

### Xmas Tree Warning

By John G. Gamber,  
(State Fire Marshal)

Discard the Christmas tree candles, or ban the flimsy, inflammable decorations.

For safety's sake, use electrical illumination, or trim the tree only with non-inflammable tinsel and ornaments.

This is the advice of State Fire Marshal G. Gamber in a warning against Christmas tree fires, urging that every precaution be taken to prevent the day from being marred by accident.

"Every year Christmas tree fires take a toll in lives and homes in Illinois," says the Fire Marshal. "Each year there are homes in which Yuletide joy is turned to sadness on this account and every now and then a whole family is bowed in sorrow over some Christmas tree tragedy.

"A Christmas tree is a thing of beauty. It is also a potential torch, for its branches are full of resin. Trimmed with paper festooning, tissue paper bells, celluloid ornaments and other highly inflammable decorations, it awaits only a spark from a lighted candle or momentary contact with its flame to flare up into a roaring, consuming mass of fire.

"Then danger can be practically eliminated by the use of electrical illumination and, where candles are used, can be minimized by decorating only with non-inflammable tinsel and ornaments.

"Nothing but electrical illumination should be permitted at public fetes, such as in schools and churches, where large numbers of children are present. Every home which is equipped with electricity should use electrical systems of lighting. They are just as attractive and effective, besides being safe. In case of public celebrations and where large trees are used, an expert electrician should be consulted so that the circuit will not be overloaded.

"For those who will use candles, the following advice is given:

"Be sure the tree sets firmly in an adequate base, so it will not tip.

"Place it a safe distance from lace curtains and other inflammable furnishings.

"Don't put cotton under the tree to resemble snow, nor on the tree itself. Use asbestos snow and mica.

"Discard festoons of ordinary tissue paper, celluloid ornaments, and all flimsy, combustible decorations, using only non-inflammable tinsel and ornaments.

"See that there is ample clearance about all candles and do not leave a lighted tree unwatched.

"Don't let children touch a lighted tree and don't remove presents until candles are extinguished. Clothing or presents might become ignited.

"Don't permit a draft of air to sway branches while tree is lighted.

"Everything should be done at Christmas time to safeguard the holi-

day joy, especially of the children, who are usually the innocent victims."

#### Daily Thought.

Life is not made out of money, and friendship, and talents, and patronage, and family influences, and good chances, and good positions, and good health, and good nature; it is made out of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness and brotherly kindness and love.—Ininger.

