

# 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 suggestion, have a "Merry Christmas" — without fear of a disastrous fire over the Holidays !!!

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## FROM OUR FILES

### 50 YEARS AGO

December 10, 1920

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Spences S. Scribner, 77, died at his home on Center Street, Wednesday, December 8th. His wife survives. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Miss Lottie Cook was a week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cole of Elm Valley.

Rev. H. B. Williams spent the first of the week visiting his father, L. B. Williams at Canton, Ohio.

Miss Myra Diffin was a Sunday guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mead of Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Slocum are in North Bingham, today, to attend the funeral of her brother-in-law, L. E. Briggs, 73, who died Tuesday, December 7th.

Earl Bassett went to Buffalo Sunday where he began work in the Erie Ticket Office in that city Monday.

Mrs. P. C. Lynch and daughter, Mrs. Joseph Lynch, passed Tuesday in Hornell at the home of her daughter, Mrs. P. J. Gallagher.

Mrs. Grant Sherwood has been passing several days this week at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Church of Voorhees Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bird and three children of Almond, visited at the home of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Sherwood Saturday and Sunday.

Frank R. Gray of Perry, who has been spending some time with his daughter, Mrs. Ray Hammond, left for Avon Park, Fla., Thursday to pass the winter.

Mrs. Emma Clair left this week for California, where she expects to pass the winter with relatives. She will also visit relatives and friends in Chicago, Ill., and Kalamazoo, Michigan enroute.

Mrs. Michael Dougherty has returned from a week's visit with relatives in Hornell.

Max Richardson was a business visitor in Buffalo the first of the week.

Miss Leah Slocum of Hornell, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Slocum.

H. P. Garvin is a business visitor in Lancaster, Pa., this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stephens and Mrs. Delia Hunt spent Sunday, guests of Mrs. Florence Madden of Belfast.

### 40 YEARS AGO

December 12, 1930

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Miss Kathryn Guinn, 25, died Saturday, December 6th. Her parents, a brother and a sister survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

A number of members of the W. R. C. gave Mrs. Jennie Flint a surprise visit Tuesday evening. Mrs. Flint plans to leave Sunday to pass the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Edgar Clair of Detroit, Michigan.

A company of fifteen neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Warfield gathered at their home Tuesday for a farewell dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Warfield are leaving Sunday to make their home in Geneseo.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Snyder of Barney Mills, are the parents of a son, born Wednesday, December 10th.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Briggs of Himrods, have been visiting relatives on Davis Hill for a few days.

Ed and Charles Hayes of Wells-ville spent Saturday and Sunday with their sister, Mrs. Mattie Wilcox.

E. F. Stearns spent from Monday until Wednesday with his son and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Stearns of Hornell.

Newton Dexter of Seattle, Washington, arrived Friday, called here by the serious illness of his mother Mrs. Clara Crandall.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Porter and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hunt were Buffalo visitors from Sunday until Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and son of Buffalo, were guests of his father and family, Horace Williams Monday and Tuesday.

Dr. and Mrs. P. D. Hardy of

U. S. Senator-elect, James Buckley, the Conservative who upset Goodell and Ottinger, says he is locating his upstate office in the Albany federal building.

Buckley said he felt the Albany base would give him a central location. He said he's going to spend a lot of time there, too.

If he gets tired of federal problems, Buckley can also put on his overcoat and hike up the hill to the state capitol building and watch the scramble up there.

There was hardly an eyebrow lifted when Al Abrams, secretary of the state senate, said he was thinking of installing bullet-proof glass in the Senate gallery.

It's a sign of the times.

This reporter can still remember the shock on the faces of veteran Albany reporters when a group in the gallery began waving and shouting obscenities to the senators on the floor below them.

No, that wasn't this year. It was three years ago.

Reporters who have been in Albany for years could never remember such an incident.

But of late there have been a number of such incidents, capped by one this year during which a drape in the assembly parlor went up in flames.

Abrams said the possibility that a shield may be put up is because of the "realities of violence in our society."

For some time there has been a glass shield in the rear of the Assembly chamber, but it isn't bullet-proof, and the galleries two stories up in the front and back

of the chamber are wide open.

