

Morning View Kentucky
26 December 1957

Hello Mr. McCarthy,

Thought you might enjoy the enclosed picture.

I heard something about Ireland several days ago that I had never heard before. I listen to a great deal of short-wave radio during the day. On either the Armed Forces radio or the Voice of America, I have forgotten which, I found an interesting program detailing the origin of many of our Christmas customs -- such as the tree from Germany.

They said the putting of a light in the window was brought here by immigrants from little Irish villages. Apparently it had long been the custom there for the village priest to visit each home and pray with the family during the Christmas season. Candles were set in the windows to guide him through the darkness of the winter nights.

When these Irish came to this country, they continued to place candles in their windows, endeavoring to keep Christmas as it was done in their home land, and the custom quickly spread.

Though we are constantly being told the background of our holiday habits, this particular one was completely new to me.

Quite a few of your listeners send me Christmas cards, Mr. McCarthy. Would you please thank them for me? It was very kind and thoughtful of them, and I wish them all the best of new years.

Sincerely,

Berens