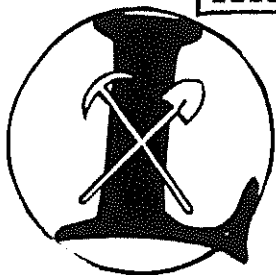


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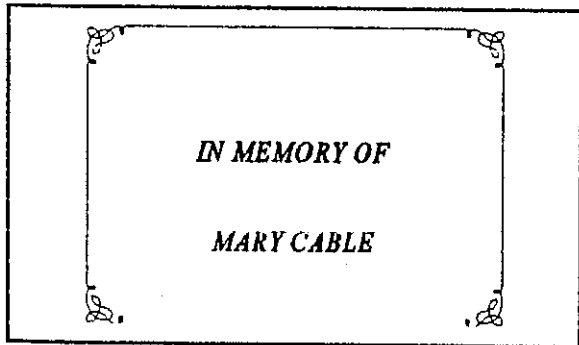
Issue No. 36 November, 1996
 Eileen Schmidt - Editor

THE MUSEUM CORNER

The silent auction and raffle which we held during the Labor Day celebration were successful. Dick and LaJoy Franchini were the winners of the raffle which was an overnight stay at Harvey's Hotel and Casino in Central City plus \$50.00 cash. Many visitors toured our museums on Labor Day and many favorable comments were made. Plans are being made to paint both of the buildings and we have been seeking bids.

Work has begun on our porcelain Christmas ornaments which are icicle angels. Due to "popular demand," we have increased the number being made from 100 to 150 this year. We hope we will be able to provide ornaments to all who want them. Many groups have requested tours through our buildings and we have also presented programs for several organizations in our city.

Open house will be held at our buildings on Friday, December 6, during the Parade of Lights festivities. Wassail and cookies will be served. We are planning to have the musical group, "The Broken Sixpence" provide traditional music played on antique instruments. The Christmas ornaments will also be sold during this time. Please plan to visit our museums and take part in the festivities from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We would like to remind everyone that the video "The History of Louisville" will also be available for purchase that night. Last year many people ordered these tapes to be given as Christmas gifts. This is always a pleasant evening, a good time for meeting new people and visiting with old friends and family.



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HALLOWEEN IN LOUISVILLE

Halloween has always been one of the favorite holidays for the children of our town. Shortly after school starts in the fall, the children begin planning their "Halloween costume" which usually involves quite a little work for the mother of the family. In the early days, some of the costumes were simple, such as a ghost or hobo, but many of them were elaborate creations such as a fairy princess or a storybook character. No matter what the costume, this holiday was eagerly anticipated by the young people. As reported in an issue of "The Louisville Times" dated October 25, 1951, all the schools in the town which included the grade school, St. Louis School, and the junior and senior high schools, planned special activities. The festivities began after lunch for the St. Louis and grade school children when they returned to their respective schools dressed in their costumes ready to take part in the annual Halloween parade and parties. The pupils of both schools would meet at the grade school on Jefferson and Spruce and march down Spruce Street to Main where they would walk a block south, then turn heading north back up Main Street.

Following the parade, the pupils would return to their rooms where a party, sponsored by some of their mothers, was held. During the evening, these young children would often go from house to house asking for a "trick or treat." They were usually accompanied by a parent or an older sibling. This practice of asking for tricks or treats was

not frequently observed in Louisville until after World War II because until that time, most of the families weren't able to provide treats and some were too proud to ask for them fearing that people would think of them as being very poor. Of course, treats were much simpler than they are now, oftentimes they were homemade goodies.

In the early days, the older young people of junior and senior high school age sometimes took part in some very mischievous tricks on Halloween night. In those days, when almost all homes had an "outhouse" (an outdoor toilet) in their yard, the youngsters would turn them over or move them. One older man told of finding his outhouse on his roof the morning after Halloween almost every year, but the ones who had done the mischief usually came to help him get it back in its proper place in his yard. Blocks would be placed under the wheels of a car so that when the owner started the vehicle it would not move. They would watch for someone to go into an outhouse, then they would quickly nail the door shut and leave it that way for a few minutes. Eventually, they would let the person out and no harm was done. Of course, the local policemen were often at their wit's end trying to keep the mischiefmakers under control. Although, some of these tricks wouldn't be tolerated today and the youngsters would soon be arrested, then most people took these antics in their stride and even found humor in the tricks.

