



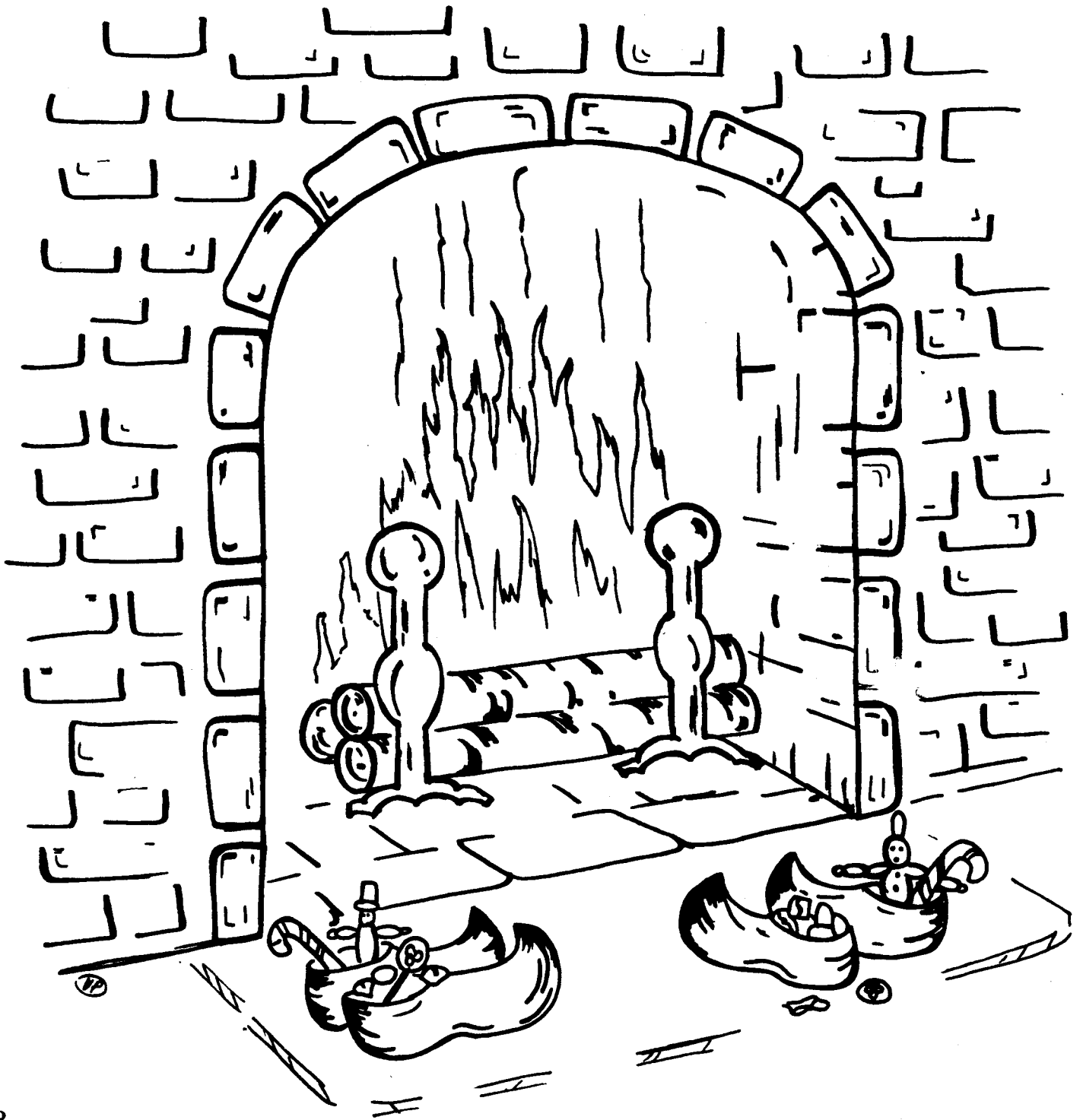
In Northern Italy the men went up to the mountains in donkey-drawn carts and brought back Christmas Trees for their houses and Church. Big trees were placed in the Church near the altar and the Choir sang Christmas songs for the first time in a Church.



In early Spain, there were not enough trees or forests, so my Christmas Tree relatives were divided into branches, which were then decorated.



In Holland the little Dutch children placed
their wooden shoes by the fireplace at night
to dry and warm them. Santa started a
new tradition by filling them with
candy, nuts and small presents
on Christmas Eve.





Although Christmas had been celebrated for several centuries in the British Isles it was not until 1848, at a great Christmas ball at Windsor Castle, that Prince Albert, formerly of Germany, presented his wife Queen Victoria, with a gift, the Queen's and England's first Christmas Tree. Their children who had been told before of the surprise and the Dutch wooden shoe tradition, did not have any wooden shoes, so instead they hung stockings by the fireplace. These two new Christmas traditions then spread all over England.



The first Christmas Tree in America can be traced to the German Moravian Church's Communal settlement in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Christmas day in 1747.