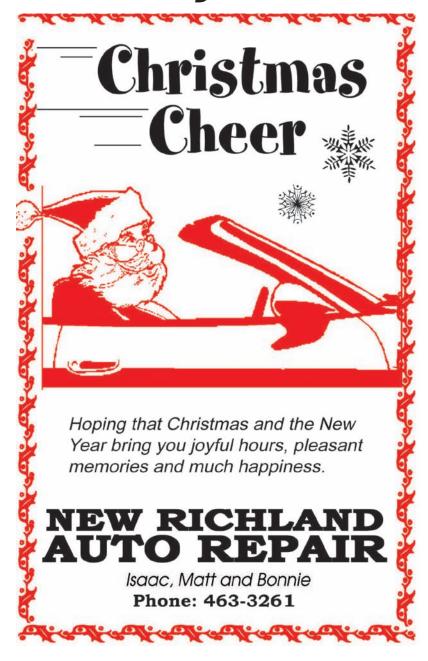
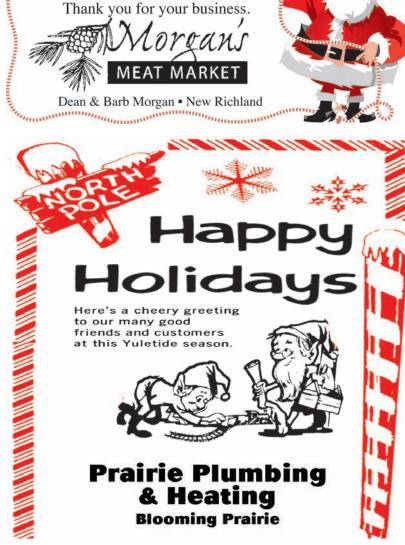


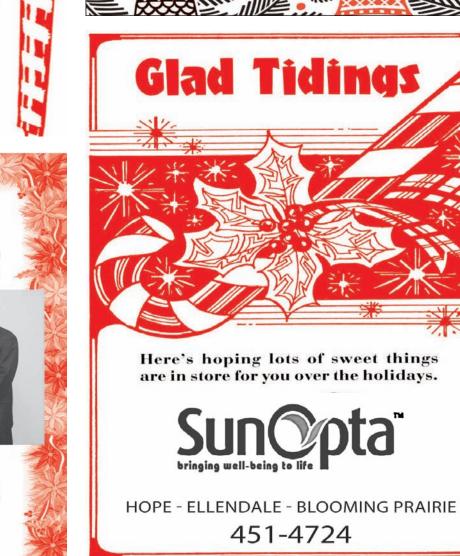
Happy Holidays

From your area merchants and professionals

Merry Christmas!







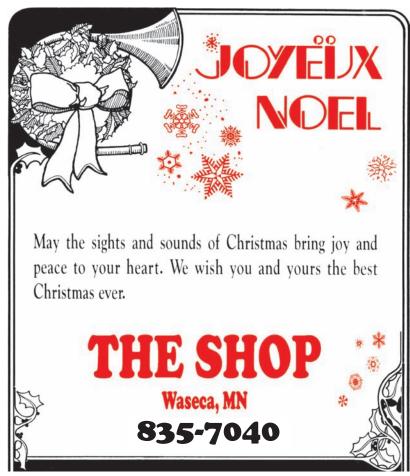
To all our customers and their families, we offer resounding thanks along with our very best wishes for a holiday season filled with peace, harmony and joy.

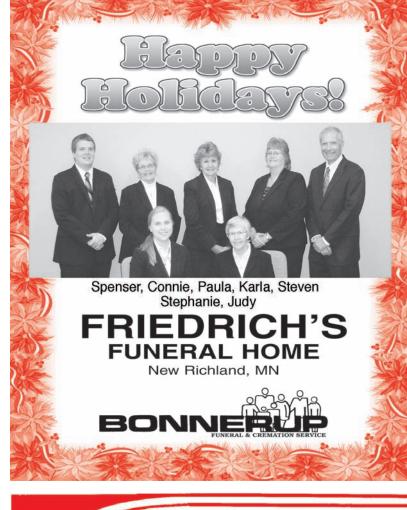
For your business this past year we are truly grateful, and we look forward to the opportunity to serve you again in the year ahead.

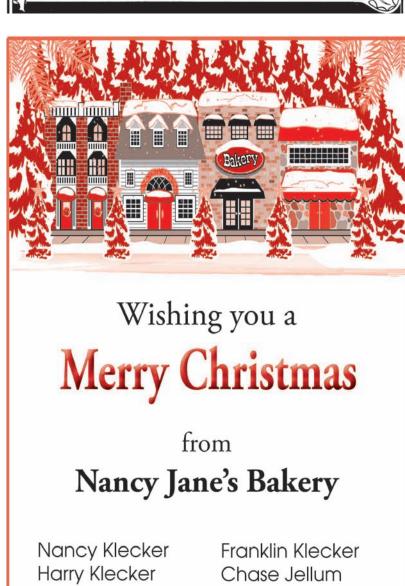
Scott, Greg, Jean, Julie

302 5th Ave. • Ellendale, MN

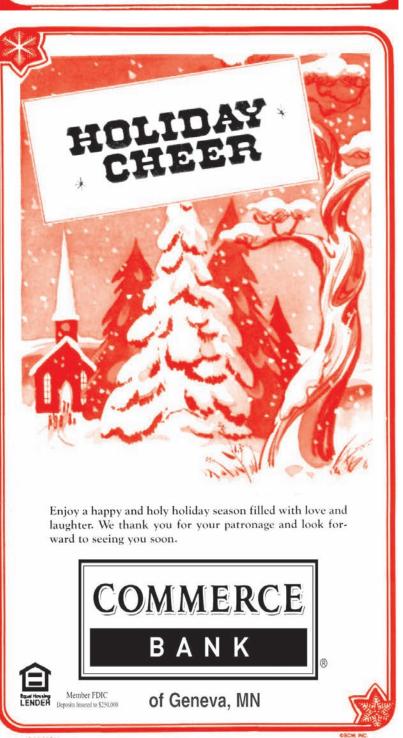
507-684-3351











Many entertainments filled 12 days

"On the Twelfth Day of Christmas My true love gave to me...."

The verses are among the most popular of the season. They date back to 567 A.D., when the church proclaimed the period of twelve days, between Nativity and Epiphany, a period of celebration. It goes from St. Stephen's Day (or Boxing Day), Dec. 26, to the day before Epiphany, Jan. 6.

Twelfth Night

The night of this day, or Twelfth Night, was a special celebration frequently accompanied by a big banquet, immortalized by Shakespeare in his play of the same name. It is in fact the big holiday of the year in most Christian countries.

In the Middle Ages, a minstrel had to be a talented fellow. One of these, in listing his accomplishments, after noting the many instruments he can play, says: "I can sing a song well and make tales and fables. I can tell a story against any man, I can make love verses to please young ladies, and can play the gallant to them if necessary. Then I can throw knives into the air and catch them without cutting my fingers. I can do dodges with a string most extraordinary and amusing. I can balance chairs and make tables dance. I can throw a somersault and walk on my head."



This English minstrel had his counterpart in Europe, where the twelve days were celebrated too, with feasting, pageantry, and song.

In England some of the "pretty devices" preceding the banquets in the big halls of the Twelfth Night are unbelievable - sounding confections which included castles with cannons and shops with guns which, at the proper moment, were fired against each other in resemblance of a rousing battle.

The song

The song probably had its origin in an 18th Century French child's game. The goal of the game was to add each item onto the song without forgetting the items that proceeded it. Rewards included candy, and losers forfeited either a sweet or a kiss.

What do the "gifts" symbolize?

My true love represents God.

The **partridge** is Jesus.

Two turtle doves are the two Testaments of the Bible. **Three French hens** refers either to Paul's theological triad of faith, hope and love, or to the Trinity.

Four calling birds (or colly birds, blackbirds) are the four Gospels.

Five golden rings symbolize the Pentateuch (the first

five books of the Bible).

Six geese-a-laying are the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming are the seven sacraments.

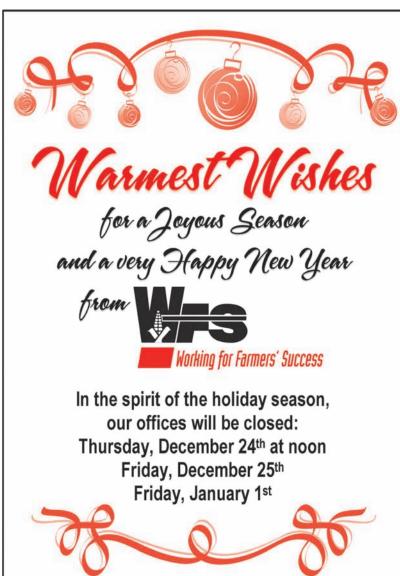
Eight maids a-milking represent the eight beatitudes.

