



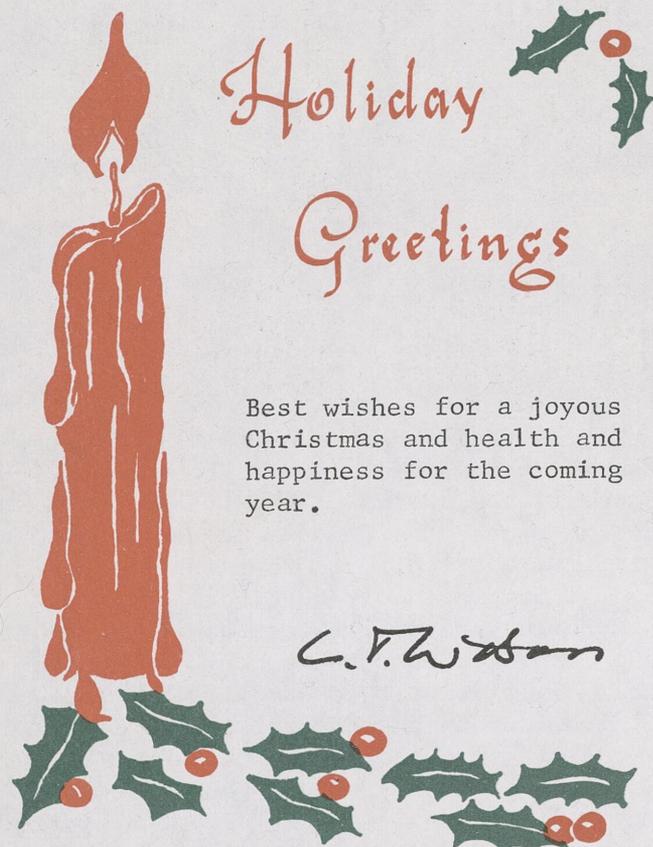
SHELLEGRAPH

HOUSTON
REFINERY



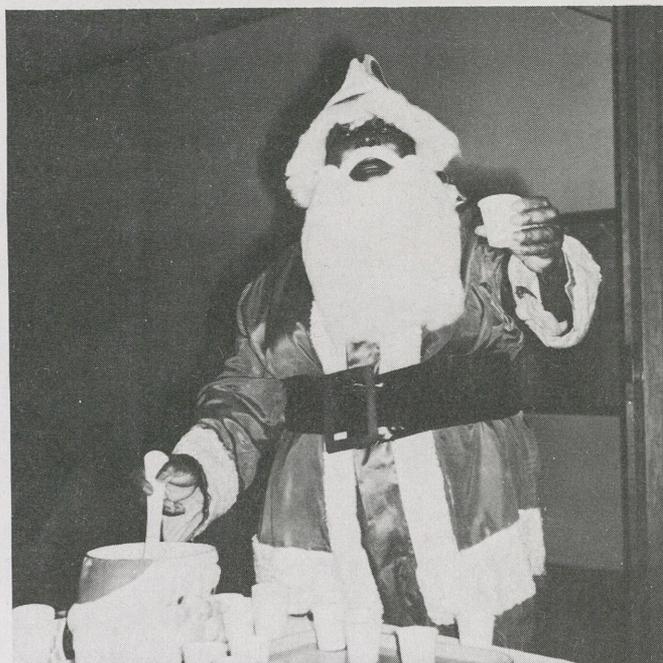
No. 164

Friday, December 24, 1965



Best wishes for a joyous
Christmas and health and
happiness for the coming
year.

C. F. Watson



HO HO HO...a cup of cheer from old Santa herself. It's Roberta Sanchez, Head Cook for Progressive Cafeterias, Inc. She's all suited out in keeping with the season for the special Christmas dinner served a week early so everyone would be on hand to enjoy it. All smiles, Roberta's cheerful greeting was the something extra that made the meal the talk of the Refinery.

This is a Special Mailing of your SHELLEGRAPH, next Friday's issue will be on the stands as usual.

