

Christmas Festivities Across The Tar Heel State

**By Glenn Mays
Travel Editor**
People in cities and towns across North Carolina will be saying "Merry Christmas" in a variety of ways during this Christmas season.

From McAdenville's nearly a half million lights as Christmastown U.S.A. to the candlelight tours of Tryon Palace and the festivities of Asheville's Biltmore House and Old Salem, it will be a special time of celebration in the Tar Heel State.

The activities encompass a myriad of traditions both old and new and a spirit of warmth, hospitality and charm which everyone can enjoy during this special time of year.

In Asheville, Biltmore House and Gardens will celebrate the season with more than 20 Christmas trees throughout the house decorated with thousands of Victorian ornaments. The annual celebration there is much like that of the Christmas Eve when George W. Vanderbilt opened the house in 1895.

A series of Christmas concerts will be presented on weekends during the December 4-31 celebration.

North Carolina's Folk Art Center near Asheville will celebrate November 23-December 31 with holiday music, storytelling, slide programs and crafts befitting the season.

At the Thomas Wolfe Memorial garland greenery, candles and other traditional Christmas decorations will provide a special touch to the holiday season December 21-31.

In North Carolina's oldest town, Bath, handmade ornaments will adorn Christmas trees in the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner houses during festivities there December 12-22. Open house will be observed December 12.

Several madrigal celebrations will be staged during the season.

At Boone, Appalachian State University will conduct "Ye Olde Madrigal Christmas Feast," a celebration of the 16th century with music taken from the period of Henry VIII. It will be offered December 2-7.

N. C. State University in Raleigh presents its third annual madrigal dinner December 3-8 featuring Elizabethan dishes, magicians, jugglers and musicians.

Wake Forest University also will present a madrigal event December 3-4 and 10-11 featuring music by the Piedmont Chamber Singers.

Chapel Hill's Preservation Society conducts its annual candlelight tour of homes December 11-12. The Horace Williams House there will be decorated for the season December 13-January 9.

Morehead Planetarium on the University of North Carolina campus, presents its annual Christmas program "Star of Bethlehem" November 16-January 10.

Charlotte celebrates the season with a holiday tour of Fourth Ward Homes December 3. A series of Christmas concerts and strolling carolers will add to the holiday spirit December 6-23.

In the Gaston County town of Dallas children 12 and under will bring their handmade ornaments to place on the town Christmas tree December 4 in this traditional annual celebration.

In Historic Edenton a wassail bowl celebration and Christmas in the James Iredell House will be observed December 5. Historic houses there will be adorned in 18th century decorations. A Christmas candlelight tour of private homes in Edenton will be December 18.

Fayetteville too will be bathed in candlelight December 5-6 in the fifth annual tour of old Fayetteville. Homes and churches dating to the early 1800's are part of the tour.

"Connemara," home of famed poet Carl Sandburg, will be decorated in the Sandburg holiday tradition December 15-January 6 in Flat Rock.

The Schiele Museum of Natural History celebrates

December 19 with its annual frontier settlement hearthside yule and colonial candlelight service at its pioneer site. The reenactment includes preparation for Christmas and a traditional candlelight procession through the forest led by a town crier and pioneer families.

The museum's "Star of Bethlehem" planetarium presentation will be featured December 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19.

In Greensboro the Civic Ballet Theatre performs the "Nutcracker Ballet" December 17-18 at Carolina Theater. Greensboro's Green Hill Art Gallery will feature works for the season by 90 artists and craftsmen.

"Fools", a light-hearted play by Neil Simon, will be presented December 9-12 and 16-18 by Hickory Community

Theater as part of the holiday season festivities.

Also in Hickory the Holiday House celebrates Christmas around the world November 19-20 with special decorations, crafts and food.

The Western Piedmont Symphony presents a holiday concert in Hickory December 12 featuring the Catawba County Children's Chorus.

The N.C. Shakespeare Festival in High Point will again offer Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" during the Christmas season. It will run December 15-22 and will include some matinees along with performances each evening.

High Point Museum will feature a Christmas exhibit and a tree adorned with handmade ornaments during open house December 2.

