NEWS/PIC

For the nearly 23,500 Johns-Manville employees, retirees and their families

CHRISTMAS 1969



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To J-M People Throughout The World...

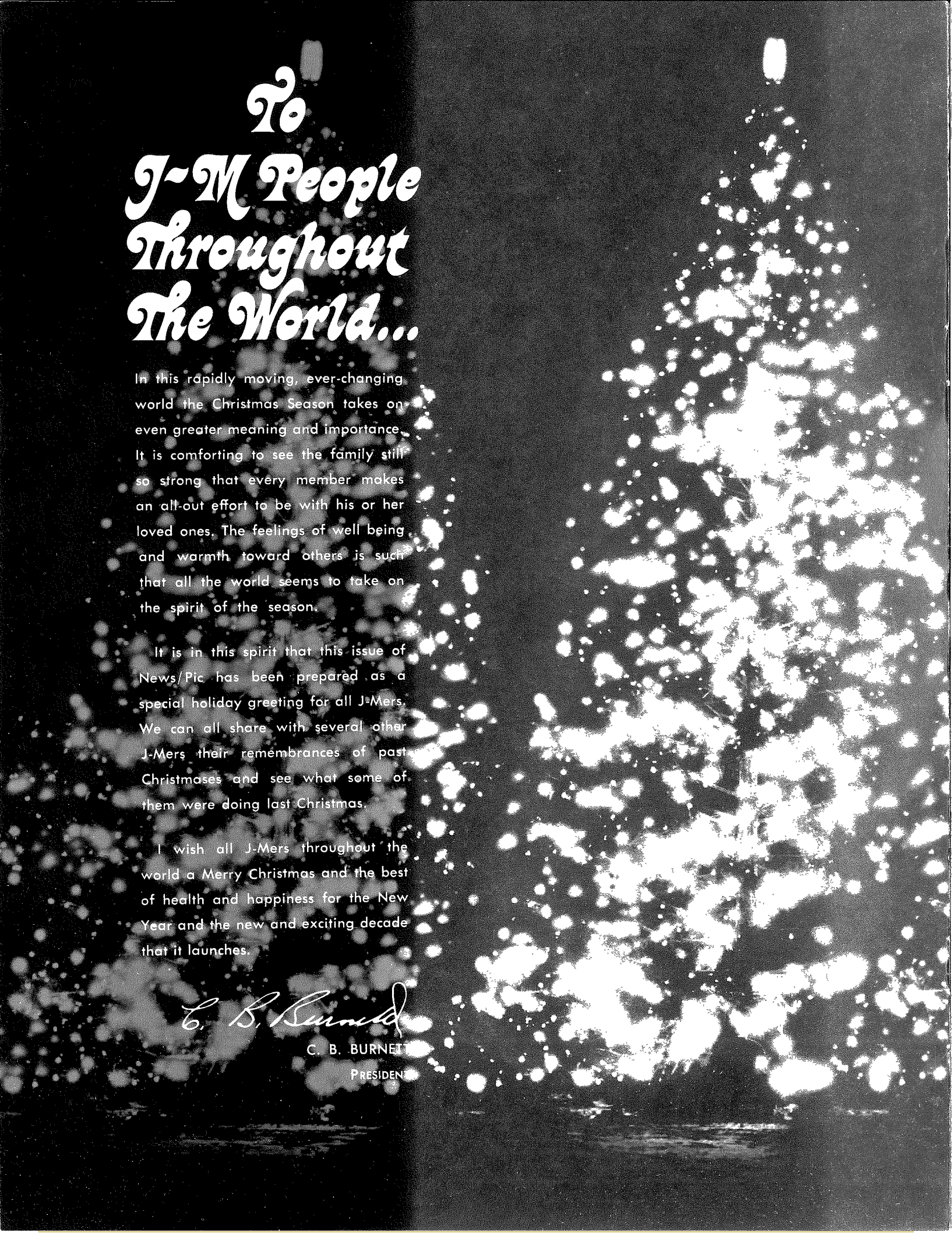
In this rapidly moving, ever-changing world the Christmas Season takes on even greater meaning and importance. It is comforting to see the family still so strong that every member makes an all-out effort to be with his or her loved ones. The feelings of well being and warmth toward others is such that all the world seems to take on the spirit of the season.

