

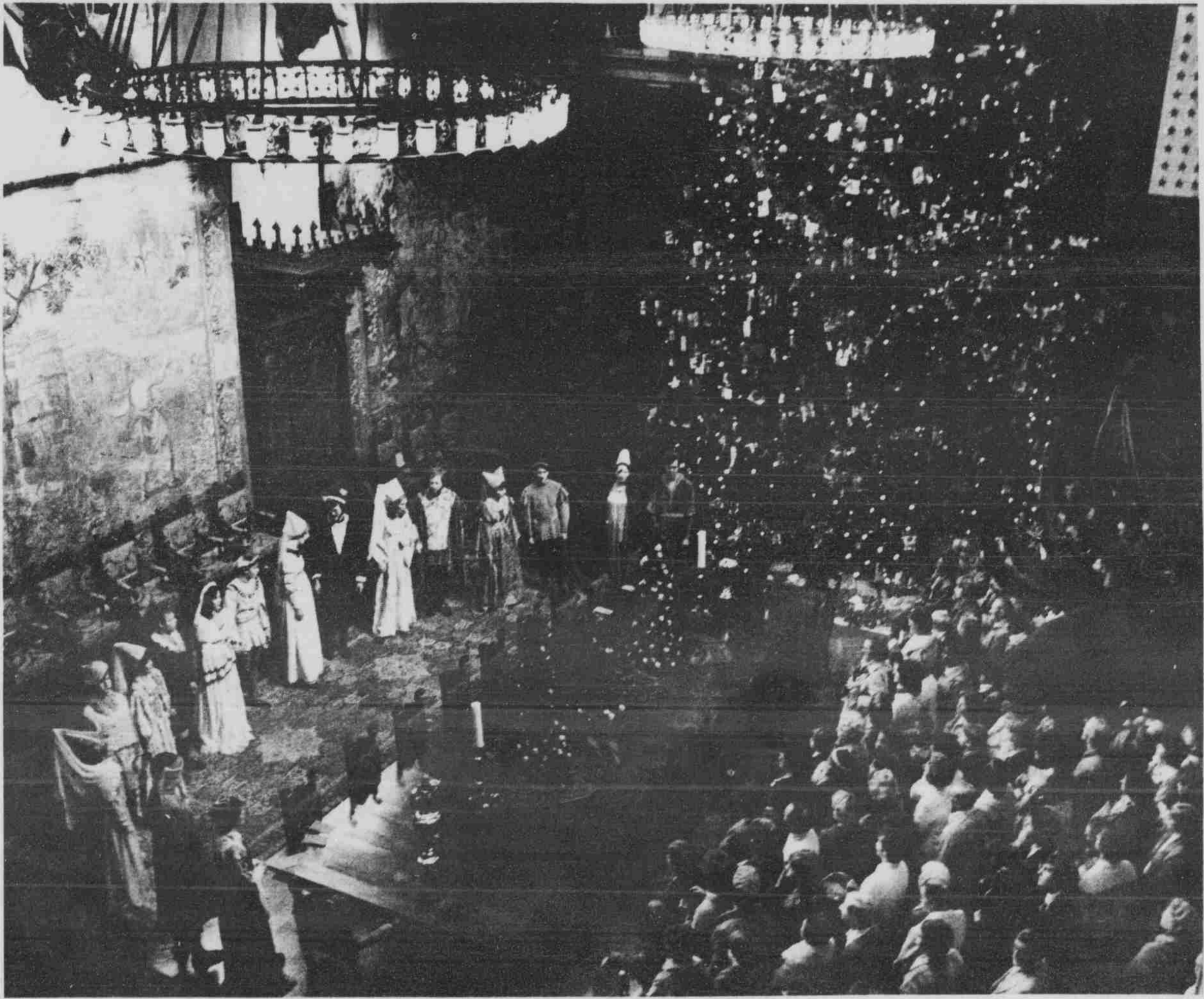
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MOUNTAIN NEWS

Fun

Entertainment Guide

December 4th thru December 10th



towering backdrop in the massive Banquet Hall as a concert performance fills the rooms with the sounds of Christmas. The tree, laden with or-

years ago when George Vanderbilt opened his House on Christmas Eve in 1895.

85th Christmas season at Biltmore House

The Christmas season will be celebrated again this year at Biltmore House with seasonal music, flowers, greenery and decorated trees throughout the massive rooms and halls. This Christmas marks the 85th anniversary of Biltmore House. George Vanderbilt formally opened his new home on Christmas Eve in 1895 with a party for his family and friends.

According to William Cecil, owner of Biltmore Estate, strong emphasis is placed on

making the annual holiday celebration an authentic traditional Victorian Christmas. The decorations have been assembled by Biltmore employees and will be on display Nov. 29 - Dec. 31. Cecil said there will be at least 25 trees throughout the House, decorated with traditional and European style ornaments. The Estate greenhouses are furnishing Biltmore House with hundreds of poinsettias, azaleas and other seasonal plants. Biltmore's

more rooms "Downstairs" of nuts, candy and cinnamon where the servants' quarters, kitchens and recreational areas are located, has added a new feature to Biltmore's Christmas observance this year. In contrast to the opulence of the "Upstairs" where the Vanderbilt family lived and entertained, visitors can now see how the servants decorated their rooms for the holidays. The servants made most of their own decorations, utilizing many items from the kitchens. Wreaths were made

of nuts, candy and cinnamon sticks, and painted nuts and popcorn balls were used for tree ornaments. In addition, Cecil said there will be 10 Christmas concerts at the House with performances at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The concert schedule is: Nov. 29-30, Asheville Symphony Chamber Orchestra; and Dec. 27-28, Asheville Symphony Brass Quintet.

A limited production of Biltmore Wine will be offered for sale at Biltmore House as a special feature of the Christmas Celebration. Biltmore House and Gardens is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Dec. 6-7, Western Carolina University Early Music Days. Dec. 13-14, Going Baroque; Dec. 20-21, Ashe-