If we accept the "realities" of our times, something is going to have to be done in the Capitol this year. It's no secret that the place is "wide open" for protesters bent on violence.

Democratic Sen. Seymour Thaler of Forest Hills is making noises again about Joseph Zaretzki of Manhattan, minority leader of the Senate.

Every year Thaler tries to dump Zaretzki. Every year he fails.

One of the reasons is that the man who runs the Senate, Republican Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges, like Zaretzki.

Zaretzki and Brydges get along fine. Often one or the other —

they sit across from one another in the Senate — will pause in the middle of a speech in which he is attacking the other side and in a whisper, make a joke. Both men laugh and then the speech goes on.

One of the reasons Brydges runs such a smooth show in the Senate is that he is able to deal with Zaretzki.

But there is no love lost between the Niagara Falls Republican and Thaler. One doesn't see it very often because the senators are always polite as they call each other liars, burglars and worse across the senate aisle, but Brydges sometimes lets the veil slip and the naked hate slips out.

Thaler is pure show biz. He never makes a quiet speech. He fairly shouts. He waves his arms. His face turns livid purple. He has a cutting wit. And his most frequent target is Brydges.

Techumsach, Michigan, were entertained at the home of their son, Harold Hardy from Friday until Sunday. They were enroute for a winter's trip thru the Southwest.

Mrs. W. H. Diffin and Miss Mira Diffin were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Monaghan of the Arkport-Dansville Road for Thanksgiving and the week following.

Mrs. Frank Dean spent the week-end in Buffalo with her sister, Mrs. Henry Grimes.

Rev. Charles E. McHugh left Monday night for a few days stay in New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Atwood and Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cannon were Buffalo visitors the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morris and family of Bradford, Pa., were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Steadman.

### 30 YEARS AGO

December 12, 1940

Janice C. Backus, Publisher

Marie Hammond was elected Worthy Matron of Anna W. McArthur Chapter No. 242, at their regular meeting and Christmas Party, Monday evening.

Timothy Hyland, 77, died at Angelica, Saturday, December 7th. His wife, a daughter, a brother and a sister survive. Interment was in Friendship.

Mrs. Isabelle McCormick died at Hornell Saturday, December 7. A daughter and several nieces and nephews survive. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Andover.

Robert Brundage, 52, died early Tuesday morning, December 10th. A son and a brother survive. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery, Andover.

Mrs. Amelia Beyea Withey, 96, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Grace Lusk of Railroad Valley, Monday, December 9th. Besides her daughter, a son survives. Interment was in the Burdick Cemetery.

Samuel Ordiway of Andover and Miss Edith Lampman of Whitesville were united in marriage Saturday, November 30th by Rev. Helena L. Champlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hann have moved into their new home which they built on Grove Street.

A large barn on the farm of Lucien Henry in the Town of Hartsville, was destroyed by fire Saturday.

A party of young people from Andover enjoyed a spaghetti dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pease of Stannards Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Angood of Hornell spent the week-end at the Crownor home in Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wheaton and family have moved from the Swarts farm in West Greenwood to Greenwood.

Mrs. Clara Hann returned Sunday from three weeks passed with her daughter, Miss Edna Caple in Buffalo also her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Robinson of Alfred.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hyland and Mrs. Theresa Hyland were called to Belmont Saturday by the death of his brother, Timothy Hyland. Mr. Hyland remained for a few days.

Miss Mary Snyder returned Wednesday after spending ten days in Batavia and Alexandria guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boyd and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dorschel.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Brundage of Gasport, were called to Andover Tuesday by the death of his father, Robert Brundage.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hopping of New York City were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Oakes from Tuesday to Saturday, when they left for a trip to Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gibson of Dundee passed the week-end at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Coats.

George Gath of Corning, passed the week-end at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gath.

Miss Inez Youmans is passing two weeks in Wellsville guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nicholson.

The best time to mulch plants is when the surface layer of soil has frozen.

The New York State apple crop is estimated to be 13 per cent above the 1969 crop.

Butter, one of the oldest staple foods, was used in India as long as 2000 B.C.