It is in this spirit that this issue of News/Pic has been prepared as a special holiday greeting for all J-Mers. We can all share with several other J-Mers their remembrances of past Christmases and see what some of them were doing last Christmas.

I wish all J-Mers throughout the world a Merry Christmas and the best of health and happiness for the New Year and the new and exciting decade that it launches.

C. B. Burnett

C. B. BURNETT
PRESIDENT



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A Time For Toys

Part of the treasures of any civilization are the toys of its children. Toys are comments on lesser everyday happenings in social history. They are the fruits of a civilization, the mirror which reflects conditions of life, attitudes, perceptions and upbringing.

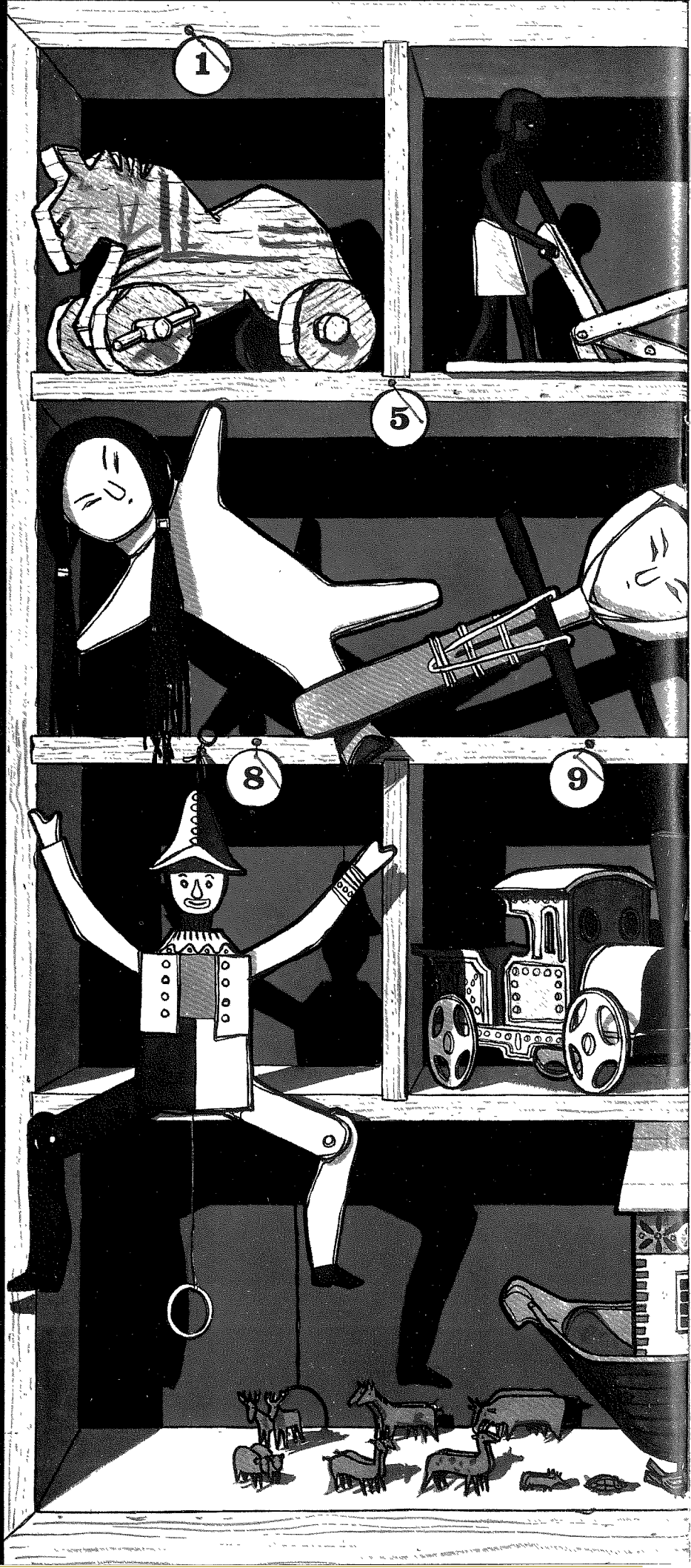
As we love the children, so the children love and need their toys—their own particular luxuries. No matter how crude or how elaborate, how simple or how gaudy, how small or how large, toys are intricate to the development of our children. They familiarize them with colors, shape and unfunctional beauty; they help them to cultivate judgment, manipulative skills and a sense of creativity.