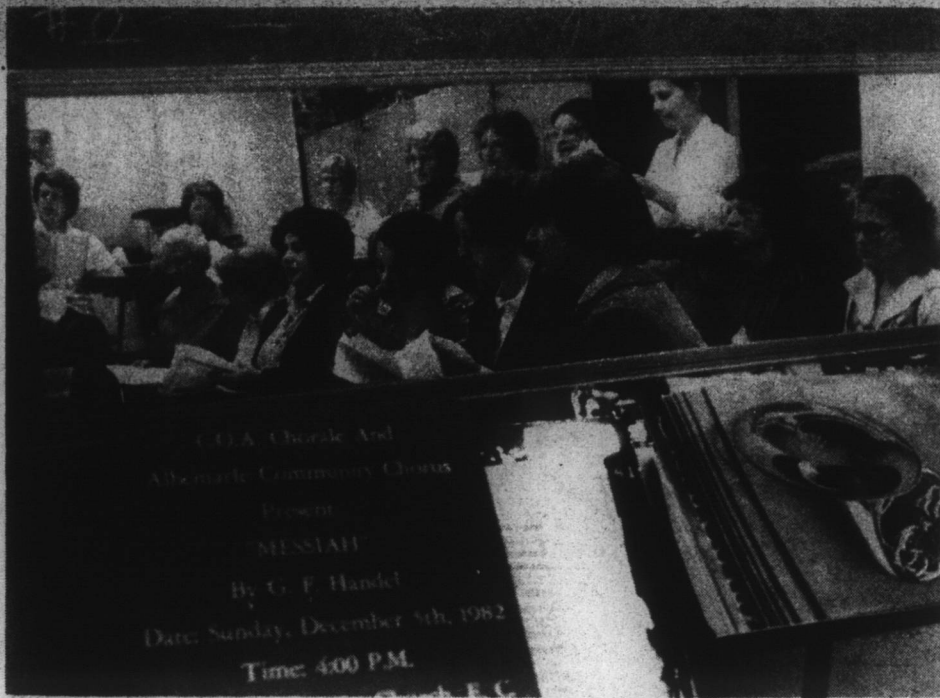
The "Twelve Days of Christmas" are celebrated December 14-25 in Historic Kenansville with a community Christmas tree lighting, caroling, holiday readings, concerts, historic home tours, community supper, a nativity pageant and other activities.

This year December 3-26 the Gaston County town of McAdenville (population 947) again becomes "Christmastown, U.S.A." with nearly a half million lights and 275 decorated trees brightening the holiday season for more than a million people who visit the little town during Christmas

season. New Bern's Tryon Palace observes its candlelight Christmas tour December 11-12, 14 and 16. More than 700 candles illuminate the decorated rooms of the Palace and five other historic houses in the complex which was North Carolina's first capitol. The aroma of Christmas cooking, fruits, nuts and greenery also permeate the surroundings during the season. Christmas attire will bedeck the complex December 11-23.

In the present capital of Raleigh a candlelight tour of Historic Oakwood is scheduled.

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REFLECTIONS—Members of the Albemarle Community Chorus and the COA Chorale are reflected in a mirror in the music room at College of The Albemarle during a rehearsal for a holiday performance of the "Messiah" at the First Baptist Church in Elizabeth City. The time and date of the annual concert are shown on the poster in the foreground. (COA Photo)

Musical Group To Benefit The Blind

Popular musical groups blind and visually impaired of Hertford, Gates and Chowan counties.

The special program, including gospel and contemporary music, will be held tonight at 7:30 P.M. at the Roanoke-Chowan Technical College. Free Will donations will be made at the door.

Participants include the Ahsokie Men's Chorus directed by Eliza Jenkins, the Gospels and the Golden Harmonics, both of Mapleton, Larry Vaughan and the Disciples of Christ gospel singers of Ahsokie; Mary Harrell Delane, soloist, of Winton; Daryl Morris, pianist, of Ahsokie; Norvella's Group of Murfreesboro; Michelle Britton, soloist, of Ahsokie; Larry Debruhl, blind guitarist, of Roanoke Rapids; Emma Joyner, Conway's Baptist Choir.

Also appearing will be Elliott Frank, guitarist, who is the performing artist in residence at Roanoke-Chowan Technical College.

There will be other groups appearing. The names will be announced at a later date.

The public is urged to support these performers, who are so generously donating their talent to benefit the blind and visually impaired.

Hamburger was originally "Hamburg steak" and took its name from the city of Hamburg, Germany.

Mother and Daughter

Lose 150 Pounds
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Patricia Johnson and her Mother, Jo Scott, have lost 150 pounds on the Slim & Trim Diet in less than a year. Patricia, employed by Fidelity, and a mother, says the program has been great for her and she highly recommends it. Jo says she can't believe how much better she feels and looks. The diet gave her the incentive, support and guidance she needed.



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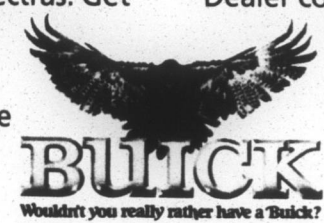
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