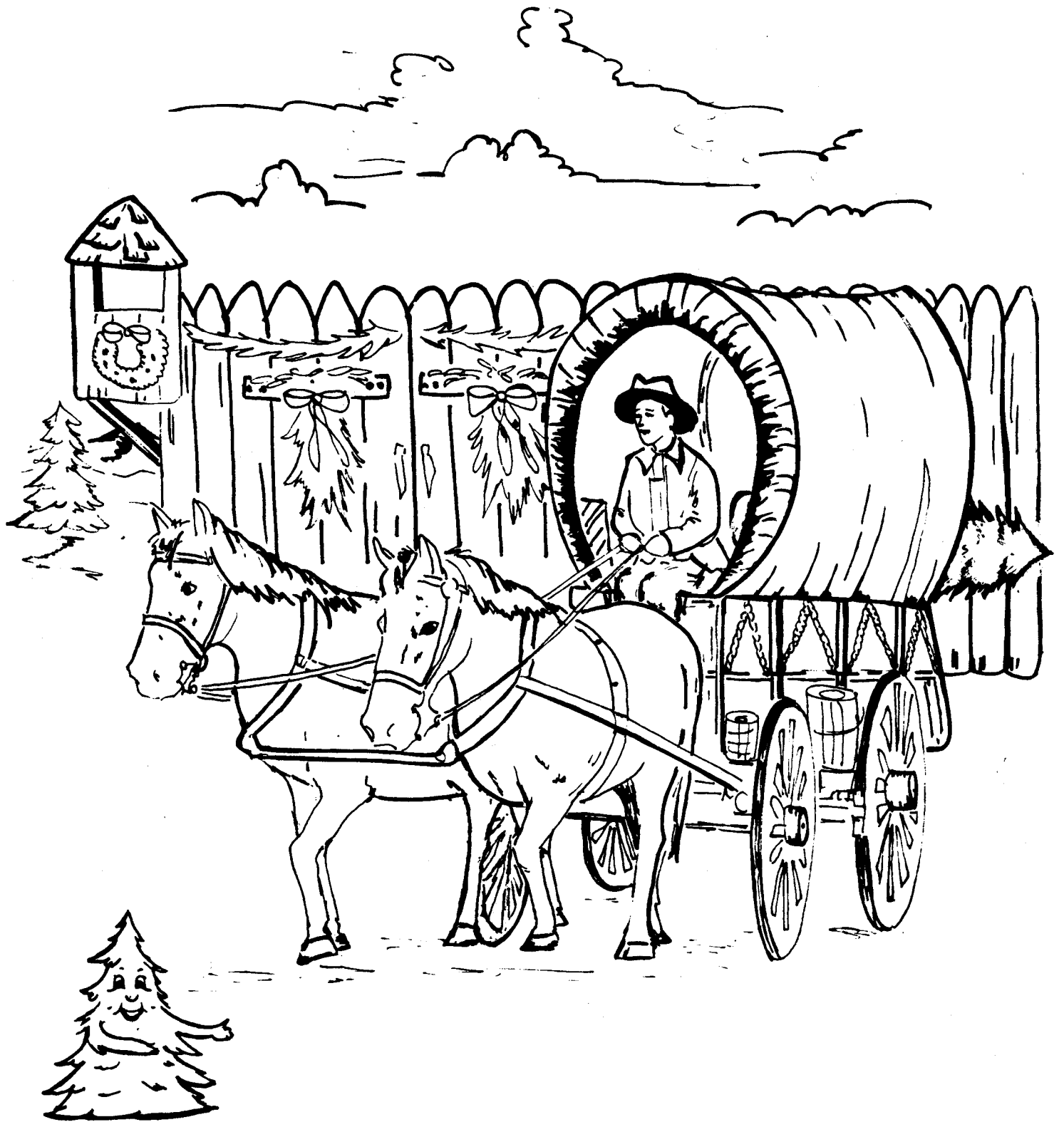


In the new world, immigrants brought with them a love for freedom and they shared with their friends and neighbors the joy of Christmas Trees.

