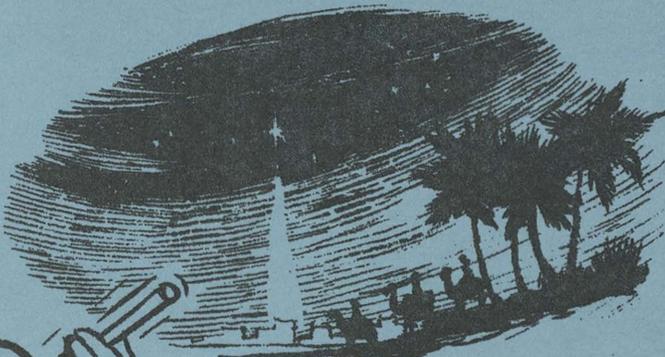


December, 1977 ★ Christmas Issue



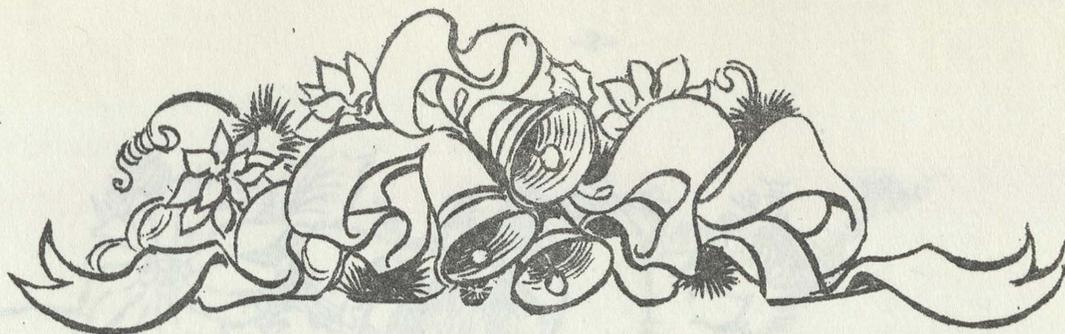
I.U. School of Dentistry

Newsletter



Season's Greetings

PA-RUM-PA-PUM-PUM



Ho, Ho, Ho Department ... The School of Dentistry Christmas party will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in the Basement Lounge. The program will include musical entertainment by a group under the direction of Dr. Norris Richmond, Associate Professor of Operative Dentistry, refreshments, and door prizes awarded at a 3 p.m. drawing.

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN RECEIVED from Mrs. Marjorie Carr, Director of the Dental Assisting program and Chairperson of the United Way drive at the School:

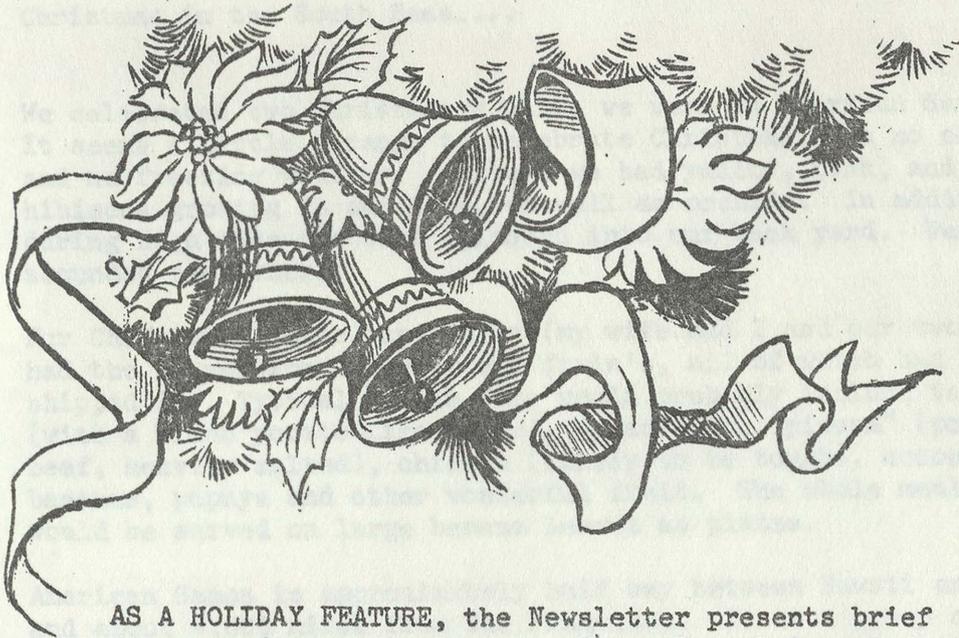
The 1978 United Way Drive of Greater Indianapolis was successful again thanks to the support it received from the concerned citizens of our community. This year the dental school faculty and staff contributed \$5200. Much of the credit for our success goes to the department chairmen and their designated departmental person. Without their help we never could have reached this figure. Also a big "thank you" to Mrs. Penny Kiley, DAE secretary, for her invaluable assistance.

