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 History

LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN
 A publication of the Louisville Historical Commission & Society
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 Eileen Schmidt -Editor

THE MUSEUM CORNER

Many groups of students from the various schools have visited our museums since school began and several other groups have scheduled tours.

Our silent auction held on the day before Labor Day was very successful, in spite of the fact that both the Rockies and the Broncos were playing that day. Many toured the museum on Labor Day. The raffle of an overnight stay at Harvey's Hotel and Casino in Central City was won by Diane Marino, a local resident.

Our museum buildings were thoroughly cleaned in August. Exhibits were also changed before Labor Day. We have received many artifacts this summer; some from the family of Gert and Bill Ferguson. This summer several long time residents of Louisville, who are now living elsewhere, visited the buildings. Several members of the Petrelli family were among the visitors. We continue to receive many requests for information which we are happy to answer. We were recently contacted by a relative of Della and Art Hobson who were former owners of The Louisville Times, for any information we had about them. The members of the Commission are now beginning to make plans for the winter season when we hope to catch up with the cataloging of artifacts.

We would like to express our wishes for a speedy recovery to Dick Franchini, a member of the commission, who had a knee replacement and to Dave Ferguson, treasurer of our group, who recently underwent surgery.

Open house at the Main Street Marketplace will be held several times before the holidays to encourage people to do their Christmas shopping at home rather than out of town. Three nights have been designated for this purpose--Thursday, November 20; Friday, December 5 (Parade of Lights); and Thursday, December 18.

Work has begun on the making of Christmas ornaments which are made of porcelain and hand crafted by members of the Commission and several volunteers. Marion Junior is in charge of this project and does a great job. The ornament being made for this year is an all white "snow baby" with a painted face.

We are again enclosing a form to be used in renewing your membership in our Historical Society. If you have already done so, please do not send your renewal slip again. We would like to thank you all for your continued support because we would not be able to do our work without it.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Frank Domenico..... 666-6233
- Emajane Enrietto..... 666-4145
- Dave Ferguson..... 666-6000
- Richard Franchini..... 666-6272
- Marion Junior..... 666-8283
- Donald Ross..... 666-6836
- Eileen Schmidt..... 666-6853
- Patricia Seader..... 666-8385
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IN MEMORY OF

Mary Juganos



THE PARADE OF LIGHTS

Louisville's annual Parade of Lights will be held on December 5, 1997. There will be activities going on in every shopping area of the city. Musical groups will be performing in various locations throughout the evening beginning at

Parade
December

5:30 p.m. Santa Claus will be around to visit with the children. There will be transportation, wagons and buses, available to enable people to travel easily from one location to another. The parade which has grown each year will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will proceed north on Main Street. All parade entries are lighted and it is a very beautiful sight. The museum will be open from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. Our ornaments will go on sale and we will be selling a 1998 calendar containing twelve historical photographs which are on file in our museum. We will be serving wassail and cookies. The musical group, Pangea, whose members play antique instruments some of which are handmade, will be performing in the museum. We have changed some of our exhibits so there will be different artifacts to see. The video tape "The History of Louisville" will also be sold -- the price is \$18.00. We would like to invite everyone to visit our buildings and share in the festivities.

AUTUMN

Autumn, the season sandwiched between the hot summer weather and the cold of winter is a wonderful time of the year in Colorado. Not only does fall bring cooler temperatures, especially at night, but the colors of the leaves as they begin to change, preparing for the winter weather, is a beautiful sight. Often Coloradans travel to various sections of the country to view the fall foliage, while many people from those areas visit our mountains for the same purpose. Fall is a time of change, nature changes her colors, people begin returning to a more routine mode of living -- vacation is past. Students return to the classroom and fall sports are in full swing. Whether young people are in grade school or college, the return of football, basketball, soccer, and volleyball and other fall sports begins to capture their interests. Family life becomes a little more hectic with the return of the fall schedule--trying to fit all their activities into their lives keeps everyone busy.

