Niehaus News

Volume 45, Issue 12

Christmas 2006

December 2006



To our valued friends from the Niehaus Family

See our holiday display windows decorated in the "Nutcracker" theme located in the Ford building on Main Street.

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Christmas Breakfast Casserole

"This is a great Christmas morning treat. Make it the night before and pop it in

the oven in the morning." Original recipe yield: 6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- * 1 pound sausage
- * 9 slices white bread, cut into cubes
- * 9 eggs, beaten
- * 1 (11 ounce) can condensed cream of Cheddar cheese soup
- * 3 cups milk
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- * 8 ounces shredded Cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

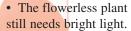
- 1. Butter one 3 quart casserole dish and set aside.
- 2. Place sausage in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until crumbled and evenly brown. Drain and set aside.
- 3. Place bread cubes in prepared casserole dish.
- 4. Whisk together the eggs, soup, milk and salt; pour over bread cubes. Add sausage and sprinkle with shredded cheese. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.
- 5. The next morning, preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) and bake for 1 hour.



Pointers On How To Care For Poinsettias

Here are some pointers on how to keep these plants around as long as possible. Place the plant in bright light, but not direct sun keep soil slightly moist, not waterlogged.

- Feed with a liquid houseplant fertilizer read label for directions on how often to feed
- When the flowers fade, keep the leaves healthy by watering and feed as you would during the flowering season.



- Prune back during the growing season to control its size and shape so it won't get thin and ungainly.
- To stimulate flowering for next year, start in October to keep the plant in total darkness from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day for four weeks.
- Maintain a night temperature of 60 to 67 degrees F.
- Mist leaves daily if atmosphere is too dry.
- When your plant begins to flower, place the plant in bright light and begin the procedure over again. Good Luck!

Cookie Exchange

Take time out of your hectic holiday season this year to host a fun cookie exchange!

Don't be stuck with only one kind of holiday cookie to offer your guests - have a cookie exchange!

It's a quick and easy way to get a wide assortment of delicious holiday cookies and it will help get you and your friends in the holiday spirit with a fun and festive party. Just invite 8 - 12 people to bring their favorite holiday cookies for each person attending the party. At the party, everyone swaps cookies and ends up with 8 - 12 different kinds of delicious holiday treats instantly! A holiday cookie exchange saves you time because you only have to bake one kind of cookie, and it saves you money



because you only have to buy the ingredients for one recipe. If you feel that hosting an exchange at your home would be

too stressful, try holding one at work. A cookie exchange can easily be done over the lunch hour or right after work.



Wineglass Candles

What you need: Glass wine goblets (clear): candle tapers; miniature holiday ornaments; evergreen and holly picks; floral clay, hot glue. What to do:

- 1. Place the wine glass upside down over a miniature ornament.
- 2. Use hot glue or floral clay to secure the candles on top and center of the flat base end of the glass.
- 3. Trim the base of the candle with evergreen or holly picks.
- I like to use different sizes of wine glasses and cluster them.



Nutcracker's On Parade - Theme For One Of Niehaus' Christmas Windows



Once again the windows in the Ford Building (now owned by Niehaus) will be decorated to celebrate the Christmas Holidays. Brian Kirwer and Patty Niehaus have been working diligently to complete the displays in time for the Christmas Season. In one window will be a huge lighted Dickens village scene and another will be Nutcrackers On Parade - both from Patty's personal collection.

The 42" Nutcracker at the left was handcrafted by Sherry Cummins' late husband, Clarence, in 1990. It is made it from an old porch pillar that he turned on his lathe. It was used in the Niehaus' Christmas window that year, and now 16 years later, will be on display once again.

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ADVENT

The name Advent comes from the Latin word Adventos - "coming towards." Father David Fleck, in our most recent St. John's newsletter states - Advent is a season of hope - a time of active waiting for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Advent begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.