DR. RALPH W. PHILLIPS, Associate Dean for Research, reports that the Dental Materials Department of the School of Dentistry has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the National Institute of Dental Research for a 3-year study. The investigation will explore the feasibility of adding fluorides to various dental materials in order to provide resistance to decay.

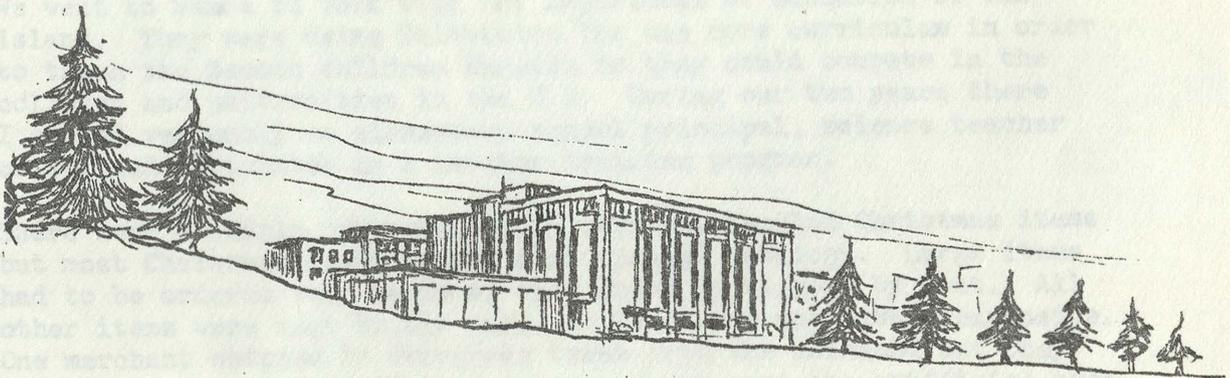
WEDDING BELLS recently signaled name changes for two staff members at the School: Mrs. Rita Campbell Milliron, of the Business Office; and Mrs. Beth Wright Bennett, of the Department of Orthodontics.

DR. DONALD E. ARENS spoke to the Northern State Dental Society in Atlanta, Georgia on November 7. His topic was "Indications, Contraindications and Techniques of Bleaching Vital Teeth".

DR. ROBERT L. BOGAN, Associate Dean, reports that a number of faculty members participated in an I.U. Foundation-sponsored "Telefund" during which many of the school's alumni were contacted. Although the tabulation has not been completed, an estimated \$5000 was raised from the one evening's effort. The Dental Assistant class provided clerical help and their support was sincerely appreciated.



AS A HOLIDAY FEATURE, the Newsletter presents brief accounts from three members of the Dental School family concerning Christmas seasons they have spent in areas far removed from the snowy Indiana setting. The three are: Dr. Jerry Eckart, graduate student in Complete Denture, on Christmas in the South Seas; Mrs. Evangeline Tarquinio, artist in the Instructional Development Department, on observances in the Philippines; and Mr. James Levens, Administrative Assistant in the Business Office, on a long ago Christmas in South Viet Nam.



Christmas in the South Seas....

We celebrated two Christmases while we were in American Samoa. It seems a little strange to celebrate Christmas with no snow and no freezing weather. Instead we had yellow, pink, and red hibiscus growing in our lawn, as well as orchids. In addition, during high tide the surf splashed into our back yard. Palm trees abounded everywhere.

For Christmas dinner our family (my wife and I and our two children) had the conventional turkey and fixin's, all of which had to be shipped in. Typical Samoan fare would probably include taro root (with a bland potato-like taste), breadfruit, "pisupa" (pork or beef, heavily salted), chicken (likely to be tough), coconuts, bananas, papaya and other wonderful fruit. The whole meal often would be served on large banana leaves as plates.

