

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS ARE EVIDENT AT SMJC

St. Mary's traditions are quite evident as the Christmas season makes its annual appearance. Christmas trees, door decorations, hall parties, Christmas programs, and many other festive festivities make up the elements of our favorite holiday. Beginning on Sunday night, each girl gives her "peanut" a special gift; she continues to receive these presents from her "shell" until Friday night when she reveals her identity to her peanut and gives her a bigger gift. The exchange of presents with peanuts, roommates, little sisters and counselors all takes place on Friday night. The Y. W. C. A. sponsors a party for the children at the Methodist orphanage. The Cold Cuts and Dramatics Club provide entertainment for the children. This year Lynn White is playing Santa's role, brighten the orphans' Christmas. On Tuesday night the seniors sing Christmas carols to the student body. They go to each dormitory and to Mr. Stone's house. The Circle and the Beacon have the school Christmas party in the Big

Parlor Wednesday night. Mr. Tate, impersonating Santa, makes his appearance during the evening and he reads the familiar poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." His own children who are also present, listen as avidly as we do. Then carols are sung around the big, decorated tree. Festive refreshments are served by the members of the Circle and the Beacon.

Following the elegant Christmas dinner prepared by the dining room staff, the Glee Club will present its concert in the auditorium on Friday night. Their hours of practicing are exhibited as they sing holiday selections.

By this time the excitement is at a peak . . . only twenty-four more hours and we will be snug in our own beds at home.

The time of mass departure is 12:30 p.m., December 17. For sixteen days there will be no quizzes, no assignments, no date problems, no school. Even the trauma-bearing thought of exams is pushed aside until The Day of Return, January 2, 1967.

Christmas Traditions Are Found Throughout World

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Daily Tar Heel on December 4, 1966.

BUENOS AIRES (UPI) — Santa wears short sleeves when he ventures into South America, but in spite of the reversed seasons and a heavy religious emphasis on the holidays, Christmas is a gay and cheerful affair. It is a time for families to gather, to pray and to reflect on life, but also a time for "fiestas," fast music, gift-giving and for tasty, sometimes spicy holiday foods.

In Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia, as with many other Catholic countries, Christmas begins with a Christmas Eve midnight mass. In Argentina after mass the families return home to small pine trees decorated with paper ornaments and, in the European tradition, a big late dinner and gift-exchange.

Argentines love to eat, and Christmas is the best day of all: turkey, chicken, nuts and a special Christmas bread are must items. Often the meat dishes are prepared outdoors in gaucho "asado" style, and are preceded by a series of creamy cold salad dishes. For drinks there are champagne, wines, and in the poorer homes, a less-expensive bubbly drink called sidra.

Emphasis in Uruguay and Argentina falls not just on Christmas but the "twelve days." Children re-enact passion plays and shoot fireworks throughout the period, and in Uruguay they play a game called "Burned Judas," in which a crude puppet is made to represent Christ's betrayer and is burned on a stake. The wealthier Uruguayan and Argentine families head for the beaches during

the holidays, especially to the resort cities of Mar del Plata, in Argentina, and Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Carved Figures

Across the Andes Mountains in Chile, carved and porcelain figures of "nino Jesus" (the Christ child) are used in store windows and homes as decorations alongside images of "Papa Noel," as Santa Claus is known here.

Pine trees and homes are strung with colored lights several days before Christmas, and on Christmas Eve Chileans begin visiting their neighbors and their favorite shopkeepers, bringing gifts and tasting Christmas sweets and meats.

Peruvian children use fireworks, and their parents use champagne to celebrate the birth of Christ. Holding to Spanish tradition, they hold midnight masses and suppers, but the modern influence is evident, especially in Lima: Santa, gift exchanges between family and friends and gay decorations. Hot chocolate and fruit cake are sweets of the season.