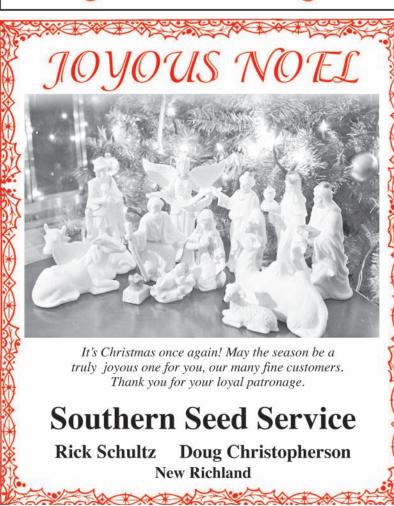
Nine ladies dancing refers to the fruits of the Spirit.

10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

11 pipers playing are the 11 faithful apostles. And the 12 drummers drumming are the 12 points of the Apostle's Creed.









315 2nd Ave NE | Waseca

County

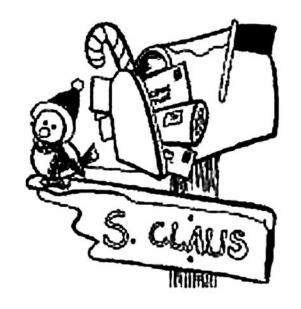
Historical

Society











What do you want from Santa this year? Second grade students at NRHEG Elementary school speak out in their letters to the Jolly Old Guy.

2nd Grade - Mrs. Dutton

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? My favret
raindeer are Pranser and Danser. How
are the elves doing? How is Miss
Clause doing? For Christmas I want
to have the best Christmas!
Love,
Nora F.

Dear Santa, I have one How are doing? I have one uf your elves. My elf's name is Ursula. I want a craft present. Christmas is fun because I Love presents. Love, Alexia M.

Dear Santa,
I hope you are having funat the Morthpole! Are your raindeer having fun? For Christmas I would like a bodazzler and a orbeez stuff.
Love;
Kayden W.

Dear Santa,

How are the elvs doing?

Dus he like us? Are the deer ok? Can I have an X box?

Henry W.

Dear Santa, How are the elves doing? Are the elves making prezents for kids? Is rudat staying warm at the north pole? I hope your raindear repaired for Chrismas? Are your raindear getting food? What kind of food do your raindear eat? I would like one X box 360. I will give you cookies and milk.

Loven Grain

Pear santa,
How are your elfs doing? For chrismas presints I wont a lot of toys. I know what it is going to be. It is a lot of cooking stuff and some Elsa stuff. I will leave milk and cookies for you!!!!!!!!

Love.
Caylee D.

Dear Santa,
How are the raindeers? I bet the raindeers are doing good I'm hoping for a puppy toy and a funny munky. Can I have have a binder plese Santa? Can I have a funny kittin?

Love, Madison B.

Dear Suntage thou is your randeer? I have carrets for the m. I hope you have a new lite saver for me xo xo Love Harden G.

Dear Sqngg,
How are the plus? I want
q ninga turtel and renota cynchrole
can Howage you Santa?
I can't wate for Christmas
Merry Christmas
Santa, Landen B.

Dear Santa,
How are the elves doing? I want a
new pare of shoos from Justis. Do you
get presents, to? I will leave some cookes
for you. I hope you have a good christmas
this yere.

Loves claire R.

Lhope tipe eives are doing good?

Thope tipe eives are doing good?

How many elves do you have?

What are your elves names?

For Chistmas I would like the faster

remote conchroll can and an Sharzoo.

My toverit reindeer is Roodall.

Low many colors is your slay?

I hope you drive safly this Christmas.

Love,

Jordan B.

Hove is Radooph? I bet he is doing good. How are you and Mrs Claus? Can I ride in your slagh on Cristmas night? Can I have a snowborl? I wood just want that and a drum set. Last an elf on the shelf.

Love, M.

DearSonta.
How is perry int? How are theelvs? Are you now thou is box frost? I will give you coukes and milk! I hope you get my leter. I want is Lago Dimenchin.

Love,
Jacob K.

Dear Santo.

How is Roodalf! I was really hoping for a new pair of boots and a badazzler.

My brother redly wants a top car My 2 sisters would prabely want a dolf. I will leave you cookies and cream. And makey milk.

Love, Ratie O.

lear Santa,
Iti. I. wonder how you're doing? I bet you are doing great!
What is your favrite cookie? My favrite cookie is chooclate
chip. Mae I please have a remote control truck? How is Mrs.
claus? I love all of your rain deer. It must be cold in the North
pole. See you later.

Love, Hudson C.

Dear Santa.
How are the elves doing: I bet they are busy: I'm hoping for a borbie and a glass dolle. I will bring you sookes. I hope you have a mary Chrismas.

Love, Anoistyn C.

Dear Santa,
Are you and the reindeer getting ready for take aff yet?
You work very hard. I love your elves work. How many toys are made? I want an Amarigan, girl adoll set. Merry Christmas North Pole!

Sincerelly:
Chloe S.

Dear Santa,
How can you fit the presits in your bag! I cont wait in tell you come! I wont the new Lego dimenchingame. I wont a Lago set too.

Wyatt T.

Dear Santa,
How are the rundeer doing? How
are the christmas presents coming?
I want for christmas Billy the
Exterminator stuff and Guinea pig
stuff I will leave cookies and milk for
you. Love,
Violettak.

Dear Santa,

Why isn't Holl Cutey at our house yet?

I would like an ipad minny and my brother wants.

I will put out milk, cookles, and carets for you and your raindeer. It was fun talking to you. Bye.

Jozie K.





These letters are from the second grade students of Mrs. Dutton, Mrs. Ihrke, and Mr. Beynon.

2nd Grade - Mrs. Dutton

Vede Santa, What are the reindeer up to to hope they are ready to fly. What is Mrs. Clays, doing? Hope you guys are ready! I want for christmas hand craft stuff or anything like that, because I love staff like that. Hope you are getting lotts of sleep so you can fly. I love Christma Sincerely, Meela B.

Dear Santa,
How are NOTOPH and the other
Cihdeer doing? I would like to leave
some carrots for the cindeer
and Milk and Cookies for you!
How is Mrs. Clows and the elves doing?
How are the elves doing at making
all those + 0 ys? Tell & ye ryone
that I miss and love them.

William

I tow are you, Mis. Clause, the mindeer, and the elves?

I bet you are busy I hope you are ready to fly

because I Love Christn's and I can't wate until

Christmas I hope you dring me some number bout for bruselds

and beads. I Love You! Readoff the hed now mindeer had a very

Shiry nose and if you ever sow the four counterer say it goes but
all the other laindeer laghed and called him names, the ynews

let por roadolf Jone in environment games. Have a meny

Christmas.

WinterP.

2nd Grade - Mrs. Ihrke

Dear, Santa Claus, Live been a very good girl. I want to know know kudolph and the Reindeers are fine? What is your tavorite cookie? My favorite is sugar cookies. I Love chocolate, do you? How is Mrs. Claus. I want Shopkins, little life pets, and 2 American Girl dolls for Christmas. I hope you have a good ride on your slae!

Love, Ryera E.

Dear Santa Claus

I want the Power Rangers.
Dino charge. We give the reindeer oranges and water. Is Rudolph being good How are you and Mrs. Claus?
Merry Christmas.

Love, Ezekiel M.

Dear Santa Claus,

How is Rudolph? Do you like cookies? How is Mrs. Claus, Is Rudolph, s nose still red? How old are you? I am o years old. I have been a good girl this year. I want a toy train for my prother, a stuffed animal tormy sister, and an ipad for me. My favorite part of Christmas is celebrating with my faimly.

Merry Christmas,

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? Is Redolph real? How far is the Northfole? Howare the elves? What was your favorite thing to do in school? How many reindeer do you have? How old are you? For Chrismas I want a x box 360, Adrian Peterson jersey, and a drone. Have a merry Chrismas!

Your Friends Braydan M.

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you and Mrs. Clause? How are your reindeer and elves? I want an art set with paint, crayons, colored pencils, pencils, an Ancierican girl doll and cool outfits. Before bed on Christmas eve, I will put milk, cookies and a gingerpread house out for you. My favorite part of Christmas day is eating the rest of your cookies and drinking the rest of milk. I love Christmas so much.

Dear Santa.

Thave been good kid. I would like an I pod touch the Lego Elves Castle, and matching outfits for my dolls and me. How is your wife? How are your feindeer? I am very exited my Elf Jane! Get Neda mini creotor Lego set please.

Sincerlys Melina B.

Your Friends Chloc R.

