

In Holiday Mood, Carols Tell Story Of Reverence And Joy

IN HOLIDAY MOOD
O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born

the King of angels!" "Adeste Fideles" or "Jingle Bells." "Silent Night" or "White Christmas" — across the years, hymns, carols and songs have been mankind's way of expressing the joy of Christmas. From simple melodies sung in the family circle to the majesty

of Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," music and song seem to be the natural way to celebrate Christmas.
SINGING FIRST CAROL
Sing of the first Christmas carol is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi and his followers, in the 13th century.
St. Francis arranged a Nativity scene and led the singing of songs of praise to the Christ Child.

ABOUT MANY THINGS
Subjects and themes for early carols were many and varied. English people sang of the holly and the ivy and the wassail bowl. More religious in theme were the English songs traditionally sung between scenes of mystery and miracle plays.
In Germany, France and Belgium, the visit of the Magi was a popular theme for carols. Other carols told stories from the Bible or legends from nature.

LUTHER LED WAY
From the 15th to the 18th century, Christmas music found a particularly eager audience in Germany. Martin Luther, who believed music was a form of worship, helped to encourage the composition and performance of Christmas hymns.
Luther himself wrote the words for "Away in a Manger," and the music for "Unto Us a Boy Is Born" and "Good News From Heaven." Grouped into a choir, his children sang these songs.

CHRISTMAS OUTLAWED
The joyous songs of Christmas fell upon hard times in 17th century England. An act of Parliament, in 1644, forbade the observance of Christmas as a feast day.

Long after the custom of Christmas was revived, the art of carol singing languished.

A happy change occurred when, in 1719, Dr. Isaac Watts wrote and introduced to his congregation the carol, "Joy to the World." This was the forerunner of modern Christmas carols.

FOR CONCERT HALLS
Christmas music for the concert halls began to be created after the Reformation.

Italy introduced the Christmas concerto, during the 17th and 18th centuries. Corelli's "Christmas Concerto" is perhaps the best known of this kind of music.

In Puritan England, the oratorio became a popular form of music, thought to represent the righteousness in man. Handel's "Messiah" was performed and admired for this expression of pious sentiment, with little consideration for its relationship to the story of the Nativity.

It was not until about 1900 that "The Messiah" began to be performed primarily at Christmas time.

IN AMERICA
In America, the composition of carols began to flourish during the 1800's, and three favorite carols sung today are from that period.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," one of the earliest American carols was written by the Rev. Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876) as a poem. It was later set to music.

"We Three Kings of Orient Are," was first published in 1859. The Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., wrote both the words and music.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written by Bishop Phillips Brooks in 1868, as an expression of his feelings after a visit to Bethlehem.

Music for the carol has been attributed to Lewis H. Redner, an American organist, and also to a tune from early English hymnals.

David's Forms Cub Troop

David Baptist Church in the Bethware community organized a Cub Scout Pack which will be a part of the youth program of the church. Assisting in the organization of the new Pack was Bill Elder, District Scout Executive for Battleground District of the Boy Scouts of America.

Rev. Hastings will serve as Institutional Representative with the other leaders being: Sam Blanton, Committee Chairman; Louis Crawford, Cuomaster; Paul Carap, Webelos leader; Freda Sellers, Nancy Camp, Colleen Star chair and Gay Jenkins as Den Mothers. There are several others serving as committeemen and assistant leaders.

This is a community program for all boys of the 8, 9 and 10 year old group. Any boys of this age wanting to be a Cub Scout that lives in the Bethware area

are invited to contact any of the above mentioned leaders.

Parents and leaders of Cub Scouts work together to achieve the following goals which is the purpose of Cub Scouting; influencing the development of the boy's character and spiritual life, developing habits and attitudes of good citizenship; encouraging good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body; improving communications and understanding within the family; strengthening the ability to get along with other boys and respect other people; fostering a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills; showing how to be helpful and do one's best; providing fun and joy through the activities of Cub Scouting; preparing them to become Cub Scouts.

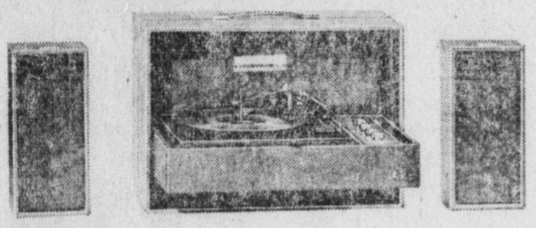
Troop 93, sponsored by the Progressive Club, already serves the boy scout in the Bethware Community. Mr. Emmitt Moss is the Scoutmaster and invites boys to contact him if they would like

to join. Clubs, Churches or others desiring to sponsor a Cub Scout Pack or a Boy Scout Troop (ages 11-17) in their community should contact M. Elder at 482-3596 in Shelby.



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