

## The Spirit of the Christmas Present

by JOHN DREW

The Christmas spirit has already affected me. To date, I have received two letters from people wishing me Yule (not Yoell) tide greetings.

The first letter was from General Foods Inc., Inc. standing for Incompetence, I presume. They wished me a Merry Xmas and wanted me to buy a cookery book.

They wrote: "Dear Homemaker." Me! A homemaker! Impertinence! As if their wretched book would be any good to me hitch-hiking on the road. Or for that matter, in the kitchen, even if I did have one. Their insults continued: "We have a book for you by women for women." This was the first sentence . . . and it went on for another four pages!

The last straw came, though, when they claimed: "Women have been doing your job for 1300 years." At this, I took up pen and paper, wished Gen. Foods Inc., a Merry Xmas, and replied that if women for 1300 years had been doing what I do, we would have a pretty odd world today!

Their letter went on to claim that I knew their firm to be reliable and trustworthy. I told them that not only did I not know this, but I had also never even heard of their firm. And, furthermore, I wished I never had.

They concluded by saying that if I did not reply they would send on this book. If ever it does come, I know this. I shall take the book, search out any Gen. Foods Inc., executive around here, and give him a foretaste of a Merry Xmas hangover with it.

The second letter was from the Book-of-the-Month Club. Crook-of-the-Month Club, it ought to be. They wished me a Merry Xmas, and wanted me to buy a children's book called "The Big Jump."

They began: "Dear Parent or Grandparent." Me! Not only a homemaker now, but also a possible grandparent into the bargain! At 20, that would be pretty darn good going!

They wrote further that mine was one of "the families with whom we have had an association." I admit that they did have me worried. I wasn't sure whether this was commercial claptrap, or whether I had had a family. Anyway, perhaps to induce customers to buy this children's book, they supply a Merry Xmas present of a child as well.

I had but one reply for them. I suggested that it was they rather than I who should read "The Big Jump." And then they should take one—right into a lake.

Seriously, what sort of "goodwill" promoted this exchange of Xmas greetings?

Incidentally, I have just been to my mailbox again. It is cluttered with more packages of commercial garbage. Merry Xmas and buy our (reduced price) record of Xmas carols. Merry Xmas and send in this coupon (worth 7c) in order to receive some soap for a cheap wash at Xmas. Merry Xmas and let us solve your Xmas present problem for you. It has become such a bother buying presents for your friends . . .

I am tired of sending answers. But I do have just one question. I don't wish to sound like an exponent of the Fiery Pit. But frankly, did X come to earth for THIS?

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## Christmas in Jamaica

by JEAN CHEN

Christmas in Jamaica goes off with a bang! The bursting of fire-crackers, and the peeling of bells herald the long-awaited day of festivity. Hardly anybody sleeps on Christmas Eve night. The streets are filled with happy people going to midnight services with the promise of gifts and family dinners on their expectant faces. In the morning, the family wakes up to discover filled stockings and presents stacked under the Christmas tree.

Incidentally, most of our Christmas trees are imported from Canada, and are decorated with synthetic snow, lights, tinsel and buzz-bells.

My everlasting memories of Christmas will be of the whole family gathered around the table, laden with thick steaks, fried chickens, roasted duck, turkey, and the innumerable goodies. Of course, taking a prominent part is the plum-pudding and a special sorrel drink.

Yuletide is the social season of the year in Jamaica. Everyone gets new clothes for the round of dances and parties which take place at this time.

As this is my first Christmas with snow, I am eagerly anticipating the holidays, which I will be spending with one of my roommates.

WARNING! Unless you're prepared to spend two of the most suspenseful hours of your lifetime—stay away from THE MOUSETRAP!

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## Joyful Juices

by AL K. HALL

As a special service feature, and in keeping with its Christmas edition, the **Brunswickan** offers three recipes for Christmas drinks in the hope that they will make your New Year merrier.

First we submit the Christmas Challenge. Mix two parts vodka to one part **Gilby's** lemon gin. Pour over cracked ice. For Christmas colour, add concentrated lime juice to your taste. If necessary Angostura Bitters would be a help.