Dear Mr. Claus,

I have been a good box this year.
I'm wundering how you go down the chimny? I would wont a drone, a Lebron James jersey, a Kyrje Irving jersey, whit I really like about Christmas is opening presents.

Love, L

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? How is Rudolph and all of the reindeer? What kind of cookies do you like? My favorite is White Macadamia. Gess what I want for Christmas? I want apoddle that is white and a Simezel cat. I want Elmo for my little sister Kenley. Merry Christmas!

Kyah Q.

Dear

Door Santa Claus

Santa Clays

The been a good girl this year.

Can you, bring a microphone the and an Ipad for me? You are the best. What are your reindeers hames? What is your favorite candy? My favorite candy is all suckers.

World? How much toys do you even make? Santa, can you put a big lollipp in my stocking thats pink and purpule? I also want a huge Jolly rancher; a real elf, and a little little hedge hog. Have a holly jolly Christmas!

Boiley D.

Dear Santas How are you? I have been good. What kind of cookies do you like? I want a sled, a lego gas truck, remote control boot, and Nerf gun for christmas. I have been like? I want a sled, a lego gas truck, remote control boot, and lerf gun for christmas. I have get it a big stuffdonimal for my sister. Wy favorite part of Crismis is wen you come to my house.

Love, Evan B. Dear Santa Claus,

I have been a good girl this year. How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? What kind of cookies do you like? I like chocolate cookies. Pleas put an I pod and legos in your bag for me. How are your reindeer doing? I hope you have a Merry Christmas! I like to open presents. I like to play with my presents to. Can I get candy please?

Your friend, Payge R.





2nd Grade - Mrs. Ihrke

Dear Sonta Claus,

I've been a good girl this year.
My favride cookies are Charlete Chip.
What kind do you like? Does
Rudollhs nose glow? Are your elfs good?
I want a I pod a big i pad, and Skittles
for Christmas. Have a Merry Christmas!

Love 7 V.

Dear Santa

will you bring me d drone and Minecraft set? I've been a good boy this year. I hant a femote continor car for christmas. How are your effs? How all are your flavorite this of christmas is seeing my family.

Marry Christmas Santa. Isaidh R.

Dear Santa,

How are your reindeer? Are you real? Are you and your wife getting along! Does Ruapipps nose shine still! How many elves do you have? Please put a Goldendoodle in your bag for me.

Sincerely,

Dear Santa

Have I been a good boy this year? Is Rudolph's nose shining brite still? My favorite cookies are choclate chip cookies. How old are you turning Santa: Can I please have a remote control hellacopter? Have a nice ride on Christmas!

Your friend, Owen W.

Dear Mr. Claus,

How old are you? What kind of milk do you like? I'm wondering how many render you have? I have a lot of toys on my list. I want Grand Thet Auto, a xbox. game skittles, and may be an iphone or a nert gan. I hope you have a great Christmas.

From, Boden K.

Happy Holladas

Deur Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? What's your favorite Cookies? And is choclate chip. I've Been a good girl. How is Rudolph? How old are you santa? for Ehrist mas I want a fluffy Kitty toy, a soccer shirt, soccer pants, and a ball. My favorite part about Ehrist mas Is when we get to play in the snow.

Your Frend, Quinn V.

> Sincerely, Attley K.

Dear Santa Claus,

What is your favvot kind of candy cane, and what, is Mrs. Claus's favrot kind? I have been a good girl. What is young favrot kind of cookie? My favvot kind is Macadamia not. I think they be awe some! What do you would for Christmas? I want bunch ums, chocolate pen, nurt guing Candy. What do you're elfs want for Christmas? I will leave carots out for your vaindeer. Is it cold in the north pole? How fast can you was

Happy Christmas!

Dear Santa

I have been good kid. I would like an I pod touch the Lego Elves Castle, and matching outfits for my dolls and me. How is your wife? How are your feindeer? I am very exited my Elf Jane! Get Neda mini creotor Lego set please.

Sincerlys Melina B.

Dear Mr. Claus,

I have been a good boy this year.
I'm wundering how you go down the chimny? I would want a drone, a Lebran James jersey, a kyrie I rving jersey, and a really like about Christmas is opening presents.

Love L.

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you? How is Mrs. Clous?
How is Rudolph? I wish I could live
in the North pole. Mr favorite

cookie is Macadmia. I walk an
English Bulldag puppy. Mr tavonite
thingis opening presents. Merry Christ mas!

Deven P.

Dear Santa,

I have been very good. How are you? Have a merry christmas! How are your elves. What is your favorite holidar My taxonite holidar is Christmas. I want an i pol and a note book. My favorite thing about Christmas is opening presents. Merry Christmas is opening presents.

Love, Brenny D.

DOMINIC CO

Dear Santa,

How do you make all or the presents.

Do you relly have elfo? I am a good
box. I have two brothers and store
I am seven years old and in sacond

earle. I want a tox robot and mano can
for christ mas. I capit wait for

christ mas.

Dear Santa Claus,
I have ben a vare vare
good girl. How are you and Mrs.
(laus! What is your favorite
kind of cookies? My favorite
kind of cookies are chocolate
chip. I want art, teching stuff,
and movies for Christmas.

Olivia V.

Dear Santa,
I want Little Live Pets, a Paint set,
and an iPad. How so you rain deer fly?
I Like Chrismas because I Like to
open my presents. I've been a good
gir this year. I Like to play with my new
toys on Christmas, get my big sister
Five nites of Freddies streed annimal and
set my little sister a doll howse.

Isabelle D.

2nd Grade - Mr. Beynon

Dear Santa.
How is dancer doing & How do you go in a house that don't have chimney? I had baby pupeys. I had to decorate the tree in the hallway. Plese can you get me a I pad? Can you get me I pad? Can you get me I pad? Can you get me a cool shirt? I am 8.1 kwe im New Richten. I go to school in Ellendale.

Dean Santa What kind of cookies ride you like? Shud I brim kurets for the reindeen? How are you How do you get down a cimney? How care your elves? How mene presns have you done?

> Merry Christmas, Brynn

Dear Santa,
How is Prancer? How is Miss. Clas?
Have you been sick? I'm 7. I live in
Geneva. I'm good. Can I have a skateboard
for Christmas. Can I have a ipad for
Christmas. Can I have playaho!
Merry Christmas,





2nd Grade - Mr. Beynon

Dear Santas you doing? 2 grade. Newrichlen. I Mow are am 1 am, in live putside of playing my sandbox have a and phone. 0/50 want box. Memy Christmas, Alexis. I

Dear Santa,
What kind of cookies do you like?
Does Mrs.klos stil knit? Can you ples
give me a amarakin girl doll and a
amarakin girl doll gymnast set? I am 8 yers
old I live in New richlind I go to
school at Ellendale
Love,
Gabrielle S.

Dear Santas
Do you wont me to leve some carrots for the rainder? What kind of cookies do you like? I am 8 and I live in New Richlend I am in 2 nd grade: Can you get me a girl lago set and a elsa costle and a new bike?

Merry Christmas, Becca

Dear Santas, How are you. I dream of you. Is rudat being good? Are Vicsin and Dicsin good? I Just turd s. I have cats, dogs, cows. Do you have gards? Do you have a castle? can you plez give me a movie?

Merry chistman Brody

Dear Santa, Santa, Santa, how do you fly? Am I on the good list? What kind of cookies do you like? I like Christmas! I wish you could give out presents erly this year. I'm 7 and live next to Geneva in the contax in a brown house. I want a imad pro and ipod 5 please. I also want a hamster! Menx Christmass Justin

Dear Santas
How many hours does it take to
duliver presents? Would you like to have chaclet
coakies or plane cookies? Two years ago I get
got a little sister named Jaylee! May I get
some money?

Happy Holiday.
Wyatt L.

Dear Santa,
How is Danser Santa? What color is the Wrapping
Paper? I am 7 santa. I have lost 8 teeth. I am
in 2nd grade. I would like blind bags. A bad Kitty collection,
and a uncorn collection. Last but not lest a
snow flake glow in the dork statue.
Merry Christmas,

Dear Santa,
Do you want some carrots for
the raindeer? How many raindeer
do you have? I'm 8 years old and
live in Ellendale. I lost four teeth
two of them the Dentist pulled
out, the other two my Dad pulled
out. For Cristmas I want lego
triends, the popstar legos. I also want
season one Shopkins.
Happy Holidays,
Adayn S.

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer doing?
How do you fit in a chimeny?
I am 8 year old.
I have a lizr.
Thave a little sister.
Plese can I have a nelf gun.?
Love.
Kaleb

Dear Santa, How are the rein deer doing? How many kids are on the good list? October is my birthday and I tent 8! I ve been good this year. Please can I have a ipod and a cling crater.

