

Keeping Traditions Important At Christmas

Keeping family traditions are an important part of the Christmas celebration for Sarah Frances and David Faunce and their sons, Brett 7, and Justin Howard, 3.

Christmas Eve at the Faunce home on West Mountain St. will be the sixth annual family gathering of the Mauney-Simpson Clan which the young couple have hosted.

The house will be merry with the sound of 50 or more relatives who will enjoy eggnog and party refreshments from a home beautifully decorated in the family tradition.

A week before Christmas, David and Sarah Frances select from the KM Jaycee Tree Lot a seven foot Balsam and add a new handmade ornament for each family member. The Children's tree in the living room is decked with hundreds of every imaginable ornament that a child likes, from toys to stuffed animals. And all of which the Faunces made.

Wreath-making also takes considerable time, too, and the whole family gets the duty, and it's fun. Sarah has always used fresh magnolia leaves and pine over the mantel in the living room with a red and green felt wreath centering the unique arrangement. The boys hang their Christmas stockings and participate in decorating the tree. Sarah uses a Delarobia wreath on the front door and garlands the door with fresh greenery and places lights in all the windows of the white two story house. Fresh balsam and real candy canes and bows trim the stairway in the red and black-decorated foyer and on her den

mantlepiece is a handmade wreath of corn shucks tied with gingham bow and ribbon with a cornhusk doll dressed in red check apron and cap. The formal dining room, done in red and green, has a Colonial Williamsburg centerpiece of fresh pineapple and apples. Another Delarobia wreath of felt is used over the buffet. A handmade garland of pretzels is also used in the den. Red candles are used throughout the house.

This year Sarah is planning to combine her traditional eggnog party with the family dinner and is planning a menu which should please anyone on her guest list. "I decided this year to serve pickups from the buffet table and use a lot of vegetable quiches, along with turkey and ham," explained Sarah who is planning to bake her yummy dressing recipe in muffin pans and each guest can dip the small size dressing bits in hot gravy, using a tooth pick.

The whole family helps roast the pecans for the party, according to David, and also assist the lady of the house in preparing the nuts for 54 loaves of banana bread which Sarah distributes to friends at Christmas, including the postman and garbage collectors. The family also enjoy baking Christmas cookies in the busy week preceding Christmas and give the cookies to friends.

Mrs. Faunce, daughter of Billy and Mary Mauney of Kings Mountain, is a natural hostess and friends love to go to the Faunce home at Christmas time. In addition to her culinary abilities, Sarah Frances has made several Christmas red vests this season and made the drapes for

their beautifully furnished home. She and her husband did most of the re-upholstering of furniture in their house.

Sarah enjoys the busy holiday season, always finding time to share it with others, and especially her close knit family.

The Faunces share their Christmas eggnog recipe and Sarah's famous banana bread. You might want to include these party suggestions at your New Year's Eve parties, or for entertaining at any time of the year.

SARAH'S BANANA BREAD

2 sticks butter or margarine
2 cups brown sugar
5 eggs
¼ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons soda
1½ teaspoons baking powder
4 cups plain flour
6-7 large very ripe bananas
1½ cups finely chopped pecans

1 teaspoon cinnamon
Cream together sugar and butter. Add eggs one at a time and beat. Sift dry ingredients together. Add to creamed mixture alternately with bananas. Add nuts. Pour into flour aluminum tins well greased. Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes at 250-275 degrees F.

CHRISTMAS EGGNOG

3 dozen eggs separated
2¼ cups sugar
4½ cups whiskey (½ bourbon and ½ rum)
3 pints whipping cream
Beat egg yolks, slowly add whiskey. Beat egg whites slowly. Add guar and pinch of cream of tartar. Fold whites into yolks and sprinkle with nutmeg. Beat whipping cream, cold. Serves 35.

Chrismons Tell Special Story Of Christmas

Chrismons tell the story of Christmas and the Christian symbols are reflected in church decorations throughout Kings

Mountain this week. Beautiful handmade Chrismons in gold and white honor the Christ Child and each

has a special meaning. The symbols often take the form of figures, such as the circle, representing eternity; the ball, meaning the earth; the nimbus, a circle of light around the head for holiness; cross and stars, which illustrate the close relationship between the birth and death of Jesus.

Chrismon is a combination of two words, Christmas and Monogram.

Originated in 1957 by Frances K. Spener of Danville, Va., the Chrismon tree is decorated with symbols from Christian history, depicting the life of Christ and the celebration of His birth.

Most Chrismon trees are evergreens, denoting everlasting or eternal life, and some of the trees are also decked with tiny white lights, pointing to Christ as the light of the world. The gold and white symbols represent purity and glory. There is also a cross, a crown of thorns, etc.

