Aluminum foil is the answer to wrapping gifts that are hard to wrap, such as vases and bottles. The foil molds easily to the shape. Just dress it up with a pretty bow.

✣ ✣ ✣

Cut cooky dough into squares or diamonds with a pastry wheel. This gives cookies nice fluted edges and there is no pastry left to reroll.

Getting a living Christmas tree this year? Then don't keep it in the house long after Christmas. The sooner it is planted, the better chance it will have to survive.

✣ ✣ ✣

To make a candle last longer, coat all but the wick with soap suds and let it dry in the holder before lighting. Candles so treated will neither smoke nor drip.

CHRIST'S BIRTHPLACE—Roman Catholic Chaplain Capt. J. St. Arnold of Brooks, Alta., and Sgt. Paul Dumas of Toronto and Pembroke, Ont., reads the Latin inscription on the star marking the birthplace of Christ. It is a grotto under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. They visited the church during a pre-Christmas tour of the Holy Land with members of the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt.
(CP Photo)

Exchange of cards at Christmas began more than century ago

Compared to many Christmas customs which date back through the centuries, the exchange of greeting cards is a modern practise — about 100 years old.

The first Christmas card is believed to have been designed about 1840 but it was another 20 years before the idea caught the public's fancy.

A predecessor of the greeting card, however, was the English school child's "Christmas piece." This was inscribed in the child's finest handwriting and carried home to proud parents to prove that school fees were not being wasted. The paper was often decorated with scrolls and holly.

Another ancestor of the Christmas card was the Valentine, a romantic fad which began in the 1850's. Later, enterprising manufacturers of the lacy Valentine merely changed the wording to sell them as Christmas cards.

The Christmas card practise as we know it today was actually born in the Victorian age. That was a time when many festivities once forbidden by Puritan laws were being revived. The first commercial greetings were not original. Most showed genial old gentlemen, generous plum puddings and the simplest greetings but people liked them.

Historians who have studied the cards of long ago say, however, that the range of materials used by the Victorians was astounding. Cardboard was the most common base but ingenious manufacturers also used pleated silk, imitation tortoise-shell, mother - of - pearl, ivory, silk fringe, lace, chenille, velvet, sachets, dried flowers, seaweed and moss.

By the 70's the Christmas card had left the Valentine far behind in popularity. Greetings changed from the simple "compliments of the season," to wishes ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous.

After a promisilg start the Victorian card degenerated into something far removed from the spirit of the season. Common were designs showing scantily - clad ladies gambolling against backgrounds of anything from mistletoe to tropical flowers. Religious subjects were rarely seen.

Gradually the commercial products designed to satisfy the public's demand for bright colored prints became more dignified. Illustrators and artists began contributing designs.

Card manufacturing techniques have come a long way since then and styles are constantly changing. Many are fine examples of printing craftsmanship. Most are lithographed and some undergo a "silk - screen" process to provide special effects. The snow scene might glitter with powdered "cellophane" or Santa might be wearing a suit with fuzzy wool "flocking."

Synthetic ground glass known to the trade as "diamond dust" impart sparkle. A special finish gives a gleaming "wet varnish" appearance. A popular process is "gold stamping" in which gold leaf is used to produce some lovely effects.

Once all cards sold in Canada were imported but today there are about 15 major card manufacturing firms in this country. Since the lady of the house buys 85 per cent of all family cards, these manufacturers are always catering to her wishes. They say that a few years ago blue was the most popular color but now red and black are on their way to the top in card fashions.

Whatever the style, the custom of exchanging Christmas cards is now —firmly established.

As families gather together in joyous celebration, we extend best Yuletide wishes.
A. MacKenzie Furniture Ltd.

Noel, Noel
Let the joyful sound of bells ring out our sincere best wishes to all our friends, for a very Merry Christmas!
NOBLE'S

GREETINGS
Merrily, merrily we sing out our wishes to you for the happiest holiday season ever!
CITY TRANSFER 1960 LTD.

