

# Christmas Trees, Rites, Symbolism Dates Back Thousands of Years to Days of Egyptians

From the dim ages of long ago have come many of the festive rites and customs of our Christmas season.

The symbolic use of a tree dates back at least 4000 years, when Egyptians celebrated in honor of their Sun God, in the month corresponding to our December. They believed that the sun died every night and was born again in the morning, and that late December and January brought the turning point, when the sun remained with them a little bit longer each day. This was a season of rejoicing, and the palm trees became their symbol, as it put out a leaf every month and the twelve leaves symbolized the complete year.

A few thousand years later came the feast of Saturnalia,

also held in December, but the tree the Romans used was a tall conifer, loaded with decorations. Roman legions carried this symbolism over the Alps into Gaul; and about 15 B. C. the tree was used in Yuletide celebrations of the Germans.

Hundreds of years passed, and a tree became the symbol of celebrations connected with the patron saint of Russia and of children—Saint Nicholas, who in his lifetime was Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor.

An old legend tells us that the kindly St. Nicholas unintentionally originated the custom of hanging stockings by the fire at Christmas. St. Nicholas was rich, and loved to make mysterious journeys bearing secret gifts to the

poor. For a long time his identity remained hidden but he was caught at last with his sack of gifts on his back.

St. Nicholas knew an old nobleman who was very poor and who did not want anyone to know of his poverty. Wanting to give him a gift of money St. Nicholas crept to a window of the house and saw the old gentleman asleep by the fire. The good Bishop climbed to the roof and dropped his gift down the chimney, thinking it would fall on the hearth at the nobleman's feet. However, it so happened that the gentleman's daughter had hung some stockings to dry by the fire and the money fell into one of them; and from the kindly deed of the good Bishop has grown the wide-

spread custom of hanging stockings at Christmas time.

The anniversary of St. Nicholas' death in 1087 became a festival in the Russian church, and in time the name became corrupted to Santa Claus and associated with the festivities of the Christmas season, with its tree, its decorations, the holly and the mistletoe. These are the joyous symbols of Christmas.

## To Organize Little League

All parents of boys from 8 to 12 years old, living between Torrance blvd. and Sepulveda, and Hawthorne to W. Torrance Blvd., are invited to attend a meeting at Anza school, 21400 Ellenswood dr., on Friday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m., to help

## Dickens Story Westernized

James Stewart makes his directorial debut and stars in a unique westernized version of Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol," when "General Electric Theater" presents "Trail To Christmas," Sunday, December 15 at 9 p.m. over the CBS TV network.

Johnny Carterville (Richard Eyer), a small boy disillusioned by the impending Christmas season, runs away from home and encounters Bart (James Stewart) who recalls for the boy the story of Christmas written by Charles Dickens many years earlier. In Bart's version, western characters and a locale of the 1870's are substituted for Dickens' Victorian England.

organize the Southwood Little League.

Ray Tibben, 21617 Linda dr., is organizing the league.

## Sell 45 Homes In New Area

Over one-half of the first unit of Rolling Hills Rivera has been sold during the opening month of sales, according to Thomas Helt, sales manager for The McCarthy Company, sales agents.

This is a total of 45 houses sold, Helt said, and many were sold directly from the floor plans.

Located only minutes away from beaches and all recreational facilities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, these luxury houses on view lots are priced at \$20,800 to \$24,600, featuring family rooms with 3 and 4 bedrooms.

The four newly completed custom furnished model homes are located on Western ave., south of Palos Verdes Drive North, and are open daily.

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## MEATS



ALL MEAT  
**WEINERS**  
**39¢<sup>lb</sup>**

**PORK CHOPS** 49¢<sup>lb</sup>

**GROUND ROUND** 4 lbs. \$1<sup>00</sup>

CELLO PACK  
**SLICED BACON** 49¢<sup>lb</sup>

**ROUND STEAK** 69¢<sup>lb</sup>

**TENDER BEEF LIVER** 49¢<sup>lb</sup>

NO BONES — NO FAT  
**MINUTE STEAK** 69¢<sup>lb</sup>

## Food Buys!

LARGE LOAVES  
**SLICED BREAD** 18¢<sup>ca.</sup>

SNOWFLAKE  
**CRACKERS** 23¢<sup>1-LB. BOX</sup>

Smart TOILET  
**TISSUE** Roll 5¢

Large Box  
**TIDE** 23¢

ALL AMERICAN  
**P-NUT BUTTER** 49¢<sup>BIG 18-OZ. JAR</sup>

## PRODUCE

**Green Onions - Radishes**  
3 bunches for 5¢

WHITE ROSE  
**POTATOES** 10 lbs. 29¢

CRISP CHOICE  
**HEAD LETTUCE** 5¢<sup>A Head</sup>

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**FUERTE AVOCADOS** 7¢

TOPS OFF  
**FRESH CARROTS** 5¢<sup>lb</sup>

# ARCHIE'S MARKET

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