Today junior and senior high school students attend parties and participate in much more supervised activities. Several groups in the city provide haunted houses which are decorated and set up shortly before Halloween. The Louisville Recreation Center usually provides some entertainment for Halloween night. These activities make for a much safer and saner Halloween, but many of the old-timers chuckle as they recall some of the tricks played by youngsters many years ago. No matter how Halloween is observed, it is the night for ghosts and goblins to walk and for young people to have fun with their friends and family.

THE MOTHER OF THANKSGIVING

Few people realize that a woman was instrumental in having the last Thursday in November proclaimed a national feast day and a day for giving thanks. Sarah Josepha Hale, known as the Mother of Thanksgiving, was a farsighted woman who lived much before her time. She was the first to advocate women teachers in public schools. The first day nursery school was started by her and she was the first to suggest public playgrounds. She demanded that housekeeping be dignified as a profession and put the term "domestic science" into our language. She founded the first society for the advancement of women's wages, better working conditions for women and the reduction of child labor. She also was the first to stress the necessity of physical training for women.

As early as 1827, Mrs. Hale began advocating a nation-wide observance of Thanksgiving Day. At that time, she wrote that she felt we had too few holidays and that

Thanksgiving, like the fourth of July should be considered a national holiday and should be observed by all the people of the nation.

It was not until 1846 that she began a campaign through her editorial columns in "Godey's Lady's Book" to hold a nationwide celebration to give thanks on a certain date. By 1849, most states and territories were having their own individual festivities, but nothing had been done to establish the holiday nationally. Sarah Hale's goal was not to establish a conglomeration of state holidays, but to have the states join in a great national observance and to this end she began appealing to whoever happened to be President of the country. Of course, this was taking place during the time when women were seen, but not heard outside their homes. Feminine meddling in public affairs was not only frowned upon, it was resented. After several years of contacting presidents with very little success, she carried her appeal directly to the people. In 1859, while the Civil War was brewing, she became more vigorous in her attempts to have a universal Thanksgiving Day proclaimed. In an editorial which appeared in Godey's, she suggested that every state join in celebrating Thanksgiving on November 24 as a renewed pledge of love and loyalty to the constitution of the United States.

As a result of this plea, an almost universal Thanksgiving was kept that year, not by proclamation of the president, but in response to the pleas of Mrs. Hale. Finally, after seventeen years of pressuring several presidents to make an official proclamation declaring the last Thursday of November each year as a day for giving thanks she succeeded in 1863. Abraham Lincoln finally issued the first official national Thanksgiving Day proclamation since George Washington's time. He stated, "And so the last Thursday in November is hereby set apart as a day of thanksgiving and praise." That set the precedent and Lincoln followed it up by setting the same day in November, 1864. Since that time, no president of the United States has deviated from the custom. As for Sarah Josepha Hale, she became known as "the Mother of Thanksgiving." She stood guard over her cherished holiday until her resignation from Godey's Lady's Book in December 1877. Had it not been for her, the precedent might have been put aside by Lincoln during the struggles of the Civil War. By the time she left her editorial post at Godey's at the age of ninety, the custom of Thanksgiving had been finally established. Thanksgiving Day has definitely taken its place in the hearts of all people of our nation for all time to come.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

In every time zone of the world, Christmas is celebrated in some way by some people. The legends, folklore, and ways of celebration differ in many ways. In spite of some slight differences of details there is always giving, feasting, singing, and most important, for at least this one day, peace and goodwill toward men prevail. Traditions

and customs of various lands are very interesting and a brief summary of Christmas around the world follows.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

Many of the world's most cherished traditions of Christmas stem from Germany and the other Teutonic countries. Here in the Black Forest, the evergreen trees were brought into homes and were used as a part of the Christmas pageantry. In very early times, when the Alsace region of Europe was part of Germany, the firs and spruces were decorated with glass and garlands of tinsel. Many holiday treats such as marzipan, lebkucken, springerle, and stollen are of German origin. The colorful Advent calendars with little windows to open for each day of Advent first made their appearance in Germany. At the beginning of Advent, a wreath with four candles is hung in many homes and every Sunday until Christmas Eve a candle is lit.