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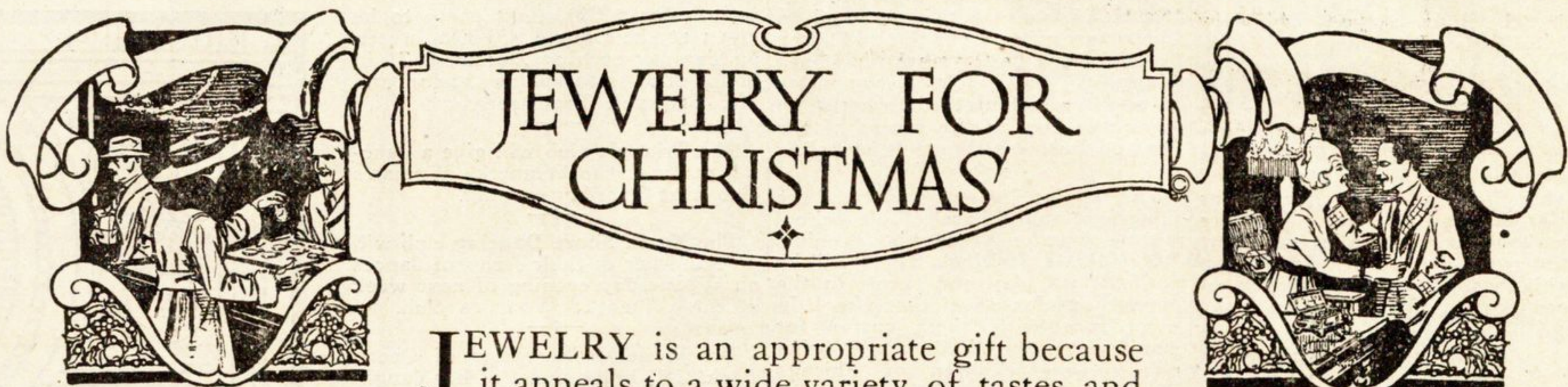
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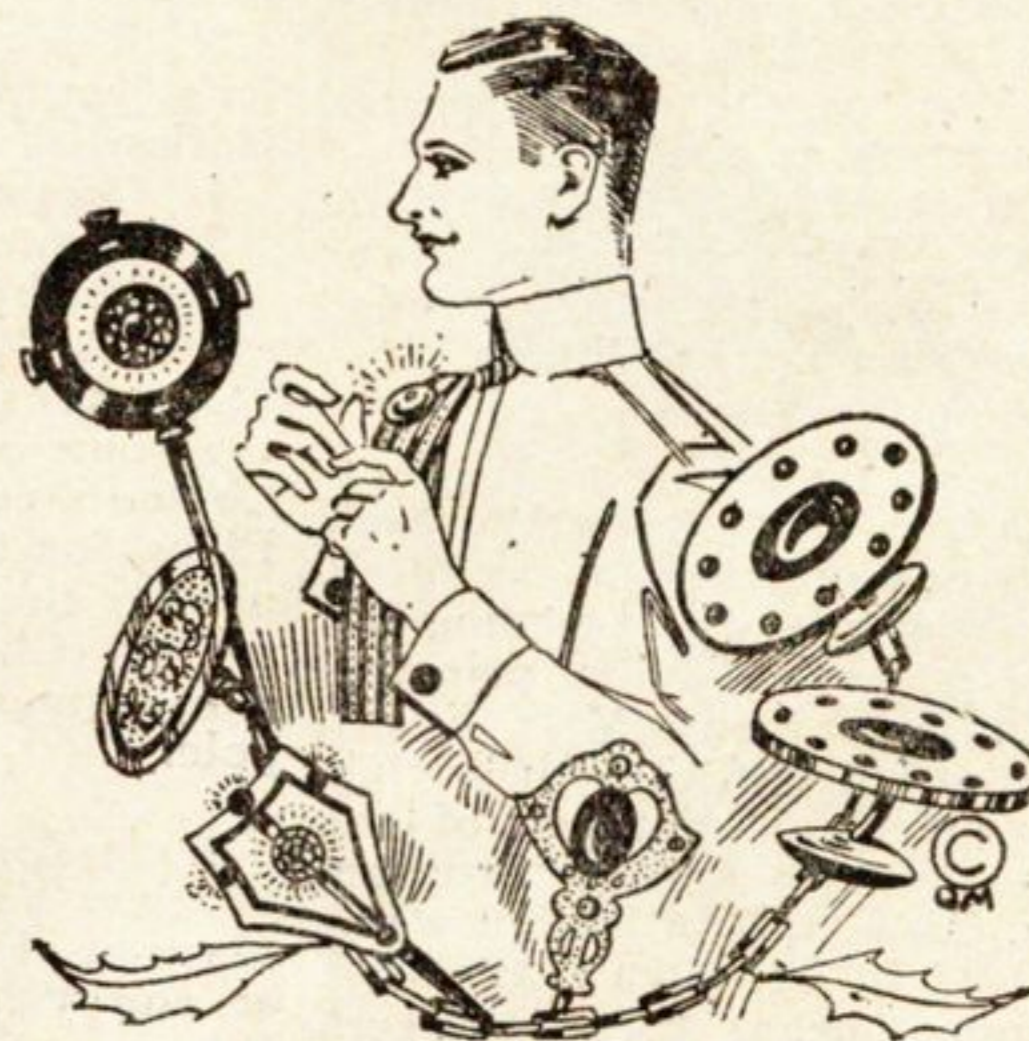
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