Several holidays are associated with the advent of autumn. The first fall holiday, of course, is Labor Day which marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. It falls on the first Monday of September and was first celebrated by the Knights of Labor in New York City in 1882 and 1884. It is now a legal holiday in both the United States and Canada. The miners always celebrated Labor Day in remembrance of the establishment of the eight-hour work day which the mine unions fought for so vigorously. The Fall Festival is still held in Louisville as it has been since 1932 during the Labor Day weekend.

In 1892 Congress designated Columbus Day, October 12, the anniversary of the day on which Columbus discovered America. In many cities throughout the world, this occasion is celebrated by church services and other festivities. Many of the activities have been curtailed in the past few years in deference to the wishes of the Native Americans.

Armistice Day has been observed in the United States on November 11 to commemorate the agreement between the

allies and Germany to terminate the hostilities of World War I. On May 24, 1954, the day was renamed Veterans Day to honor veterans of all the wars in which the United States fought. The tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, is the scene of a national observance in the United States. Perhaps the most popular holiday of the autumn with young people is the Halloween which falls on October 31 of each year.

The theme of harvest, which runs through the Halloween celebration, comes from the old Druidic celebrations and the Roman festivals which honored the gods and goddesses of their crops. Harvest home was a festival celebrated at the close of harvest in England also. So many superstitions and customs are part of the Halloween activities. Our children dress in costumes and visit friends and relatives asking for "tricks or treats."

Several people have shared some amusing incidents which made Halloween special to them. During a rainy afternoon shortly before Halloween a young woman with a shopping bag was seen leaving a shop without any rain gear or umbrella. She stopped under an awning, took a plastic witches hat and a long black plastic Dracula cape from her bag. She donned her costume and went on her way well protected from the rain.

One young woman remembers a little boy who came to her door without a trick-or-treat bag. When questioned about this he informed the woman that his bag was too heavy for him to carry. She, in turn, noted that he was "Superman." As he looked down at the large "S" on his chest he remarked rather shyly, "No ma'am I'm not, these are just my pajamas."

One young mother who had just moved here from her home in the South had a pronounced "southern accent" when she spoke. One little trick or treater asked her if she just talked like that for Halloween or if she always sounded that way. The mother of a little two year old girl who had several other children, decided to dress the two year old in her older brothers old clothes for a Halloween costume. The little girl accompanied by her brothers and their cousins went knocking on the door of one of their older relatives, the others all rushed by the little girl leaving her to enter last. The older relative, not recognizing the child at all took her by the hand and lead her outdoors saying, "I'm sorry, honey, this is only for family kids." The little one was crushed, but the older children rescued her and she got her treat.

Of course, perhaps, the best loved American holiday, Thanksgiving Day, is a day for giving thanks for a good harvest and other blessings throughout the year. This is truly an "American" holiday and the fourth Thursday of November was designated Thanksgiving Day by a proclamation signed by President Lincoln on October 17, 1863, declaring it a nation legal holiday. It is believed that the first Thanksgiving Day was observed by the Pilgrims in the fall of 1621 when Governor Bradford of Plymouth Colony appointed a day of feasting and giving thanks. The previous winter had been a particularly hard one and the Pilgrims had suffered great

ardships and had lost many of their loved ones. The harvest that year was an abundant one and they were happy to have something to celebrate. The Indians who had helped them know which crops would do well, also helped with the harvest so they were included in that first Thanksgiving feast. Today many families gather at home for Thanksgiving which has become a very special time. It is not as hectic as the Christmas season and the gathering of families is more enjoyable and relaxed.

Autumn is a very beautiful season. The following poem, "When the Frost is on the Punkin" by James Whitcomb Riley, portrays autumn as many of us think of it, a time to prepare for winter.

