

New Year in a New World



Many Unique New Year Customs Still Exist in Foreign Countries

Scotland

Young Scotchmen used to wait eagerly for the first stroke of twelve marking the coming of the New Year. As the bell in the church steeple began to toll, each would rush to the door of his beloved's home, to be the first to cross her threshold. The girl would listen for

"The first foot's entering step. That sudden on the floor is welcome heard."

Ere flushing maids have braided up their hair; The laugh, the hearty kiss, the good New Year. Pronounced with honest warmth."

In Scotland, as in most northern European countries, it is an old belief that spirits, both good and evil, are peculiarly active on New Year's Eve. On the stroke of midnight, according to the ancient superstition, all geni were in motion and could be exercised by appropriate words. Good geni were called hillmen or "hohmen" in the dialect of Scotland, and evil spirits called trolls. Mummers used to wander about the



streets, wearing masks and carrying cudgels, reciting this doggerel verse, in an effort to attract the good "hogomanay" and to drive off the evil "trollolay"—

"Hogomanay, Trollolay, Gie o' your white bread, I'll hae nane o' your grey—"

Scotch New Year's Toast
Here's to the year that's awa'!
We'll drink it, in strong and in sma';
And to each bonny lassie that we dearly loo'ed,
In the days o' the year that's awa'!

Here's to the friend we can trust,
When the sorrows of adversity blow;
Who can join in our song, and be nearest our heart,
Nor depart—~~the~~ the year that's awa'!

Italy

Celebration of New Year's Day seems to have arisen in Italy in the early Middle Ages. In the year 546 a bishop reproved his people for the drinking, feasting, and general wild time that they were indulging in on a holy day—the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ, eight days after Christmas. He told them to turn their backs on "the old, profane and evil ways of paganism." In the later Middle Ages the observances of the day grew more spiritual, through the efforts of St. Gregory Thaumaturgus and St. Gregory the Great.

Syria

The great day of fun and feasting in Syria is New Years, not Christmas. On New Year's Day they exchange presents, and children go about from door to door giving the greeting of the season, and expecting gifts of candy and money.



Before going to bed on New Year's Eve a Syrian child sets out a bowl of water and a dish of wheat for the refreshment of the camel who is supposed to bring him gifts. According to legend, the camel was the youngest of the animals bearing the Wise Men, and it fell down exhausted by the strenuous journey. The Christ Child, seeing this, blessed the animal and conferred immortality upon it. In Lebanon it is a "magic mule" who bears the gifts of the season.

Hungary

One of the quaintest New Year's customs is the visit of the chimney sweeps in Hungarian towns. The sweep knocks at the door with his broom, and the householders snatch a straw or two from it. These are tied with a ribbon and kept as a good luck charm during the year.



To touch a pig on New Year's Eve, brings good luck, according to Hungarian tradition. In the principal restaurants and cafes of Budapest they release a pig at midnight, and there is much merriment as the diners try to touch the squealing animal as it races among the tables.

Czechoslovakia

In Czechoslovakia they forecast the future by little "lightboats"—nut shells filled with wax and floating on water, a wick burning in each shell. If the boat floats toward the center, its owner will take a journey during the New Year. If two boats come together, the owners will be married within the year.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES NOTED

The Chronicle Extends Greetings To Those Whose Birthdays and Anniversaries Occur This Week.

Mabry McCrary celebrated a birthday December 24.

Harry Robert League, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry League, is celebrating his sixth birthday today.

Sandra Ruth Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, is celebrating her sixth birthday today.

Sgt. and Mrs. Calvin Morton of this city and the Panama Canal Zone, observed their wedding anniversary December 24. Mrs. Morton is the former Miss Elsie Johnson.

Today's wedding anniversaries include Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Wingard and Mr. and Mrs. Luma Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin H. Ford of Avon Park, Fla., observed their first wedding anniversary December 27. Mrs. Ford was before marriage Miss Pearl Pitt of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuller Motes of Abbeville, celebrated their first wedding anniversary December 28.

Richard Edward Walters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Walters, will celebrate his first birthday Jan. 5.

Harris K. Covington, Jr., little son of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Covington of Monroe, N. C., will be one year old January 5. Mrs. Covington is the former Miss Catherine Blakely of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Spoon, Jr., observed their first wedding anniversary December 25.

Clyde H. McCrary, Sr., will observe a birthday January 6, and his son, Billy, the 5th.

Tomorrow, January 2, is the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Singler.

R. P. Wilder has a birthday January 7.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Young will observe a wedding anniversary January 5.

Andy B. Young, Jr., is observing a birthday today.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Nabors will observe their wedding anniversary tomorrow.

L. H. Bagwell will celebrate a birthday Saturday, January 3.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Adair will observe a wedding anniversary Sunday, January 4.

January 6th birthdays will include Mrs. J. H. Von Hollen, F. C. Pinson, Karl Johnson, Mrs. A. B. Galloway, Sr., and Major Willard L. Jones, now stationed in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Adair will observe their wedding anniversary Saturday, January 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Simpson observed their wedding anniversary December 24.

Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Roddy will observe their 11th wedding anniversary January 6.

Little Miles and Giles Lawson, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Miles L. Lawson, will be two years old January 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baldwin are observing their first wedding anniversary today.



HERE I AM! 1948 has arrived in a burst of glory, but how it leaves will depend on each of us. With all hope and our cooperation to make 1948 the best year the world has ever seen.

THIS YEAR

Build on resolve, and not upon regret.

The structure of thy future. Do not grope Among the shadows of old sins, but let

Thine own soul's light shine on the path of hope And dissipate the darkness. Waste no tears

Upon the blotted record of lost years.

But turn the leaf, and smile, O, smile, to see

The fair, white pages that remain to thee.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the friends and relatives of Mrs. John D. Dominick for the floral tributes and all other kindnesses shown during her illness and death.

—THE FAMILY.

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