

# IN THE WHITE HOUSE

### How Presidents of Past Enjoyed Christmas Holidays.

No Celebration by John Quincy Adams Because He Regarded Religious Festival as a Foolish Extravagance.

ACCORDING to history the only president of the United States who did not celebrate Christmas (because he regarded it as a foolish extravagance) was John Quincy Adams, "the most economical man known in public life."

Mrs. John Adams, the wife of the second president of the United States, had a most discouraging time trying to make merry in the White House during the Christmas holidays. (She was the first wife of a president to celebrate Christmas in the executive mansion in Washington, for the president and Mrs. Washington were always at Mount Vernon for the holidays.) She had no dominating sense of economy, but it was the White House itself that was shabby, and a Christmas reception given to the members of congress by the president proved, from her point of view, to be a ghastly failure.

President Jefferson was a widower with four daughters, and during his second administration Martha, the eldest, was the head of her father's household, and made Christmas the happy and festive occasion it was designed to be from that time when the star stood still above the manger in Bethlehem.

There were trees, and decorations, and all sorts of entertainments for the children of the official families, as well as gifts for the poor of the capital.

Although the Madisons did not spend all of their Christmases in the White House, on account of the little historical interruption by the British, when they occupied other quarters for a time, the brilliant Dolly managed a record for holiday hospitality and merrymaking that has never been surpassed.

When Andrew Jackson came to the White House he was bowed and broken by the death of his wife and depressed by political animosities. He had neither heart nor the slightest inclination for holiday celebrations, yet he pulled himself together at Christmas time, and saw to it that the day meant something happy to those in the White House.

In the meantime the Monroe administration was marked by nothing in the way of holiday celebrations beyond what was conventionally prescribed, and after President Jackson's efforts at keeping the spirit of Christmas in spite of his own personal sorrows, President Harrison did not live to see a Christmas in the White House.

Mrs. Tyler lived to celebrate only one Christmas in the White House. After his second marriage the Tyler administration was noted for its brilliant entertainments. Whether it was Christmas or any other time of the year, hospitalities were dispensed in the old Virginia style, and there was no stint of merrymaking at the White House.

The Polk administration reverted to the grim and practical idea of John Quincy Adams. Perhaps it was not economy that changed the Christmas celebration at the White House; it is difficult to define the reason why President Polk did not make the holidays a festive event in the executive mansion; it may have been the temperament of the chief executive; perhaps it was because Mrs. Polk did not believe in the gay and festive way of celebrating the holidays, as, according to intimate history, she did not.

President Zachary Taylor, brilliant figure in military history, who had no chance whatever in the social history of the White House, because he died in little more than a year after he had taken his seat as president of the United States, and spent only one Christmas in the White House, bequeathed his administration to the Fillmores, people pitifully distinguished by sorrow and in no way adapted to the social obligations of the great national responsibility of sustaining the political and social obligations of the White House.

"Shortly after becoming president," someone writes of President Fillmore, "his wife died, and a year later a daughter, an only child, passed to the great eternity."

## A CHRISTMAS HYMN

No tramp of marching armies,  
No banners flaming far;  
A lamp within a stable  
And in the sky a Star.

Their hymns of peace and gladness  
To earth the angels brought,  
Their Gloria in Excelsis  
To earth the angels taught;

When in the lowly manger  
The Holy Mother Maid  
In tender adoration  
Her Babe of heaven laid.

Born lowly in the darkness,  
And none as poor as he,  
The little children of the poor  
His very own shall be.

No rush of hostile armies then,  
But just the budding sheep,  
The angels singing of the Christ  
And all the world asleep.

No flame of conquering banners,  
No legions sent afar;  
A lamp within a stable  
And in the sky a Star!  
—Margaret E. Sangster, in Collier's Weekly.

