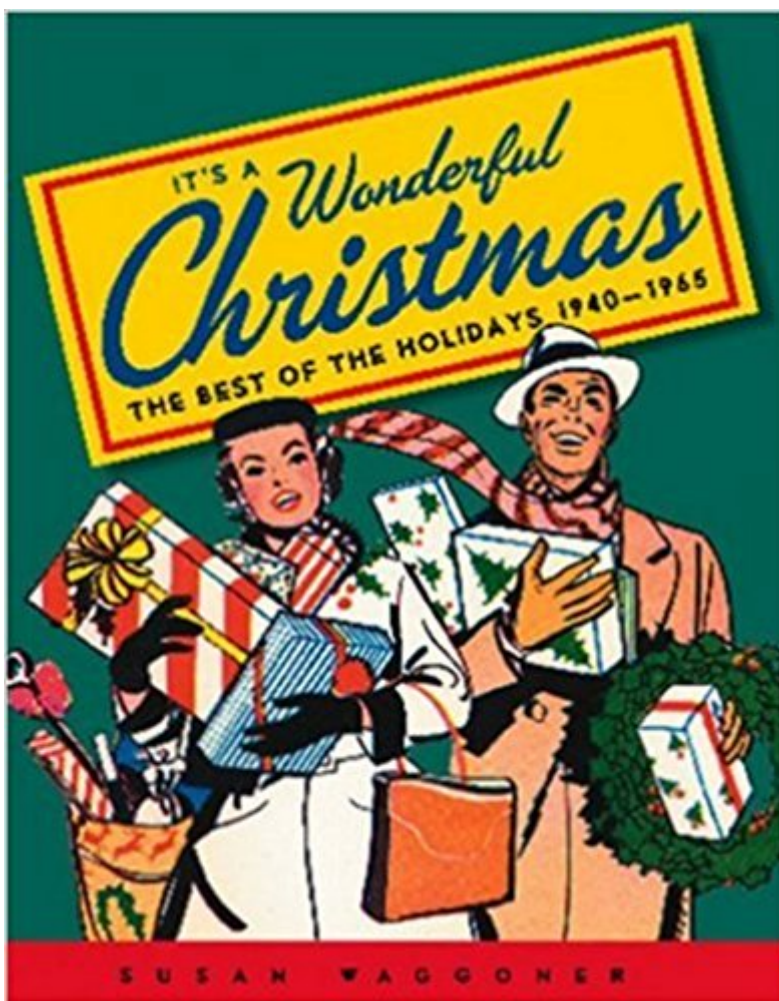


The book was found

It's A Wonderful Christmas: The Best Of The Holidays 1940-1965



Synopsis

Even now that we're all grown up, we can't help but look back on our childhood holidays and hope to recapture that elusive spirit of joyful anticipation. Celebrating Christmas is so often about nostalgia. With a nod and a wink to the days of Christmas past, *It's a Wonderful Christmas* presents classic images of the Yuletide icons of mid-20th-century America. Bubbler lights and glow-in-the-dark icicles. Catalogues crammed with toys. Norad bulletins tracking Rudolph's red nose through the nighttime sky. Along with hundreds of such quintessentially American illustrations, author Susan Waggoner stocking-stuffs her lively text with fascinating bits of information, lore, and lists. Wonder what the all-time most popular Christmas song is? How the tradition of the department store Santa got started? The answers are here. Loaded with images of vintage Christmas cards, wrapping paper, magazine ads, Lionel toy trains, and more, all in full color, this charming book will appeal to anyone who associates Christmas with home movies, "The Chipmunk Song," and Santa relaxing with an ice-cold bottle of Coca-Cola.

Book Information

Hardcover: 104 pages

Publisher: Stewart, Tabori and Chang (October 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1584793279

ISBN-13: 978-1584793274

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #407,287 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Americana](#) #199 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Holidays > Christmas](#) #3411 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Inspirational](#)

Customer Reviews

This cozy book bursts with the sweet nostalgia found in such movies as *A Christmas Story*: think fancy glass Christmas balls, Bing Crosby, tinsel and garlands, toy trains, coonskin hats and glistening roast turkey. Broken down by subject (e.g., the tree and its trimmings, the holiday shopping frenzy, popular gifts for "kids from one to 92", celebrations, food, etc.), it addresses the lighthearted and the more serious aspects of the Yuletide season. Waggoner (*Vintage Cocktails*)

gives depth to a seemingly light subject; although the copious photographs and illustrations depict corny Christmas cards and ecstatic children discovering a load of presents under the tree on Christmas morning, the accompanying text is well researched and deftly illuminates how a great number of Christmas traditions originated during the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Susan Waggoner has written numerous books of fiction and nonfiction. She is the author of *It's a Wonderful Christmas*, *Under the Tree*, *Classic Household Hints*, and, with Robert Markel, *Cocktail Hour*, *Vintage Cocktails*, and *Make Mine Vodka*. Waggoner lives in New York City.

They say, "You can't go home again," and for the most part, that's sadly true. Susan Waggoner however, has come very near to achieving this in her excellent book, *It's a Wonderful Christmas*. It is well researched, beautifully written and illustrated, and a joy to read. For Boomers who want to relive those magical times, this book is the one you've been searching for. This would also be the perfect Christmas gift for anyone from our generation. My own copy will remain in my library forever!

Another cute book from Susan Waggoner. I loved reading about Christmas in the good old days. Fun to have on hand during the holidays.

This is a must have book. So much knowledge & beautiful photos. This is the REAL DEAL!

The subtitle of this book is "The best of the Holidays 1940 - 1965." That's certainly true. What one discovers is that many of the traditions we associate with Christmas: wrapping presents, visiting Santa etc aren't that old-most started in the last 80 years or so. Specifically, the chapters cover the evolution of Christmas trees, (artificial trees have a much longer legacy than most people, including me, know), decorations, lighting shopping-of course, food and Santa Claus. Anyone who remembers that time, will certainly enjoy reading about Bubble Lights and Green Bean Casseroles. The author makes the point along the way, that those who decry the "commercialization of Christmas", are first: missing a crucial point that the secular part of the celebration helps to socialize those who aren't Christians and second: complaints about commercialization go back to at least 1837 for the US (and I believe the 18th Century in the UK.) This short (about 100 pages all told) book would make an excellent gift to the baby-boomer on your list.

This, as her other books, isn't to be missed. You will find your memories flowing back as you read about all the Christmases past and their unique toys, traditions, and history. This is a great companion to her other publications on Christmas.

Excellent all around!

Obtained this title on sale at . Certainly feel as though I got my money's worth of entertainment and educational trivia. The author assembles many facts, factoids, and period artwork/advertising to present the subject. Reading brought back memories and reminded me of yesteryear's goods and prices. Filled with trivia and interesting factoids. Chief criticism is the repetitive content and the less-than-optimal layout/design of the book. Its arrangement of chapters and subjects is too arbitrary. Proofreading was not effective as well. Still, for the price, this book is a good investment of time and cheap money.

A great walk down memory lane. Like being a kid again when things were simpler, we listened to whatever our parents played on the car radio, had only one TV (black and white, mind you) and ate our dinners as a family. I remember the struggle between my mother and me when she came home with one of those silvery trees with a reflector that changed colors and all the ornaments the same color. Monochromatic and modern, she called it. I called it putrid. Thanks for bringing all those little details back to life!

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