

## Small Towns First to Light Outdoor Trees

It was a small town that first thought of lighting an outdoor community Christmas tree.

Four communities are believed to have thought of the idea about the same time—as early as 1913. Two of them, McDonald and Germantown, were in Pennsylvania. Salem, Ore., decorated a large Sitka spruce. Riverside, Calif., illuminated a large evergreen, an Aracuria.

The first national Christmas tree was in 1924 and was sponsored by the American Forestry association. The event is now televised every year for all parts of the country to see.

The most spectacular outdoor displays in the United States are at the White House and Rockefeller Center in New York. The New York display is possibly the most elaborate in the world.

But it was the small towns that first thought of the idea.

Today, nearly every community in the land has some kind of Christmas decorations. Many communities string colored lights across the street and decorate light posts with evergreens. Many suspend bells and stars at street intersections and have dazzling community trees.



**CHRISTMAS SPIRIT . . .** Full of Yule good fellowship, "Bingie" tries to arouse some ditto in the feline heart of "Ginger." Ginger, goodwill season or not, can't get over her distrust of dogs.

## Yule Seal Idea Was From Denmark

This year millions of Americans have received a letter from their local chapter of the National Tuberculosis association containing Christmas seals, the seasonal reminder of the never-ending fight to stamp out the disease.

The idea was conceived by a Danish postal clerk. He thought of the idea in 1903 while mailing Christmas packages and letters.

The clerk was Einar Holboell. He mentioned it to his fellow workers and they decided it would be a great help in defraying the cost of fighting tuberculosis. The idea reached King Christian, who approved, and the image of Queen Louise was placed on the first seal in 1904.

Jacob Riis, Danish-born American, heard about the idea and sold it to the American public in 1907 through a magazine article. A Red Cross worker, Miss Emily Bissell, started the first American sales that year.

### Door Decorations

In the last few years it has become more and more popular to decorate doors and doorways with icicles and tree ornaments instead of the conventional wreath.

Your door and window frames can be made bright and cheerful by framing them with ribbon and sprigs of holly. You can hang the ribbon in festoons across the curtains and tie at the sides in wide slash bows for colorful effect.



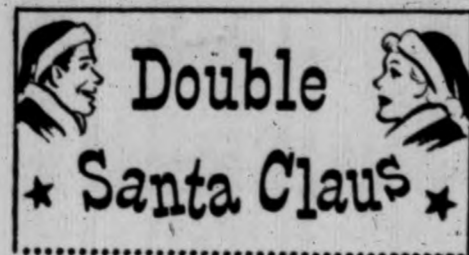
**ANGELS WITHOUT WINGS** . . . In the Children's Aid Society Jones Center, all was calm as the call for rehearsal of carols was sounded. The little angels without wings took their places, with one moppet sporting a black eye. He couldn't resist reaching under his cassock to be sure his treasured gun and holster were still there.

### PAINTED SURFACES

To clean paint mix common whitening in warm water to the thickness of paste. Rub briskly with a piece of flannel and then wash in cold water.

### HEMSTITCHING

Try rubbing some dry soap on the goods where the threads are to be drawn. The threads will pull out easily and will not injure the goods.



By Royce Fields

AS WAS his custom during Christmas week of each year, George Brandon leaned against a pillar in the toy department of the big store, and watched the kiddies. Whenever, with a particularly hungry look, a child picked up a toy or eyed one longingly, George raised his hand. This was a signal to the clerk that the price of the toy was on him.

George was no millionaire. It was just that, not having folks of his own to buy Christmas presents for, he spent his gift money on the kids. It gave him a satisfaction to see their faces light up.

A girl had entered the store and was standing by a pillar near the one George was propped against. He had noticed her, with more than casual interest, when she came in. She had a complexion that was the clearest he had ever



"I'll second the boy's question," George said. "Just what is going on here?"

seen and, although he couldn't see them at that distance, he would have bet she had blue eyes. Her hair was shining blonde.

When George turned his attention back to the toy counter, a little girl, wearing neat but worn clothing, was eyeing a doll almost as large as herself. He raised his hand. With a slightly bewildered expression, the clerk picked up two dolls, wrapped them, and handed them to the child.

The actions of the clerk puzzled George. He was certain he had only signaled once.

George turned his head to look at the blonde girl again.

The girl caught him staring at her and she smiled. A very nice smile. George would have liked to have a smile like that, just for himself, every day. With an effort he brought his gaze back to the toy counter.

A small boy was wistfully looking at a train. George could picture the kid at home, on the floor, playing with it. It would be nice to help a boy like that assemble the toy. He raised his hand.

