

Shop

Mt. Joy

for an

"Old Fashioned Christmas"

Free Parking!!



Visit the Mount Joy Jaycees Santa's Hut & have your child photographed with Santa (Located in front of Hostetters Hardware)

Dec. 16—6:30 to 9:00
 Dec. 17—10:00 to noon,
 1:00 to 3:00
 Dec. 21—6:30 to 9:00
 Dec. 22—6:30 to 9:00
 Dec. 23—10:00 to noon

Register for a FREE TURKEY at the following Mount Joy Merchants

Brandt's Mower Shop
 Bridal Bouquet
 Elcherly's Mens Shop
 Dauphin Deposit
 First Federal Savings & Loan
 Gehman's Furniture
 Greer's Jewelry
 Hess-Ulrich
 Highlander Cleaners
 Jack Horner Shoes
 J.B. Hostetter & Sons
 Hostetter Hardware
 Hy-Lo Discount Center
 Koser's Jewelry
 Lincoln Restaurant
 McCossey's Sporting Center

Martin's 5&10
 Merchandiser
 Mumman's Firestone
 G.C. Murphy Co.
 Myer's Gift
 Orange Owl
 Lester E. Roberts & Son
 Rutt's Appliances
 Sloan's Pharmacy
 Kenny Smith Sport Shop
 Ship Shape Collectables
 Stonebridge Farm
 Tastee Freeze
 Union National Bank
 Western Auto
 Yngst Auto Sales

MERRY CHRISTMAS
 FROM ALL OF US!



The history of stealing kisses

To most people, mistletoe means an excuse to steal a kiss at Christmas time. But that's just one of many traditions that have been associated with this curious, parasitic plant, according to the current issue of *National Wildlife* magazine.

"For centuries, people all over the world have considered mistletoe to be a charm against disease, witchcraft, and infertility," says the magazine. Mistletoe superstitions probably came about because of the unusual and rather eerie way in which the plant grows.

Mistletoe flourishes in clumps on the trunks and branches of various hardwood trees, where it robs its host tree of water and nutrients. Often the host tree is so weakened that it dies. But since mistletoe can produce its own food when it needs to, the parasite remains green and moist.

Ancient peoples, unable to explain how the plant grows, imbued it with supernatural powers. Peasants in both England and Japan believed that barren women would be able to conceive after eating mistletoe. The Walos of Africa attached mistletoe leaves to their bodies to ward off injury. Swedes carved sword handles from mistletoe branches to keep witches away, and other Europeans wore mistletoe corsages for luck in hunting.

Mistletoe isn't a very tasty plant. Although there are more than a thousand

varieties of it, only one animal—the Australian mistletoe bird—eats only mistletoe. Despite its bland taste, it has often been fed to sick people by doctors who thought it had curative powers.

French doctors used it as a poison antidote, and a British doctor advised it for itch, sores, toothache, the biting of mad dogs, and snake bites.

Even as late as the mid 1700's many physicians thought mistletoe could cure epilepsy. They believed that, since the plant attaches itself so strongly to its host tree, a person who ate it would not be so likely to fall down.

The plant was long for-

bidden in Christian churches because of its association with magic and the rituals of the heathen Druids, who hung it all over their houses as a refuge for wood sprites in winter. This old custom is probably the origin of our own use of mistletoe at Christmas time.

The white-robed Druid priests would gather mistletoe with a golden sickle on the sixth day of a new moon. Ordinary people weren't allowed to collect it, because the plant was sacred.

A kiss under the misletoe is a tradition that dates back to Norse mythology. Norsemen dedicated mistletoe to the goddess of love.



In an earlier time, stealing a Christmas kiss under the mistletoe was quite a daring thing to do. Today, it's not so risqué, but the tradition is still going strong.

Farmers beat government

[Reprinted from Conservation News -Ed.]

Farmers in Minot, ND, are trying to beat the federal dam builders at their own game. Construction of a \$100 million dam is being considered to protect farmers and the town of Minot from frequent flooding by the nearby Souris River.

Some 50 farmers, unhappy about the plan that would flood their land permanently, are going to make it difficult for the government to buy the land needed for the dam. According to *Rural America* News Service, the farmers have subdivided one acre of the land into 4,840 parcels, one square yard each. The postage-stamp plots sell for \$20.

At least a thousand plots have been sold, and the farmers hope the government will hog-tie itself in its own red tape trying to buy up each parcel.



Like this mistletoe harvester of a century ago, collectors today must venture into the woods and gather the leafy shrub by hand. The parasite is not commercially cultivated.

WONDER-FULL
TOYS

Plush Toys

Inexpensive
 Toys

Games of all kinds

Tree light sets



Twinkle light sets

All sizes in light bulbs

All kinds of tree ornaments



Gift wrap Ribbons Tags and seals

Biggest line of stocking stuffers in town

MARTIN'S 5 & 10

Mount Joy

Marietta