The value of this drink is its smooth quality, while at the same time it packs a gay wallop. There are no hangover effects. For those who insist on driving while drinking, this drink will fool the law. Vodka has no odor and the lime covers up the gin. However it is advisable **not** to drive. This drink is a **Brunswickan** original.

Next is the New Year nuisance. It derives its name from the fact that there are uncomfortable after effects. Vivid hallucinations are also a trademark. Mix two ounces of Alcool (100 proof and available in Quebec) to two ounces of white Creme de Menthe. Pour over ice. Do not drive after drinking this drink.

If you want to be the life of the party this one should do the trick. We leave it up to the bold to see if it was worth it the morning after. This cocktail is an off-spring of the "Stinger" except the **Brunswickan** has substituted Alcool for brandy to preserve the taste of the Creme de Menthe.

For a smooth one that won't do much damage, the **Brunswickan** suggests one that we call a Pier Sixer. Add two parts of rye to equal parts of orange and lemon juice. Pour over ice and a dash of grenadine. For the red and green of Christmas, add an olive. This drink is tall and cool for hot party nights. Its effects are insignificant, i.e., it won't make you tipsy.

Instead of serving the usual potato chips and pretzels at your parties, why not try a new taste thrill. Wrap bacon around peperoni, place in 450° oven, and remove when bacon becomes crisp. If you try our drinks over Christmas, why not try to write a school song for Steve Hart and his committee. The prize is \$100 and these drinks might give you that creative urge.

If you insist on driving after having had one two many, stay away from the old standby Chlorets. The law can spot that smell now, and it's a dead give-away. Try **Smith's** cough drops. BUT . . . **DON'T DRIVE WHEN YOU GET THAT RECKLESS FEELING.** Liquor is all right in its place. It is not all right if it causes a death. So handle it properly, be careful, have a good Christmas.

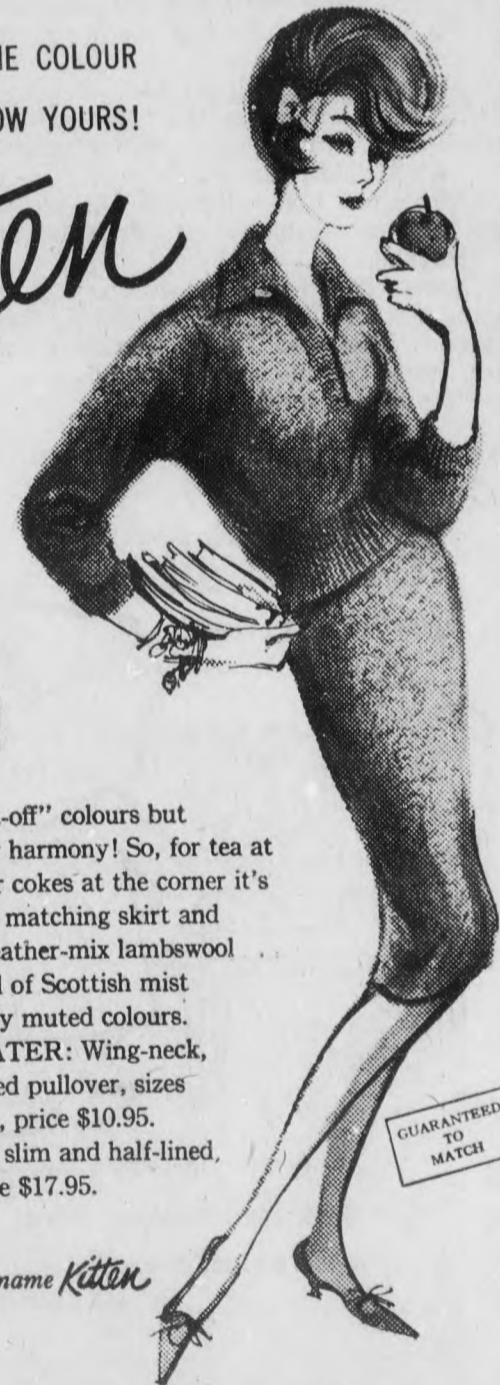
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