

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG NEWS

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Williamsburg, Virginia

December 24, 1969



Families gather for Christmas

Harper's 1890 showed this print of Phoebe Mills telling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Christmas past. This is still a traditional, though up-dated scene in homes during the holiday season today.

A heartwarming experience in the Wig Shop

During the early part of the summer, Colonial Williamsburg's wig-maker Mary Magee flew to Chicago to appear on an early morning show called "Today in Chicago." One evening some weeks after Mary had returned to Williamsburg, a very old lady entered the Wig Shop. Mary was quite concerned about her, because, through the crowd in the shop, she could see the lady had difficulty walking. When the noise died down a bit, the lady asked for the Scotch girl. Mary introduced herself, wondering what prompted the inquiry. The lady said she had seen Mary on the show in Chicago and decided she had to see the shop and Williamsburg. Mary was somewhat taken aback and asked the lady how she had gotten here and how old she was. The lady replied, "I'm 82... and I just went to the Greyhound Bus Station in Chicago and told the driver to take me to Williamsburg... and here I am!"

Tradition of decorating a community Christmas tree began in the early 1900's and is a favorite custom today.

AARFAC invites all children to "Come to the Carousel"

Several CW youngsters accepted the invitation to "Come to the Carousel" as the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection presented its annual Christmas program.

Eight recently acquired carousel figures are displayed on a semi-circular platform and only a little imagination is required to see the figures leaping and bounding as they did when they were first carved in the early part of this century. All eight figures were carved at the Dentzel Company of Philadelphia, after the designs of Salvatore Crenigliaro. A pink pig, a black cat with a fish in its mouth, a coy rabbit, a gentle bear, a goat, a giraffe, an ostrich, and a pony are the animals depicted. The carver's skill lends a touch of whimsy to the life-like figures.

Among the girls' toys is a magnificent, 14-foot doll's house, complete

with furnishings expected to be found in a real grown-up house. Period furniture, handwoven and embroidered rugs, brass candlesticks, even a marble-top table, add charm to this mid-19th-century work of art and love. The doll's house is also a recent acquisition of the Collection and was formerly displayed in the window of F.A.O. Schwarz, the world-famous toy store in New York City. Its origins are not known, but it was probably enjoyed by several generations of the family which owned it, since the furnishings seem to have been added over a period of years.

A doll teaparty is featured in a nearby gallery and portraits of young children are interspersed among the toys.

In the second gallery devoted to boys' toys, toy trains and rocking horses hold the spotlight, and on loan especially for this show is a rocking horse dating from 1854, owned by Mrs. Fenno Heath of Hampton.

The entrance gallery features a 19th-century Christmas tree, festooned with strings of popcorn, the Schaumkonfekt, or spun-sugar, ornaments, and other antique decorations. Two by two, the animals of Noah's Ark parade around the walls of the gallery, and generous baskets of cookies await the visitor. There's also a surprise souvenir of the Christmas show for each who visits this Christmas exhibit.

See pictures, page 2



Shoppers and the small world

Thousands of holiday shoppers in Richmond have been enjoying animated scenes of Williamsburg in the windows of Miller and Rhoads. The displays, built in Germany, depict the bakery, the Apothecary Shop, bringing in the Yule Log, a Governor's Palace ball, the Wig Shop, and a Christmas street scene complete with carolers and the turning windmill.

Enroll in regular classes of the AH&MA

Spring Term Classes Available

*Food & Beverage Controls

*Communications

*Hotel - Motel Accounting

Contact Mr. Edwards

Personnel Office

Before January 5, 1970

Season's Greetings



The
enchancing
world
of
children



Architectural glossary XI

Brick gutters

Large public buildings, such as the Capitol, required for stability foundation walls which were appreciably thicker than the upper or main walls they supported. ENGLISH BOND, being the strongest brick bond, was generally used for these foundation walls. The upper walls, on the other hand, were usually laid in the more decorative FLEMISH BOND which requires fewer face bricks (or bricks on the exterior surface). See GLOSSARY III.

