

Carols Are Everywhere The Welcome Sound Of Christmas

Called noels in France, le pastoral in Italy and Weihnachtslieder in Germany, carols are everywhere the welcome sound of Christmas. But few of those who hear and sing them know their surprising history—a tale well worth giving ear to.

When was the first carol sung? Scholars think caroling probably began in the early church when Nativity plays, accompanied by songs of joy, told the story of Christ's birth. One of the earliest choruses of praise, gloria in excelsis deo (glory to God in the highest) is still sung by carolers at Christmas time. Early Latin-speaking worshippers must have shouted it forth with a magna vox (also Latin, for 'great voice').

Though many people don't realize it, carols were originally connected not only with song but with dance: The Old French word carole meant "a ring dance accompanied by song." An English carol dating from 1350 has a refrain which refers to a round dance:

"Round by round we schulle ons take and joye and blisse schulle we make."

Early carol composers didn't confine themselves to Christmas themes—a collection of Carolles Newly Imprinted (1590) contained more Crucifixion than Nativity carols! On the other hand, quite a few carols of this time were not sacred in mood, but simply light-hearted invitations to feasting and toasting. The Boar's Head carol, a big hit in 16th century England and still sung annually by the student's of Queen's College, Oxford, actually celebrates the course of a Christmas dinner, in these words:

The boar's head in hand bear I Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary. And I pray you masters, be merry . . ."

The custom of outdoor carol singing is many hundreds of years old. It seems to have started in the Middle Ages when groups of people went from house to house to sing by torchlight.

Yet despite these joyous beginnings, the Christmas carol eventually ran into some rough weather. As the Puritan influence grew strong, carols became gloomy and grim; finally the Puritans made it a crime even to print them or sing them publicly! After Puritanism waned in England, carols made a comeback—but in the 17th and 18th centuries were considered a rustic, specially inferior form of song! By 1832, a writer named William Hone was predicting that carols were dying out and in a few years' time would be heard no more!

Even as he spoke, a new upsurge of interest in carols was beginning. Today, Christmas carols are enjoyed by more people than ever before, thanks to transistorized phonographs which transmit the music of Christmas into the home with complete fidelity. These new instruments eliminate component-damaging heat as well as sound distortions. In addition, Astro-Sonic stereo high fidelity phonographs by Magnavox are equipped with a record player which exerts a feather-weight 1/10 ounce touch on records. This means that your old Christmas favorites can be played and enjoyed year after year—in fact, they can last a lifetime.

When you hear your favorite carols sung in church, outside your window, or on a precision phonograph, can you tell which of them are ancient and which are comparatively recent?

Some authorities think that The Twelve Days of Christmas originally belonged not to Christmas but to the turn of the year; its roots may go far back into pagan times. Good King Wenceslaus, a British favorite, was borrowed from a Swedish songbook of 1582. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, may also date back to the 16th century. Some say Adeste Fideles was composed by St. Bonaventura before 1274—but the earliest surviving manuscript is dated 1790 and signed by John Francis Wade, a music dealer in France.

Joy to the World was taken from a hymn written in 1719 by Isaac Watts; its current music was adapted from Handel's "Messiah." John Wesley wrote "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in 1737; its musical accompaniment was adapted in 1855 from one of Mendelssohn's works. "O Little Town of Bethlehem is less than 100 years old; it was written in 1868 by Phillips Brooks.

The most beloved carol of all

—Silent Night—has an interesting story behind it. According to information supplied by Magnavox researchers, it was hastily written in 1818 by an Austrian parish priest, Joseph Mohr, as a surprise for his parishioners. Mohr feared they would be disappointed when they learned that the church organ had broken down! He took the poem to his friend, church organist Franz Gruber, who completed the famous melody in a few hours. At midnight mass that evening, the two of them sang the masterpiece—to a guitar accompaniment.

Some of the most popular Christmas music of all times has been composed in the 20th century. The greatest seller of any phonograph record to date is Irving Berlin's White Christmas; first recorded in 1942, it has sold 40,000,000 copies as of December 31st, 1963—and is still going strong. The Little Drummer Boy is another recent record best-seller that promises to become a Christmas classic.

Ancient and traditional or up-to-the-minute modern, Christmas songs play a vital role in setting the mood of the season. For after all, "Tis the season to be jolly."

Hitler's Ban
The 1934 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Carl von Ossietzky, a German pacifist, who was a prisoner of the Nazis. In 1937, Hitler issued a decree in which he called this award an insult to Germany and forbade Germans to accept Nobel prizes.

In Professions
American Chinese have the highest proportion of their population, 7.4 per cent, employed in the professions, says the Census Bureau. Next are the Japanese, with 5.7 per cent and the white race, 4.4 per cent.



RIDING HAS BECOME SO POPULAR in the county that no Christmas parade would be complete without several horses. Here is one of the "rigs" included in the 40-unit parade in town Saturday. (Rivers.)

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa: I am 11½ months old and I am a good girl. Could you bring me some toys and some clothes. My sister Beverly is 4½ years old—she would like a Tiny Tears Doll and a big wagon and clothes. My other sister Audrey Kay is 7 years old. She would like a 24-inch bicycle, a Penny Brite Doll and a game and some clothes. Don't forget my cousin in St. Petersburg, Fla. He would like something nice also. I will be asleep when you come but your coffee will be ready. Bye bye Santa.—Love, Lorie Lynn Bumgarner, Rt. 1, Forest, Va.

