Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.46
C762

CONSUMER TIME R-225

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

NETWORK: NBC DATE: December 23, 1944

ORIGIN: WRC TIME: 12:15-12:30 PM- EWT

(Produced by the Office of Distribution of the War Food Administration, this script is for reference only and may not be broadcast without special permission. The title CONSUMER TIME is restricted to network broadcast of the program...presented for more than eleven years in the interest of consumers.)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

0

1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE...MONEY IN TILL

2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME!

3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER.

4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations makes its facilities available as a public service for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the War Food Administration.

5. SOUND: BELLS TOLLING...DEEP AND SLOW...THEN LIGHTER BELLS INTERMINGLING, FASTER...SOUND OF MANY BELLS ALTOGETHER....HOLD UNDER LOW.

6. JOHN: Christmas all over the world.

Today, CONSUMER TIME brings you the story of Christmas in many lands...the story of how this joyous holiday is celebrated in our United Nations the world over. And because the best way to hear about Christmas...is from children, we've asked youngsters from five faraway countries to be with us in the studio today. And here is Mrs. Freyman to introduce them to us.

7. FREYMAN: Well, here at the microphone we have, first of all, 8-year-old Dirk Jan Van Houten, whose Father is Counsellor of the Netherlands Embassy. He's going to talk about Christmas in Holland. Then, for our Christmas-in-Britain story, we'll hear from 11-year-old Sally Morris, daughter of the Counsellor of the British Embassy.

(MORE)

[illegible] AROUND THE WORLD

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

FREYMAN (CONT'D) 13-year-old Eirik Olaf, whose father is Counsellor of the Norweigan Embassy, will tell us about Yuletide customs in Norway. From France, we have 11-year-old Anne Baub'e, daughter of the Press Attache of the French Delegation. And then, going "South of the border", we'll hear what Brazilian children do on Christmas from 13-year-old Dora Sodre, daughter of Commander Benjamin Sodre, Officer in Charge of the Brazilian Navy Purchasing Office here in Washington.

8. JOHN: Yes, sir, we have a real international party in the studio today... so all aboard, everybody. Let's get going on our Christmas trip around the world!

9. FREYMAN: Let's hear first from 8-year-old Dirk Jan Van Houten, whose father is stationed here as Counsellor of the Netherlands Embassy. You know, Dirk, I've always heard that Santa Claus originally came from Holland...is that right?

10. DIRK: Yes, it is. Your Santa Claus came from my country. In Holland, we call him Sint Nikolaas.

11. FREYMAN: Oh, I see. When you say "Saint Nicholas" (REPEAT A COUPLE OF TIMES WITH MORE SANTA INFLECTION)....well, that gradually becomes "Santa Claus."

12. DIRK: He does have a white bread. But instead of a red suit, he wears long velvet robes covered with gold and jewels. He comes on December fifth and leaves his presents for us.

13. FREYMAN: Oh, that's right! Saint Nicholas' day is on the sixth of December and he comes the night before. And do you hang up your stockings for Saint Nicholas to fill?

14. DIRK: No, we put out our shoes by the fireplace every night for a week before Saint Nicholas day. We also leave a slice of bread for him, and some hay for his horse.

15. FREYMAN: I didn't know your Santa Claus has a horse!

16. DIRK: Yes, he has a pretty white horse that pulls his sleigh. He also has a helper named Black Pete. We call him Zwarte Piet.

17. FREYMAN: I see. And when you leave the slice of bread by the fireplace, and the hay for the horse...what happens to it?

18. DIRK: Next morning it's all gone. And Sint Nikolaas always leaves behind a piece of candy or cookie in our shoe.

19. FREYMAN: Now that must be very exciting.

20. DIRK: But of course if we have been bad, Sint Nikolaas may not leave us anything at all. So we try to be very good the week before he comes.

21. FREYMAN: (LAUGH) We know how that is, too, Dirk. We have a little poem that goes "Just before Christmas...I'm as good as I can be." Well...now what especially do children in Holland like to eat on St. Nicholas' day, Dirk?

22. DIRK: Well, I always like sugar plums and pepper-nuts and candy best of all.

23. FREYMAN: Of course, as we all know, today in Holland those Christmas delicacies are very hard to find. And Christmas in the occupied part of Holland will probably not be a very happy one. But we're all hoping by next Christmas there will be sugar plums and good things to eat for every child...and a real Merry Christmas for everybody. Thank you, Dirk Jan Van Houten, for telling us about Christmas in Holland.

24. JOHN: Next on our Christmas Around the World program we have 11-year-old Sally Morris, who came over from England only a month ago, on her first trip to America. Her father is Counsellor of the British Embassy here in Washington. Sally, this is Britain's sixth Christmas at war...I suppose you can hardly remember what a peacetime Christmas is!

25. SALLY: It does seem a long time ago. And there have been some bad times. But we've always managed to have a jolly time at Christmas, no matter what.

26. JOHN: I'm sure that's true! How actually has the war changed Christmas, Sally?

27. SALLY: In almost every way. For one thing, we miss having fruit. We always used to have an orange in the toe of our Christmas stocking. And then, of course, plum pudding for Christmas dinner...but that's a rare sight nowadays.

