

Christmas Trivia

We are now in the countdown to Christmas, that special time of year filled with traditions and family get-togethers. Here are a few interesting bits of trivia to consider as December 25 draws nearer:

- In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the nation to declare Christmas as a legal holiday.
- Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights (it figures) for Christmas trees in 1882. That was three years after Edison invented the electric light bulb.
- Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States, was the first President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
- The use of a Christmas wreath as a decoration on the front door, mantel or bay window symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life to all who enter.
- For every real Christmas tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place.
- The first Christmas tree retail lot in the U.S. was started in 1851 in New York by Mark Carr.
- Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.

So now you have it: Information you were just dying to know. But perhaps it will provide a little more sparkle to your yuletide conversation.

--Beecher Hunter