

CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO IS MADE FESTIVE WITH PINATA

In Mexico, the celebration of the holiday season begins in earnest nine days before Christmas. During this time the *posadas* are observed.

Celebrants form a procession behind figures representing Mary and Joseph, and go about from house to house, asking for *posada* or lodging. Inside the homes, other celebrants enact the role of the innkeepers who refused Mary and Joseph lodging in Bethlehem.

After being told that there is "no room at the inn", the celebrants are at last admitted to one of the homes, and the fiesta begins.

The highlight of this celebration is the smashing of the *pinata* by youngsters. A clay pot, filled with nuts and candies and other trinkets, and imaginatively decorated with paper-mache, is strung up on a rope; each youngster is

blindfolded in turn and allowed to take a swing at the *pinata* with a stick. Since the rope can be pulled each time a youngster swings at it, many blows are usually required, with much shouting on the part of onlookers, before the *pinata* is finally broken and goodies cascade upon the delighted youngsters.

The tradition of the *pinata* was actually brought to Mexico during the 16th century by Europeans. Although it is no longer a tradition in Europe, the custom of breaking a candy-filled pot has flourished in Mexico.

Christmas in Mexico is a blend of both religious significance and merry-making, much as it is in the United States. And of all the Mexican customs currently enjoyed south of the border, none is merrier than the breaking of the *pinata*.

Garwood Raider Cheerleaders



Cheerleaders for the 1976-77 Garwood Junior High School Raider activities this season are (front, l. to r.) Paula Bower and Cindy Rodriguez; (standing, l. to r.) Kelly Mackey, Pam Kallins and Nova Mann. The girls supply the team and fans with entertaining and exciting pep rallies and support at the games.

Garwood School Band Officers



Pictured above are the Garwood School Band Officers for the 1976-77 school year. They are, left to right, Yolande McFay, Monitor; Phyllis Ann Carter, Secretary; and Judy Bunge, President. These students were honored by the band, in a recent election for their leadership abilities.

Training Under GI Bill Is Expanded

Veterans enrolled in GI Bill training are eligible for up to an additional nine months training. Shep Poland, Veterans Counselor at Wharton County Junior College, said, "The Veterans Education and Employment Assistance

Act of 1976, signed into law by President Ford October 15, has increased the training entitlement for thousands of veterans who have not reached their 10-year delimiting date.

Effective October 1, 1976, the law extended entitlement to 45 months for veterans, if they have served at least 18 months on continuous active duty after January 31, 1955.

Previously, basic entitlement was 36 months. An additional nine months was available only if the GI Bill student was pursuing an undergraduate college degree.

Unchanged is the 10-year delimiting date. Veterans retain eligibility for 10 years after release from active duty or until December 31, 1969.

We wish you the merriest of Holidays.

City Cafe

Mrs. Joe F. Schoellmann
GARWOOD



May the joys of the season dwell in each and every heart

Jerry's ARCO Station & Car Wash

HIGHWAY 71 - GARWOOD, TEXAS

MR. AND MRS. JERRY ZBANEK

Prepare For Christ

(By the Rev. Bill Ordelt, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake)

Dear Friends in Christ, Christmas draws very near to us. As we approach the Christmas season we realize just how many preparations are involved with the purchasing of Christmas gifts, cleaning the house to make ready for relatives and friends dropping by. With all our hurried activities during this time we all too often lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. A friend sent me the following adaptation of the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas", and it speaks eloquently to our current situation that I submit it as our Christmas message:

'Twas the week before Christmas, When all through God's House, The Benches were empty (kept for the Pastor and Spouse).

The Saints were at home, Decorating with care; In hopes that the relatives soon would be there.

Without saying a prayer they'd tumble in bed, With not even a thought of Christ in their head.

Mom in her apron, Pop in his chair, Bod eating popcorn, Sis fixing her hair.

It's church night tonight, the conscience does chatter, But it's too close to Christmas, what does it matter?

The Holiday Season will be gone in a flash, They might take an offering, and I'm low on cash!

The Parson at church with head bowed down low, Prays for each member and then the tears flow:

O God, cause before their eyes to appear, The full meaning of Your gift of Christmas this year.

Cause their gay gatherings to make their hearts sick, When, instead of you, they worship Saint Nick.

More rapid than eagles the words and tears came, As he wept and he cried and he called them by name.

The Deacon, the Elder, the Brother lukewarm; From those in the city to those on the farm.

Speech to each heart tonight through Your call, O God, please save these Thy Saints one and all.

As dead leaves before the

Lake and 7. And I heard the Saints say, as they drove out of sight, "We found the real meaning of Christmas tonight!"