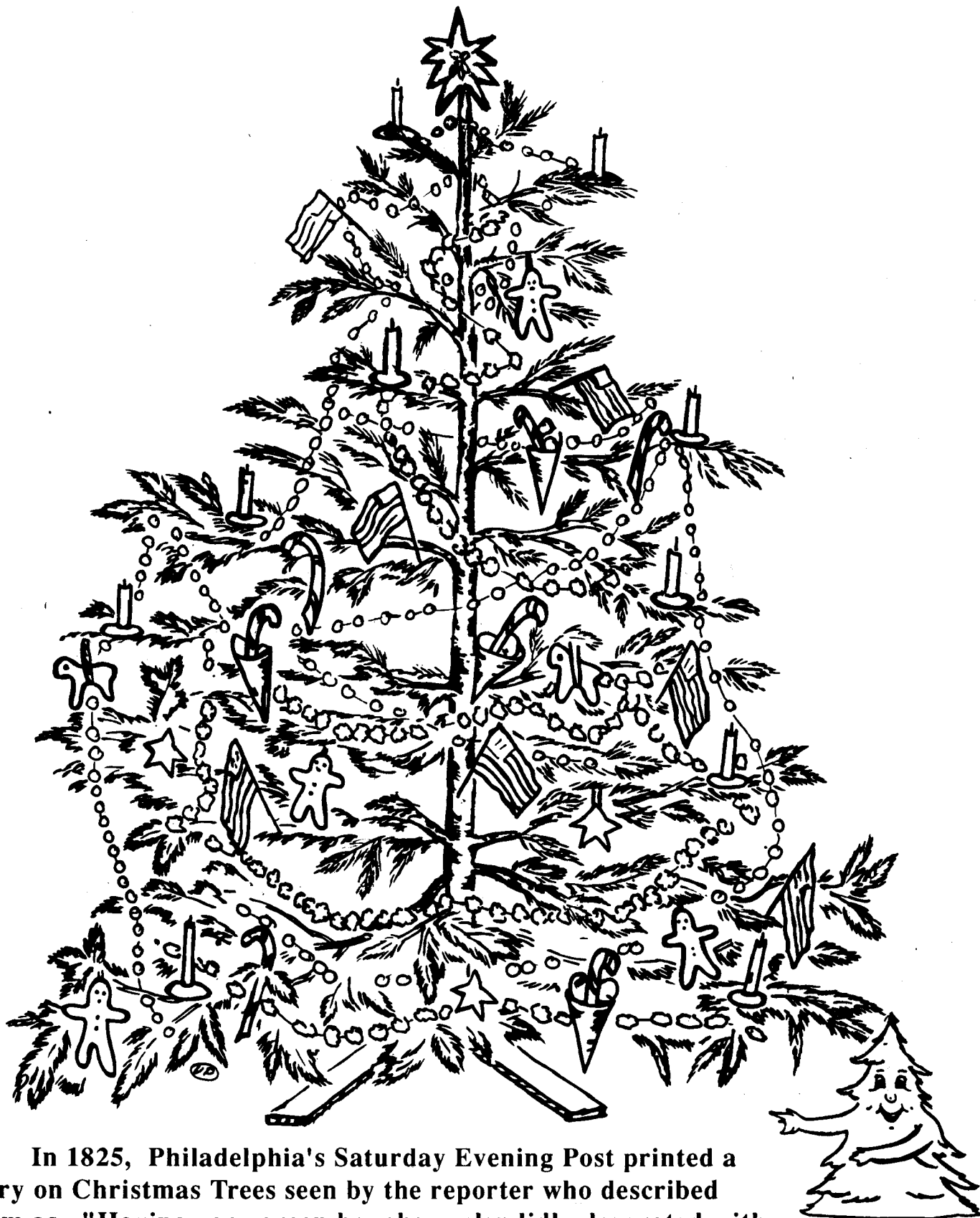
At Valley Forge, General George Washington joined his men around camp fires where some of the soldiers had decorated a Christmas Tree with bits of cloth from their tattered uniforms. Colonial soldiers from the Puritan New England colony's that did not use Christmas Trees, or celebrate Christmas, joined with the soldiers from Pennsylvania, who were mostly from Germany and soldiers from New York, who were mostly from Holland, in singing songs from their old countries, as they huddled around fires trying to be warm.

When the New England colony's soldiers returned to their homes, after the Revolutionary War was won, they told their family and friends about the Christmas Tree and Christmas celebration at Valley Forge. Soon the Christmas Tree tradition spread through out all the 13 colonies and adjoining territories.