Many churches in Kings Mountain have used the Chrismon tree for years, adding symbols each year. At Dixon Presbyterian Church, Rev. and Mrs. Graham Wood began the project of making the decoration last year and it was continued this season. Children of the church, under the direction of their Sunday School teachers, made the Chrismons and on a recent Sunday night placed them on a small tree in the sanctuary. There was also a brief service of dedication led by the pastor.

"It matters not the size of the tree or the number of Chrismons that we use but the message of this experience," said Rev. Wood, "as the idea behind the Chrismons is to honor the Christ Child through the use of Christian symbolism."



Photo by Gary Stewart

CHRISMON TREE — The Chrismon Tree is widely used in this area to decorate church sanctuaries at Christmas time to point to the religious emphasis of Christmas. The tree, above, was decorated and dedicated on a recent Sunday at Dixon Presbyterian Church.

Story And Photos By Lib Stewart



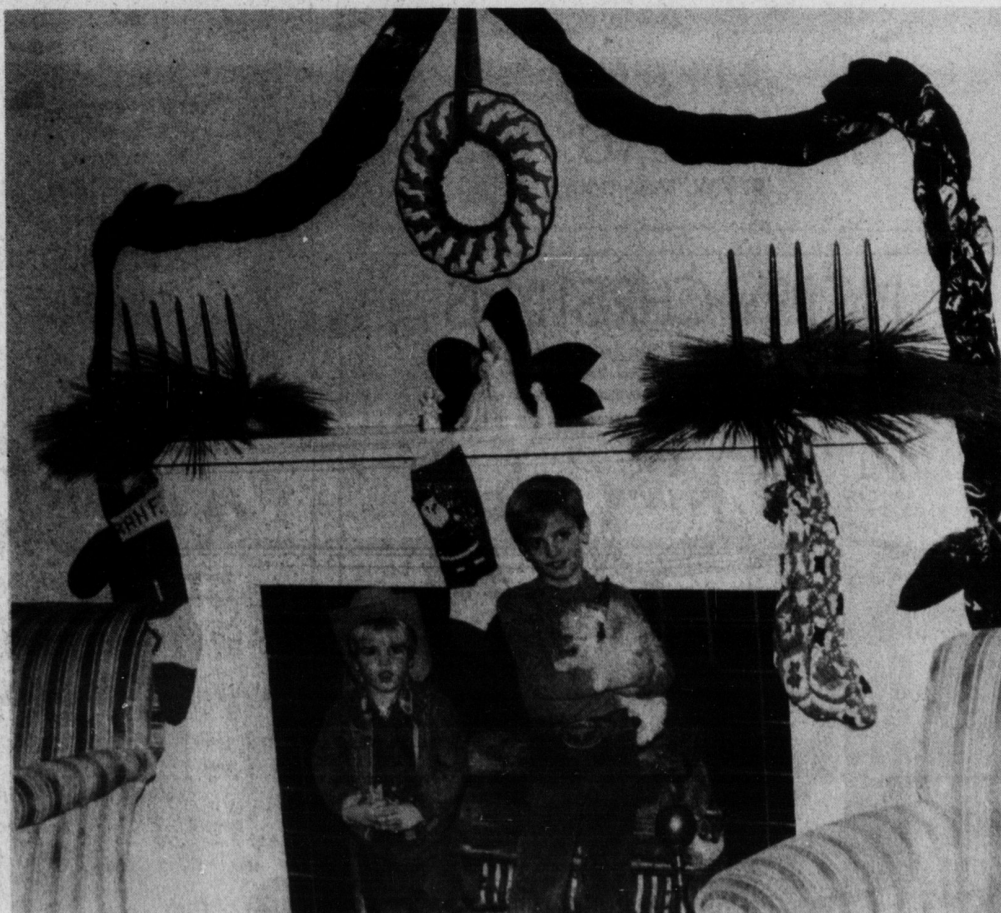
CHRISTMAS HOUSE — The home of Mr. and Mrs. David Faunce is a beautiful Christmas house and will be gay with family gatherings on Christmas Eve. It is traditional for the

Faunces to host the Mauney-Simpson family and the family was busy getting ready for the holidays this week.



CHILDREN'S TREE — The beautifully-decorated Children's Tree is decorated with handmade ornaments made by all the family.

It's traditional for the David Faunce family to trim the tree and do the holiday decorating and baking together.



ALL READY FOR SANTA — Justin and Brett Faunce, sons of Mr. and Mrs. David Faunce, and their poodle "Sugar Bear," are all ready

for Christmas Eve. The children helped trim the children's tree and assisted their parents in traditional preparations for the holidays.