

Pure Wool...Gifts to Warm the Heart.



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Christmas at Greenfield Village

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In more than a dozen historical buildings in adjacent Greenfield Village, guests will see preparations under way for the holidays that range in period from the 18th century through the turn of this century. Recalling a time when Christmas was unadorned religious observance, costumed interpreters in the 1750s Connecticut Saltbox House will be quietly busy with cooking and seasonal household activities.

In the house of Thomas Edison's grandparents, cooking and decoration-making of an 1860s holiday will promise a warm respite from December's chill. Visions of sugar plums take hold as period candies and confections are made in another 19th-century home where the hallways and trees are adorned with homemade decorations of the 1870s, including some ornaments inspired by women's magazines of the time.

THE BIRTHPLACE and boyhood farmhouse of Henry Ford will be decorated with ornaments and trimmings particularly reminiscent of the homespun automotive giant. Nearby, the urban home of Orville and Wilbur Wright will celebrate Christmas of 1910. A full-size tree with paper and store-bought ornaments, surrounded by gaily wrapped presents is the centerpiece. Similar decorations deck the hall. In the flickering glow of gas lamps, an old phonograph plays while Christmas dinner bakes in the gas oven.

Other holiday excitement in the village will include and 1840s New Year's reception in the gracious home of Noah Webster; the gas-lit millinery shop where women busily fashion winter bonnets; the creative craftsmanship of potters and glass blowers; the tin-type studio, open for families that wish to pose for an old-fashioned photo portrait; the mellow General Store where the delicate sounds of a music box fill the air and children are welcome to play with reproductions of yeasty year toys; a display of vintage Christmas cards in the charming, old post office; and in the Wright brothers' cycle shop, visitors will discover what Wilbur and Orville were up to during the holiday season of 1903, as they readied for their first successful airplane flight at Kitty Hawk.

While choirs sing in the village, the legalization of Christmas as a holiday will be related in the 1840 Logan County (Ill.) Courthouse, where Abraham Lincoln once practiced law.

NOT FAR AWAY at the Menlo Park laboratories of Thomas Edison, the great inventor's assistants will be preparing for Edison's first public, electric lighting demonstration on New Year's Eve of 1879.

Christmas shopping at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village also is part of the seasonal fun. Distinctive gifts and souvenirs, wares fashioned by village crafts people, Christmas decorations, and items reproduced from the museum collections can be found in stores and shops in the village and museum.

For Your Holiday Wardrobe...

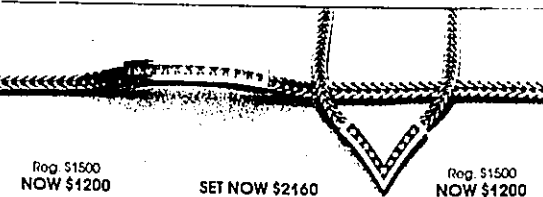
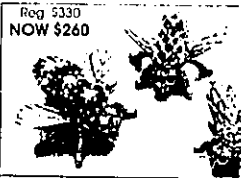
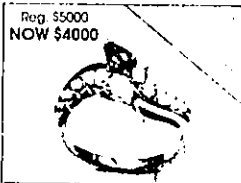
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