When we rush around trying to finish our multitude of chores, it would be advantageous for us to stop, for at least five minutes after accomplishing every task, and reflect on the significance of the Miracle in the Manger! Don't leave Christ out of Christmas Celebrate the joys of His birth on Christmas eve or Christmas Day. Just worshipfully give thanks for that birth every Sunday through the year! May the peace of the Christ Child be with you always!

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Call 234-2788

Free Pizza

Mrs. Benito Rodriguez is your ticket for a free pizza at the Eagle Lake Dairy Delite, where you get the finest foods in town including delicious pizza. Clip this out and present at the Dairy Delite for your free pizza not later than Dec. 28, 1976.



In the traditional spirit of the great holiday, we send our best wishes to all our friends.

ERNEST H. MOORE, REALTOR

MR. AND MRS. ERNEST H. MOORE
COLUMBUS, TEXAS

Joy to the World

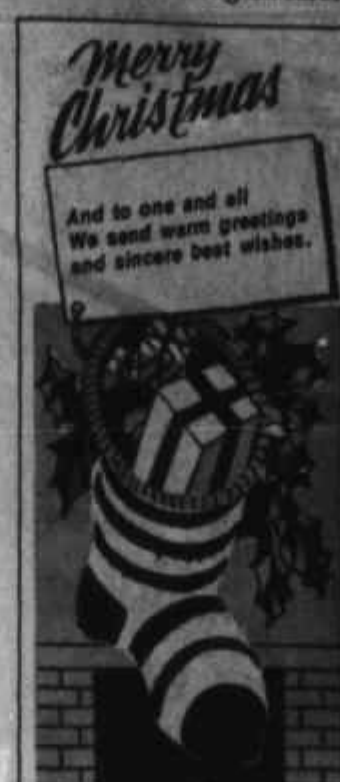


Sing a song of joy this Christmas season and fill your world with happiness for the coming year.

Thomas Clinic & Staff

Eagle Lake

Light Ye Candles
Then be ye glad, good people,
This night of all the year,
And light up your candles,
For His star it shineth clear. - Old English carol



WOODY'S
DRIVE IN
Mr. and Mrs. Woody Jones
GARWOOD



and gladness to one and all this Christmas!

BEATRICE
BEA, SCOTTY AND RITA
EAGLE LAKE



May the love and warmth of the Holiday Season be with you for a truly Blessed Christmas

ROYAL CLEANERS

GAIL, GERALD, CLIFF AND PAT BRADSHAW
EAGLE LAKE

Present Fine Rotary Christmas Program

Presenting a very outstanding musical book review on the life of Irving Berlin as the program for the Eagle Lake Rotary Club's annual Christmas Party last Tuesday, Dec. 20, were, left to right, Margareta Bolding of Houston who cleverly narrated interesting highlights in the life of this great composer, songwriter and entertainer; Charles Hunsch of Houston, who provided some very talented piano accompaniment for the program; and Elizabeth Ott of Kerrville whose charming and delightful singing of Berlin's popular songs beguiled and delighted the large gathering attending the event, one of the nicest ever held by the Rotary Club. At the right of Ms. Ott is Berlin's picture which was used on the piano during the story of his life up to the present time.

ROTARIANS AND GUESTS HEAR OUTSTANDING PROGRAM

Life and Songs Of Irving Berlin Are Reviewed

Eagle Lake Rotarians, Rotary guests and guests enjoyed one of the finest programs ever presented in this community at their annual ladies night Christmas Party in the Community Center on Tuesday evening of last week.

The program, in the form of a musical book review, was on the "Life of Irving Berlin" noted composer, songwriter and entertainer.

Mrs. Margareta Bolding of Houston narrated the highlights of Berlin's life from the time that he came with his parents from Russia up to the present, at which time he is 80 years of age and still very active.

Interwoven between the interesting words of narration by Mrs. Bolding were many of the songs composed by Berlin sung by talented soprano Elizabeth Ott of Kerrville. Adding to the enjoyment of the program was the talented piano accompaniment by Charles Hunsch, also of Houston.

Mrs. Bolding's manner of narrating interesting points, happy and sad, in the life of Berlin held the large gathering spell-bound and songs by Ms. Ott received much applause and praise from all who had the privilege of attending this outstanding presentation.

Rotarian A. B. and Rotarian Ethel Cone made arrangements for the program and Mr. Cone introduced the participants.

SOCIAL HOUR

The gathering assembled for this annual event, one of the highlights of the Rotary year, enjoyed a social period in the conference room of the Community Center.

Following the social hour, a delicious turkey and dressing dinner was served buffet style from a beautifully appointed table, in keeping with the holiday theme, by Mrs. George Andel and her staff.