Some ideas to observe during Advent are:

- 1. Share your talents with others. God blessed each of us with special talents; share what you do well with others.
- 2. Make a point to say I love you. This simple act is one of the greatest gifts you can give.
- 3. Read the story of Jesus' birth. Read from Luke 2:1-20.
- 4. Set a place before an empty chair. This is to remind everyone that Christ is coming and is welcome in your home.

One of my fondest memories of Advent was when I was in the Seminary at St. Meinrad. Advent there was a very liturgical season. The first Sunday of Advent came in the last week of November and it was on this Sunday the Advent Wreath with its four candles was blessed. I can still hear the beautiful Gregorian chant of the Monks singing "O Come O

".... help bring Christ back into Christmas."

Come Emmanuel." Each Sunday thereafter another candle was lit and the growing anticipation of Christmas vacation and going home was on everyone's mind.

Our home has always had the Advent Wreath to remind us of the four weeks before Christmas, the coming of the Christ Child. One of the traditions was that the oldest child would light the wreath and the youngest would blow it out. As you might imagine, there was always an argument, so we finally went in alphabetical order - that was easy - Anne, Butch, Catherine, David, and Eric.

Over the years Patty has given each of our children and their families an Advent Wreath - so that they might carry on the tradition in their family. We will have 30 at our Christmas table this year. Our families and our lives have been filled with many blessings and we are looking forward to being with our nineteen grandchildren. We hope you and your family will help bring Christ back into Christmas and maybe start the tradition of the Advent Wreath.

Benie

Silent Night

The words of the carol 'Silent Night' were written in 1818 by Father Joseph Mohr, who was the assistant pastor of the church of Saint Nicholas in the small town of Oberndorf in the Austrian Tyrol.

Late one afternoon, just before Christmas,
Joseph Mohr was called
out to bless a new born
baby. As he walked home
he thought of the child he
had just visited and wondered; was it on a night of
such peace and stillness
that the holy babe was
born? When he reached
home he put his feelings into words.

A few days later, while discussing a forthcoming Christmas service, Father Mohr showed the poem to his friend Franz Gruber, the church choirmaster, and within a hour Franz had composed a simple tune around it. That Christmas Eve the carol was sung in the church and everyone was delighted with it!

After Christmas an organ builder came to repair the church organ and Franz Gruber played the song to the organ builder who was enchanted by it and asked if he could write it down and play it at his church in the nearby town of Zillertal. Soon it was a favorite of the churchgoers there who called it 'The Song from Heaven'.

Gradually the carol made its way to Leipzig where it was eventually heard by the Queen of Saxony who requested that it should be played in the palace on Christmas Eve 1832, so that her children could learn it.

Some twenty years later the King of Prussia, Frederick Wilhelm IV, heard the song performed by the choir of the Imperial Church of Berlin. Immediately he declared that the song was to be sung at all Christmas concerts in his country and that a search should be established to discover the name of the composer.

Soon after, Franz Gruber's son heard about the search and recognized his father's music. After thirty-six years the carol that was loved by millions had come back to those who had written it.

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Birthdays

In December and January the following employees will be celebrating their birthday!

December

| Susan Sanders | Dec. 4 | Н |
|------------------|---------|----|
| Dale Nash | Dec. 10 | Т |
| Tim Malooley | Dec. 12 | |
| Don Meredith | Dec. 15 | L |
| Mike Cavender | Dec. 16 | D |
| Butch Niehaus | Dec. 16 | R |
| Chad Clem | Dec. 20 | N |
| James Noble | Dec. 21 | Ja |
| January | | В |
| Doug Vantlin | Jan. 1 | Ja |
| George Unsworth | Jan. 6 | S |
| Richard Woodward | Jan. 7 | D |
| Sue Fox | Jan. 10 | |
| Shannon Grantham | Jan. 12 | Ν |
| Mick Gormley | Jan. 14 | L |
| Deborah Dunn | Jan. 15 | Г |
| Cody Meeks | Jan. 16 | |
| Tom Cozard | Jan. 16 | T |
| Jean Embry | Jan. 18 | Г |
| Ginger Welton | Jan. 21 | P |
| Adam Spears | Jan. 21 | J |
| Bill Egbert | Jan. 23 | R |
| Mary B. Robinson | Jan. 28 | R |
| | | |

Happy Birthday!

