

Egyptians Pioneers In Study of Time

The Egyptians were probably the first to develop any "exact" method of calculating time — about 4,000 B.C. they devised a "calendar."

The Christian era begins on January 1, in the middle of the fourth year of the 194th Olympiad, the 753rd year of the building of Rome and in the 4714th year of the Julian period. The Jewish calendar reads

5717 in relation to 1956 A.D., since according to Jewish dogma and tradition the Creation antedated the birth of Christ approximately 3,761 years. The Jewish calendar was adopted during the 15th century.

Use of the notation A.D. (year of our Lord) was inaugurated in 879 by Charles III of Germany.

The tallest Christmas tree on record was a 212 foot Douglas fir set up in 1950 in Northgate, a suburb of Seattle, Washington. It displayed 3,500 colored lights.



Many Christmas legends and customs are part of the folklore of our ancestors in all parts of the world. Many of them, too, are a mixture of early Christian and pagan observances which time and Christianity have given new meaning.

Santa Claus, our American giver of gifts, is little known elsewhere in the world. In Eastern and Southern Europe, it is the Wise Men who arrive bringing gifts. In Hungary the gifts come from the Angels, in Poland from the stars, in Greece, St. Basil is the gift-bearing patron saint.

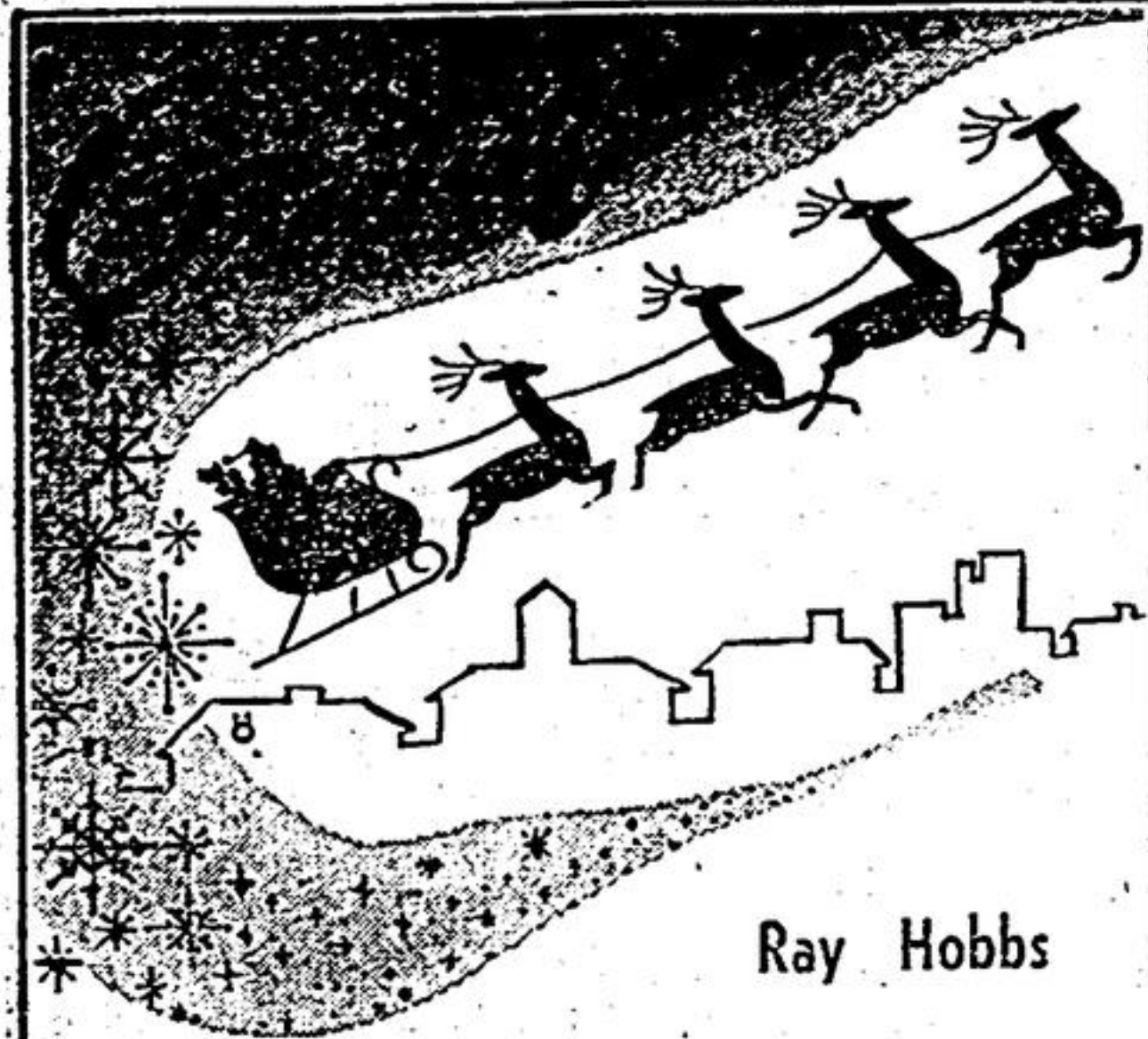
Popular tradition has it that the candle we place in our windows at Christmas is a custom originated by early Christians to whom the candle represented the star that guided the Wise Men to the stable at Bethlehem. One interesting legend tells of a shoemaker who, though poor, always placed a candle in his