## The Ten Commandments for Christmas Giving

By HARVEY PEAKE

1. Thou shalt love the giver of the gift, because he has sent the gift.
2. Thou shalt remember first the very young and the very old.
3. Thou shalt buy within thy means, remembering the spirit of the gift and not the value.
4. Thou shalt not become a party to the mere exchange of gifts. Let thy heart go with each and every greeting or present thou sendest out.
5. Thou shalt make such gifts as thy skill may warrant, inasmuch as the work of thy hands gives added value to the offering.
6. Thou shalt tie up no bitter remembrances with a gift, but only peace and good will.
7. Thou shalt have thy gifts ready several days before the time of delivery, that the immediate days before Christmas may be filled with peace and happiness, and not with turmoil and frenzy.
8. Thou shalt seek the abodes of the poor and friendless with such wholesome gifts as may cheer and nourish their hungry bodies and hearts.
9. Thou shalt not gush over thy gifts. Thou shalt show thy gratitude in more sincere ways.
10. Thou shalt, at earliest opportunity, give written or verbal thanks for such kindnesses as thy friends may have bestowed upon thee at Christmas.

## TWO TOTS IN A TOY SHOP

Little Denny Was Almost Beyond Hope in the Eyes of His Older Sister, Aged Six.

She was six if she was a day; she had a little fat back in a little black coat and her wisps of red hair matched her red tam-o'-shanter. In her firm hand she held a struggling boy about a year younger, and they were getting into the elevator at a big department store and making for "toys."

Children are not allowed, unaccompanied by guardians, in most large shops, but such was her air of responsibility, of decorum, that it would have been a bold floorwalker who dared to question her.

Nor, evidently, was it her first visit. The boy, still held in leash, ran in front and made straight for the space devoted to Santa Claus, his reindeer and his sleigh, piled with toys.

There was a background of fir and cedar and a huge Christmas tree, but the pair sat down before the fascinating old fellow in his red robe, his long white beard, holding his big whip, and from his face the small boy did not turn from worshipping in solemn adoration.

Across the room was a creche; also a wonderful and beautiful thing. The infant Jesus in the manger, the mother in her blue robes, St. Joseph, with his staff, the three kings resplendent.

The children had been perfectly still for fifteen minutes looking at Santa Claus, when the little girl whispered to the boy. He squirmed, struggled, but she was too much for him. She dislodged him from his seat, dragged him to the creche, and with motherly, Irish piety, pressed him on his knees.

Reverently she described the holy group, then would incite devotion from a more human motive.

"See the cow, Denny; you mind the cow we used to milk last summer at the farm when we went on the fresh air? See the goat, Denny; you mind the goat in our alley? It's his pitcher." But Denny whined and pulled and pulled to be back again to his idol.

The little girl looked up. Her sigh was that given by every woman since the beginning, for every man for whose soul she holds herself responsible.

"Denny," she said, "Denny likes Santa Claus better than he likes God."

It is time to hang your stocking high  
And let your notes to Santa fly  
Straight up the chimney far away  
So you'll get your presents  
Christmas Day



May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like him who, as at this time, became a little child for our sake, more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.—J. H. Newman.

## Home Made Presents.

"I thought I'd be economical this year and make my Christmas presents myself, instead of buying them," said Mrs. Harlem; "so I bought a book of instructions and went ahead."

"How did you make out?" asked Mrs. Bronx.

"The materials footed up to \$43.58, and I put in a month's hard sewing and cutting."

"How did that compare with last year?"

"Last year I bought all I wanted for \$35."

First Christmas Card.  
In December, 1844, Mr. W. A. Dobson sent the first Christmas card.

# CHRISTMAS IN NAVY

### How the Festive Season Is Observed Aboard Ship.

Not Much Work Is Done—Athletic Sports, Traditional Dinner and Evening Entertainment Features of Occasion.

NOWHERE in all the world is the "spirit of Christmas" entered into more wholeheartedly than on board the ships of the United States navy.

Observance of this chief of all national holidays varies, of course, in form with the location of the fleet at the time.

Into each of the continental "home ports" (headquarters of certain individual vessels) the big gray monsters come dropping in by twos and threes till, in New York and Philadelphia, and Norfolk and Frisco, it looks almost like a naval review. According to long established custom, they are there to give the boys in blue a run on the beach ("liberty," as they call it in the service), and every man jack who is not actually undergoing punishment is allowed and encouraged to take his look at the bright lights—go home on leave or uptown for fun or anything else he likes as long as his money lasts but away from the ship in any event. This custom applies not alone to the enlisted men, but to the officers as well and, when Christmas morning dawns in a home port, there are not likely to be many more persons on board any man-o'-war than the regulations call for in the minimum.

