



Season's Greetings

May the Peace of Christmas surround you, The Joyousness of Christmas inspire you; The Spirit of Christmas abide with you always.

J. DAVE CALDWELL

QUESTIONS ON CHRISTMAS



1. The Swedes know kissing is fun. That's why they thought of the Christmas mistletoe. What should be done to the mistletoe for each stolen kiss? (a) remove a berry (b) do nothing (c) take off a leaf



2. We ought to know the names of the Three Wise Men who were the first givers of Christmas gifts. They were Melchior, Balthasar and (a) Samuel (b) Casper (c) Shadrack?



3. Everyone likes to get lots of Christmas cards. When did the custom of sending them start? (a) about 1845 (b) about 1781 (c) about 1903



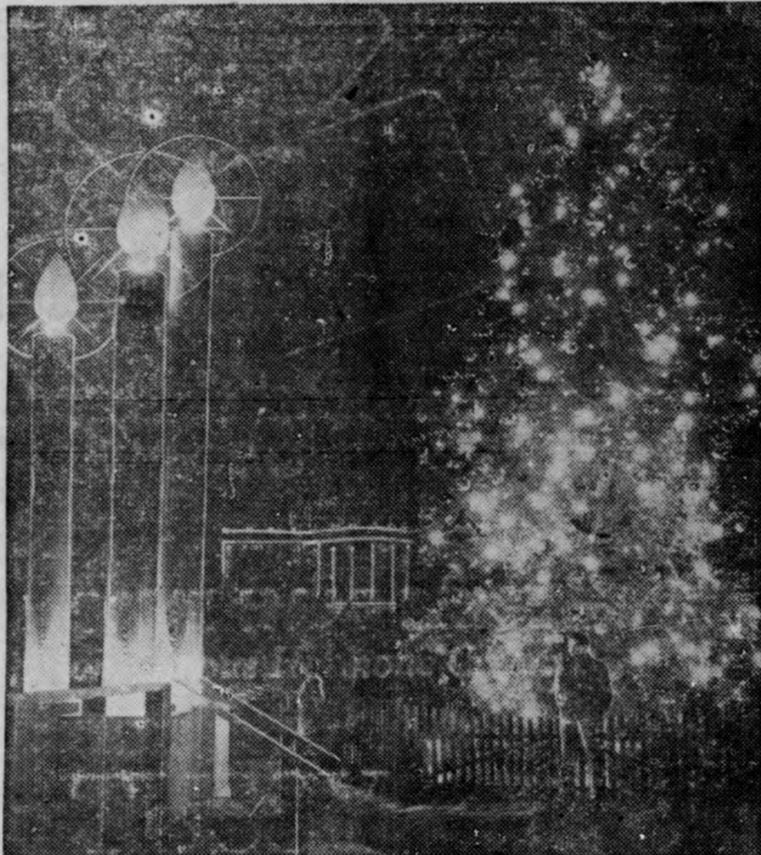
4. Who first had the idea of building a small replica of a manger for the Christmas ceremony? (a) Pope Gregory (b) Piers Plowman (c) St. Francis of Assisi.



5. The Christmas tree is the heart of our Christmas decorations. Which country first used the tree as a part of holiday observance? (a) Germany (b) Norway (c) France.



6. "Silent Night, Holy Night," one of the most beloved of Christmas hymns, was written by (a) Beethoven (b) Father Joseph Mohr (c) Martin Luther?



PRESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS TREE . . . This was the annual community Christmas tree in Washington, D. C., as it blazed with light last year.