There are also stories of evil spirits roaming the lands at this holy time of year. On the last Thursday night before Christmas, which was known as "Knocking Night," people in costume went from house to house knocking at doors, rattling cans, cracking whips, and making a great deal of noise to drive the evil spirits away. It was believed, at one time, that even Father Christmas traveled with masked companions who doled out punishments to naughty children. Today in Austria, good Saint Nicholas parades through the streets followed by a band of ruffians, clothed in straw and wearing masks, who pounce on the young people and hug them. New Year's Eve brings the holidays to a happy end with its dancing, parades, and free-flowing wine and beer.

ITALY

In Italy a female Santa Claus, called Lady Befana, distributes the gifts to children on Epiphany while the youngsters roam the streets blowing paper horns. Legend has it that when Christ was born, the shepherds told Befana of his birth, but she delayed in setting out to find him. Every Christmas since, she has wandered aimlessly in search of the Christ Child, leaving gifts at each house in hopes that He might be there. She enters the houses by coming down the chimney.

One of the most beautiful Italian customs is that of the pipers. During Advent, shepherds attired in sheepskin trousers, red vests, and broad-brimmed hats with red tassels and white peacock feathers march into the towns carrying bagpipes, reeds, and other instruments on which they play beautiful music to the Holy Child at each shrine. They are often invited into homes where they sing old folksongs and carols.

The urn of Fate is a very exciting and suspenseful part of the Christmas festivities in Italy. A large ornamental bowl is filled with beautifully wrapped boxes--some of which contain gifts, but many are empty. Each person takes a turn picking a box and many draw several empty boxes before finally getting a gift.

The "Ceppo" was the early Italian Christmas tree. It was made of cardboard with three or four laths, it was shaped like a pyramid, about three feet high, and had three or four shelves. At the top of the "Ceppo" was placed a pinecone or a puppet. Wax candles were lit along the side of the pyramid and on the lowest shelf an Infant Jesus made of wax or plaster lay in a cradle surrounded by shepherds, saints, and angels. The upper shelves held candy, fruit, nuts, and small presents.

FRANCE

Along the broad streets of Paris in early December, shop windows are elaborately decorated with dolls, toys, and animated characters. Almost every home has its creche.

In the rural areas, the children gather laurel, holly, stones, and moss from the woods to be used for decorations. Adults go to the woods also and bring home the yule log. On Christmas Eve, a glass of wine is poured over the log before it is lit, and a late supper to be eaten after midnight mass is often cooked over the blazing log. In cities where fireplaces are not as common, this tradition is kept by eating cakes shaped like logs, covered with chocolate icing which resembles tree bark. Following this event, the children hang up stockings or set out shoes for Father Christmas to fill. The adults exchange gifts on New Year's Day.

In some regions of France, the Christmas Eve procession to church is a very colorful and beautiful custom which is still observed. Young people dressed as shepherds and shepherdesses march through the streets playing beautiful music on various instruments. Their way to the church is lighted by men bearing torches.

On Epiphany, special cakes known as "Kings cakes" are baked to honor the Magi. These are round cakes made with a generous amount of almond paste. Each one contains a coin or some other small favor. The first person who finds a prize in his piece of cake is given a paper crown and becomes king or queen for the day. Everyone must obey the new ruler's orders during the games and dances that follow.

MEXICO

December is the month when the flame-colored leaves of the poinsettia burst into bloom throughout Mexico. Known as the "flower of Holy Night," it is that nation's gift to the rest of the world. It also symbolizes Mexico's blend of festivities and devotion at Christmas time.

In early December the marketplaces are filled with flowers, baskets, toys, and figures of the Holy Family. Booths are stocked with many kinds of foodstuffs and Indians from the Nearby hills make their way into the cities bringing their wares of leather, clay, and wood. Everywhere, hanging in doorways and arches, are the brightly colored "pinatas."

Beginning on December 16, the "posada" (which means inn) is held. This ceremony takes place nightly and is a reenactment of the trials of the Holy Family as they sought

lodging in Bethlehem. For nine days, the children living in each house go from room to room asking for shelter, but each time they are refused. A beautifully decorated altar has been set up in one room and a creche with an empty crib is the center of attraction. On Christmas Eve, the children place a figure of the Christ Child in this crib. Then they walk through the streets breaking the pinatas. Each child is blindfolded and given a long stick which is to be used to break the pinata. When it finally is broken, a shower of peanuts, fruit, and candy comes pouring down to the delight of the children. The important holiday meal is served on Christmas Eve and usually includes fried sweet puffs of dough with brown sugar syrup (bunuelos) and a Mexican bread pudding (capirotada).