28. JOHN: I should think so! And what about toys...what are they like this year?

29. SALLY: Well, just as yours are here in America, most of ours are made of substitute, non-essential materials. And there aren't too many toys at that. But Christmas continues to be a happy affair. We decorate the house with mistletoe and holly...and if we're lucky, we have a tree.

30. JOHN: Isn't it a British custom to have a Yule Log that burns all day Christmas?

31. SALLY: Yes, that's a very old tradition. But wood is extremely scarce now, and I guess the real old-fashioned Yule longs are found only in a few homes, out in the country. We have another famous custom too, Johnny.

32. JOHN: What's that?

33. SALLY: Caroling. Groups of people wander from house to house, singing carols on Christmas eve. That, of course, has been going on for many hundreds of years...and it's as important to our Christmas as Santa Claus.

34. JOHN: And a very beautiful custom it is.

35. SALLY: But you know, on the whole, Christmas in England and America is pretty much the same, I think. Here's another thing, though, you have turkey for Christmas dinner...and we always have goose!

36. JOHN: Oh, yes, of course. And do you have "Open house" on Christmas day, with all the friends and neighbors coming to call?

37. SALLY: No, that's the day after. Christmas day is strictly a family affair...there's no visiting with neighbors. It's sort of like your Thanksgiving day, when all the distant relatives get together for a family reunion.

38. JOHN: I see! Well, now, all in all, Sally...you'd say that in spite of the hazards of traveling during wartime, Santa Claus will again make his aerial sleighride, and his yearly trip down British chimneys.

39. SALLY: Indeed he will, Johnny. And we're hoping that this year will be the last Christmas he'll have to make the trip with a tail gunner.

40. JOHN: Well, here's hoping that next Christmas will be celebrated in peace and plenty in Britain...and all over the world. And thank you Sally Morris for telling us about Christmas in Britain.

41. FREYMAN: Now, let's hear about Christmas in France.

42. JOHN: Well, here is 11-year-old Anne Baub'e to tell us all about it. Anne is the daughter of M. Jean Baub'e, Press Attache of the French Delegation in Washington. Anne would you say that Santa Claus in France is like Santa Claus here?

43. BAUBE: Oh yes. He is the same. He has reindeer and a sleigh, just the way Santa does here in America. There is one difference, though.

44. FREYMAN: What's that?

45. BAUBE: Well, he has a helper...a little son called Jean Noel! Jean helps out when Santa is very busy...and he comes to see the children.

46. FREYMAN: Jean Noel! And what does he look like, Anne?

47. BAUBE: Well, he's just like any other little boy. All the children envy him because he's Santa Claus's son, but if he's bad, he doesn't get any toys...just like anybody else.

48. FREYMAN: And that's only fair isn't it? Now tell us this...do you hang up your stocking on Christmas eve?

49. BAUBE: Oh yes indeed. And it's a French custom to hang up a long red stocking.

50. FREYMAN: And what do French children like to get best for Christmas?

51. BAUBE: Well, little girls of course like dolls best. France is famous all over the world for her dolls. And rich or poor, every girl has a doll and loves it best of all her toys.

52. FREYMAN: Well it looks to me, Anne, as though France and America celebrate Christmas in about the same way.

53. BAUBE: Yes, I think so too. Of course our Christmas is all for the children...and New Year's Day is the important day for grownups. Did you know Christmas holidays last until the sixth of January?

54. FREYMAN: My that is a long time! Now tell us this, Anne. What do French children like to eat especially on Christmas day?

55. BAUBE: Oh, there are all kinds of delicious and exciting looking pastries and cakes. But of course, since the war, there are very few of these. Still, like Dirk Jan, from Holland and Sally from England ...I'm hoping that there'll be a real Christmas for everybody next year, in my country.

56. FREYMAN: Well, we're looking forward to that, too, Anne Baube! And thank you very much.

57. JOHN: So far, now, we've heard about Christmas in Holland, in England, and in France. Now let's go way up North to Norway on our "Around the World Christmas" tour.

58. FREYMAN: Yes, now we'll hear about Norway, from 13-year-old Eirik Olaf. Eirik's father is representing his country here in Washington as Counsellor of the Norewegian Embassy. Eirik...can you tell us something about Christmas in Norway?

59. OLAF: Well, the Norweigan Santa Claus is a little gnome...a drawf...who leaves us presents, and good things to eat. We never see him, but we always know he's around.

60. FREYMAN: What do you call him?

61. OLAF: We call him Yul Nisse. And our real Christmas celebration takes place on Christmas eve. We go to church in the afternoon...then after tea, about 6 o'clock, we go into the room where the tree is.

62. FREYMAN: (LAUGH) And I suppose there is the usual rough and tumble excitement when that door is first opened.

63. OLAF: No, not at first. Because first of all we join hands around the tree and sing songs. After we've walked around the tree singing, then we can dive in and start opening our presents.

64. FREYMAN: I see. Well Eirik, can you think of any other Christmas customs in Norway that would be interesting to our American listeners?

