

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas



MAY Christmas Day be an especially merry and bright one, bringing you full measure of joy, peace and contentment.

REESOR'S MARMILL and STAFF
MARKHAM

'Good Old Days'

At Christmas time, nostalgia for "the good old days" is as prevalent as turkey and trimmings, decorations and gifts. Everybody had more fun — or so the feeling goes — during those good old-fashioned Christmases when life was simpler and, according to tradition, the snow drifts were always piled high, the foods for feasting were always home-grown and home-cooked, the gifts and decoration always lovingly hand-made and the tree itself always chopped down by the head of the house on a personal foray to some hillside or lot.

Christmas nostalgia has even been known to affect heads of state — to be specific, a president of the United States. It was everyone's duty, the President felt, to make Christmas merry. He and his family, he declared, were going to have an "old-fashioned" Christmas tree.

It Happened In 1891. A search through recent newspapers, or even through recent history, would provide no details, however, about this resolve, for the President was Benjamin Harrison, who, on December 22 in 1891, announced to reporters his plan for a "good old-fashioned Christmas."

Most people today whose thoughts turn to Christmases of yore would certainly settle for a date much later than 1891 as the time when the "good old-fashioned Christmas" had ceased to exist.

But if the spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas didn't vanish as early as President Harrison feared it had, when did it go? Or has it really disappeared forever?

Most of all, an "old-fashioned" Christmas is made up of traditions. Even in northern climates, only hope, luck and the weatherman can say, each year, whether the traditional snow drifts will be forthcoming. Other traditions, however, may not necessarily belong only to the past.

Not All "Store Bought" Preparing foods for feasting was doubtless fun — and hard work — in the good old days. But not all Christmas cookies, candies and fruit cakes today are "store bought." Many a family cherishes the tradition of having the children "help" Mother as the holiday goodies are concocted.

Even the ready-prepared foods have their traditions. For instance, some families deliver gift packages of cake or candies to friends when they make Christmas calls; others set forth a table of treats in the home, ready to share with callers.

The same is true of that "good old days" habit of making gifts. In this "new day" of increasing interest in sewing, many lovingly home-crafted gifts are found under Christmas trees — and yesterday's Mom would no doubt have been glad to trade her treadle sewing machine for one of today's electric models.

Chop Chop Tree While Dad may not be able to chop down a tree for the family (conservationists of our "good old forests" wouldn't approve), a look at any place where trees are sold in the days before Christmas reveals that choosing the tree is still a personal, all-family matter, involving plenty of old-fashioned fun.

Almost every nostalgic dream of Christmas long ago seems to have its counterpart in the present. And all the while new traditions are building up, as each family, each community creates and treasures its customs.

In another 70 years, perhaps, some public figure may say, "It's time to get back to the good old ways of celebrating Christmas." So have an old-fashioned Christmas, now!

NOEL



We extend our sincere good wishes that you may enjoy to the fullest every blessing of this Holy Season.


CHAS. COOPER and STAFF
CLAREMONT

May holiday happiness shine brightly in your heart. Our best wishes for a Christmas glowing with cheer.



Greetings
Stouffville 5¢ to \$1.00 and Staff

Greetings FOR Christmas



Because we realize how much our success is due to you, we are most sincerely appreciative.

RENNIE TRANSPORT
STOUFFVILLE

TO WISH YOU



a very merry Christmas, and thank you for your kindness and loyalty is the purpose of this, our sincere holiday greeting.

LEHMAN'S SHOES
STOUFFVILLE

CHEERFUL Greetings



May the best of Christmas cheer fill the homes and hearts of our friends and patrons during the holiday season. It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve you all during the past year.

GREETINGS



Glad tidings to all and our warmest wishes for the happiest of holidays. Please accept our sincerest thanks for your friendliness and patronage this past year. It has been a pleasure to serve you.

SHELL LUMBER and STAFF
EDWARD STREET STOUFFVILLE



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Pilgrimage To Bethlehem

Most of the customs now associated with Christmas were originally pagan or non-Christian, according to The Encyclopedia Americana. Saturnalia, a Roman feast celebrated in mid-December, provided the model for many of the merry-making customs of Christmas. From this celebration, for example, were derived the elaborate feasting, the giving of gifts and the burning of candles.

Lights also played an important part in most winter solstice festivals. An obscure figure in the early mythologies of the East emerged as a sun god. From the 1st century B.C. this figure, Mithras, was adopted by an increasing number of Roman soldiers and others. Mithras' greatest festival was that of the winter solstice, the time when the god began to return to his worshippers.

In the 5th century the Western church ordered a feast celebrating the birth of the Savior to be observed on the day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun and at the close of the Saturnalia.

Among the German and Celtic tribes the winter solstice was considered an important point of the year and to commemorate the return of the sun they held the chief festival of Yule, which, like other pagan celebrations, became adapted to Christmas.

The Teutonic Yule feast also provided customs for the Christmas festivities, such as the Yule log and wassail bowl.

Pagan Feasts Custom Sources

Pilgrimage to Bethlehem is for thousands of Christians each year the focal point of the religious observance of Christmas. Visitors of many faiths make the trip to Bethlehem, now a part of Jordan, to the Church of the Nativity above the Grotto of the Nativity where Christ was born.

The manger so familiar to all who know the Christmas story was an improvised stable in a cave hewn out of rock, near the center of the hill town of Bethlehem.

Christmas is observed three times at Bethlehem, and for each observance the Mandelbaum Gate between the Israel and Arab sectors of Jerusalem is opened to admit Christian pilgrims.


Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian denominations share the Church of the Nativity. Roman Catholic churches begin the Christmas celebrations with masses on Christmas Eve, December 25.

Easterli churches observe Christ's birth in January. For the Greek Orthodox churches, which still follow the old Julian calendar, Holy Night is January 6, Christmas Day, January 7. Armenian churches celebrate both Christmas and Epiphany on January 19.

Those of the Protestant faiths gather in Shepherds Fields, the nearby site where, according to tradition, the shepherds heard the angel of the Lord come to tell of the Nativity.

IN BETHLEHEM, GA.
A 60-foot star lights the countryside around Bethlehem, Ga., at Christmas. A carol service is held beneath the star on Christmas night.

Hope Santa's bringing our many friends the Merriest Christmas ever!



Joy at Christmas
CADIEUX STUDIO
Joan and Ted Cadieux
STOUFFVILLE

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS



And many thanks to you for your patronage.

Stouffville Arena Ltd.

May you enjoy Christmas as much as we have enjoyed the opportunity to serve you. Our hearty thanks!



GREETINGS

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
STOUFFVILLE

Merry Christmas to all!



Here comes Santa with a sleigh-full of warmest wishes for a happy holiday. May the Christmas season bring every joy to you and your family.

CREST HARDWARE
DON DONER REG. STOUFFER LLOYD McLEAN
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