

Warm Climate Christmas Is Quite Colorful

Unlike Christmas in colder states, the Yule season around the winter resort of Phoenix, Arizona and the Valley of the Sun means no snow but bright sunny skies. It seems a bit strange to tourists perhaps, but local folks do all they can to prove sunning is more fun than shoveling. Special dinners, festivals and other activities add a special flair and gaiety to the Phoenix celebration.

Colorful
One of the most colorful of all the festivities is the annual Las Pasa-das observance by Arizonians and Mexicans. Starting about a week before Christmas, people representing Mary and Joseph re-enact the traditional night-time search for lodgings in Bethlehem. They go from house to house until finally—at the pre-arranged one—they are "taken in for the night." Climax of the celebrations comes when merry-makers break open the huge piñata hung from the ceiling and stuffed with candies and other goodies. There's always a scramble for the prizes—and lots of fun for all.

Another common scene around Christmas in Phoenix comes with the luminarias. These usually occur on Christmas Eve when many people hold open house. Small paper bags, partially filled with sand, and having lighted candles in the middle, are spaced out to mark paths to homes. The tradition comes from the old Spanish custom of lighting the way for El Niño Perdidito, the lost Christ child, who walks among the faithful on that night.

RUSSIA'S SANTA

Many Communist countries, after unsuccessful efforts to re-name "Father Christmas," the Russian Santa, "Father Winter" have greatly relaxed efforts to prevent the celebration of Christmas as a Christian holiday.

Father Christmas is as popular as ever, as is also the legendary female gift giver, Babuska, which means grandmother. According to tradition, Babuska purposefully gave wrong directions to the Magi when they requested directions to Bethlehem. Babuska repented and, in atonement for her bad deed, has since wandered about the world on Christmas Eve, looking for the Christ Child and distributing gifts to all the children she meets on the way.

Use Right Bulbs To Illuminate Outdoors

For outdoor floodlights to illuminate Christmas displays, your best bet is to stick to the 150-watt PAR-38 bulbs. These are the weatherproof reflector type, like the kind used to light doorways. You can get 300- and 500-watt reflector bulbs for outdoor use, but those are likely to explode in a cold rain or snow unless protected by expensive fixtures. So just use two or more of the PAR-38's when you wish more light. Indoors, you can use the 150-watt R-40 or 75-watt R-30 reflector spots and floods.

OLD CUSTOM

In ancient times, mistletoe was used to insure the favorable outcome of crops. Later, its charm was invoked to happily guide the destinies of young lovers. Through the centuries, long after the Druids, who popularized mistletoe with symbolic rites, were absorbed by other cultures, the custom of hanging the mistletoe persisted.

First Stocking Filled By Accident

In Britain, it is the custom for children to leave their toys under the tree until the afternoon of Christmas Day. Santa Claus (Father Christmas) makes his Christmas Eve visit, however, filling the stockings left by the children at the hearth or beside their bed. British legend says the stocking custom originated by accident. Once, St. Nicholas was making his descent down a chimney to leave some toys for a family of children and some gold coins fell from his pocket, dropping into a stocking hung by the hearth to dry. Since that time, Santa has always had something for every stocking.



BUILDER . . . Toys can offer to the busy, inventive mind of the average boy the opportunity to "build things," to improve and to learn things by doing.

POINSETTIA

Long before the poinsettia became a popular American Christmas ornament, the plant had great practical value in Mexico, where the Indians used the red leaves to make a scarlet dye and extracted milky juice from the stems to use as a tonic for nursing mothers.

Novel Idea
Novelty shops and notion counters are brimming with possibilities for making very attractive presents. Small apothecary jars enamelled in gay colors make ideal spice sets that will add to the decor of the kitchen. When the enamel is dry, label each jar in huge, easy-to-read letters of a contrasting color. Such an attractive gift will surely please the culinary expert on your list.

BIG TREE

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.

CARD STORY

The few pennies we pay for today's Christmas card is much less than the price for the few cards available around 1875. Volume is something else, today, too. Last year Americans spent an estimated \$150 million on Christmas cards—spent another \$50 million to mail them.

