

# Many Christmas Traditions Come With A Foreign Accent

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic News Service  
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 ear-splitting 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 lovefeast bridges the present and past in Old Salem, N.C. 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 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 Nikolaas 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.

## Tis The Season For Pickpockets

'Tis the season to be jolly, but it's also a time to beware. Large crowds of preoccupied Christmas shoppers provide easy opportunities for pickpockets, purse snatchers, and the like, according to J.W. Trivette, Special Assistant to Local Law Enforcement with the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Trivette spoke here last month to members of the Puppy Creek Community Watch, who have organized to combat a rash of break-ins that has plagued the area.

Larceny is the name of the game, he said. It simply means stealing property without the use of violence or fraud. According to the 1976 N.C. Uniform Crime Report, the dollar loss to victims during that year was in excess of 21 million dollars. A major portion of these thefts represented thefts of articles from motor vehicles.

Trivette suggested the following 10 safety tips for shoppers:

- \* Plan your shopping trips with a friend, if possible.
- \* When shopping at night, plan the route you will take and tell a family member or roommate both your route and the time you expect to return.
- \* Carry a pocketbook with a shoulder strap.
- \* Never display credit cards or large sums of money.
- \* If you are approached by a purse snatcher, instead of struggling, dump the contents of your purse out on the ground. Chances are the thief will not take time to go through your belongings but will flee.
- \* Always carry a whistle and a small can of hair spray. A whistle is one of the best ways to let someone know you need help. Hair spray is to be used to slow down someone trying to attack you. (Spray it in the eyes of the attacker.)

\* Lock packages in the trunk of your car when it is left unattended.

\* If you are shopping with friends at night and take them home, wait until they are inside their home before you leave.

\* If you are being followed at night, go immediately to a well lighted area such as a service station, cafe or police station.

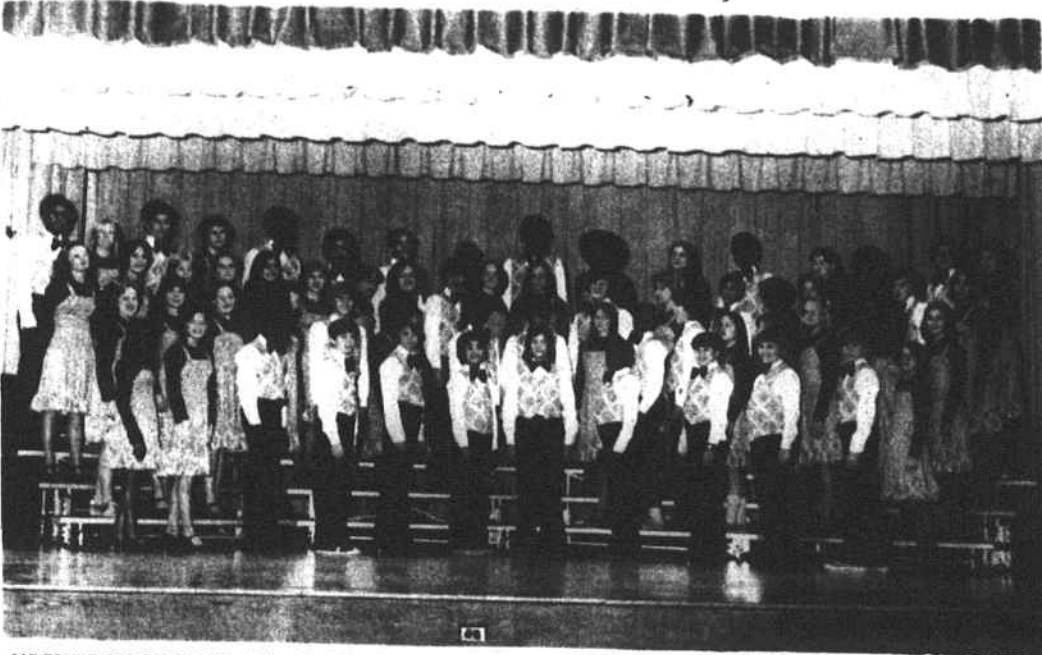
\* If you return home and find it has been entered, DO NOT GO INSIDE. Go to a neighbor's home and notify the police.

"Larceny is a crime of opportunity," said Trivette, "so let's work towards eliminating the opportunity."

