

Christmas Past

Mirror Comment

THIS has been a weird and wonderful Christmas.

Finland and Denmark have spent it arguing over which of them is Santa's homeland. Apparently their tourist industries think it means a lot.

They should have a word with Father Christmas himself about that. The old chap wishes that fewer children believed he lives in Greenland.

This year he got nearly twice the usual number of letters—thanks to sackfuls from Japan. All the letters were identical. His elfin-sked budget just can't cope, even if his elves can.

At least Santa and his reindeer aren't

being blamed for a doughnut-shaped UFO which was seen spinning slowly over Dorset. His sleigh isn't that shape.

Perhaps the Dorset tourist industry was responsible.

Nearer Bethlehem, an Israeli lorry driver didn't show much Christmas spirit when he told a court why he had lost six jobs.

He kept falling asleep, he said, because his wife forced him to make love at least three times a night.

Closer to home, a Yorkshire woman was reunited with her father after 28 years apart. But they fell out by Boxing Day.

So who DID have a good time over Christmas?

The best dinner was eaten in Sydney,

Australia, at the Hare Krishna wedding of a Ford motor company heir.

The guests tucked into a feast of 100 courses—and turkey wasn't even one of them.

And the worst hangover? That surely belonged to a bear who escaped from his cage in Northern Italy.

He was lured back by monks who got him drunk on their potent home-brewed hooch.

THAT JUST ABOUT SUMS UP CHRISTMAS '84 — FIT FOR A BEAR WITH A SORE HEAD.