OLD BELIEF

Gypsies believe that holly, ivy and pine were made evergreen in reward for helping screen the birth of Christ from view. The gypsies used ash for their campfires and were told by their elders that the ash was black-balled from the evergreen list because it had no part in the hiding of the Christ child.



FRIENDS . . . Talking dolls, like the one seen on TV, will rank high in popularity this season. Newest talking dolls have soft cuddly bodies with hi-impact, "tuff-to-break" plastic heads.



THIS IS HIM . . . The familiar figure of Santa in the Christmas book is a delight to the heart of childhood. The merry old gentleman in the red suit is a very special person to these youngsters.

Buy 'Moist' Tree; Keep It That Way

A moist Christmas tree is a fresh one. A dry Christmas tree is a fire hazard. These are the simple facts of Yuletide tree selection. Remember them and you won't go wrong in buying the family Christmas tree. You can't gauge a tree's moisture or dryness entirely by appearance. Some species retain their color fairly well even when dry enough to burst into flame at the first spark or short-circuit. Feeling, not seeing, is the answer. Feel twigs and needles to determine if they are dry and brittle. Then bang the tree butt against the floor. If a shower of needles results, look for another, moister tree.

CHOOSE RIGHT TOYS

Toys are designed to please the hearts of children, and they do. But all toys are not always completely safe for children of all ages.

If you have youngsters of varying ages in the home, toys selected for an older child may be the source of an accident or illness in the hands of a toddler.

When you shop for toys this year, avoid toys made of lead or colored with lead-based paints. Small children sometimes chew off the lead paint and swallow it, and serious illness could result.

Be careful, too, about small toys that can be swallowed, flammable toys and toys with rough or sharp edges.

Electric toys are for older children—and be sure that these bear the UL (Underwriters Laboratory) label on the cord and the toy itself.

Missile-throwing toys, particularly air rifles and sling shots, are dangerous, particularly to the eyes. Toy archery sets can also cause injury. If your child receives a missile-throwing toy for Christmas, for his own safety, and for the welfare of other children, set down rules for safe use and be sure they are enforced.



DREAM HOUSE . . . Every little girl likes to play "house" and dreams of having a house of her own, even in miniature. Unit shown is constructed of chipboard and folds into a light compact carrying case.

Indians Had Many Uses For Red Cranberry

Cranberries, a traditional part of our Christmas menus, were used in many ways by the American Indians. "Pemmican" was a paste made from cranberries. Cranberry poultices were applied to cuts and wounds, and the juice of the berry yielded a red dye. The Indians called cranberries the "bitter berry." Early American Pilgrims, noting the fruit to be the favorite of cranes, began referring to them as cranberries, and eventually cranberries.

PROPER TOYS

The fact you wanted a certain toy when you were a child is no indication your child would like to have one for Christmas. He might just as soon play with the box and the wrappings.

Toys are for children. They represent wasted money if the child has no interest in them, if they are too "old" for the child, or so complicated only an older child or an adult can manipulate them.



GIDDYAP . . . Old Blaze, the talking horse, is operated by child-power. He also snorts and whinnies at the pull of the magic string.

Easy-Care Tips Insure Gift Plants Live Long

Your Christmas and holiday gift plants will live better and provide longer-lasting beauty and enjoyment if you observe a few easy care tips to insure their health.

To guard them against over-watering and over-heating, it's essential to keep them in porous clay pots, used by leading professional growers and florists to insure that you receive plants of the highest quality, well fertilized and well-rooted.

If some have been shipped in light-thin-walled, non-porous containers, these should be switched to clay pots, in order to provide more satisfactory growing conditions.

SOUTHERN PLANT

The poinsettia which has to be so carefully potted and protected in colder climates, will thrive in moist, shady areas of the southern United States, Mexico and parts of South America. Red is the most common color, but there are white, pink, and yellow varieties.



SURROUNDED . . . This lad is surrounded by a typical selection of battery-operated toys. More than ever this year, the prosaic flashlight battery will bring animation to toyland.

GIFT GIVING

While none can deny that there are commercial aspects to our modern-day celebration of Christmas, it must be remembered that each of us observe Christmas in our own way.