The thicker foundation wall in a public building created a SETBACK greater than that found on lesser brick buildings. The SETBACK is the horizontal distance between the face of the main wall and the face of the foundation wall. The deeper SETBACK, in turn, required a larger watertable than the normal watertable of one beveled brick course. This condition was resolved by the use of a MOULDED BRICK WATERTABLE which is laid with bricks especially

made in curved shapes. Special wood moulds were used to make these bricks. The MOULDED BRICK WATERTABLE turns water away from the top of the foundation wall at the SETBACK. Aesthetically, the MOULDED BRICK WATERTABLE softens the contrast of a large SETBACK and embellishes the structure.

If rain water was to be kept for laundry or other similar purposes, the colonist would use wood gutters. These wood gutters were hewn from a solid timber or made of two boards nailed together in a V-shape. There were not many wood gutters as the collecting of water was a nuisance, and it was desirable to remove rain water from the buildings.

Many buildings, especially those without cellars, had only a drip strip consisting of a single course of bricks laid in the ground and under the drip of the roof. This prevented major ground erosion but water was carried away from the building only by the

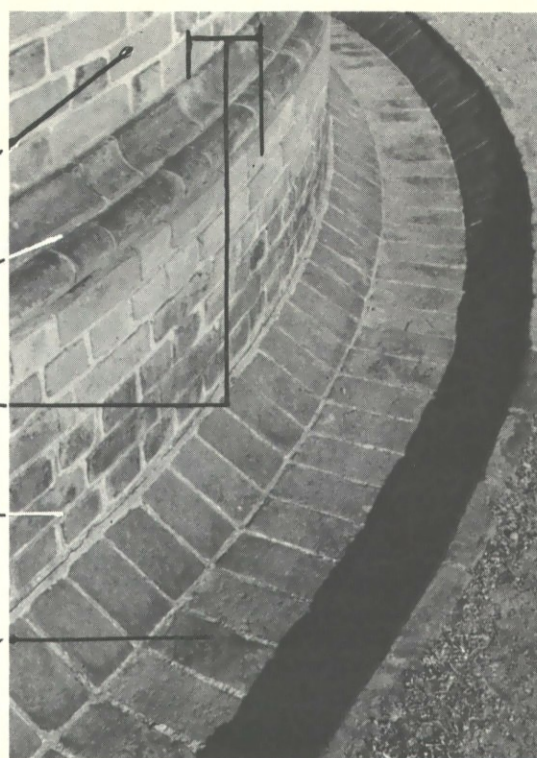
FLEMISH BOND

MOULDED BRICK WATERTABLE

SETBACK

ENGLISH BOND FOUNDATION

BRICK GUTTER OR DRAIN



N. Jane Iseley Photo

slope of the ground.

Better practice was the construction of open brick drains at ground

level under the roof drip. These drains are commonly called BRICK GUTTERS.

Artisans combine talents for sidesaddle

Milady now has a source of riding equipment in Colonial Williamsburg.

Phil Hawk, master saddler and harnessmaker, has expanded his craft to accommodate the equestrienne with the production of his first sidesaddle. It is called a hunting sidesaddle.

The saddle, a copy of one pictured in Paul H. Downing's report, is made of oxhide with a goatskin seat.

CW's woodworking shop modified the design of an original nineteenth-century saddletree to fit the specifications for one of the eighteenth century. Phil then covered the tree.

The sidesaddle is stuffed with hair for milady's comfort, and its underpadding is made of linen, again stuffed

with hair for the comfort of the horse. All of the work done on the saddle is hand-executed.

The history of the sidesaddle is interesting. Catherine deMedici designed it in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, not to revolutionize women's riding, but, according to her biographer, to show off her new clocked stockings.

There are other examples of eighteenth-century saddles on display in the Harness Shop. One, made by Irvin Diehl, is called a Watering Saddle. The forerunner of today's racing saddle, it gets its name from its use. Being quite light in weight, it was a service saddle to "gallop to water." In the eighteenth century, horses had

to be ridden to watering spots. To ensure a thirst, they were galloped to the nearby streams or lakes. The use of the lighter saddle encouraged greater speed and offered more freedom to exercise.