American Samoa is approximately half way between Hawaii and Australia and about 4,000 miles from San Francisco. It is a group of islands, with the largest island being Tutuila which is 3 miles wide at the widest part and 17 miles long. The best known city is Pago Pago, which was the setting for Somerset Maugham's famous story "Rain."

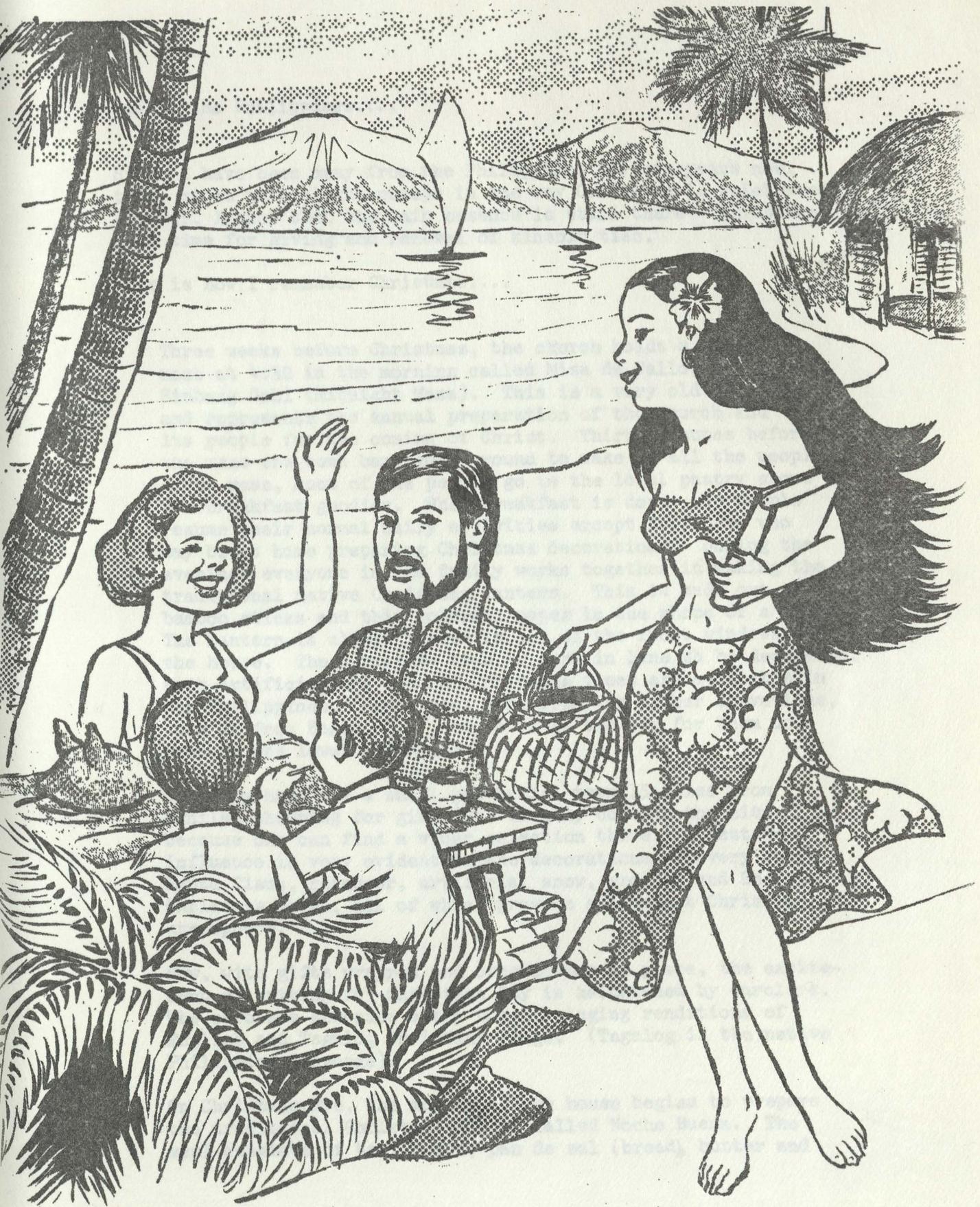
The mean temp is 80°F and the humidity is 90% year round. This being a tropical island, everything is green and very colorful year round. Since we had left Michigan in February in the midst of snow and cold weather, arriving in Samoa with its tropical weather was quite a shock. The humidity was atrocious until we acclimated and learned to dress for it.