Gift-giving is in keeping with the spirit of Christmas—if it is done with emphasis on giving and sharing, rather than on being sure that we give each individual a gift that is as good or better than the one we receive from them. It is even more in the spirit of Christmas if we give to the less fortunate, with no expectation of receiving something in return.

Let us enjoy the practice of gift-giving by keeping it in its proper place. We'll enjoy the holiday if we give wisely. We will give with pleasure if we give no more than we can afford.



Christmas Shopping

Christmas shopping need not be such a chore. Like anything else, it can be made much easier with some planning and forethought.

Shop first in stores where you regularly trade during the year. You know where everything is to be found. Plan your trip through the store, on paper. Make a list of the items you are interested in, separating them by the departments in which they are located.

Don't spend too much time "looking" for a particular item. Pass over it. Get the other items on your list. During this time you may run across the item you "missed." If not, don't continue looking. Ask for help. One question directed to a store clerk can save you several minutes of valuable time.

If the store delivers, as many of them do, take advantage of the fact. Don't lug packages around with you when you can have someone else bring them to your doorstep.

If the store gift wraps, and most do during the holiday season, don't be fooled into thinking you can do a better job. Maybe you can—but you'll have more time for other necessary things if you let them do it.

ITALY'S YULE

In Italy, the Yule log is burned in the family fireplace. Everyone gathers around and each child is blindfolded, before the log is ignited. In turn, children recite Christmas verses and as their blindfolds are removed, they find Christmas gifts stacked on the floor.

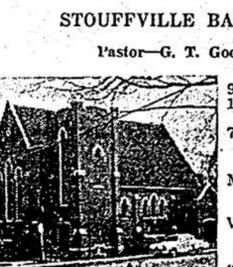
Second Use
Broken Christmas tree decorations can still be useful. Cut cardboard into star shapes and apply fresh, white shellac. While the shellac is still wet, place the fragments securely on the cardboard. When dry, the shellac will hold them in place.

MISTLETOE

Some believe the ancient Druids gave mystical significance to the mistletoe because it grows high among the branches of oak trees, touching neither heaven nor earth. It was believed to be immune, therefore, to the malignant influence of evil spirits. The Druids, from Gaul, settled in the northwest section of France now known as Brittany. The mistletoe is still popular in France, where it is called "gui."



"I haven't the heart to tell her it's fly-spray!"



"JESUS . . . shall SAVE his people from their SINS." (Matt. 1:21)

CHURCH NEWS

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN STOUFFVILLE
Rev. John L. Ball, Rector
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
Second Sunday in Advent
9:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
9:30 a.m.—Junior and Senior Sunday School
7:00 p.m. Mon.—Girl Guides
7:00 p.m. Mon.—Evening Guild at the home of Mrs. R. McKay.
8:00 p.m. Wed.—Choir Practice
10 a.m. Sat.—Brownies

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Rev. A. L. Borland, B.A., B.D.
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
11 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP
Sermon: Did God Choose the Jews?
7:30 p.m.—Study of "The Word and the Way"
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 a.m.—Junior & Intermediate
11 a.m.—Primary, Nursery & Kindergarten
WEEKLY PROGRAM
Mon., 7 p.m.—Explorers
Tues., 7:30 p.m.—Cubs
Wed., 7:15 p.m.—Scouts
Thurs., 7 p.m.—C.G.I.T.
8:15 p.m.—Choir Practice
—Come and Worship—

UNITED CHURCH MELVILLE CHARGE
Rev. G. Davison
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10:00 a.m.—Peach's
11:40 a.m.—Melville
2:30 p.m.—Bethesda
Mon., Dec. 9th—Peach's U.C.W. at the home of Mrs. Stuart Watson, 8:15 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 11th—Melville U.C.W. Christmas meeting at the home of Mrs. D. Hadock, 8:15 p.m.

BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH (Heise Hill) Gormley
Pastor—Rev. Wm. Vanderbent
Ph. Richmond Hill T4rner 4-3155
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10 a.m.—Sunday School
11 a.m.—Worship Service
7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic
Wed., 7:45 p.m.—Mid-week Prayer Meeting

ALTONA UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH
Rev. Dow Sargeant, Pastor
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11:30 a.m.—Pastor's Message
7:30 p.m.—Home Mission Sunday
Guest speaker: Mr. Leader from North Bay.
(Special offering for Home Mission and Extension Fund).
Wed., 8 p.m.—Prayer & Bible Study
I will breathe good will, then I will breathe better; I will think good will, then I shall think better.