When the Frost is on the Punkin

When the frost is on the punkin and fodder's in the shock,
And you hear the kyouch and gobble and the struttin' turkey
cock,

And the clackin' of guineys, and the cluckin' of the hens,
And the rooster' shallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence,
O, it's then's the time a feller is a-feelin' at his best,
With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest,
As he leaves the house, bareheaded, and goes out to feed the
stock,

When the frost is on the punkin and fodder's in the shock.

ney's something kind o' harty-like about the atmsfere
When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here--
Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossums on the trees,
And the mumble of the hummin' -birds and buzzin' of the
bees,

But the air's so appetizin'; and the landscape through the
haze

Of a crisp and sunny morning the airy autumn days
Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin to mock--
When the frost is on the punkin and fodder's in the shock.

The husky, rusty russel of the tossels of the corn,
And raspin' of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn,
The stubble in the furries--kind o' lonesome like, but still
A-preachin' sermons to us of the barns they grewed to fill,
The strawstack in the medder, and the reaper in the shed,
The hosses in theyr stalls below--the clover overhead!
O, it sets my hart a-clickin' like the tickin' of a clock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock!

Then your apples all is gethered, and the ones a feller keeps
Is poured around the cellar-floor in red and yeller heaps;
And your cider-makin's over, and wimmern-folks is through
With theyr mince and apple-butter and theyr souse and
sausage too!

on't know how to tell it--but ef sich a thing could be
s the Angels wantin' boardin', and they'd call around on
me--

I'd want to 'commodate 'em--all the whole-indurin' flock-

When frost is on the punkin and fodder's in the shock.

OKTOBERFEST

It had its beginnings in Germany, but now Oktoberfest celebrations are held all across our country, especially in areas where large numbers of Germans have settled.

The first Oktoberfest was held in 1810 in a meadow in the Bavarian Alps where villagers were invited to celebrate the wedding of King Joseph Maximilian. Today Oktoberfest is a festival celebrating traditions of the German culture. Much of the celebration focuses on food and drink.

Celebrations are held all over the United States, but according to the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Oktoberfest Zinzinnati is the largest authentic Oktoberfest drawing a half million people annually. Oktoberfest is a time to gather for friendship and feasting. Most American Oktoberfests include carnival rides, craft sales, and beer tents. There's an abundance of foods such as roasted nuts, fat sausages with delicious sauerkraut, gingerbread cookies, and other sweets, and of course, many different kinds of beer to go with it all. You can't forget the traditional frankfurter that originally came from Germany--the best of these sausages are found at Oktoberfest. German cooks have dozens of ways to prepare potatoes. Two special favorites among Americans are German potato salad and German potato pancakes.

For the past few years, Louisville has had its own Oktoberfest celebration. It has been held on Spruce Street between Main and Front. Each year a few more activities have been added. Tents are set up where you can sit and eat delicious brats and sauerkraut--made and cooked by Ed Deborski and family. There were hay rides for everyone. Kids could have their faces painted and there was a band to provide music for listening and dancing. In spite of the rainy weather this year, there were quite a few people enjoying the festivities. It proves that whether you're in Munich, Denver, or Louisville, Oktoberfest can be great fun.

(Some information for this article was taken from the Denver Post--October 1, 1997.)

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a very special time of thanksgiving and of sharing time with our friends and families. The traditions of Christmas have been handed down through the ages and are as important in these modern times and they have ever been. Each family has their own special customs which are observed during the holiday season, but most people agree that Christmas is a time of sharing special music. The music touches the hearts of every member of the family--whether it is a favorite carol, a novelty song which delights the children, or a more traditional popular favorite which brings a tear to the eyes of the older family members.

One of the most beautiful carols ever written is "Silent Night." On the afternoon of Christmas Eve in 1818, in a tiny village high in the Austrian Alps, Joseph Mohr, the

local Catholic priest, had written several verses appropriate for the Christmas season. Since the pipe organ was no longer working and could not be repaired for the evening services, the church organist, Franz Gruber, wrote a very simple tune to be played on the guitar using the words written by the priest. He came up with a song to be performed by a tenor, a bass, and two guitars. That evening "Silent Night" was heard for the first time. The song made its way to the town of Oberdorf, but neither the composer nor the poet who wrote the words were mentioned. Until the 1850's neither Mohr nor Gruber, still living in their remote village, knew their song had become the most beloved piece of Christmas music that was ever written. Sometime later Mohr and Gruber lay claim to their work and it was translated into English.

