

IN GERMANY
For German children the Christmas season begins with the hanging of a calendar showing a painted house, on December 1. Doors and windows of and skin so that the roast bird the house often hide pieces of candy.

ROASTING PEACOCK
Roast peacock was a Yule delicacy in medieval England. An early recipe directs careful removal of the peacock's head and neck so that the roast bird can be sewn back into it before serving.

Snow Plowing Operations Moving Smoothly in City

While there have been no serious complaints about snow plowing and snow removal operations in the City of Farmington in recent years, the city is proud to have set its own record after each succeeding snowfall.

Chief of Police Joseph G. DeVriendt takes his department's responsibility "seriously" for speeding up snow removal operations, and today had these comments to make:

"OUR CITY HAS a snow removal budget, based on years of experience, and the men who do the work lack neither the skill nor the necessary equipment to get the job done."

"However, don't lose sight of the fact that our department's traffic control plays an important role. We in turn certainly recognize that the individual driver's ability to keep moving under difficult circumstances contributes a great deal to efficient snow removal."

"It wasn't difficult to follow the chief's logic as he went on to explain:

"Because tires can't grip the slippery roadway — the whole operation can be thrown off schedule. In short order there'll be a whole line-up of stalled vehicles blocking the path of the snowplows."

"Or suppose a number of cars get stuck at the curb — can't get started for lack of traction. The plows have to go around these cars, throwing up a pile of snow and making it even more impossible for them to move. You've seen this happen. In fact," said the chief to the reporter, "I hope it never has happened, and never will happen, to you."

"On their original run the plows get around and past these stalled cars all right, but they leave narrow lanes in the street which hamper traffic and cause delays and jam-ups. Then the fat is in the fire. Follow-up runs by the plows, to broaden the traffic lanes and open the streets for normal traffic, are delayed or completely obstructed."

CHIEF DEVRIDENT had these suggestions:

"Every Farmington citizen should consider himself a volunteer member in good standing of our snow removal crew. His job is to get his car moving, and keep it moving smoothly and safely, even in heavy snow. Having the good set of snow tires will help. If things are really bad, having a set of reinforced tire chains may be the only answer. They increase traction for starting and hill climbing by more than 400 percent, according to the National Safety Council."

"When your chains let you dig out and go, that's satisfaction enough in itself; but at the same time you get the added satisfaction of contributing to our local snow removal program."

It's important to get the chains on in time," he said, "but it's also important to remove them as soon as the pavement is cleared. That way you keep them in good condition for the next time they're needed."

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CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

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Christmas Rose Famed in Tale

Blooming in the heart of winter and, sometimes even in the snow, the Christmas rose is a plant famed in legend.

According to an old story, a poor little shepherdess had no gift to offer the Christ Child and so she wept. When her tears touched the ground, flowers sprouted.

Delighted, she plucked an armful and hastened to the infant. The caress of His fingers turned the petals pink.

"Botanists class the Christmas rose as a member of the buttercup family. Native to Southern Europe and Western Asia, it has leathery, dark green leaves and large, saucer-shaped flowers with white or rose-tinted sepals."

Advent Wreath

Using wreaths as decorations at Christmas may be traced to the customs of Advent season, the four Sundays before Christmas — a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Traditionally, the Advent wreath is made of evergreen branches interwoven with red ribbons. It holds four candles. One candle is lit at dusk on the first Sunday of Advent, two the next Sunday, three the next and four on the last Sunday before Christmas. The wreath may be placed on a door, set on a table or hung from the ceiling.

OLD-CUSTOM
Positive wreaths and garlands made of evergreens, cones and herbs are, nowadays, closely linked to the celebration of Christmas. The custom of making such garlands for gala occasions actually dates back to the ancient Egyptians, a thousand or more years before the birth of Christ.

IN DENMARK

A Danish Christmas custom is the "Jul-bock," a long pole topped with a goat's head, whose duty it is to butt in when the children misbehave.

IN BETHLEHEM, GA.

A 60-foot star lights the countryside around Bethlehem, Ga., at Christmas. A carol service is held beneath the star on Christmas night.

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Mistletoe In Center Of Evergreen Ball

Secular and religious Christmas customs met in the old English "kissing bunch." This evergreen ball had mistletoe for kissing, hung from the ceiling.

But it also contained small figurines to represent Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as well as an array of fruits and colorful ornaments.

Michigan leads the nation in the production of red tart cherries, field beans, blueberries, cucumbers for pickles, gladioli bulbs and eastern white winter wheat.

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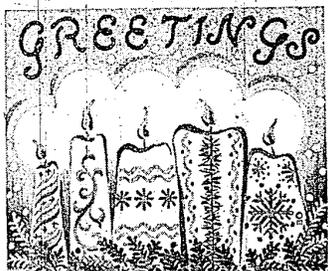
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Best holiday wishes and sincere thanks to you all!

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at Jean's Bel-Aire Beauty Shop

To All of you

Christmas Greetings

We send our Santa to fill your chimney to the brim with our warmest holiday wishes, and to express our deep appreciation for your wonderful friendship and kind patronage. May you and yours be blessed with every Christmas joy!

Happy New Year

As the New Year bells ring out, we chime in with glad greetings and the best wishes for your pleasure and prosperity in the days ahead. With real sincerity we extend our thanks for your patronage and good will, and hope our friendly association may long continue.

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