

### Holiday Is Favorite Theme For Writers

Whenever the talk turns to Christmas books and stories, somebody's sure to mention Charles Dickens.

His "Christmas Carol," published in 1843, is synonymous with holiday conviviality, and its underlying theme stresses the spiritual truths and blessings of the Nativity.

"God bless us, every one," cried Tiny Tim Cratchit, and the cry still echoes.

While Dickens may be a word for Christmas, many another author has written of this religious festival and merry feast.

Among the best known examples may be scenes

from children's literature. Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," published in 1868, may seem old-fashioned in some ways, but girls today still rejoice in the story of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy.

These fictional heroines come to life for their readers, and never more so than in the Christmas-season story that opens the book, when the March family gave up a festive breakfast for a poor family.

While they breakfasted on bread and milk, the girls felt they truly feasted, for they knew the joy of sharing.

Another old favorite is Kate Douglas Wiggin's "The Birds' Christmas Carol," of 1887.

Better known as the author of "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," she wrote this brief but touching story of the Birds' invalid child, whose short life exemplified the principles of Christmas.

In the present day, the American author Truman Capote, who claims the invention of a new literary form, the non-fiction novel, has written of Christmas, too.

### Canadians trade those winter winds for gentle breezes



As a killing frost settles over most Canadian golf greens, and clubs and carts are forgotten in basements until next year, the Bahamas Islands are gearing up for their busiest season.

golf bags are being plucked from their accustomed winter hibernation to join the action on tropical Bahamian courses.

Professional Golf Association event drew many of the sport's top names, including Arnold Palmer.

### Religious Cards Take Head In Popularity

"Sorry, we don't have any more Christmas cards, only some religious ones."

These words, supposedly spoken by a saleswoman to a last-minute shopper for greeting cards a good many years ago, wouldn't be meaningful now.

During recent Yuletide seasons, greetings with a religious message have led the way in popularity.

The wry-humorous idea that anyone looking for cards wants some that show only the convivial side of Christmas was never very funny, and now it definitely isn't true.

Early cards pictured dancers and skaters, holly and mistletoe, robins and other birds, beautiful women and charming children and flowers by the score.

Such themes still appear but they take second place to religious messages—especially, "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

READY FOR YULE "Christmas tree" is the actual name of a plant that grows in New Zealand.



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### Eatime Topics

**by Jean Sharp**  
You can pot-roast lamb, serve it oriental style. It isn't always have to eat as roast lamb or chops, says Tryphena, home economist of the New Zealand Lamb Promotion Centre.

heavy pot. Brown well, drain fat. Add tomato juice, rosemary, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for about 1 1/2 hours or until meat is almost tender. Add next about 30 minutes or until meat and vegetables are tender. Skim fat.

**WITH GINGER**  
An oriental recipe calls for: 3 lb. shoulder of lamb, 1/2 teaspoon salt, few grains pepper, one 10-ounce can

beef consomme, one 10-ounce can sliced mushrooms, 2 sliced green onions, 1/3 cup sliced celery, 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger, 2 teaspoons soy sauce, 2 tablespoons corn starch, 1/4 cup water.

Combine corn starch and water. Stir into stock and vegetables in pan. Stir and cook over medium heat until thick and the corn starch is cooked. Serve with roast and rice. Makes about 6 servings.

**BROIL STEAKS**  
Place salmon steaks in a large pan. Mix the remaining ingredients, except paprika, and pour over the top. Allow to stand for 3 to 4 hours, turning once. Preheat broiler.

**HALIBUT BAKE**  
Halibut baked in sauce calls for: 3 steaks cut 1 1/4 inches thick, 1 cup tomato juice, 1/2 cup ketchup, 1 large thinly sliced onion, 1 clove chopped garlic, 1 cup sliced mushrooms, 1/2 cup vegetable oil, 2 tablespoons chopped parsley, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1 teaspoon dill weed, pepper to taste.

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### No Exceptions To Studded Tire Ban

TORONTO - The Highway Traffic Act does not provide for any exception to the ban on the use of studded tires in Ontario this winter, Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications A.T.C. McNab said in a statement Monday.

"The regulation prohibiting their further use, which was passed last year, makes it an offence for any vehicle to be equipped with studs on Ontario highways, roads and streets," he said.

Drivers using studs may be subject to fines ranging from \$20 to \$100.

Mr. McNab said the province took the lead in banning studs because research carried out in Ontario on their effectiveness and effects on highway damage was more advanced than other jurisdictions.

"That research, and additional research conducted by the Canada Safety Council - an independent organization - during the past two winters supported earlier findings that studs offered only marginal aid in winter driving where icy road conditions existed," he said.

"The tremendous amount of research that has gone into the matter leads safety experts to believe that in a great many instances drivers using studded tires were operating under a false sense of security."

Regular snow tires and the use of steel tire chains, where necessary, are not affected by the ban.