Toys speak an international language which all children understand. Their history is as fascinating as the history of man himself.

It is this time—Christmas—that we give a little more thought to toys as we search for playthings for our young. That's why News/Pic thought it would be appropriate and interesting to travel back in time briefly through the world of toys; to see Egyptian toys which date back to the year 2000 B.C., such as the pull-along horse on wheels (1), the symbolic plough (2) and the paddle doll (4); or to see toy soldiers and horses from military minded Greece in the year 400 B.C. (3).

Japanese paper dolls (5) and horses made from rice straw (6) give us glimpses into customs of the 19th century Far East. Strange-looking dolls from the 15th century Italian states (7) tell us something about the grim Middle Ages. Wood-carved jumping jacks (8), rocking horses (10) and the religious-inspired figurines of Noah's Ark (12) are tributes to skilled craftsmen who lived in the forests of Southern Germany several hundred years ago. The Clockwork Engine (9) of the 19th century opens the era of mechanical toys. And last, but not least, is the Teddy Bear (11), loved by all children of all nations.

The message is a simple one: There has always been a time for toys and always toys for the children of all times.



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I Remember Christmas...







IN QUEBEC:

JULIEN PROULX,
JEFFREY MINE

Msr. Proulx, Wood and Steelwork Foreman in the Jeffrey Mine Machine Shop, does not hesitate to revive the Christmases he remembers of fifty years ago.

"Living on a farm near where Notre-Dame-de-Toutes-Joies Church is now erected, I remember going to midnight mass with my parents 'en carriole', the horse neatly dressed up for the occasion; red bows on the mane and even the tail was braided! With the people warmly tucked under a buffalo fur skin, the horse gallantly trotted along, and the stillness of the night was broken up only by the jingling of the bells of his and other carrioles all converging at the church. Returning from the church, it was the time for 'le reveillon' with the turkey and 'les tourtieres'.

"This was the happiest season of the year and it lasted until Epiphany. It was the time of year when everyone forgot bad times or old disputes and everybody took this opportunity to fraternize and visit one another. Everyone wanted to prove that his 'caribou'—a mixture of alcohol and wine—was better than the others': the results were quickly apparent. It was a period high in color and spirit!

Julien enjoys gathering his family around him at the holiday season—four daughters, all of them nurses, a son who is an optometrist and seven grandchildren. A city dweller for the past 50 years, he feels he had to return to the country and so, a year ago, he bought a country house. "This year I plan to bring my grandchildren to midnight mass 'en carriole' from the old country house and drive them back for 'le reveillon'."

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IN GERMANY:

ANNE DYBCZAK,
TORONTO OFFICE

"Christmas brings back memories of my original home in Mannheim, Germany," says Anne, who works in the Transite Pipe Sales Dept. of the Canadian Products Division Headquarters. "To me Christmas has always been very much a family affair. Everyone gathered on Christmas Eve for the opening of gifts and singing of Christmas carols, then went to church on Christmas morning.

Anne has a prized picture taken when she was ten years old with all of her family gathered beside the Christmas tree which was lit with real candles. A painting that appears in this picture now hangs in Anne's living room in her home in Toronto. "It is one of my most treasured possessions and constantly brings back wonderful memories of my family and childhood."



IN ITALY:

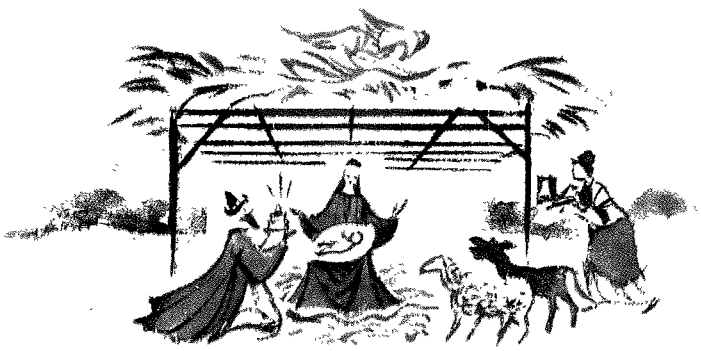
ANTONIO RAMAGLIA,
STOCKTON PLANT

"In Italy it's not just Christmas; it's the season of 'le feste' (the holidays), that begin on Christmas Eve and do not end until Epiphany on January 6," says Tony Ramaglia, Pipe Inspector-Tester at Stockton, who came from his native Naples, Italy, only three years ago.