Speaking of Christmas

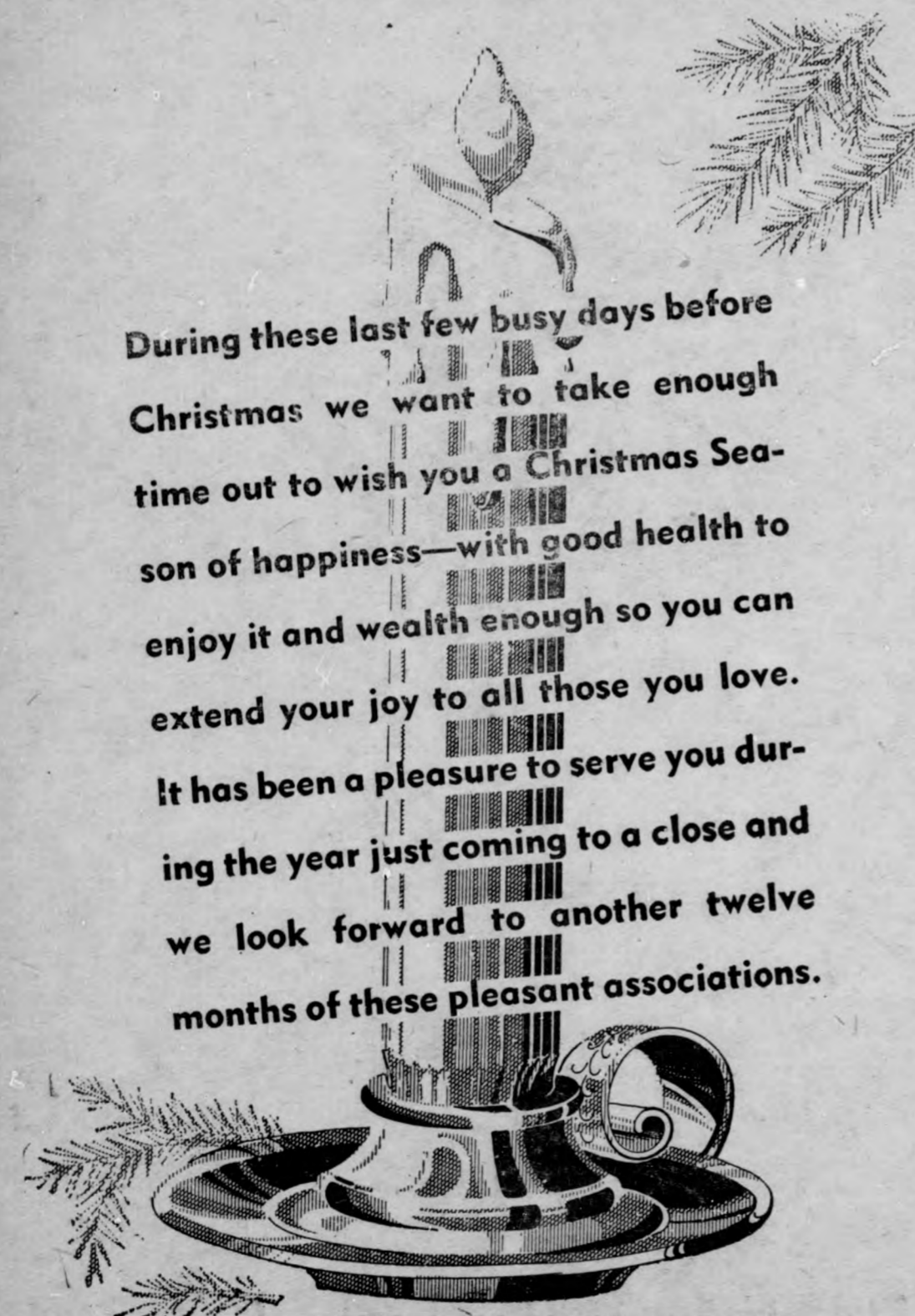
SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS . . . Throughout the world wherever Christmas is celebrated it is customary to place a lighted candle in the window . . . The legend is that candles originally were set out to light the Christ child's way as he made his visits through the children . . . One explanation of the custom of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve recalls the baronial halls of England where huge fireplaces were constantly in use . . . Each Christmas a special log, the Yule log, was thrown on the fire . . . This log burned steadily as long as the feasting and celebrating continued. Naturally, it burned with a pungent odor and stockings were hung over the fireplace to absorb some of this odor and to protect the owners from evil spirits . . . Christmas Eve, 1863,



saw a near tragedy in Virginia City, Nevada . . . Two friends celebrated with a terrific round of festivity . . . Just as dawn was breaking, they embarked on a perilous promenade over the town's rooftops . . . A policeman, mistaking them for burglars, drew his revolver and prepared to shoot—but a passerby stopped him . . . Had he fired and the bullets found the mark, the world would have been deprived of two great humorists—Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne) and Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) . . . Mince pies, so long a part of our Christmas tradition, originally had a deeply symbolic significance . . . The first mince pies were patterned in oblong shape, after the manger in which Christ was born . . . The crust represented the gold brought by the Three Wise Men; the many spices, the frankincense and myrrh . . . On May 11, 1659, the general court of Massachusetts Bay outlawed Christmas . . . Anyone celebrating, stopping work, serving holiday fare or deviating from normal daily life would be fined five shillings . . . The righteous Puritans were sure they were acting wisely—for how could good Christians condone the pagan origin of Christmas? Did not such a holiday encourage excess in eating and drinking? . . . It was 22 years before that law was repealed.