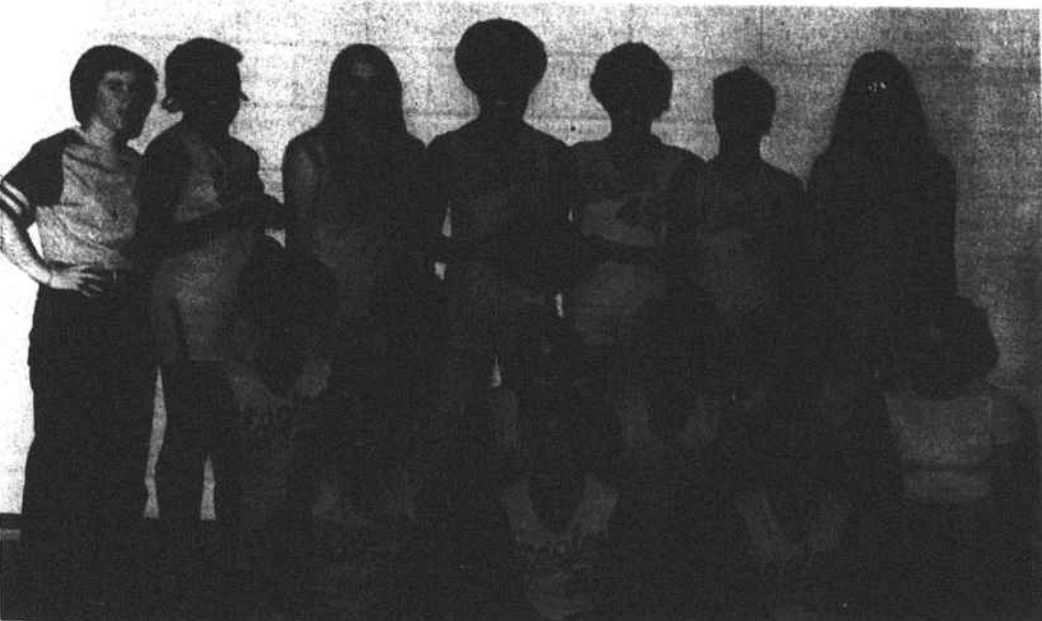
**Set down  
financial  
roots.**



**Take stock in America.  
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.**



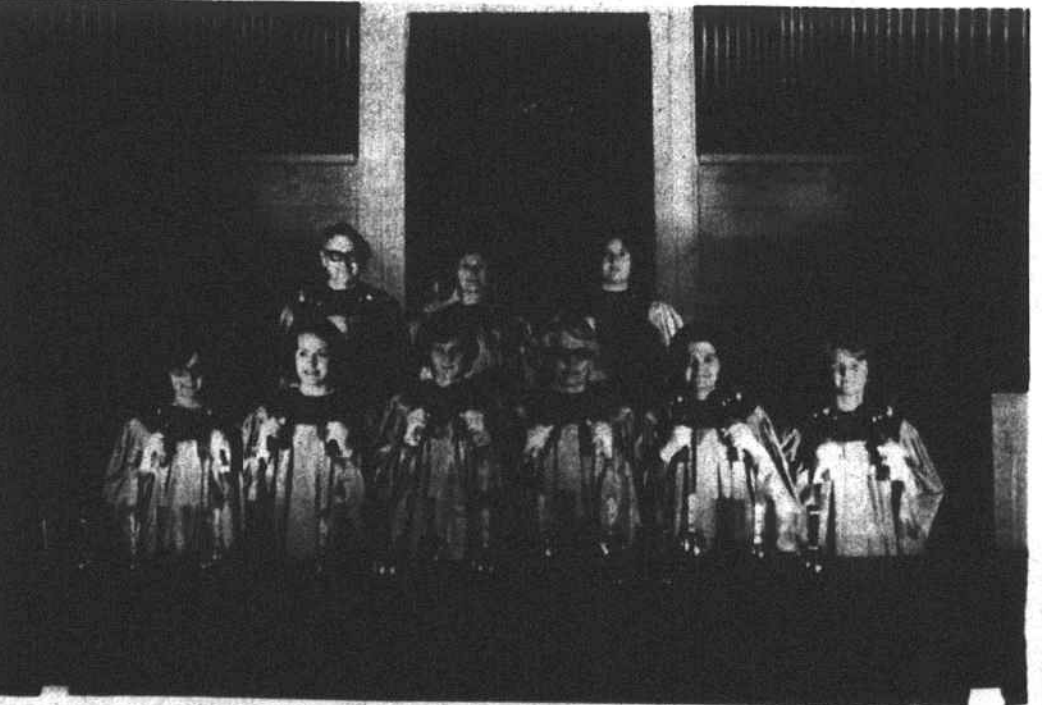
**UPCHURCH CHORUS** -- The Upchurch Junior High Chorus will present their annual Christmas concert on Dec. 20 at 8 o'clock in the Upchurch auditorium.



