

Looking Back

Memories of Christmas  
In 'Good Old Days'

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

"Christmas Past," hardly of the Charles Dickens variety, but a personal looking back on the Feast of the Nativity is the assignment given this column by Father Henry Atwell, editor, this week.

Recollection of early days in old St. Patrick's Cathedral parish, so many years ago, dimly bring back the solemn Pontifical services in the stately old Cathedral. The joyous choral music came from the voices of the widely known choir directed by Prof. F. Eugene Bonn, organist in those days with no radio, television nor many other current distractions, the services brought many to the Cathedral. Sermon was long but the oratory of distinguished prelates of the day held the interest.

For the young people of the parish and their parents, the crib in old Lady Chapel on Frank St. was a must at the Christmas season. The life-like figures impressed the story of Bethlehem on the viewers and influenced them for years after.

This bit is not to picture all of the happenings of other Christmases but to jog memories.

While not of the spiritual side of Christmas, a memory of a disastrous fire opposite our house early Christmas morn is vividly recalled. My father was a city fireman in the firehouse opposite our home. Next was a large factory. At 4 a. m. the factory was ablaze, the firehouse dark in a few minutes the firemen were on the job and the rest of that Christmas was spent in carrying coffee and sandwiches to the firemen. The odor of burnt embers suppressed the aroma of Christmas trees.

The practice at home was to wait until late Christmas eve to decorate the Christmas tree and await the surprise in the morning of the children viewing it for the first time. That of course was before the present day of being two weeks ahead. Attendance at Midnight Mass was followed by tree trimming and after a short sleep the little ones came down to see if Santa had come.

The World War II years at Christmas time were overshadowed by concern for those in the armed forces. Christmas time began early in November when boxes were filled and addressed for a son in Europe another son in the Pacific and another son on the Atlantic coast.

At the paper here the concern was for chaplains in the four corners of the earth and the hundreds of boys from parishes and schools whose parents' Christmas could be darkened by a casualty list.

My own Christmas at the time of the World War I came in 1918 when the War was over. I came home from Garden City with the discharge and knowledge that I would not have to go back. The previous Christmas was one of anxiety for those not yet in the service and bitter for those in Europe trying to keep the World from having another war.

Experience in organizations at Christmas is also recalled. In the Rochester Ad Club more than 30 years ago I would attend their parties and bring home a large bag of items furnished by advertisers which the children delved through like it was Santa's bag. Christmas at the Knights of Columbus resulted in a party for knights and ladies and one of the features was as I recall, a talk by the late Charles A. Tucker on "The History of the Christmas Tree."

As grand knight of Rochester council I had opportunity to note the problems the late Paul A. Prodmore, financial secretary had when the council supplied baskets to the needy. Sometimes he was delivering them right up to Christmas eve. The knights each year, and now, receive donations for the Christmas fund.

The problem for me at Christmas when manager of the old Rochester F. Ho. was to see that appreciation was expressed to all who cooperated, the postman, the elevator man, and others. The late Joseph M. Schifferli, manager of the paper published in Buffalo, was most generous in cooperating.

It was the practice in those days for persons handling publicity from organizations to the newspapers to bring Christmas remembrances, cigars, cigarettes in the newspaper offices. At one time the K. of C. and Alhambra had me take the gifts to the five newspapers.

When the Carmelite Sisters first came to Rochester and were in the Monastery on Saratoga Ave. Father Leonard Moorey was the chaplain. He assisted for the Midnight Mass and singing in the small public chapel. The activity that pleased him most, however was to buy little trinkets for the Sisters' observance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents when they were permitted to enjoy the gifts of the season. Today the Courier Journal still sends the Sisters permitted food treats at Christmas time.

Bishop Kearney down through his vaders here has marked the Christmas season for employees of diocesan departments with a luncheon or dinner first in Columbus Cafe Center, later at Rochester Club, Sheraton or Manger hotels. Those have been greatly appreciated by all of us who attend.

When I was handling the news service, I remember that the "Keep Christ in Christmas" program was started many years ago. This year Henrietta Council, Knights of Columbus is in the fore front of the movement. In the early days the use of "Ymas" for Christmas brought indignation calls. The use of the four letter word in headline writing is obvious. Later we learned that the Greek X stands for Christ and was often used by priests in signing "Yours in Xto."

Visiting the cribs and attending Midnight Masses are for many people as much a "must" today as in the past. At our house the children and grandchildren will gather on Christmas Eve later the "children" who can, will go to Midnight Mass but the grandchildren and their grandparents will be heading for bed long before Midnight.

Summer Children Back  
For Christmas Visit

Lorella Buchette, a six year old negro girl from New York City, is spending Christmas with her "summer family" here in Rochester. Lorella is one of fifteen Fresh Air children being welcomed back for Christmas by families in the Rochester area. The area is sponsored by Good She is the guest of the Stanley Shepherd Parish, Rev. George Bartash family of West Henrietta Road.