The few "shipkeepers" cannot, under such circumstances, make a very successful effort toward merriment. Rear Admiral Samuel McGowan writes in the National Monthly, but what they lack in numbers they invariably make up in other ways, one of these ways being the complete satisfaction of the inner man.

Abroad and at sea, though, it is altogether different. Every soul on



A Christmas Concert on Board Ship.

board, from the usually sedate flag officer and the more or less unapproachable first lieutenant, down to "Jimmy-legs" and the ship's cook and the messenger boy, voluntarily constitutes himself a committee of one to see the thing through in "old navy" fashion, and even King Neptune, when he comes on board on "crossing the line" to doze every bayassed and landlubber, has a formidable rival in the "spirit of Christmas."

It matters not much whether the ship be anchored off Vera Cruz or plowing through the Pacific ocean, the distance from home and friends makes it incumbent on all to do their level best to make at least a brave try for "Merry Christmas."

Routine drills are entirely suspended; and, except for cleaning ship (cleanliness in the navy being deemed not only akin to, but actually neck and neck with godliness itself), not a lick of avoidable work is allowed to be done by anybody.

"All hands" are called, to be sure, on scheduled time, but many more men than usual are allowed to "sleep in," and, after the thickest minimum of tidying up, preparations for the day's festivities are gotten under way.

There is a varied athletic program that begins in the forenoon, and after an hour or so off for dinner at midday, continues well along toward sunset. Sailors are taught to be thorough. So they go at their potato races and pleating contests and tugs of war and jumping contests with the same fervor that they show when trying for a 13-inch turret gun record or stamping out a Caribbean revolution. There is no lack of interest. That can be depended on. And when call is sounded they are a tired lot.

Toward sunset the various contests have been completed (or not unusually called off "on account of darkness," as the baseball people say), and, after an early supper, a stage is rigged up on the quarter-deck and the crowning event of the entire celebration is on. Sometimes it is a minstrel show, another time a vaudeville performance, but without exception there is plenty of music and near music, and no such entertainment would be complete without the inevitable and inimitable cakewalk. Some of the improvised costumes are fearfully and wonderfully made. But they are striking and, for the most part, very appropriate, while the prancing and gyrating of the cakewalkers themselves are well worth seeing. The program is a long one, but interest never lags for a moment—for American sailors are just as thorough at play as they are while at work.

# Christmas



Candles on the tree aglow,  
Holly red and mistletoe;  
Radiant faces, rapturous cries,  
In the nursery wondering eyes,  
Stockings full and bulging out,  
Toys of every sort about,  
Music, joyous, glad and gay;  
All of Christendom at play;  
Essence of the Holy Child,  
Dearest gift, divine and mild,  
Angel songs, dispelling fear,  
Yule, the blessed Yule is here!  
—Rose Mills Powers, in Youth's Companion.

## MANNER OF GIVING PRESENTS

Simple Little Embellishments Such as Ribbons, Seals and Holly Count for Much.

At no time does the manner of doing a thing count for so much as at the time of Christmas giving; and while in a few instances there are those who overdo the outward embellishment of gifts, none of us now like to offer the simplest little remembrance unless wrapped in spotless paper, tied with gay ribbons and adorned with bright seals expressing merry greetings.

And this is as it should be for the holiday season gains a great deal of cheeriness and zest from the multiplicity of beribboned white parcels whisking to and fro, and we do not regret the passing of the yellow paper bundle of our grandmother's day.

But the attractive appearance of the gift is not all that counts; we must be careful of the how and when and where of presenting it.

The time that custom more and more sets apart for the exchanging of gifts among friends is Christmas eve, any time from dusk to midnight; but Christmas day itself is sacred to presenting gifts within the family circle.

Some families put all the gifts in the library or living room, in separate piles, and then, after a deliberate breakfast, they all walk in and open the packages in the presence of each other.

Never give a gift in person if you can contrive to send it or put it where it will be found awaiting the recipient when he or she is alone, for when received in this way the gift makes its strongest appeal to one's affection.

In giving money, even to near relatives, the utmost care should be taken to give it in the most delicate way possible; especially if you know the money is needed.

One of the cleverest ways is to take a tiny Japanese umbrella, place the money in a paper bag and, after rolling and tying the bag around the upper part of the handle underneath, close the umbrella over it and tie with narrow ribbon.