In Venezuela, corn, wheat and dolls are the elements of Christmas festivity. Wheat goes into a delicious cereal mixture called "La Patria de Bolivar" which is served on Christmas morning, and the corn, freshly ground, is mixed with pork, beef, chicken and a thick sauce to make a difficult dinner dish, "hallaca."

The dolls are carved to resemble the baby Jesus, and are placed beside the beds of children in "Nochebuena," the 24th of December. When the children awaken Christmas day, they find gifts brought by the baby Jesus.



Meg Christian, graduate of 1966, came back to SMJC December 2 to sing for us. New and Old Girls were overwhelmed by her voice and personality. The poem below is indicative of our lost feelings for Meg.

"Breezes Cannot Stay Forever"

By Patsy Slater

*There she was, like a child
Face to face with the world.
For the first time.
She opened her mouth
And forth flowed her soul,
Penetrating to the depths of our hearts.
Little did we know then
What this small girl, with the
Long hair, musical fingers and
Soul searching voice could do.
As we watched, she grew as a giant
Before our eyes.
Our being seemed contained in
Her self and was revealed
Only
Through her music and songs.
Then like a breeze, searching for
Its origin, she passed out of our
lives,
Leaving us alone again, groping
In darkness for that which she
had taken.
As the years pass, we will think
Back upon her fondly,
But realize sadly, that a breeze
Cannot stay forever,
But must move on to bring a
Moment's longing to others,
Whose souls search hopefully
For that which we once felt.*

Bolivians love to sing, and so to them Christmas is a time for gay, spirited music as well as the traditional Christmas songs. Streets are adorned with religious symbols, and the day centers around a mass, family gatherings, and an elaborate dinner with seven different kinds of meats.

Brazilians, especially in the large coastal cities, go to the beaches for Christmas, a day dedicated to children. Meals include wine, nuts, cakes and a special dish called feijoada, rice and thickly sauced black beans cooked slowly with dried meats. In the northeast, Christmas meals are spicy fish dishes, tasty but hot as the December sun.

The father of the family traditionally gives gifts on Christmas day to his children, but women of the country have successfully altered the tradi-

God Rest You Weary St. Mary's Belles

By Frances Garriss

(To be sung to the tune "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen")
God rest you weary St. Mary's belles,
Let nothing you dismay.
Vacation time has come at last
And we are out today.
To save us all from cracking up
Our books we'll put away;
And go home, once again, to all our friends,
To party and to play.
And go home, once again, to all our friends.

"Now Merry Christmas," says Miss R.

"I hope you'll all behave.
You'll go to parties wild and gay;
I know you'll want to rant and rave.
Be mindful how a lady acts—
She isn't bold or brave.
Now go home, once again, to all your friends,
To party and to play.
Now go home, once again, to all your friends."

Embarrassing Christmas Predicaments

What do you do if . . .

1. Your multi-millionaire aunt gives you a bottle of "Evening in Paris" with matching Talcum Powder and Lotion?
2. Your gung-ho Texan godfather gives you Dale Evans and Roy Rogers' "Happy Trails to You" and other favorites?
3. Your next-door-neighbor gives you seven sets of underwear with "I love Elvis" stamped on them?
4. Your boyfriend gives you a purple pair of pedal-pushers, size 16?
5. Your grandmother gives you a pair of white bobbie socks?
6. Your brother-in-law gives you a full set of Hardy Boys' books, and you are a Nancy Drew fan?
7. Your father gives you a year's subscription to *National Geographic* magazine when you'd rather have *True Confessions*?
8. The new girl in town gives you a dozen pairs of hose, and your father owns Hanes Hosiery plant?
9. Your best friend gives you a cigarette lighter when your parents don't know you smoke?
10. Your little brother gives you a wall-size picture of Mickey Mantle?

tion. Now they get gifts from their husbands as well.

And Santa Claus is known in Brazil, but not as the jolly old fat man. Like most Brazilians he is usually short and rather thin, and not known for jovialness. Who could be jolly with all those clothes during a Brazilian Christmas?

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