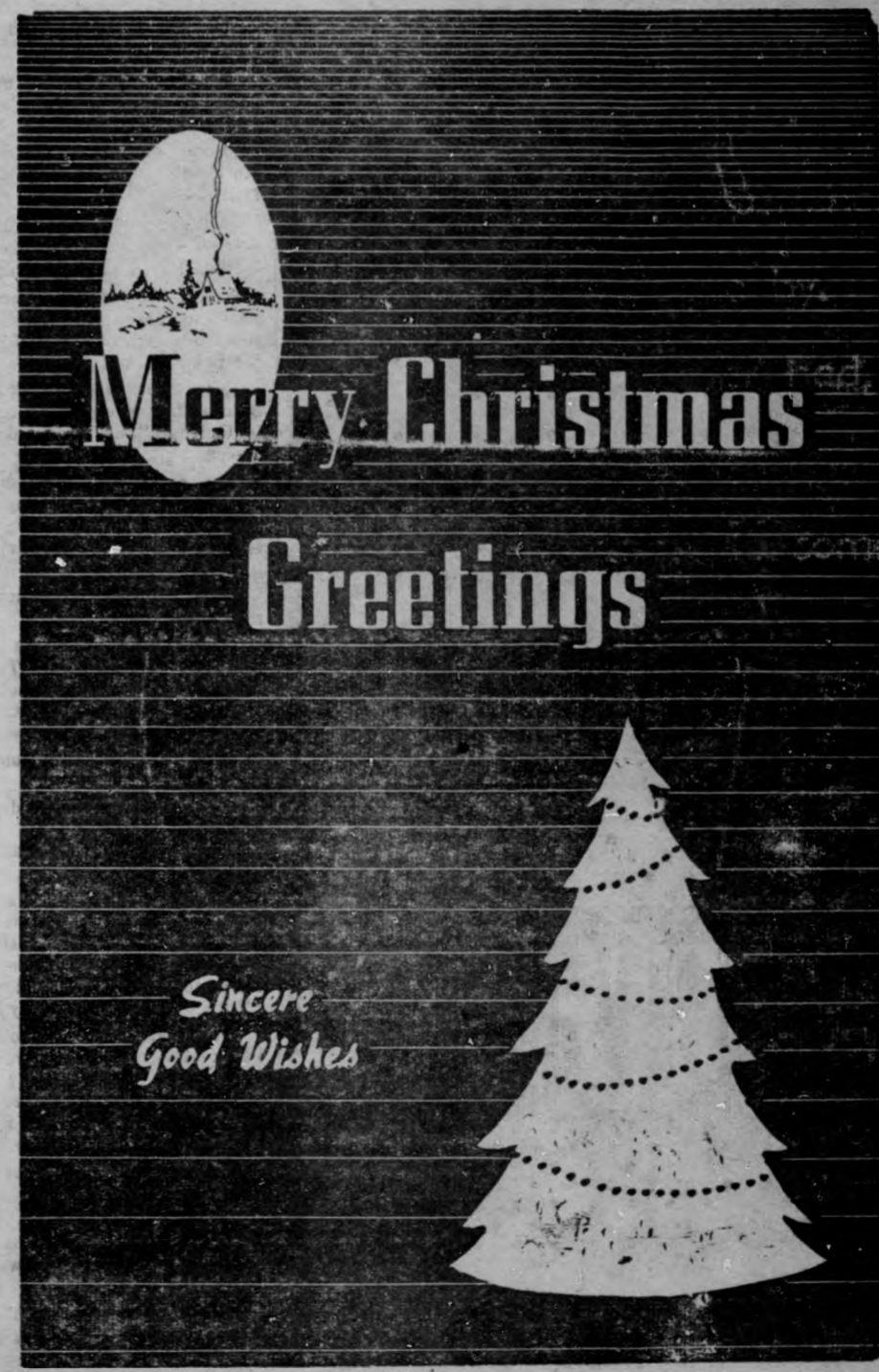


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During these last few busy days before Christmas we want to take enough time out to wish you a Christmas Season of happiness—with good health to enjoy it and wealth enough so you can extend your joy to all those you love. It has been a pleasure to serve you during the year just coming to a close and we look forward to another twelve months of these pleasant associations.

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