

Reflections

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beeswax, since it is not known if the purple and pink colors would have been available to the settlers.

There is a Christmas tree in the cabin - a very plain cedar branch. It is decorated with strings of popcorn and cranberries, and with cookies tied on with yarn. The swags in the windows are tied with plain flax string ties.

Mrs. Brendel said, "Early on Christmas Eve, the family would make fancy molds of suet and seeds to be hung on a fir tree for the birds. Fir trees were used because the closeness of their branches gave added warmth and protection to the birds. This was the family's offering to God's creatures."

Another tradition was to give the cattle an extra ration of grain and extra hay and straw, to

coincide with the birth of Christ. Mrs. Brendel said the family would always ask a special blessing for their animals.

According to Mrs. Brendel, the family probably spent most of Christmas Eve at religious services and would stay up until after midnight to "herald the Christ Child's coming." Part of Christmas Day would also be spent in worship.

The mantel in the cabin was decorated with simple greens, nuts, apples and pine cones. The table held fresh apples, nuts, popcorn and dried apples, which were a treat. The popcorn was introduced to the settlers by the friendly local Indians.

A large, heavy Christmas dinner was a part of their celebration, but early settlers probably feasted on venison, duck or goose, Mrs. Brendel says. Mince meat pies were usually made of venison meat.

Farm Women Societies

Society 3

Farm Women Society 3 members and children were entertained at a Christmas party last Saturday at the Mt. Airy Fire Hall. Mrs. Earl Smoker was hostess.

The business meeting was in charge of the president, Mrs. Clarence Stauffer. Mrs. Jay Miller, committee chairman for supplies for the Cancer Society, reported that 215 bed pads were

made by members and delivered to the Cander Society.

Mrs. Clarence Stauffer, Mrs. Kenneth Zimmerman, and Mrs. Carroll Myers will represent Society 3 at the Farm Women State Convention in Harrisburg January 8 and 9.

Mrs. William Gerhart entertained the group with a monologue. Gifts were presented to the children by Santa Claus. There was a gift exchange among members.

The next meeting will be January 20 at the home of Mrs. Clarence Stauffer

Society 14

Farm Women Society 14 entertained their husbands at a recent Christmas banquet at Good 'n Plenty Restaurant.

Guest speaker was Miss Katherine Hershey of Lancaster, director of child evangelism, who presented "A Christmas Story." Music was played by Miss Mary Atzinger on her cordovox.

Mrs. Robert Barr, Mrs. Edith Metzler and Mrs. Norman Reeser will serve as delegates to the State Convention in Harrisburg January 8 and 9.

The next meeting will be sewing from 11 a m to 4 p m. on January 17 at the home of Mrs. John L. Hershey, Paradise RD1

Society 11

Farm Women Society 11 met recently at the home of Mrs. Herman Shirk. The meeting had been postponed from a week earlier because of an ice and snow storm.

Devotions were conducted by Mrs. Esther Musser. The flag salute was led by the president, Mrs. Ammon Huber, after which the business meeting was conducted.

New year books were distributed among members. Several reports were given including highlights of the County Convention held at the Lancaster School of the Bible in November.

A report was given on a trip to the County Home. Several members were in attendance at a luncheon to hear Senator and Mrs. Hatfield during their visit. Mrs. Hatfield's new cook book is not only a recipe for kitchen use, but also helps to know and love God better.

Society 11 has been sewing cancer pads and have plans for future sewings.

Mrs. Joseph Best of Society 17 entertained the group, showing ways to make pretty Christmas decorations inexpensively.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Shirk as hostess, and her committee.

Society 22

Farm Women Society 22 members showed the Christmas spirit last week when they boarded a bus and visited 14 families of elderly folks in the community, singing Christmas Carols and giving the families boxes of homemade cookies. Sixteen additional boxes of cookies were delivered at another time.

Following the Caroling the ladies of the Society went to the home of Mrs. Wilmer Andrew, who along with her cohostess, Mrs. Lester Landis, entertained with a Christmas party.