New Arrivals

Congratulations to:

Jeff & Gretchen Shelton on the birth of their new baby girl

Sierra Ann

Nov. 3 7 lbs 2 oz

Brian & Brittney Kirwer on the birth of their new son Brady Christopher

Oct. 26 7 lb. 4 oz. 21-1/2" long

Anniversaries

December and January will mark the anniversary dates of employment with our company for the following employees.

December

| December | | |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| Helen Smith | 11 Years | |
| Tim Morris | 10 Years | |
| Lisa Ridgeway | 9 Years | |
| Dennis Bilskie | 8 Years | |
| Rick Henry | 7 Years | |
| Mike Glenn | 4 Years | |
| Jane Deal | 3 Years | |
| Brian Downen | 3 Years | |
| Janie Stephens | 2 Years | |
| Scott McCrary | 2 Years | |
| Drew Wonning | 1 Year | |
| January | | |
| Mary K. Edgin | 5 Years | |
| Lorie Hansen | 4 Years | |
| Dan McElroy | 4 Years | |
| Travis Lewis | 3 Years | |
| Don Campbell | 3 Years | |
| Patricia DiMercurio | 3 Years | |
| Jeff Shelton | 2 Years | |
| Renee Thorne | 2 Years | |
| Robert Wolfe | 2 Years | |
| Shannon Fischer | 2 Years | |
| | | |

New Employees

We want to welcome the following new employees to our company.

Todd Edwards - Niehaus, Vincennes Kevin Crowe - Niehaus, Vincennes Nathan McCarter - Niehaus, Vincennes

Welcome!

SPELL CZECH

Eye halve a spelling chequer. It came with my pea sea.

It plainly marques four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word and weight four it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write. It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid, it nose bee fore two long,

And eye can put the error rite. Its rarely ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it, I am shore your pleased two no,

Its letter perfect in it's weigh. My chequer tolled me sew.

Why are there oversized socks hanging on

According to a very old tradition, the original Saint Nicholas left his very first gifts of gold coins in the stockings of three poor girls who needed the money for their wedding dowries. The girls had hung

their stockings by the fire to dry.

Up until lately, it was traditional to receive small items like fruit, nuts and candy in your stocking, but these have been replaced in the last half-century by more expensive gifts in many homes.

Words To Live By

Pick your friends - but not to pieces.

Too many people quit looking for work when they find a job.

The best way to be successful is to follow the advice you give others.

The secret of contentment is the realization that life is a gift - not a right.

Niehaus News

This newsletter is the official publication of events and activities of Niehaus Companies, Inc. which include Niehaus Home Centers (Vincennes, IN, Terre Haute, IN and Robinson, IL,) Wholesale Building Materials (Vincennes, IN, St. Louis, MO and Nashville, TN), and is published 12 times per year.

your mantel?

Editor/Photographer/Writer: Sherry Cummins, Advertising Mgr.

Niehaus Companies, Inc.

NOT ON OUR **MAILING**

LIST?

If you (or anyone you know) who are not currently on our mailing list to receive the Niehaus News but would like to be just call 812-882-2710

e-mail

or

scummins@wbm-online.com

What, exactly, are the 12 days of Christmas?

The 12 days of Christmas are the 12 days that separate Christmas day on December 25 from Epiphany, which is celebrated January 6. Depending on the church, January 6 may mark Christ's baptism (the Catholic tradition), or it may mark the day that the wise men visited the baby Jesus with their gifts.

In the past, there was a tradition of giving gifts throughout the 12 days, rather than stacking them all up on the morning of December 25. That tradition, as you might imagine, has never really caught on in America! We just aren't that patient. The song, however, demonstrates that some people once stretched out their gifts (and gave some fairly elaborate gifts...) over the full 12 days.

