

Music Enhances Christmas Season

What would Christmas be like without music? It's hard to imagine celebrating the holiday season without the strains of "Silent Night" or "Joy to the World" expressing the wonder and hope we feel at Christ's birth.

Fortunately, we have music to enhance the holidays, and it's been present since that very first Christmas, when the heavenly host

performed their extraordinary "Christmas Concert" for some awestruck shepherds in the hills near Bethlehem.

Since that night, there have been countless carols written, cantatas composed, and popular songs written about Christmas.

Everyone has a holiday preference and chances are, you'll be hearing your own

particular musical favorite sometime this season, whether it's piped into your local department store or performed by the church choir.

Some Christmas carols have famous composers such as Adolphe Adam (*O Holy Night*) and Felix Mendelssohn (*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*). Still others are attributed to a traditional melody, such as *Deck the Halls*, which was inspired by an old Welsh tune, and *Coventry Carol*, based on a traditional English melody.

The anonymous and the famous, the privileged and the poor — all manner of composers have endeavored to share their joy in the holiday season with a musical offering of some kind.

Christmas music can be reverent and uplifting, or merry and rollicking... either way, it reflects the magic of this time of the year, in a very special way that both young and old can appreciate.



Mr. and Mrs. Bobby McBryde, 225 W. 6th Ave.

Santa's A Beloved Symbol of Season

The jovial, genial figure of Santa Claus has had many names, and many origins throughout history. For over 1,700 years a Santa-figure has been said to visit in most regions of the globe and certainly no Christmas would be complete without the tradition of this cheery gift-giver.

The American Santa has his origin in the person of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia, Asia Minor. Nicholas lived in the early part of the Fourth century and was known for his good deeds and gifts for the needy. After his death, he became the symbol of goodness in Christian history.

Numerous trades and professions took the kindly bishop as their patron and soon his role expanded to that of gift-giver. When Dutch settlers brought the legend of Saint Nicholas to America, the name "San Nicholaas" then became Santa Claus.

Two centuries later, Clement Moore's poem, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas," made Santa's popularity soar, and changed his appearance. Originally thought to resemble the gaunt Saint Nicholas, Moore's work describes Santa as the small and

stocky character we know today — a bearded man with sleigh and reindeer, bringing gifts and good cheer to all.

What about the reindeer? It is thought that Saint Nicholas traveled through the cold, northern regions on the wings of the rapid

North Wind. In these colder, sparser areas, reindeer are the sole means of transportation. Hence, Santa's association with sleigh and his eight antlered friends.

Today, the legend of Santa remains alive as children place treats and stockings out on Christmas Eve



