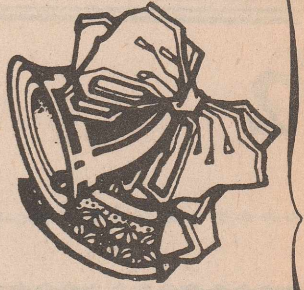


# Merry Christmas Special Issue



# The Western Texan

December 5, 1985 Western Texas College Snyder, Texas Volume 15, Special Issue



**CHRISTMAS IN TAIWAN**—This is one of the Christmas paintings in the "Christmas around the World" exhibit at the Scurry County Museum that opens Dec. 8. The exhibit centers on how children worldwide perceive Christmas.  
—Photo courtesy of the Scurry County Museum

On Dec. 8...

## Museum highlights international theme

By Tom Long

With Christmas time upon us there are many events on campus for those with the Christmas spirit. One such event is the annual Christmas Happening sponsored by the Scurry County Museum Dec. 8.

This year's theme is "International Christmas". The museum's lobby will be adorned with a Christmas tree with decorations from all over the world.

There will also be drawings and paintings depicting Christmas as seen through the eyes of children from various countries around the world. This showing,

"Christmas Around the World", is borrowed from the Illinois State University Museum.

Santa Claus will also be on hand to visit with the children. Other activities include pinata breaking, folk dance performances, a puppet show and various demonstrations. Refreshments will be served.

The Museum's gift shop offers special gift ideas for all ages. The museum will be open until Dec. 21. There is no admission charge, but donations will be accepted.

The Diamond M Museum located downtown will also be hosting an open house and special Christmas exhibit.

### Christmas Happening Schedule December 8, 1985

**CHRISTMAS HAPPENING** December 8 1985 Theme: INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS  
**Exhibit:** Christmas Around The World Scurry County Museum 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
(drawings and paintings depicting Christmas, as seen through the eyes of children from various countries around the world)

#### CHRISTMAS TREE

Decorated with ornaments from different countries. Some of the ornaments have been loaned to the museum from people in the community, others are hand-made by the staff and volunteers of Scurry County Museum.

<b>SANTA</b>	Will arrive at 1:30.	All day!	<b>SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM</b>
<b>FOLK DANCE</b>	Students of Elaine Lambert	1:15-1:30	<b>SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM</b>
<b>MEXICAN FOLK DANCE</b>	Mr. Berrera and group	1:30 - 2:00	<b>SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM</b>
<b>CHORAL PRESENTATION</b>	Brent Hardegree	2:30 3:00	<b>FINE ARTS</b>
<b>PINATA BREAKING</b>		Various times during the day	<i>On the campus grounds</i>
<b>DEMONSTRATIONS</b>		All day	<b>SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM</b>
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	Cookies, Punch, popcorn	All day	<b>STUDENT CENTER</b>
<b>PUPPET SHOW</b>	Mrs. Dryden	3:15 & 3:45	<b>STUDENT CENTER</b>
<b>EXHIBIT &amp; HANDBELL CHOIR</b>		1:00 - 5:00	<b>DIAMOND M MUSEUM</b>

## Orchestra to perform classics

By Pam Melton

The Cultural Affairs Committee of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "Prelude to Christmas", a collection of Christmas classics by the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra Monday, Dec. 16.

The performance begins at 8 p.m. at the Jerry P. Worsham Auditorium in Snyder High School.

John Gibson, WTC art instructor, is chairman of the committee and he predicts that the evening will be very exciting. "The symphony will be performing renditions of Christmas classics," Gibson said.

"A Christmas presentation is an excellent way to introduce orchestra to a small community," he added. "It is outstanding entertainment for the whole family and I encourage everyone to attend."

A highlight of the evening performance will be a hometown chorus of 100-120 voices performing portions of Handel's "Messiah" accompanied by the orchestra.

The community choir consists of present and past WTC students and other people in the community. Snyder High School choir director Bill Lyon serves as rehearsal director. Lyon will also be one of the main singers. Joining Lyon as main enter-

tainers will be Kathleen (Mott) Kaun from Northwestern University; Charles Nelson, International base soloist from Abilene Christian University; Dr. Robert Clinton, past WTC president and WTC music instructor Jane Womack.

The Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1976 as the Texas Little Symphony, is a 34 piece ensemble designed after the

at the Kimball Art Museum in Fort Worth. Future plans include a trip to Mexico and a tour of Europe.

In addition to its performances with major symphonies and concertos, the orchestra regularly joins forces with choral groups around Texas for special concerts such as this one.

The orchestra will also perform at two concerts for elementary children Dec. 16 at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tickets for the Monday evening performance are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are on sale at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce and will be available at the door.

Patrons may make a donation which will lower admission ticket prices, and assist in offsetting the expense of the free elementary school concerts. In appreciation of \$25 or more, special reserved seating will be given.

A donation of \$100 entitles the donor to four complimentary reserved seats and reserved parking adjacent to the auditorium. Limited reserved seating and parking are available until Dec. 6. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more details.

The project is partially supported by a grant from the Texas Commission of the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts.

Just a reminder....

# 4

More days left  
in the semester

Hang in there...good luck on your exams!



## Choir sings holiday favorites

By Kathy Hendrix

The WTC choir will be a part of the Christmas Happening Sunday at the Scurry County Museum.

The choir will sing for the first time in the museum. In previous years it has sung either in the Fine Arts Theater or in the student center, according to Brent Hardegree, WTC music instructor and band director.

"This presentation will be informal," Hardegree said. "It will

be different, because usually our concerts are formal."

The concert features traditional and non-traditional music.

"It will be a neat combination of students and staff members," Hardegree said. "We have been practicing for over a month."

The presentation will only be performed once and that will be from 2:30 to 3:00 Sunday.

"When we started looking for our music we read quite a few pieces and we picked from the

best ones," Hardegree said. "We used the process elimination."

Choir members are Ron Colston, Annapolis, MD; Barbara Daniel, Rotan; Andrea Owens, Sweetwater; Carmen Thielen, Part Lavaca and Tam Turkett, Abilene.

Zelma Irons, Virgil Feinsod, Gail Cushing, Sue Sewell, Rebekah Thornton, Gina Vaughn, Todd Turner, Cherri Stewart and Joann Snider are local singers.



**Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra**  
John Giordano, Music Director and Conductor

## Merry Christmas Special Issue

On the night before Christmas....

### WTC students await visit from Santa

By Eddy Lopez

We call him St. Nicholas but just who is this man known for his round belly, white beard and jolly ho-ho-ho?

One legend has it that he was a 4th century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. St. Nicholas is surrounded by many legends.

He is credited with restoring life to three boys who were chopped up and pickled in salt water by a crazy butcher.

Another famous story claims that St. Nicholas gave three bags of gold to the daughters of a poor man, thus saving them from lives of prostitution. Later tradition changed the bags into three gold balls which became the symbols of pawn brokers.

In the Netherlands and some other countries St. Nicholas' Day is celebrated on Dec. 6 as a children's holiday. Colonists in New York adapted this from the Dutch thus bringing St. Nicholas to America. His name changed in the move across the waters to what we say today--Santa Claus.

This reporter had a very special interview with Santa Claus recently. The highlight of our conversation was what Western Texas College students and staff

had requested from Santa this year.

"Students want everything from girlfriends and boyfriends to cases of beer," Santa said. "One dorm student ask for a maid to clean his dorm room."

When ask what most college professors wanted, Santa replied, "They all asked for a good student and bigger paycheck."

Santa said he had one staff member who wanted longer lunch-hours and breaks.

All Santa's reindeer are getting rested up for the long Christmas Eve journey. He will have to take extra precautions with Rudolph this year since Rudolph turned out to be a "she" instead of a "he". Santa figured this out when Rudolph began to crave pickles and crocheting.

Santa has had a bit of a problem with his elves getting their work done this year. "They are drinking the beer that the college students have asked for," Santa said.

Santa said he liked his job but he had a few complaints. "The worst thing is those darn bugs that get in my beard," he said. "It takes me and Mrs. Claus days to get those pests out."