A Hungarian saddle, also being assembled at the Harness Shop, represents the most important design embraced by the saddle industry. Used in varying forms by European armies from the middle fifteenth century, the saddle was believed to have been introduced by Mongolian hordes in the 12th and 13th centuries. Basically, it is a wooden structure with the pommel and cantle of equal heights. It is covered in a furry skin such as

lamb, or in the case of the one under construction, bear. There is a completed Hungarian saddle in the Davidson Shop window.

The Hungarian saddle was used, almost without change, until the 1890's in British service, and into the 1930's in the Russian and Polish forces. It became the official United States Army issue in 1812 after having been used by both sides during the Revolution, and was the "inspiration" for the famous McClellan calvary saddle used in this country from 1858 until 1947. Modern British, French and Canadian soldiers still use a saddle based on the Hungarian saddle's design.



Phil Hawk, CW's master saddler and harnessmaker, adds the finishing touches to his first sidesaddle.

Santa Claus has origins in America

Santa Claus has origins in America. Hear them? They're sleigh bells, and we all know what that means! Santa's here, and with him arrives one of the oldest, happiest, and best loved traditions of the Christmas season.

It just wouldn't be Christmas without Santa, but it is interesting to ponder just where the jolly old elf got his start.

The name Santa Claus, itself, is an American derivation of the name St. Nicholas, an early fourth-century bishop in Asia Minor, according to the Encyclopedia International.

Santa was first brought to this country by the early Dutch settlers who called him Sinterklaas. These Dutch burghers portrayed him as a merry old man. His wife was sometimes called Molly Grietje.

Santa also looked a little different then, and he wore a wide-brimmed black hat, short Dutch breeches, and smoked a long clay pipe.

Later, the British brought their

own Father Christmas to America. He was portrayed as a happy, roly-poly Falstaffian figure.

Inevitably, Sinterklaas and Father Christmas became one. Add to this the Norwegian Kriss Kringle, with his sleigh and reindeer, and the picture is nearly complete.

It was finally the task of American artists and writers to create an image of Santa Claus such as we know today. Washington Irving, among others, contributed to the concept of Santa as a jolly holiday figure, while Clement Moore, in his famous "Visit from St. Nicholas" ("Twas the Night Before Christmas"), added to the concept.

However, the notion of Santa Claus which really captured the imagination of young and old alike was drawn by the American cartoonist Thomas Nast in 1863.

Yes, that's Santa all right, with his fur-trimmed suit, shiny black boots and long white beard, just the way we've always known him, or so it seems.

Yule Basket Campaign termed a success

One hundred and forty-one people in 32 families are having a merrier Christmas this year thanks to many departments of Colonial Williamsburg.

Three weeks prior to Christmas, CW Santas busily gathered clothes, toys and staple foods for needy families with young children, elderly persons and disabled individuals through the Yule Basket Program, an annual project of the Williamsburg Community Council.

The Yule Basket campaign at Colonial Williamsburg was coordinated through the Personnel Relations office which kept in touch with Miss Martha Barksdale, co-chairman of the community-wide project.

On December 22, volunteers from the Community Council delivered the CW baskets along with baskets prepared by other organizations and individuals throughout the Williamsburg area to those in the community who might otherwise have had a cheerless Christmas.



The Personnel Relations Department is supporting a family of six during this year's Yule Basket Campaign.

Personnel at the Lodge Front Desk have gathered an abundant supply of canned goods and gifts for its Yule family.



Recreation schedule announced

MONDAY
3:30-4:30 Introduction to Ballet (6 yrs. and older) Williamsburg Community Center.
7:00-8:00 Beginning Knitting (Adults 18 and over) Rawls Byrd School.
7:00-8:00 Guitar (Youth 10-15 yrs.) Rawls Byrd School.
7:00-8:30* Judo & Jujitsu (Adults 16 and over) James Blair High School.
7:00-8:30 Wrestling (Boys 7 yrs. and over) James Blair High School.
8:00-9:00 Guitar (Adults 16 and over) Rawls Byrd School.

