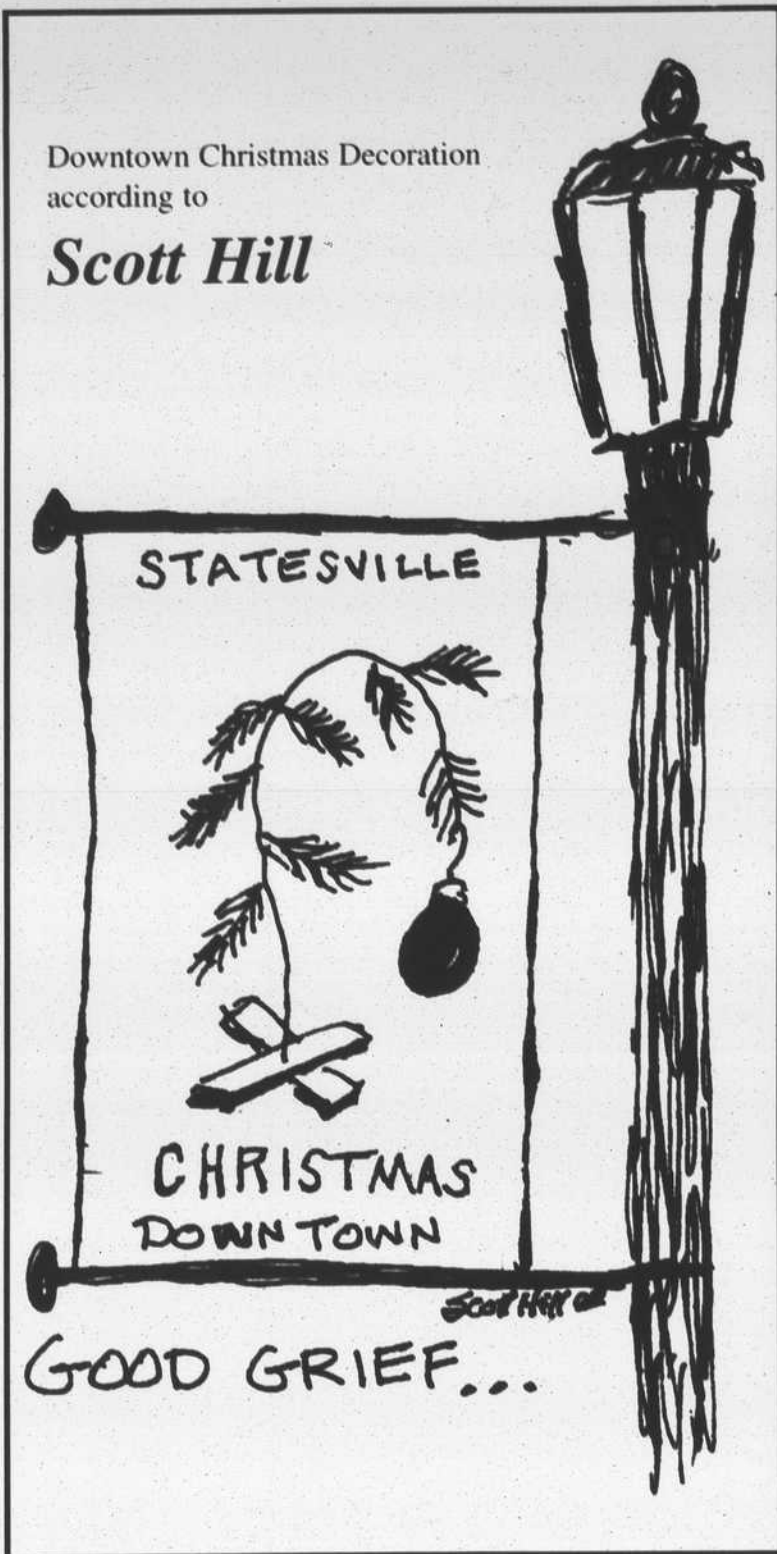


Downtown Christmas Decoration according to

Scott Hill



What's The Most Popular Of All American Holiday Songs?

"Jingle Bells" is one of the best know and most popular of all American holiday songs. Few images are more evocative of the season than that of "dashing through the snow" as "bells on bobtails ring, making spirits bright."

Most early Americans were too busy to travel during the warm months, when farm chores kept them close to home. Winter brought more time to travel and visit faraway family and friends. Snow also made travel easier, because it could be packed down with horse-drawn rollers to form a far smoother road surface than muddy or rutted dirt roads offered.

Driving in a sleigh was certainly

fun, but it could also be dangerous. Sleighs moved swiftly over the hard-packed snow, and the lack of friction that made high speeds possible also made travel almost silent. Many accidents occurred when two speeding sleighs noiselessly converged at an intersection. Bells, which served as warning devices, helped solve the problem. Rows of small bells were attached to the harnesses of the horses and provided a constant merry jingling as the "bobtails" pulled the sleigh.

Today, strips of leather harness festooned with sleigh bells are often hung on doors at Christmas time, where they greet visitors with their cheerful jingle and evoke the high spirits of both the song and season.