Another good way is to present an attractive little booklet with a check or a greenback for a bookmark, writing on the flyleaf, "note page 14." Turning to see what is noted, the fresh new paper money is seen and the recipient appreciates the manner of its presentation no less than the material benefit.

## WHY YOU HANG STOCKINGS

Popular Christmas Custom Said to Have Come Down to Us From Old Italian Practice.

There is a story from Italy which some suppose to be the beginning of the present idea of the Christmas stocking. Years ago good old St. Nicholas of Padua used to throw knitted purses with money in them in at the windows of the poor. These knitted purses were not unlike a stocking without a foot, and later it became the custom of the people to hang this knitted sack just inside the window that St. Nicholas might put something in as he passed. When these purses went out of use the stockings were substituted. In the northern part of Italy it was a little too chilly to leave the windows open and the stockings were hung by the mantel place so that they might be filled from the chimney.

Play Santa, if you will, but don't get your whiskers burnt.

## Julklapp Delivery.

This is an expression used in Denmark and Sweden and denotes their way of sending gifts. Before Christmas all the gifts are wrapped so as to disguise the contents. Each package is labeled for whom it is intended and then at odd moments during the day these are thrown in at the doors or the windows.

# KEYSTONE STATE IN SHORT ORDER

### Latest News Happenings Gathered From Here and There.

## TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

Green Hat Clew In Crime—Survey Driving Park For Dye Plant Site. Iron Ore Vein Uncovered—Machine Shop Kept Busy.

The Tipton furnace of the Empire Steel and Iron Company, idle 2 years, was blown in. The match was applied by Oliver Heffner, the oldest employe of the plant. The operation of the stack will be in charge of Howard Keifer, the new superintendent, formerly foundry boss at the Crane Iron Works. About 100 men will be employed. The stack produces 1,200 tons of pig iron a week.

The former driving park at Weigh Scales was surveyed by representatives of J. P. and C. K. Eagle, silk manufacturers, who will construct a large dye plant there and remove their Shamokin dye works to that place. The Eagle Brothers recently added several new members to the firm and increased the capitalization from \$2,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

Dan O'Brien, twenty-eight years old, of Scranton, tried suicide for the tenth time. He was hanging from a cell bar at police headquarters when cut down. "Drat the luck, will you ever let a fellow alone?" said Dan when cut down. Magistrate Williams told him he would have to stop hanging himself or something serious might happen to him some day.

Mrs. Henry Vosburg, thirty-eight years old, found at her home in Scranton with a bullet wound in her head, fought fiercely an hour to prevent doctors at the State Hospital from attending to the injury. She told them that she had shot herself and that she didn't desire to go to all the trouble that she did and then be compelled to live.

That men were employed at a public auction to bid up against him the price of a property until it was raised to \$8,979 is the defense of Jacob Stein, filed with the Court at Reading, in the suit brought against him by the estate of the late Daniel I. Saul for recovery of the amount in question, alleged to be due on the purchase of a farm in Perry Township.

While assisting his uncle, William Menier, of Aristes, in killing hogs suffering with cholera, the animals having been condemned by State agents, Clarence Fetterman missed his aim when a hog ran at him and the load ploughed into his uncle's abdomen. Menier is in a serious condition.

Sixty-three more men are employed in the Pennsylvania Railroad machine shops at Altoona this month than one year ago. The total is 4,954. They are repairing locomotives for the immense volume of traffic being handled by the Pennsylvania and they are kept busy day and night.

Formal proclamation of the results of the November election for three Superior Court Judges and on the election on the four proposed Constitutional amendments has been made by Secretary of the Commonwealth Cyrus E. Woods on behalf of the Governor. It was later than usual this year.

The loss may reach \$100,000 in the derailment of twelve cars in an extra eastbound freight on the Lehigh Valley Railroad at Clementon. The wheel of a Frisco line car broke, and as it left the tracks, eleven other cars followed. They were loaded with wheat, oats and flour for the allies.

A rich vein of iron ore was uncovered on the farm of William Bertsch, near Selsholtville, by Milton, W. P. and Robert Gery. The vein is twenty feet wide at the top. Samples run, high in percentage, and mining operations probably will begin at once.