**LADY EAGLES** -- The girls' basketball team at Upchurch Junior High School will begin the season Dec. 15 when they travel to Hamlet. Seated are [left to right]: Elisa Blackshear, Sheila Quick and Brenda Graham. Kneeling left to right are: Brenda Blue, Audrey Kershaw, Velyn Graham, Tychemne Singletary, Sheila Washington, and Pansy Hammonds manager. Standing are [left to right]: Coach Pat Scott, Greta Johnson, Lisa Poe, Deborah Love [captain], Loretta Monroe [co-captain], Audrenita Morrison, and Joan Sanderson.



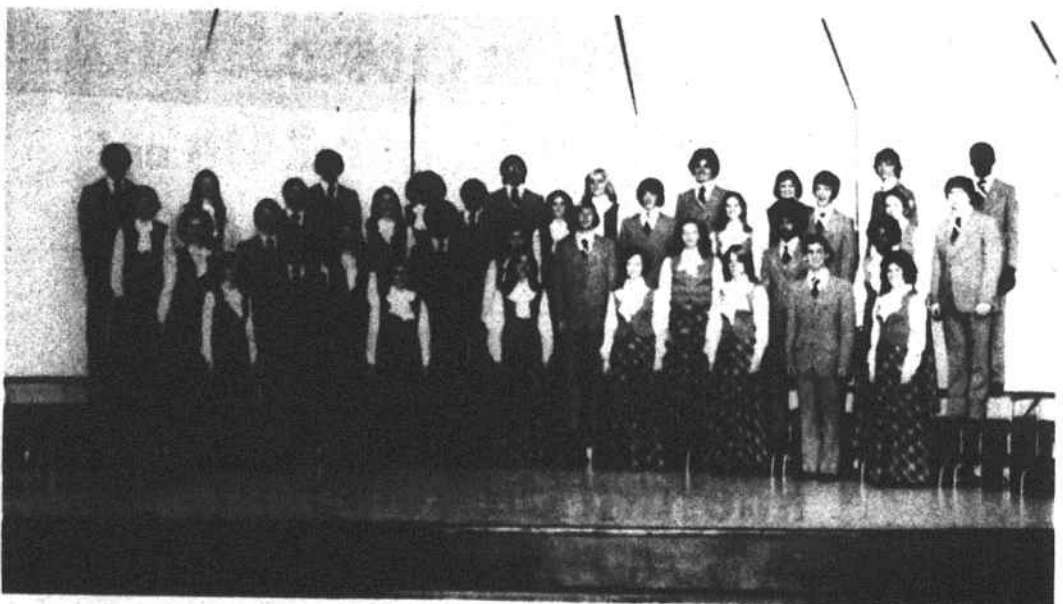
**YOUTH CHOIR** -- On Dec. 5, the Adult and Youth Handbell Choir performed for the Arts Council of the Raeford Women's Club at the Raeford Civic Center. They repeated their program, aided by the Recorder Ensemble, for the Raeford Lions Club on Dec. 12, also at the Civic Center. Pictured on the first row are [left to right] Kim Smith, Kim Summers and Liegh Brock. On the second row [left to right] are Jennifer Austin, Eric Coley and Cindy Gibson. On the third row are [left to right] Ginny Leach, Parker Coley, Trey Brock, Sharon McNeill and Laura McLeod. [Photo by Neill A. McNeill, Jr.]



**ADULT CHOIR** -- On Dec. 4th the Raeford Presbyterian Church Adult Handbell Choir rendered their music for the 11 a.m. worship service at the Jordan Memorial Methodist Church in Ramseur. Choir members are [first row, left to right] Janet Best, Mrs. Fred Smith, Petria Poole, Mrs. James Best, Cecelia Ropp and Beth Johnson. Second row [left to right] are James Best, Mrs. John Ropp and Miriam Ropp. Not pictured is Mrs. John Scott Poole.



**WINTER WEATHER** -- A fallow field, leafless tree, and the cloud swept sky combine to form a cold winter scene near Raeford. Thermometers in Hoke County took a dive last week as winter weather made its first prolonged visit of the season. [Photo by Charles Blackburn]



**CHORALE TO SING** -- The Hoke High School Chorale will perform in a Christmas concert on Thursday at the school gymnasium beginning at 8 p.m. The group will appear along with the high school chorus. Both are under the direction of Mrs. Neill Adams McNeill. Admission will be one dollar at the door.