

# Many Christmas Traditions Come With A Foreign Accent

From Atlantic shores to Hawaiian coastlines, the world's Christmas joys and customs enrich the holiday season in the United States. In the Southwest, Mexican traditions create seasonal fiestas. To begin the Christmas season, a mariachi brass band sometimes plays at Roman Catholic Mass in Albuquerque, N. M. Near Las Cruces, N. M., American Indian dances mix with Spanish religious processions, the National Geographic Society says.

Three centuries ago Canadian Frenchmen known as Acadians grew fond of a German cookie called Lebkuchen. They added a dash of this and that and made it their own. Acadians Save Cookies In 1755 the Acadians were banished from Canada. They lost a homeland, but they saved precious traditions, including their German holiday cookie, which they continue to enjoy in Louisiana. In rural Alabama even

county sheriffs break the law on Christmas Eve. Forbidden firecracker blasts rock the night. The earsplitting custom recalls noisy Spanish and French celebrations during the rowdy early days of Dixie. A century and a half ago German immigrants brought a treasure trove of yuletide delights—Christmas trees, lights, bright tinsel decorations, fancy cookie cutters, spices, chocolates, marzipan, and dozens of other decorative and tasty holiday items. Among Scandinavia's contributions are dovelskatter, or "devil's cats." These special buns served by Swedes on candlelit St. Lucia day in mid-December recall an ancient belief that evil spirits roamed the earth about the first day of winter. A Christmas Eve love-feast bridges the present and past in Old Salem. A tranquil fold of the past set in the heart of modern Winston-Salem, the restored town recaptures the sights and sounds known to hardy

Moravians who built it on a wilderness hillside beginning in 1766. Decorated the Lawns The Moravians who came to America from lands now forming part of Czechoslovakia introduced the custom of decorating their lawns and the outsides of their churches and houses during the holiday season. The custom soon spread throughout the country. Santa Claus, or 'Saint Nicholas, arrived in the New World in the 1600s with Dutch settlers who called him Saint Nickolaas and Sinter Klass. Nativity scenes came from medieval Italy, but they can also be found today all over the United States, including Hawaii's Waikiki Beach where figures of the Three Wise Men may be decked out in leis of orchids. Holiday dinners in the 50th state are often far from traditional. Big favorites are turkey teriyaki with all the Japanese trimmings and savory-Korean beef koggi.



**POINSETTIAS ARE A CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHT AT CALLAWAY GARDENS**  
PINE MOUNTAIN, Ga. — As the season of Christmas approaches, the Greenhouse at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga., prepare for the traditionally beautiful poinsettias display. Here Jan Duffy, a horticulturist at Callaway Gardens, shows a few of the many red, white and pink poinsettias which will fill the Greenhouse Conservatory with the spirit of the season through December. Hours are daily from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## GARDENING IN THE SOUTH

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS  
BY FRANK HANLON  
Horticulturist  
Callaway Gardens

Christmas is many colors, but pre-eminently red. There are red ribbons and boys, candy canes, red noses, the red suit of Santa, and of course the dramatic red of poinsettias, the flowering symbol of the season. Soon thousands of red poinsettias will appear in churches, homes, offices and public buildings. But few people, who know their beauty, know the history of these traditional plants. Poinsettias were first cultivated by the ancient Aztecs. In a long time before Christianity came to this continent, because the flowering time coincided with the Nativity, early Spanish missionaries gathered masses of these red blooming flowers and decorated churches and processional routes with them. In the early 1900's, Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico and a prominent botanist, was impressed with this member of the milkweed family. He sent plants to his home in Greenville, S. C., to cultivate and further distribute. It is from Poinsett the plant derives its name.

Poinsettias, as we know them today, are a far cry from those original plants. The Eke-Family of California were instrumental in hybridizing and distributing poinsettias throughout America. Because of scientific breeding and selecting, today's poinsettias come in whites, pinks and reds and are relatively disease-free, long-lasting and hold their color long after Christmas. Poinsettias are an excellent seasonal buy, with something for everyone from four inch "Pixies" to massive hanging baskets. There are other wonderful plants you need to consider for the holiday season. Begonias, the traditional flower of Scandinavia and northern Europe, are steadily gaining in popularity in the United States. Otto Reiger, a European breeder, produced the first 'Elatior' or 'Reiger' begonia, by crossing winter-flowering fibrous begonias with tuberous begonias. These multi-colored hybrids come in the "Aphrodite series", with pendulation flowers and branches, and the upright types. Begonias flower profusely during the short days of winter, but their waxy green leaves are lush and verdant year 'round. Cyclamen are truly beautiful plants also available now through February. From a distance they create the illusion of fairy moths hovering above a mass of jade. Kalanchoes, a succulent, have likewise become popular Christmas plants. They come in many vibrant shades of red, violet, orange, yellow and pink. Don't overlook the less traditional plant such as white Chrysanthemums, Christmas Cactus, Jerusalem Cherries and Ornamental Peppers. All add beauty and charm to any decor.