A green hat may send "Country" Smith, colored, of Harrisburg, to the electric chair. The police alleged that the hat worn by "Country" when arrested was stolen from the home of Mrs. Ella Albright, murdered last summer. Smith is accused of the crime.

From the triennial assessment of Bucks county, it is shown that there are 928 less horses and 1,565 less cows than in 1912, and the value of the increase in real estate taxable is \$1,260,201.

The State Commission of Agriculture considered plans to work in conjunction with State College in the farm bureau and farm advisory work, so that the State will get the benefit of double service and they probably will be put into effect early next summer.

Although she was able to walk into the Coaldale Hospital unaided, it was found that Mrs. Cassie Gallowsky was suffering from a fractured skull and her condition is critical. How she was injured is not known.

# NOTE TO AUSTRIA SHARP IN TERMS

### The Destruction of the Ancona Called Barbarous.

## NOT DISPOSED TO PARLEY

U. S. Asks Prompt Action On Demands—Wants Disavowal, Reparation and Punishment Of Submarine's Captain.

Washington.—The text of the American note to Austria-Hungary regarding the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona, reveals a formal demand by the United States for prompt denunciation of the "illegal and indefensible" act; for punishment of the submarine commander and for reparation by the payment of indemnity for the killing and injuring of innocent American citizens.

These demands follow a statement informing Austria-Hungary that "the good relations of the two countries must rest upon a common regard for law and humanity." The note arraigns the shelling and torpedoing of the liner as "inhuman," "barbarous," and a "wanton slaughter" of "helpless men, women and children."

## Not Disposed To Parley.

In official and diplomatic circles the communication is regarded as being the most emphatic declaration to come from the United States Government since the beginning of the European war.

No attempt is made to conceal the fact that unless the demands are quickly complied with diplomatic relations between the two countries will be in grave danger of being severed.

If Austria fails to make a satisfactory response to this note, it is now regarded as certain that diplomatic relations, already strained, will be immediately broken. Ambassador Penfield will be recalled and the Austrian charge in Washington will be offered safe conduct out of the United States.

## "AMERICAN ECCENTRICITY."

Ford Peace Mission Thus Regarded In Germany.

Berlin.—The German press in general treats the Ford peace mission only as a manifestation of American eccentricity. According to opinion here, the mission will have but slight chance of exerting its efforts in Germany or other belligerent countries, in view of the fact that the passports of its members are good only for neutral countries, making it impossible for the mission to operate at much shorter range than if it had remained in New York.

## MAY SEND NITRATE SHIP.

U. S. Officials Discuss Action To Relieve the Farmers.

Washington.—Secretary Houston and bureau heads of the Department of Agriculture conferred on the advisability of having the Government charter a ship and send it to Chile for nitrate to be sold to American farmers, at present unable to obtain nitrate for fertilizer. The need of nitrate, the department finds, is a pressing one that apparently cannot be met because of the lack of bottoms to bring the fertilizer to this country.

## GOV. STANLEY INAUGURATED.

Succeeds McCreary As Chief Executive Of Kentucky.

Frankfort, Ky.—Gov. James B. McCreary of Kentucky retired from office Tuesday after four years and Augustus Owsley Stanley, for six consecutive terms Democratic Representative in Congress from the Second Kentucky district, was inaugurated as his successor, the ceremony taking place at noon.

## MRS. MARSHALL RECOVERS.

Vice-President's Wife Now Able To Travel.

Indianapolis.—Vice-President and Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall left here for Washington. Mrs. Marshall, who was operated on at a local hospital three weeks ago, has so far recovered that her physician said she could make the trip. She will be accompanied by a nurse.

## GERMANS PAYING WAR LOAN.

87 Per Cent. Of Third Call Now Reported In.

Berlin.—Cash payments on the third German war loan now amount to 10,581,400,000 marks (\$2,645,250,000) or 87 per cent. of the total subscription. Installments paid with money borrowed from loan banks have decreased 51,600,000 marks to 579,100,000 marks.

## FOR MONUMENT TO MRS. WILSON

Rome, Ga., Hears That New York Architect Will Design It.

Rome, Ga.—Herbert Adams, New York architect, has been commissioned by President Wilson to design a monument for the grave of Mrs. Wilson, who was buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery here in June, 1914.