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Good Morning! It's Tuesday, December 25, 1979

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Insight Here's how carols grew to tradition

By Clady Anderson
Missourian staff writer

The Christmas carol is a tradition today, but it was not always like that. At one time, carols were even banned by the religious leaders of the church.

The word "carol" was originally a term for a circle dance. When words and music were added to the dance, a carol became the musical accompaniment. Eventually, carols came to mean any festive songs.

Carols further developed through their association with the mystery plays of the Middle Ages. These were enactments of biblical stories. Most carols were anonymous and were passed by word of mouth from generation to generation.

By this time, carols were a mixture of English wassail or drinking songs, religious celebration of the birth of Christ, and songs from the Celtic festival of Yule.

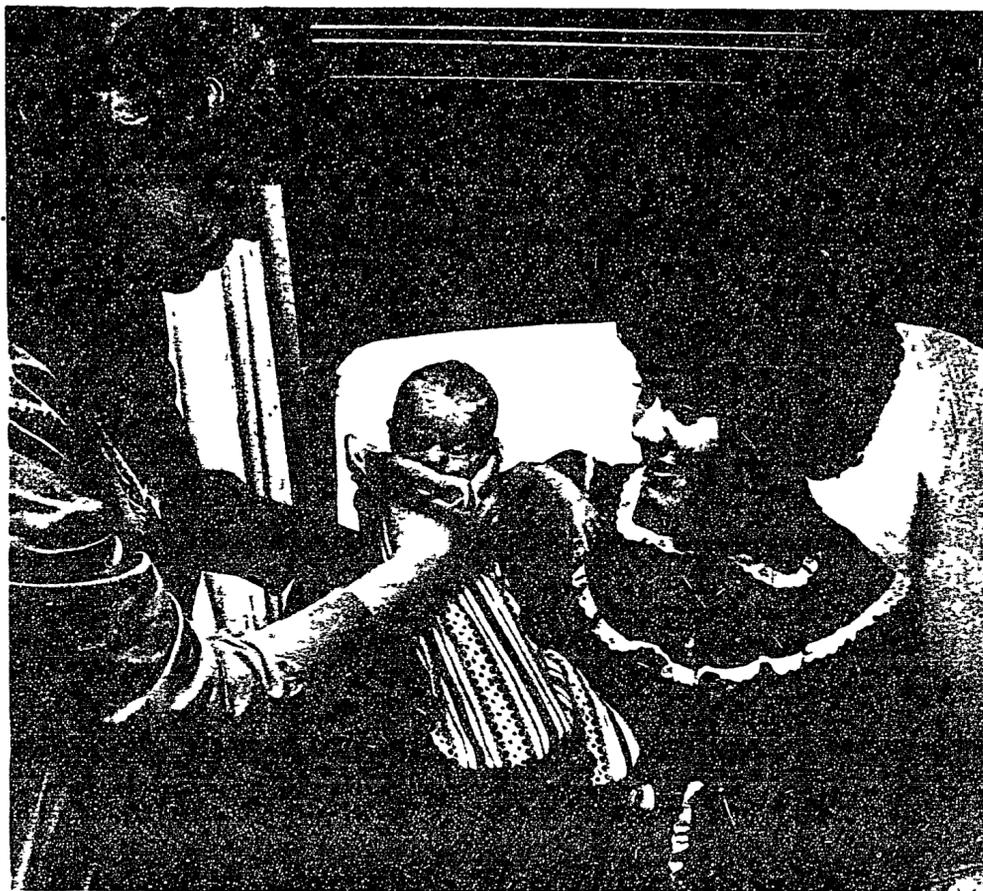
The custom of carolers singing door to door also began in the Middle Ages when strolling beggars went from house to house singing for food and drink. Today, a caroler may be rewarded by cookies and chocolate, but that is not the reason he sings.

Carol singing was forbidden in 1647 because the English Puritans of the 17th century disapproved of frivolity. The Puritans who founded America also opposed the custom, so caroling in the United States is a recent development, dating from the 19th century. Caroling was revived in England after 1650.

Many of the carols sung today have interesting histories. Perhaps the best known is that of "Silent Night." Legend says that mice had chewed holes in the organ bellows one Christmas Eve in the Austrian village of Oberdorf.

The church organist was in despair, for all the hymns for evening mass required an organ. Joseph Mohr, the pastor of the church, quickly wrote a little song that could be played on the guitar, and that night the soft strains of "Silent Night" were heard for the first time.

Christmas caroling today is often done by church groups, school classes and choirs, and youth organizations. Carolers might go to retirement homes and homes of the elderly and shut-in, or they might stand on street corners and at malls singing to all who go by. Many residential blocks also have a custom of caroling.



Newborn Kelli Elizabeth is a stockingful for her mother, Debbie Nanson

Holiday bundles make perfect stocking stuffers

By Eric Johnson
Missourian staff writer

Betsy Etz gave birth to her third born son Saturday, wrapped him in swaddling Pampers and laid him in a maternity crib.