The words of the beautiful "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were written by Phillips Brooks, a well known pastor of a Philadelphia church. He wrote the famous verses at Christmas time in 1868. Brooks had visited the holy land three years previously and the memory of the little town where Christ was born was very vivid in his mind. The organist of the church, Lewis Redner, set Brooks' words to music for the church children's choir to sing on Christmas Eve. Soon "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was being sung all over the rest of the world.

Although Martin Luther has often been credited with the writing of the sweet lullaby "Away in a Manger" it is believed that the poem was taken from a children's Sunday school book which was published in Philadelphia in 1885 so the composer's identity remains uncertain. The origin of the music is also uncertain, but many believe James R. Murray composed the tune. The words have been set to other music also—one of the best known is the melody of the old Scottish song "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton."

Felix Mendelssohn composed the lively tune to which we sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in 1840. Fifteen years later in 1855, W. H. Cummings applied Mendelssohn's music to a hymn written by Charles Wesley who with his brother, John, founded the Methodist Church in England. It has been said that the devout, rather solemn Wesley brothers, would probably be a bit upset by the lively music to which their hymn has been set and is now performed in all denominations of churches around the world.

The poem "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," written by Edmund Hamilton Sears, was first published in 1849 in a church magazine. The following year the verses were adapted to a tune composed by Richard Willis. Felix Mendelssohn had studied music with Willis in Europe as a young man and he had admired his work so much that he arranged this carol for performances by an orchestra.

John Francis Wade was an Englishman who moved to a Roman Catholic community in France where he earned his living by copying and selling music and by giving music lessons to children. It is not definitely known whether he wrote the Latin stanzas of "Adeste Fideles" or if they were part of a text which he was called upon to translate. In any

case, he combined the text with a tune probably composed by John Reading and the lovely Christmas carol, "Adeste Fideles" was published around 1751. More than a century later, the English version, "O Come All Ye Faithful" was turned out by Frederick Oakeley, a British clergyman who wanted to present his congregation a hymn so beautiful that they would sing well. Apparently, this is just what happened—people loved the carol and the choir performed exceptionally well.

Perhaps, the most popular carol about the Christmas tree is one from Germany known as "O Tannenbaum" or "O Christmas Tree" (the English translation). Centuries ago a beautiful legend was told about the night Jesus was born when all the trees in the forests all over the world, from Africa where the nights were warm to Iceland where the nights were frosty—bloomed and bore their most delicate fruits. Another legend exists about the Christmas tree that states as Martin Luther was walking through the woods late one Christmas Eve, he noticed how beautifully the starlight shown through the trees. He took home an evergreen in remembrance of that sight and decorated it with lighted candles to simulate the light of the stars. Whatever the true story of the Christmas tree, the custom of decorating trees at Christmas began in Germany. Today the most universal Christmas custom is the decorating of the tree and one of the most popular carols is "O Christmas Tree (O Tannenbaum)."

It is very difficult to believe that when "O Holy Night" was written in France in the 1800's it was denounced by church authorities. One French bishop banned it for its lack of musical taste and total absence of the spirit of religion. Despite this, it has become the most popular of all Christmas songs to be performed as a solo. The English words, used today, were written by an American clergyman named John Sullivan Dwight.

Not only do Christmas carols play an important role in our celebration of the holiday, but many popular Christmas songs have become very special to us at this time of year. Most Christmas songs are filled with warmth, hope and good cheer making our celebration of this occasion very happy and meaningful.