Merny Chhitmas Holly

Dear Santa, How is Vixen Am I on the nice or nody list? I finally have a nintendoas! I'm seven years old. I live in Geneva on tourth street. May I please have a Skyrover and a Chronobomb?

Merry Christmas, Fikadu

Dear Santa.
How are all of your raindeer? How do you fit don't he chimney? Can you Please knin my dog a new toy? Last year I got a BMX bike. Could you Please give me a ro heloster and a troo spoker.

Merry Christmas

revor

Dear Santa

old for are the reindeer? How in 2 the your Lang xears old. I am in 2 the grade Can I have an Elf would also like shopkins! Merry Christmis!

Briley C.

Dear Santa,
How is sudolf? Have you ever ben sick? I am 8. I lost 10 teeth. Can I have a new tablet? Can I have a baby germansh eperd?

Merry: Cristmas, Caden

Dear Santa,
Am I on the nice list or the naughty
list? What kind of cookies do you like? I
had a new baby bother. I am 7 yers old. I live
in Ellendale. Could you please bring me a
new ipad?

Merry christing
Kaitlyn

Dear Santa,

How is rodoff? Have you had a cold?

I am 8. I live in New Richlind. I want
a pair of size f shos for Christmas and
a cute dress!

Love,

Ava

Dear Santa,
How are your elvs?
Do you like penut cookies?
Do you have 100 elvs?
I am 8 yers old. My
Tittle brother can stand. I
made a snowman and I
ccdored it. Can you get
me the Box car Childen
books?

Merry
shristmas,

Dear Sountab the reindeer? Are, they good or bad? Hava you had a cold? I am 7. ILike Suppkins. Lover Cloe M

Samantha

Dear Santa;

How many people are on the manufity list?

What kind of coolies do you like? I amontho
good list. I am eight years ald. I
would notife shapking for christmas.

Coold I also have on jod? I love
your salltar

Dear Santa, How are Dancer and Proces doing? With reindeer is your towered? I Like football and base ball. I want a tank top Love 34 lis.

DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant, they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly to the counsel of the years, grace-fully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and lone-liness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

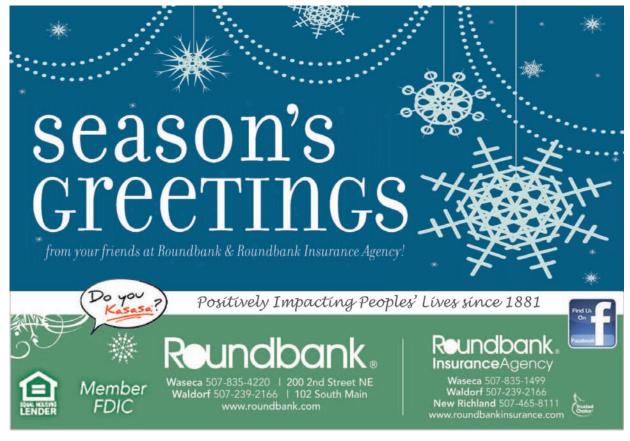
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann

- Max Ehrmann was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, on September 16, 1872. His parents were German immigrants. Ehrmann graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle in 1894, after which he studied law and philosophy at Harvard University.
- Ehrmann returned to Terre Haute to practice law, following which (early 1900's) he began writing, apparently obsessively. Max Ehrmann was known as the 'Poet Laureate' of Terre Haute.
- Ehrmann wrote many poems, although none became well known until after his death. Aside from Desiderata his most famous poem is A Prayer, written in 1906.

MERRINAS CHRISTMAS







Merry Christmas

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Test your Bible knowledge

1. Which Gospel(s)	speak of	the
events surrounding	Christ's	hirth?

- Mark and John
- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- ☐ Luke only
- Matthew and Luke

2. How many magi visit Christ after his birth, according to the Bible?

- ☐ Three
- ☐ An undisclosed number
- ☐ One
- □ None

3. Where is Christ when the magi come to visit Him?

- ☐ In the womb
- ☐ In the manger
- ☐ In a house
- ☐ In the temple

4. The magi ask Herod where Christ is to be born. Herod summons his priests and scribes, who know the location of the birth because of the prophecy of this man.

- ☐ Micah
- ☐ Amos
- Jonah
- □ Joel

5. In a dream, an angel tells Joseph to name his child Jesus, for it was prophesied that a virgin would give birth and call her son Immanuel. What does Immanuel mean?

- Jesus saves
- God with us
- God in flesh
- ☐ God is born

6. Herod's slaughter of the children two and under, according to Matthew, fulfills a prophecy uttered by what

- man?
 □ N
- MicahJeremiah
- ☐ Jonah
- ☐ Joel

7. How much younger was Jesus than his cousin John the Baptist?

- ☐ One year
- ☐ Twelve days
- ☐ Two years
- ☐ Six months

8. Who speaks words to the pregnant Mary that have become a part of the Catholic Church's "Hail Mary"?

- □ Anna
- Elizabeth
- Simeon
- Zechariah

9. Where do we find "the magnificat"?

- Matthew
- ☐ Luke☐ Mark
- ☐ John

10. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, according to the Gospel of Luke?

- ☐ His earthly father went to
- Bethlehem for a census

 That's where both his parents lived
- ☐ His mother went to visit Elizabeth
- ☐ He wasn't; he was born in
- Nazareth

11. Christ was laid in a manger. What is a manger?

- ☐ A barn
- □ A cave
- □ A type of inn
- ☐ A feeding trough

12. The Bible tells us Christ was born in December.

- ☐ True
- ⊒ False

13. How do the shepherds learn of Christ's birth?

- They see a new star in the sky
- There are no shepherds in the
- Biblical account

 The magi tell them
- ☐ An angel appears to them

14. When was Christ circumcised?

- ☐ At eight days old
- ☐ At 13 years old
- ☐ At birth
- ☐ He wasn't

15. Who prophesied to Mary that Christ was "destined for the fall and rising of many" and that "a sword" would "pierce" her "own soul also"?

- ☐ Anna
- Simeon
- Elizabeth
- □ Gabriel

8. Elizabeth When Elizabeth sees Mary, she says, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!" (Luke 1:42). Part of the Hail Mary also comes from Gabriel's greeting to Mary: "Hail, thou that art highly favored; the Lord is with thee"

7. Six months See Luke 1:36. John's mother was Elizabeth, whom Mary visited while she was pregnant with Christ.

6. Jeremiah See Jeremiah 31:15.

.62:1 wədiibM əəS

See Micha 5:2 and Matthew 2:6. 5. God with us

Though our traditional manger scenes usually place the magi at the manger, they did not, in fact, visit Christ until he was a "young child" and came to him in a house. (See Matthew 2:11.)

hrist.

3. In a house

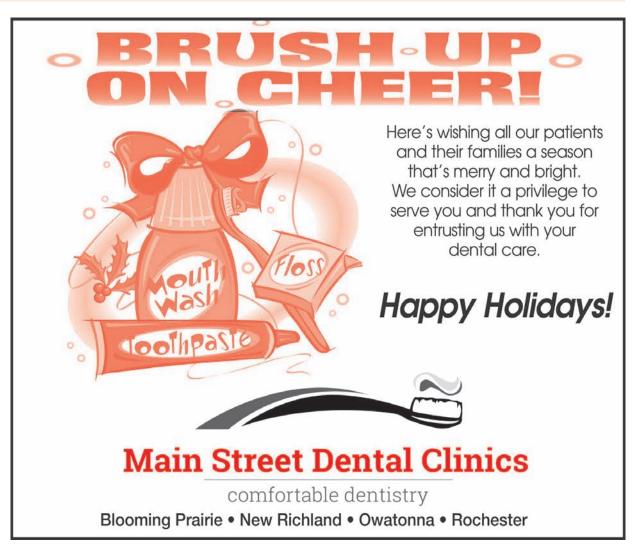
4. Micah

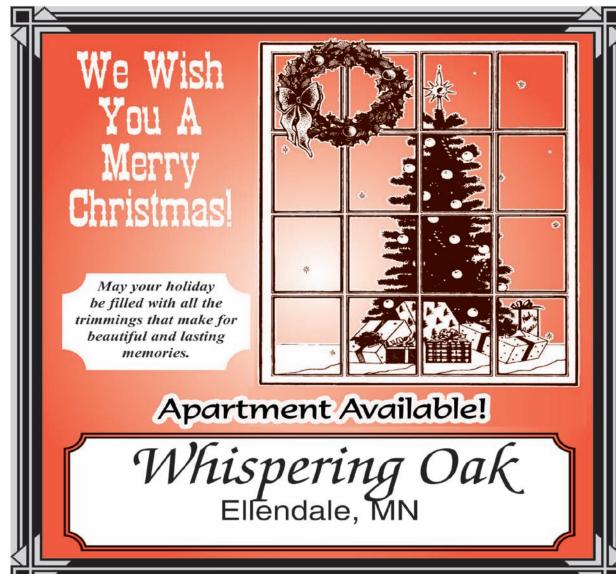
2. An undisclosed number. Christian tradition has numbered the magi at three, probably because three gifts were given (gold, frankincense, and myrrh.) Tradition has even given names to the wise men-- Melchior, Kaspar, and Baltazar. However, the Bible itself does not disclose the number of magi who visited

Matthew alone includes the story of the magi, as told in chapter two of his Gospel. Luke alone includes the details of the birth of Christ's cousin, John the Baptist, and of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth during her own pregnancy. Mark begins in medias res, with Christ's ministry, and John does too, after first describing Christ as being with God in the beginning.

