

Nativity creche art dramatizes story of Birth of Christ

According to legend, remnants of the manger at Bethlehem were brought to Italy by early Christians. So it is not surprising that some 180 years later, St. Francis of Assisi should have chosen to dramatize the spirit and meaning in the birth of Christ in the manger at Bethlehem.



Greetings

May you and your family enjoy a happy holiday. We thank you warmly.

D & A Grocery Mr. & Mrs. Donald Riggs, Owners



Silent Night

May all our good friends share in the quiet wonder of Christmas. We are grateful for your patronage.

Abraham's Ladies Shop



Best wishes for old fashioned Christmas joys... and thank you for the pleasure and privilege of serving you, our valued friends.

Dee Jay Auto Parts



Christmas joy

The most precious gifts of the Holy Season are those of the heart. To friends and neighbors... our gratitude for your loyal support.

COE OIL SERVICE Allen Sparks, Agent

It is not surprising that some 180 years later, St. Francis of Assisi should have chosen to dramatize the spirit and meaning in the birth of Christ in the manger at Bethlehem. He desired to represent the birth of that Child in Bethlehem in such a way that with our bodily eyes we may see all that he suffered for lack of a stable for a newborn babe, and how he lay in the manger between the ox and ass. His friend, Giovanni Gherardo, proceeded to carry out these instructions, setting up a life-size manger with straw and a live ox and ass. Members of the community posed as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds and a wax figure of the Christ Child was placed in the manger. A great throng assembled to worship at the site on Christmas Eve 1223. Many songs and hymns were sung, and an impressive awe-inspiring was the ceremony, that Gherardo assumed the name of a second Bethlehem as the news spread far and wide.

Inspired by St. Francis, artisans and craftsmen began to make miniature manger scenes for their homes, and the creches spread all over Europe. Whole families fashioned the little figures from wood or clay and created replicas of Bethlehem, as they imagined it would look. Often these scenes looked more like their own villages than the Holy Land.

In Naples, these creches developed into a fashionable art because of the interest of the Bourbon King Carlo III, who set the pace by the elaborate settings of the Nativity scene, which he had set up in his castle every Christmas Eve. The most outstanding of these figures were produced in the workshops of Naples during the second half of the eighteenth century. The Metropolitan Museum has a large collection of them, which are usually on display during the Christmas season. Most of these are from the famous collection owned by the great Neapolitan Colacic family.

The figures, an average of 12 to 18 inches in height, have pliable bodies of woven twine and wire, expressive faces. The limbs are of finely carved wood. The figures are dressed in 18th century costumes, enriched with jewels and embroidery. The heads and shoulders of the figures, modeled in terracotta and painted in flesh tones, are credited to some of 18th-century Naples' finest sculptors: Giuseppe Sammartino and his pupils, Salvatore de Franco, Giuseppino Gori and Angelo Viva.

Creches are also popular in other parts of Europe notably Provence in France, and in Spain. But none has reached the high degree of artistic elegance of those of 18th century Naples.

Mistletoe customs date to Druids

The word "mistletoe" derives from the Anglo-Saxon word "mistelltan." It is a parasitic plant which grows on evergreen trees, with small yellowish-green leaves, yellow flowers and waxy white, poisonous berries.

Under a sprig of mistletoe men are by custom privileged to kiss any woman standing under it. The man is supposed to first remove one of the berries and present it to the woman. When all the berries are gone, this kissing game is over. It is thought this custom comes from an early pagan marriage rite.

Mistletoe was considered sacred by the Druids in ancient Britain and they performed elaborate ceremonies around it at the winter solstice. Because of these pagan associations, it is seldom used in church decorations.



May you be greatly blessed by the spirit of the Christmas celebration. Sincerely thanks to all.

Blount's Dairy Queen



Deck your holiday and home with happy times, fresh greens! Our thanks to everyone.

Small's Greenhouses



Glad Tidings

As the bells ring in another Yuletide, we extend our greetings, best wishes to you, with our note of thanks.

C. C. Cole Co.



at Christmas, we wish you and your family all the blessings of the season... love, hope, peace, joy, good will and good cheer!

Mathers-Shearer

East Union

(delayed)

Rev. Howard Livingston was a visitor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Hobbs on Saturday afternoon.

Steve Hobbs, Terry Trussell, Robert L. Trussell and Junior Terrell were in Cincinnati on Sunday and Mike in Carlisle on Sunday night.

Thurman Matton of Lewisburg spent the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Earlywine.

The Salvation Church will have their Christmas program this Saturday night, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Caswell of Millersburg spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Gaudin and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Blakeman and daughters, Poni and Dana, Raymond Kenney, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Crockett of Lexington spent Sunday with Martha and Daley Kennedy.

Our community was deeply grieved and shocked by the death of Mrs. Walter Holter at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington on Saturday morning. Mrs. Holter was much loved by all who knew her and will be sadly missed in her home, church and community.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stone and Denise, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Galbraith of Carlisle visited Mr. and Mrs. Gary Holter and children on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Goodman and daughters Paula and Angela spent Friday night and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stapp.

Mrs. Sue Masie who had been a patient at Nicholas County Hospital, Hardwick on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Balfour Hamilton was a guest.

Mrs. Addie Jolly is a patient at the Nicholas County Hospital.

Saltwell

Mrs. E.V. Delaney returned home on Wednesday after a week's stay at Nicholas County Hospital. She remains ill at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Layne Hollar were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Hollar, Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Delaney.

Mias Jana Spang of Carlisle spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Delaney.

Harold Matton of Lexington visited Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Hollar on Saturday. The Headquarters Church Christmas program will be presented Sunday night, Dec. 23 at 7:30. The Young Adult Class is in charge of the program and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Riggs as chairman.

Miss Sue Livingston of Eastern University, Richmond is spending the Christmas holidays at her home here.

Richie and Dennis Ritchie who were united in marriage on Friday night at the Mt. Pleasant Church. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Adamson of Mt. Olivet.

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It's Christmastime
Let joy enter your hearth and home.
Thanks for your support.

Frank Weaver's Grocery

Fill this season with laughter, good will and song. Warm thanks from us, to all.

Joe Crouch Insurance Agency

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