle Tide." On the coffee plantations the old folk say that on Christmas night the animals have the gift of speech and that if only a child has sufficient courage to go out alone after dark it will hear, on the stroke of 12, the cock crow in a loud clear voice from the highest perch:

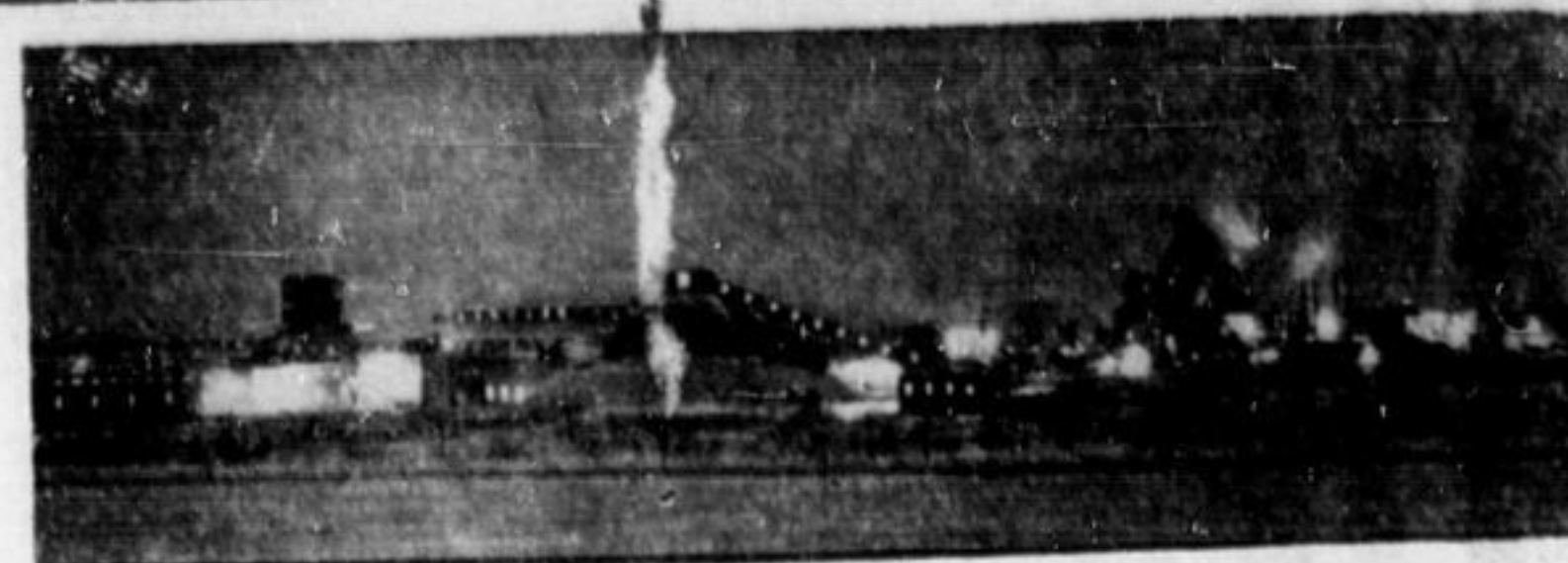
"Christo nasceu"—Christ is born.

The bull in a deep sonorous bass inquires from a distant field, "Onde"—where?

The sheep then answer in chorus, "Em Belem de Juda"—in Bethlehem of Judea.

In turn all the domestic animals give to the world the glad tidings of the Nativity. Many a child wishes it had the courage necessary to hear this wonderful conversation of the brute creation.

John Byrom:—"Christmas, awake, salute the happy morn, Whereon the Saviour of the world was born."



A View of the Hollinger Mine, Timmins



It is our sincerest hope that the Christmas season will give you renewed spirit and that the New Year brings Victory to the Empire and peace again throughout the world.