window at night to guide weary travelers, and so inspired the villagers that soon each window contained a lighted candle.

The holly bush, long associated with Christmas, and with many legends, was once called the holy-bush, because in its natural state the berries ripen at Christmas time.

The Wassail bowl, which today is Christmas punch, is said to have come to us from the ancient Saxons. Wassail was a word of greeting which meant literally, "What Hails?", or "How fare you?"

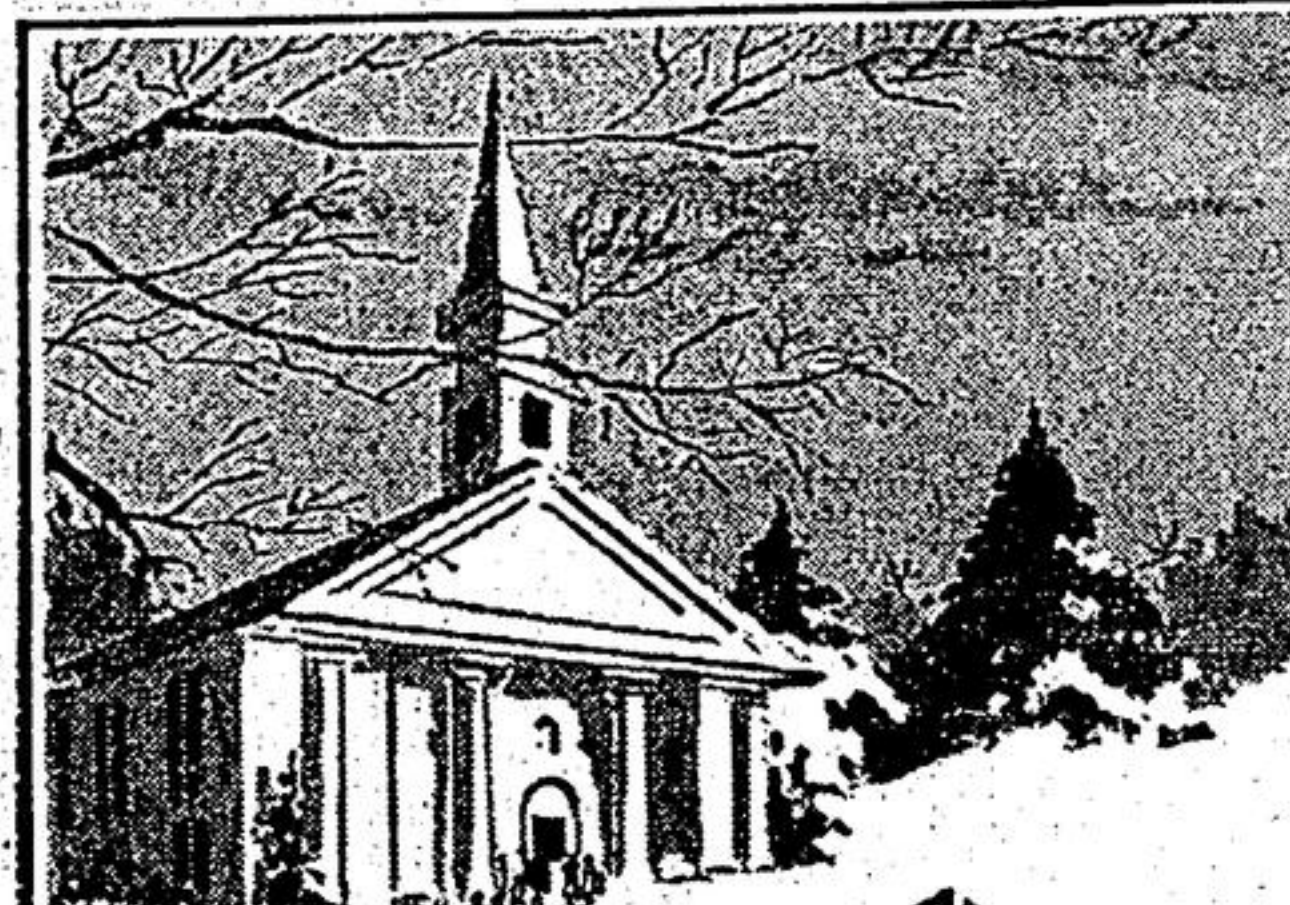
At Christmas time, traditions of the Old World live again. Pinatitas, doves and festive straw chains from South Europe; wheat sheaves, paper and carved wood from Scandinavian countries; angels, stars, Czechoslovakian bells and gold German stars are all bits of Old World charm that we re-create in our homes.