**As America acquired more territories, the joy and pleasure of Christmas Trees moved west with the settlers. In 1804, Captain Whistler and his soldiers at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) cut trees out of nearby forests and gave some to the pioneers in the wagon train camped outside the fort. Tree branches were used to decorate the fort's gate, barracks and officers quarters.**

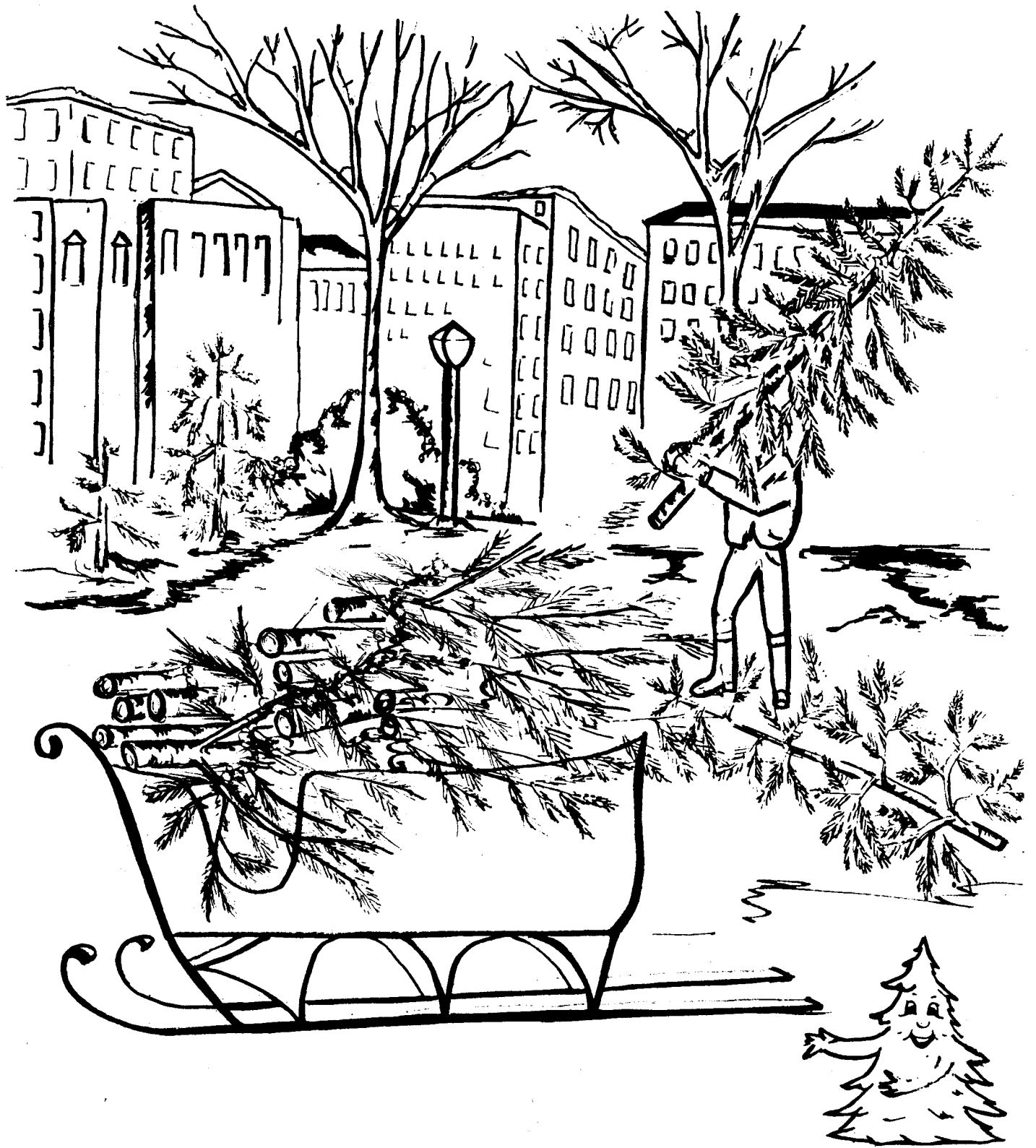


In 1825, Philadelphia's Saturday Evening Post printed a story on Christmas Trees seen by the reporter who described them as, "Having very green boughs, splendidly decorated with strings of popcorn, strings of cranberries, gilded nuts, fruits, small American flags, candy canes and lighted candles."

Have you and your family ever made strings of popcorn to decorate your tree and house? It's lots of fun SPECIAL, SPECIAL FRIEND .



Families used to be able to go to nearby forests for their Christmas Trees. As cities grew the forests got smaller, and people had to travel long distances to get their Christmas Tree.



**A Pennsylvania farmer named Mark Carr saw that some people did not want to go long distances, so he hauled two ox sleds loaded with trees from his farm, to New York City in 1851 and opened the first recorded Christmas Tree retail lot in America.**