



# Caroler Chronicle



Edition I



Winter 2000



## *The Streets are Alive with Character*

The above scene is reminiscent of the bustle of city streets at Christmas time. The woman with two large baskets filled with poinsettias looks as if she is thankful to find a bench on which to relax and listen to the music of the barrel organ. The Organ Grinder and his monkey provide not only music, but also entertainment to the passing crowd. Children hold coins for the monkey's cup.

The Cry this year is a Woman Selling China. One time, while Bob and Joyce were visiting Petticoat Lane, an open air market in London, they were startled by what sounded like someone dropping a stack of dishes. In fact, a vendor had filled a laundry basket with china and perfected a trick of tossing them into the air just enough to make a racket, but not enough to break a single plate.



## Heading out for Winter Fun

As large snowflakes fall, who could resist trying to catch one on their tongue? Certainly not the Boy on the Toboggan who is laughing as he speeds down the hill, or the Girl Toasting Marshmallows who relishes the cool relief from her warm, sticky treat. Mom and Dad are ready with snowshoes to track down the children, if amid their fun the kids forget that Jack Frost is nipping at their noses.

## Stockings were hung by the chimney with care . .

This tradition probably has its roots with St. Nicholas, who is believed to have dropped gold coins into the stocking of a sleeping girl so that she would have a dowry. For centuries children around the world have been hanging their stockings on mantles, bedposts, or ropes tied between chairs in the hope of waking Christmas morning to find them bulging with treats and gifts. Byers' Choice toddlers, cats and dogs will also take part in this tradition this year.

These stocking children follow our pickle kids as the second installment in our Christmas Traditions series.



## Children at Play

The new children with toys have awoken Christmas morning to find their wishes fulfilled. Our young man, has just found a Teddy Bear, named after Teddy Roosevelt, who as a Rough Rider and adventurer gained a reputation as a lively character. During his presidency they were very popular gifts, particularly for boys. His sister has received the ornate sled that she hoped for, so now she can take her favorite doll for a sleigh ride across the frozen pond.



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## Santa Gets Help to Complete Christmas Toys

Santa is not always in his red suit with his sleigh delivering presents to all of the children. Most of his year is spent in the workshop preparing for that one magnificent day. Santa also relies on his most dependable elves, the Kindles, to put the magic into each gift and the sparkle on each ornament. This year, Byers' Choice is offering a new Santa at a workbench with several of his most experienced helpers finishing off some last minute Christmas toys.



## Santa in Sleigh Returns with Christmas Cheer

In 1998, four hundred "Santa in Gold Sleigh" figures were created to celebrate the Byers' Choice 20th Anniversary. Twenty stores, chosen by lot, each received twenty pieces. They disappeared from the store shelves very quickly. There have been many requests for a similar Santa to be made available to all. The 2000 version has Santa in a shaggy white robe, holding a sprig of holly, and sitting in a golden sleigh pulled by a reindeer.



## The Artist with Easel

The Artist and the Man with a Crab Trap represent two of the Byers family's favorite pastimes, collecting Bucks County impressionist art and catching crabs along the rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. The backdrop for the picture of the artist is a painting by Fern Coppedge. It is one of the paintings you can see at a behind-the-scenes tour of Byers' Choice in Chalfont, PA. Our Artist is dressed in a smock and large hat to shade her eyes from the sun. She brings along her easel and a partially-completed painting.



## The Crab Man

The three nautical figures introduced last year were more popular than we anticipated. With their popularity arose an undercurrent that strongly suggested another nautical piece. A Crab Man was the natural choice. Actually, the Byers' are much better at eating crabs than they are at catching them! Below is Joyce's favorite recipe for crab cakes:

### Chesapeake Bay Crab Cakes

- 1 egg
- 2 full tablespoons of mayonnaise
- 1 full teaspoon of yellow mustard
- 1 tablespoon of cream
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 3 crumbled salteens\
- 1 teaspoon of fresh chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pound of fresh crabmeat

Mix together all ingredients adding the crab last. Form into four patties. Fry in cooking oil until golden.



## Colonial Serving Woman and Innkeeper

A weary traveler would meet the Innkeeper or the Serving Woman at one of the many taverns along the way. With a lantern and a ring of heavy keys, the Innkeeper is about to show a guest his quarters for the night. The Serving Woman is busy seeing that the guests have plenty to eat and drink as they discuss the colony's independence from Great Britain.

## New Colonial Family

The new Colonial Family will transport us back 200 years for an evening stroll along the Duke of Gloucester Street. The mother has a basket on one arm with which she will carry home purchases made in various shops. Father is enjoying smoking Virginia tobacco in his new clay pipe. Our young lad is hoping for a wind brisk enough to enable him to fly his kite, and his sister carries a candlestick to light the way.



*A few of our old friends in the Byers' Choice line have donned new clothes for the Christmas season. See if you can still recognize them!*

# Return of the Fezziwigs'



"Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, . . . and called out . . . 'No more work to-night. Christmas Eve!' And thus, Ebenezer Scrooge's former employer introduces Scrooge to the fun and merriment of Christmas in Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol." The workshop is cleared and a wild ball commences. For years, Byers' Choice has received requests to return the fun-loving Mr. & Mrs. Fezziwig to our line. Could this foretell the return of other Christmas traditions from the past?"

## Byers' Choice® Ltd.

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