What to Give an Optimist and **Pessimist**

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom & gloom pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, on Christmas their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. He loaded the optimist's room with horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.

"Why are you crying?" the father asked. "Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken." answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked. To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"



Happy **Holidays**



1023 Main Street, Vincennes, IN 501 Howard St, Robinson, IL 1110 Ft. Harrison Rd, Terre Haute, IN

window. . . Andersen can fill the opening beautifully. For over 100 years, every product carrying the Andersen label has been built for the finest homes in America, with beauty, performance, style, quality



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Merry Christmas from all of..

Niehaus Home Center - Vincennes

Mark Ashcraft
Chad Clem
Ken Doades
Shannon Hopwood
Carolyn Lane
Kathy McCreary
Keith Pfoff
Janie Stephens
Mark Webster

Mallory Bilskie
David Cole
Kim Downen
Keith Fox
Travis Lewis
Steve McNew
Jeff Shelton
Bill Stevens
Phil Wehrman

Chris Boover Matt Conover Mary K Edgin Sue Fox Mike Leydet Doug Mikiska Mary Smith Wayne Sullivan Ginger Welton Jon Byrnes Chris Cresgy Todd Edwards Danny Harrington Lisa Litherland A.J. Miles Brad Snider Amanda Tucker Mike Cavender Sherry Cummins Chris Ewer Carl Hensley John Mansfield Josh Neikirk John Starnes John Wallace

Niehaus Home Center - Robinson

Gary Chillingworth
Larry McCoy
Betty Tuttle

Gary Gray Rebecca Taylor William Wait Cletus Hille Don Mendenhall DeeDee Wampler Jerald Jones Ali Salhani Mike Welsh Albert Lepsi Wayne Tracy Richard Woodward

Niehaus Home Center - Terre Haute

Walter Burnett Robert Lawson Brad Neubold Aaron Swayze Tracy Englum
Tim Malooley
Preston Rakes
Scott Stevens

Gene Green Mark McHenry Mary Robinson Michael Jones Mike McIntyre Sean Strange

Carl Keller Jack McCullough Andrew Suttle

Karran - Vincennes

Brook Fuller Rhett Keller Dona<mark>ld M</mark>eredith
Todd Donovan

Drew Wonning Steve Sievers Lorie Hansen Mark Webster Renee Thorne Randy Wissel

Happy New Year!

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Wholesale Building Materials - Vincennes

Charles Able
Shawn Brothers
Judy Detty
Jean Fox
Kevin Grostefon
Kevin Hueby
Scott Klein
Connie Lockhart
Kyla McKinney
Dale Nash
Susan Sanders
Robert Spade
Ed Vantlin
Mike Worland

Mike Adams
Jerry Burch
Brian Downen
Mark Frey
Chris Hamilton
Tony Jamero
Doug Klumpp
Tracy Lockhart
Cody Meeks
James Noble
Craig Sims
Randy Stephens
Adam Vieck
Clete Yochum

Paul Anderson
Don Campbell
Jeanie Embry
Ron Gaines
John Harrison
Michael Jones
Paul Kopp
Brenda Malone
Tim Morris
Don Pea
Brian Smith
Steve Taylor
Raymond West
Stephanie Zachary

Dennis Bilskie
Ron Cardinal
Eric Feagley
Mike Glenn
Doug Hatton
Stephen Kahre
Stephen Lanning
Scott McCrary
Mike Montgomery
Lisa Ridgeway
Kim Smith
George Unsworth
Bob Wolfe

Leah Bilskie
Tracy Catt
Charles Fields
Mick Gormley
Rick Henry
Brian Kirwer
Brian Lett
Dan McElroy
Debra Moyes
Roy Roach
Helen Smith
Doug Vantlin
Jon Worland

