

## Family Traditions Differ

# Meredith Girls Celebrate Christmas in Many Ways

By GAIL STEVENSON

Besides the traditional family dinners and Christmas tree decorating which most Meredith girls will be attending over the holidays, many Meredith girls will have unique experiences or be reenacting or remembering old family traditions.

For Barbara Watson this season will be the first time her family has

### Ice skating

Prudy Brott, who is from Michigan, will have a Christmas unique from that Southern girls experience. She is looking forward to ice fishing parties when she and her friends will drive onto a frozen lake, set up small wooden houses for shelter, and build a bonfire for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. Prudy will also spend part of her vacation ski-

mas they tie bread and suet to it and place it outside for the birds.

Christmas holidays for several girls bring memories of Christmas customs in other lands. Leah Franklin remembers the past two Christmases which she spent in France with her family. She says that, although more gifts are given there at New Year's than Christmas, it is a tradition for close friends to pre-

family no longer practices these Dutch traditions, they do read each year the Dutch story of "The Fourth Wise Man" and enjoy Dutch foods, such as apple-donut tarts and raisin buns. They also receive gifts from relatives in The Netherlands, one of her favorites being a chocolate initial or letter "L" for Liz, which is about five inches tall.

### Arabic Customs

Fadia Merkhani will certainly be thinking of her family in Iraq this Christmas. If at home, Fadia would probably be, as she has been before, the angel in a Christmas play given by her church on December 23. Possibly also she would again portray this part on an annual television program. Fadia remembers the custom in Iraq for ministers to visit each family of his church for five or ten minutes on Christmas Day. Others will visit with the minister as usual; only wives and daughters stay home to greet guests. Fadia remembers serving coffee to as many as fifty guests at a time.