### Tradition of tree trimming originated with superstitions

By Melissa Garcia

It is almost time for the family to gather together and sing yule tunes and decorate the traditional tree.

In past centuries it has been Christmas tradition to decorate a tree.

The Christmas tree originated in the western part of Germany. They set up a "paradise tree" in their homes on December 24. This was the religious feast day of Adam and Eve.

In the early 19th century the Christmas tree was introduced to England.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica the use of trees,

wreaths, and garlands as a symbol of eternal life was an ancient custom of the Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews.

Tree worship, common among the pagan Europeans survived after their conversion to Christianity in the Scandinavian countries.

Customs of decorating the house and barn with evergreens at the New Year to scare away the devil and setting up a tree for the birds at Christmas time were carried out.

By the 16th century, the Christmas pyramid and paradise tree had merged to become the Christian tree.

### Tree begins tradition

By Dave Stewart

Way back in 1974, Western Texas College bought the large Christmas tree that stands in the courtyard and a tradition was born.

However, there is a rather interesting story behind the Christmas tree that still stands today in the courtyard. It almost did not make it.

Mickie Baird, director of student activities, explained "This was 1974 during the time of the energy crisis and we had somewhat of a controversy."

The controversy involved student petitions that said it was wrong to spend all that money for the tree and lights when the country was conserving energy. In 1974, saving energy was a major thought on just about everyone's mind.

WTC, trying to establish a tradition, purchased a very large Christmas tree for the courtyard and also purchased lights to go all over the campus. At any time other than 1974, a new Christmas tree and lights all over the campus would fill any college with the Christmas spirit. But, during

the energy crisis, this move created lots of opposition.

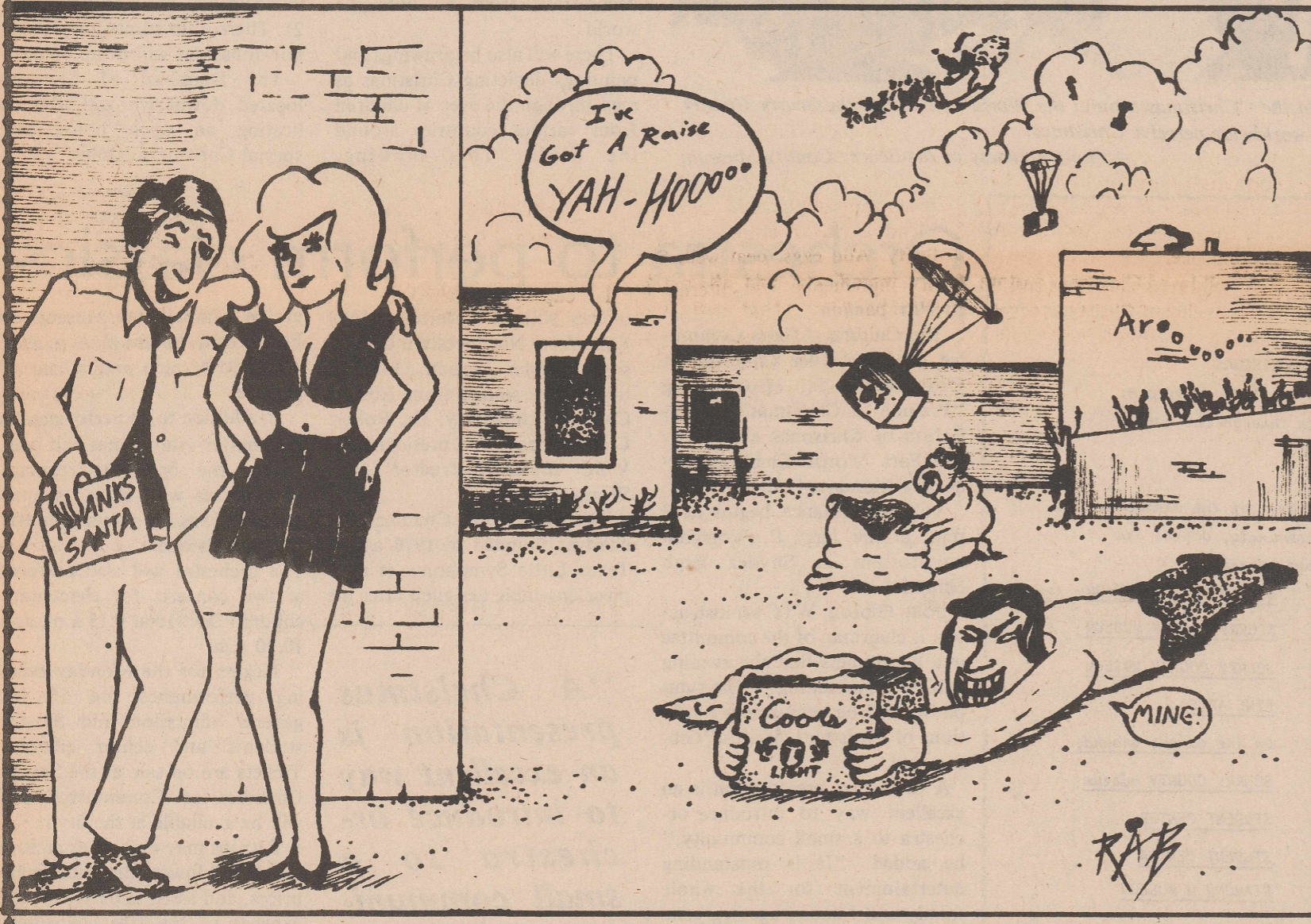
Once the tree and lights were up, many students started to feel differently. The lights and tree really improved the looks of the campus and Christmas spirit began to flow throughout the student body.