And although baby Brian entered the world at Boone County Hospital and not in a manger, he was every bit as peaceful and loving as the newborn Christ could have been that first Christmas morning.

Hospital obstetrics nurses won't wrap Brian in a stocking like they will other babies this Christmas morning. He'll be home in time for tree trimming and Santa Claus in Shelbyville, 70 miles (112 kilometers) north of Columbia.

Mrs. Etz and her husband Jim were elated over their surprise Christmas present.

"I've really been waiting for one — it's been 10 years of waiting," the glowing mother said as she cuddled Brian.

"We certainly thank the good Lord since we weren't planning for him."

The Etzes hadn't expected Brian in two ways — he came after their youngest son was 10 years old, and he was 2½ weeks early.

Mrs. Etz said her other sons, Blair

11 and Brett, 10, were happy the birth would not delay their Christmas. Nevertheless, Christmas will take a back seat to the arrival of our little one, she said.

Brett had wished for an early arrival because all he wanted to do is see it. I've waited 10 years for this.

Will little Brian have a stocking waiting for him at home? No, he came so soon we haven't even bought a crib, Mrs. Etz said.

Unlike Brian, the ward's newborns who can't go home for Christmas will have stockings waiting for them this morning.

Following a nine-year tradition, obstetrics department nurses will slip the babes into red-and-white flannel stockings to make a holiday spent in the hospital crib more festive.

More than 13 yards (11.3 meters) of striped flannel is donated each year by the Women of Woodcraft, a fraternal life insurance organization.

"I get the material and the girls (in the obstetrics department) help me make them," said Ann Douglas, a nurse and member of Women of Woodcraft.

The babes-in-stockings will brighten the ward along with non-flammable wreaths and a tree topped by an angel wearing a surgical mask.

Nurses' efforts improve bleak Christmas

By Shawn Bahthrop
Missourian staff writer

The woman was 35 years old. She had six children ranging in ages from six to 16. She had no husband, and she and her children lived in a small two-bedroom apartment in a housing project.

It was three weeks until Christmas, but there was little gaiety in this house. The woman was dying of cancer.

The Columbia Visiting Nurses Association is a certified home care agency which often provides medical service for terminally ill patients and others who cannot take care of themselves. Yet sometimes, especially around this time of year, the group members go a little beyond the call of duty to bring good will and cheer to those who otherwise would be spending a quite cheerless Christmas.

Two years ago, the visiting nurses association was attending the woman at home. She had been discharged from the hospital to die, says VNA director Lydia Coad. "She had shared with her children the knowledge of her impending death." The children reacted angrily to the mother, and told her they hated her.

It was a season of joy and happiness, but there was little happiness in this home. It was at this point that the VNA stepped in. Ms. Coad and the others realized that there was little to be done for the mother. But the children still had their lives ahead of them, and the VNA determined that their last Christmas with their mother would be as happy as possible.

"We wanted them to remember their last Christmas with their mother as something good," Ms. Coad says.

The group used donations from outside sources combined with some from their own pockets, to

make the little home come alive with lights and tinsel. They brought in a tree and decorated it. They each brought a present, and Christmas dinner was brought and served. The gifts were, by and large, not practical, but they allowed a young woman a last touch of luxury and her children a last happy memory of their dying mother.

This example is an extreme case of how far the VNA goes to try and assure a merry Christmas for its patients, Ms. Coad says. They often help in other less dramatic ways, finding families or groups to adopt an elderly or lonely person at this and other times of the year to take dinner to them and share it with them on Christmas day. And for those who are left alone, one of the members makes it her business to buy each a present and deliver it personally.

Every now and then, however, more desperate cases come before the group. That is when everyone pitches in to help out as best they can.

Such is the case of a 78-year-old diabetic woman confined to a wheelchair. She recently was discharged from a nursing home. Before that she had spent a year and a half in the state hospital at Fulton. While she was away, caseworker Mary Helen Laughrey says, her furniture was carelessly stored and was destroyed by water damage.

She left the nursing home with only her clothes and part of her last month's Social Security check. Right now she is living in a housing project where the VNA provides her with nursing and homemaker service.

One community group, the Boone County Retired Teachers Association, has already given the VNA a donation which will buy her a new mattress. The VNA is looking for other ways to provide the woman with a bit merrier Christmas, trying to find a group to take her dinner and make her feel wanted.

Chamber members say city master plan top need

By Lisa Cantwell
Missourian staff writer

In one of the first public results of a bylaw change, Columbia Chamber of Commerce members recently identified the development of a master plan for the city as its top priority.

Prior to changing the bylaws two years ago, the chamber could not take a stand on any public issue. Since the revision, the chamber is allowed to take a position, but it can be overturned by the members on a referendum vote.

"Recently, the chamber has been aggressive in petitioning the City Council for changes," said Al Murfin, chamber executive vice president. "You can expect to see the chamber becoming more active and viable concerning things that are germane to the community."

One way the chamber will become more visible is through an unscientific survey conducted in mid-October. The chamber asked the members to rank 19 city issues in order of importance to them and to respond to 14 questions concerning these issues.