Ray Hobbs

Western Tire

ASSOCIATE DEALER — STOUFFVILLE — ONT.



GREETINGS

To one and all of our loyal friends we wish that this Christmas may bring you many spiritual blessings...blessings that will lift your heart and enrich your life for years and years to come.

Maple Leaf Dairy and staff

STOUFFVILLE — ONTARIO

ALTONA

Dec. 17

The season's greetings to all! Last Thursday, a group of friends from Stouffville gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Goudie for a pot-luck dinner the way they did twenty years ago. They were Mr. and Mrs. Levi Forsyth, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pugh, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Reesor, Mrs. Paul Bowdway and Mr. Joe Mertens and Margery.

On Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Jones accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Goudie to Vineland where they attended the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrations of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley High.

Altona school received second prize on their "May Queen" float at Claremont Santa Claus Parade on Saturday. The pupils, Mrs. Colby and Mrs. Woodcock are to be congratulated for their splendid Christmas programme on Richmond Hill ra-

dio station last Saturday. Please phone 91615 with your news items for this column during this busy Christmas season. Thank you.

The average church in the United States has about three hundred members, and just about that many seats.

Rail Kitty Clothes

By Lonnie E. Leggo

Hilary Lewis was a 22-year-old bachelor, who owned fifty acres of mountain land with a nice cottage and out-buildings. He, as he was known locally, was a ladies' man, who farmed his rocky hills and acted as a guide to hunting parties of city slickers.

One beautiful day in April, a big car drove up to his gate and honked the horn. He, taking his usual slow time, walked down to the gate, wondering if this was a late hunter. There was

only one person in the car, who got out at his approach, wearing an outfit that almost made Hi laugh outright.

High top boots, tan leather riding britches, black leather coat, green silk shirt topped off with a forest green hat with a red feather. He spoke and added, "I am Alwin G. Benedict and wish to hire a guide to explore the fauna and flora of this region, which I know all about from my books, but I wish to photograph them in their natural habitat."

"Allright," drawled Hi, "dollar an hour and I'm ready."

After photographing several birds, plants and small animals, they came suddenly upon a mother skunk with four kittens trailing her. The mother hid in the tall weeds, but the kits froze where they were. "What are they?" exclaimed Mr. Benedict.

"Rail kittys," said Hi.

"Will they bite?" asked Mr. Benedict.

"Naw," replied Hi.

Mr. Benedict picked up one of the kits by the scruff of the neck. It made a snuffling sound which brought the mother out of the weeds stamping her feet in anger. "Holy cow!" yelled Mr. Benedict dropping the kitten and running out of the cloud of mist. "I thought you said they were cats."

"They are—pole cats. What's the difference between a pole and a rail?"

Mr. Benedict stripped the new clothes off while Hi went back to the house for some of his old clothes. After Mr. Benedict was dressed he paid Hi for his time and the clothes, adding a dollar tip, then left immediately for the city and a bath saying, "I'll send you a present to re-

member this.

Hi got a shovel and buried the fancy clothes, then in three days dug them up and hung them on the line to air out. The next day he brushed them of dirt, the odor was already gone. Donning the fancy outfit he set out for the post office where most of the mountain girls congregated at mail time.