Auburn CYO  
League Reports

Auburn — With their program expanded to include fifth and sixth grades, the Auburn CYO basketball League ran into a problem of getting a place to play all its games on Sunday. The problem was solved when Douglas Buchanan, physical director of the Auburn Y.M.C.A. City associated with the Fresh Air Program, offered the court at the Auburn Y.M.C.A. to play six games every Sunday. The rest of the league plays hosts to children for ten years as scheduled at Mount Carmel Y.M.C.A. in Henrietta. High school gymnasium. This is good to be the New York State and that any out of group Mrs. Sigee Bartash was allowed to use the Auburn Y.M.C.A. facilities on Sunday. The Auburn Y.M.C.A. facilities on Sunday.

**Last Minute Gift Specials**

**DAW'S**

Stores Will Be Open Tonite... 'til 9:30 P.M. and Christmas Day 'til 2 P.M.

**Yardley SHAVE BOWL** Famous... Up to 6-Months of Luxurious Lather. **1.50** After Shave Lotion 1.00\*

**Williams Gift Set** He'll Love You For a... Beautifully Wrapped - Ready to Give. **1.42** Aqua Valve and Electric Shave. Other Gifts... 1.07 to 2.34

**MIDNIGHT COLOGNE** The Excitement Begins at MIDNIGHT... Sun Up After Shave and Cologne. **1.50** Classic Bottle With Gold Tone Cap... In Male Box. Other Gifts... 1.11 to 1.97

**Gillette GIFT SETS** New... Elegant. **1.75** Sun Up After Shave and Cologne. Other Gifts... 1.11 to 1.97

**RICHARD HUONNI Sportsman AFTER SHAVE FOR MEN** **1.25** \* Gift Based

**Look! 6 EXTRA WIDE ROLLS** Beautifully Decorated... all 6 Rolls **500-in. 71c** 26-in. Wide. \*3-Roll **36c** Pkg.

**Large 10-in. Tapers Candles** SMOKELESS • ODORLESS. Choice of Colors **2 for 17c** Limit of 12

**It Wouldn't Be Christmas without...** Soap 2.50 **YARDLEY Gift Sets and Toiletries** ...from **1.00** to **3.75**

**Beautiful 3-Piece Chip 'n Dip ENSEMBLE** ...with Crystal Clear Ensembles. **1.55**

**Rum and Brandy FRUIT CAKE** In Re-usable Containers. **2-lbs. 88c** Check Full of Glace Pineapple, Dates and Candied Fruit

**Deluxe... Assorted MILK or DARK CHOCOLATES** 2-lb. **98c** Box. A Delicious Assortment of All Your Favorite Pieces in Beautiful Xmas Wrap

**Christmas MIX** 1-lb. **29c** Pkg. Candy Filled Stockings... 19c Candy Canes... 30 for 29c

**FILLED CANDY** 3-lb. **1.19** Jar. Peanut Butter and Fruit Flavored Centers

**Be Sure You Have Plenty of Film and Flash Bulbs** ...for the Holidays Ahead

**Punch Bowl Set** Large Gracful Punch Bowl and 12-Cups. **1.77**

**TOYS!** Little MA JESTY TELEPHONE. Realistic... Life Size Dial... It Rings. **88c** DAW'S Low Price

**PLAY DOH MODELING COMPOUND** Clean... Non-Toxic. Four Ass't Colors. **79c**

**Monday Morning Quarterback Football Game** Family Fun Game of Skill and Strategy for Ages 9 to 12. **1.44** DAW'S Low Price

**Automatic Turn Over Propellers** Lights Are Brightly Lit. **3.98** All-Metal Battery Operated **Electra-Jet** WITH LIGHT. Battery Operated... Automatically Stops and Goes

**WEAVER PEN SET** Ball Point Pen, Stick Pen and Fountain Pen... and Automatic Pencil. Plus... Erasers and Extra Leads. **87c** Great Little Gift

**Pipes... from Dr. Grabow** "NEEDS NO BREAKING-IN!" Adjustable Screw Stems • Vulcanite Mouthpiece. Check DAW'S Low Prices. All Hand Shaped from Finest Briar

**BURMA Gift Set** BURMA SHAVE EXTRA-RICH LATHER AND BURMA BEY AFTER SHAVE. **1.17** For That Special Guy. Reg. 1.79 Value

**Tiparillo** You're Sure to Find His Favorite Cigars at DAW'S. Humidor Fresh, Gift Wrapped. **Lowest Prices!**

**Old Spice** Gift Sets and Toiletries... from **1.00** to **7.50** \* Gift Set 5.00 After Shave 1.25\*

**Rigoletto** MILD HAVANA PALMAGRANDE or PANATELA CIGARS. Box of 24 **2.52** He'll Love the Freshness and Aroma. Extra-Long (6 1/2-inches)

**Helena Rubinstein Max Factor** LANTIN Dana Falgout LENTHERIC Coty Reulon

**Evening in Paris Gift Set** Glistening Golden Gems; Perfume, Spray Cologne, Perfume Flocon, Eau de Toilette. **5.00** \* Other Evening in Paris Gift Sets **1.00 to 10.00**

**Little Lady TRIO** Toilet Water, Cologne and Hand Lotion. She'll Love You For It! **1.00** \*

BRING YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION to DAW'S