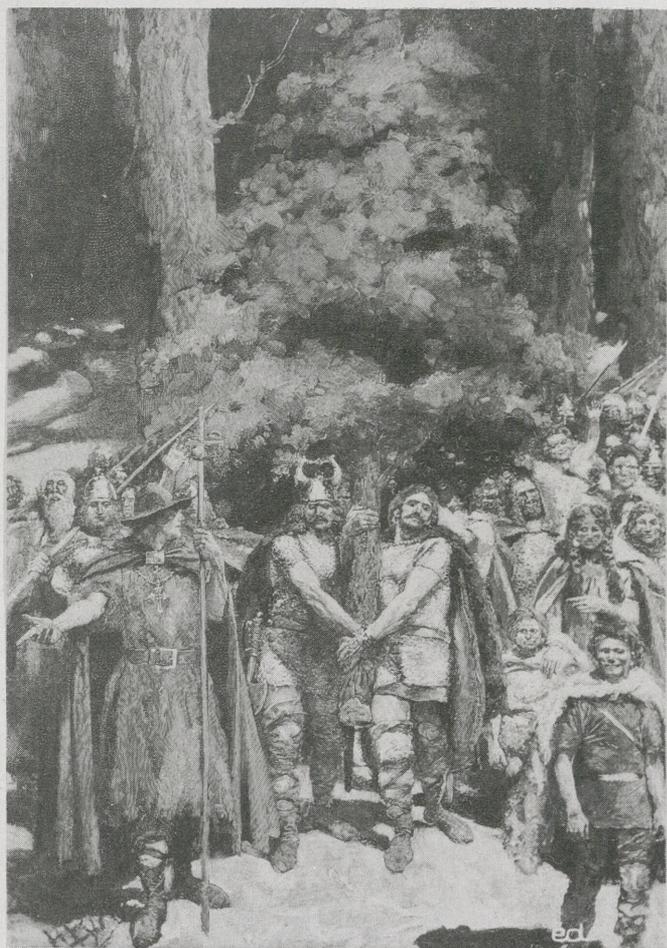
'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!

--No one but old Scrooge denies that Christmastide is the season to be our jolliest! To help us in our merry-making we traditionally call on age-old Christmas symbols -- the Christmas tree, yule log, mistletoe and holly, Christmas cards, presents under the tree, lights and tinsel, the wassail bowl, and, of course, the stockings hung by the chimney with care. In this special issue your SHELLEGRAPH has gathered Christmas stories from centuries of folklore and legend around the world along with reproductions of old prints and drawings. This has been done in the hope that it will serve as a reminder to each in his own way of the deeper meaning of Christmas.

REFINERY PEOPLE IN ACTION



BREAKING FLANGES...it's all part of a nutbuster's job. Pipefitter J. F. Hays (left) and H. L. Aston get ready to tackle a flange during the LVI turnaround.



BRINGING HOME THE CHRISTMAS TREE ... this may be what it looked like when the first Christmas tree was brought into the home centuries ago.

CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITION PROBABLY ORIGINATED WITH NORTHERN EUROPEANS LONG BEFORE 16TH CENTURY

The idea of using evergreens and cones to celebrate festive occasions pre-dates Christianity, but it was not until the Middle Ages in Germany that trees crudely decorated with apples and cookies began to appear in miracle plays staged at Christmas time.

No wonder that in America the first Christmas trees were those put up by homesick Hessian soldiers fighting here in the Revolution wanting to celebrate the holiday as they had in Germany.

Many believe that it was Martin Luther who first put candles on the Christmas tree. Supposedly, he was awed by the sight of the snow-tipped evergreens sparkling in the moonlight and tried to recreate this effect for his family by placing candles on their Christmas tree as shown below in an old print.



HOLLY

Always a popular Christmas decoration, was also thought to be endowed with unusual powers. In legend, Christ's crown of thorns was made of holly leaves. From this emerged the custom of Christmas wreaths of holly.

MISTLETOE THROUGH THE AGES HAS BEEN THOUGHT TO HAVE SUPERNATURAL POWERS

Mistletoe is another symbol of Christmas from the annals of legend. The ancient Druids cut mistletoe sprigs with a golden knife and hung them over their doors to pacify woodland spirits. They believed that while the mistletoe was in place only happiness could enter.

