

Hessians introduced Christmas tree

The holidays mean various things to people. When you question friends, regardless of religious affiliation, it generally boils down to: concern for others, compassion, sharing, and minds focused upon the goals of good, daily living.

Many interpretations are given for the development of the first Christmas tree.

Martin Luther, in 1500 A.D., is said to have decorated the first tree with candles and placed a creche and figures of Joseph, Mary and the child, Jesus, under it.

Probably Hessian soldiers serving in America during the Revolution brought the tradition of the Christmas tree with

them. In 1832, we see a record of the first municipal tree in Cambridge, Mass., trimmed with dolls, ornaments and a seven dozen tapers. In 1856, the first Christmas tree was in the White House during the presidency of Franklin Pierce. Years earlier, in 200 B.C., the Druids had festive trees.

In Birmingham, we should be proud of the many lighted trees, thanks to merchants and the city. In order for the trees to be lighted, the merchants pay for the electricity used, and they have to have an outlet for outdoor lighting.

The city buys new bulbs each year and installs the strings of lights on the trees. Only a few merchants have opted not to enter the plan. Be sure and con-

gratulate the cooperating merchants for sharing the beauty of the holidays.

A BEAUTIFUL setting has been given us, a memory you can't forget if you have strolled at night up and down the many tree-lighted avenues. In fact, you would be a winner if you took a walking tour. Think of all that exercise, plus the beauty bonus.

The lights are on all day and night during the Christmas season. I have taken the tour in years past when the snow was gently falling. Maybe this

suggestion will create a tradition in your household.

Here are some holiday decor ideas you can use, if you wish.

Take two or three glass goblets, turn them upside down and place white small sculptures.

On the upturned base, place a white candle which has been attached to the base by floral paddy. To cover up the mechanics of stabilizing the candle, add some artificial greens. A grouping of these candles is beautiful on a hospitality table.

Artist shows her portraits

Portrait artist Linda Walther Smith is exhibiting her pastel portraits in the Troy Public Library until Dec. 31.

Mrs. Smith has done more than 600 finished water color illustrations of children's stories and has illustrated two published books, "The Mountain King" by Randy Newton and "Murphy the Christmas Dog" by John Seiken.

The Troy Public Library is at 510 W. Big Beaver.

Featured soloists will be two DSO first-chair players, bassoonist Robert Williams and flutist Elvin Monroe.

Tickets for the chamber concert will cost \$7, \$8.50 and \$10.50. They may be purchased at the Ford Auditorium Box Office.

Negri to debut with symphony

Maestro Vittorio Negri will make his Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) conducting debut in a concert at 8:30 p.m. Friday at Ford Auditorium.



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