"Christmas in Italy is not as gift oriented as it generally is here. For most Italians Christmas is symbolized by the nativity scene. You see some Christmas trees, but nearly all homes display a nativity scene of some kind. The main events are the attendance of mass, often at midnight, and a family dinner.

Some families exchange gifts, but most gift giving occurs at Epiphany when the 'Befana', a little old woman, visits homes while the children are asleep. The children write her letters reporting their behavior and making their requests for gifts. The letters are placed under their plates at Christmas dinner. Then, on Epipha-





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ny, the 'Befana' leaves gifts and sweets for the good children but the naughty ones find garlic and onions in the socks they have hung by their beds.

"In many homes the Christmas dessert is 'cassata'. This is sort of a pound cake with many layers. Between the layers are filling of ricotta, grated chocolate, and candied fruits. It is also flavored well with some type of alcohol and then covered with a thick layer of chocolate.

"New Year's Eve is again the occasion for a huge feast. The menus and modes of celebration differ from region to region within the country. Certainly one of the most spectacular celebrations occurs in Naples. The late meal is accompanied by Asti Spumanti (Italian Champagne.)

"By midnight, celebrants whose attention has not been drawn by the increasingly frequent explosions outside are now forcibly drawn to their balconies and windows as the whole city lights up in display of midnight fireworks. The fireworks are accompanied by the throwing of empty bottles into the streets below. Few dare venture out, and the street cleaners are very busy on New Year's Day."



IN IRELAND:

MRS. DELIA MC NULTY, INTERNATIONAL DHQ

"I was brought up on a farm in the west of Ireland in the County of Mayo," says Dee McNulty, Record Control Clerk in the International Division's New York Headquarters. "The nearest town was three miles and our church was 1½ miles.

"For two weeks before Christmas my mother would be baking bread, cakes and cookies. On Christmas Eve all the homes were decorated with holly and laurel. We didn't have Christmas trees or, even, electricity, but everything was just as bright and beautiful and so peaceful.

"On Christmas Eve we sat around an open fire and sang all the carols. We were all sent to bed early as we had to get up before dawn to be at church at 7 a.m. After we got home we opened our gifts from Santa. Only the children received presents. The adults exchanged gifts on January 6 or, as we called it, 'Little Christmas.' Christmas dinner was always at 2 p.m.—roast goose with dressing.