SABWENA

1. Matthew and Luke.







15. Simeon See Luke 2:25-35.

14. At eight days old lease was the first to be circumcised at eight days old, which became the customary time for the circumcision. The "Feast of the Circumcision" falls on January 1st (eight days after the traditional nativity date).

13. An angel appears to them See Luke 2:8-9.

12. False
The December 25th nativity date was set for the holiday in the 4th century by the Catholic Church. Some argue that it is an unlikely date because the shepherds were, according to Luke 2:8-9, feeding their flocks in the open fields by night, something unlikely to occur in winter. The comething unlikely to occur in winter. The displace the more raunchy rituals of the pagan winter festivals and worship of the sun.

born in a cave, perhaps because animals may have been kept safe in a covering hewn out from rock. Animals may also have, in many cases, been kept on the first floor of a house. A manger is a feeding trough for animals, which Mary used as a cradle.

See Luke 2:1-6.

11. A feeding trough
Many non-biblical traditions have Christ being

10. His earthly father went to Bethlehem for a

9. Luke
This is the name given to Mary's spontaneous praise, which begins, "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." (See Luke 1:46-55).

(Luke 1:28).

Origins of popular Christmas symbols revealed

Christmas is a holiday steeped in customs. and as an offering to Saturn as a symbol of his Year in and year out, you decorate a Christmas tree, sip eggnog, and enjoy a candy cane beneath the mistletoe. But do you have any idea how these customs came about? To fully appreciate a holiday, you should understand its roots. This guide will help you get to the bottom of this festive and sacred holiday.

Advent calendars: The first calendar counting down to Christmas dates back to the 19th century. People counted down 24 or 25 days until Christmas (with the last day being Christmas Eve or Christmas Day), by using chalk lines to mark off the days. Later on the tradition of lighting a candle each night was born. Today, Advent calendars vary. Some have drawers or doors that are opened every day to reveal a religious icon, piece of candy or you may even find ones with cartoon characters like Mickey Mouse.

Candles: The first use of candles at Christmas was in the Roman festival of Saturnalia where tall tapers of wax were given as gifts to guests

light. As Christianity spread, candles were placed in the front window of homes to guide the Christ Child as he went from house to house on Christmas Eve.



Candy canes: According National the Confectioners Association, in the 17th century, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany gave his young singers sugar sticks to keep them quiet

during ceremonies. In honor of the occasion, he had the candies bent into shepherds' crooks. In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant decorated a small blue spruce with paper ornaments and candy canes. By the 1900s, the candy cane got its red and white stripes and peppermint flavors. They were mass produced by the 1950s, eliminating the laborious task of making the treat, and their popularity spread.



Christmas tree: Germans would decorate fir trees. inside and out, with roses, apples and colored paper. The tradition hit England and America via the German immigrants in Pennsylvania in the 1800s. Of course, a

Christmas tree isn't complete without ornaments. Decorating trees dates back to the Victorian times. Woolworths department store sold the first manufactured Christmas tree, and the trend spread.

Mistletoe: The Scandinavians thought of mistletoe as a peaceful and harmonious plant. And they linked Frigg, their goddess of love. with mistletoe. The combination of these two schools of thought brought about the custom of kissing under the mistletoe. Those who kissed beneath the mistletoe were thought to have happiness and good luck the next year.



Poinsettias: America's ambassador Mexico, Joel Poinsett, is the namesake for this native Mexican plant which he brought to America in 1828. The plant was likely used

Mexican Franciscans in their 17th century Christmas celebrations. Mexicans thought the plants symbolized the Star of Bethlehem, leading to its association with Christmas.

> **Stockings:** A man was so sad over the death of his wife that he spent all his money. Unfortunately, this habit left his three daughters without money for wedding dowries. St. Nicholas wanted to help the poor girls' cause, so he anonymously threw three small pouches of gold coins down the chimney of the their

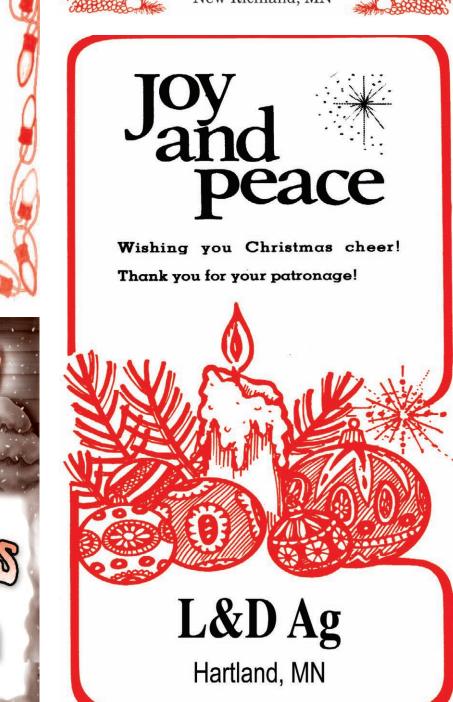
home. The coins landed in the stockings of the women who had hung them by the fireplace to

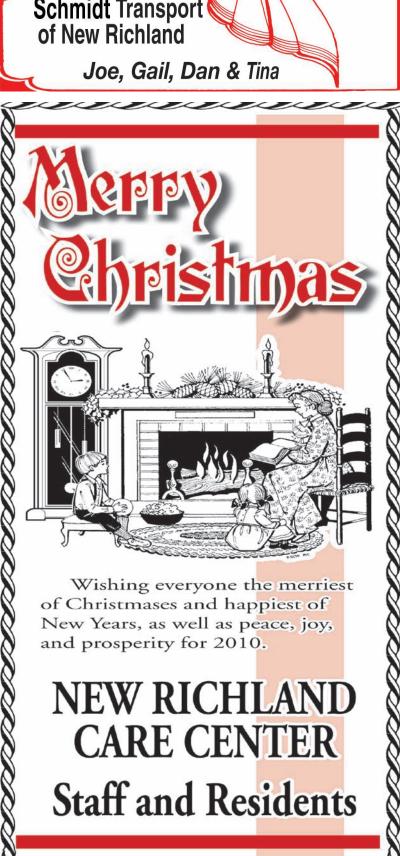


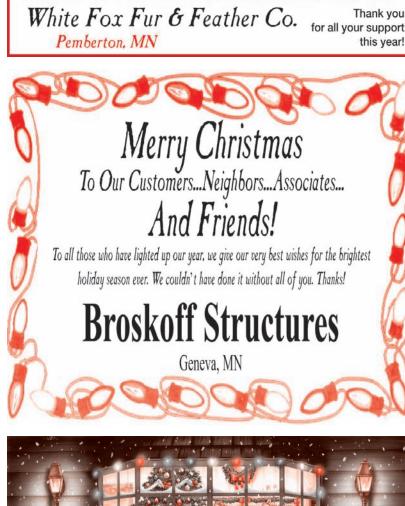




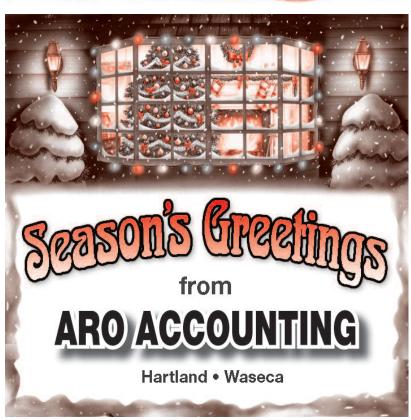






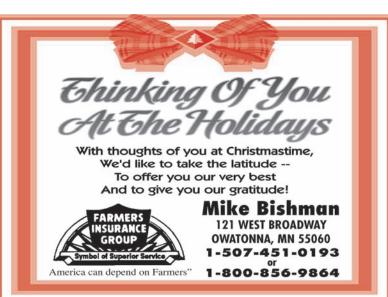


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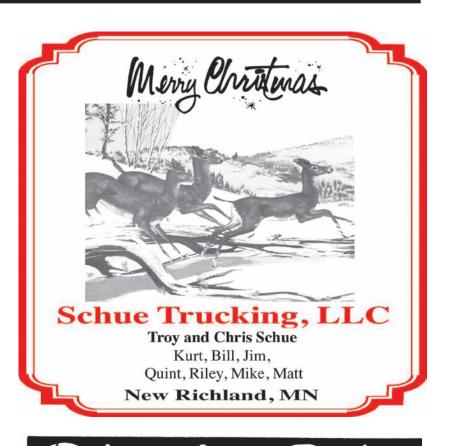