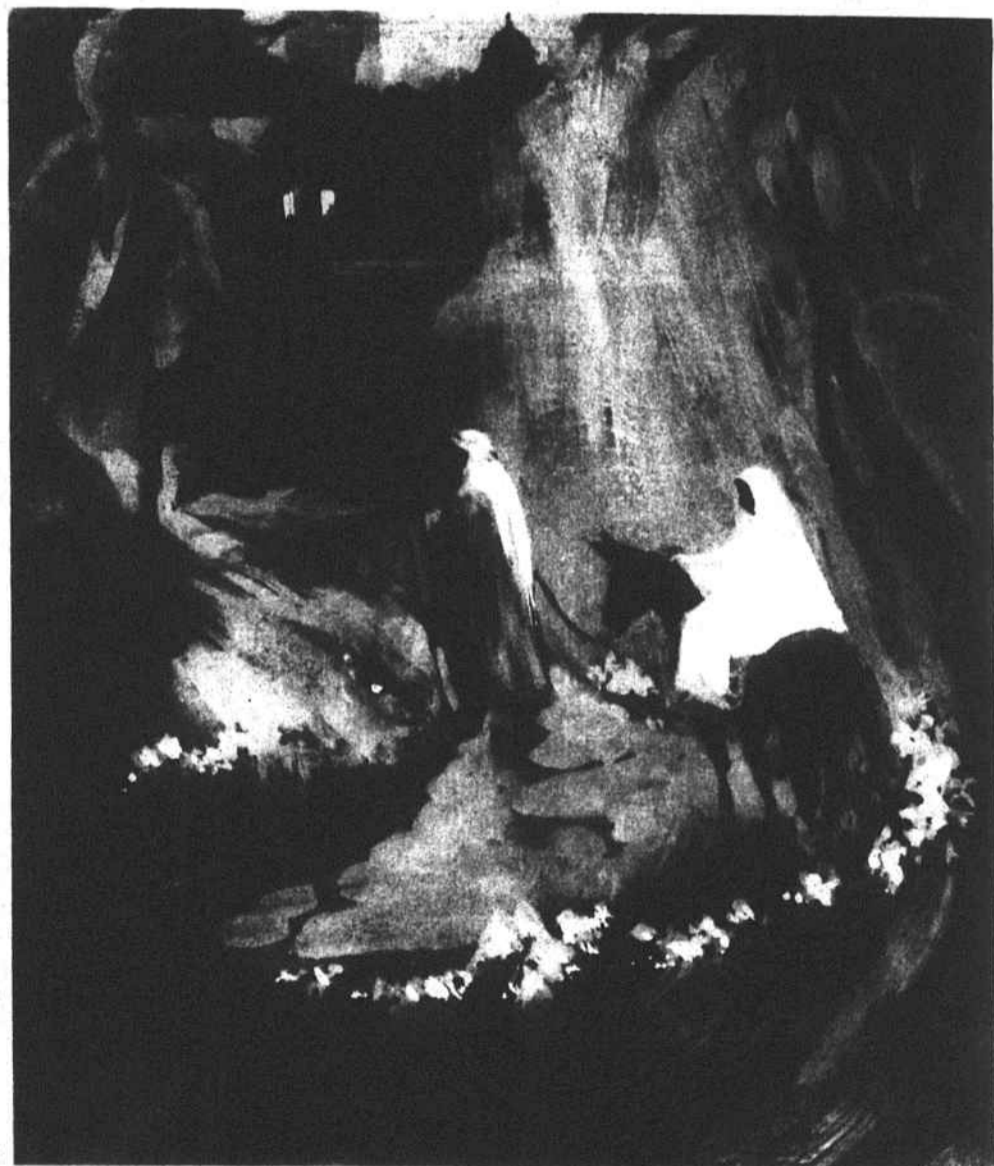
We appreciate your patronage and we hope that you will enjoy the holiday season.

McDonald Tire Recapping

RACKET ALLEY



Joyous Noel

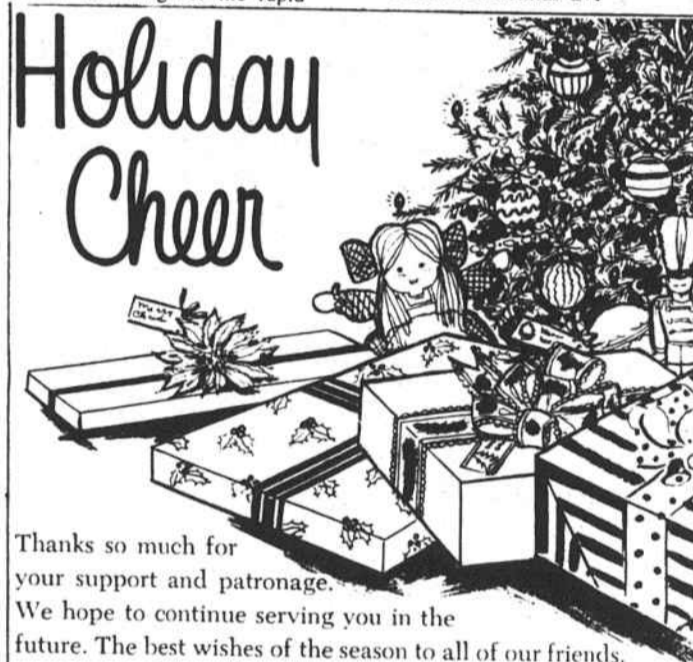


A Blessed, Happy Christmas to All!

There, in the little town of Bethlehem, He was born. There, in the midst of the animals, on a bed of straw, in a cold, dark stable the tiny King showed us the meaning of love. Let us not forget that first Christmas night.

Raeford Oil Company

We Will Be Closed
Monday, December 24th thru
Wednesday, December 26th



Thanks so much for your support and patronage. We hope to continue serving you in the future. The best wishes of the season to all of our friends.

Raeford Variety Store

David and Millie Steen

JOY TO ALL



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. . ." Singing loud and clear and all together . . .

"Merry Christmas everyone!"

CAROLINA TURF

William L. Poole