BALANTRAE & LEMONVILLE UNITED CHURCHES
Pastor—Rev. G. Roy Inglis
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
Balantrae—Muskelman's Lake
10 a.m.—Sunday School
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship
Sat., Dec. 14—Sunday School Concert
Lemonville
10 a.m.—Morning Worship
11 a.m.—Sunday School
Mon., Dec. 9—C.G.I.T.
Tues., Dec. 10—U.C.W. at home of Mrs. Grant Wells
Wed., Dec. 11—Bible Study at home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Smith
Fri., Dec. 13—Children's Christmas Party

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STOUFFVILLE
Rev. Gordon Hamill, B.A., Minister
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10 a.m.—Morning Worship
10 a.m.—Church School

BLOOMINGTON CHRISTIAN GOSPEL CHURCH
Rev. D. Benson, Pastor
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
9:45—Sunday School. Classes for all ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Our Pastor will bring the message. Special singing.
7:30—GREAT EVENING SERVICE. Mr. J. C. Horning, Foreign Exchange of the Bank of Montreal will speak. Mr. Murray Tinsdale, gospel singer. Don't miss this service.
NOTE: A Special Ladies Christmas Party will be held at the Pastor's home on Thursday, December 12th at 8:00 p.m.
"THE FRIENDLY FAMILY CHURCH"
A Cordial Welcome Awaits You at All Our Services.

STOUFFVILLE MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Minister—Rev. Clarence T. Bass
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10 a.m.—Bible School
11 a.m.—Hour of Worship
7:30 p.m.—Evening Service
The minister will be speaking

Stouffville United Missionary Church

Rev. Arthur Walsh, Minister
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10 a.m.—Sunday School with classes for all ages.
11 a.m.—The Pastor will preach 7:30 p.m.—Mr. Wayne Attwood of North Bay, to tell us of the Home Mission work in that area.
Wed., 8 p.m.—Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study.
PIONEER GIRLS:
Colonists & Explorers, Tues. at 7 p.m.
Pilgrims Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE (Boys, ages 12 and up): Tuesday night at 7.

RINGWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Rev. Barry Jones, Pastor
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
10 a.m.—Sunday School
11 a.m.—Worship Service
2:30 p.m.—Girls Club
7 p.m.—Communion
Wed., 6:30 p.m.—Children's Meeting
Wed., 8 p.m.—C.E. Prayer Meeting

GORMLEY UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH

Rev. L. K. Sider, Pastor
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
11 a.m.—Worship, Theme—"The Witness of Matthew to the Incarnation"
7:30 p.m.—Special Home Missionary service with Mr. Roy Brown, layman of Eau Claire, as speaker.
Wed., 8 p.m.—Prayer Meeting "The Word for the World"

CHURCHILL & VIVIAN CHURCHES

Rev. K. Burton, B.Th.
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
Churchill & Muskelman's Lake
Sun., 9:55—Bible School
11 a.m.—Morning Worship
Fri., 3:45 p.m.—Happy Hour
Fri., Dec. 13, 8 p.m.—Christmas Program
Mon., Dec. 9, 8 p.m.—Christmas Ladies Meeting at the home of Mrs. George Smalley. All welcome.
Vivian
Sun., 10 a.m.—Bible School
7:30 p.m.—Worship Service
Tues., 8 p.m.—Teacher Training. All welcome.
Wed., 8 p.m. (at Vivian)—Prayer and Bible Study for both churches.
Thurs., 3:45—Happy Hour.
Thurs., 7:30 p.m.—Young Peoples Sat., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.—Christmas Program.

SECOND MARKHAM & BAKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

Rev. Bruce Hisey
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
Second Markham
We urge Christians everywhere to pray. Join us every Wed., 8 p.m.
Friday Night—Young Peoples 8 p.m., Mr. Del. Smith of Central Baptist Seminary will speak.
Sunday
Bible School, 10 a.m.
Morning Service, 11 a.m. sub. "Our Wonderful Lord"
Evening Service, 7:30 p.m. "A Miracle Performed at the Temple Gate"
Baker Hill
Thurs., 8 p.m.—Our Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday
Bible School, 1:30 p.m.
Service, 2:30 p.m.
All Welcome At Our Services.

UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Grant Sloss
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
MARKHAM
9:50 a.m.—Sunday School
11 a.m.—Morning Worship
Communion at the close
7:30 p.m.—Evening Service with the singing Joseph family
Thurs., 7:30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
DICKSON'S HILL
9:45 a.m.—Morning Worship
10:50 a.m.—Sunday School
7:30 p.m.—Service in the Markham Church
Wed., 8 p.m.—Prayer & Bible Study

STOUFFVILLE "YOUTH TIME"

This Sat., 7:30 p.m. Skating and Tobogganing.
8:30 p.m.—Quiz with Oakwood vs. Helse Hill plus "Sermon from Science" with Paul Hunter, Woodstock. See him pass 100,000 volts through his body.
This Sun., 9:15 p.m.—Musical Youthtime Chorus, Duet team, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Martin, and soloist Larry Johnson plus quizzing with Stouffville United "Missionary vs. Markham Baptist and guest speaker Rev. Dan Filyer."

HEARTS GO HOME AT CHRISTMAS



Christmas is that time of the year when most every heart turns homeward.

The blinking lights of a Christmas tree in the window or the jingle jangle of Christmas bells is enough to send one's thoughts winging across the years and over the mountains and seas to that "one best Christmas of all" so long, long ago.

The sounds and the smells of Christmas are so easily captured . . . freshly-cut evergreen, a basket of fruits and nuts, cookies and pies, turkey roasting in the oven, the pop-pop-popping sound of logs burning low in a hearth fire.

How easy today for the crunching sound of boots in the snow to bring the memory of long ago when young hearts trudged across the crusty fields toward the light that beckoned through the church window, a haven of warmth and peaceful reverence in the near-dawn of a Christmas morn.

How easy to recall the sight of a family gathering about the tree, first for a moment of prayer and thanksgiving, and then the merry sounds, the laughter, as one by one, each opened a gift from beneath the tree.

This is a part of the Christmas, this turning homeward. If time and distance make the "real" trip home impossible, the next-best thing is a trip down memory lane.

LEMONVILLE

The U.C.W. will hold their meeting on Tues., Dec. 10th at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Grant Wells. Mrs. Harmon of Gormley will be the special speaker, special music will be provided. A cordial welcome is extended to everyone to attend this our Christmas meeting.

efforts of the group. Several girls and their leader, Mrs. Lloyd Jennings of Stouffville were present.
Mr. and Mrs. Morgan O'Conner travelled to Vancouver this past week to take in the Grey Cup game and festivities over the weekend. They plan to return home Friday.
We are sorry to report that Mr. W. Barber is confined to Newmarket Hospital again and we hope this stay won't be too long. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Mr. Barber.
Mr. M. Hrebik has just returned home from Toronto hospital after undergoing surgery.
Mrs. N. Senechal and Mrs. Gina Teensma were guests for

dinner Sunday evening with Mrs. J. Nauta and family.
Mrs. T. Coughlan arrived home Saturday with wee Colleen, a welcomed new member to the Coughlan household.
Mrs. Roy Fiewell spent several days this week with her sister in Niagara Falls, returning home on Thursday.
Mr. Burton's sister spent Saturday with the Burton family.
Mrs. Koster travelled to Montreal on Thursday to be with her husband for his final performance. They also spent some time with Mrs. Koster's eldest brother Mr. R. Syme who lives in Montreal.

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STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor—G. T. Gooderham, B.Th.
Sunday, December 8th, 1963
9:50—Bible School
11:00—"Whether To Live or Die" Studies in Philipians (6)
7:30—"The Christian & Fasting"
Soloist—Mrs. Lorraine Morrison
Mon., 7:30—Sunday School
Christmas Program. Everyone is welcome.
Wed., 7:30—Bible Study
"Christianity and Theosophy"
8:15—Prayer, Praise & Petition
"Enjoy the fellowship of our family church."

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