

Preparations for the Festive Season

8th Dec. 1953

A show of hands at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, before the Cooks begin Operation "Plum-Pudding". There's over three hundred-weight of ^{the choicest} ~~straw~~ ingredients (including 150 pounds of ~~fruit~~ fruit and 120 eggs) to be mixed. So those sailors really get stuck into the job - elbow-deep. The Barrack Mascot looks on hopefully as six pints of Rum is added - to give those who stay in Barracks a real ~~kirk~~ festive kick...

Three pounds of silver sixpences ~~will~~ ^{as always -} will ensure a rich mixture - and, ~~the~~ the proof of the pudding is in the tasting.

Meanwhile, the seasonal hunt has begun in the shops. Christmas cards are scanned for something that is different to greet absent friends.

Here's ~~an example~~ - a card with a pearl necklace attached - saves looking for presents, too.

Throughout the year, this North London factory has been manufacturing millions of these ~~seasonal~~ novelties, in addition to conventional greeting cards.

Besides those that convey gifts in the true spirit of that first Christmas - others will ring-in the festive season. Sound.

~~And if you are a...~~

^{YES,} Christmas is ever a children's occasion as they wander through Toy Fairs - trying to decide between the favourites of yesterday - and the ingenious models of this modern age.

No doubt, the chimneys have received many notes asking for train sets. ~~And~~ here's the greatest model railway of them all - featuring over two hundred models and ~~one~~ thousand feet of track at a London store.

Soon Father will deliver a smaller set into a hopeful stocking, that is if he hasn't worn it out already - ^{making sure} ~~making~~ that it works.