"Although I've been here 39 years and love the U. S., I would love to spend a Christmas at home and take all of my family."
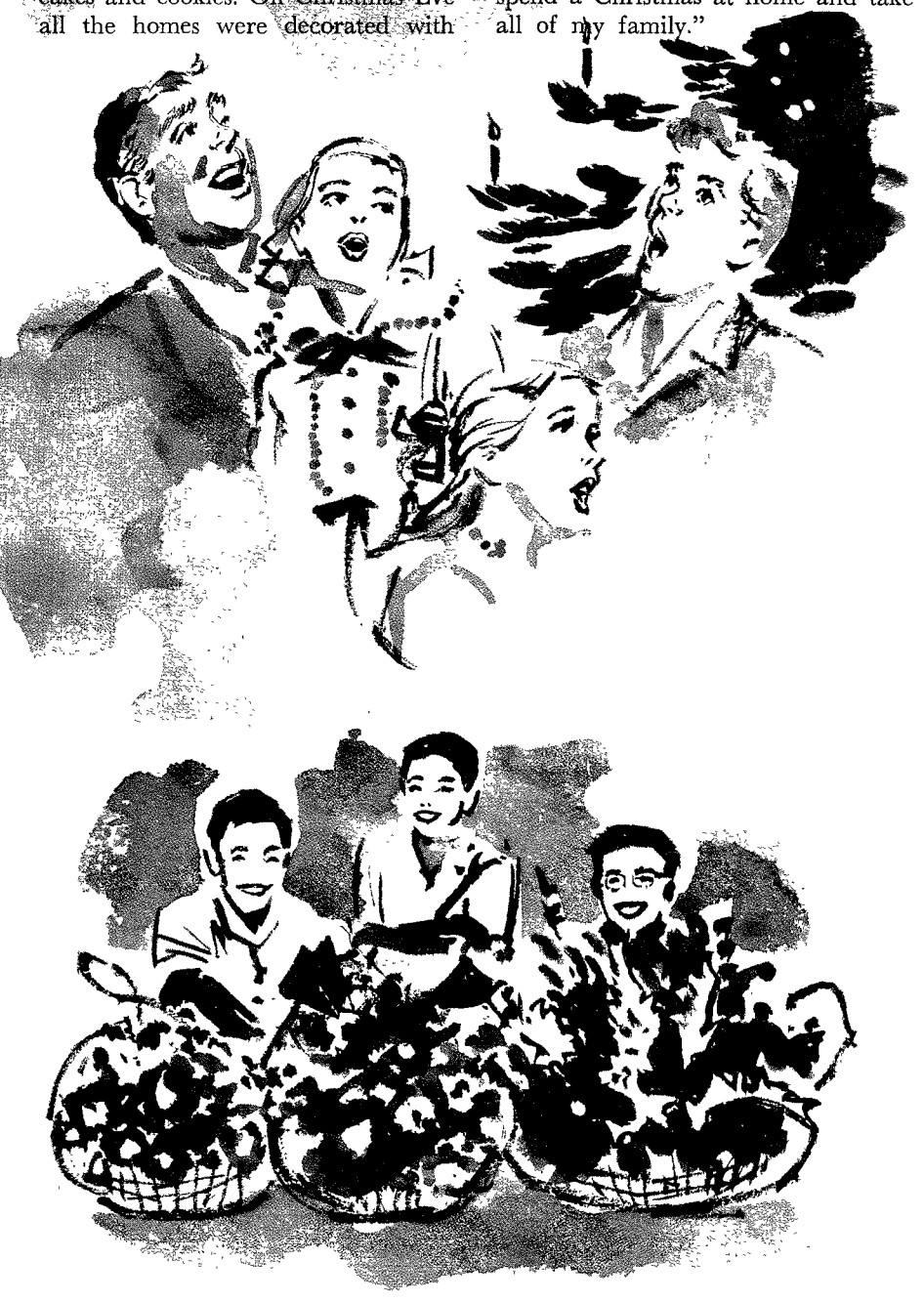


IN INDONESIA:

SIK-TJIN TAN, PITTSBURG PLANT

Sik Tjin Tan arrived in the United States in July of 1967 and was hired by the Pittsburg Plant as a Draftsman-Layout just two weeks after his arrival. Sik Tjin was born in Java island in the Dutch East Indies above the continent of Australia in what is now called Indonesia.

His memories of Christmas, however, are from his student days in Indonesia. A picture upon which the accompanying artwork is based was taken during the Christmas season of 1960. Sik Tjin is shown "among friends at a boarding house in Bandung, Indonesia, where I had been living for five years during my studies in Bandung Institute of Technology. This was my last college year and I still remember how I hated to leave my friends, for we always had a wonderful Christmas party together."



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Christmas in J-M

1 Ever seen this happen before? Billy Palmer at Rockdale Plant heads back to Mama because he's a bit too young to appreciate that big man in the funny red suit and hat with all that silvery white hair.

2 Approximately 2,000 Defiance J-M people, their spouses and children attended the annual Christmas program for the three plants. The one-hour stage show was climaxed by the arrival of Santa Claus via the rocket "J-M Club Special." Shown receiving a gift from Santa (Don Ankney) is Lesha Ann, daughter of Ned Ewers (kneeling), Industrial Engineer at Plant G-26. Waiting next in line is Bob Belden, Scheduler at Plant G-26 with his daughter, Heather Ann.

3 The most unusual Christmas tree to brighten the offices at the Research-Engineering-Data Processing Complex at Finderne, N. J., last year was the one in the Tabulating Dept. of the Data Processing Center. All of the decorations were articles used daily in the department: a tape reel at the base, iridescent magnetic tape, read-write rings, label tape rings, and various other bright and colorful items. Also decorating the scene are Mrs. Beverly Marce (left), wife of Steve J. Marce of Plant Engineering, and Mrs. Lorraine Ott, wife of Don Ott, formerly of Plant Engineering. Both gals work in the Tabulating Dept.

