

# Starting a holiday tradition

There's a certain something in the air that seems to preserve the magic of Christmas long after childhood days of waiting up for Santa have passed. The beauty of winter, its falling snow seeming to dust the world with merriment and good will, creates a fairyland

setting where visions of sugar-plums seem all too likely to dance in our heads.

Coming in from the wonderland outdoors, the warmth of a crackling fire and the heady aroma of baking gingerbread seem to wrap themselves around us like a thick, soft blanket. The star-topped tree, its tinsel shimmering in the firelight, is a picture of enchantment whose spell few can resist.

And yet, the most potent ingredient to the magic that is Christmas is the joy of giving, for there is no other time of year when gift-giving creates more excitement or is more looked forward to.

There's the triumph of coming home with just the right gift, after hours of searching and waiting in line. And after the seemingly endless weeks and days of keeping them hidden, follows the fun of wrapping them with gaily colored ribbons and bows.

#### Gifts to treasure

Then the wonderful moment finally arrives: It's Christmas morning and you can bask in the thrill of seeing the glow in the eyes of all those loved ones to whom you've given a special gift.

Each holiday season brings with it the challenge and fun of finding new and different gifts that are sure to be enjoyed.

With gift-giving being an important aspect of holiday tradition, why not take the idea of tradition one step further and start a gifting tradition this year that is uniquely your own, as well as very personal.

#### Start a tradition

A beautiful ornament is a gift that can be enjoyed year after year, and passed on from generation to generation. You might want to make it your tradition to

give certain people a different ornament each Christmas.

Whether it's something you've made yourself, or one of the dated glass or silver ornaments that are issued in a limited edition each year, you can be sure that your gift will be enjoyed for a long time to come.

Being as there are so many wonderful foods that are characteristic of Christmas, why not make it your tradition to give a basketful of holiday favorites to someone who you know would just love it.

You might fill it with gingerbread and plum pudding, imported Dutch cocoa and Swiss chocolates, or even some exotic cheese, caviar and champagne.

Whether the basket is full of cookies and treats that you've baked yourself or festive imported delicacies, you'll know

that every mouthful will be savored.

For a favorite niece or goddaughter, a strand of pearls or a charm bracelet that can be added to each year, makes a gift that will be enjoyed for a lifetime.


And for that favorite little boy in the family, why not begin an old-fashioned train set, adding a car or two each year.

For the grandpa who loves to smoke pipes, you might want to add to whatever pipes he may have collected by presenting him with one from a different country each year.

#### Uniquely yours

Whatever the gifting tradition you choose may be, you can be certain that it will be special, because it will be your own, and because it will keep the magic of Christmas alive for those you love, year after year.

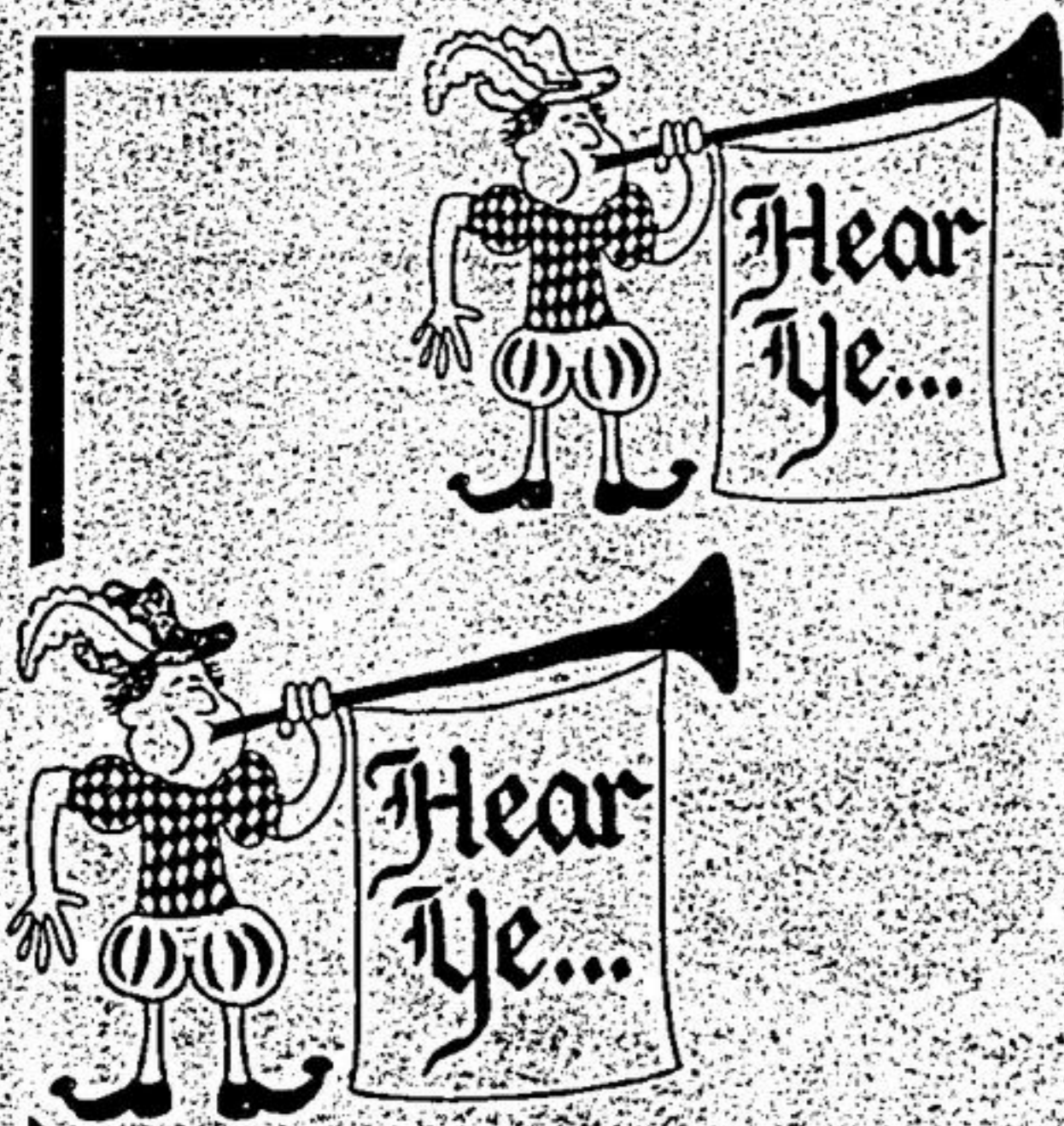
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Christmas traditions vary from family to family. Establishing traditions is the best part of the holiday season.



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