

Plants of the Season Add To Festivities

One of the loveliest Christmas traditions is that of adorning homes and churches with flowers and greenery that we associate with the season. Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without the festive holly, for instance.

Actually, the use of holly as a decoration goes all the way back to the Druids. They believed that the plant sheltered spirits of the woods who were threatened by harsh, winter weather. The Romans also considered the holly to be festive; branches were sent to friends as Saturnalia gifts. In time, the pagan use of the plant became Christianized so that now holly and the holiday season are synonymous.

Another traditional Christmas plant is the poinsettia, known as the *flor de noche buena* (Christmas Eve flower) in its native Mexico, where it was noticed by Joel Roberts Poinsett. The American minister to Mexico was so taken with the colorful flower that he brought the plant back to America, where it became associated with the holidays around the turn of the century. Today, the spectacular poinsettia is a familiar decoration in the home and around church altars at Christmas time. Gifts of the plant, which are now cultivated in pink and white, in addition to the spectacular red, are also popular at Yuletide.

Still another plant that is synonymous with Christmas is the mistletoe. Like the holly, mistletoe traces its popularity back to the Druids.

(Continued on page four)



GREETINGS
The gift of joy and peace, be yours as we celebrate the birth of a child at Bethlehem.

Duncan & Son
R. L. Duncan
Martha and Joe Duncan
& Employees
Eagle Lake
Phone 234-2840



Christmas Joy
Bouquets of best Christmas wishes and blooming good times ahead!

Lake Crest Flower Shop
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burger and Employees
Eagle Lake



Joyous Holidays

Let sweet mistletoe kisses and crimson bright cheer be gifts for your Christmas and throughout the new year.

Gulf Coast Savings Association
HOME OFFICE: RICHMOND, TEXAS
Branch Office: Eagle Lake
Beverly Margaret Branch Manager



Glad Tidings
Dashing your way with a sleigh full of good wishes for a merry Christmas.

EAGLE LAKE CABLE TV
Eagle Lake
Phone 234-2840

Pregnancy and alcohol abuse don't mix, says the March of Dimes. A pattern of mental and physical birth defects called Fetal Alcohol Syndrome can damage children of pregnant mothers who drink excessively. No one knows how much is too much.



A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!

Spinning our wheels to wish you a happy holiday. Drive carefully for a safe holiday.

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Noel

Of all our favorite times of year, none is so special as Christmas. For it is at this season especially that there is a certain magical quality in the air, a feeling of closeness among men. We wish you all the joys of the season.

The First National Bank
Directors, Officers & Staff
Member F.D.I.C. - Eagle Lake

How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

(By Charles E. Rank, pastor of The United Methodist Church, Eagle Lake)

How far is it to Bethlehem? By the measure of time it is a long, long way. Almost 2000 years away. But the star has not dimmed by the passing of the years nor the angel's song silenced by the ages.

The Wise Men came a long hard journey to find the Christ. They traveled over desert and stream, but always with their eyes on a star and a hope in their hearts. The shepherds did not have so far to go, just from a field on the edge of town. But far or near, the distance to Bethlehem depends on where you are.

How far is it to Bethlehem? We cannot measure the distance in terms of time or miles. It is measured by love. Bethlehem is where love was born and where there is love, there is Christ. Bethlehem is anywhere love is.

How far is it to Bethlehem? Jesus had an humble beginning. He was born in a manger to parents who were very poor. His manner of life was one of humility. He was the Prince of Peace yet He never sat at the council tables. He was the Son of God yet He never associated with the priest. He was the source of truth and wisdom yet He never dwelled in the halls of the learned. It was always with the common folk—the outcast, the poor, the sick, the sinner—that Jesus dwelt. Bethlehem is anywhere hearts are as humble as a manger.

How far is it to Bethlehem? There is no room for Him at the inn. This was the pattern of Jesus' life. There was no room for Him among His people. There was no room for Him in the world. There was no room for Him in the hearts of men. It has been that way through the ages. The inn keeper, who could find no room for Him in his house, was as far from the real Bethlehem as he could be. Bethlehem is anywhere men will give Him room.

How far is it to Bethlehem? It is anywhere that Christ is born—in your heart, in your home, in your community—anywhere that He is born.

Christmas Thoughts By ELPS Third Graders

(Following are short stories on the Christmas Season by Mrs. Glenda Eberhart's third graders at Eagle Lake Primary School.)

One night before Christmas my Dad was working and Mom was cooking for my Dad. It was late and I had to go to sleep. The next day I got up and it was Christmas. I got dressed and went to watch TV. When I went to the living room, there was a Christmas tree with presents under it. I played with my toys. Then we started eating. Later on we visited our cousins and then we came home and played with our toys. Daniel Soa.

The meaning of Christmas is when Jesus Christ was born. On December 25 in Bethlehem. He was born in a stable. Mary made a cradle for Him. Mary had Jesus Christ there. The three wise men brought Him presents. In the stable with Jesus were sheep, cows, and donkeys. Mary Cope.

Once upon a time I was sleeping in my room. Then I heard a noise. I went downstairs to see what it was. It was Santa Claus. When I saw him, he was leaving some presents and then he went up the chimney. When he got out of the chimney, I went to my room and saw Santa Claus and his reindeer and the sacks of toys in his sleigh flying through the air. When he was leaving, he was saying, "Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas to all." Romaldo Cardenas.

The night before Christmas it was quiet. And everybody was asleep. Then I heard somebody go "Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas." Then I

We All Love The Music of Christmas!

What would Christmas be like without music! Can you imagine Christmas Eve without the strains of "Silent Night" to evoke thoughts of the tender mother and the Holy Child?

