buns and cakes.

In Sweden, the main family meal begins with a smorgasbord, followed by sun-dried cod in cream sauce. Then there is ham, and finally rice pudding. inside of which is hidden a whole al-mond. Whoever gets the almond, according to tradition, will be married before the end of the year.

In Mexico, families travel, like Mary and Joseph, to each other's homes. They are welcomed with prayers and then a party. The high notes of these parties are the famous pinatas - papier-mache animals filled with toys and candies. These are suspended from the ceiling while blindfolded chil-dren try to crack them open with bats.

Mangers are popular in Latin Ameri-ca; in Costa Rica, the manger may fill whole room, not just one corner. In Panama, the nacimiento is very elaborate and includes trees, grass and

In Argentina, Christmas dinner is outdoors on the veranda, and the table is decorated with roses and jasmine. The main course is cold roast turkey or chicken. On Twelfth Night. tinians leave fresh water outside their doors for the Wise Men's camels; they have come a long way, and they no

doubt are quite thirsty.

In Ghana, as in other Christianized countries in Africa, the celebration is traditional but with an indigenous flavor - there are fireworks and fufu, a dish of pounded yams. Food is sent to neighbors and presents are exchanged. In Liberia, the Christmas tree is an oil palm decorated with bells.

This year, do something special:
"Get away from it all" by visiting an American community or vacation spot that celebrates Christmas in a special.

memorable way.
For example, Disney World near Orlando. Fla., creates a fantasyland holi-day for the Walt Disney characters. Toy soldiers and gingerbread men

reign over the many special events.

The "Spirit of Christmas" at Williamsburg. Va. is probably America's most well-known city/community celebration. Annual parades, plantation tours, tree-lighting ceremonies and musical concerts are just a few of the holiday happenings.

Test your holiday IQ

OSE GIFT GUIDE

Do you know the history of the holiday traditions you take for grant-

We gleaned the answers to these Christmas trivia questions from "Celebrations, the Complete Book of American Holidays," by Robert J. Myers, with the editors of Hallmark Cards (Doubleday and Co., Inc.):

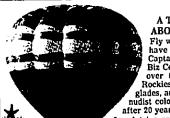
- 1. The actual date of Jesus's birth: (a) is recorded in the Gospel of Luke
- (b) is Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphony
- (c) is probably sometime in the summer or early fall
- 2. The Puritan response to Christmas
- (a) to fast, then celebrate by feast-(b) to refuse to acknowledge it at
- (c) to attend church from dawn to
- 3. Washington decided to cross the Delaware on Christmas because:
- (a) Hessian mercenaries had abandoned themselves to a rousing German festival and forgot to keep
- (b) his troops were eager to get home for holiday celebrations

- (c) the date was insignificant; it was merely a coincidence
- 4. The first state to grant legal recognition to Christmas was: (a) Massachusetts

 - (b) Alabama (c) New York
- (d) none Christmas is a religious holiday
- 5. The image of Santa Claus as a full-bodied, bearded bell-ringer comes
- (a) Clement Moore's poem, "The
- Night Before Christmas"
 (b) Thomas Nast's cartoons for
- Harper's Weekly
 (c) a costume designed by a Salvation Army volunteer
- 6. The origin of the word "yule" probably comes from:
 (a) a Germanic-Celtic November
- feast of the same name
 (b) the Gothis hiul, which meant
- (c) the Anglo-Saxon geol, meaning
- (d) all of the above

ANSWERS: 1(c); 2(b); 3(a); 4(b); 5(b); 6(d)





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