The survey, sent to the chamber's approximately 600 members, will be used by the board of directors in determining general policies for the chamber, but copies of the results also were sent to several city officials.

"It was not intended to be a scientific survey, it was to give the board input from chamber members," Murfin said. "The results will be used by the board to form policy."

"People often ask the chamber to take a stand pro or con and we don't like to do so without consulting our

members. The survey will be an aid to the board of directors," said Richard Mendenhall, chamber vice president for operations. "We did decide as a board of directors that the City Council has more information than we do or the average citizen, and they should, in most cases, make the decisions. I think the survey will have as much influence as any group who told the City Council what it feels."

Mayor Clyde Wilson, who received a copy of the survey, said he was interested in the way the chamber members responded to the issues.

We thought results might be of some interest to them (city officials) and at least give them the knowledge of how one segment of the community feels. It is simply an informational tool. But results may be the basis for developing a policy that would put us

in a position to lobby for particular action," Murfin said.

Murfin said the chamber received 103 responses.

"I think the responses of the people who did respond are valid, even though the response was small, the people took time with the questions," Murfin said.

After the development of a master plan, the members ranked, in order, downtown parking, crime prevention, improvement of Route B and development of a thoroughfare master plan.

The other concerns were, in order, regional shopping mall development, in-depth review of city departments, program to help Stephens College, West Broadway widening, Flat Branch development, downtown parking for employees, program to help Columbia College, staggered city council terms,

airport expansion, revision of downtown traffic patterns, downtown beautification, development of convention center, acquisition of Stephens Park and establishment of historical districts.

An official in the city Planning Department said Monday that although the department is not considering a broad master plan at this time, work is being done on separate master plans for the city's five sectors. Only the central sector plan has been completed and the northeast sector will be worked on next.

The Planning Department is doing more work on item five of the survey list — development of a thoroughfare master plan for the city. A plan was developed in 1968 and the department is in the process of updating it. The city also is studying downtown

parking. The council currently is studying whether to build a parking garage behind the Daniel Boone County-City Building and also leasing the ground at the corner of Walnut and North Ninth streets where the North Village Gym and several other smaller businesses stood before burning last summer. The First Christian Church, owner of the property, is clearing the lot.

The church has agreed orally to lease it to us when they get it done," said Bob Black, assistant to the city manager. The transaction probably will take place in the spring, he said.

The decision on the garage behind the County-City Building should come before the spring. The city already has interviewed architects to get price estimates. (See COUNCIL, Page 16)



Unidentified hostage looks at mail

Hostages get Christmas services; Iranians say gifts booby-trapped

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI) — Three American clergymen preaching peace and patience entered the occupied U.S. Embassy Monday to celebrate Christmas midnight Mass with the 50 hostages. Their arrival was marred by charges that some of the captives' gifts had been booby-trapped with bombs.

The three clergymen, accompanied by the Archbishop of Algiers, Cardinal Etienne Duval, entered the U.S. Embassy at 11.05 p.m. Tehran time.

Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh told militant students shortly before the arrival of the clergy "bombs and explosive material have been found in some of the parcels and Christmas gifts sent to the hostages in the American den of spies."

The implication of his statement was that the "enemies" of Islam, the United States, was deliberately trying to blow up either the captors or the captives in an attempt to further blacken Iran's name in the international community.

The three officially invited American clergymen — the Rev. William Sloane Coffin of New York City's Riverside Church; the Rev. William Howard, a black clergyman and president of the National Council of Churches, and Roman

Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit — immediately announced their intention to meet the hostages and conduct midnight Christmas services.

The clergymen — carefully selected by Iran because of their militant history against imperialism — counseled in various statements that the 51-day-old crisis could only be solved by both sides practicing "patience and peace."

In the first solid evidence the captives had received at least some of the 1.1 million Christmas cards and gifts sent them, their guards released three photographs showing several hostages opening cards on the floor of their makeshift quarters inside the embassy.

In other developments in the hostage situation:

— The United States Monday formally asked the U.N. Security Council to impose economic sanctions against Iran for holding the hostages under "intolerable conditions."

— Ghotbzadeh officially asked Panama for the first time to extradite Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi as quickly as possible. In Panama City, President Aristides Royo said Panama had not received any request for the Shah's extradition, but it would refuse it anyway.

No snow

Youngsters who found sleds under their Christmas trees today will have to wait to try them out. There is no snow in the immediate forecast, according to the National Weather Service.

Columbia's brown Christmas is not unusual. Only 27 of the last 84 Christmases since the weather service began keeping records in 1895 were white. Although a bit of snow, part of a line of precipitation moving through Columbia, fell Monday, it was not measurable.

The most recent white Christmas was in 1975 when three inches (7.5 centimeters) covered the ground. The forecast includes a gradual warming and clearing trend beginning today as temperatures are expected to reach the low to mid 40s F (4 C). The trend will continue at least through Wednesday when a high in the mid to upper 50s F (10 C) is expected.

No paper

The Columbia Missourian will not be published Wednesday so that employees can spend Christmas Day with their families.

The Missourian will resume normal publication and distribution Thursday.