He received a small registered box, which he took out onto the porch to open, remarking, "Guess my city friend sent me a watch." The girls gathered around to see Hi's wonderful gift. When he raised the lid there on a bed of cotton, that reeked with lilac perfume, lay a gold plated, lipstick box cover. A cork stopper plugged the open end. On one side was a label that read: "Amora Knuks No. 5." "Spanish," Hi remarked knowingly. "Amora, I think

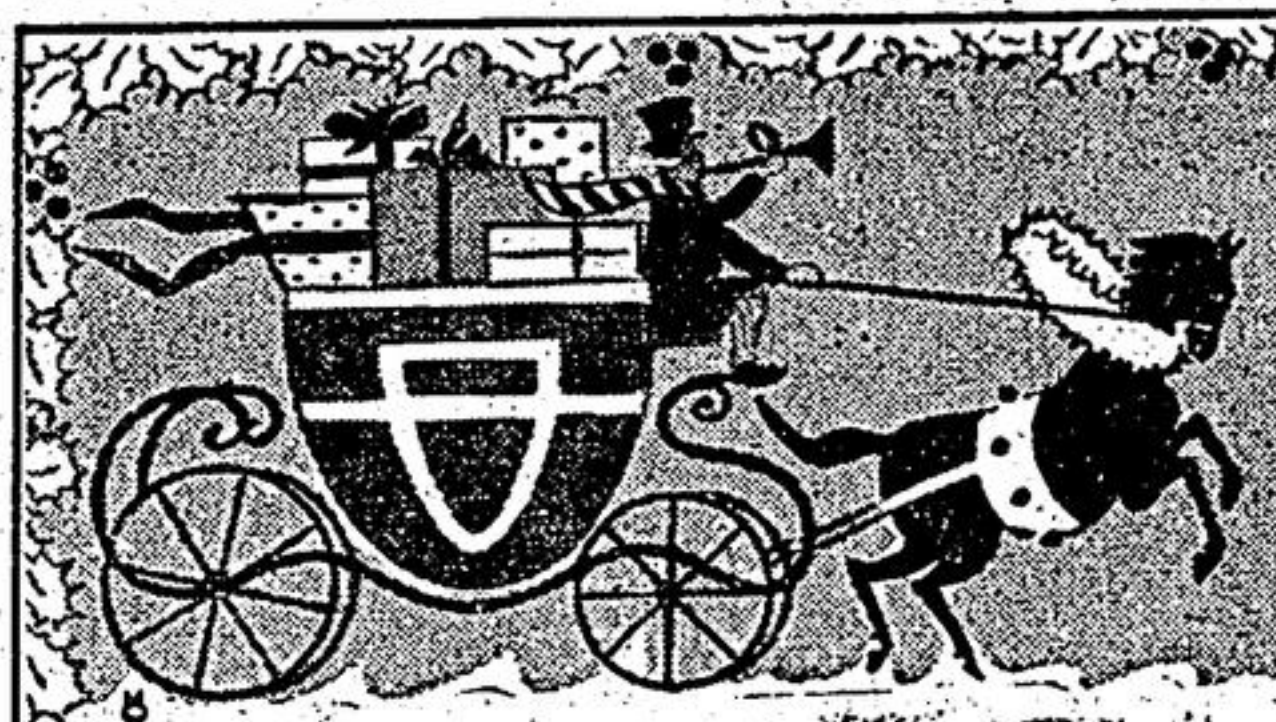
means "Darling" and I guess "Knuks" means perfume.

Another label on the container read: "Caution do not remove stopper." "Well, I don't see why not, it's all leaked out anyway," said Hi disgustedly as he twisted the stopper. Suddenly his hands and clothes were soaked with skunk scent that dripped from a minute hole in the bottom of the container which had been sealed with a pin fastened to the cork. He threw the vial from him with an oath as the girls scattered screaming and holding their noses.

Hi reading the label again as it lay upside down, noticed it was written backwards and should read, "Skunk Aroma No. 5. He rushed home and buried the clothes again. Oddly enough, he was unable to wear them in public again as the very sight of them sent people into a panic.



THIS DOG'S BEST FRIEND — His head drooping now and then with weariness, a terrier stands guard over the body of his pal (centre), who was killed by an automobile in Los Angeles, California. A passerby offers help.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

...all aboard for a real old-fashioned Christmas, overflowing with joy and good cheer. Here's hoping that the happiness of the Holiday Season will linger in your heart for a long time to come.

