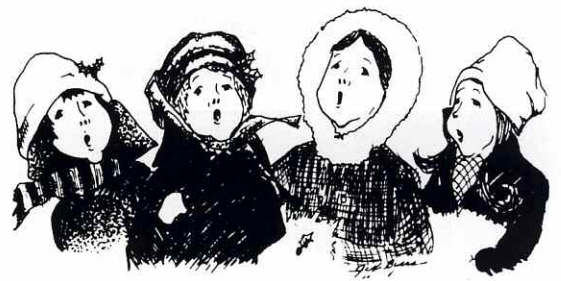


# Byers' Choice® Ltd. Caroler Chronicle



Edition III

December 1995



## A Christmas Wreath of Carolers

With a holly or evergreen wreath, some florist wire and a few of Byers' Choice Caroler® figurines, you can create a decoration to grace your home that is sure to garner compliments from your holiday visitors. We think this very unique Christmas wreath is the perfect touch for the home of any Caroler collector, and best of all, you can say you made it yourself. We hope you decide to get creative with your Carolers this Christmas!

### Inside this issue:

The Christmas star shines in Bethlehem, Pa . . . Byers' Choice Receives Salvation Army award . . . History of the Sandwichboard Man . . . Joyce's Moravian Kids . . . Special Events at Byers' Choice . . . and more.

Come visit the Byers Choice Christmas Gallery and enjoy a variety of Christmas displays, caroling choirs, and ornament workshops every Saturday, starting November 18th with "Santa's Workshop." Win a free Treetop Angel! Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For more information, call 215-822-0150.



## Moravian Kids

About five years ago, Joyce designed the Moravian boy and girl Caroler figurines shown here for a store in Winston-Salem, N.C. This part of North Carolina has a vital Moravian community, similar to the one in Bethlehem, Pa. As symbols of the Moravian tradition, Joyce posed the boy with a red-ruffed Love Feast candle. The girl holds a Moravian star.

A traditional Moravian Christmas decoration that even the children can help with are "Moravian Mint Cones," which make wonderful holiday centerpieces. To make a Moravian Mint Cone, start with a styrofoam cone and lots of flat, round, pastel after-dinner mints. Starting at the base of the cone, hot-glue the mints around the cone, working your way to the top. Small pieces of greenery can be added randomly to fill out the cone. (Please supervise children whenever using hot glue.)

Variations on the Moravian Mint Cone can be made with small ginger snaps, dried fruit and nuts, and things found in nature, like pinecones, seed pods and leaves.



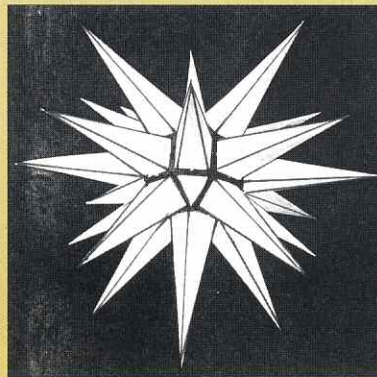
## About the Love Feast

The first Moravian love feasts were held in 1727. Distribution of light food and drink were introduced into simple services of prayer and song as a way to promote and prolong fellowship and worship among the members of the Moravian congregations. The meal the Moravians chose to share was one of slightly sugared buns and mugs of hot coffee. Children's love feast services often feature hot cocoa and cookies.

Another important part of the love feast is the distribution of candles to the congregants. Each burning candle is wrapped with a red band, symbolizing the birth, passion, and wounds of Jesus. Members of the congregation then take their candles home with

them, as a reminder of the essence of the Moravian Christmas.

This unique and sacred Moravian service was called a love feast because it symbolized the *agape*, or highest form of love, between congregants. Just as the Apostles broke bread together to signify their unity and equality, so did the Moravians eat this modest meal together to confirm their own solidarity.