This time the clerk seemed more puzzled than ever. He started to reach for the train, then instead, he motioned for George to come to the counter. George had been about to go over, anyway, to see what was behind the man's strange actions.

"Do you know that blonde girl standing over there by the pillar?" the clerk asked him.

"No," George told him, "but I'd sure like to. Why?"

"Did you notice I gave the little girl two dolls, when you signaled?"

"Why yes," George answered him, "and I wondered about it. However, I figured you knew the child and she probably had a sister that you thought should have a doll too."

"No, that wasn't the reason." The toy salesman motioned to the blonde girl. She had been watching them with interest and at the clerk's wave, she came over.

"Miss Marvin," the man behind the counter introduced them, "this is George Brandon. George, this is Joan Marvin. I think all nice people, such as you two, should know each other!"

The girl extended her hand eagerly and George took it just as quickly. He saw that he would have won his bet—her eyes were the bluest of the blue!

"Say, what's going on here?" The small boy had turned away from the glistening train and was looking at the trio wonderingly.

"I'll second the boy's question," George said. "Just what is going on here?"

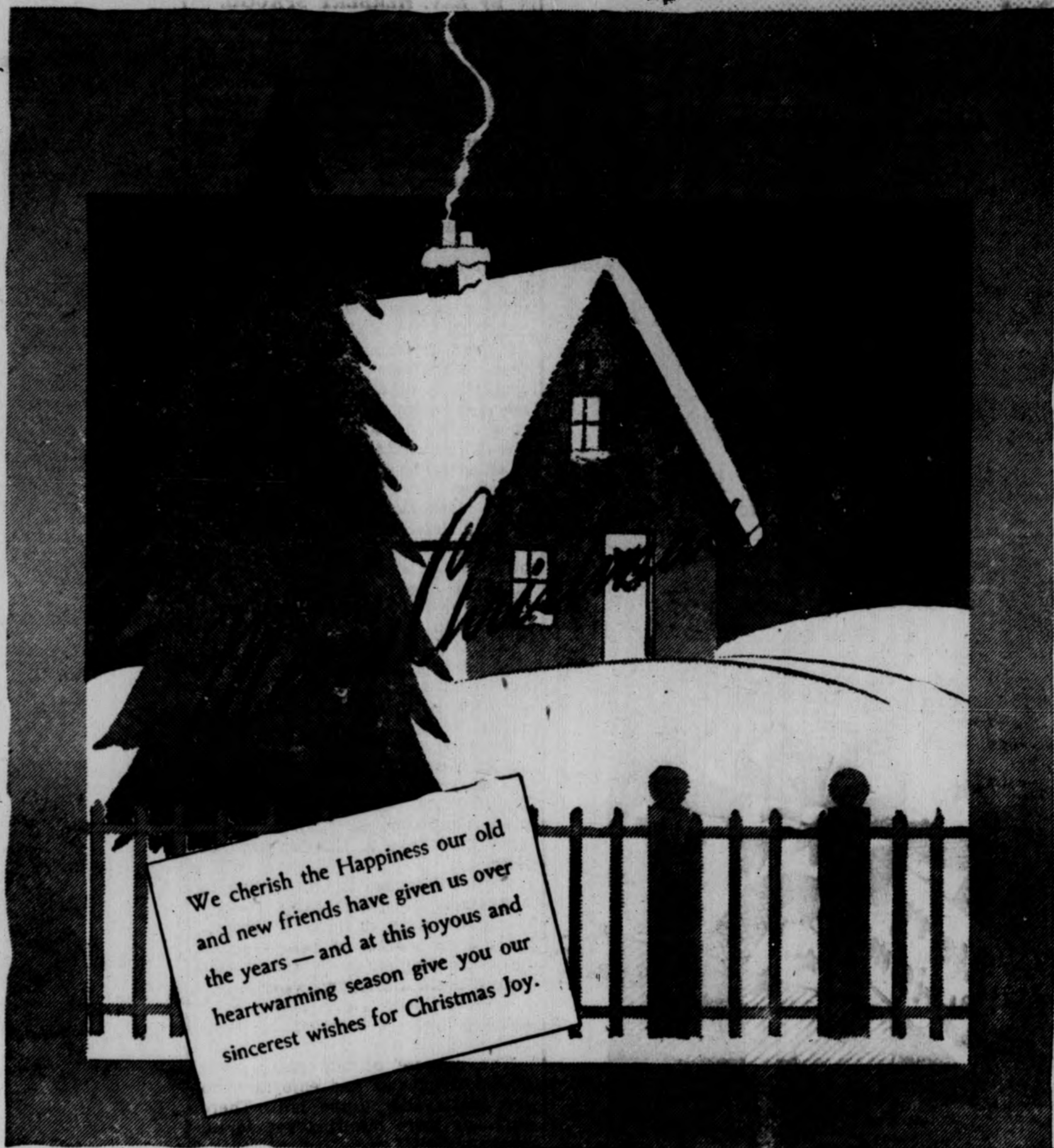
The salesman laughed. "The reason I thought you two ought to get together, is that you're giving me signals on the same kids."