TUESDAY
3:30-4:30 Beginners Ballet (6 and 7 yrs.) Norge Elementary School.
4:30-5:30 Beginners Ballet (8-10 yrs.) Norge Elementary School.
4:30-6:00* Karate (Boys and Girls 9-15 yrs.) Matthew Whaley Gym.
6:30-8:00* Karate (Ladies 13 and over) Matthew Whaley Gym.
7:00-8:00 Slimnastics (Ladies 15 and over) Norge Elementary School.
7:00-8:00 Beginners Bridge (Adults) Rawls Byrd School.
8:00-9:00 Intermediate Bridge (Adults) Rawls Byrd School.
8:00-9:30* Karate (Men 16 and over) Matthew Whaley Gym.

WEDNESDAY
3:30-4:30 Modern Dance (Boys and Girls 5-8 yrs.) Matthew Whaley Gym.
4:30-5:30 Modern Dance (Boys and Girls 9-12 yrs.) Matthew Whaley Gym.
7:00-8:00 Beginners Knitting (Teens 13-17) Norge Elementary School.
7:00-8:00 Beginning Bridge (Teens 15-19) Matthew Whaley.
7:00-8:00 Modern Dance (Boys and Girls 13-17) Matthew Whaley Gym.
7:00-8:30* Judo & Jujitsu (Adults 16 and over) James Blair High School.
7:00-8:30* Art (Adults 15 and over) Berkeley Junior High School.
8:00-9:00 Modern Dance (Adults 18 and over) Matthew Whaley Gym.
8:00-9:00 Beginning Knitting (Adults 18 and over) Norge Elementary School.

THURSDAY
4:00-5:30 Art (Youth 6-14 yrs.) Berkeley Junior High School.
4:30-6:00* Karate (Boys and Girls 9-15 yrs.) Matthew Whaley Gym.
6:30-8:00* Karate (Ladies 13 and over) Matthew Whaley Gym.
7:00-8:00 Slimnastics (Ladies 15 and over) James Blair High School.
7:30-9:30 Folk Dancing (Adults 16 and over) Norge Elementary School (Meets every other week)
8:00-9:30 Karate (Men 16 and over) Matthew Whaley Gym.

In order to cover the instructors' salaries a nominal registration fee of \$10.00 for each 13 week series of classes will be charged.

*Karate and Judo and Jujitsu courses meet twice weekly for 10 weeks, necessitating a \$20.00 registration fee.

Pre-registration required. Call Mr. Hudson, 229-4821.

Green thumb in Apothecary Shop

Often one's job can lead to a rewarding hobby. This was the case with Howard Atkins, the apprentice at the Galt Apothecary.

Through reading dispensatories and pharmacopieas found at the Apothecary, Howard learned of the many uses of orchids in medicine. This interest led to his growing cypripedium, dendrobium and catalpas orchids in his windowsill, and his entering plants in the Tidewater Orchid Society's show held November 8 and 9 in Norfolk.

Howard's exhibit, "Orchids in Daily Living," won first prize in the educational division.

He presented the cypripedium, vanilla and orchis orchids showing their uses from the eighteenth century to the present.

American Indians showed colonists how to use the roots of cypripedium, or "lady slippers," to relieve a headache or nervous disorder. The flower had been known in England, but had been regarded only as a wild flower and was not used in medicine there. Since then, it has been used as an antiperiodic, nervous stimulant, diaphoretic, and tonic in cases of chol-

era, hysteria, epilepsy, nervousness, hypochondriasis, insomnia, and simple headaches. Doctors using herbal treatments for nervous disorders and headaches still prescribe it today.

The unripened seed pod of the vanilla orchid is picked and dried. If it were allowed to go through the natural process, it would break open and produce 30,000 seeds, but by picking it, it acquires the color and flavor of vanilla as we know it. It was used medicinally as a venery and as a diaphoretic "brain tonic." Today, as in the eighteenth century, vanilla from the vanilla orchid is used as flavoring and in perfume. It was once used in snuff and tobacco.

