



### 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 Yale good fellowship, "Dingle" tries to arouse some little 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.

### Holiday Spirit Dies Too Quickly

With all the excitement and bustle that precedes Christmas, it often happens that the day after Christmas is an anti-climax. It shouldn't be, although many new toys will already be broken, a few are certain to be disappointed because they didn't get what they really wanted from Santa—and, of course, there are bills that must be paid.

Yet, it isn't quite right to put Christmas so far behind us when December 26th arrives. There are many things that can and should be done to keep the Christmas spirit alive. This is the time for everyone in the family to write thank-you notes. Writing at once to acknowledge a gift serves two purposes. The giver appreciates such prompt thoughtfulness and it's always much easier to write a thank-you note promptly than to keep putting it off.

The day after Christmas is also a good time to start taking notes that will help make the next celebration of the holiday a greater event. And, before discarding those Christmas cards and letters, be sure that your address book is up to date.

Take a look around you at some of the gifts your friends received—and you may get some idea that will help you do a better shopping job for upcoming birthdays, anniversaries, and for the next Christmas, which on December 26th, is less than a year away.

### St. Francis Gave Much to Christmas

Some 400 years before Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, performed the many acts of generosity and kindness which made his life a great legend and gave him the "Santa Claus" character we know today, another Saint—St. Francis of Assisi made other contributions to our celebration of Christmas.

St. Francis lived in the small Italian village of Assisi. In the year 1200 A.D., St. Francis arranged the first manger scene in a cave near the monastery where he lived. The scene was typical of that at Bethlehem. There was a manger filled with hay, an ox and an ass. St. Francis and his followers celebrated mass at the cave and sang hymns in honor of the Christ Child.

Himself a lover of music, St. Francis believed that the early chants (written in Latin) were too theological to be popular. He felt that Christmas music should be religious, yet should be more in keeping with the festive spirit. He is generally credited with being the influence behind the more modern Christmas carols, which spread from Italy to France, from there to Germany; then to England and elsewhere.

### AMERICAN CAROLS

Three of our loveliest Christmas carols were written by Americans. In 1846, Edmund H. Sears composed "I Came Upon a Midnight Clear" and in 1858 Dr. John Henry Hopkins Jr., composed "We Three Kings of Orient Are." "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written in 1868 by Phillips Brooks.

### Why the Christ Child Blessed the Pine Tree

As the old story goes, long ago the pine tree was subject to seasonal changes, like other varieties of trees . . . losing its green fringes in winter.

One day King Herod, in a rage of fear, sent his armies out to slay all infant boys, lest one threaten his crown.

In Israel a carpenter, Joseph, and his wife, Mary, with the Child Jesus, fled the country before Herod's wrath. At day's end they came to a green wood where stood a pine, heavy with needles, that every summer gave small birds a nest. Half its trunk was hollow. "Come," said Joseph to the little family, "we will find haven here."

The pine tree, full of pity, dropped its blanket of branches down to cover them, and there they stayed, while Herod's armed men rode past, their hands stained with the blood of innocent babes.

When morning dawned, the Child Jesus awoke, and, looking up at the high pine, blessed it:

"Great pine, henceforth you will always keep your summer raiment and be forever green. Through the ages multitudes of birds will find sanctuary amid your branches all winter long."

And so it was we have the evergreen Pine, loved by all living things.

The legend tells us, too, that if you cut a pine cone through part-way, you will find within it the imprint of His hand.

**IF YOU DON'T READ THE CHRONICLE YOU DON'T GET THE NEWS PHONE 533-0541**



gift for all mankind!

wishing you blessings of the Season...

**CITIZENS FEDERAL Savings & Loan Association**

CLINTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



*Hello, there!*  
*'see you soon*

... with a pack of good wishes for all!

**Lawson Furniture Company**



**Blessings upon You and All Your Loved Ones at this Holy Time.**

**BANK of CLINTON**



**Lydia and Clinton Mills Store**