In 1943, the world was at war and thousands of young American men and women in the service were spending Christmas far from home. As a special gift to them and their families, Bing Crosby recorded the lovely ballad "I'll Be Home for Christmas." On December 17, 1975, as astronauts James Lovell and Frank Borman were hurtling back to earth aboard Gemini 7, a NASA transmitter asked them if there was any music they would like to hear. Their immediate reply was Bing Crosby's "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

In 1946, singer, Mel Torme, made the holiday season brighter with the song he wrote about the indoor and outdoor joys of Christmas. "The Christmas Song" tells of chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, carolers, people dressed up like Eskimos as part of the outdoor

an. Inside memories of the smell of turkey roasting, tiny tots with their eyes all aglow, and the promise of Santa's visit down the chimney complete the lyrics of the song. Nat King Cole also recorded a very popular version of this tune in 1956.

Even today, most of us feel a little nostalgic when we hear the beautiful song "White Christmas" sung by any of the performers who have made it so popular in our country. It was first performed by Bing Crosby in the movie "Holiday Inn" which took place in a beautiful New England setting. Crosby's rendition is probably the most popular, but many of us get a little tearful whenever we hear "White Christmas" sung by anyone.

In 1958, when rock 'n' roll was becoming so popular it even affected the Christmas music. John Marks who had written the Christmas favorite "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" wrote "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" as his contribution to the more modern Christmas music being written. The scene portrayed in this song is a Christmas party and the dancing being done is that "new fandangled rock 'n' roll."

There is also a strong country, western appeal in some Christmas music. One of the best known country favorites is "Blue Christmas." It was written in 1948 and country singer, Ernest Tubbs, made it a hit that same year. Elvis Presley had a popular version of the song, but it has remained a country classic.

Christmas folk songs and spirituals are another type of music performed during the holiday season. Folksinger, Harry Belafonte, was the first to popularize "Mary's Little Boy Child" which was written in the calypso style of the West Indies. "Mary's Little Boy Child" is a narrative of the birth of Jesus and is told as a vividly in its rhythm as if you were watching it on a television screen.

"Go Tell It on the Mountain," an authentic spiritual was first popularized in 1879 by the Fisk University Jubilee singers. To the black slaves in the United States, the birth of Jesus who would set all men free was a miracle which should be sung through-out the world. What better place to tell of this miracle than a mountain top, which was the location Jesus had chosen for his "sermon on the mount."

Many songs have been written especially for the children to enjoy at Christmas time. Two such songs recorded by Gene Autry proved to be million record sellers. "Frosty, the Snowman," and "Here Comes Santa Claus" continue to be just as popular today as they were when they were first performed. "Frosty, the Snowman" has been adapted to television with the voice of Burl Ives singing the song. Autry also introduced "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer" at Madison Square Garden in New York City in 1949 and it is one of the most successful songs of all time. Rudolph has inspired television specials and is a favorite every Christmas he joins other reindeer around Santa's sleigh.

Clement Clarke Moore was a very distinguished scholar of the 19th century in the fields of Oriental and Greek literature. He achieved fame not for the research done in his

chosen field, but on the charm of the poem, he wrote for his children at Christmas time when he was 42 years old. The poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" began with the sentence "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Johnny Marks adapted the little poem by Moore to music and the song has become one of the most loved holiday tunes.

Children love singing their favorite yuletide songs many of which have become television programs, video tapes, and movies. Some of the more popular ones "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Up On the House Top," "Babes in Toyland," and "Little Drummer Boy" have been performed for many years. There have been so many Christmas stories set to music that there is something for everyone to enjoy whether it be traditional carols, popular songs, spirituals, folk songs, country, rock 'n' roll or children's ditties. The holiday season is such an enjoyable time and there really isn't any better way to celebrate than through the music which has been passed down to us.

Information about Christmas music was taken from "The Reader's Digest Merry Christmas Songbook," copyright 1981.

SANTA CLAUS'S PERSONALITY

The following description of Santa Claus's personality was taken from an issue of "The Louisville Times," dated December 23, 1973.

