

Olde Towne Inhabited Only Ten Days Each Year

There's a certain Olde Towne's that's inhabited only ten days each year. But during those ten days it's bustling with the sounds and smells of Christmas past and present, and more people visit it than most other towns we know. It is, of course, the Southern Christmas Show's favorite Olde Towne, and this year its ten festive days will be November 13-21 at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart.

What started as one quaint Dickens-type shop in the 1975 show has grown to include a Miniatures Gallery filled with 30 doll-houses that are a tiny town by themselves. There's everything from a miniature duplicate of the president's house at Williamsburg, to a stately Tudor home and a comfy farm house.

The Village Church's ten-day pastor, Reverend Stanley Stiver, will have his Christmas collection reflecting our nation's history back to the earliest times.

Olde Towne post office will depict Charlotte's very first post office which, incidentally, was inside a bar. We must, however, hasten to say the show post office will be serving only postal items, including a special Southern Christmas Show cancellation if you want to bring your cards and letters for stamping.

There's a bake shop called Angelina's, and right next door is the Ice Cream Shop. The Potter's Shop, Stained Glass Shop, Bear Place, Christmas House, and Hanna Barbara shop all add to the holiday atmosphere. And, yes, the cookie man is back with his giant cookies and ancient van.

Santa's Telephone House is a bright new addition. It's child-sized, and youngsters can walk in and call Santa's North Pole workshop at no charge. Parents can peep through the windows if they want to bend way down.

The Tole Shop is colorful, welcoming, and shopkeeper Carolyn Primm doesn't mind sharing her tole painting secrets. A group from Charlotte's Historic Fourth Ward is duplicating a Victorian child's room, which just happens to be at the end of a cobble-stoned street of old-timey house facades. And what Olde Towne would be complete without a quilt shop? You may want to start a quilting bee when you see how easy quilter Bonnie Kennerly makes it look.

Another favorite will be the fire station. Santa Clause is in residence and he welcomes his small visitors from atop an old-fashioned fire truck.

Schiele Museum has created a native American scene, and the Museum of York County will have a delightful Animal's Christmas.

Christmas Tree Lane promises to be brighter than ever, and the decorated mantels, doors, windows and hall tables are sure to have ideas for every home. And, as if that's not

enough, there's a tented craft village in the center of Olde Towne with colorful banners overhead that seem to say "Welcome! We're glad you're here."

But there's more to the Southern Christmas Show than Olde Towne. There's another 250 or so craftspeople, a food pavilion that makes your mouth water just to pass by. There are craft and cooking clinics, entertainment, and a huge array of gifts for everyone on your list.

Admission is \$3 in advance, \$3.50 at the door.

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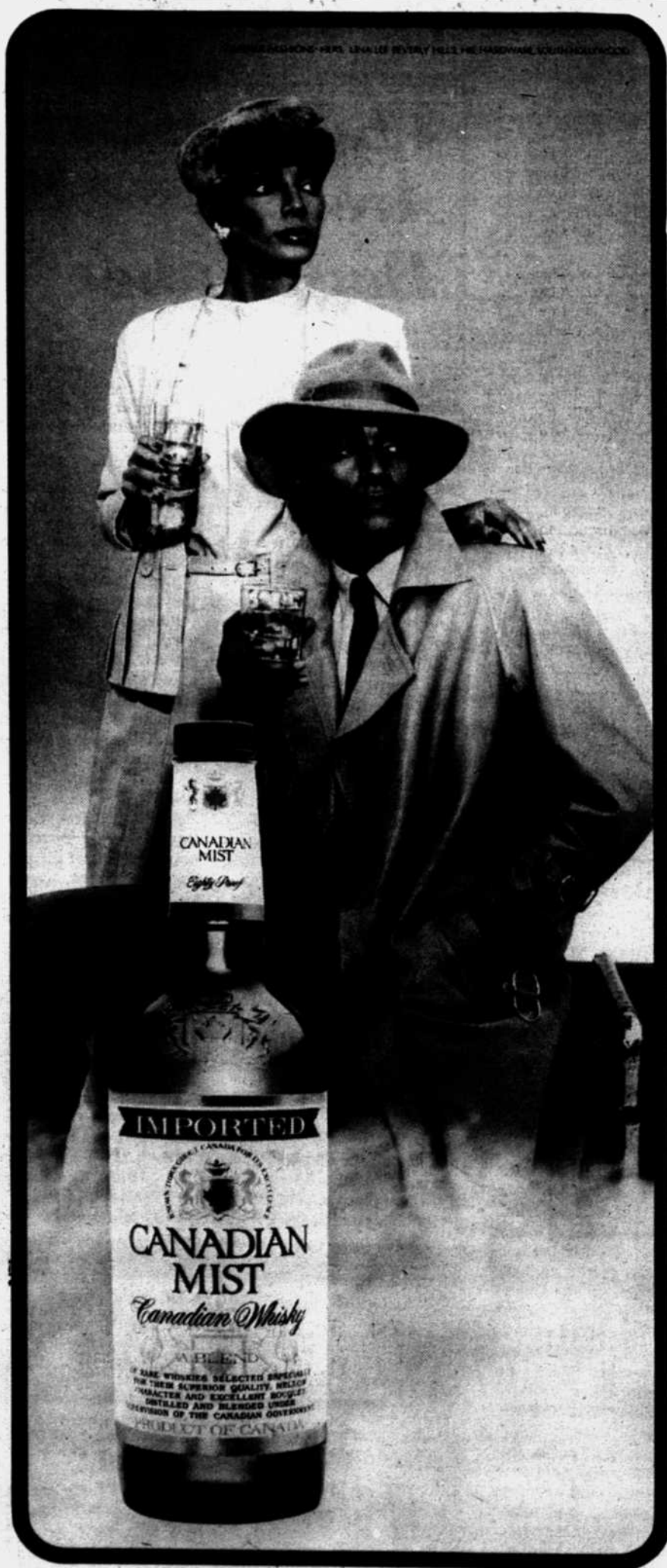
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