

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 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 flames 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 light 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 !!!



50 YEARS AGO

October 28, 1921

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burdick of Elm Valley, were pleasantly surprised by a company of neighbors and friends Wednesday evening in honor of their 20th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wahl have moved from their farm home in Elm Valley to the home of Mrs. Wahl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. U. W. Stratton on Main Street. Their son Leon Wahl and family will manage the farm home.

C. A. Robinson received a telegram Saturday night stating that his son, Rodney Robinson had the misfortune to break the bone in his left leg in a football game between Oberlin and Hiram Colleges at Oberlin, that day.

Mrs. Apson Brewster of Andover has been passing a few days with her son, Herman Jackson and family of Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hardy and son, Donald of Andover are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Livermore of Independence.

Mrs. Jane Upstake of Independence has been spending a week with her son, Fred at West Union, Den Leary of South Hill and Andover Sunday for a trip to Mexico to visit his brother, Father John Lynch, who is located in that state.

Mrs. H. P. Burdick of Rochester has been the guest of relatives in Andover the past two weeks.

Mrs. Lottie Cook returned home Thursday for a visit in New York City.

Harland Robinson and Roland Stevens are spending a few days' guests of friends in Arcade and vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Porter left Friday to spend a week in New York City.

Miss Vesta Hurd spent the week-end in Hornell at the home of Miss Dirdella Dodd.

November 4, 1921

Mrs. Mila Pingrey is spending the week at the A. M. Mings home.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holmes were on South Hill one day last week where Mr. Holmes hopes soon to be able to take up his lease work again. Clarence Briggs of Fulmer Valley has been the pumper in his place.

Mr. and Mrs. Hasbrook and Mr. and Mrs. Webb Kenyon of Cranton, Pa. are guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Crandall of Independence.

F. M. Lee returned to his home at Tip Top Friday after a few days visit with relatives and friends in New Brunswick and Plainfield, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Langworthy of Tip Top spent from Sunday until Tuesday in Perry.

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Baker and son, Donald spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Baker of Tip Top.

Miss Lydia Ann Denton, 87, died at the family home in Andover Tuesday. Funeral services were held Thursday with Rev. W. H. Smith officiating. Interment was made at Seneca Castle, N. Y.

Guy Wood arrived home Saturday from California, where he has been for the past seven months. Miss Augusta Will is spending some time with friends at Scio.

Mrs. H. L. Mead of Wayland is visiting Andover friends for a few days.

Mrs. Reginald Starr and children of Cameron Mills were recent guests at the home of her mother Mrs. Ida Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burns and family of Hornell are visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Joyce.

Miss Minnie Clair returned Tuesday from Rochester where she attended the Baptist State Convention.

40 YEARS AGO

October 22, 1921

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Burger have purchased of M. V. Lynch the property on Chestnut Street formerly owned by the late Huber Padden.



by Alvin Rankin

At least one clear pattern has emerged from a recent series of meetings in Albany of state legislators, the governor and state officials.

Everyone is busy passing the buck for the state's \$1.5 billion deficit crisis to the federal government. Legislators say it is the federal government's responsibility to solve the deficit.

There is a "only" solution to the deficit problem, a combination of tax reductions and budget cuts. The state and local governments must do their part.

That really adds up to two levels of tax hikes. One at the state level, the other at the local level. Many localities have already budgeted and spent state aid funds.

If that source is cut back, there may be no alternative but for local officials to raise local taxes to meet the difference.

The Calhoun Real Estate Agency has sold the farm known as the Henry Bennett farm in the town of Alfred to M. J. Lynch.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Halsey of Davis Hill visited Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Trowbridge of Syracuse Sunday and Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hoagland and daughters, Floyd Slocum and Mrs. Jesse Slocum visited Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hoagland of Canadice from Sunday until Tuesday in quest of pheasants, which they couldn't hit.

Robert Common was home from Buffalo Dental College for the week-end with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. John Common.

Fay Boyd and Archie Bloss spent Sunday and Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boyd at Batavia and also went pheasant hunting.

Mrs. F. A. Richardson of Hornell spent Thursday with her sister, Mrs. E. A. Mullen.

Mr. and Mrs. Den Doran of New York City came Sunday to spend their vacation with his mother, Mrs. B. Horan at Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. James Guinn of Hornell, spent from Wednesday until Sunday with their mother, Mrs. James Guinn on First Street.

Mrs. Camilla Harris of Buffalo passed the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. James Dummigan. Mrs. T. F. Cronin of Wellsville and Mrs. Dummigan accompanied her to Hornell Monday.

Harold Emery and son, Donald were in Newark, N. Y., Sunday and Monday guests of friends and went pheasant hunting.

November 6, 1921

At the 1921 Election J. D. Chessman was elected Member of Assembly; J. L. Williams, Supervisor; Town Clerk A. L. Bloss; Collector, Nora Horan and E. C. Howland Supt. of Highways.

Edward J. Atwood, died Thursday, November 5th. His wife, Hazel survives. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Mrs. Emily Perry, widow of Homer Perry, died Wednesday, November 4th at her home on Hill Street.

Mrs. Minnie Galpin, 75, died Friday, October 30. Two sisters and three brothers survive. Burial was in the Slocum Cemetery on Davis Hill.

Mrs. Mary Alice Horsfall of Wellsville spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Jett Blodgett.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl V. Clarke of Independence, were Saturday and Sunday guests of Miss Manerva Trowbridge at Rochester.

Mrs. Lottie Drew and Edith of Independence are spending a few

Last week's Assembly session in Albany

Everyone is busy passing the buck for the state's \$1.5 billion deficit crisis to the federal government. Legislators say it is the federal government's responsibility to solve the deficit.

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