



Caroler Chronicle



Edition III

Fall 1996

First Victorian Shoppers Feature "Crabtree & Evelyn"

In a unique collaboration with Crabtree & Evelyn – shops best known for a distinctive line of toiletries and fragrances – Joyce has created the first pair of Victorian shoppers. These specialty Carolers® figurines carry gifts that they purchased while shopping at Crabtree & Evelyn. The man carries a stack of wrapped and beribboned packages and a shopping bag, while the woman's white basket holds miniatures of some actual Crabtree & Evelyn products.

Crabtree & Evelyn began as a purveyor of soaps from around the world. With the help of traditional soap-makers in England, France and Switzerland, the firm revised old formulae and created dazzling packages based on Victorian designs to showcase their upscale toiletries. In addition to soaps, bath gels, lotions and colognes, Crabtree & Evelyn also carries a line of "Comestibles," fine foods like biscuits, teas and preserves. And to help shoppers create personalized gifts, an array of tins, baskets and food hampers are available.

According to Jon Turcotte, Vice President of Marketing at Crabtree & Evelyn, his firm's Christmas theme of "giving" ties in well with the spirit and meaning of the Carolers. He also feels that both Byers' Choice and Crabtree & Evelyn represent high levels of quality with special attention to presentation. In addition, the Victorian flair of the Carolers complements the style of Crabtree & Evelyn's shops and product lines.

As of November 1, this special pair of Victorian shoppers will be available through Crabtree & Evelyn stores. You can also find this very unique couple at your favorite Caroler dealer.



Pumpkin Lore

Did you know that pumpkin growers are closing in on the 1000-pound pumpkin? Or that the Native Americans of the eastern U.S. considered pumpkin nearly as important a food as corn and beans? Or that 18th-century New Englanders used pumpkin shells as hair-cutting guides?

You might also be interested to know that each October Byers' Choice employees carve, paint and decorate a whole truckload of pumpkins as part of our annual Halloween festivities, as well as transform this venerable orange squash into an endless variety of scrumptious cakes, cookies and bars, pies, puddings and breads.



While Morton, Illinois, may be the pumpkin capital of the world, we think the award for most creative pumpkin festival has to go to Lewes, Delaware, for its annual "Punkin' Chunkin'" contest. The event, which takes place the Saturday after Halloween, is an absurd but fun way to "recycle" all those leftover pumpkins: the contest centers around who can create a contraption that can hurl a pumpkin the farthest. What began in a local cantaloupe field now has to be held

at a local airfield, such as the ability of the punkin' chunkers grown. Contact the Lewes Chamber of Commerce, 302-645-8073, about this one...and watch out for flying pumpkins!

A Festive Thanksgiving for Neighbors in Need

Each year a group of generous and community-minded Byers' Choice employees gather to assemble all of the trimmings for a true Thanksgiving feast for about 200 neighbors in need. Pat Robertson, who is coordinating this year's efforts, says that, "We are all very fortunate to work here and it's great to be able to give back in this way."

This effort of neighbor helping neighbor harks back to the very first Thanksgiving, a harvest festival that probably took place in October 1621, when the Pilgrims and Native Americans came together to celebrate their survival and honor their friendship. One inhabitant of Plymouth Colony, Edward Winslow, left us the most detailed account of the first Thanksgiving, writing: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors." Some 90 Native Americans joined the Pilgrims that first Thanksgiving, which included three days of feasts and entertainment. Winslow continues, "We have found the Indians very faithful in their covenant of peace with us, very loving and ready to pleasure us. We often go to them and they come to us."



Retired Figurines



ACTRESS 1996



TREETOP ANGEL 1994-1996



WORKING SANTA 1992-1996



CONSTABLE 1994-1996



GINGERBREAD VENDOR 1996



SANDWICH BOARD MAN 1994-1996



LAMPLIGHTER 1993-1996



LOUISE PLAYING PIANO 1995-1996

1996

Italian Nativity Scene is Movingly Beautiful



A newly made Italian presepio

himself. The international collection of nativities that they assembled over the years consists of sets from more than 40 nations.

Mr. Martin notes that when Bob and Joyce put these nativities on public display, "the response should be overwhelming. People just stand in front of the presepio and cry, it is that moving. We just think it's glorious that our nativity collection has the potential of being shown somewhere under one roof."