Love feasts are held at various times throughout the year, but have come to be particularly associated with the Christmas season. In addition to the sharing of the meal, love feast services feature hymn singing, choral anthems, and prayer.



## Christmas in Bethlehem: Moravian

A Christmas *putz*, a Herrnhut star, and a simple meal called a “Love Feast.” These three distinctive Christmas customs are part of the long-held traditions of the Moravians, members of one of the oldest Protestant sects in the world. And Bethlehem is the aptly named Pennsylvania city where Moravian traditions continue to be practiced today.

The Moravians were followers of John of Husinec, a Bohemia-born religious leader who defied the Catholic church 100 years before Martin Luther, and was burned at the stake in 1415. More than 300 years later, the numbers of Moravians had dwindled due to war and religious persecution, but a patron in the form of Count Zinzendorf of Germany was to save this group from dying out completely. Offering the Moravians sanctuary on his lands, he became active in their faith and was instrumental in the training of overseas missionaries. An American missionary settlement in Georgia had to be abandoned, but the settlement in Bethlehem, Pa., and nearby Nazareth, flourished.

A Moravian custom imported from Germany is the use of the Herrnhut (or Moravian) star, hung over the pulpit in church and in halls and on porches at home. This 26-point star is made of

## Salvation Army Recognizes Service



Recently Bob and Joyce traveled to New York for the Salvation Army officers training school graduation ceremony where they were named the first two Samuel Logan Brengle Fellows. Bob and Joyce were cited for their service to the Army as volunteers and through their annual giving, for their Christian witness, and for their establishment of a cadet scholarship fund for the school of officer training in the eastern U.S. territory.

The Salvation Army provides a wide range of social and spiritual ministries to people in need. “We have been incredibly impressed by the Salvation Army’s dedication to its work of serving Christ and helping mankind,” says Bob. “It has had a profound impact on the way Joyce and I have chosen to run our business.”

The Order of Samuel Logan Brengle Fellows is named for a man of great leadership and service who dedicated his life to the work of the Salvation Army. During the early 1900s, Brengle rose through the ranks of the Salvation Army to be a spiritual mentor to Salvation Army leaders around the world. It is for this man of

leadership and service that the Order of Samuel Logan Brengle Fellows was established “to honor those who make significant contributions to the enhancement of the training of officers in the U.S.A. Eastern Territory.”

Bob and Joyce are greatly honored to be named Brengle Fellows and extend their thanks to the Byers’ Choice “family” of employees and collectors who help make their service to the Salvation Army possible. A portion of the sales of all Salvation Army Carolers Figurines goes to the work of the Salvation Army.

# Moravian Traditions Herald the Season

parchment-like translucent paper, cut and assembled in a beautifully complex manner. A light bulb illuminates the star from within. The Herrnhut star signifies three things: the “numberless” stars created by God, the star that guided the Wise Men, and the reference to Christ in the New Testament as “the bright and morning star.”

The Nativity scenes, or creches, created by the Moravians in their homes and churches are called *putz*. These pastoral views of scenes surrounding the Biblical story of Jesus’ birth are constructed from natural materials like moss, rocks and logs with carved wooden figures of characters and animals. Above all, at least one thing must be “hidden” within the *putz* (often it’s a mountain lion or wolf), creating an incentive for viewers of the scene to linger and reflect on the meaning of the season.

Today several churches in Bethlehem offer visitors a chance to view some very special and elaborate Christmas *putz*. Also to be enjoyed in Bethlehem during the Christmas season is the Night Light Tour, a nocturnal glimpse of the candle-lit Moravian quarter. The city’s Christkindlmarkt is a yuletide food and craft fair held in the centuries-old German tradition. The Bethlehem Christmas Pageant features local townspeople in full costume along with live animals and taped narration; various musical events, from organ concerts to candlelight choral performances, round out the season in this historic Moravian city.

