

MEDIEVAL HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

"In the Twelve Days of Christmas
My true love said to me..."
The verses are among the most popular of the Season. They date back to 567 A.D., when the Church proclaimed the period of twelve days, from the Nativity to Epiphany, a period of celebration.

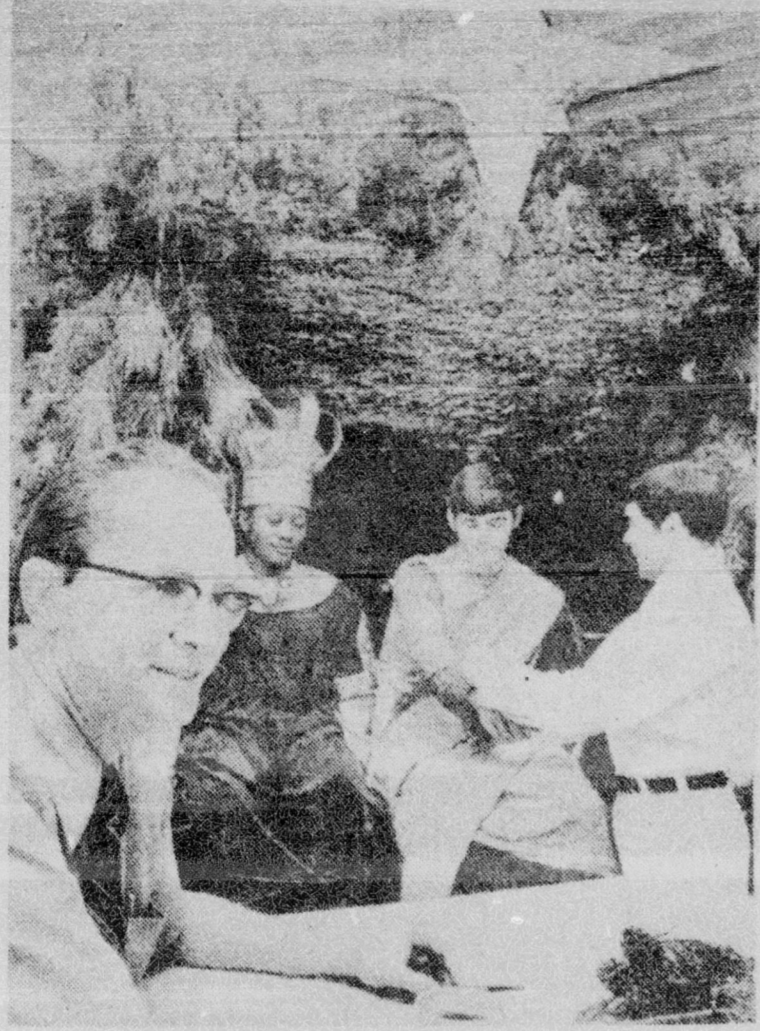
It is in fact the big holiday of the year in most countries where Christianity exists.

In medieval England festivities ranged the calendar, day and night. There were jousts, with knights in armor pennants flying, and lances flashing in the sun, and wimpled ladies watching from the stands... There was banqueting, caroling and also "mumming" which originally was a pantomime dance performed by groups who were both costumed and masked. Minstrels and jugglers plied their arts, made music and mirth.

In the Middle Ages, when few people could read, and entertainment as we know it did not exist, a minstrel was of necessity a many-talented fellow. One of these, in listing his accomplishments, after noting the many instruments he can play, says: "I can sing a song well and make tales and fables. I can tell a story against any man, I can make love verses to please young ladies, and can play the gallant to them if necessary. Then I can throw knives into the air and catch them without cutting my fingers. I can do dodges with a string most extraordinary and amusing. I can balance chairs and make tables dance. I can throw a somersault and walk on my head."

This English minstrel, of course, had his counterpart in Europe, where the twelve days were celebrated too, with feasting, pageantry, and song.

In England some of the "pretty devices" preceding the banquets in the big halls on Twelfth Day are un-



INMATES STAGE CHRISTMAS SHOW -- Buford, Ga.: The inmates at the Georgia Training and Development Center here put on a Christmas show December 17 that featured the warden's wife playing the part of Mary. During rehearsals December 17 morning, the warden, Ray Maynard (L), watches as they go over their lines with the play's inmate director, Tom Paramo (R), of Mobile, Alabama. The part of King Herod is played by Donnell Rosser (2nd from L), of Newman, Ga. and James Fair (3rd from L.) of Gainesville, Ga., is Joseph.

a time to pause and take stock..

"You can't see the woods for the trees" ... so goes an old saying.

To paraphrase this, "you can't experience Christmas because of the tinsel litter that covers and surrounds it."