May the Christmas spirit of Peace on Earth come to dwell in the hearts of all.
KELLY, DOUGLAS and COMPANY LIMITED

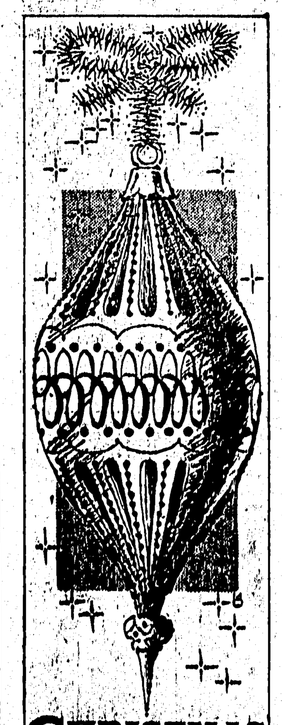
A Joyous Christmas
Warmest wishes to all.
PRE-STYLE Beauty Salon

The jolly man in the red suit is on his way ... bringing to you all our "Merry Christmas!"
From the Staff and Management
Parker's Ladies' Wear

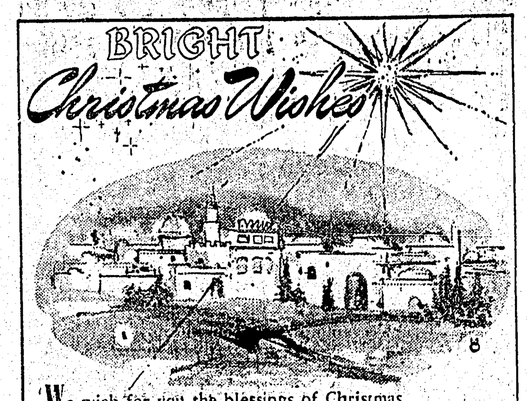
Christmas time
May the Christmas horn of plenty overflow with blessings for you and yours.
Saanich Plumbing and Heating Ltd.

Joyous Wishes
We hope your Yuletide glows with happiness and good cheer and all your days are bright ones.
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 27

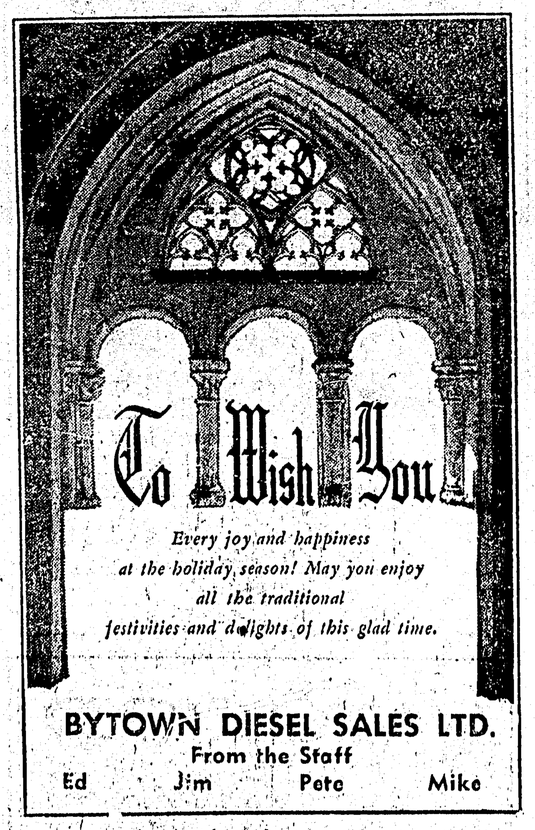
Christmas Blessings
... on you all! That's our sincere Yuletide wish.
PAT'S NEWSSTAND


CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
Among the bright baubles on your tree, put our warm wish to you for a Merry Christmas!
KAIEN HARDWARE
JOE SCOTT

May the star of Christmas shine brightly into your hearts.
H. G. HELGERSON LTD.
A. RIVETT



We wish for you the blessings of Christmas. May the radiance of the Star of Bethlehem light your way to peace and contentment in the coming year.
Management and Staff
Venture Sash and Millwork Ltd.


To Wish You
Every joy and happiness at the holiday season! May you enjoy all the traditional festivities and delights of this glad time.
BYTOWN DIESEL SALES LTD.
From the Staff
Ed Jim Pete Mike

RUPERT CEMENT PRODUCTS LTD.