First Christmas In America

First Christmas In America

By MSGR. ENRICO PUCCI The first Christmas in America that of December 25, 1492. -brought perhaps the most tragic moment in all of Christopher Columbus' first voyage of discovery

Sad as the events of that day might have been for a less dauntless soul, Columbus was not dismayed He saw in the happenings a providential sign, and began the first home of Europeans in the Western World giving it the name "Nativity"

These and other events connect ed with Columbus' voyages speak eloquently of the Admiral's pro-found Christian faith and piety The world knows that he was unquestionably a great navigator. A study of his writings reveals that he possessed a deep missionary spirit -that he was guided in all his undertakings by an earnest de-sire to carry the precious gift of the Faith of Christ to new peoples Not content that in Latis. his name Christopher means "Bearer of Christ," Columbus often signed his letters with the two Latin names from which his name was derived "Christum Ferens" (He who brings Christ', to make the import more evident. The letters he wrote always began with some sign of Christian piety. Sometimes he used the initials of Jesus and Mary sometimes he employed the plous invocation "Jesus cum Maria sit nobiscum in via" (Jesus with Mary be together with us in our way :

Christmas Day in Haiti

Between the time that he disrovered America - October 12 1492, when he gave the name "San Salvador" to the island on which he landed -- and the date in 1493 when he returned to Spain, Columbus sailed among the Antilles dis-covering what are now Cubs and Haiti and other islands.

It was while he was thus engaged that Columbus sighted what is now Haiti, early in December 1492 He christened the Island "Hispamola," and because it was De-cember 6 when he set foot on its shore, he named the port of de-barkation "San Nicola" (St Nicholas). Contact between the Spaniards and the natives was easy and cordial, and great confidence was

Columbus pressed on and touched at various other places before he went ashore at another point on Haitle coast to pass Christmas, Day All things held promise of a happy observance of the Feast un. And behold there was a man in hearts may be revealed."
til the sailors in their impru- Jerusalem named Simeon, and this And there was present nappy observance of the reast un. And benoid there was a man in the sailors in their impru- Jerusalem named Simeon, and this dence -- left an inexpert boy to man was just and devout, await take care of the vessel -- the cara- ing the consolation of Israel, and old and had lived with her hus-

own flagship. The ship became stranded and was wrecked it had been revealed to him by the Book. She now was a widow of Holy Spirit that he should not die until he had seen the Christ of the lumbus himself wrote in his diary. That strong currents carried the ship on to one of those sandbanks, where, although it was night, the surf roared in a manner that could be felt and heard from a distance of a league. The boy, who had heard the rudder drag and heard the neise. Egan to shout, and on my hearing his call I got up so quickly that no one was yet *Because mine eyes have seen thy down at the same for maidenhood. She now was a widow of sighty-four years. She never left that tample, worshipping by fastings and prayers night and day. She also came up at the same hour and gave praise to the Lord, and spoke of him to all who were swafting the redemption of Israel.

And after they had performed all things as prescribed in the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galliee, to their own town Nazareth. *And the child grew and waxed strong. He was full of wisaware that we were stranded in that place

ing into action, the account fur- A light of revelation to the Gen-ther reveals He ordered his mentalities, and the glory of thy peointo lifeboats and directed them to ple Israel " craft by removing all surplus ar-

It was Christmas Day, and Co. sign which shall be contradicted thinking that he was in the caralumbus refused to become dis-heartened. He traced the coast of Haiti on his map and at the place Paris Children Will of his landing he wrote the name Have Their Toyland "Nativity" It is interesting that he Have Their Toyland used the Italian word "Natividad" rather than the Spanish word. Although it remains to be seen

ment at 'Nativity' toward the end children on such occasions.

of November, 1493 He found only the ruins of the fortress. Within a Authorities seem pretty well few months after he had left for agreed that mistletce, so commonly down in writing. Spain, the Europeans and the natives clashed. Some of the white day, comes down to us from the DRAWN SWORD HELD

His Second Christmas

Columbus was in Haiti again on December 25, 1493, marking the second successive Christmas spent in the New World. On this occation, he was able to observe the provided in Scotland of This occation, he was able to observe the provided in Scotland of This occation, he was able to observe the provided in Scotland of This occation in the Christmas and missionaries accompanied the explorers. But, alas! details of this Christmas are not Torthcoming from Christopher Columbus' log of a feast—and its end. It is particularly impressive when one and the fact that the little and the fact that the little

First Chevalier of the suite of the Conquerors, who later became a priest, a Bishop and an apostle of the indies. Facts are also taken from the histories of the voyages compiled by Columbia to the histories of the voyages compiled by Columbia to the voyages to the voyages compiled by Columbia to the voyages to the voyages compiled by Columbia to the voyages to the compiled by Columbus' son, Fer. All men profess humility, but the

A Sixteenth Century "Nativity"



The work of Ludwig Krug, a German artist, this picture is considered an excellent example of Sixteenth Century engraving. It was recently exhibited in the Cincinnati Art Museum in a collection

Gospel Story Of The Nativity

(Continued from Page 12)

own flagship. The ship became the Holy Spirit was in him. And band seven years after her maiden-

Because mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast preples .

tiles, and the glory of thy peo-

trices However it became apparent that the ship could not be concerning him. And Simeon custom of the feast And after
saved Then, with the aid of the blessed them, and said to Mary
natives. Columbus worked fever- his mother. "Behold, this child is they were returning, the child ishly to save the cargo and equipdestined for the fall and for the Jesus remained in Jarusalem, and is

"The content of the ship could not be concerning him. The said to Mary
they had fulfilled the days, when they were returning, the child ishly to save the cargo and equiptise of many in larged and for a thic parents did not know it. The

areth. *And the child grew and waxed strong. He was full of wisdom and the grace of God was in him. him.