We went to Samoa to work with the Department of Education of the island. They were using Television for the core curriculum in order to teach the Samoan children English so they could compete in the colleges and universities in the U.S. During our two years there I served variously as elementary school principal, science teacher on TV, and instructor in a teacher training program.

There were a couple of merchants in town who handled Christmas items but most Christmas shopping was done through catalogs. Large items had to be ordered very early so they could be shipped by boat. All other items were sent by air mail, so Christmas was rather expensive. One merchant shipped in evergreen trees from the mainland but they were rather dry and possibly dangerous so we used the artificial tree we took with us. We decorated and celebrated in about the same manner as if we were home.

The Samoan people celebrated the Christmas season with elaborate plays at Church. The Samoans make colorful costumes to fit the characters in the play. Wigs are cut to make beards. The stage curtains are made from large pieces of printed cloth. Choirs sing Christmas Carols with much enthusiasm. Groups also go and sing in the hotel for tourists.

The commercial aspect as we know it has not really hit the Samoan culture. Most people do not send cards or have the elaborate gift-giving that we practice in America.



A Samoan Yuletide...

And in the Philippines....

Since I have been away from the Philippines for six years now, there might be a slight change in the way Christmas is celebrated. However, I know that the main essence is still there - Christmas is a time for giving and renewal of kinship ties.

This is how I remember Christmas....

Three weeks before Christmas, the church holds a daily mass at 4:30 in the morning called Misa de Gallo, or Simbang Gabi (Midnight Mass). This is a very old practice and represents the annual preparation of the Church and its people for the coming of Christ. Thirty minutes before the mass the town band goes around to wake up all the people. After mass, most of the people go to the local pastry store for breakfast goodies. When breakfast is done, the people resume their normal daily activities except for those who may be at home preparing Christmas decorations. During the evenings everyone in the family works together in making the traditional native Christmas lantern. This is made out of bamboo sticks and thin colorful paper in the shape of a star. The lantern is always placed in one of the front windows of the house. The Christmas tree is next in line to be decorated. Both artificial and natural Christmas trees are available in the Philippines. Pine trees come from the higher elevations, such as from Baguio City, since it is too hot for them to grow in the lower elevations.

Since my home was a small provincial town 15 miles from Manila, shopping for gifts was usually done in the city, because one can find a wider selection there. A Western influence is very evident in the decorations of every store - Santa Claus, reindeer, artificial snow, wreaths and English Christmas songs, all of which provide a pleasant Christmas atmosphere.

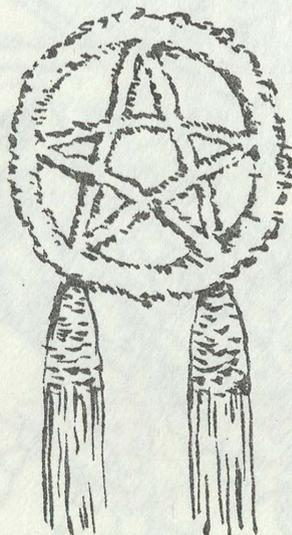
Now, with gifts wrapped and decorations in place, the excitement of waiting for Christmas Day is heightened by carolers. The carolers serenade every house, singing renditions of English and Tagalog Christmas songs. (Tagalog is the native Philippine language).

On Christmas Eve, the mother of the house begins to prepare the traditional Christmas dinner called Noche Buena. The meal consists of ham, bacon, pan de sal (bread), butter and

cheese, coffee, milk, suman (rice cake), sweets like garbanzos, beans and halaya (a sweet purple yam). When the clock strikes 12:00 (midnight) prayers of thanksgiving are said and the meal is served. After dinner, gifts are exchanged and opened.

Christmas itself is a very festive day. The town band goes around playing Christmas carols. The young, dressed up in their new clothes, go to the godparents to kiss their hands (as a sign of respect). Each house is prepared for anybody to drop by to wish them Merry Christmas. An invitation is unnecessary for it is a Philippine custom for one to open his home to any well wishers. There is always plenty of food left over for well wishers.

The atmosphere is very joyous with the church bells ringing and the town band playing Christmas songs. The streets are full of happy people.



