

## **Christmas – Decorations**

[http://www.xomba.com/modern\\_parallel\\_christmas\\_1929](http://www.xomba.com/modern_parallel_christmas_1929)

Needless to say Christmas in 1929 was not a joyous occasion. There were soup lines, job cuts, salaries slashed, and hobos rode the rails in search of work and food

### **HUB – “Christmas Decorations”**

12-5-1928 - The campaign to solicit donations for the public Christmas decoration plan was to be concluded this day.

12-4-1929 – “Kearney” in 10 foot high yellow letters was painted on the black roof of the Chicago Lumber Company.

12-7-1929 (Saturday) – Equipment for “Kearney’s decoration scheme” had been shipped from New York and was due to arrive this day. Work on “installing” the decorations would begin Monday.

12-26-1929 – [This is the first Christmas after Black Friday in Oct. when the bottom fell out of the market]

**Last Minute Shoppers Throng Stores in Quest of Gifts as Successful Season is Closed**

Merchants said it was equal to or better than years past. Some drug and cigar stores stayed open Christmas Day and did a good business with last minute shoppers who, in the reporters opinion, had probably waited to see if a reciprocal gift was needed. Shopping was good all through December except for a few days when a cold wave moved through. The three days \*Sat, Mon, Tue) before Christmas Day (Wed) were especially big shopping days. One main factor in the success was the growing size of the Kearney trade area. Add favorable weather and good roads. Several Kansas cars were seen parked on the street for long periods of time indication the owners were busy spending their money.”

There were many favorable comments about the Christmas decoration system. By special arrangement with the City Council, Central Power could turn on the electric lights whenever they wanted. Foggy dreary days were brightened by cheery Yuletide colors. The lights would be in operation until after New Years.

12-27-1929 – Minden was “attracting motorist for many miles because of its beautiful and unique Christmas plan/

### **HUB – “Christmas Lights”**

12-5-1929 – The collection of funds was for colored lights and stringers. D W Ruter was chair of the decorations committee. \$550 was original est. of cost of lights, stringers and installation.

They would be at intersections of Central Ave from 25<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. Then it was decided to add two more stringers and include 18<sup>th</sup> as well.

12-20-1929 – There were Christmas lights in Lowell.

12-30-1929 – The lights would be lighted until after the new year and then would hang dark until the Nebraska Volunteer Firemen's association convention Jan 21-23 when they would be lit again.

1-2-1930 – Minden, the Christmas City decorates the courthouse and downtown business district with Christmas lights which attracts many visitors.

12-4-1930 – Downtown businesses were again being asked for donations. The first \$100 would go for extra stringers and for repairs on those purchased last year. They would be up and lit in two days. The rest of the money collected would be used for the needy children and women within the city for clothing first and then food and fuel.

12-30-1931 – “---Quite a number of men are being housed in the city jail each night, for the most part younger chaps who are making their way across the country in search of work.”

12-1-1933 – Kearney American Legion was setting up a series of boxing matches at the Junior High auditorium. The proceeds would be used for the cost of installing Kearney's lights and decorations.

### **HUB – Christmas Gifts**

First advertized in 1890, began first of December

12894 – advertising on Nov. 10

### **HUB – Christmas Trees**

1889 – sold at Hooley's bakery and “the market”

1910 – Some raised the issue of Christmas tree cutting would deplete our forests. The defense was that the trees cut were in areas where the trees needed to be cleared out, like cranberry bogs.

1911 – Abbreviation Xmas used in a headline

1924 – Tree in front yard decorated with lights, also some trees with lights on front porches, some in front windows so passersby could see them, some in homes where there were no children. A business put one on their roof. People took it to be multiple stars of Bethlehem and were almost ready to proclaim a second miracle.

1926 – with the stringing of special wires all of the Christmas trees on Central Avenue can now be lighted.

Dec. 8, 1930 – Giant poinsettias and Christmas trees were showing up in markets.

A sorority held a Christmas dance in the Crystal Room of the Ft. Kearney Hotel. Decorations included small lighted Christmas trees in the windows and blue lights in the crystal chandeliers.

### **HUB – Christmas Shopping**

1891 – Someone went to Hastings to visit friends and do Christmas shopping

Dec. 11, 1908 – Advertisement of a business to do Christmas shopping early.

### **The Duster – KAAF Newspaper**

Dec. 1, 1944

The Service Club would wrap gifts

Headline – Give War Bonds as Christmas Gifts

Gifts for troops overseas had to be mailed between Sept 15 and Oct 15. They could not weigh over 4 pounds each. About 50,000,000 were sent, the largest mass movement of package mail to leave the US ever, in peacetime or war. They would all be delivered, using every conceivable means – trucks, jeeps, amphibious ducks, parachutes, dog sleds in the arctic, camels in the African interior.

Dec. 15, 1944

On Dec 23 at 2:00 Santa would arrive by airplane. He would have a gift for each girl and boy on hand. Names were to be submitted to the Public Relations office by Dec 16. There would also be music, entertainment and refreshments at the Rec Hall. Children should be 12 and younger, children of military personnel stationed on the Base and children in Kearney whose father were in the service.

Xmas Gifts at PX – toys, boxed nuts and candies, jewelry, leather goods, compacts, handkerchiefs. “Help Yourself” gift wrapping counter – choose wrappings for gifts whether bought at the PX or not.

[News from] Squadron D – Elmer T--- has a new nickname, Moses. Every time he opens his mouth the bull rushes.

LS/MFT

Many parents have sons with APO addresses. But one son (a Cpl on base) has parents with an APO. His father has a civilian job with engineers some place in Alaska and his wife is with him.

Christmas Queen Contest [large picture of a pretty girl] – Guys submitted pictures of their girlfriends. Judges were Joseph Tye, Kearney Mayor; Dr. Leroy Tayler, commander of the

Kearney American Legion post; and Ormand Hill, Kearney Hub publisher. The winner was a girl from Chicago submitted by a S/Sgt in the Medical section.