Mythology reveals that Scandinavians, too, hung mistletoe over their doorways on the first day of winter to ward off the evil spirits. To the Romans, mistletoe was a symbol of peace and when enemies met under the "supernatural" sprigs, they discarded arms and declared a truce. Eventually these superstitions were transformed to allow a lady, when caught under a sprig of mistletoe by a gentleman, to be kissed. The gentleman shown below, however, seems to have taken matters into his own hands.





INSURANCE POLICY...and it's free. Holding a copy of Refinery Safety Manual is Fire and Safety Inspector Cliff White as he makes a point for security.

Note: This safety reminder is the fifth of a series of special contributions to your SHELLEGRAPH written by Fire and Safety Inspectors in the interest of making your Christmas and New Year a Happy one.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOU?

By

I. C. White, Fire and Safety Inspector

As we stand upon the threshold of entry into the New Year, we look ahead toward possible developments that will affect our safety and security. Although our lost time accident experience has improved decidedly, we must strive for a program that will give us the security we all desire.

The kind of security that we in the Fire and Safety Department are talking about is security from physical harm to you and your family. Accidents are a threat to that security.

Is there a way of insuring against this possibility? Yes, the best insurance is following the common sense rules of safety that you already know. The surest way of wrecking the security is to break the rules.

Most of us have made sacrifices to gain the material possessions that will give us security now and in old age. Our savings could be enjoyed now but we sacrifice for security's sake. Sacrifice in safety is a little effort and a little care. Let's make this sacrifice and stay free of injuries - or better yet, continue to live.



THE MAN WHO CREATED SANTA CLAUS

Just about 100 years ago, during the tragic era of the American Civil War, a talented young artist barely out of his teens was building a reputation that would quickly establish him as one of the greatest political cartoonists in history.

His name was Thomas Nast and many of the figures that spilled from his imaginative mind on to the pages of Harper's Illustrated Weekly would ultimately become classic symbols that have survived to the present day. Among them are the Republican elephant, the Democratic donkey, the full dinner pail, and the square paper hat of American labor.

One of the most beloved of all our modern Christmas figures also is a Thomas Nast creation. Curiously, although it was his personal favorite, it is among his least known--not a general nor a politician--but that fat, jolly old elf in the fur-trimmed red suit, Santa Claus himself.

Nast pictured him (above) in several Harper's illustrations at Christmas time, 1863, as he had long imagined the Pelze-Nichol (St. Nicholas) of his childhood in the tiny hamlet of Landau, Bavaria, and the world has since accepted his Santa as the universal portrayal of its favorite saint.

WELCOME TO SHELL!



Betty Jo
Schuetz

Receptionist

Treasury Dept.



A JOYOUS OCCASION...bringing in the Yule Log on Christmas Eve was the most jovial celebration of the Christmas season in feudal times. There was merry and boisterous singing by all as the huge log was dragged into place in the hearth. Although modern city life precludes the same practice of this custom, it is still a favorite Christmas tradition in many rural areas around the world. According to custom, the Yule Log was lighted with a brand of the previous year's log.



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS...a practical beginning which led quickly to wishful thinking. Legend has it that the first Christmas stocking was really hung by the chimney simply to dry -- and St. Nick, making his round of chimneys on Christmas Eve, dropped a bag of gold into the stocking by accident. Another tale holds that the children of Amsterdam set their wooden shoes in the chimney corners because they believed St. Nicholas would drop goodies down the chimney only if he saw shoes there. Later, the children hung up stockings by the chimney reasoning that shoes couldn't stretch and that stockings could hold more gifts.



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...a carry-over from the pagan custom of exchanging gifts at the New Year according to many authorities. Later, when the Christmas tree came along, it was only natural to put the presents under the tree as shown in the 1875 engraving above.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1960 Belvedere Plymouth. Radio, heater, new tires. Excellent condition. Asking \$600 Telephone - GR-2-8182

FOR RENT: Unfurnished house: 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and 1-car garage. Air, central heat, attic exhaust fan, carpets, and electric range. Located at 8635 Anacortes and Monroe Streets, Houston. (Exit 13 from Gulf Freeway). Pasadena School District. \$115/month, no utilities. Telephone - GR-3-7302 after 5 P.M.