

SCHOOL HELPS

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CHRISTMAS — The History of the Day We Are Celebrating.

ROM the early centuries of Christianity, the anniversary of the birth of Christ has been celebrated by a special church festival. In early England this festival was called Christes messe, meaning "Christ's mass," whence we get our word "Christmas." At first the date of the celebration varied in different places, some churches observing it in December, others in January, April, or May, because of the absence of historical record as to the exact date of Christ's birth. Jan. 6 was the usual date observed in the eastern church, as it still continues to be in the Armenian church. The celebration of Dec. 25 spread to most parts of the Christian world in the fourth and fifth centuries, but differences in the calendar still cause differences in the time of the celebration.

One of the causes that worked to establish the new festival on Dec. 25 was probably the fact that this day marked the beginning of the great winter solstice festival of the pagan Gauls, Germans and Britons. As in other instances where pagan festivals were replaced by Christian, many of the old pre-Christian customs and symbols were taken over. The yule log, holly, mistletoe and Wassail bowl are all relics of pagan observances.

Greatest Fete

During the Middle Ages, Christmas became the greatest of popular fêtes. Churches were adorned with rustic decorations and quaint little plays were given portraying events connected with the birth of Christ and his early years. Even today such nativity plays are still performed every Christmas in some of the old cities of Spain. Some of the Christmas carols sung in our churches and at our community Christmas tree celebrations have come down from these early plays.

Nowhere was the Christmas festival celebrated with more pomp and merrymaking than in England. In Shakespeare's time the festivities lasted until Twelfth Day or Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas day. Work was given over and all, high and low, old and young, gave themselves over to feasting and merrymaking. The Puritans, however, regarded Christmas observance as a relic of Catholicism, and in 1644 Parliament went so far as to prohibit any festivities and ordered the day to be kept as a fast. Puritans of New England also passed laws forbidding the observance of Christmas. After the Restoration, the old observances came back, somewhat subdued. The jovial old Dutch settlers of New York, however, brought with them across the ocean the joyous observances of the fatherland. We of the New World owe our Santa Claus to them, for this jolly old saint is none other than St. Nicholas or San Nicholas—the patron saint of children—as pronounced in Dutch.

Children's Holiday

Today the observance of Christmas is well-nigh universal through the Christian world. Everywhere it is above all the children's holiday. In England and America the little folks hang up their stockings in a row before the fireplace, and Santa Claus, we are told, rushing down from the north in a sled drawn by reindeer, scrambles down the chimneys and fills them from the great pack on his back.

In some of the Baltic lands the gifts are supposed to be brought by the Christ child (Kris Kringle) himself. In France the children place wooden shoes on the hearth to receive the presents which "Bonhomme Noel" (Father Christmas) brings. Norwegian children have a lot of fun hunting their new toys which have been tucked away in unexpected places. In Italy presents are drawn from the "Urn of Fate," a custom which originated in the Urn of Fate of the ancient Romans.

We Wish You A Merry Xmas

and want to take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude for the business you have given us during the past. Also we want to assure you that same high quality food and excellent service will prevail in the future.

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Fresh Pork	18c
Pork Roast	20c
Pork Loin	23c
Pork Chops	25c
Swiss Roast	18c
Beef Roast	12c-14c
Boiling Beef	10c
Round and Loin Steak	20c
Bacon, Whole or Half	28c
Sliced Bacon	35c
Eggs, No. 1 Storage	41c

heart of the city, and huge crowds gather to sing Christmas songs.

FARMERS WILL DEVELOP RIVER

Seek to Utilize Resources of Missouri.

By NEA Service

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 25.—The Midwest Farm Bureaus are taking steps to make the Missouri River navigable so that it shall no longer be known as the "greatest inland undeveloped resource."

The farmers who own land in this district want to utilize the power of the Missouri River which is now being wasted through lack of development.

Resolutions have been adopted, urging Congress to take immediate steps to make the Missouri River navigable as far north as practicable to provide water transportation for the States of Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The Christmas tree with its golden star and lights, and its imitation frost-trimmed boughs, is as much a part of the celebration as is the Christmas song. Some trace its origin back to Roman days, but its first appearance as a regular in substitution was along the Rhine some time in the sixteenth century. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the fashion spread all over Germany and by fifty years later had conquered Christendom.

In the New World, where people gathered from all the Christian countries of the earth, many of the special observances of various kinds have become a part of our celebration. Thus the practice of preparing a bird's Christmas tree supplied with bits of apple and suet, cookies, nuts and seeds, and placing it outside in a safe place for our feathered friends has grown from the old Scandinavian custom of placing a sheaf of grain on a tall pole in the doorway for the birds on Christmas morning. The elaborate street festivals of Italy and Spain, with their bonfires and fireworks, are in the United States, often replaced by the community Christmas tree. A great illuminated evergreen is set up in the

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Entertains as It Teaches

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PENNSYLVANIA PEEVED ABOUT NEW U. S. ROADS

Says Indiana and Other Mid-Western States Got More Than Share.

By NEA Service

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 25.—The unified federal highway system, as formulated by the joint board of interstate highways and approved by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, has aroused the ire of eastern motor officials.

The neglect of Pennsylvania, Myton adds, is repeated in the cases of New York almost all the southern States and all States west of Kansas.

"Many roads selected in the western part of the country," Myton declares, "do not carry 10 per cent of certain highways in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York, not even considered in the plan."

United States roads, almost every highway in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, the Dakotas and Nebraska is included in the United States numbering system."

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USED CARS FILL MARKET

The used car market is increasing so rapidly that the trade-in deals of motor dealers are becoming less.

The dealer finds that the competition in the field of used car sales is keener than in the new car market.

NO GASOLINE, NO CARS

The difficulty in getting gasoline and other automobile supplies in many parts of the Near East is the main reason for the small number of automobile sales in that territory.

QUALITY A&P GROCERS

SOAP P & G, Crystal White or Kirk's 10 BARS 37c
Flake White

SUGAR Pure Cane 10 Lbs. 55c

BROOMS LITTLE JEWEL A Real Bargain 39c

ARGO POUND STARCH PACKAGE 8c

CHIPSO Large Package 20c
CREME OIL SOAP 6c

BEETS Fancy No. 3 Large Wisconsin Can 14c

PUMPKIN Scott Large County Can 10c

SALMON ALASKA CHUM 2 Cans 25c

PEACHES New Era Whole Peaches Large Can 19c

Coffee "8 O'CLOCK" A Famous Blend 2 Lbs. 77c

Prunes Sun-sweet 2 Lb. Pkg. 25c

Tomatoes TALL CAN New Pack 8c

TOILET PAPER A & P Tissue 2000 Sheet Rolls 2 ROLLS 29c 4 ROLLS 25c

CLIMALENE Water Softener Small Size 9c 23c

LIFEBOUY 2 CAKES 15c

Ivory Soap Flakes Pkg. 9c

OLEO Nutley Nut Margarine Lb. 22c

Baked Beans Oven Baked 3 Cans 25c

APRICOTS Argo Brand Large Can 25c

TEA ALL BLENDS OF Our High-Grade Tea Nectar HALF-POUND PKG. 29c

BREAD Grandmother's Iona 10c 7c 5c
24 oz. loaf 16 oz. loaf 1 lb. loaf

MEAT DEPARTMENT

Pork Chops Rib or Loin Lb. 27c

Fresh Hams Whole or Halves Lb. 23c

Chuck Roast Fancy Cut Lb. 15c

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Smart looking chinchilla and all-wool cloth coats, sizes 2 to 8.

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