Instead of exchanging gifts, a collection was taken and \$100 was donated to the Ann Lawrence Fund. Another \$100 gift was given to the William Weyant family who lost a son to leukemia.

Mrs. Carl Diller reported on Homemakers Day and Mrs. Lester Landis told about the Holly Trail Mrs. Cloyd Wenger gave the highlights of meeting Mrs. Mark Hatfield and getting autographs when she reviewed

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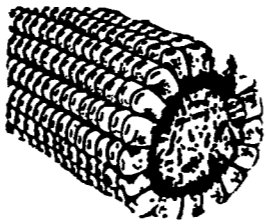
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Christmas was a time of family gathering, just as now, but gift-giving in those hard winters and simple times was probably very limited, and possibly only fruits and nuts.

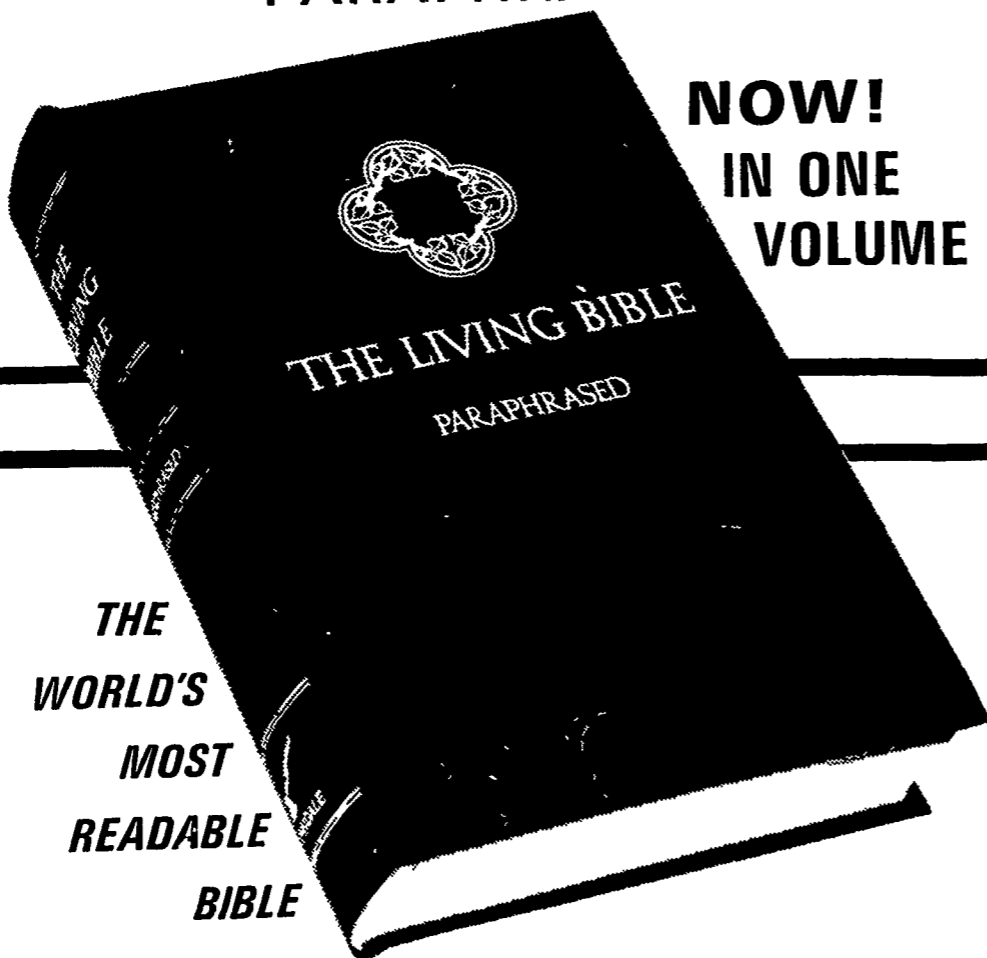
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