

Christmas

the happiest season

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The Traditions Of Christmas

No season of the year brings friends and family together in celebration like the Christmas season. This joyous time is steeped with tradition which has been handed down from generation to generation.

Christmas carols will ring out, candles will be lit, trees will hang full of twinkling lights and ornaments, and special church services will honor this holy season. Angels, shepherds, Wise Men, the manger, the wondrous North Star and songs of praise are all part of this spiritual and joyous season.

As carolers go from house to house, we are filled with glad tidings. Certainly, Christmastime is a time to give and a sacred time to rejoice and praise the Lord...the true meaning of Christmas.

The singing of Christmas carols is a custom that comes from English wassailing. At first, the wassail bowl was a communal cup from which celebrants drank mead or ale on Christmas Day. Around the 17th century the

poor would carry an empty wassail bowl while traveling from house to house singing Christmas songs in hopes that the bowl would be filled in exchange for their songs.

It is said during the 13th century, the setting up of a creche was begun in Italy. St. Francis of Assisi celebrated mass, setting up the scene using live animals and people representing "The Holy Family." There are earlier references to the nativity scenes but St. Francis popularized the creche...gradually the custom spread first into churches and then into homes.

There are many traditions of Christmas that help celebrate the birth of the Christ child and many legends have been repeated through the generations.

The poinsettia, thought to resemble the Star of Bethlehem, was said to have been brought as a gift to the Christ Child by a poor little boy.

One night, when everyone in the village gathered in the

church to present their gifts to the Christ Child little boy became sad because he had nothing to give. But then, an angel told him to go to a spot by the roadside and gather the weeds growing there. As he did, the weeds burst into the bright red color that marks the poinsettia. The little boy then proudly made his gift. The flower is often referred to as the "flower of the holy night".

Christmas trees are another traditional symbol that commemorate this festive season. The Germans first used the Christmas tree. Thousands of years before the birth of Christ, evergreens were carried into homes, representing life and immortality to protect them from evil during the coming year.

The tradition of the Christmas tree was believed to have begun here in the middle part of the 1800's. The first tree was said to have been introduced in Ohio by an immigrant from Bavaria, who was saddened that America was

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AURORA-Asmall sleigh with elves standing along the side was the first place win-

ner in the Aurora Christmas parade, held this past Sunday. This winning entry was

the Aurora Woman's Club's...by Helen Sommerkamp

Pamlico Commissioners Approve Bond Order For Schools

At their Monday night, December 16, meeting, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners approved the bond order requested by the board of education for a referendum and authorized the submission of an application for the funds to the Farmers Home Administration.

The school board is seeking \$1.5 million in bond monies for renovations to Pamlico Junior High School, which will receive \$200,000 for improvements to the gym, vocational building and multipurpose room, window replacements for energy efficiency and pavement of an area for outdoor instruction, and Pamlico County High School, where \$1.3 million will go to renovate and enlarge the gym, construct additional classrooms and renovate existing classrooms.

Booker T. Jones, chairman of the school board's building and finance committee, approached the commissioners for approval of the bond order.

The commissioners approved it as submitted and told the committee that they would support its passage.

School board member Pam Banks stated, "We're very excited about the renovating of the gym at the high school and the other activities we've planned."

Superintendent George Brinson thanked the commissioners for their support, noting that while the bond monies would not meet all the needs it would be a start. He added that the school system's master plan called for the formation of a task force to "sell the plan" and that he hoped the commissioners would support that.

"I think you came up with a good, logical, achievable plan," commented Commissioner Brad Rice.

The commissioners also adopted a local resolution stating that they had found that the only practical way to raise the monies needed by the schools was through issuance of bonds and that repayment of the loan would require a tax increase of 7.5 cents, which was not an excessive increase.

County manager Bill Rice explained that the 7.5 cent increase was a "worst case situation" and that the amount could be less depending on the interest rate the county could get.

The commissioners will hold a public hearing on the bond referendum, which is scheduled

for March 11, 1986, at 10 am on January 6 at the courthouse.

