

Christmas Fete Changing Fast

By DAVE RUNKEL

Fast-changing traditions may seem incongruous, but in modern celebrations of Christmas the traditions are changing—and changing fast.

A long list of changing traditions has been drawn up by researchers. A few of these examples are presented below:

Trees are traditional in the celebration of Christmas. But today, aluminum and other flashy materials are replacing the older green fir trees.

As long as there have been trees, there has been lighting to add sparkle to them. But this lighting has undergone at least three changes in the past century. At first, candles were attached to the limbs of trees, but these were later replaced, with the assistance of Thomas A. Edison. Edison's invention, electric lights, were attached to the limbs of the pine tree.

But now, these lights do not seem to fit in very well with the new aluminum trees. Since

the ugly cords are not hidden by the needles, colored spot-lights have been used to beam on the branches.

Colorful balls and aluminum tinsel have replaced the older popcorn strings and paper rings on trees, much to the chagrin of little children used to eating the Christmas decorations when mommy and daddy were not looking.

The prancing of tiny reindeer hoofs on the roof has been replaced by the churning of the helicopter propeller as Santa Claus relinquished his traditional method of travel from the North

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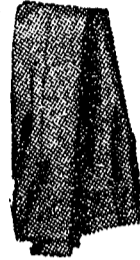
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