"You see," he told George. "Miss Marvin made the same arrangement this year, in regards to giving the kids toys, that you've been making for years!"

One Christmas, a few years later, Joan Brandon said to her husband, "Remember the Christmas we met, George?"

"Of course," he answered. "I'll never forget it. Why?"

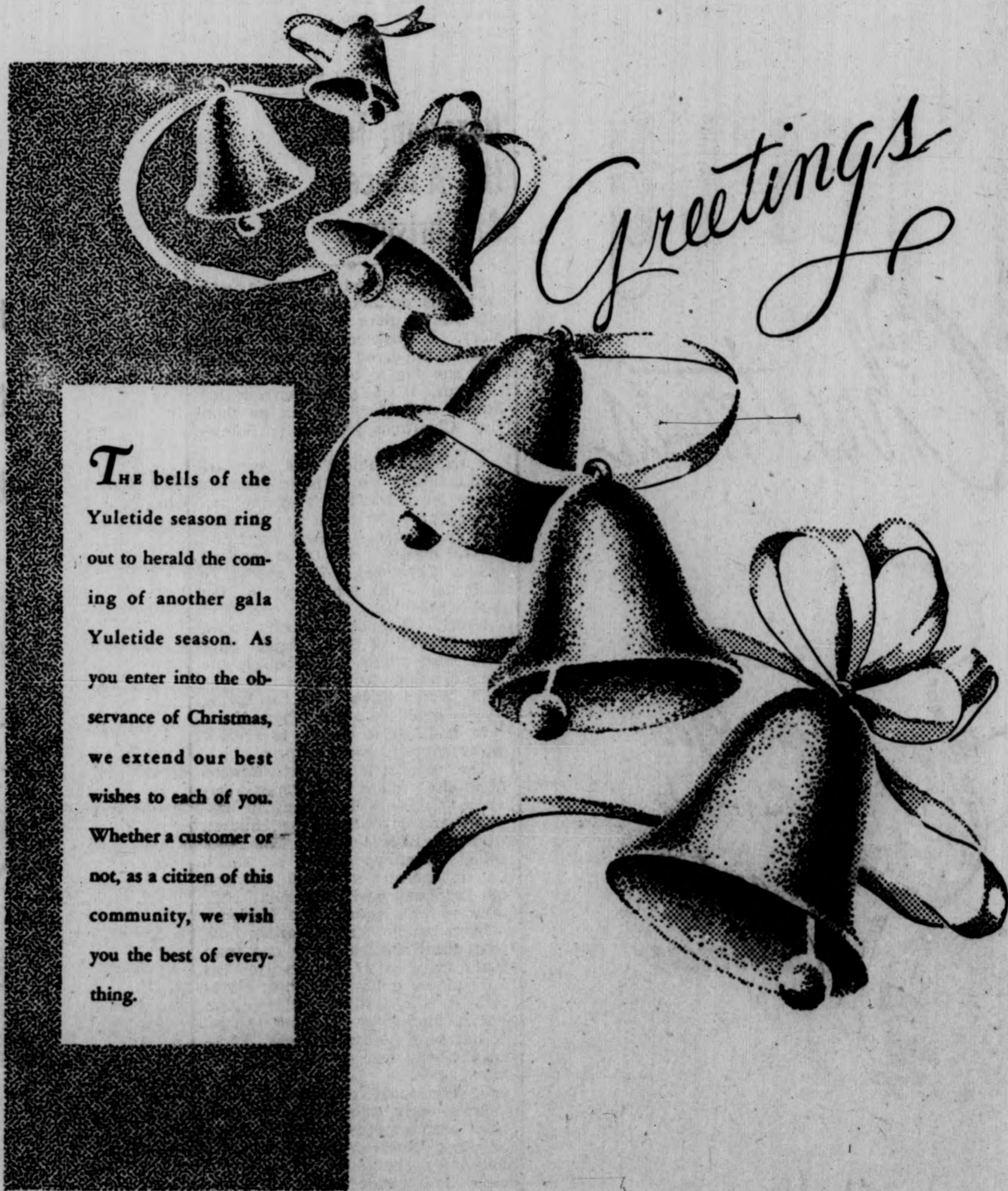
"Well," she laughed, "I'd seen you in the store the previous Christmas and it took me a year to figure out that scheme to meet you. One little girl got a double Christmas out of it, anyway!"



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