



String up the lights, dust off the shiny ornaments—for it's time to decorate the tree and to wish all our many friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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STATE ACHIEVES BEST FIRE RECORD IN HISTORY

Michigan has achieved her best forest fire record in history. Reaching a milestone in the annals of state forest fire history, conservation department forest fire chief Milton M. Bergman announces 839 fires blackened only 5,390 acres in the 52-week forest fire destruction period in 1950. This is nearly 50 percent fewer fires and about 75 percent fewer acres burned than last year. The 1949 toll was 21,108 acres by 1,624 fires.

The 1950 record shatters the best previous mark reached by a considerable margin. That year was 1941, when 16,463 acres were burned by 1,641 fires.

Bergman points out "the 1950 record is in marked contrast to several thousand fires which gutted over 2,800,000 acres in 1871," the first year records were kept. He says the meager notes on fires prior to 1871 "indicate thousands of blazes annually and millions of acres under fire." Many, he adds, were land-clearing fires which got out of control.

With due respect for the part weather can play in holding down losses, Bergman says cooperation of the public and industry, efficient fire-fighting crews and up-to-the-minute equipment are the important factors to be stressed. Many Michigan newspapers printed special supplements and almost all continually kept the fire problem before the public this year. Newspaper and radio station cooperation this year was on a scale never approached in Michigan before, according to Bergman.

"Matching the 1950 record next year will be tough but not impossible," Bergman allows.

Causes and costs of 1950 fires now are being checked. Brush burners and spokers were responsible for over three-fourths of the acreage damaged in 1949.

**FIRE TRAGEDIES
MAY MANY YULE
CELEBRATIONS**

Fire turns Christmas into tragedy for hundreds of families every year, the National Board of Fire Underwriters warns in a statement urging caution with the flammable Yule tree.

A spark and a Christmas tree reduced most of the Pennsylvania town of Hyndman to ashes last year when fire spread from one house through several business and residential blocks. The sprightly holiday wreaths on town lamp posts became a grisly reminder of the Christmas night blaze to scores of families left homeless.

One of the most tragic Christmas fires struck at a Babbs Switch, Oklahoma, school party some years ago. Thirty-six persons were killed and 100 injured when candles ignited a huge Christmas tree.

Highly flammable Christmas decorations spread a blaze that started in the kitchen of a St. Johns, N. F.

Whole Or Half Ham Is Star During Christmas Season Entertainment

With young people home from school and with out-of-town guests in the home the yule season becomes a popular time for entertaining. Another trend of the season is serving a perfectly baked ham brightly garnished with Christmas colors.

A baked ham always makes a grand appearance on the serving table; however, for a small group a half ham may be preferred. Both the shank and the butt half of ham may be decorated with a Christmas air. For example, red and green maraschino cherries may be alternated over the surface of the ham and the platter brightened with green parsley. Or for a different

serving, the ham may be carved in the kitchen, then the attractively arranged slices are placed on a platter or tray garnished with cranberry nut salads in lettuce cups.

However the ham is served, proper cooking is most important. First, it is placed on a rack in an open roasting pan. Placed fat side up, the juices will run down through and over the ham as it cooks in a self-basting process. Water is not added to the roasting pan and it is left uncovered. The ham is roasted in a 300 degree F. oven. A roast meat thermometer inserted into the thickest section of the ham will tell the homemaker when the ham is cooked, that is, when it has

CHRISTMAS RUSH DISH

During the Christmas rush there will be no disappointing your family at mealtime when you bring on individual casseroles of hot sausage links topped with beans. Serve with hot rolls or muffins, assorted relishes, dessert and beverage for your complete meal.

BRAISED SHORT RIBS

When purchasing a standing rib roast of beef, ask your meat dealer to remove the short ribs. These cuts are tempting when slowly braised, then served over hot baked beans.

reached 150 degrees. An estimated cooking time may be determined by allowing 15 to 18 minutes per pound for a whole ham and 18 to 20 minutes per pound for a half ham.

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Season's Greetings

We would like to put into words the very nice things we're wishing you this Christmas. Yet, it is not so much the phrasing of a Christmas greeting but the thought that pervades it that counts. And so we send to all our friends, the very old yet always new Greeting — A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

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