Howard learned that dendrobium orchids were used to promote venery (stimulation) and as a dietary supplement. "Salap," a product from the orchid, was sold on street corners and in local taverns before coffee became popular. One tablespoon in a large container of water was all that was required for one day's ration as a dietary supplement on British ships. Recipes for it are still found in the German Pharmacopiea today.

"20-Plus Club" meets at Conference Center Nov. 26

The fifth annual reception for the "20-Plus Club," whose members have served Colonial Williamsburg twenty or more years, was held November 26 in the Conference Center Auditorium.

Service awards were made to the thirty-five employees who became eligible for 40, 35, 30 and 20 year awards during 1969. Those who achieved 25 years of service this year were also recognized at the meeting.

CW president Carlisle Humelsine,

who presented the awards, noted that with the addition of this year's twenty-two new members to the club, the group represents a combined total of 4,572 years of service to Colonial Williamsburg.

After the presentation, Mr. Humelsine talked briefly on the sale of Kingsmill Plantation to Anheuser-Busch, Inc. and on the new insurance benefits that become effective on January 1, 1970.



40 years

Norman B. Harmon

35 years

Philip Ferguson
Thomas M. Halligan

30 years

Daniel J. Buckner
Grace S. Corr
Mary R. M. Goodwin*
Forrest D. Griffin
Thomas A. Moyles
Irvin Reid
Mary R. Thompson
Alma V. Wallace
Lelia B. Winn
W. Warfield Winn



20 years

John D. Allgood
Elizabeth C. Ashby
Roy L. Belvin*
Paul E. Buchanan
John D. Clothier, Jr.
Isaac F. Cooke
Royce M. Cottingham
Annie Cupid
Carl T. Dotson
William D. Geiger
John P. Hite, Sr.
Joseph F. Jenkins
Cleveland Johnson
August R. Klapper
Ethel B. Lightfoot
John V. O'Neal
Donald H. Parker
Pete H. Panayotis
Florence E. Stephens
Richard W. Talley
Jane R. Williams
Melbon T. White, Sr.

*Not present.



New insurance policy effective Jan. 1

Carlisle H. Humelsine, president of Colonial Williamsburg, announced an increase in the amount of free life insurance available to employees at the annual meeting of the "20-Plus Club" held at the Conference Center November 26.

Under the new plan, becoming effective January 1, 1970, participants in the life insurance program will receive \$2,000 of free coverage with a fee of 60¢ per thousand dollars for all insurance over that amount.

Our present plan provides for insurance coverage (when the employee has elected to participate in the plan) in an amount that approximates an employee's annual salary. The first \$500 of this insurance is provided at no cost to the employee; the cost for the balance is 60¢ per month per thousand dollars of insurance.

The change will increase the amount of free insurance from \$500 to \$2,000. The cost of the balance will remain at the same rate of 60¢ per thousand dollars of insurance coverage.

While this will result in only a small monthly saving on the part of each insured employee, it is further evidence of the organization's continuing effort to improve our employee benefits programs.



Notaras awarded U. S. citizenship

On December 3 the United States gained a new citizen in the person of Adamantia (Mandi) Notaras, Greek-born wife of Anthony Notaras, supervisor in Electronics.

Mandi is employed in the Costume Department where she received assistance in studying for her citizenship.

"I owe a great deal to Mrs. Robbins and the ladies of the Costume

Department. They are the ladies who helped me to learn English and to become an American citizen," says Mandi.

Mandi was sworn in at the Norfolk Post Office Building with a large number of other new citizens.

Shown with her at a surprise welcoming party are her supervisor Hallie Carpenter and Ed Spencer, director of Presentation.

Two employees reach fifteenth anniversary

Two employees are celebrating fifteenth anniversaries of service with the organization this month.

Ernest J. (Hugh) DeSamper, director of the Press Bureau, accrued his fifteenth milestone on December 3.