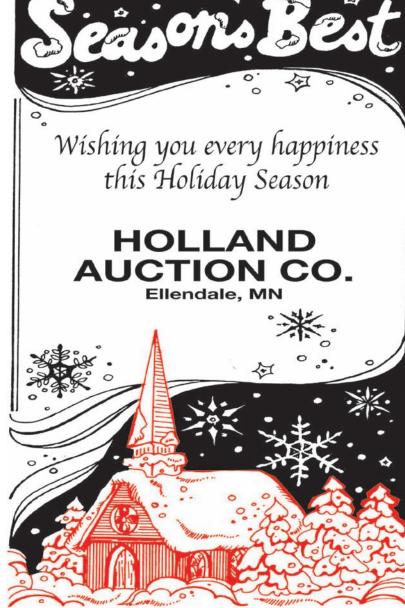




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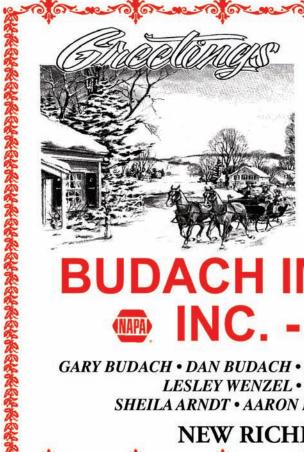










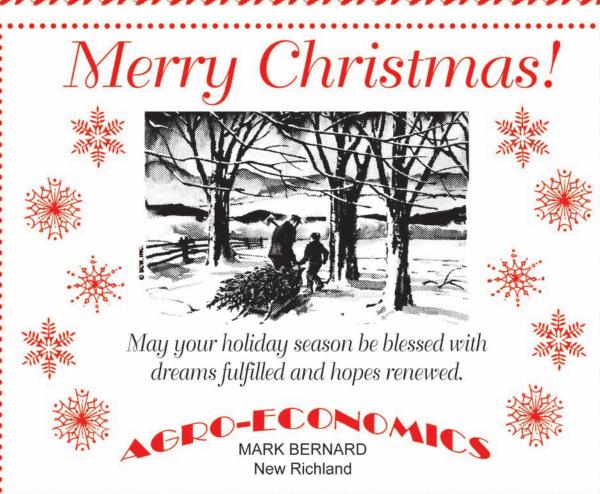


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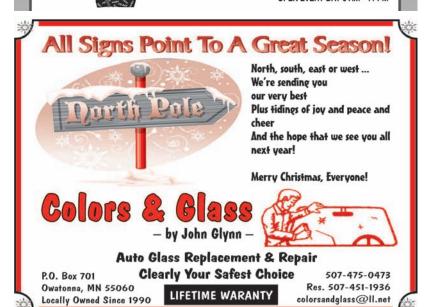






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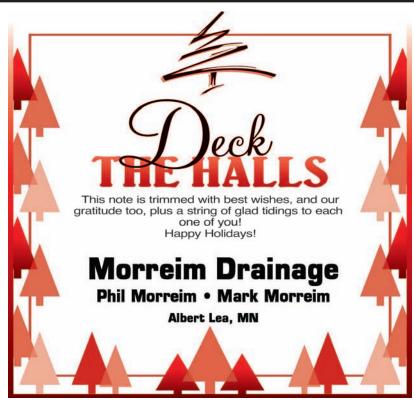
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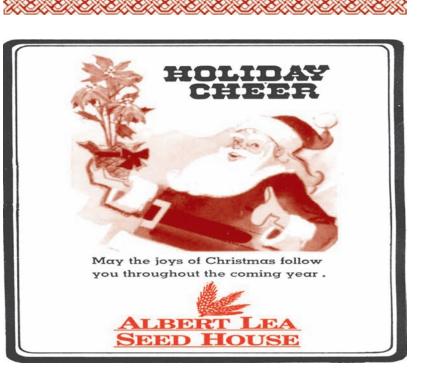




New Richland

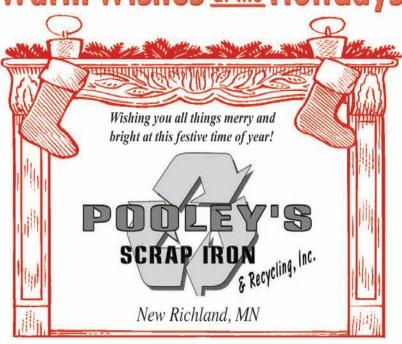














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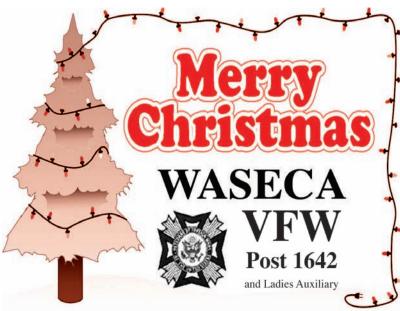
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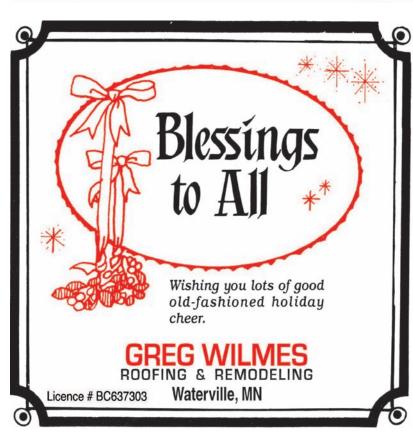


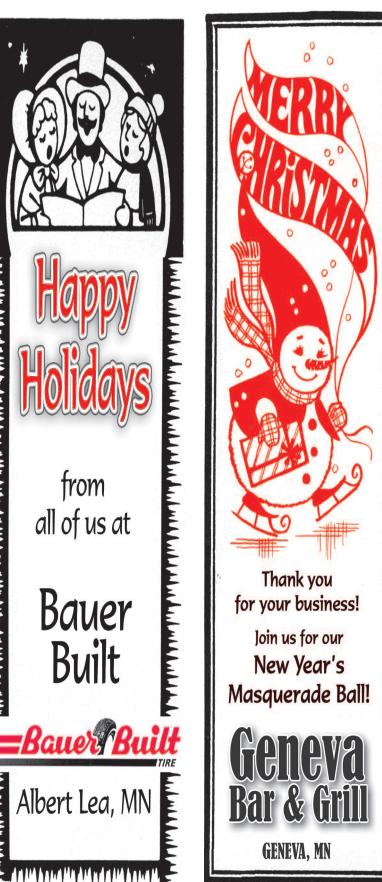




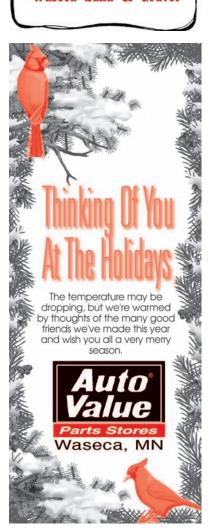


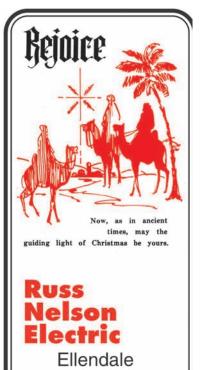






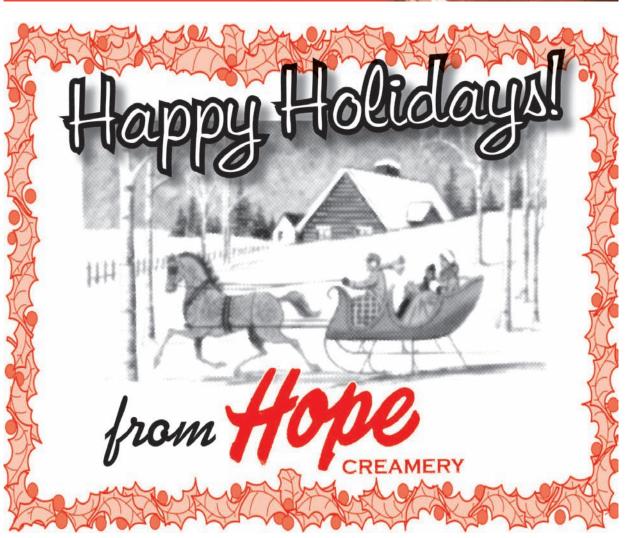


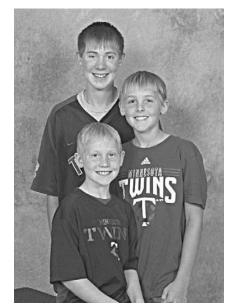








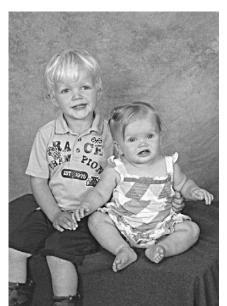




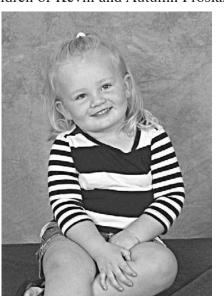
Evan (15), Alex (11), and Alden (8) Dobberstein, sons of Luke and Brenda Dobberstein.