A new tradition began when choirs from the area, including elementary, junior high and high schools, participated in a night of carols. The students feelings changed from controversy to admiration.

The programs brought about 2,000 people together at the campus for Christmas carols, hot chocolate and an all-around fun time. The stage, tree, lights and the choir was truly an awesome sight according to Baird.

The choir program has been abandoned due to scheduling difficulties. It was another victim of the fast paced world that we live in today.

The tree still stands as a reminder of the Christmas tradition at WTC. On its future, Baird commented, "Over the years it has aged and may be a little dirty, but it is a tradition at WTC."



### Gift selection requires thought

By Kathy Hendrix

It is that time again and everyone is rushing around at the last minute trying to buy all the Christmas presents they can. But, what's this--stumped again?

Well, everyone can relate to being stumped on what to buy, because there is always that one (or two or three) person(s) that have everything. Here are a few gift ideas that might help in your Christmas shopping.

For women the list is endless. They can use just about anything from clothes to any kind of

knick-knack. But for men things are different

Ties, cups and pipes are definitely out! If I went and looked in any house I would probably find at least 100 of each of these presents just collecting dust on some shelf or in a closet.

Buy the men in your life something they can use--sweaters, socks and gift certificates make great presents.

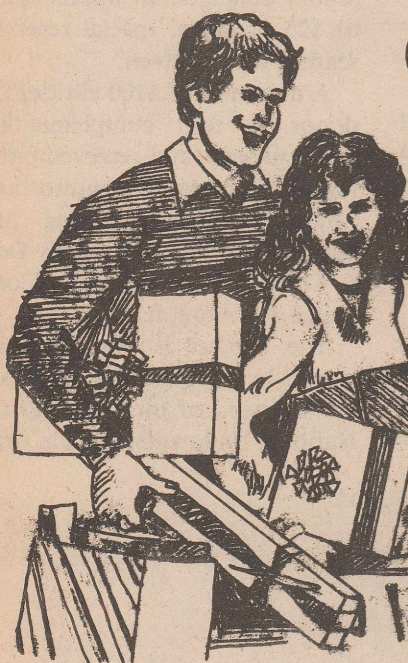
College students are just about the easiest people to buy for because they need just about

everything! They need everything from blankets to tapes.

But the most popular would be money. With money they can buy things they really need and want, like another class or book.

Usually all these people that don't know what to buy for others really do know they just don't take the time to sit down and think.