The holiday season comes to a close with the Feast of Epiphany which is celebrated in the Mexican churches with beautiful music and thousands of lighted candles, expressing the adoration of the Christ Child and the joy of his birth.



CHRISTMAS LONG AGO

The following memories of Christmas were taken from a journal written by Emma Jane Rhodes, her brother, Henry Schroeder, and two sisters Ida Lenhouts, and Florence

Wickersham. Mrs. Rhodes was born in Pierce County, Nebraska in 1900 and grew up on a farm there. She came to Louisville in 1946 where she taught mathematics at the junior high school level and later she started the library at the Louisville High School. After being part of the Louisville schools for fifteen years, she retired in 1965, but continued to live here until her death in 1987. Mrs. Rhodes was involved in various activities in our town. She was a member of the United Methodist Church where she often played the piano or organ. Some of the organizations to which she belonged were the Saturday Study Club and the Eastern Star. She was the mother of two children Harlan Rhodes and Elizabeth Smith, the wife of Edward Smith, a member of one of Louisville's pioneer families. Many people who attended school here from 1946 - 1965 will remember Mrs. Rhodes. Although, Mrs. Rhodes grew up in Pierce County, Nebraska, her memories of Christmas are very typical of the era (1900 - 1920) and many of you will recall hearing similar stories of long past Christmases from members of your own families wherever they happened to grow up. From the journal entitled, PIONEERING, Pierce County, Nebraska, 1900 - 1920:

"All our Christmas trees were skinny. In those days there were no Christmas tree farms. Trees were cut at Thanksgiving and shipped into Osmond. They were real forest trees. We trimmed them with strings of popcorn, paper chains, cranberries, and bought strings of candy (rows of tiny pillows) in various colors and flavors. We ate them

too. Small pictures of angels and Santas, handfuls of cotton used to represent snow, and real candles in snap-on holders were used as decorations too. As I look back on our trees at home and at church and schools, I think it's really marvelous we didn't burn the buildings down. The trees had been cut for so long, and all the decorations were highly flammable. We never left a tree with the candles burning unattended, and always had a bucket of water nearby. We always thought our Christmas tree was beautiful, of course, since it was sparse, we overdid the decorations--paper chains, strings of popcorn and cranberries, bits of cotton and a few ornaments. But we didn't see any other kind of tree, so we were satisfied. We always had a spruce tree. Dad put it on a stand of two boards crossed with a hole in the middle and guy wires to hold it erect if necessary. The parlor was "off limits" for several days before Christmas. Our stringing popcorn and cranberries was "to help Santa." On Christmas Eve after we had eaten supper, Dad had to go to the barn "to see about something," and Mother cleaned up the supper dishes. Then all at once, the front door would slam good and hard, and that was the signal to fling open the double doors to the parlor and there in the dark room was our tree all alight with candles. Just at that time, Dad came in from the barn to see what St. Nick had left for us. The folks always sent for our presents from Sears and Roebuck. I remember one year we didn't get dolls under the tree because the Sears order was late. But one day soon after Christmas, Dad came into the house carrying two dolls. He said he found them where Santa had evidently dropped them when his sleigh tipped. We were happy to have the dolls and believed him."

Mrs. Rhodes also wrote of the wonderful food those hard-working farm wives prepared for their families. The following excerpt from the journal is a recipe for goose dressing passed on to her by her mother. Mrs. Rhodes writes:

"We usually had roast goose for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Easter. Mother didn't wring their necks; Dad used a hatchet. She always dressed a goose for the mailman and often for the preacher as Christmas gifts. Mother's recipe for goose dressing follows: It will take about 1 1/2 cups (more or less) of prunes (seeded), about 1 1/2 cups or a little more or less of raisins, about 5 apples, try about 1/2 cup sugar, bread crumbs, or broken bread from a small loaf of a dozen slices or more, 2 level teaspoons of an onion, and 1/3 cube butter or oleo. Mix it all up and add hot water, enough to stick together (not too moist). The dressing that is left over, I put in a baking pan about an hour or a little more before the meal, put some goose broth over it and bake. Then mix with the dressing you take out of the goose when you get ready to serve. Roast the goose hard enough so you can smell it all over the house. Keep plenty of moisture in the roaster and the lid on tight so it won't bake hard and crusty. If you want it good and brown, take the lid off the last hour. I hope your goose will be nice and done.