The beautiful holiday decorations and the festive atmosphere of the evening made it a truly memorable event.

Today in England and Australia, Boxing Day is observed as a holiday from work, giving weary parents a chance to rest from the rigors of shopping and preparing Christmas feasts, and giving youngsters a chance to play with their new toys.

The day after Christmas is still celebrated as Boxing Day in both England, where it originated, and Australia.

The holiday goes back to early England, when landlords and employers would set aside gifts that they didn't want, to give to the needy and to tradespeople.

When the Christ Child came to Bethlehem he came to restore the blessings of heaven to earth. He came to the ordinary to give the extraordinary. He stormed the gates of death that he might bring back to us the victory over death. He became the ordinary to make us extraordinary. He came to death that he might make us the children of life.

This is the Child of the swaddling clothes. Let us take him to ourselves that he might take us unto himself.

Call 234-2788 to place Headlight Classifieds.

Holy Night

In the spirit of Christmas, joy and peace to the world. Special greetings to all our friends and neighbors.

Joyous Tidings

Let the glad tidings of the season sing out as we rejoice in the Christmas Holidays.

S&W PARTS CO.

LOUIS AND JIM - EAGLE LAKE

V. & H. Construction

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Verduille
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Holden

The Sign

(By the Rev. Oble Rhodes, Pastor, White Cloud Baptist Church, Eagle Lake, Texas)

Text: Luke 2:12

What God gives us at Bethlehem is the highest and noblest of all gifts. Yet we can miss the gift if our hearts are drawn to something other than the Holy Child. And we do ourselves great harm if we do not see how easily we are tempted to become attached to something other than the Holy Child. One need listen only a short time to Christmas music to note that the musicians create Christmas music that is delightful and beautiful but has nothing to do with the message of a Savior. Or one can read pages of Christmas stories, poetry, and drama that are tender and gripping but do not relate anything about the Savior who came to earth.

What makes Christmas authentic is its relation to the Savior. And the sign of this relationship is not a revelation of power and glory but the sign of the ordinary. The angelic announcement to the shepherds was simple and honest enough. The Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. There is no need to make a mistake. The sign is simple enough. The Babe is a baby. The Child is a child. The sign is given in utter simplicity.

The sign of the Presence of the Holy Child is given in ordinariness. But the sign is given so that the shepherds might know. The sign is given so that the shepherds might not make the mistake of the Wise Men who hunted for the Savior in the Palace.

The sign is given so that the shepherds might not have to worry or wonder where the child might be or what he might be like. The sign is, "He is wrapped in swaddling clothes."

Follow the sign.

1. The sign that the angel announced is a sign of peace. To think of God wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger seems unromantic and offensive. Yet this is how God comes to us even in our age.

2. The temptation is always to make this Christ something other than he is. There are those who will not worship at his manger bed, because they consider him too ordinary.

3. So God's signs always work for us. The signs point to that which God gives. Wrapped in swaddling clothes was the Holy Child in whom dwelt all the righteousness and holiness of God.

When the Christ Child came to Bethlehem he came to restore the blessings of heaven to earth. He came to the ordinary to give the extraordinary. He stormed the gates of death that he might bring back to us the victory over death. He became the ordinary to make us extraordinary. He came to death that he might make us the children of life.

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At This Holy Time

As you rejoice and sing His praise may the happiness His coming brought make Christmas glad for you.

ANDERSON ASSURANCE, INC.

INSURANCE AGENCY

TOWN & COUNTRY CENTER - EAGLE LAKE

Joy & Tears

From Scandinavian mythology comes a sad tale of a god's envy of the goddess of love. Although seeking the promises of earth, air, fire and water to protect her son, he was slain by the jealous god from a dart of mistletoe, a parasitic plant which attaches itself to trees and does not grow from any of the four elements. The tears of sorrow from the white berries of the plant and she decreed that mistletoe would never again be used as a weapon, but as a symbol of love, and that the world place a kiss on anyone who passed under it!

The legend of kissing under the mistletoe during the Christmas season came from an ancient custom which deemed that the girl who received no kisses under the mistletoe by the end of the year would not marry in the new year!

At this holy season, may we take the opportunity to wish you every blessing!

Canaris Nursery & Garden Center

JANETTE, PETE, PETER AND MICHAEL
EAGLE LAKE

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EAGLE LAKE



May the flame of Peace burn brightly in your heart this Holiday Season

Austin Grocery
Eagle Lake



Best wishes for a joyous Noel to all our wonderful friends. May the best of the holiday season be yours!

GARWOOD TELEPHONE CO.

MR. AND MRS. ERVIN STENKE & FAMILY
AND EMPLOYEES
GARWOOD

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