A few simple guidelines will help you to get the most out of your holiday plant. First, be certain your plant is properly wrapped when leaving the florist or place of purchase to avoid cold weather and wind damage. Display your plant in a spot where sufficient light is present to continue the blooming cycle. Keep the plant moist to the touch but not wet. Avoid decorative containers, water the plant separately and let it drain in a sink. Finally, keep plants away from drafts and heat registers to avoid leaf drop. Follow these simple suggestions and enjoy your plants for weeks to come. Merry Christmas!

For more information write Horticulture Department, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia 31822. (PRN)

# Foundations Give Millions Annually

Foundations give over \$42 million annually to charitable recipients in North Carolina. Half of these funds are given to educational institutions, mainly private colleges and universities. Almost a third goes to medical schools, hospitals, and other programs in the health field. The remaining \$8.9 million goes to a variety of other programs, including child welfare, recreation, arts, community funds, youth agencies, religious organizations, research institutes, community development, and the aging. Over \$34 million of the grants received by North Carolina organizations comes from foundations located in North Carolina, while over \$8 million comes from foundations outside the state.

These figures are based on a study released today by the Southeastern Council of Foundations entitled Foundation Philanthropy in the Southeast. This 81-page report presents the findings of a research project on the grant-making of southeastern foundations and the

In North Carolina in 1974 the leading recipients of foundation funds (ranging from \$11,717,083 to \$200,000) were: Duke University, Wake Forest University, Davidson College, University of North Carolina, Center for Creative Leadership, Johnson C. Smith University, Pitt County Hospital, North Carolina A & T State University, Guilford College, Tanglewood Park, Memorial Hospital of Wade County, Alliance for Progress; N. C. School of the Arts Foundation, Meredith College, N. C. Baptist Hospital, Blue Ridge Hospital System, Mercy Hospital, Cabarrus Memorial Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, Board of Education - Washington County, St. Joseph Hospital, Warren Wilson College, Wesley Long Community Hospital, Montreat-Anderson College, N. C. Hospital Education & Research Foundation, YMCA, Margaret Pardee Hospital, and the Charlotte Information Center. Forty North Carolina foundations were included in the study. The largest grantor was the Duke

Endowment which contributed over \$20 million. Seven other foundations - Z. Smith Reynolds, Smith Richardson, Burlington Industries, Winston-Salem, Mary Reynolds Babcock, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, and Cannon and Mary Duke Biddle - each made grants ranging from \$500,000 to \$1 million. Eleven others made grants of more than \$100,000, and the grants of the remaining 18 foundations ranged below the \$100,000 level. The study also revealed that at least 23 foundations located outside the Southeast made contributions totalling over \$7 million to North Carolina recipients. The leading grantors (ranging from \$1,165,000 to \$200,000) were: Kresge Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, W. R. Kenan, Jr. Trust, Lilly Endowment, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, and Charles A. Dana Foundation.

The Southeastern Council of Foundations, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, is a professional association of more than 168 philanthropic foundations operating in eleven southeastern states. Most health grants go to programs to educate health professionals and to hospitals. In the welfare category the most heavily supported activities are youth agencies, recreation, community funds, child welfare, social agencies, community development, and delinquency and crime. The study revealed that over \$20 million, or 13 percent of the total grants, went to minority group recipients in the Southeast. The 11 states included in the study were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

grants to southeastern recipients by foundations located outside the region in 1974. The author of the study, Charles S. Rooks, believes the patterns exhibited in 1974 would generally apply to other years as well. In the Southeast as a whole, charitable recipients obtain over \$158 million in foundation grants. Regionally, 42 percent of the grants goes to education, 29 percent to health, 16 percent to a variety of activities labelled welfare and 4 percent each to arts and humanities, to religion, and to science & technology.



By Robert W. Maeder - National Geographic  
WONDER OF CHRISTMAS shines in young eyes at a Moravian Christmas Eve lovefeast in Old Salem, North Carolina. The lovefeast, a sharing of a simple meal with music and meditation, is one of the many customs from other lands that brighten the holiday season throughout the United States.

## A Word To The Wise... Selecting Safer Toys

Awareness on the part of holiday buyers can help eliminate needless accidents with flimsy or poorly constructed toys. These guidelines will help responsible Christmas shoppers make safe selections: Be sure the toy is suitable to the child's age, and ability and that the instructions are easy to follow. Toys that release small objects if broken are dangerous. Tiny toys or dolls with button eyes, or pieces that can come loose easily, should be avoided as gifts for younger children. A small child could choke on any of these. Be on the alert for sharp edges and corners or pointed objects. Small fingers could be trapped in small, tight spaces. Check for these. Most toys, games and dolls are packaged by the time they reach the store. Examine the open sample carefully before making your selection. You'll be happy you did!

# Christmas Wishes

Let there be love at Christmas when all the world is warm and bright with dreams. In the hushed landscape of this glorious season, we send tidings of comfort and joy and continuing thanks to all!

## Bullock Oil Co.

Norlina Road Warrenton, N. C.

Have a Wonderful Christmas

At Christmas we take special interest in wishing you all life's wonderful treasures. Bank on us for our continued friendship and assistance.

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## Cheery Christmas

Stay tuned for a holiday filled with the sound of merriment! We wish you all the happiest with our thanks...

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