4 Clown Emmett Stephenson, of Rockdale's Industrial Engineering, gets a laugh from Debbie Palmer, but it doesn't look like Billy Palmer is too certain that Emmett is funny.

5 The Rockdale Plant Children's Christmas Party last year attracted 175 youngsters. Here, James and Debbie Palmer, children of James Palmer, Foreman, Tile Dept., visit Santa. Carol McClintock, Dept. Clerk "A", Services Dept. is an "elf" who helps Santa give out the presents.



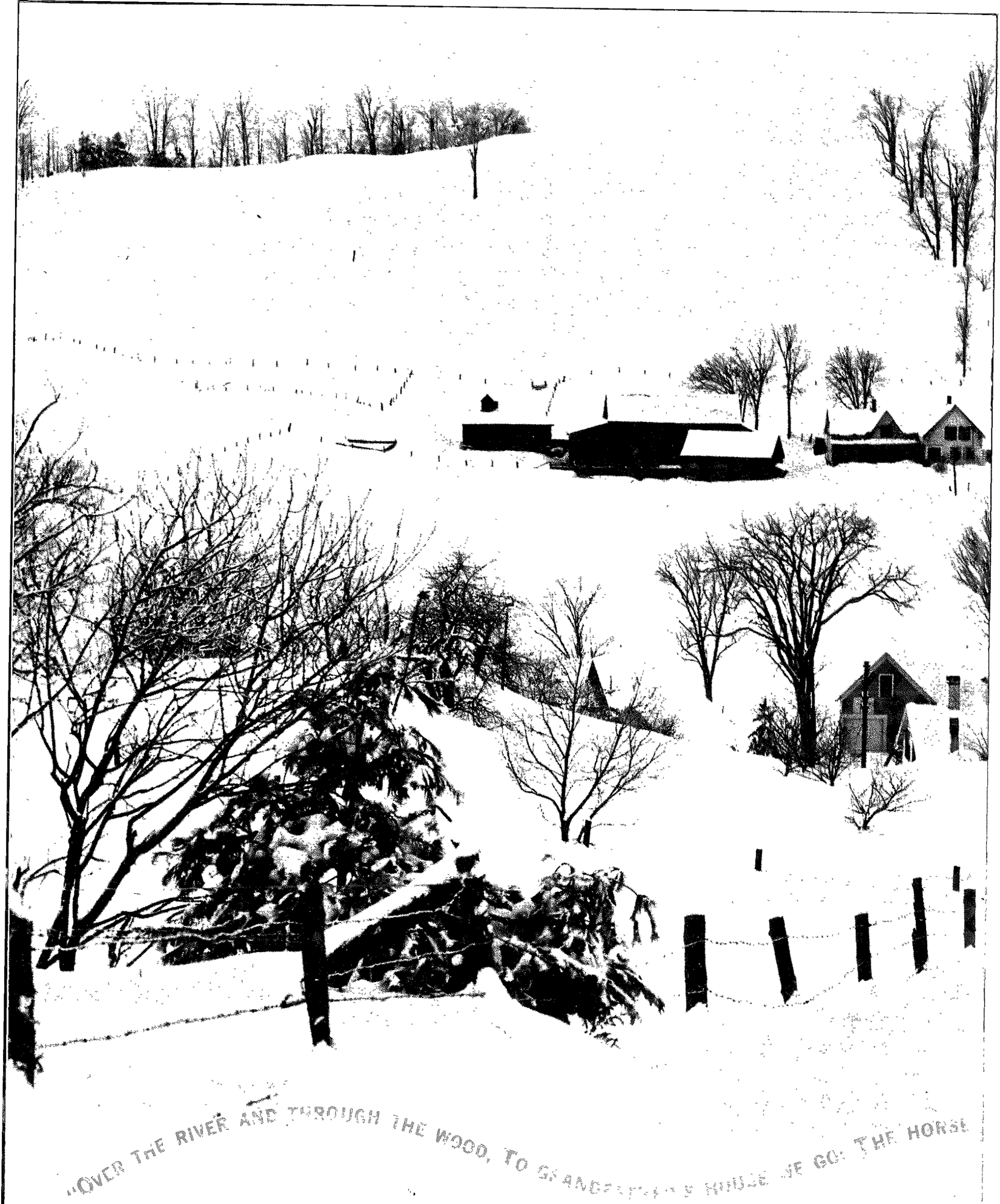








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"OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOOD, TO GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE WE GO; THE HORSE