SOUTH END GARAGE

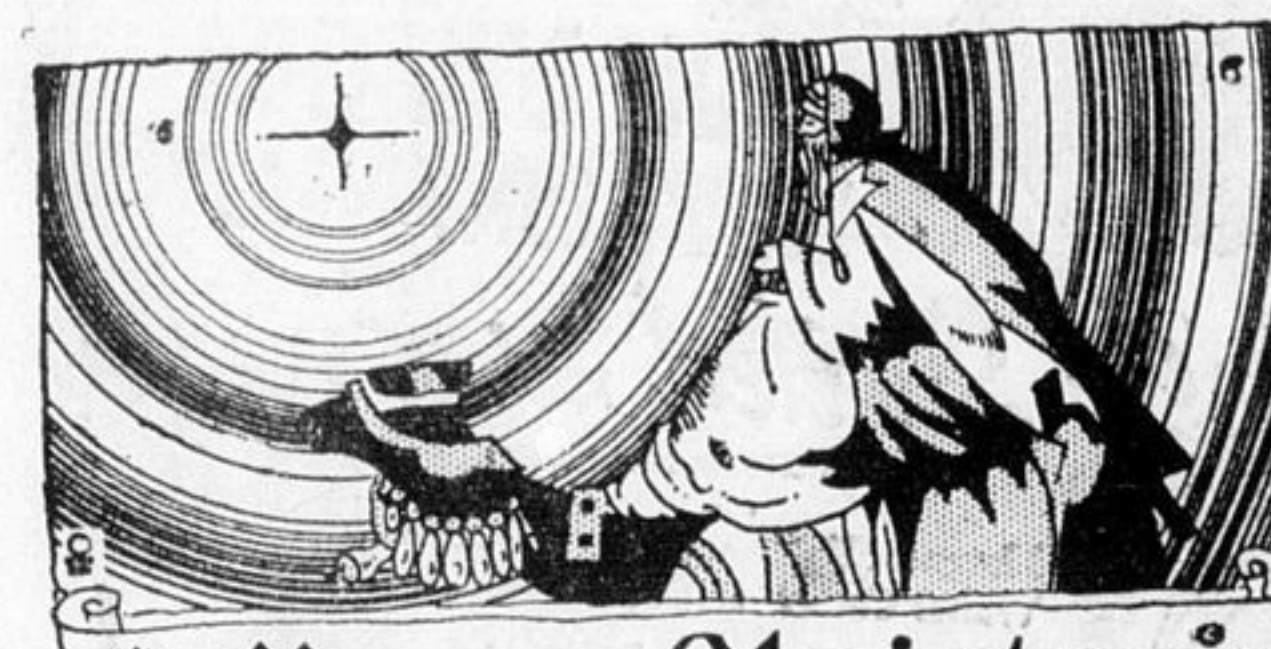
M. CYBULSKI (proprietor)

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Phone 55

"DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE"



A Merry Christmas

Sincere and good wishes for a

Merry Christmas

and a

New Year

of peace and happiness

to our Friends and Benefactors

The Sisters of Providence

St. Mary's Hospital

Timmins, Ont.

Employees and Friends of Shaheen's Store Enjoy Party

Mrs. A. Shaheen Hostess at Sunday Evening Event.

Mrs. A. Shaheen, of 53 Birch street south, was hostess on Sunday evening at the annual party for the staff of the Shaheen Dept. Store, when the staff, their friends, and other friends of the hostess enjoyed a pleasant evening of games, music and dancing.

Guests were received by the hostess and her daughter, Miss Doris Shaheen, at the home which was charmingly decorated with holly and Christmas wreaths. A delicious turkey supper was served, and during the evening, the staff of the store presented Mrs. Shaheen with a beautiful chiffon velvet housecoat. Community singing, piano selections, and other favourite pastimes were only a few of the evening's highlights.

New Motor Car Plates Necessary by Jan. 31st

Attention was called last week by The Advance to the fact that the Dept. of Highways for Ontario has given formal notice that all motor car licenses must be renewed on all cars in use after January 31st, 1942.

Blairmore Enterprise—A girl we know went into her neighbourhood bakery last week and said, "A nickel's worth of rolls, please?" The clerk handed them over and told her, "That will be seven cents, please."—Ex.



CHRISTMAS comes once more, the joyous season of the Nativity. Through centuries it has been associated with family life, hospitality and the home. Because it has been our pleasure through the years to provide the material comfort so essential to happy home life, this season has for us an added significance.

MAY Christmas time find you in the comfort of your home, surrounded by family and friends, and may their companionship be as warm and cheering as the open door of a lighted house on a Northern Winter's night.

HILL - CLARK - FRANCIS LTD.

Builders of The North Since 1907.

McINTYRE ARENA
Holiday Sports Programme

Wednesday, Dec. 24th

9 to 10 a.m.—Skating for Public School Children
10 to 11.30 a.m.—Skating for High School Students.
2 to 3.45 p.m.—Public Skating.
8 to 10 p.m.—Public Skating

Saturday, Dec. 27th

9.30 to 11 a.m.—Skating for Public School Children.
2 to 5 p.m.—Junior Skating Club
8 to 10 p.m.—Public Skating

Thursday, Christmas Day

PUBLIC SKATING

Morning	Afternoon	Evening
9.30 to 11 a.m.	2 to 3 p.m.	8 to 10 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 29th

9 to 10 a.m.—Skating for Public School Children.
10 to 11.30 a.m.—Skating, High School Students
2 to 3.45 p.m.—Public Skating
8.15 p.m.—Hockey.

Friday, Boxing Day

9 to 10 a.m.—Skating for School Children
PUBLIC SKATING
Morning Afternoon Evening
9.30 to 11 a.m. 2 to 3 p.m. 8 to 10 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30th

Porcupine Skating Club—All Day

Wednesday, Dec. 31st

9 to 10 a.m.—Skating for School Children
10 to 11.30 a.m.—Skating, High School Students
2 to 3.45 p.m.—Public Skating
NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA SKATING PARTY
11.45 to 3 a.m.

We Wish One and All A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - McIntyre Community Building