



BONDS LUMBER COMPANY

Lesser Events Took Place On Christmas Day

Christmas is, above all else, the day on which we recognize the Nativity of Christ. It has been so since the fourth century, when the Western Church officially adopted December 25th as the date of the birth of the Saviour.

Since that time, this greatest of all events has completely overshadowed every historical event occurring on the same day. Ask anyone to tell you of something else in history that happened on December 25th other than the birth of Christ, and chances are they will give you a negative answer.

A few will remember that it was on this same date that George Washington crossed the Delaware. Only a true student of history will tell you that the date marks the birthday of Isaac Newton, Clara Barton and Frances Blake, among others.

Actually, the fact that Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas is all the average American should be expected to remember. But, it's interesting to note some of the other events that happened on the same day:

In 1897, the Battle of Okeechee.

In 1941, Japanese captured Hong Kong.

In 1492, wreck of the Santa Maria, at Haiti.

In 1926, Hirohito became Emperor of Japan.

It was also on Christmas day, in 1947, that China's constitution was adopted and went into effect, making the date China's National Renaissance Day. And, Christmas is also the birthday of the town of Kelo, Washington, settled on Christmas day, 1947, by Peter W. Crawford.

SANTA

COMES TO



Just like most everyone else, Saint Nick prospered after he came to America.

In Europe, before he reached these shores, Saint Nick was a tall, angular man who rode a bony gray mare. He hadn't been in America long, however, before he had a new name, a new face, figure and a new and better mode of transportation.

The early English settlers in this country started Santa's "new look" process. They adopted the legendary figure from the Dutch, but couldn't pronounce "Saint Nicholas." The best they could do was "Santa Kalout," which was corrupted to "Santa Claus."

In 1809, Washington Irving in his "Knickerbocker's History of New York," changed Santa's physical appearance by describing him as a jolly fellow with a broad-brimmed hat and huge britches. He also taught St. Nick to smoke a pipe, and traded his hay burner for a wagon.

Clement Moore in his famous poem, "The Visit From Saint Nicholas," went even further. He gave Saint Nick a sleigh, twinkling eyes, cheeks like roses, nose like a cherry and a round little belly.

Future writers may try to trade France and Dancer off for a jet ship and trim down Santa's waist line. It will be a tough job, for, though he isn't streamlined, Santa pleases the young folks and that's mighty important.

NIGHT BEFORE XMAS

Dr. Clement Clarke Moore was ashamed of his famous poem, "Night Before Christmas" and would not acknowledge that he wrote it for more than 20 years.



Home owners can often get all the Yule greens they need by wisely pruning their conifer trees and evergreen shrubs. There are five simple rules to follow when trimming branches and twigs for holiday decorations.

- (1) Thin the trees and shrubs for shape, always maintaining the natural contour of the plant.
- (2) Do not cut more than 6 to 7 inches from a branch.
- (3) If the tree has not been pruned for some time, take off every other branch.
- (4) Do not cut beyond the green needles; otherwise this will not fill in with new growth.
- (5) Keep the cut branches in a cool moist place until ready for use.

Ideal Greens

Spruce, pine, hemlock, yew and aborvitae make ideal Christmas greens. Yew seems to hold up best. Broadleaf evergreens such as laurel, andromeda, boxwood and Japanese holly should be kept in water when used indoors, otherwise their leaves shrivel.

Roping used to frame a doorway can be made of pine, balsam, fir, and hemlock. Any of the broadleaf evergreens, combined with holly, balsam or yew, are ideal for wreaths. Good for door arrangements are barberry, firethorn, viburnum with its bright red fruit, bayberry and drooping leucothoe.



Let's 'Travel' to the Land Where the Christ was Born

If Christ and His disciples were to visit the Holy Land today, they would find many parts of it unchanged. The hill on which Bethlehem stands looks as it did almost two thousand years ago when Christmas came into being, as do many other spots we've often read about in Sunday School.

Today one can visit the excavated walls of Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world, and watch veiled women filling their water jugs at Elisha's Fountain just as they did 2,000 years ago. The Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient, gnarled olive trees, surrounded by a lonely landscape recalls that sorrowful night when Christ prayed as His disciples slept. And the lush tropical vegetation that made the Jordan Valley the land of milk and honey is still there to delight the eye of the beholder.

But within Bethlehem itself, many changes have taken place since Joseph and Mary went about seeking shelter on that holy night. Now there are modern stone buildings, and large churches have been built on the presumed sites of the inn and the manger.