If you do receive a tie or mug, just clip out this article and mail it to the giver and maybe next year you will be more fortunate.



#### The Western Texan

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OF WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

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#### The Western Texan

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WTC Courtyard Christmas Tree



On Christmas...

## True meaning held in Christianity

By Ed Coppage

Christmas is a Christian festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas derives from the old English word *Christes Maesse*, or Christ's Mass.

Now we really don't consider Christmas as the birth of Jesus Christ like our ancestors did, but we think of Christmas as a time to receive gifts.

"For most of the world Christmas isn't the day Christ was born," Shirley Mitchell, freshman from Aspermont, said. "It's getting what they have wished for all year long."

We also think of Christmas as a time for the family to stay home together and partake of a special

Christmas meal.

No one really knows why December 25 was established as Christmas, but it was held to correspond to pagan festivals that took place around the time of the winter solstice, when the days got longer to celebrate the "rebirth" of the sun.

The Puritans didn't celebrate Christmas because they didn't believe like the Christians did.

The English adapted many older folk festivals to their Christmas. During the Middle Ages, English Christmas was a time of great laughter and good cheer. The people held huge banquets and pageants to celebrate occasion.

The English also adapted the burning of the yule log from an-

cient Scandinavian practice of kindling huge bonfires in honor of the winter solstice.

We got the idea of using evergreens in Christmas decorating from pre-Christian northern European beliefs. The use of plastic or artificial trees is now practiced in America for convenience.

A well-loved Christmas custom is the singing of Christmas carols. Today, we don't hear much caroling.

Mitchell feels that the true meaning of Christmas is lost. "Old Santa is a good ole boy but he's getting all the attention," she said. "If everyone would remember the true meaning of Christmas the world would be a happier place to live."



**SANTA'S HELPERS**—Some of the students on West 2nd who helped decorate the floor Christmas tree include (left) Roxie Holloway, Step Reed, Ken Livingston, Mark Caro, Dana Maldonado, Melissa Morgan, Kathy Hendrix, Kelly Moesley and Sheila Benson.

—Photo by Jerry Snelling

## Holiday celebrated many different ways

By Tom Long

Many of us have celebrated Christmas ever since we can remember. But, we sometimes forget that Christmas is celebrated all over the world in many different ways not just in America.

Just across the border in Mexico, Christmas is a very special time for the children. They gather around a decorated figure that hangs above their heads. The figure is called a pinata and is filled with candy and gifts.

One at a time the children are blind-folded and given the chance to strike at the pinata. All the other children wait until someone breaks the pinata and all the goodies fall out for everyone to enjoy and share.

Over in some parts of Germany a girl called *Christkina* who wears a crown of candles and carries a basket of gifts travels around the

countryside. A "demon" by the name of Hans Trapp accompanies *Christkina* to threaten the children to be good.

Still in other parts of Germany children may receive a gift from a fierce-looking man with a blackened face called *Knight Rupperecht* who accompanies *Saint Nicholas*. Also in Germany they decorate their Christmas tree with cookies, apples and oranges.

At Christmas time in England they eat plumb pudding. Now, this is not your ordinary plumb pudding. England's version contains small surprises that also forecast the future of the partakers.

If you find a ring you will be the first one married. If a thimble is found you will be an old maid and if you find a button then you will be a bachelor. If by some chance you find a sixpence, then some day riches will be yours.

In France almost everyone stays up on Christmas Eve. Church bells ring at midnight and everyone goes to church. Then it is a mad rush for home for Christmas dinner.

After dinner the traditional Christmas log is eaten. No, this is not a log of wood for the fireplace, but a log a chocolate rolled up with whip cream in it. Sounds like the French have a good idea!

An old woman and man have taken the place of Santa Claus in Sweden. No one knows who this couple is.

As we finish our trip around the world, we have two more stops to make to complete this international Christmas story.