"Santa Claus is the world's champion maker of friends and influencer of people. What are his secrets?"

First of all, he is a joyous individual. People are attracted to a joyous individual as steel filings are attracted to a magnet.

Next, he is interested in making others happy. He has a big time painting smiles on the faces of children. He increases the moments of happiness in the lives of everyone he meets.

He loves his work. It is said he hums a merry tune as he builds toys for girls and boys. He gets fun out of his job. He is a dynamo of enthusiasm.

He is childlike. Though he can visit every home in the world in a single night, he is humble about this. He does no boasting. He is simple and sincere.

He has faith. He believes in people. He knows bad little boys don't mean to be bad. He has a kind and forgiving nature.

He is eternally youthful. His hair and his beard are white, but his heart is young. His arteries are flexible. He keeps up with the times.

Finally, he is a giver. His philosophy is to give himself away in service. He is a friend of everyone. He lives an overflow life.

Perhaps we could attain greater happiness if we emulated Santa Claus a little more.

--W.H. Peterson

"The Art of Living Day by Day"

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Carmen DeSantis recalls the year he found out that Dad and Mom were the ones who provided the presents left by Santa Claus. He said he was very disappointed one Christmas morning when as a small boy he got up early and discovered one pair of roller skates to be shared with his two sisters under the tree. Hoping there was some mistake, he hurried to parents' room to wake them. His father told him, sadly, that he and his mom really bought the Christmas presents instead of Santa Claus and that was all they could afford that Christmas. Christmas is never quite the same after a child makes this discovery.

Bob Enrietto recalls that his family never decorated a tree before Christmas Eve. He remembers his mother decorating the tree after he went to bed. The first thing he saw on Christmas morning was the decorated tree.

Betty Marino remembers when the Hub Store was also a redemption center for green stamps. One Christmas a beautiful doll with hair and big eyes was on display on the shelves where the green stamp premiums were shown. She begged her mother to get her the doll, but Mrs. Ross told her that she simply didn't have enough green stamps to get the doll and you couldn't buy it. Betty was so disappointed and felt that Christmas wouldn't be special that year. She was so delighted on Christmas morning when she found the doll under the Christmas tree. Her mother had saved green stamps for a long time to get her that doll.

The next day she went to the Hub Store to show everyone there her new doll.

All the members of the Ross Family gathered at one home on Christmas Eve after midnight mass to share a meal. One of the dishes they remember most was the baccala prepared by the grandmother, Mary Ross.

The small son of one Louisville family had requested a play control panel for an airplane one Christmas, but since he already had a dashboard for a car which was quite similar, his parents thought he wouldn't enjoy another one. They purchased other presents for the little boy, but when he was asked what he wanted from Santa, it was always the airplane control panel. He had seen this toy displayed in Thomas Brothers grocery store where it could be purchased. One the day before Christmas when all he talked about was the fun he would have playing with new control panel, his parents began to realize that he had to have this particular toy. A trip to Thomas's store proved futile because they were completely sold out of that item, but they agreed to call other associated grocers and the warehouse to see if one could be located. Late in the afternoon, one was found in Denver so the dad made a trip to pick it up. He arrived home just in time to take the children to the community Christmas tree. It was decided that all the rushing around was well worth it when they saw the little boy's face light up on Christmas morning as he saw his control panel which Santa had brought. His mom recalls it was his favorite toy for several years.

One family always let their children select their choice of toys for Christmas from the Montgomery Ward catalog each year. Each child could select three toys and when their six year old picked a miniature service station as the only gift he really wanted they were happy to order it for him. From seeing it in the catalog, they believed it would be assembled and ready to set under the Christmas tree. You can imagine how shocked they were when they opened the box late on Christmas Eve and discovered 100 parts that needed to be assembled.

They had a very happy six-year old on Christmas morning, but mom and dad were exhausted from their late-night lesson on how to assemble a service station.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!!!!!!

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