On Christmas Eve, many pilgrims attend midnight mass in the Church of St. Catherine which is attached to the Church of the Nativity, built over the rocky grotto believed to be the birthplace of Christ.

Others may attend an evening service held under the stars in nearby Shepherds' Field, said to be the field of Boaz where Ruth once gleaned. One hundred and twenty miles away from Bethlehem lies Nazareth, home of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary for so many years. It stretches along a hillside, a humble little town with busy, dirty streets. Surrounding Nazareth are fields much like those Jesus knew so well. Even now one can see what is said to be Joseph's carpenter shop, and the Well of Mary, which still supplies the town its water. The artisan and craft shops of Nazareth seem to have changed surprisingly little over the centuries.

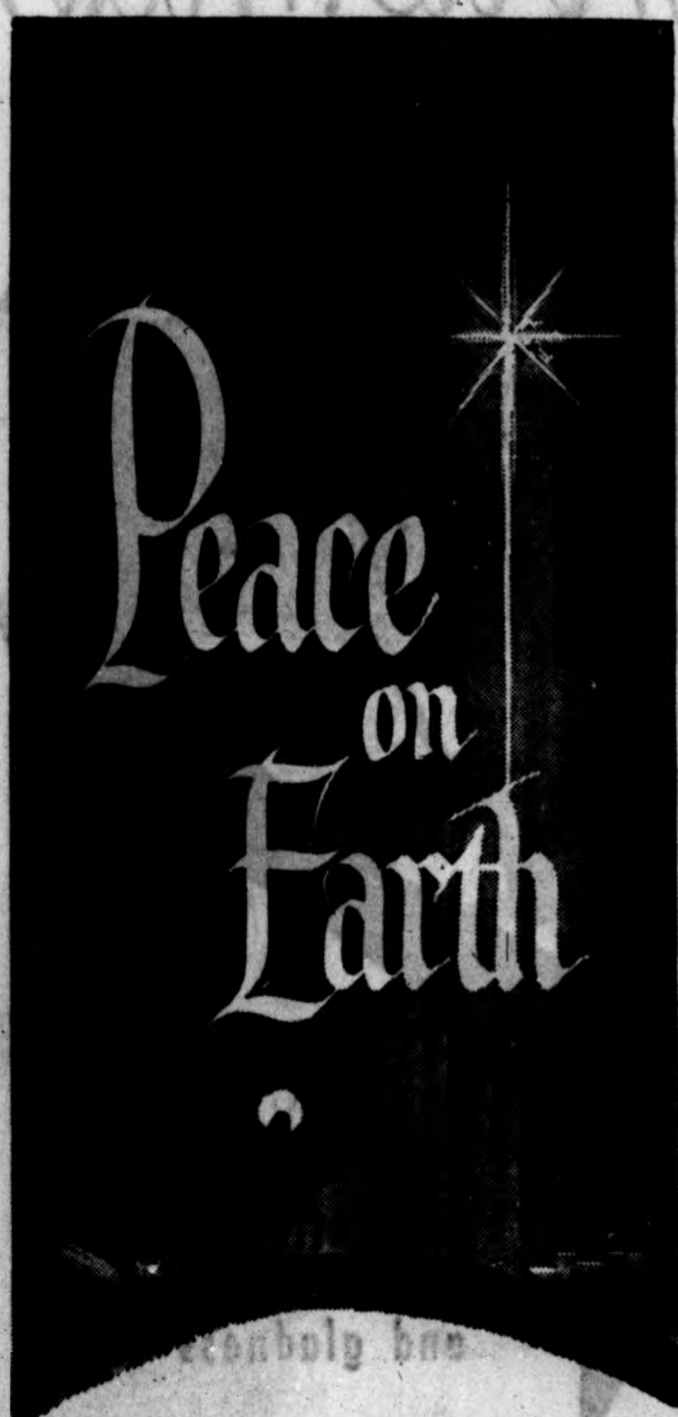
This year, as every year, thousands of pilgrims will come to Nazareth and other sacred spots in the Holy Land to honor the birth of Christ. There, beautiful services and glorious music will recall the event.



howdy, neighbor!
may old-fashioned joys be yours!

D. E. Tribble Company

CITIZENS LOAN & FINANCE COMPANY



We pray for peace...and for blessings upon you and your loved ones at this holy season.

NEWBERRY COUNTY BANK



Our Best Wishes for A Happy Holiday!

From the Management and Employees of Clinton Mills