How easily one can become engulfed in the wrappings, in the outward and visible display of the Season ... and lose sight of the true meaning!

After all, the secular Christmas is based on worthwhile things ... communicating with family and friends in various, time-consuming ways.

There are cards to be addressed and mailed ... or taken to a special mailbox for distribution. There is an air of hospitality you should

lievable-sounding confectious which included castles with cannons and ships with guns which, at the proper moment, were fired against each other in semblance of a rousing battle.

HENDERSON

BY L. B. RUSSELL
HENDERSON — In almost every home here Christmas decorations are already in place. In many doors wreaths have been placed outside, while lights can be seen on the inside. Evidence of the Christmas season can be seen on the main streets in downtown business sections. The Franklin and Vance County Ministerial Alliance will join in a joint pre-Christmas service at the Nelson Chapel Baptist Church in Louisburg Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock as announced by the Rev. Arthur Pool, corresponding secretary. Dr. John R. Dungee will deliver the Christmas message. The Rev. E. L. Brodie is the host minister. The public is invited to these services.

According to an announcement, a Christmas cantata will be presented at the morning worship service on Dec. 19th at Kesler Temple AME Zion Church. Giving the special presentation will be the minister, Rev. J. W. Britt, and members of the junior choir directed by Mrs. J. W. Britt. The public is cordially invited, says Rev. Britt.

The Youth Fellowship Society of the Cotton Memorial United Presbyterian Church will visit residents of Pine Crest Manor Nursing Home Sunday at six o'clock p. m. The group will present a short Christmas program consisting of Christmas Carols, prayer and Christmas meditations for the benefit of the inmates. This announcement was made by the pastor, Rev. W. E. Johnson.

The week-end visitors are beginning to make their journey in and out of Henderson for the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Arnold W. Fields, his wife, Louise and young son, Milton from Fort Cameron,

Ky., are spending the season holidays with their mother and father, mother-in-law, Mrs. Sallie P. Bracey of 618 East Avenue and Mrs. Beatrice Fields on the Oxford Road respectively. Mr. Fields and his family are extremely happy in being with their parents and will soon return to Fort Cameron where is making a career in the United States Army.

Miss Bertha L. Royster is spending the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Royster of 2056 Julia Ave. Miss Royster is a technician in the Department of Human Resources in the District of Columbia.

The family of Mrs. Hattie Cooper is very pleased and happy for her return from Maria Parham Hospital where she spent a couple of weeks for minor operations for throat trouble. Today, her daughter, Mrs. Nettie Cooper, who was very jubilant, made the statement to this writer. Mrs. Cooper is an honored citizen of this community and a devout Christian lady. She lives with her daughter, Mrs. Hattie Davis of 231 1st St.

Also returned from Maria Parham Hospital is Mrs. Mabel Royster, the daughter of Mr. Willie White of Julia Ave.

These patients are doing fine. Mrs. Rosa Privette of Franklin paid a short visit during the weekend to Mrs. Mary J. Green of 1907 Julia Ave.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Leslie And Robert Form 2 New Paths To Stardom

Rags to riches? Yes and no. Robert Guillaume and Leslie Uggams, who will appear in the fourth of this season's Bell System Family Theatre TV series, were launched to stardom from totally different pats.

They will join other greats in "S Wonderful," "S Marvelous," "Gershwin" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, January 17, on NBC for the Bell System show now in its second season.

Guillaume came up by his bootstraps. Miss Uggams is no Cinderella and never had it rough. Those early years in St. Louis, Guillaume said, were "fire and brimstone." He worked as a canny cook in a cogen drop factory, operated a streetcar, sold pots and pans and owned a dress shop.

In that environment, he learned to overcome. Doing it the hard way, Guillaume earned an A. B. in business administration at St. Louis University and studied music at Washington University in St. Louis. He also studied music privately.

Miss Uggams, granddaughter of two ministers, was reared by middle-income parents. Her mother was a chorine in Harlem's Cotton Club and her father sang with the famed Hall Johnson Choir.

Shw entered show biz at age 6 in Ethel Waters' TV show, "Beulah," and followed by singing kiddie songs on the Milton Berle, Garry Moore and Arthur God-

frey shows. Her mother "retired" her from show business at 12, but she made her "comeback" at 15 by winning \$25,000 on "Name That Tune."

Guillaume cracked the big time

in the chorus of the 1961 production of "Porgy and Bess" at New York Center. Then he took the role of "Sporting Life" in "Porgy and Bess" in New York, Vienna, Toulouse, France and Tel Aviv, Israel. On Broadway during 1971, he played leading roles in "Purlie," "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well," "Charlie Was Here and Now He's Gone," and, at the Arena Theater, "No Place to Be Somebody."

Uplide & Wishes

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Happy Holiday!

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