*Marietta Alexandropoulos*, a native of Greece and WTC student said that Christmas in Greece is very similar to America's. What is very impor-

## Holiday Recipes

### COP COOKIES

Submitted by Martha Gist

Melt 1 stick butter of margarine  
Add ½ cups peanut butter  
1 cup white sugar  
1 cup brown sugar  
3 eggs  
2 tsp. soda  
4 cups oats  
6 or 12 oz. pkg of semi-sweet chocolate chips

Bake at 350° for 10 minutes for small cookies, a little longer if you make big cookies

### EASY PINK SALAD

Submitted by Darla Doty

1 can Eagle Brand milk  
1 can cherry pie filling  
1 bowl of Cool Whip  
1 can crushed pineapple  
½ C. pecans

Drain pineapple and mix all ingredients together

### BANANA BREAD

Submitted by Darla Doty

½ cup shortening  
½ cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1¾ cup all-purpose flour  
2¾ tsp. double-acting baking powder  
½ tsp. salt  
1 cup mashed ripe bananas (2 to 3 bananas)

Beat shortening until creamy. Blend in sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, beat well. Sift dry ingredients; add alternately with bananas; blend well after each addition. Grease bottom of a loaf pan. Turn batter into pan. Bake in 350° oven for 60 min. Cool in pan for 10 min., turn onto rack. Makes 1 loaf.

Create a fruit cake by adding ½ cup each of chopped nuts and mixed candied fruit and peels.

### JELLO SALAD

Submitted by Barbara Preston

1 Box Black Cherry Jello  
1 Cup hot water  
¾ cup sugar  
1 small can crushed pineapple  
½ cup chopped pecans  
1 can 3 oz. carnation milk

Dissolve jello in hot water. Boil sugar and drained pineapple for 1 minute. Pour into jello. Put in refrigerator for 3-4 hours then add milk and pecans. Mix well and chill before serving.

### SPRITZ COOKIE WREATHS

Submitted by Belinda Clayton

1 cup butter  
½ cup sugar  
1 egg  
½ tsp. almond extract  
2½ cups all-purpose flour  
Red and green ribbon

Preheat oven to 350°. Cream butter; gradually add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and almond extract. Gradually blend flour. Fill cookie press using star attachment to form wreaths on unbuttered cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool competely. Store in airtight container at room temperature. Just before serving, tie a bow on each wreath using thin colored ribbon. Yield: approx. 7 dozen

### RECEIPE OF LOVE

Submitted by the WT staff

1 cup of good cheer  
1 cup of kindness  
1 cups peace and goodwill  
1 Tbsp. endurance  
2 Tbsp. smiles  
3 cups patience

Mix well for a life of happiness.

### PEANUT PATTIES

Submitted by Darla Doty

2 C. sugar  
½ C. white Karo  
½ C. water  
1½ C. raw peanuts  
1 tsp. vanilla  
3 tsp. butter  
red food coloring

Stir together the sugar, water and Karo. Cook on high speed in the microwave for 3 minutes. Take out and add peanuts and cook 8 minutes, stirring twice. Take out and add vanilla, butter, coloring and whip until thick, then drop on waxed paper.

### PISTACHIO SALAD

Submitted by Darla Doty

1 pkg. instant pistachio pudding  
1 large Cool Whip  
1 can crushed pineapple  
1 6 oz. miniature marshmallows

Mix ingredients together and chill. Chopped pecans may be added.

### HOLIDAY CHEESE BALL

Submitted by Lynda Cook

1 2 lb. box of Velveeta Cheese  
1 8 oz. package cream cheese  
¼ C. finely chopped onions  
¼ C. chopped pecans

Let velveeta and cream cheese set out for at least 1 hour to soften. Mix velveeta and cream cheese with your hands until well blended. Add onions and pecans and mix well. Form into a ball and sprinkle with chili powder. Serve with Ritz crackers.

## Poinsettia legend disclosed

Its flowers are blazing red and its foliage a deep, rich green. It's one of the most popular plants of the Christmas season.

The poinsettia has a very unique legend all its own. Legend says the poinsettia grew in the damp and deeply shaded forests of Mexico and Central America.

It bore a flower of the purest white which was the favorite of the god of love.

Each year, on what was known as the Great Day of Prayer, the people gathered the flower from the forests to present to the god. It was a centuries-old tradition.