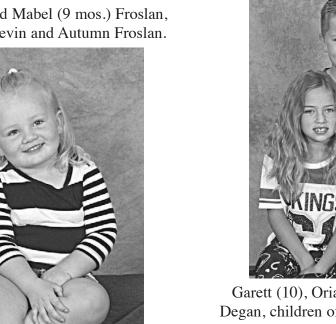
Samantha (3) Erickson, daughter of Wade and Karen Erickson.



Oliver (3) and Mabel (9 mos.) Froslan, children of Kevin and Autumn Froslan.



Allie (2 ½) Hager, daughter of Matt Eustice and Paula Hager.



Garett (10), Orianna (7), and Lucas (5) Degan, children of Eric and Dawn Degen.

Aidan (8) and Ryan (6) Schlaak, children of Nathan and Linsey Schlaak.

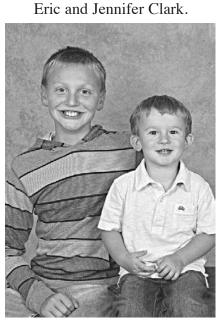
"Tomorrow's

from New

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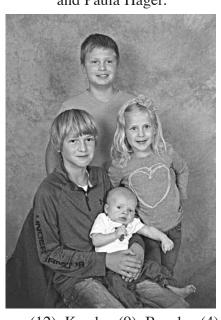


children of David and Jennie Bunn.

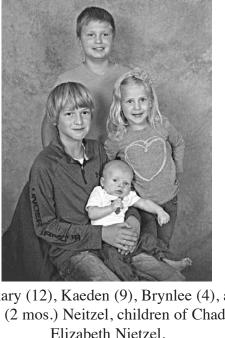


Elie (5) and Dakota (3) Clark, children of

Ashton Raimann (11) and Breckly Moen (2), sons of Josh and Jackie Moen.



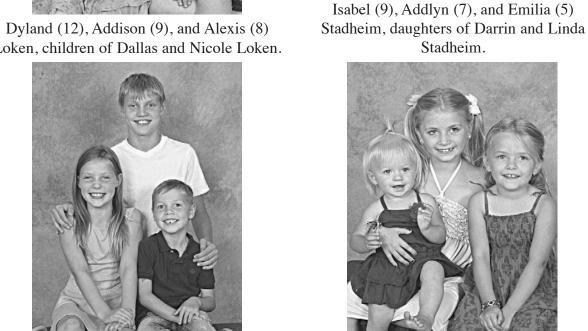
Zachary (12), Kaeden (9), Brynlee (4), and Rylan (2 mos.) Neitzel, children of Chad and



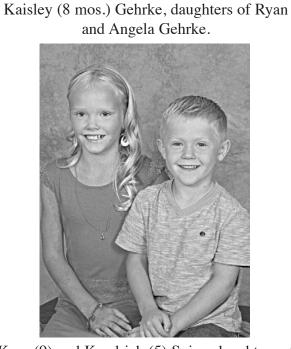
Elizabeth Nietzel.



Brooks (6), Mack (4), and Trevor (2) Gilliland, children of Aaron and Lisa



Kayden (7), Kylie (4), and Kelsey (1) Warke, daughters of Josh and Kelly Warke.

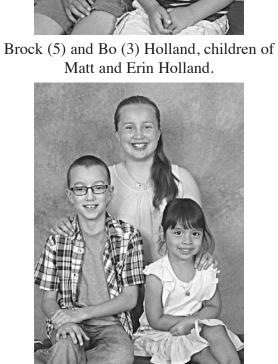


Kenley (5), Kaeson (2), Kashton (2), and

Kyra (9) and Kendrich (5) Spies, daughters of Eric Spies.



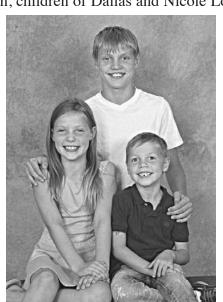
Brock (12), Avery (10), Brynn (8), and Cooper (5) Routh, children of Jesse and Krissy Routh.



Payton (10), Parker (10), and Sofia (4) Bunn,



Loken, children of Dallas and Nicole Loken.

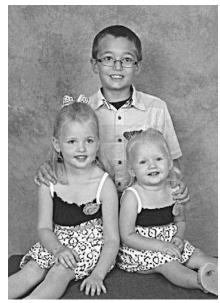


Kordell (12), Gabrielle (7), and Dakota (6) Schlaak, children of Justin and Kim Schlaak.

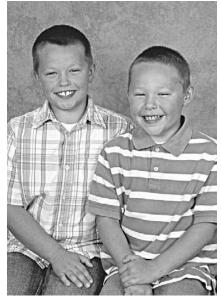
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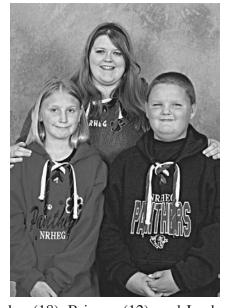
Jason Reese (9), Julieann Wobbrock (5), and Jessa Wobbrock (2), children of Kayla Wobbrock.



Carter (8) and Corbin (6) Martens, children of Anthony and Kelly Martens.



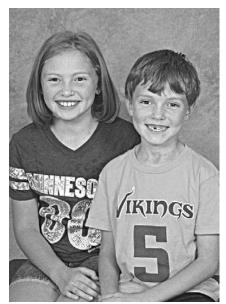
Eric (12) Arvis, son of Christina Arvis.



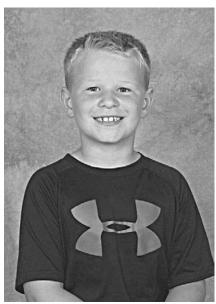
Katelyn (18), Brianna (12), and Jayden (9) Purdie, children of Dave and Lana Purdie.



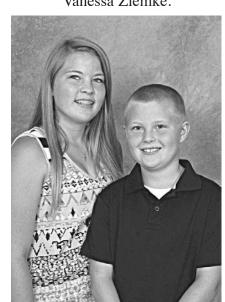
Clay (12), Aspyn (8 ½), and Ciara (6) Stenzel, children of Doug and Amy Stenzel.



Tayler (9) and Brendan (7) Schmidt, children of Dan and Tina Schmidt.



Brock (8) Ziemke, son of Brian and Vanessa Ziemke.



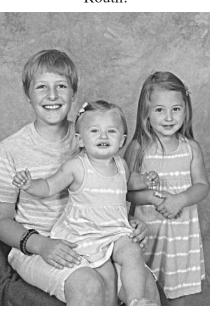
Taytum (16) and Jace (9) Ihrke, children of Mike and Amy Ihrke.



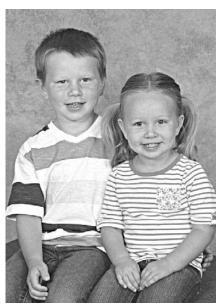
Lola (7 wks.) Young, daughter of Desiree Hoffman and Matt Young.



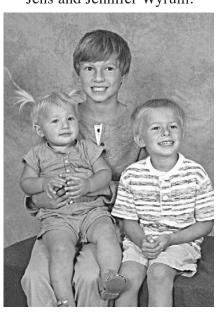
Levi (22), Dylan (18), Clay (10), and Aiden (5) Routh, sons of Chan and Kim Routh.



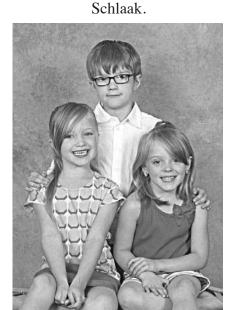
Spencer (11), Marnie (3), and Libbie (1) Mullenbach, children of Brandon and Mollie Mullenbach.



