

Photo of the Month

Christmas Memories from Rogers' History



The Walnut Street home of W.C. and Rose Putman of Rogers is decorated for Christmas, circa 1930s. (Negative #N008198)

1904: Howard Cady, who was playing Santa Claus for the Christmas eve celebration at the Congregational Church, was handing out gifts from the tree when some cotton on his sleeve caught fire from a small candle. The flames spread to his long beard but he managed to get the wig off before he was burned. The accident caused quite a commotion among the young folks, but was quickly over and the fun of the evening was resumed.

1906: The *Rogers Democrat* suggested the following would make excellent Christmas purchases from downtown Rogers merchants: furniture, china, cut glass, jewelry, books, candies, toys, cutlery, photographs, and fruit and nuts.

1908: Local writer and shop owner Tom Morgan sold 1,500 Christmas and holiday souvenir postcards, and could have sold more if the supplies had not run out.

1909: A nine-pound turkey, plum pudding for four, mincemeat for three pies, celery, parsley, a quart of cranberries, a pound of mixed nuts, and three pounds of sweet potatoes had sold the previous year (1908) for \$1.95. By 1909 the same supplies cost \$4.50.

1911: The largest crowd at a city church occurred at the Mission Hall, which was crowded to the limit. Through generous gifts of the congregation, 15 dozen handkerchiefs, 150 pairs of stockings, 100 pounds of candy, three barrels of apples, and 500 presents were distributed.

1918: More than 15 tons of turkey was served to soldiers at Camp Pike in Little Rock. Also on the menu: cranberries, apple sauce, candied yams, creamed potatoes, corn, peas, pickles and olives, celery, fruit salad, lemon, pumpkin, and potato pies, all kinds of cakes, ice cream, fruit punch, coffee, and cocoa.

1927: Over 150 underprivileged children were guest of the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. The day began with a special morning matinee movie at the Victory Theater, and included dinner served by the Women's Progressive Club. Santa Claus handed out gifts from the Christmas tree; each child was given candy, an orange, and Christmas gift or two.

1934: A special program was presented at the high school assembly as students prepared for a two-week Christmas holiday vacation. Dr. Joseph Miller, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, delivered a Christmas talk, and a Christmas story was told by Robert S. Carver. The program also included a marimba solo, Bible reading, Christmas carol, vocal and piano solos, and a piano trio.

1961: Six Shetland ponies, dressed in a chrome-plated harness, bright red plumes, and sleigh bells, pulled a bright red, silver-trimmed sleigh able to carry 60 children for two days in downtown Rogers. Rogers' merchants gave away coupons for the sleigh rides, and Santa was available for personal talks. Christmas music played in the background.