Not shown but also reaching her fifteenth anniversary will be Leha B. Hundley, maid in Building Maintenance, on December 28.

Hanging mistletoe in the home is a tradition which originated with Druid priests. These ancients believe the plant was a sign of peace and hope.

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MANAGING EDITOR
Laurie Brasfield

Charles B. Parcell

The CW NEWS joins all employees in extending sympathy to the family of Charles B. Parcell, who died Saturday, December 6, at his home in Williamsburg.

Mr. Parcell had been employed since March of 1963. He served as assistant chief of property security in the Division of Visitor Accommodations and Merchandising.

Survivors include his wife, Nannie, his mother, five brothers, and three sisters.

Martin marks quarter century of service

Walter Martin, Jr., chief engineer in the Department of Mechanical Operations and Maintenance, reached his twenty-fifth service milestone with Colonial Williamsburg on December 5.

Walter has worked with the maintenance of all Visitor Accommodations properties since he joined the organization in 1944.



Correction Requested
Drauer C
Williamsburg, Va 23185
Colonial Williamsburg News

Foods flavor celebrations

"Hey, what's for dessert?" At Christmas, the traditional answer to this question in the United States, Canada and England is, "Mince pie and plum pudding."

This is based on legendary beliefs that both bring good luck into the home. The mince pie is said to bring luck when eaten on Christmas Day. In earlier times, it was baked in an oblong shape meant to represent the manger.

With plum pudding, legend takes a twist. The luck comes in the making of the pudding. Every member of the family must stir the pudding while it's being made, if good fortune is desired, so says an old English tradition.

Virginia Lemons marks twentieth service anniversary

On December 26 Virginia Lemons, maid in the Inn housekeeping department, will mark her twentieth service anniversary with Colonial Williamsburg.

Virginia began working for the organization in 1949 as a maid at the Brick House Tavern. Upon returning from a leave of absence in 1952, she was transferred to the Inn as a maid for a short time before assuming duties as a maid at the Lodge. In January of 1963, she again transferred to the Inn to assume her present assignment at the Market Square Tavern.

Virginia and her husband, Lemmie, have two daughters and two sons. She is a native of New Kent County where she is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Home Demonstration Club. In her spare time, Virginia enjoys cooking and sewing.



He began as engineer-fireman, then became plant engineer and, in 1947, was promoted to his present position as chief plant engineer.

During this past fall term, Walter has been teaching an adult AH&MA course on maintenance and engineering.

Walter's wife, Frances, is a former employee. He is a member of the International Maintenance Institute and the Disabled American Veterans.



Jackson celebrates thirty-year milestone as Inn doorman

Charles H. Jackson, doorman at the Inn, will celebrate his thirtieth service anniversary with Colonial Williamsburg on December 28.

Charles first worked for the organization from 1934 to 1936 as a bell hop at the Inn and again worked at the Inn during 1937 and 1938 as a bellman, a houseman and a bus boy. In 1939 he was re-employed at the Inn as a bus boy and in February of 1940 became a bellman there. With the exception of a military leave of four years, Charles has since worked at the Inn either as a bellman or a doorman, and in 1964 assumed continuous duties as a doorman there.

Charles' wife, Tiny, is captain at the Inn dining room. They have a daughter and two sons.

Charles is a member of the Mount Gilead Baptist Church and enjoys such sports as baseball and football.

Lauristine Haskins

The CW NEWS joins all employees in extending sympathy to the family of Lauristine Haskins who died Sunday, November 23, at her home after a short illness.

Mrs. Haskins had been employed as a maid at the Motor House since March of 1969.

Survivors include her mother, Mrs. Rosa Mason, a sister and three brothers.

Did you know?

Did you know that St. Nicholas is the patron saint of pawnbrokers? He also watches over mariners, and, since the fourth century, he has been remembered for his generosity.

Many legends are linked with St. Nicholas, real-life ancestor of today's Santa Claus, but his most enduring connection is with youth and gifts.

