

Where Did That Custom Come From?

New York — (NAPS) — It could have come from Sweden. Or France. Even fourth century Turkey played its role. Some of the more ancient customs might seem strange to us today, but each had a hand in revealing and shaping many of the Christmas customs and traditions we now enjoy.

The delightful custom of "bussing" under the mistletoe actually came from the ancient Druids, who called it "all heal" in the belief that it had the power to cure disease.

In the 13th century, the "carol" signified a dance rather than a song. In fact, St. Francis of Assisi led villagers in joyous dancing around the Nativity scene.

And it was an 8th Century Benedictine monk, St. Boniface, who probably trimmed the first Christmas tree when he convinced heathens to stop worshipping a sacred oak and adorn fir trees in the homes as a tribute to the Christ child.

A 4th Century bishop of Turkey, St. Nicholas, was the real-life predecessor of Santa Claus. According to a legend, he dropped a bag of gold coins down a chimney into a stocking which a poor girl had hung by the fireplace to dry; hence our custom of hanging Christmas stockings.

And Santa wasn't always the fat, jolly man you recognize today. He's gained plenty of weight since the Dutch called him Sinter Klaas, and he rode a skinny white horse, not reindeer.

A French legend tells how the Christmas rose came into being. A little girl, accompanying the shepherds on their way to see the Christ Child, was sad because she had no gift to offer. The angel Gabriel appeared and taking pity on the child, caused a beautiful white rose to spring from the ground. Overjoyed, the little girl plucked the bloom, which she took as a gift to the infant Jesus.

Called Noel by the French, Navidad by the Spanish, Na-

chrichten by the Italians and Weihnachten by the Germans, Christmas in our part of the world is derived from the Old English term "Cristes maesse" (Christ's Mass), a term first used in the 11th Century.

The large part children play in Christmas is legendary. If he was lucky, the 16th Century child got a ride on a huge Yule log when it was dragged into the manor house or castle. While caroling and feasting when on during Christmas eve, the youngsters played Snapdragon, a game in which the players tried to snatch a raisin from a bowl of burning spices and spirits.

While American youngsters are putting their gifts under the tree, Slavic children go to sleep on a bed of straw and hay on Christmas eve, to share in Christ's humble birth.

One of our most recent customs, the exchanging of Christmas cards, began in

England in the 1840s. Christmas cards were introduced in the United States by Louis Prang, a German immigrant. Often called the "Father of the American Christmas Card," Prang printed his first "Seasons Greetings" in 1873.

In many countries of Europe, people still believe that trees break into blossom for a few moments at midnight on Christmas Eve. The most popular flowering plant is the poinsettia, brought to the United States more than 120 years ago from Mexico.



The next time you get bussd under the mistletoe you might want to know that centuries ago mistletoe was used as a charm against witches and thunder.

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- Broiled Swordfish Steak, lemon butter
- Turkey Club, chips and pickles
- Deep Fried Sea Scallops, tartar sauce
- Deep Fried Breaded Veal Cutlet, tomato sauce
- Fresh Shrimp Salad Platter w/cottage cheese, garnished

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State Tax: .09
Gratuity: .26

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(for Groups of 10 or more)

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- Center Cut Ham Steak, pineapple ring
- Roast Duck, dressing, orange sauce
- Broiled Boneless Brook Trout, almadiene
- Broiled Red Snapper, lemon butter
- Broiled Giant Shrimp, with drawn butter

Above meals include salad, potato and beverage.
Ice cream or sherbet

Plate: 3.25
State Tax: .17
Gratuity: .58

TOTAL PRICE \$4.00

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Draft Ruling
May Clear
Local Priests

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Selective Service boards may give registrants a status exemption "because of various titles and conduct, and with regard to the exemptions by law."

Justice William Douglas, the majority opinion of the 6-to-3 ruling, held that the "can find no authorization (in Selective Service laws) for rec'd James J. Oesterich, a divident at Andover-Newton Sem Massachusetts.

Mr. Oesterich turned in a card as a protest to the war nam and his local board, so after informed him he had classified from 4-D (divinity) to 1-A status. He was ordered port for induction. He appower court, lost his case but again to the Supreme Court.

Justice Black said that on son registers and qualifies statutory exemption, "we legislative authority to depr of that exemption because of or activities unrelated to th of granting or continuing emption."

The Supreme Court dech have repercussions on the two Rochester diocesan Fathers David Connor and Sullivan.

According to Rochester's Herman Walsh, who has A.C.L.U. counsel for it priests, their cases "have academic and will probably continued."

The two priests, both p tivists, were originally rec'd from 4-D to 1-A because of to carry their draft cards, ing the cards to their draft

Father Sullivan was is classified 5-A (overage); ther Connor was ordered mit to induction. He repc the Buffalo induction cen refused to take the requir

Father Connor, associat lain at Cornell Universi that the Court decision h: expected. He stated that lived the Dec. 16 ruling him from induction but th court hearing might be to correct the action of his draft board.

The Supreme Court dech draft boards cannot op free-wheeling agencies me their brand of justice in a five manner."

Bishop to S Midnight M

For the third Christmas Fulton J. Sheen will celeb night Mass at Sacred Hea dra), and preach the homily. Celebrating with him the Cathedral staff, Very S. Hayes, rector, and Father P. Sweeney, Phillip J. Bill Thomas Sykes.

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