

Carols Best Express Spirit of The Christmas Season

Christmas carols express better anything else, probably, the spirit of Christmas.

The word "carol" itself signifies a song of joy or praise and was originally used to signify a dance. William Walford concludes that the term signifies a song of joy or praise.

Another definition is: "A carol is a hymn of praise sung in the open air."

England, which gave America most of its carols, they were sometimes gay and sometimes somber until the time of the Puritans who tried to suppress the carol spirit.

After the Restoration, the nature of the day was for a time almost forgotten in the reaction from Puritanism, and the carol was temporarily lost in the songs.

There are many quaint customs associated with the early carolers that might be used today to break the monotony of going from house to house singing Christmas hymns.

It was about the 16th century that caroling became a Christmas custom, and is supposed to have been brought to England from Italy by the traveling clergy. The first real Christmas carol is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi who made a model of the Bethlehem manger to help him tell his people the Christmas story.

The idea of caroling fitted admirably into the English conception of Christmas as a combination of religious celebration and a great home day with neighborly feeling, so it grew and flourished in that country.

Little bands and groups of singers which sprang up in the towns and villages came to be known as "Waits". A natural explanation of the name seems to be that it refers to watching and waiting, for Christmas Eve is called the Vigil of Christmas.

As early as December 21, which is the day dedicated to St. Thomas, mummers and carolers would begin going from door to door, announcing the great feast at hand. It was natural for the householders to offer hospitality to these Christmas troubadours, and gradually in many places the custom of giving alms and presents of various kinds was established.

This benign custom threatened at one time in England to become a profession and to lose its original simple charm.

For a period beginning just when no one knows and ending in 1820, there were in London and Westminster companies of "Waits" whose leaders held office by public appointment and who obtained an exclusive right to solicit contributions from the public.

The carolers were often accompanied by entertainers who gave a spirit of revelry to the occasions. The mummers often interrupted the singing to give their interpretation of "St. George and the Dragon." Tumblers, dressed in bright red, would perform their arts of skill to entertain the on-lookers.

don't DO that!



SHOPPING MENACE... Try to avoid rush hour on bus or streetcar when you go shopping. It's easier for you as well as others.

Don't Mix Gaiety, Danger In Celebrating Christmas

While Christmas is the merriest of all seasons of the year it can also be a time of tragedy if certain hazards aren't avoided and some particular precautions taken.

The National Safety Council annually points out that the Christmas holidays are the most dangerous of the year, usually replete with casualties, home accidents, fires and falls.

The council has listed the following "don'ts" and precautions which if remembered will help make this Christmas season a safe one:

The Christmas tree shouldn't be placed near a stove or fireplace.

Don't give children any toys that could prove dangerous, such as those with sharp points. If toys are operated with electricity, be sure some grownup supervises their use.

The Christmas tree should not be decorated with lighted candles. Carefully-wired electric bulbs definitely are much safer.

Don't leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time. One should be on the lookout for fire all the time the tree is lighted. Especially dangerous is the practice of some families in leaving the Christmas tree lighted and unwatched all night long.

One should never use a rickety, unsafe ladder in decorating the tree.

Don't place Christmas candles near the tree, curtains, paper wreaths or any other inflammable decorations.

Remember, the Christmas tree can be made fire-resistant. According to the United States forestry

service, it can be done in this manner: Divide the weight of your tree by four and buy that many pounds of ammonium sulphate. Dissolve it in water to each pound of ammonium sulphate. Cut the end of your tree trunk on a diagonal. Put some of the solution in a jar and stick the diagonal butt of the tree into it. Add more solution as the tree drinks it up.

Don't be excessive about Christmas "spirits."

Keep toys out of places where people might trip over them.

Remove the tree from the house before it dries out.

During Christmas you'll probably have many guests, so sprinkle salt or sand on icy steps and sidewalks.

Hawaii produces more than a million tons of cane sugar a year.

Mission Completed

VALPARAISO, Ind. (AP)—Mrs. Elizabeth Sherrer drove a mile to buy a loaf of bread and returned home with the bread but no car.

On the way back, the car stalled on a railroad crossing just as a train roared down the tracks. Mrs. Sherrer jumped to safety but the car was destroyed.

She still had the loaf of bread in her arms.

Showed 'Em

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—The grandmothers said they did it in answer to a challenge from "prissy friends." And so Mrs. Sallie Daniels, 60, and Mrs. Ray Davis, 51, rode into this city on bicycles after a 95-mile, 11-hour and ten minute trip from Wanchese, North Carolina.

Noel

When lovely candles warmly glow,
And cedar logs burn bright;
When holly wreaths and mistletoe
The windows all bedight.

When frosty stars shine through
Crisp nights
In mysteries profound
And every ether wave is made
With carols to resound.

When in imagination live
You see the manger's stir,
Or follow wise men with love gifts
Of frankincense and myrrh.

The Christmas greeting comes
Anew,
The wish from every friend
That peace, good will, and
Joyousness
May be yours without end.

—Selected.

Greetings

No Christmas would be complete for us without an expression of the warm feeling that we have for our many loyal and appreciative friends. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

CENTRAL CLEANERS
CHURCH ST. GL. 6-3671

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CHRISTMAS

GREETINGS

As the Wise Men followed the Star to the scene of our Saviour's birth, may all of us be guided by the light of His spirit through all the days of our years. Let us gather in Church on Christmas to sing His praises in joyous carols and to bow our heads humbly in a prayer of thanks for the eternal glory of His message.

THE CHAMPION PAPER AND FIBRE COMPANY.

CAROLINA DIVISION
CANTON, N. C.

Greetings

May you find good cheer, peace and happiness at Christmas time. These are our sincere wishes for all our friends who have made this Christmas such a wonderful one for us.

POTTS MOTOR COMPANY
Authorized Willys Sales and Service
Sam Potts, Owner