### Danish Customs

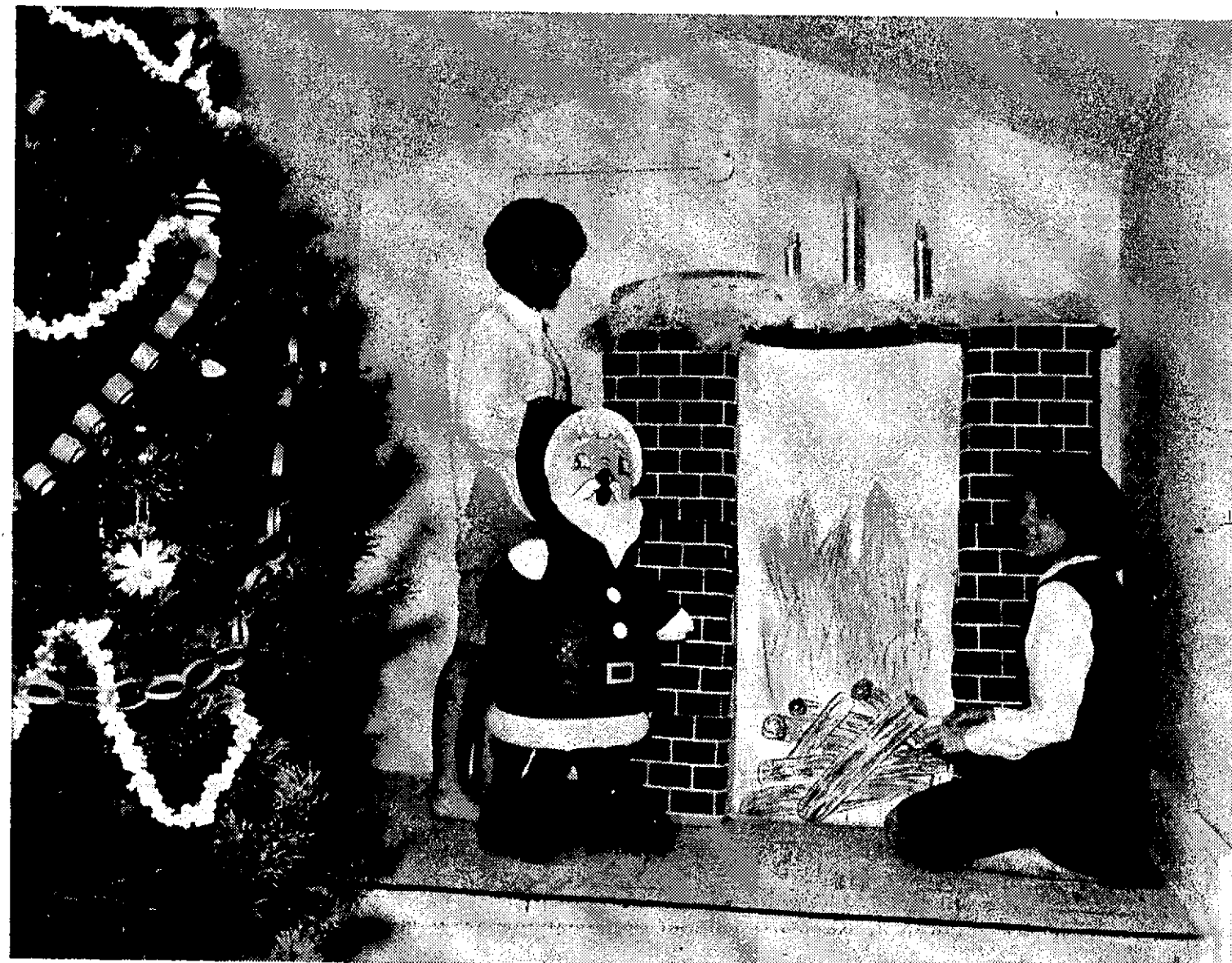
Anilese Svendsen will also be far away from home this Christmas, but her room at Meredith has several reminders of Danish Christmas customs. On her door is a Danish Christmas greeting and a paper heart, like those made at her home, to be filled with nuts and candy and hung on the Christmas tree, along with Danish flags, angels, and birds made by the family. Anilese also has in her room a Danish Christmas calendar, which is shaped like a house; a cover is taken off one of the windows of the house each day, beginning December 1 and ending Christmas Day. Anilese says in Denmark she would hang her stocking on her bed to be filled, as they have no fireplaces.

### A Danish Christmas Desert

A Christmas dish Anilese will miss is a desert of rice boiled in milk, which, she said, is placed in a big bowl with one almond in the center. The person getting the serving containing the almond receives a prize of a marzipan pig. Anilese laughed to remember how there had to be three almonds in her home so there would be no disappointed children.

### Dutch Traditions

Liz Nieuwenhuis, whose family is Dutch, remembers how, when she was younger, the family used to put wooden shoes outside the door on December 5 and use candles on their Christmas tree. Although her



The girls of fourth Faircloth go all out for Christmas this year. Not only did they make all the decorations for their tree, but also they created a more homelike atmosphere with a fireplace. Helen Hinson and Kaye McCorkle apply finishing touches.

been together for Christmas in two years, as her father has been away serving as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army. Also her family will be together in their new home in Washington, D. C. Their last Christmas together was spent in Puerto Rico.

### Yule Log Burns

Betty Griffin and her younger brother will continue a family tradition of placing Christmas decorations, which they made when small children, in the same position they have held in the past years. Each Christmas Eve Betty's family also lights candles on a Yule Log made by Mrs. Griffin, which burns until Christmas morning when Betty's father appears in a red vest decorated with Santas.



Freshman Ann Arthur steals a minute from study to wrap many Christmas gifts.

ing, ice skating, and toboggoning.

Harriet Baron, from Canton, N. C., hopes that she will not be completely outdone by Prudy as she too will go ice skating if the lake near her home is frozen over.