Indeed, music has been a part of the holiday tradition ever since the angels performed the first Christmas "concert" for a group of awestruck shepherds.

Since then, simple carols and great oratorios alike have expressed humanity's joy and wonder over the events of Christmas.

Interestingly enough, many early carols were actually folk songs without Christian content... so today's newer, secular compositions have a tradition of sorts behind them. But, the most meaningful Christmas music is, of course, religious in context. Handel's *Messiah* has inspired generations after generations since it was first performed before George II in 1743.

Not all Christmas music is as awesome, however. The simplicity of Franz Gruber's "Silent Night" has made it one of the most loved Christmas carols. Joyful hymns such as "Adeste Fideles" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" are other Christmas favorites.

Don't Open Until January 6th

In many countries, Christmas celebrating continues until January 6th, which is known as Twelfth Night, the feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings' Day.

Because this is traditionally the day that the Wise Men presented their gifts to the Christ Child, many countries exchange their gifts at this time.

jumped out of bed and woke up my brother. We walked into the living room real quietly. Then we saw Santa Claus, so we went back to bed and looked out the window. We saw Santa Claus and his reindeer flying through the air. Glenn Lipper.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Santa's unpacking a sensational Christmas for every one of our customers! We've put in a special request that your holidays be festive and jolly, abundant with the love of family and friends.

JO ANN'S
105 North McCarty • Eagle Lake
Jo Ann & Kenneth Mahalite

Register At Miller's Grocery For Xmas Prizes

The Oscar Miller family reminds that registrations are now being taken, without obligation, for a Jackpot Prize Drawing to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24th as part of the Miller's Grocery pre-Christmas holiday promotion.

You may register at the grocery anytime between now and 4 p.m. Dec. 24th to be eligible for the following cash prizes: five \$1.00 prizes, two \$2.00 prizes, one \$5.00 prize, one \$10.00 prize, one \$25.00 prize and one \$50.00 prize, or a total of \$99 in cash prizes.

Registrations will however be limited to persons 18 years of age and over. No children under 18 may register.

The Perfect Gift For All Occasions—A Subscription To The Headlight—234-2783

Season's Greetings

Your friendship and support is great insurance for us! Hope your holidays are happy.

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Willie Mae & Louis Grigar
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NOEL

May this sacred season bring its finest blessings to you and those you cherish. Joyeux Noel!

PRAIRIE RICE



Rejoice

... in the glow of a warm and loving Christmas season.

ALAMO Lumber Company & Employees EAGLE LAKE



REJOICE

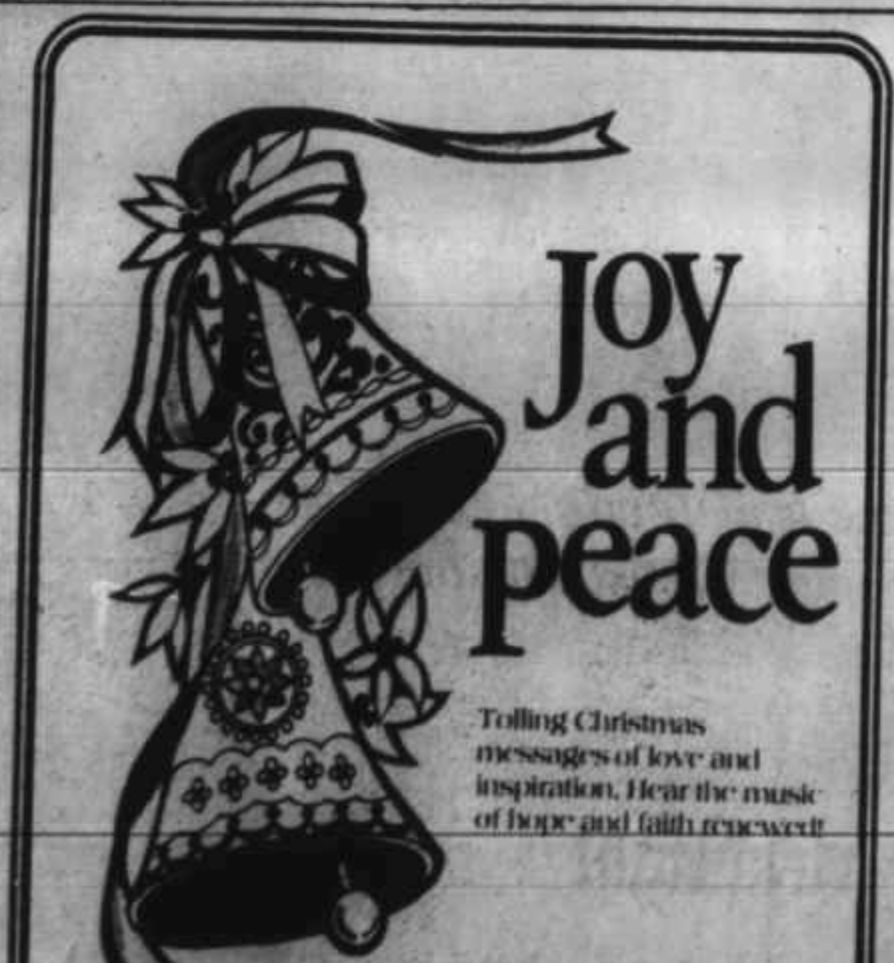
Let us rejoice in the miracle at Bethlehem.

CHRISTMAS Joy

Best wishes from all of us to all of you.

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Joy and peace

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Greetings

Season's brightest and greatest good wishes to all!

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