

KEEP CHRISTMAS — "MERRY" !! An Editorial

A man's home may be his castle — but during the Christmas holidays, it is more susceptible to fire than at any other time of the year.

Because of this intensified fire hazard created by holiday decorations, all families should have an escape plan worked out and rehearsed for use in case of fire. Parents are urged not to leave children unattended for even a short period while shopping for last minute gifts.

Last year's death toll from fires in December was over 800, with the property loss accompanying these deaths running way up in the millions.

Part of these staggering losses could be directly attributed to Christmas Trees and Decorations. Thus in order to at least eliminate this source of fire during the Christmas Holiday Season, here are some suggestions that should be followed:

When buying a Christmas Tree — shop around, if necessary — but buy only a fresh tree! Stroke the needles on a branch of the tree you are planning to buy with your hand. If needles drop from the branch, the tree is not fresh — so pick out one that doesn't do this.

A tree kept out-of-doors will stay fresh much longer than one in the house. So, if possible, keep your tree outside until just before Christmas — and be sure to put it in a pail of water as soon as you get home with it. The tree will "drink" water, and the water will help keep the tree fresh and green.

When you bring the tree inside the house to decorate it, put the tree in the coolest part of the room — away from radiators, hot air ducts, and fireplaces.

To help keep your tree fresh longer, you should use a tree stand with a metal container that can be filled with water. The container should be filled with water immediately, and then re-filled daily until the tree is taken down.

Only tree decorations made of glass, metal, or some other non-combustible material should be placed on the Christmas Tree.

White plastic foam, a popular material for ornaments and centerpieces, may seem fireproof but, in fact, burns easily and can be ignited by a spark. Another fire hazard is created by mixing angel hair and snow spray on a tree. Both items are advertised as non-flammable, and are essentially safe when used alone; however, in combination they become so flammable that a mere touch of flame sends them into a burst of fire.

Check Christmas tree lights before placing them on the tree to be sure they are in good operating condition. Strings of lights with frayed wires or faulty sockets should be replaced with new ones. (We find it most economical to buy a new string of lights right after Christmas when they are on sale — and then throw the poorest string of lights away when taking the tree down.)

Christmas tree lights should be turned off at night and — NEVER leave lights on when everyone is away from home.

If you have a metal tree, do not decorate it with Christmas lights as they could cause a short circuit — instead, use an off-the-tree lighting arrangement.

And last — but not least — when the needles start dropping off the tree, take it down even though you had planned on leaving it up a few days longer.

Christmas wrappings should be removed as quickly as possible, but they should not be burned in the fireplace.

Then after following all these suggestions, have a "Merry Christmas" — without fear of a disastrous fire over the Holidays !!!

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THE NEWS PRINTING HOUSE
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50 YEARS AGO

December 5, 1919

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Charles Shelly, 84, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Youmans Saturday, Nov. 29. Four daughters survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Menzo Mead has purchased the George Rosebush farm and with his daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Joyce and family will move there soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Burdick are parents of a son, Carroll Truman, born Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Henry Horan has moved the Slocum house which he purchased last summer, First Street to his lot on Chestnut Street this Wednesday.

Miss Helen Baker of Railroad Valley and Leland Helmer of Hornell, were united in marriage Thursday, November 27th.

Mrs. S. G. Crandall of Independence has gone to California to spend the winter with her son, Benjamin.

Mrs. M. A. Green of Independence left for Cleveland, Ohio Monday to visit her sons.

Miss Sarah Wheaton of West Bingham has been spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Rae Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bines left on train 26 Wednesday for Jacksonville, Fla., where they expect to pass the winter with relatives.

Atty. C. L. Early left Thursday for New York City for a few days business trip. He will visit Paterson, N. J. and Montclair.

40 YEARS AGO

December 6, 1929

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher

Clara Kemp Mingus, 73, died Tuesday, December 3. A son and an adopted daughter survive. Interment was in Fulmer Valley Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Scott are the parents of a son, born November 28th.

Prof. and Mrs. Rahl and family of Ithaca, were guests over the week-end of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Crandall of Independence.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Greene and children of New York City spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Crandall of Independence.

Misses Katherine and Margaret Folsing were home from Elmira to pass Thanksgiving with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Folsing and family.

Francis Vickers, Lloyd Gee, Malcolm Brundage, Charles Lever, Daniel Farwell and Roger Tuttle were among those who attended the State Older Boys' Conference at Rochester from Friday until Sunday.

Miss Emma Folsing was a Thanksgiving and week-end guest of Miss Doris Stimson of Iliou.

Mrs. LeRoy Brundage went to Buffalo last week to pass Thanksgiving with her daughter, Miss Frances Brundage who is attending the Nurses Training School in that city.

Miss Dorothea Snyder was home from Cornell University for the Thanksgiving week-end with her grandfather, Jesse Snyder.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence King of Buffalo, spent last week guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Proper.

December 13, 1929

Mrs. Ila Bloss Clarke, 69, died at her home in Andover Saturday, December 7th. A son, three daughters, a sister and a brother survive. Interment was in Independence Cemetery.

Miss Mary Hinchey of Elm Valley and Albert Sortore of Belmont, were united in marriage Wednesday, December 4th by the Rev. Charles Parsons.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Williams left Saturday by motor for Florida to pass the remainder of the winter.