But there was a year when invaders struck the land, burning

the earth before them. Many of the people died in the battles that followed, staining the ground with their blood but in a victorious effort to drive out the invaders.

And in the year that followed, the people restored green growth to the earth.

As the Great Day of Prayer neared, the people went into the forests to search for the plant with the white flowers, as a gift for their peaceful god.

But they found no white flowers. The plants now had a circle of crimson leaves in their stead. The people gathered them with sadness and foreboding, fearing the wrath of their god.

But instead of anger, the people were blessed by the god.

The god told them that the blood they had shed in defense of their homeland had been drawn up into the plant. It now was an eternal memorial to their bravery.

The plant is known by many different names—Mexican Flame Leaf and the Flower of Christmas Eve among them.

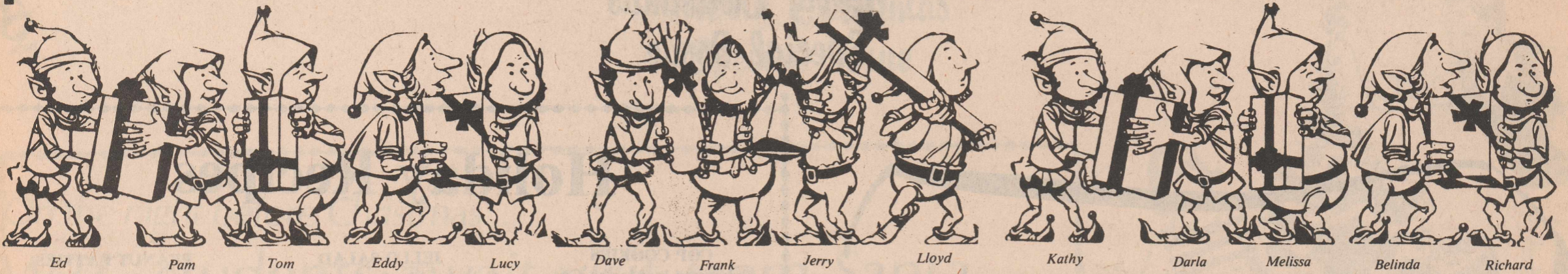
We know the plant by the name of the man who brought it to America after serving in Mexico as a minister in 1925.

His name was Joel Poinsett and the flower of the legend we call poinsettia.

—Extracted from the CO-OP Power Dec. '85 issue.

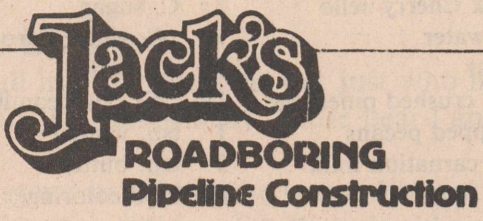


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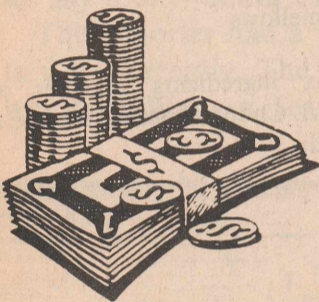


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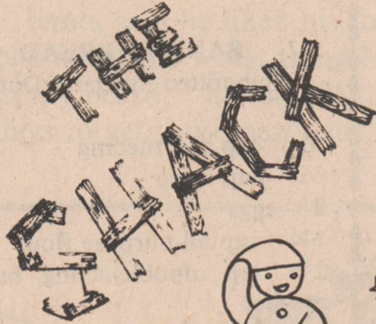
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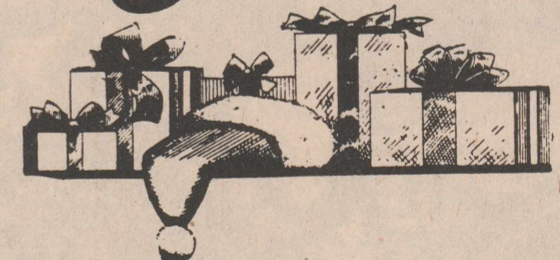
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