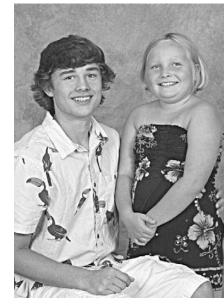
Alec (4) and Jade (2) Wyrum, children of Jens and Jennifer Wyrum.



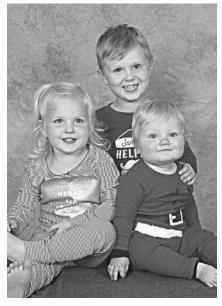
Ashton (12), Owen (4), and Evelyn (1) Schlaak, children of Tony and Cassie



Christian Cully (7), Autumn Baseman (6), and Aubrey (4) Baseman, children of Mr. and Mrs. Cully.



Braeden (15) and Kaylei (8) Thompson, children of Mitch and Missy Thompson.



Memphis (4), Vivienne (2), and Axel (1) Schlaak, children of Steve and Nikki Schlaak.



Hazel Mae (6) and Violette (4) Botten, children of Sara Jo Vulcan and Aaron Botten.



Kyera (7) and Kyla (5 mos.) Eustice, daughters of Craig and Rachael Eustice.



Christmas is a time for joy all around the world

Christmas customs are as varied as the many cultures that encircle our globe, ranging form parades in the Philippines to love offerings in the Congo.

In the Congo, Christmas Day begins with groups of carolers going about the villages. Later, a worship service is held, during which a love offering is made by each worshipper to the Infant Jesus. However humble, no person would dream of attending Christmas services without bringing a birthday gift to Jesus.

In Austria, emphasis is placed on Jesus as the light of the world in a beau-tiful ceremony held in the home. On Christmas Eve, three large wax candles are prepared. As the family gathers around, singing hymns, the father lights the first candle. On Christmas Day, the second candle is lit and the third candle is lit on New Year's Day.

In this country, children receive their gifts from Knecht Ruprecht, a Santa - like figure who rewards good behavior.

Christmas is the occasion for a parade in South Korea. Christians in this country hold parades on Christmas Eve, during which they carry paper lanterns decorated with red crosses. "These paper lanterns also adorn Christian homes on Christmas Eve.) As they march, they sing Christmas carols. Later, they attend church services, which are followed by a late - night supper. Gift - giving is an important part of the festivities here.

French Canadians begin their Christmas with a midnight mass on Christ-mas Eve, after which the Reveillon, an elaborate dinner, is



held in the home. Here, the holiday season does not end until the 6th of January, feast of the Epiphany. It is a time of merriment, in contrast to the religious aspect of Christmas itself.

In the Philippine Islands, children wear colorful wreaths and chains made of tropical flowers as they parade and sing after services on Christmas Day. Here, homes are decorated with flags, bunting, palms, flowers and candles. Family dinners follow the parade, with

dancing and music adding to the festivities.

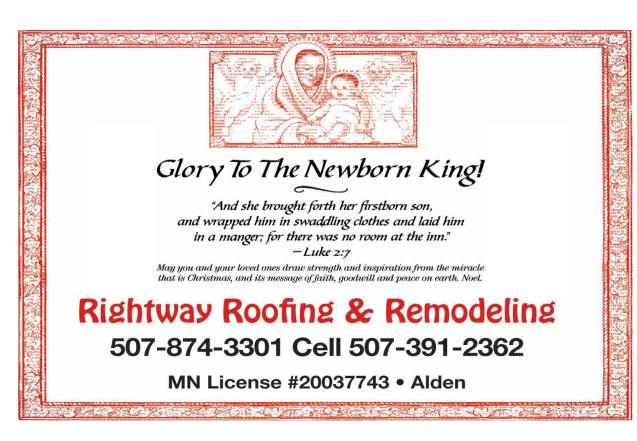
Down under, in Australia, the warm December days are the reason for that uniquely Australian custom, the Christmas Day picnic. Another tradition on this continent is the big community sing, when huge crowds gather outdoors to sing carols from nightfall to midnight, by the light of torches and candles.

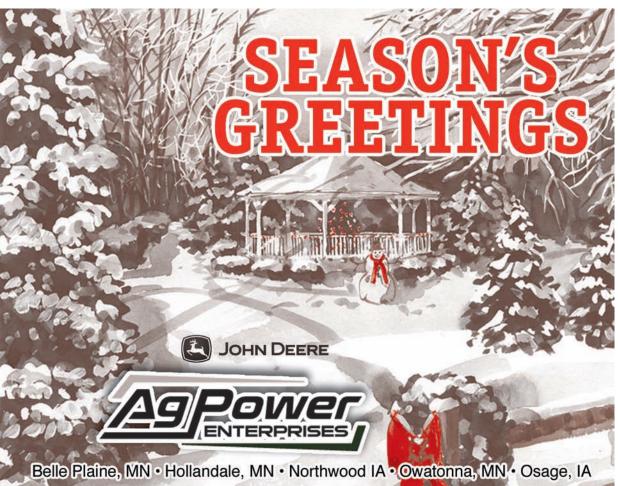
In Italy, children eagerly await the coming, not of Santa Claus, but of La Befana, a witch who rides her broomstick from house to house, leaving pre-sents of coal for any misdeeds. Every home in south Italy has its presepio, or creche, while in the north, Christmas trees are central to holiday celebrations.

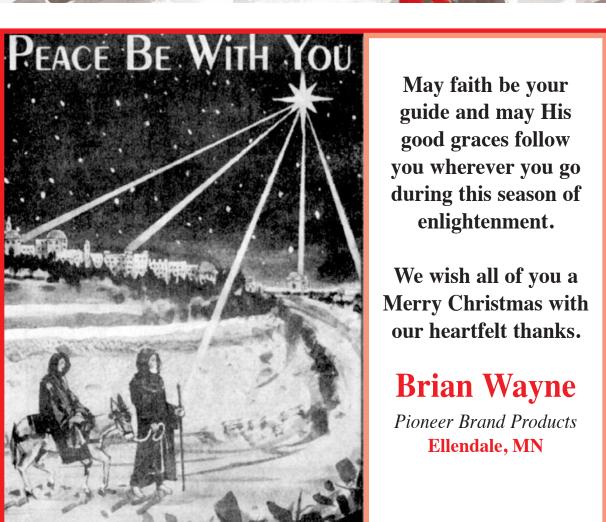
On Christmas Eve, Italian children traditionally write a "Christmas Letter," wishing their parents a happy holiday and promising to be good.

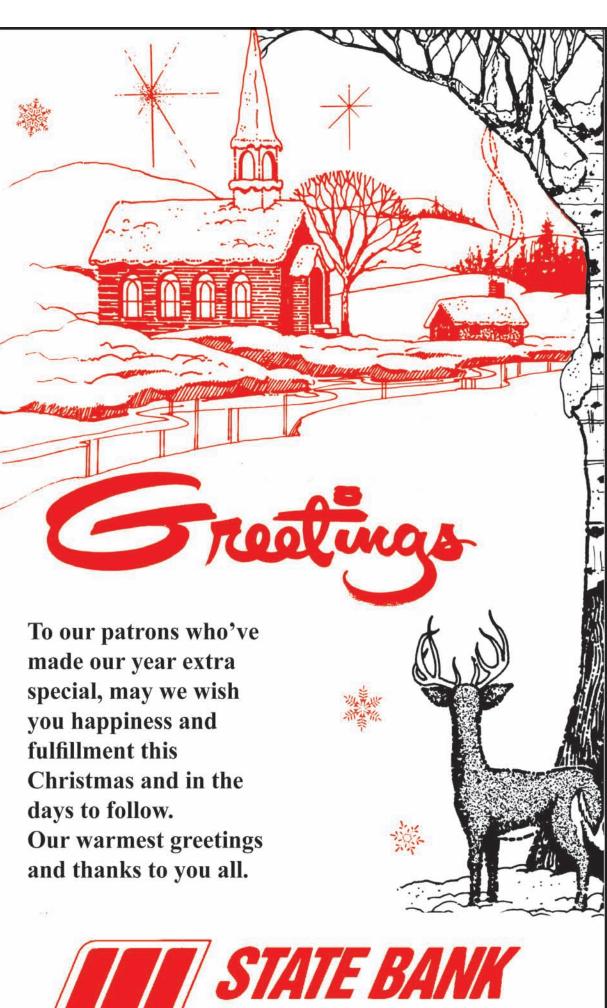
As one would expect, singing is an important part of Christmas in Wales. This is reflected in the Eisteddfoddes, where townspeople and caroling choirs gather in the marketplace to sing carols. Contests are held during the Eisteddfoddes, with the winning song performed by the winner's choral group. Plum puddings and mince pies, and Christmas stockings hung at the foot of the bed are the other Welsh traditions at Christmas.

Although customs may differ from land to land, throughout the world the spirit of Christmas is ever the same -- one of joy and goodwill to all!











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