The Child Jerus in the Temple rise of many in Israel, and for a his parents did not know it But

turned to Jerusalem in search of

him.

And after three days it came! pass that they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who were listening to him were as-tonished at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed. And his mother said to him, "Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold thy father and I have been seeking thee anxiously.

And he said to them, "How is it not understand the word that he spoke to them.

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was And his parents were wont to subject to them; and his mother tiles, and the glory of thy people Israel"

go every year to Jerusalem at the
Feast of the Passover. And when
And his father and mother were he was twelve years old, they went

And his father and mother were he was twelve years old, they went

And Jesus advanced in wisdom

And Jesus advanced in wisdom

> -The asterisk is used to indicate the beginning of a verse which is not the beginning of a sentence as it appears in the old

what affect the current European He believed that Providence had war will have upon the observance taken this means to show a desire this year, Paris usually is a chilthat the Spanish explorers come to dren's paradise at Christmas time. rest on dry land and establish their The great Parisian department first community So, with the help stores are transformed into Santa of the Indians, and utilizing tim-Claus lands. Perhaps you have her from the ship Columbus built ber from the ship. Columbus built seen news reel pictures of the the first white settlement on the American Continent — a combination residence and fortress, in the sidewalks in downtown Paris which he left a garrison of 43 men to gaze at the marvelous tableaux when he sailed to report his diswhen he sailed to report his dis- of toys. Adults frequently have to

few months after he had left for spring agreed that mistletoe, so commonly down in writing.

Spain, the Europeans and the native day, comes down to us from the garrison were slain. The rest were pagan Druids, who used to, hang dispersed.

His Second Christmas

One of the old chroniclers. After the old chroniclers. Missletoe wreaths on their "sacred bertus Argentinensis, relates that at the Christmas Mass celebrated at the Chr

from Christopher Columbus log. It is end at its end at its particularly impressive when one sees this was due to the fact that the Admiral did not keep his log from December 11, 1493 to March 12.

Then, one of the youths, dressed as a baker, will carry the highly last bacause of illness. These facts concerning the first Christmas in America are taken from the notes faithfully summarized by Bartolomeo Las Casas

Saints alone love to be humbled V. 7.

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE WAS ONCE OUTLAWED

In the course of the Puritan as-throughout America—a fat genial Parliament, in 1644, forbade the soul pictured in the famous poem observance of Christmas, except as mas and in Europe as a Saint a day of fast and a market day. It with a bundle of tays, comes originally from an authentic Saint of the Church, St. Nicholas, Archdemned as heathen.

HYMNS WRITTEN EARLY

The famous Christmas hymn "Adeste Fidelis" is said to have columbus returned to this settlenent at "Nativity" toward the end century. However, authorities be-lieve this and other popular airs. and even the words must have exand even the words, must have exand even the words, must have ex-isted long before they were put of children having from infancy

at the Christmas Mass celebrated "at cock-crow," the Emperor Charlemagne stood with drawn sword and read the Gospel. This was in keeping with an ancient custom, according to which the

Here is one legend for the ori-gin of the present-day custom of hanging up stockings at Christ-mas time. The story is that, one Christmas night very long ago. Santa Claus climbed to a roof of

Casting all your care upon God, for He hath care of you.-I. Peter,

Santa Claus Derived From Famed Saint

bishop of Myra.

St. Nicholas lived in the Fourth Century and has been honored with great veneration in both the Greek and Latin churches for many ages. The ices of connecting him with the dreams of child-

OOO Boys Cut 46,000

Not only did Civilian Conservarector of the CCC.

Approximately 30,000 trees were cut from the Colorado national forests, nearly 27,000 of them coming from the Pike National Porest near Denver. About 6,000 were cut in Wyoming national for-Dakota and Nebraska forest.

The three Christmas Masses are mystically connected with the "triple" birth of Christ-in time, in eternity and in the soul.

DON'T DO IT

The following "Don'ts" are advised for the guidance of parents ver the Christmas holidays:

"Don't allow children to lie only partly dressed and in cold rooms on Christmas morning. Many colds can be avoided by heeding this worning.

"Don't rob the children of their proper amount noliday week. nount of sleep during the "Don't overdress them with their

new sweaters and the like, just because it is Christmas, "Don't overtax their stomachs

with too many goodies, and espe-cially with food to which they are not accustomed. "Be sensible during the holidays, thus saving the children much dis-comfort of body and considerable mental distress to mothers."

Urges Sane Cutting Of Christmas Trees

Perhaps you are one of those Perhaps you are one or those who, looking at great stacks of Christmas trees on some city lot, wonder if the cutting of these trees is not quickly dissipating our national wood supply.

If the trees are cut in keeping with good forestry principles not

with good forestry principles not only is no harm done, but actual good results. To promote observance of these principles, a number States now require that trees of of the Christmas tree producing red for sale shall bear tifying that they have been so cut When Christmas trees are taken out of the forests in the proper way, the growth of the timber crop trees is improved

Sending Christmas Cards Is

Old Custom
People who have made a study
of the subject say the Christmas card as we have it today is about

century old.
While factions split on the date, all seem agreed that the current practice originated in England Some say the Christmas card did not make its appearance until 1846, while other authorities say has revealed one brought out in 1842. It was about 1860 before the practice became at all widsspread.

Christmas Tree of German Origin Many neonle are under the im-Many people are under the im-pression that the Christmas tree, as well as the Yule log, is some-thing of English origin. This, how-over, is not the case. The practice of erecting and decorating ever-green trees at Christmas started

n Germany.
The Christmas tree was intro-And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

van, they came a day's journey, duced to England, and thereby to their kinsfolk and acquaintances. the English-speaking world, by their kinsfolk and acquaintances. in 1840 They imported the custom from Germany.

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