Thos. Birkett and Son Insurance Agency

STOUFFVILLE — ONTARIO



Holiday GREETINGS

Best wishes of the season and our sincere thanks to all our friends and patrons.

Vivian and Graham Crowhurst
Stouffville Radio - TV Centre


STOUFFVILLE — ONTARIO



Holiday Greetings

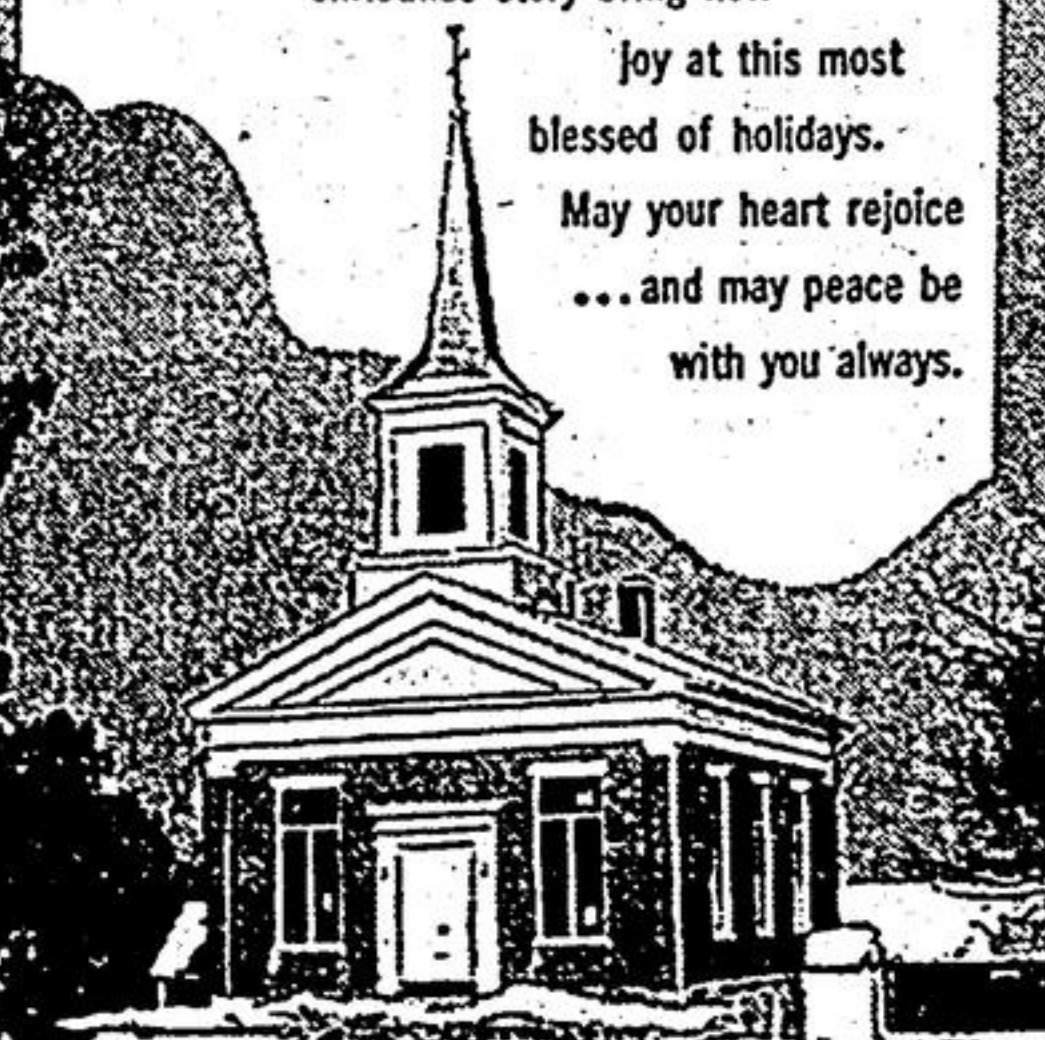
We gladly join in the spirit of the season, and heartily extend our very best wishes, our warmest greetings to all our many friends. May the holidays hold for you the riches of friendship...the treasures of happy hours with loved ones...the priceless joys of good health and contentment.

Management and Staff of
Patrick Motors



Noel

The old truths of the Christmas story bring new joy at this most blessed of holidays. May your heart rejoice...and may peace be with you always.



Marguerite Shoppe

STOUFFVILLE — ONTARIO