65. OLAF: Well, here's one. We always take a big bundle of wheat and tie it outside the house, on a pole or a tree.

66. FREYMAN: Why do you do that?

67. OLAF: We put it out for the birds' Christmas dinner! You see, the winter in Norway is very long and cold, and snow stays on the ground for months. So the birds are always very glad to find the wheat.

68. FREYMAN: I should think so. Now, Eirik, what do you like to eat best of all during the holidays!

69. OLAF: That's a hard question to answer, Mrs. Freyman. I like just about everything. Especially the candy called marsipan...which is usually made in the shape of a little pig. You know, the pig is the sign of happiness in Norway. Well, that candy is very good... and then we have a kind of pudding that we eat on Christmas Eve, and we have a lot of fun with that.

70. FREYMAN: Fun with a pudding? How do you mean?

71. OLAF: Well, it's cooked with one almond in it. Only one. And the person who finds that almond in his bowl will be the first to get married.

72. FREYMAN: That does sound like fun. And thank you very much, Eirik Olaf... for telling us about Christmas in Norway!

73. JOHN: Now from 'way up North in frozen Norway...let's go way down South to hear about Christmas in the tropics. Here is 13-year-old Dora Sodre to tell us about Christmas in Brazil. Senorita Sodre is the daughter of Commander Benjamin Sodre here on a War mission as Officer in Charge of the Brazilian Navy Purchasing Office. Dora, I imagine in Brazil you don't have Christmas trees, and Santa Claus in a sleigh...do you?

74. DORA: No, our Christmas is very different from yours. We don't have Christmas trees but we do decorate our houses.

75. JOHN: What kind of decoration, Dora?

76. DORA: We have a scene of the nativity. We set up little houses and trees and shepherds with their flocks of sheep. There is a hill, and on top of the hill are figures of Mary and Joseph and a manger.

77. JOHN: Oh I see...

78. DORA: Our celebration begins several days before Christmas. During this time, every night after we say the Rosary, the whole family goes from room to room, re-enacting Mary and Joseph's Search for Shelter. At the head of the procession, somebody carries the images of the holy figures. The most solemn procession takes place on Christmas Eve. We call it "Posada". Then, after midnight mass, we have a big Christmas dinner.

71. JOHN: And on Christmas morning...do you give each other presents?

72. DORA: Well, the real day for giving gifts in South America is January 6th, the Epiphany of Three Kings Day. In Brazil, we also give presents on New Year's Eve.

73. JOHN: Do you hang up your stockings then, Dora?

74. DORA: No...in Latin America, we put out our shoes or small boxes, and in the morning we find presents in them.

75. JOHN: Well that's fine. Now tell me, Dora...how long is your Christmas holiday in Brazil?

76. DORA: It's much longer than yours. We start a few days before Christmas and the holiday isn't over until March.

77. JOHN: Now isn't that wonderful. With such a long holiday, there must be many parties and festivities in Brazil.

78. DORA: It is a very happy time. In many parts of my country...particularly in the little towns, people dance in the streets and sing songs all night long.

79. JOHN: Fiestas! Isn't that what you call them?

80. DORA: Yes, Johnny. Muchas Fiestas!

81. JOHN: Well, thanks very much, Dora Sodre...for being with us today...and telling us about Christmas in Brazil.

82. FREYMAN: And now...we're home from our Christmas trip around the world! Let's hear holiday wishes from everyone. First, from England...

83. SALLY: A Merry Christmas to you all!

84. FREYMAN: From Holland...

85. DIRK: (IN DUTCH)

86. FREYMAN: From France...

87. BAUBE: (IN FRENCH)

88. FREYMAN: From Norway...

89. EIRIK: (IN NORWEGIAN)

90. FREYMAN: From Brazil...

91. DORA: (IN PORTUGESE)

92. ALL: A Merry Christmas.

93. SOUND: (BELLS...UP ON ABOVE...HOLD AND FADE OUT.)

94. JOHN: Thanks to all of you...for being with us on CONSUMER TIME today, and telling about "Christmas...Around the World".

95. FREYMAN: Yes...it was good to hear...how these many countries the world over....traditionally observe the beautiful customs of Christmas. And with the words of these children ringing in our ears...children of brave, valient nations at war...let us look to the future with the hope of lasting peace and good will toward men. That we may live the Christmas spirit the year 'round... throughout the world.

96. SOUND: BELLS TOLLING....FADE.

97. JOHN: Next week on CONSUMER TIME, We're going to have a special New Year's program...a preview of the food situation for the coming year.

98. FREYMAN: As guest on the program, we will have with us Mr. Keith Himebaugh, Director of Information for the United States Department of Agriculture...and for the War Food Administration.

99. JOHN: Be sure to be with us then...for a preview of the food situation in 1945...next week on...

100. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...MONEY IN TILL.

101. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME!

102. SOUND: CASH REGISTER.

103. JOHN: How your money buys a living in wartime.

104. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER.

105. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Christine Kempton, is presented by the War Food Administration through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. This broadcast period for CONSUMER TIME has been made available as a public service.

This is the National Broadcasting Company.