Serve Cranberry-Apple Casserole For The Holidays

Cranberries are thought of as a holiday food but with their versatility they can be used all through the year, says Lucille Carter, Extension Agent.

Types of poultry and cranberries seem to pair together for good flavor combination. Before the Mayflower, legend tells us they were served by the pilgrims with wild turkey at the first harvest feast of thankfulness in 1621.

These shiny scarlet berries are grown in huge sandy bogs on low trailing vines. They grow wild in Northern Europe and in the Northern climates of North America. Especially in the Northwestern and Northeastern parts of the United States. Harvested between labor day and Halloween, the peak market period is from October through December. They are usu-

ally packaged in 12 oz. plastic bags.

Refrigerated and tightly wrapped they are good for at least two months or frozen up to a year, thus making them available year round. When bought fresh, they should be washed and dried and packed in moisture proof freezer containers. Take out and use as called for in recipes. You can also buy canned cranberry sauce, jellied or whole berries and it is available year round. One of the new uses of cranberries is dried cranberries that can be eaten out of hand like raisins for a snack or in baked goods. Cranberry juice is also available for your favorite beverage alone or mixed with other juices.

High in vitamin C and 12 other vitamins and minerals, the berries adds zest and flavor to many recipes.

Here's one favorite Cranberry recipe:

Cranberry-Apple Casserole

- 4 firm apples (Roma)
- 2 c. raw cranberries
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 stick oleo

Topping:

- 1 stick oleo
- 3/4 c. oatmeal
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 1/8 c. flour

Slice and core unpeeled apples. Butter dish. Layer apples with cranberries on top. Dot with oleo. Sprinkle sugar over top. Topping: Mix and bake at 350 degrees F. for 1 hour, uncovered.

Hanukkah Begins Dec. 22

Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah) is an eight-day festival, Dec. 22 - 29. The first candle is being lit on Dec. 21. It commemorates history's first struggle for religious freedom and is therefore meaningful to all people

Congregation Emanuel is sponsoring a Hanukkah dinner party on Wednesday night, Dec. 20 at the Statesville Country Club. Congregants will bring their menorot and light the candles together.

Briefly, the festival dates back to 168 B.C. when a small but determined army of Jews fought for three years and finally overwhelmed their oppressive Syrian rulers, who occupied the land of Israel. The resistance was against Antiochus, who forbade Jewish religious observances and demanded worship of idols.

In Jewish homes during the eight days of Hanukkah, candles are lit as the first stars appear in the sky. One candle is lit the first evening;

two the second, until all eight are lit on the last night. An additional candle, in the center, is lit first each night and used to kindle the other candles. It has special meaning. The flame gives of itself to create an additional flame, without losing any of its own brightness. It teaches that people give of their love to fellow human beings without losing anything of themselves.

There are special foods associated with this holiday. Most are fried in oil because of the miracle of the oil. Jewish cookbooks abound with dishes representing different customs developed in Jewish communities all over the world. In America, "Latkes" (potato pancakes) reign. In Israel, fried doughnuts are favorites.

Contrary to the popular belief that Hanukkah is the Jewish Christmas, there is no relationship at all. It predates the birth of Jesus and is a holiday, which is meaningful to all people of good will.



Sunday, Dec. 17

Christmas tour of the Sharpe House planned from 1-5 p.m. Cost is free. For information contact Mary Bradford or Rosalie Gibboney 704-873-4734.

Sunday, Dec. 17

The Nutcracker Ballet comes to Salisbury. Performances takes place in Keppell Auditorium of Catawba College at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at United Arts Council office and the Literary Book Post, downtown Salisbury, at the Music Center in Ketner Center and at Belks in Salisbury Mall or by calling the Symphony office 704-637-4314. Cost \$18 for adults and \$10 for ages 18 or under.

Sunday, Dec. 17 & 24

First Presbyterian Church series *Advent and the Arts* planned from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Don Moore offers a two-part slide presentation on the Christmas story.

Published weekly by the Iredell Citizen, Inc.
 102-B South Center Street • Statesville, NC 28677
 704-872-1200 • 704-872-1280 • Fax 704-872-1281
 circ@iredellcitizen.com • ads@iredellcitizen.com

Iredell
CITIZEN

(USPS 017-606)

*Award-Winning
Member of the
North Carolina
Press Association*

Subscription Rates
 Single Copy, 50 Cents
 \$25 per year in North Carolina
 \$30 per year outside North Carolina

POSTMASTER Send Address Changes to:
Iredell Citizen
 P.O. Box 1221
 Statesville, NC 28687-1221
 Periodicals Postage Paid
 at Statesville, NC 28677

Robert Plyler.....	Editor/Publisher
Lou Sullivan.....	Advertising/Sales
Nan Neal.....	Advertising/Sales
Mary Ann Minnish.....	Advertising/Sales
Burwell Whittenton.....	Reporter
Maggie Shoobridge.....	Reporter
Linda Wilson.....	Typist
Marty Folsom.....	Graphics
Teresa Jordan.....	Graphics
Paula Steele.....	Receptionist/Circulation Sales