### Steak for Breakfast

Christmas means special foods to many Meredith girls. For Prudy it will be cabbage rolls, a German dish, while Nancy Buffalo's family will have their traditional three kinds of cake. Sally Nixon will be eating stuffed dates, while Janet Grogan will enjoy a steak for Christmas breakfast, an annual treat at her home.

Tula Mentavlos, following the Greek tradition, will gather with other young people and visit the Greek homes in her community to sing carols. Tula said they are invited into each home for refreshments, usually Greek pastries.

For La Ray Williams and Pat Berry Christmas annually means Christmas Eve church services, a play usually being given at Pat's church. Christmas would not be the same for Millie Pearce if the story of the "Littlest Angel" were not read. For Penny Martin, Christmas always means a trip away from home to be with family. Penny says that she has never been home on Christmas Day.

### Moravian Customs

Christmas holidays will be celebrated with Moravian customs at the home of Eva Mae Foxworth. A Moravian star will be hung on her front door and her family will attend the annual Love Feast held on Christmas Eve. Here there is fellowship in group singing and refreshments of coffee and sugar cake. Eva Mae's family makes utmost use of their Christmas tree. After Christ-

sent families with a Bouche de Noel or pastry log.

# Christmas Foods Shown In Hunter Hall

By POLLY FINAN

The home economics department of Meredith College held its annual exhibit of ideas for Christmas foods in Hunter Hall on Saturday, December 14, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and on Sunday afternoon, December 15, from 5:00-7:00 immediately following the chorus concert.

### Variety of Cookies

On display were dozens of cookies and miniature cakes, ranging from quickly made and simply decorated ones for the busiest housekeepers to the more intricate ones for those who have more time and interest in creative art. Candies of several varieties and a table of novelties planned especially for children were displayed.

### Cookie Tree

On exhibit, also, was the traditional Christmas tree decorated with cookies. Plum pudding, fruit-cakes, and Christmas breads were made earlier in the year and stored in the freezer. The breads, were removed from the freezer and decorated at the last minute.

### Exhibit Is a Greeting

Miss Ellen Brewer, professor in the department, stated that the

## Three More Turns And We'll Be Home

By ANNE PEPPER POOLE

Puffy flakes of snow nipped John's fingers and nose as he trudged home late Saturday night carrying his family's Christmas chicken. It seemed that the wind pierced every bone in his body while the snow flakes stung.

"Three more turns and I'll be home," John muttered forming a smoke-like circle with every breath. He was cheered at the thought of only three turns and he would be home. His mother, Elizabeth Hart, had sent him over a mile to Hopewell to get the Christmas chicken, the highlight of festivity around the Hart's cozy table near the warm fire. John usually adored his Christmas task, but tonight was different. It was cold. The sky was dark and cheerless. His friend, the moon, was diabolically hiding.

"Three more turns and I'll be home," John continued to mumble while the flakes continued to sting. The Harts had lived over a mile from Hopewell, Massachusetts, since John was two. Now he had grown to the full height of a manly six feet and his brown curly hair blended with his dark complexion and brown eyes. John's broad back supported the Christmas chicken while his faithful legs continued their journey.

"Three more turns and I'll be home," he whispered with relief.

Then it happened. His head tightened. His feet froze. He fell.

"John, John," shouted a voice somewhat near him. "John, John," the voice continued to plead while the wind paid no attention except to scowl. As the supplication "John, John," neared, John looked up and saw a pale light, and for a moment heard his mother's cry. She cared. She was coming to him through the tormenting flakes. She called and continued to hound the wind with her concern. "John, John. I shall find you. Answer me if you will. Answer me."

John numb at the moment could not answer. He was freezing, locked by the forces of Nature. The Christmas chicken fell flat in the snow and was quickly covered.

Again he looked up and saw a pale light, but again he could not respond to his mother's cry. As John lay in the snow, he could think of nothing except that he should and

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This deliciously eye-catching snowman display is an example of the many foods to be shown by the home economics department.