copies — a far cry from the 2.2 billion Christmas cards that Americans paper the country with

tmas card. It sold nearly 1,000

• Life below the Mason-Dixon line of the late twentieth century continues to exhibit its own regional character in many ways... for example, one of the traditional Christmas dinners that is a big hit they are also more personal to a

family than Santa, who is more of a universal being — according to the Academic American

· Who was Thomas Nast and what was his contribution to the holidays? Nast was a famous cartoonist of the mid-1800s for Harper's Weekly magazine. He is credited with having first portrayed the "modern" Santa Claus we all know and love so well today.

• Our favorite holiday movie of all time? The Jimmy Stewart classic "It's A Wonderful Life," it's the most-watched of all the Hollywood holiday hits, according to Blockbuster Video. Of course — what holiday season is complete without digesting this Hollywood chestnut at least once?

with Southerners consist of com bread pudding, green beans with salt pork, glazed country ham with brandied peaches and bourbonlaced sweet potato puree when's that next plane to Memphis scheduled to leave?

· Why does Santa Claus hail from the North Pole? Why not the South Pole? Ask the Scandinavians — they were the first people to spot Santa riding in with his reindeer from the North.

 Now that the former Soviet Union has collapsed, we may be hearing more from the Babushkas — the Russian (and female) approximate equivalent of the more European-based figure of Santa Claus. Babushkas are more like kindly grandmothers, and Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 28, 1992-B23

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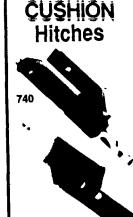
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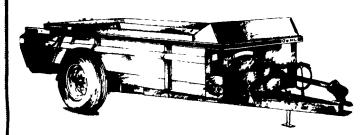
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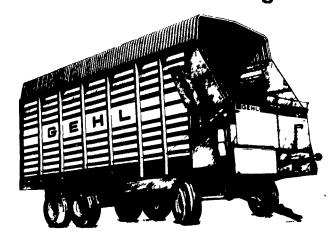
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