Dear Santa: I am 11½ months old and I am a good girl. Could you bring me some toys and some clothes. My sister Beverly is 4½ years old—she would like a Tiny Tears Doll and a big wagon and clothes. My other sister Audrey Kay is 7 years old. She would like a 24-inch bicycle, a Penny Brite Doll and a game and some clothes. Don't forget my cousin in St. Petersburg, Fla. He would like something nice also. I will be asleep when you come but your coffee will be ready. Bye bye Santa.—Love, Lorie Lynn Bumgarner, Rt. 1, Forest, Va.

Dear Santa: For Christmas I would like a Mousetrap Game and some surprises. — Denise Rush.

Dear Santa Claus: I am in Mrs. Todd's room at Parkway School. Please bring me a doll and a bicycle, and please don't forget my daddy, Frank Cook, and my mother and sisters—Love, Becky Jane Cook.

The word "crusade" comes from the Latin word "crux," meaning "cross." The Cross of Christ was the official badge of those who joined the Crusades to the Holy Land during the Middle Ages, and the expression "taking the cross" meant becoming a crusader.

Dear Santa—I am 6 years old. I am a pretty good girl and would like a bride doll for Christmas and some clothes for Penny Brite. I am 6. My brother is 4 wants a one man

Letters To The Editor

Care Director Thanks Democrat For Space

Dear Editor: We wish we could thank personally all of the editors of the nation's press who have carried news of CARE's work so consistently for the past 18 years. As the holidays approach, we want to express our deep appreciation for this cooperation.

With the public support thus gained, CARE has been able to develop programs that are helping to feed more than 37,000,000 persons, while providing self-help and medical assistance that give millions of these needy the tools and health to speed their efforts to build a better life for themselves.

At this time, our public appeal centers on the CARE Food Crusade, which delivers dollar packages of U. S. farm abundance. If you can remind your readers of the current campaign, its success will be greatly aided.

In its endeavors, CARE represents the American people across the world. From all of us at CARE who are proud to be agents of American goodwill, and on behalf of those benefit, our best wishes to you and your staff for a joyous Holiday season.

Sincerely,
Frank L. Goffio
Executive Director
CARE, Inc.
December 8, 1964

Beta Club Official Likes Local Coverage

Near Rachel, I sent to the National Beta Club Office in Spartanburg, S. C., all the DEMOCRAT clippings about our Teacher Appreciation Week.

Today I received a letter from Miss Hannah Leitner, National Sponsor, in which she congratulated us for the "good coverage and such nice local publicity."

We appreciated it very much, and I wanted you to know that someone else thinks we have fine co-operation from our local newspaper. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,
Lera Randall, Librarian
Appalachian High School

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR MAN this Christmas

Absolutely Need No Ironing!
Men's Wash 'n Wear
Pants \$5.82
Men's Corduroy — Long Or Short Length
Jackets \$10.95
Men's Hooded
Jackets \$10.95

Men's All Wool
Sport Shirts \$5.95
Men's Cotton Flannel—Heavy Weight
Sport Shirts — \$2.42
Others \$1.45 - \$1.94 - \$3.48

Men's White
Dress Shirts \$1.94

Please Her With Gifts
From Our Ladies Department
Girls And Ladies

Coats - Suits Toppers REDUCED

SPECIAL!
Ladies Flats \$2.91 pr.

Ladies "Turkey Toe"
SHOES - \$4.95

Ladies Quilted
DUSTERS 2.91 to 5.82
Others — \$1.94

Ladies All Wool
SKIRTS 1.94 to 4.95

Large—Juicy—Florida
ORANGES 20-Lb. Bag \$1.75
8-LB. BAG SPECIAL 77c

Large 10-oz. Instant Coffee
Nescafe - - \$1.49
Swans Down
Cake Mixes 3-\$1.00

Northern Facial
Tissues - - - 10c
Canned Fish
Herring - - - 10c

1965 BLUMS ALMANAC—25c
Candies And Oranges At 10% Discount To Churches
(While Present Stock Lasts)

Smithy's Store

The Great Bargain Givers
Boone, North Carolina

The 'Jeep' Gladiator with 4-wheel drive has twice the traction of ordinary pick-up trucks.



Can you imagine a truck with 2-wheel drive handling mud this deep?

When a 'Jeep' Gladiator gets down on all fours, there isn't much in nature that can stand in its way. The 'Jeep' Gladiator with 4-wheel drive can get through stormy weather and rough terrain that would stop any conventional 2-wheel drive pick-up. That's because it has twice the traction. 'Jeep' Gladiators plow through snow, slush through mud, sail through downpours and give better control on ice. And because it is built to take it, a 'Jeep' Gladiator is worth a mint when you get ready to sell it. It holds its value because it stays versatile. Go to your 'Jeep' dealer and test drive a 'Jeep' Gladiator. Notice its passenger car smoothness. Then find a hill. A steep one. Try it halfway in 2-wheel drive. Now throw the 'Jeep' Gladiator in 4-wheel drive. And hang on. You'll know then what separates other pick-up trucks from the "Unstoppables."

New kind of pick-up truck for twice the traction. 'Jeep' Gladiator with 4-wheel drive.

WILSON USED CARS
HIGHWAY 421 Dealer License No. 1543 BOONE, N. C.
See 'Jeep' vehicles in action on TV...
"CBS Evening News With Walter Cronkite"



Protect your earning power

A serious accident or long illness can create a financial crisis for many families. If your income is reduced—or stops altogether, the problem becomes much greater. Our income protection policy guarantees a monthly check . . . and greater peace of mind, too. Call us for more information.



BOONE Insurance Agency
Professional Building
Boone, N. C. — 264-8732
Your Independent Insurance Agent Serves You First
Representing THE TRAVELERS Insurance Companies
Boone, North Carolina