Wholesale Building Materials - St. Louis

Patrick Burrus Jane Deal Darryl Frame Dave Nichol Andy Westerman Brian Childs Patricia DiMercurio Steve Gerdeman Ken Pettry Joy Whiteside Tom Cozad Deborah Dunn Ryan Hutchinson Danny Pratt Trina Wulfert Robe<mark>rta Craig</mark> William <mark>Egbert</mark> Barbara <mark>Jon</mark>es James <mark>Roe</mark> William Davis
Shannon Fischer
Tim Murray
Janice Warren

Wholesale Building Materials - Nashville

Joseph Byerley Don Kirby Steve Rooker Keith Smith Shannon Grantham Erin Kirby Christina Shafer Adam Spears

Hylton Hawkins Lisa Reaves Donna Stephenson Mel<mark>issa</mark> Ho<mark>lsonb</mark>ack Stephanie Rochelle Kim Terry

Bernie Niehaus

Butch Niehaus

David Niehaus

Eric Niehaus

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New State-of-the-art Door Staining Facility at WBM



Ray West will be heading up the new door staining facility that has recently been constructed at Wholesale Building Materials in Vincennes.

Ray has been instrumental in the construction of the facility and will oversee the new operation of pre-finishing doors before they are shipped to dealers - fulfilling a growing request by dealers, contractors and homeowners. Wholesale Building Materials's latest endeavor is the construction of a new door finishing facility. The new environment controlled department is equipped with the latest in ventilation systems, spraying equipment and assembly work tables to accommodate the staining, painting, drying, and packing procedures.

The doors are hung from a ceiling mounted track and guided through several steps of preparation in an assembly line fashion, from staining, or painting, sealing and drying.

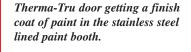
Because nothing brings out the graining detail of Therma-Tru doors more than a beautiful stain, WBM can now provide added value by pre-hanging and prestaining our doors in a controlled environment at our new facility, thus offering a high-quality, complete door system that delivers consistent color and finish with durable, dependable performance.

The first step for Ray is to make up finished display models to take to our dealers for their showrooms - then doors will be pre-finished to order.

We are anxious to get our new finishing program into full swing and be able to offer the new service to our customers.



Ray West looks over the assembly line of doors that have come out of the staining booth.





Ray assembles the light frame to complete a pre-finished door.





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PreFinished

THERMA TRU DOORS

Let Our Paint and Stain Pro's Apply the Perfect Finish to Your New Entryway



Our door mill will begin pre-finishing Therma-Tru doors in-house this month. Our new pre-finish facility will allow us to control the application environment and ensure that we provide the highest quality pre-finished product in the industry.

Ordering is easy:

• Choose your door finish.

For Classic-Craft & Fiber-Classic doors, choose any Therma-Tru stain color or standard paint color. For Smooth Star doors, choose any standard paint color.

Decide if you want the doors exterior or interior finished, or both. You can also choose to paint the interior and stain the exterior or use one paint color for the interior and another for the exterior.

THERMA TRU

The beauty of wood.
The durability of fiberglass

Quality Door System Components

- Security Strike Plate
- Multi-Point Locking System
- High Quality Hinges
- Kerfed Door Bottom
- HP Adjustable Sills
- FrameSaver Rot-Proof Jambs
- Astragals For Double Door Systems

Niehaus Home Center

501 S. Howard St. Robinson, IL

1023 Main St. Vincennes, IN 1110 Ft. Harrison Rd. Terre Haute, IN Page 10 Niehaus News

Niehaus' New Benjamin Moore Signature Paint Store Will Soon Be Completed



The new Benjamin Moore Paint Department is entering into the final stages of completion. The department has been completely remodeled - new ceilings, lighting, fixtures, flooring and displays.

The new department will include an inspiration center with an even greater color selection and a decision area to browse. It will provide the ultimate in decorating experience - a combination of rich colors, expert service and top-quality products in a warm and relaxing store atmosphere.

Old Tavern Club Cheese



Available in cups, jars and gift box.