Mrs. Emma Robbins went to Angelica Tuesday to visit at the home of her brother, Charles Bossard and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCoy of Cleveland, Ohio were pleasant visitors at the Frisbey-Porter home Saturday.



by Alex Rankin

Liberals and Conservatives have apparently found something they can agree on.

The other day Republican State Senator John Marchi of Staten Island, late loser in the race for mayor of New York City and now the leading conservative figure in the state Legislature, called for the state takeover of all local welfare costs.

This proposal was first made over two years ago at the state constitutional convention by one of its leaders, Dr. Alan Campbell, now dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

And he has been making it periodically ever since whenever the subject of welfare comes up.

Marchi would have the state take over the cost gradually, 10 per cent a year.

Opponents then and now made two arguments against it. First there was the matter of local control, which would be lost.

The second was that it would, in the long run, cost more to operate welfare on the state level. The figures on both sides of the argument were vague in 1967 and no one has since come up with any that can be trusted to any degree. One thing seemed — and I emphasize "seemed" — to be evident in the proposal. If counties didn't have welfare items in their budgets, it would be a major load off the backs of local real estate taxpayers.

Marchi said he will introduce a bill next year. It will be one to watch with interest.

On the subject of legislation to be introduced in January, Republican Assemblyman Charles A. Jerabek of Suffolk County promises to introduce a bill which he claims will restore about \$2.5 million taken away from local

school districts in 41 counties of the state.

He said the districts lost the money "when the State Board of Equalization and Assessment published lower equalization rates for the high tax districts in October." He said this was some four months after most districts had announced school tax increases after passing their budgets.

When the 1969 session of the Legislature passed the bill cutting back state aid to schools, the formulas were based on existing equalization rates at the time. The new rates mean some lost money.

One district in Dutchess County lost \$37,000, he said. Two in Erie County lost \$67,000. Two in Rockland County lost \$200,000 and 10 in Nassau County lost \$587,000. Ten districts in Suffolk County lost a total of \$908,000.

One district in Ulster County lost \$36,000 and one in Onondaga County lost \$6,000. Two districts in Schenectady County lost \$132,000, one in St. Lawrence County lost \$9,000, two in Saratoga County lost \$54,000, two in Putnam County lost \$26,000, two in Orange County lost \$62,000, five in Monroe County lost \$254,000 and one in Madison County lost \$73,000.

Jerabek said the bill would allow districts to use the 1967 or 1968 equalization rates, whichever is greater, in determining the high tax rate aid for the current school year.

"The money for this recommendation is already funded in accordance with the 1969 state budget," said Jerabek. "Eligible school districts had every right to receive this lost state aid and the additional burden should not be carried by already overtaxed property owners."

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clarke and daughters of Binghamton, Mrs. Reva Thompson of Greenwood and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wood of Bridgeton, N. J., were called to Andover this week by the illness and death of their mother, Mrs. Ila Clarke.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith attended Pomona Grange Meeting at Belfast last Tuesday.

Miss Rose Ellen Casey returned to Buffalo Thursday, where she has accepted a position in the General Hospital.

30 YEARS AGO

December 1, 1939

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Francis Mead was elected Master of Andover Grange at their regular meeting last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Dougherty were guests at the home of his sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gross in Buffalo Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fanton and three children, have moved into the Fanton home in Fulmer Valley.

Atty. and Mrs. C. L. Earley and Atty. and Mrs. R. J. Sootheran, left Wednesday for Uniontown, where they will be Thanksgiving guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sheppard and family.

Mrs. Carrie Hunt is spending this week with her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Reimann at Angelica.

Arling R. Baker was in New York City on business this week-end. While there he visited his sisters, Mrs. Rose B. Vincent and Helen M. Baker.

Eugene Smith of Olean spent last week at the home of his brother Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith.

Edward Dixon, 53, died Tuesday, November 28th. His sister and two brothers survive. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery, Andover.

Miss Florence Elizabeth Parker and Roger J. Tuttle both of Andover, were united in marriage

Wednesday, November 22 by Rev. Lucien H. Kerns.

Frank Emery, 67, died Friday, November 24. A son, two sisters and a grandson, survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Pastor and Mrs. W. L. Greene are passing the week-end with their son and wife, Dr. and Mrs. Claire Greene at Brighton, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Clarke of Solvay, were guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Clarke of Independence over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Church and daughter of Elkland, Pa., passed the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Church.

Mr. and Mrs. John Snyder and son of Camden, N. Y., were week-end guests of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Green of Davis Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Norton are passing the week at the home of his mother, Mrs. Vesta Norton at Angelica.

Mrs. G. W. Barrett and Mrs. John Joyce motored to Hornell Saturday to meet Miss Edna Barrett, who spent the week-end with her parents on Corwin Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Kinney of Buffalo are spending several days this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cannon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trowbridge of Groton were overnight guests Wednesday of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Trowbridge. Miss Marjory Trowbridge of Fulton spent from Wednesday until Sunday with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brainard of McKeesport, Pa., spent several days guests of his sister and husband, Postmaster and Mrs. J. D. Cheesman.

Miss Florence DeRemer of Jersey City visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John DeRemer from Thursday until Sunday.

Mrs. George Carpenter passed the week-end in Brocton with her mother, Mrs. Pearl Ryckman.

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