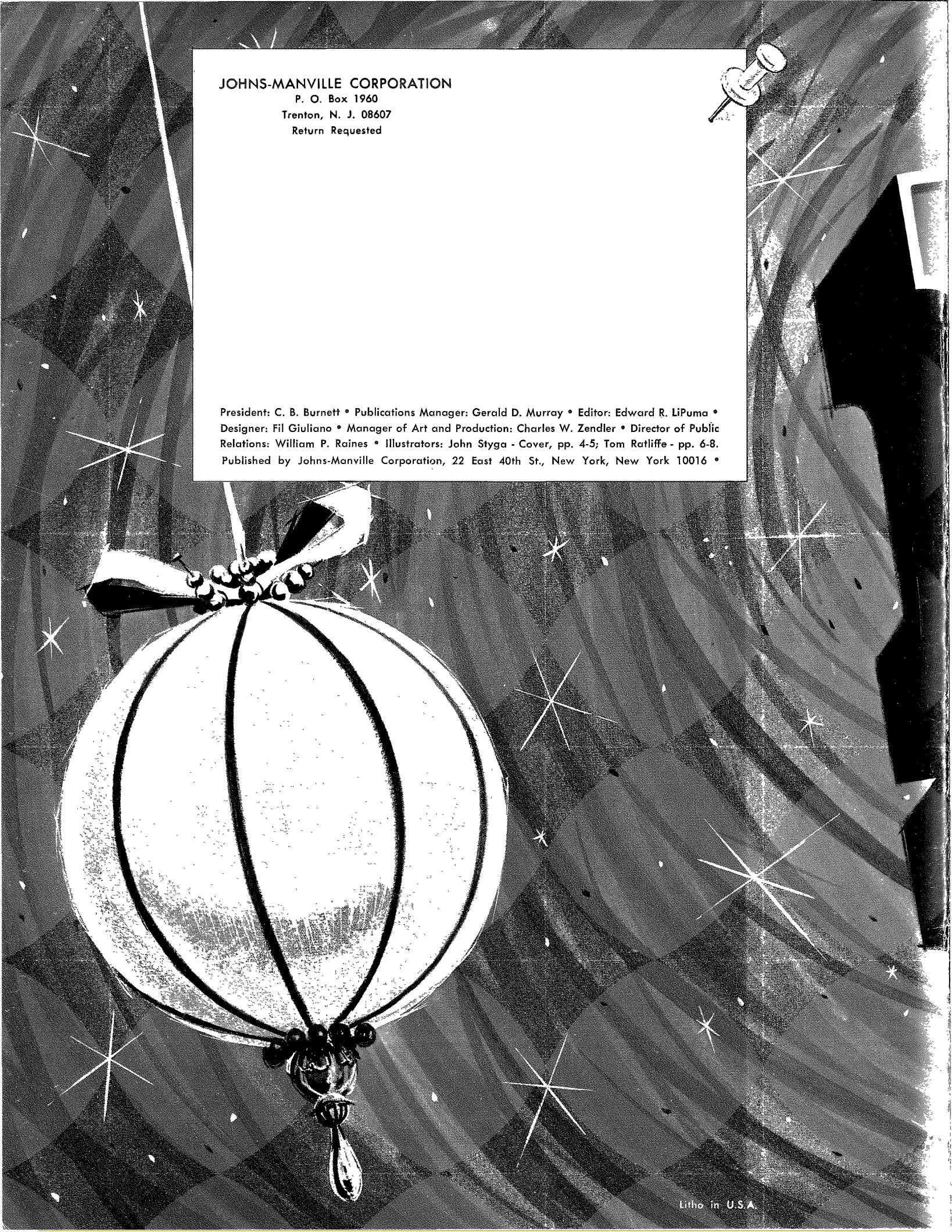
KNOWS THE WAY TO CARRY THE SLEIGH THROUGH THE WHITE AND DRIFTED SNOW.''

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL J-M PEOPLE FROM NEWS/PIC

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