

Alaska has Two Christmas Days

ALASKA is the only place over which the American flag floats where two Christmas days are celebrated. This applies especially to the Alaskan peninsula and adjoining islands, where many of the natives belong to the Russian church with her Julian calendar. It is only since the coming of the American public school and mission that the "American Christmas" has been introduced in those parts. According to the Julian calendar, Christmas, Dec. 25, falls on the day that is Jan. 7 in the calendar elsewhere.

According to the Russian church in Alaska, Christmas begins at 2 o'clock in the morning, when the church bells announce the birth of Christ, and when the natives come out of their huts they find a bright and beautiful star of Bethlehem over the church beckoning them. The church is a small wooden building decorated with pictures of saints, lighted by candles, without seats or heat. The two sexes are ranged on the opposite sides of the room, either standing or kneeling. On this particular morning service is held from 2 until 6 and is made up of singing and reading. Although to white people it would seem a very great hardship to stand on the feet for four hours on a cold winter morning, yet the natives would consider it the worst kind of punishment should they be

forced to stay away.

After the service the feasting and rejoicing begin. In the evening there takes place a very picturesque representation of the wise men following the star of Bethlehem to where the Christ Child is. As soon as it is night the young people separate into groups. One of the group goes before, carrying a large, beautifully trimmed star, in which a candle burns. On entering a house the party sings hymns and carols, as it was done centuries ago.

These songs are either in the old Russian or in the Aleutian language. Many of the voices have the softness and sweetness so peculiar to Indian races, and this, combined with the charming old church music, produces a very agreeable effect. When they have sung and have been entertained the wise men proceed to the next house. This singing is kept up three nights.

During the remaining nights of the Christmas week another Biblical scene is presented—Herod's men searching for Jesus to kill him. Some one knocks at the door, and when it is opened a small masked party enters very softly and mutely and occupies itself in searching, and after some little time it passes out as silently as it came.

The new year is welcomed in with a grand masquerade ball, generally given by the chief of the village. The dance hall is a small room lighted by dripping candles, is just about high enough for one to stand up straight, and the floor is far from smooth. A squaw, Aleutian boy and half breed furnish the music on an accordion, harmonicon and guitar. Such airs as "The Squaw Harbor Quadrille" can be played well only by such an orchestra.

Spoiled the Christmas Dinner.
Guest dining at merry Christmas party) — Tommy, where do turkeys come from?
Tommy (pointing to one on the table)—Dunno, but ma got this one from a tramp for a quarter, cause he said he stole it. Didn't he, ma?

Subscribe for the Glasgow Courier.

WILL SANTA COME TO DOLLY TOO, MAMMA?



THE JOLLY CHRISTMAS TREE

IT is the right of every child to have a Christmas tree, whether large or small, real or artificial. Tree of some sort there must be if there is to be a real Christmas for the children, and, of course, Christmas is primarily for them.

It was the writer's privilege last year to see Christmas trees of every description, from the brilliantly lighted and lavishly decorated tree to the tiny artificial tree which shuts up like a jackknife and may be stored away in a small corner when not in use. Much was learned of the ways and means of Christmas tree decorators and designers that will probably be helpful and suggestive to those expecting to have trees of some sort this year.

To make Christmas stockings get thin muslin and cover with crepe paper. The little raw edges around the stockings can be drawn out and made into narrow ruffles. Tie with bright ribbons. Little stockings made of fillet net are very dainty, and they can be joined with bright ribbons, so that the contents will show through the thin mesh. Curtain net makes nice stockings. Cut two pieces the shape of a stocking; buttonhole the edges together with bright colored wool; put cookies, an orange, an apple, candy and nuts in the stocking; add a little toy, then hang on the tree.

Odd pieces of pompadour ribbon make pretty candy bags and stockings. Line net candy bags with paraffin paper. The lining will stitch on the sewing machine with the net, and the candy will be much more palatable for the extra care taken.

To make little danglers for Christmas trees, fasten popcorn into little balls, thread with dark green silkateen, dip

into gum arabic and cover with any of the colored dye powders. This makes a pretty ornament. Silver or gold dust may also be added. A small quantity of dye in blue, yellow, red, etc., will make a great quantity of balls. If threads are suspended in a glass jar containing water and 10 cents' worth of alum the alum will adhere to the threads and make little icicles for the tree. Continue to add alum until the strings are the desired thickness. Place in a window or warm place to dry.

White cotton or wool slightly smeared with mucilage and sprinkled with common salt or diamond dust makes the best wintry effect. Powdered mica will give a snowy appearance if sprinkled over wool. The effect of new fallen snow can be produced by taking branches and dipping them in gum arabic water and sprinkling with flour.

For pinning gifts on the tree dress clothespins in fancy tissue paper as dolls or flowers or like Santa Claus. Little tinsel toys which were broken last year may be used again. Fill them with cotton and paste the broken parts to the cotton, then hang them high on the tree.

So much of the beauty of a tree depends upon its lighting, but when small children are present it is often dangerous to use candles. An ordinary lantern may be used for lighting purposes. Cover with red tissue or crepe paper and tie with a cord in the ridge near the top of the lantern. A wide margin of paper may be left and pulled out to form a huge flower. Tie the lantern securely to the trunk of the tree, as near the center as possible. A smaller lantern may be hung at the top of the tree for more light.

A GREAT DAY.

This is Christmas day, the anniversary of the world's greatest event. To one day all the early world looked forward; to the same day the later world looks back. That day holds time together.—Alexander Smith.



To all our friends and patrons who have shown their appreciation of our efforts by their most liberal patronage we wish a most joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year

FANNIE WESTON HARRY ALLEN JAMES CALLAHAN GEROLD KELLY
 MRS. A. J. BISHELL A. J. BISHELL

Opheum THEATRE