Bethlehem, Pa., lies less than one hour north of the Byers’ Choice Christmas Gallery. For more information on visiting Bethlehem, contact the Bethlehem Christmas Tour and Information Center at 610-868-1513.





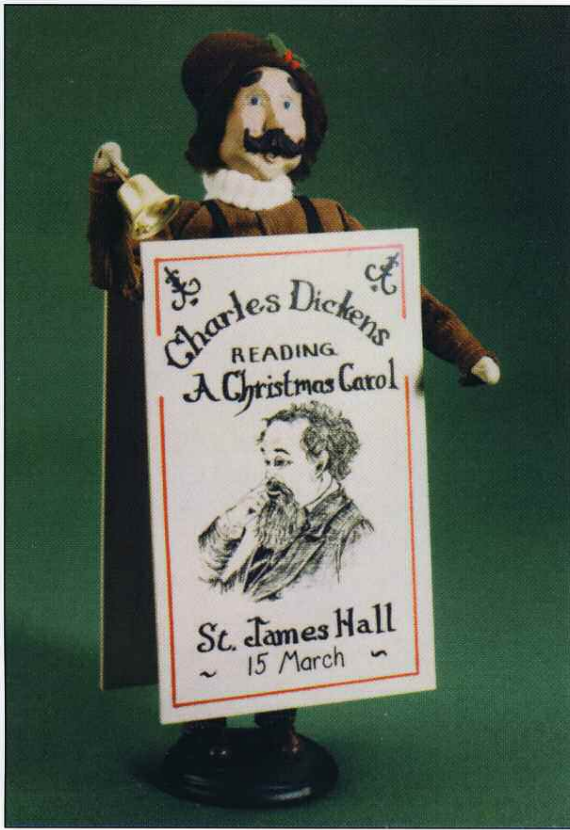
## Special Events at Byers' Choice

This fall Byers' Choice was visited by Ben Franklin and a few of his colonial friends. The special occasion was a chance for visitors to the Christmas Gallery to sign the Constitution, in commemoration of its first signing. Everyone had a great time visiting with Ben and having their photos taken with him.

Beginning Saturday, November 18, and continuing every Saturday until Christmas, we invite all of our collectors and friends to stop by the Gallery for a host of special events. A visit from Santa on November 18 kicks off the season, then each Saturday thereafter, come and enjoy seasonal refreshments, greet real-life Caroler characters like Befana, and participate in lots of Christmas handcraft projects for young and old alike. And at the end of each Saturday we will have a drawing for a free Treetop Angel.

Also starting November 18 and continuing until Christmas, a number of Byers' Choice retailers will be arranging unique and original Caroler displays in the Christmas Gallery. You will also get a chance to view a collection of antique santas. And to celebrate the season of giving, do look for the "Giving Tree." Visitors may bring new, unwrapped gifts to be placed under the Giving Tree, with all gifts going to a local children's charity.

For more information on the Byers' Choice Christmas Gallery and Gift Emporium, please call 215-822-0150. Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed Sundays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The Gallery will be open the Friday after Thanksgiving and the week before and after New Year's. The Gallery will be closed the rest of January and February for exhibit renovation.



# The Sandwichboard Man

The London of Charles Dickens' time was a colorful place indeed, and the Sandwichboard Man certainly must have added to the local color during the 1800's. It was Dickens' inventive imagery that gave us an appropriate name for these walking street advertisements: he likened these curious fellows to "a piece of human flesh between two slices of paste board," hence the designation "Sandwichboard Man."

Like the Sandwichboard Men of old, our Sandwichboard Man carries placards hanging fore and aft, somewhat reminiscent of a Roman standard-bearer. Inscriptions on the placards ranged from local election results to advertisements for shopkeepers' wares to announcements of coming entertainment and exhibits.

The second Byers' Choice Sandwichboard Man bears placards advertising a reading of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. This event took place on March 15, 1870 in St. James Hall, London, and was the last time Dickens read his now famous work in public.

Byers' Choice® Ltd.

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