In other business, Commissioner Rice stated that he understood that the county's exempt employees (those employees exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, FLSA) who worked during the hurricane in September were not going to receive the additional day of Christmas vacation approved by the board in October.

Bill Rice commented that that was not true, that only department heads would not get the ex-

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Repairs On Snowden Scheduled

AURORA-"Work has begun on S.W. Snowden's white classroom building," reported Clyde Roberson, maintenance supervisor, at the December 10 meeting of the Beaufort County Board of Education.

The repairs and improvements follow the recommendations of S.W. Pittman, structural inspector from Central Testing Inspection, Inc. of Raleigh. The consulting firm's engineer, at the request of Clifton Toler, superintendent of Beaufort County Schools, recently inspected the Snowden classroom building after parents and other interested citizens of Aurora made strong protests to the county school board concerning the poor condition of the building.

The conditions cited by the protestors included frequent breakdown of classroom heating, lack of heat in the restrooms, water underneath the building, cracked interior and exterior walls and the fact that the students, the youngest in the school, must go outside to get to the restrooms located at each end of the building.

Roberson said that the repairs already completed included the removal of the water from underneath the building and the repair of the sump drain, the replacement of a deteriorated ceiling joist and the repair of the leaking roof. Also, repairs to the keyways in the brick arches were completed by replacing bricks

and mortar which had cracked. Other recommendations and repairs suggested by Pittman included the re-shoring of the north west corner of the building,

replacing of all window frames and the removal and replacement of all cracked and loose

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Fire Damages Vandemere Residence

Monday, December 16, the Vandemere Volunteer Fire Department arrived at the scene of a house fire in the town around 4:30 pm. Triangle Volunteer Fire Department was called for mutual aid but their assistance was not needed.

According to Vandemere VFD chief Frank Chase and Charles Toler, the county fire marshal, the fire began at the stove in Pauline Mizell's kitchen. Toler said that

Mizell said she was cooking when something caught fire. The blaze spread through the stove's vent into the attic, resulting \$6,000 to \$8,000 in smoke, fire and water damage.

Friends and neighbors gathered at the Mizell home and removed and saved the contents.

Mizell was treated for minor burns to her hands at Pamlico Medical Center.

Whitford Elected To State Farm Bureau Board

Scott Whitford of Rt. 1, Bayboro was elected to the N.C. Farm Bureau Board of Directors at the state convention held in Charlotte from December 9-11.

This is the first time that a Pamlico County resident has

been elected to the state board of directors.

Whitford was also elected as a delegate to the National Farm Bureau convention to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, January 12-15.

Three Injured In Friday the 13th Accidents

Three people were injured last Friday the thirteenth in accidents that happened within thirty minutes of each other in the Grantsboro area.

The first occurred, according to the highway patrol's report, at 8 am at the intersection of Highways 55 and 306. Jenny Lyn Hagmaier, 19, of Hobucken, driving a 1985 Pontiac owned by Mark and Benny Jones of Hobucken, was traveling west on Highway 55 when she collided with the rear end of a 1974 Chevrolet owned by Garrette Roberson and driven by Denise Faye Squires, 25, of Bayboro who had stopped to make a left turn.

Both women were injured but the report did not note where they were treated.

The Pontiac's damages were estimated at \$1,000 and the

Chevrolet sustained no damage. Hagmaier was cited by Trooper S.F. Small with failing to decrease speed.

At 8:30 am, a one-car accident occurred on RPR 1100, five miles south of Grantsboro, involving Anita Elizabeth Lee, 18, of Rt. 1, New Bern who was driving a 1971 Chevrolet owned by Sharock Jerry Pegram of Vandemere.

The report indicated that Lee was traveling west on RPR 1100 when she ran off the road to the right, crossed back to the left and then rolled end over end. Lee, who was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the car, which sustained an estimated \$1,000 in damages.

Trooper Small cited her with driving left of center and no operator's license.