Roast it most of the time with breast down into the broth so the breast is good and done and juicy. I know it will be good. Salt inside and outside, not too much. You can always add more, but you can't take any out."

For some families, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner would not be complete without a piece of mince meat pie. The following recipe for the delicacy was found in the journal:

Recipe for Mince Meat

5 cups cooked beef, ground
 3 cups raisins
 1 cup currants
 5 cups sugar
 3 1/2 cups water
 2 cups vinegar
 Juice and rind of 2 lemons
 19 or 12 cooking apples
 Cook all ingredients together until apples are done.
 Can hot.

HOLIDAY HUMOR

One Thanksgiving Day as the members of Eugene and Virginia Caranci's family sat down to dinner, someone suggested that each one sitting at the table tell something for which they were thankful. After several people gave their thanks, it was time for three year old Joshua to have his turn and after a few seconds he, very seriously said, "The thing I'm most thankful for are 'knock-knock' jokes."

As Nadine Caranci was preparing to make gravy to go with the Thanksgiving turkey, someone commented that it looked like she was using sugar instead of flour, but she assured them that it was a new type of flour that did, indeed, look like sugar. Without further comment, she added it to the pan drippings and proceeded to finish making the gravy. The gravy didn't seem to thicken properly and when she tasted it--sure enough--the flour was really sugar.

Santa Claus visited the Glen Steinbaugh family in the person of Dave (F'erg) Ferguson one year when the grandchildren of the family were quite small. Santa picked up Jason Scarpella and sat him on his lap to chat. After several minutes, Jason went over to his mother and said, "You know, Mom, Santa Claus sure sounds a lot like 'F'erg' when he talks."

The Schenderlein family will never forget the Christmas they bought such a big turkey, they couldn't close the oven door. One young woman who was cooking her first holiday turkey to be served to her husband's family was quite proud of how delicious it looked when it came out of the oven. As they began carving it, they found all the giblets inside a paper bag in the cavity of the turkey. No one had told her you were supposed to take them out before you cooked the turkey.

Shirley Helart remembers receiving a tricycle from Santa Claus on Christmas when she was a very small child. She was delighted that Santa had remembered her with such

a special gift. Later that evening she thanked her mother for her "green" tricycle and her mother answered, without blinking an eye, "Wonder how come it's green--I ordered a blue one."

The Lawrence Enrietto family recalls the year their Christmas tree toppled over. Grandmother, Mary Enrietto, was trying to tell them that the tree was falling, but just couldn't get the words out. By the time she was able to talk, the tree had fallen and decorations were scattered all over the room.

When something kind of funny and out of the ordinary occurs, especially on a holiday, everyone seems to remember that particular day. Almost all families have those special holidays when a small thing happens to make the day unforgettable.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Do you remember?--

The year a local doctor had a Christmas party and one of the guests climbed the town Christmas tree at the intersection of Spruce and Main Streets. He had to be brought down by the local fire department.

Almost all the children of the town gathered at the community Christmas tree to receive a bag of treats provided by the local Lions Club. They were so excited when Santa Claus made his appearance.

You did most of your Christmas shopping right here in Louisville.

The department stores in downtown Denver decorated their windows so beautifully that most families made a special trip to see them and at the same time visited the Civic Center to view all the sights there.

When everyone had a "real" Christmas tree instead of an artificial one.

When the schools were permitted to present Christmas programs with a religious theme.

Making paper chains of red and green to be used to decorate your Christmas tree.

When several groups would go door-to-door singing carols on Christmas Eve.

When children received only one or two gifts and were very grateful for them--even though they were clothes. Whatever they got was just what they had wanted no matter what it was.

The wonderful smells of cookies, pumpkin pies, fruit cakes, and other goodies being baked.

The windows would frost over on the cold winter nights.

When making a calendar for your mother's Christmas gift at school was kept a secret and was often the only gift you were able to give her.

The children were anxious to go to bed on Christmas Eve so they could get up early in the morning.

Eating certain foods at Christmas time that you didn't have at any other time of the year.

No one decorated the outside of their homes--they felt lucky to have a Christmas tree.

When a free movie for the children was shown at the Rex Theater between Christmas and New Year's.

Waking up on Christmas morning, warm and cozy in your bed, with the smell of turkey roasting and filling the whole house.

The New Year's Eve dances at Redmen Hall.

They blew the siren at midnight to announce the arrival of the new year.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

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