Bob and Joyce have acquired a 17th-century Italian nativity scene, with plans to make it available for viewing by the public. This presepio, as it is known, was handcrafted in the Naples region of Italy more than 350 years ago, and Byers' Choice has been told that there are only about ten such nativities in the United States. One of these presepios is displayed each Christmas at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City as the "Angel Tree."

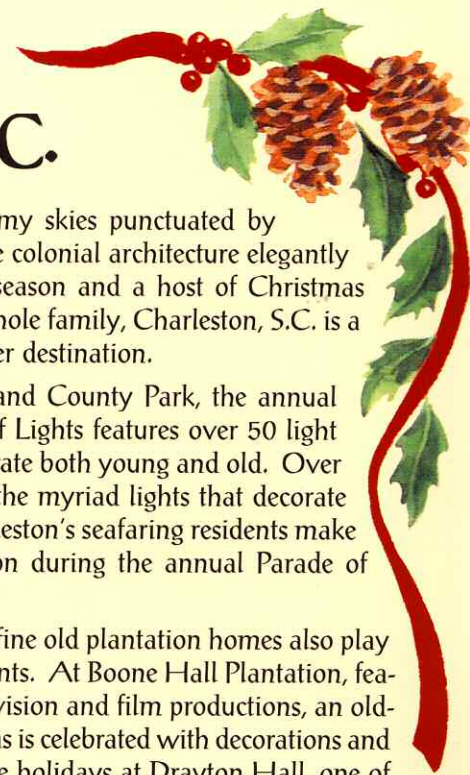
Consisting of 222 separate pieces – including 59 human figures and 26 animals – the set was handcrafted by Italian artisans for aristocratic families of their day who often competed to create the most elaborate scenes. The dressed figures have terra cotta heads with glass eyes and carved wooden arms and legs. One man even has an old Italian newspaper as the lining to his jacket.

Bob and Joyce's presepio was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Martin of New York state. Not only did this lovely couple own this one fabulous nativity, they also collected 175 others from all over the world which have now also become part of the Byers' Choice collection.

The Martins first began collecting nativities in 1968 and for many years helped to organize an event called "The Art of the Nativity" at their church which showcased hundreds of nativities and drew thousands of people to view them. Mr. Martin, a designer by profession, also created many nativities



Home for the Holidays in Charleston, S.C.



With its balmy skies punctuated by graceful palms, fine colonial architecture elegantly decorated for the season and a host of Christmas activities for the whole family, Charleston, S.C. is a delightful December destination.

At James Island County Park, the annual Holiday Festival of Lights features over 50 light displays that captivate both young and old. Over at the waterfront, the myriad lights that decorate the vessels of Charleston's seafaring residents make a dazzling reflection during the annual Parade of Boats.

Charleston's fine old plantation homes also play host to holiday events. At Boone Hall Plantation, featured in many television and film productions, an old-fashioned Christmas is celebrated with decorations and

refreshments following the house tours. Spiritual concerts and a craft festival highlight the holidays at Drayton Hall, one of the South's best representations of pre-Revolutionary Georgian architecture.

Even in December, plants are in bloom at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, America's oldest gardens (circa 1680) as well as at Middleton Place, a National Historic Landmark that encompasses America's oldest landscaped gardens, an elegant mid-18th century house and interesting working stables.

For more information on this delightful destination, contact the Charleston Visitors Bureau at 800-868-8118.

Merry Christmas Game

Match the Christmas greeting with the corresponding country. Answers on back page.

- (1) BOZE NARODZENIE
- (2) *Buone Feste Natalizie*
- (3) Chestita Koleda
- (4) *Feliz Navidad*
- (5) **Froehliche Weihnachten**
- (6) God Jul
- (7) Joyeux Noel
- (8) **Linksmu Kaledu**
- (9) **Nodlaig mhaith chugnat**
- (10) Nadolig Llawen
- (11) **Vesele Vanoce**



- Bohemian**
- Bulgarian**
- French**
- German**
- Irish**
- Italian**
- Lithuanian**
- Polish**
- Spanish**
- Swedish**
- Welsh**



Answers to Merry Christmas Game (see previous page):

(1) Polish • (2) Italian • (3) Bulgarian • (4) Spanish • (5) German • (6) Swedish • (7) French • (8) Lithuanian • (9) Irish • (10) Welsh • (11) Bohemian

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