12 oz. cup cheddar

12 oz. cup blue

18 oz. cup cheddar

18 oz. cup blue

40 oz. cup cheddar

12 oz. jar cheddar

20 oz. jar cheddar

40 oz. jar cheddar

12 oz jar twin cheddar/swiss

20 oz Christmas Jar

Ideal for personal gifts, corporate gifts, favorite recipes, or family snack time.

Who is this reindeer named Rudolph?

The whole story of Rudolph appeared, out of nowhere, in 1939. Santas at Montgomery Ward stores gave away 2.4 million copies of a booklet entitled "Rudolph

the Red-Nose Reindeer."
The story was written by a person in the advertising department named Robert

May, and the booklet was illustrated by Denver Gillen.

The original name of the reindeer was not Rudolph, according to the book

"Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things," by Charles Panati. The original name was Rollo, but executives did not like that name, nor Reginald. The name Rudolph came from the author's young daughter! In 1949, Gene Autry sang a musical version of the poem and it was a run-away best-seller. The Rudolph song is second only to "White Christmas" in popularity.

Ten things to say about gifts you don't like

- **10**. Boy, if I had not recently shot up four sizes, that would've fit.
- **9.** It would be a shame if the garbage man ever accidentally took this from me. Christmas Santa
- **8**. Perfect for wearing in the basement.
- 7. Well, well, well...
- **6**. I really don't deserve this.
- **5.** Gosh, I hope this never catches fire!
- **4.** I Love it, but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
- 3. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
- **2.** Sadly, tomorrow I enter the federal witness protection program.
- **1.** To think I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.



Phil, Danny and Doug work to hang the new Christmas banner on the side of the Ford Building.

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Happy Holidays from the **Niehaus Family**

Bernie & Patty Niehaus

Anne & Bob Pratt (deceased) Julia

Brennen Alec Kevin

Butch & Tina Niehaus Mallory **Nicholas** Megan

Molly

Catherine & Steve Lawless Jensen **Johnny** Micky

David & Maggie Niehaus **Emily** Ben Katy Abby

Eric & Teresa Niehaus **Bailey** Jackson Natalie Charlie

Tube Sock Snowman

Supplies:

- · Tube Sock with red border
- Uncooked rice (approx. 2 cups) \
- String
- · Glue gun
- 2 plastic baggies
- Small green pompoms
- Extra small brown pompoms
- Small brown pompom
- Googly eyes Red yarn
- 1. fill a plastic baggie with 1 cup rice. (this should fill 2/3 of
- 2. you may need more or less depending on the size of the sock)
- 3. tie the top of baggie with twist tie.
- 4. put bag inside tube sock.
- 5. Tie tightly with string
- 6. repeat above using 1/2 cup of rice (more or less)
- 7. tie tightly with string.
- 8. fold over the ribbed part of the sock to make the snowman's hat.
- 9. Cut 3 strands of yarn and tie around the snowman's neck
- 10. glue on green buttons, brown mouth and nose
- 11. glue on eyes
- 12. make a tassel on the top of the hat with yarn, glue.



What Shall I Give for Christmas?

A listening ear to the friend with a heartache. A thank you to the tired salesperson who serves you.

Laughter to brighten a less-fortunate's life. A kiss and a hug for a handicapped child. Time to read to the sightless.

An act of kindness to the shut-in.

A cheery greeting to one who is ill.

A smile to the elderly person who is struggling to walk. A written message to a lonely one.

How simple our Christmas shopping can be this year -

And every year - when we give gifts of the heart.

Why is Christmas sometimes spelled Xmas?

...especially when combined with the word "sale"?

According to the book Did you ever Wonder... by Jeff Rovin, the word for Christ in Greek is Xristos. The use of the shortened form "Xmas" became popular in Europe in the 1500s.

The word Xmas is so common in advertising most likely because "Xmas" and "sale" have the same number of letters, and "Xmas" is significantly shorter than Christmas.

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