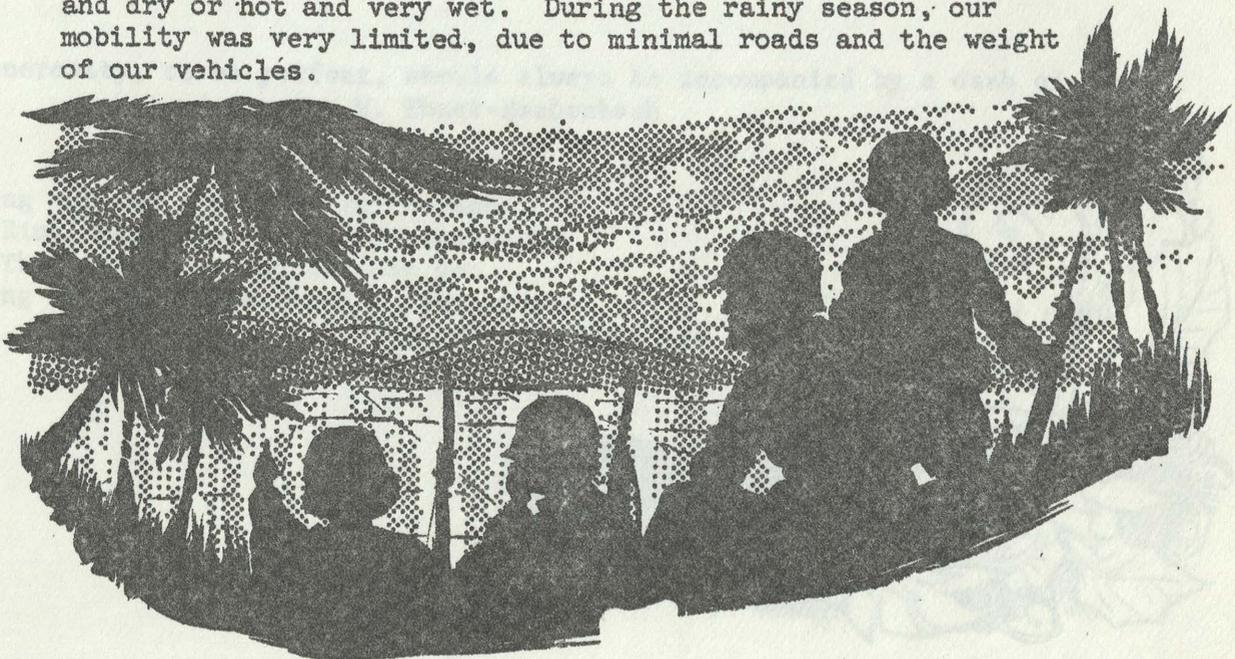
Christmas in Malabon, Rizal
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



The "Holidays" in Viet Nam....

South Viet Nam at Christmas in 1968 was not the most festive place to be at this time of year. We went about our work as if it were any other day of the year. Our meals for Christmas consisted of C-rations for breakfast, lunch and dinner. C-rations, as I recall, contained anything from powdered eggs to various forms of meat in small tin cans. Some kind of fruit or dessert was included, along with 3 cigarettes, matches, and miscellaneous items such as spoon, toilet paper, etc. During the day, an army Chaplain flew to all of the units for a short period of devotions. That was the only thing that was at all different about Christmas Day for us.

Our unit provided defense for artillery and infantry units at night. During the day, we either remained in our defense posture or were called upon to escort artillery and infantry units on patrols or moves. Our platoons consisted of eight "duster" units. "Dusters" were tank chassis with two 40 mm guns attached. The firepower from these was devastating. Seldom would the Viet Cong attack us, but mines would disable us frequently. Our area of assignment was generally from Saigon on down to the Southernmost regions. This area was very flat, with the southern part being very watery--rivers, canals, rice paddies. The seasons in Viet Nam were either hot and dry or hot and very wet. During the rainy season, our mobility was very limited, due to minimal roads and the weight of our vehicles.



Seasonal Thoughts

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Longfellow: Christmas Bells

The gift without the giver is bare;
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three--
Himself, his hungering neighbor and me.

James Russell Lowell: The Vision of Sir Launfal

At Christmas play, and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

Thomas Tusser: Five Hundred Points of Good
Husbandry (1557)

The manner of giving is worth more than the gift.

Corneille: Le Menteur

You give but little when you give of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

Kahlil Gibran

Generosity, to be perfect, should always be accompanied by a dash of humor.

M. Ebner-Eschenbach

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Tennyson: In Memoriam

