

Columbus Candle Light Homes Tour Scheduled December 6

The sounds and smells of Christmas will mingle with ladies dressed in Victorian costumes on Saturday evening, Dec. 6 from 6-9 at the Tate-Senftenberg-Brandon House, 616 Walnut St., in Columbus as Columbus Garden Club ladies invite and welcome visitors to experience the celebration of a 1900's Christmas.

Continuing a tradition of over thirty years the Columbus Garden Club will decorate this beautiful historical home from top to bottom and this year club members have added costumed make-believe characters busy at Christmas tasks and celebrating the yuletide season. This is all part of the Candlelight Christmas Homes Tour sponsored by Columbus Historical Preservation Trust.

As visitors enter the home, which has been trimmed in all kinds of Christmas greenery, they will be greeted by a docent with a cordial welcome and introduction and then be shown to the front parlor where Brandon family guests (Sharon Kuhn and Pawne Blomquist) play a game of cribbage while enjoying the beautifully decorated tree with its candles and Victorian ornaments. Under the tree is a winter scene of a Victorian village that garden club members constructed and painted last year and have added new touches to this year. As guests move to the back parlor, where Brandon family members would have gathered, a family member (JoAnn Cook) is busy with a quilting project.

The next stop is in the back hall where the children's Christmas tree has been decorated by local third graders from Anthony's Elementary and St. Anthony's. The children will be treated to a tour of the home on Monday, Dec. 8 at which time they will excitedly search for the ornament that each of them has made for the tree and happily look forward to seeing and visiting with Santa Claus.

The tantalizing smells coming from the kitchen are from apples being peeled by a kitchen helper (Ann Wegenhoft) getting ready for apple pies for Christmas dinner while the turkey is in the oven and a plum pudding is looking luscious on the table. The delightful sounds coming from the adjacent dining room are guests (Ecumenical Angels - Sue Evans, Arlene Johnsey, Mary Lynn Skinner, and Nelma Strey) singing yuletide songs around the dining room table. Visitors will want to linger here a bit to take in the sounds of a Victorian Christmas before moving upstairs to the private quarters of the Brandon family.

Upstairs in the Children's bedroom, a family member (Sharon Heimann) is reading stories to the Brandon children that have been tucked in their bed. The fixings of a children's Christmas tea has been set up beside the bed. In the next room a pomander has again been placed in honor of Alice McCord who was Ida Belle Brandon's mother. A Christmas guest (Carolyn Hastedt) is relaxing as she does some Scherenschnitte, a paper-cutting craft of the time. In the room across the hall is another Christmas guest (Dell Szymkowski) embroidering a special Christmas gift. And in the Brandon's bedroom is a family member (Nell Shannon) making dolls out of muslin for gifts for some very lucky little girls.

After the tour, garden club members will invite their visitors to have a cup of hot wassail and homemade poppy seed cookies before moving on to visit the other homes on the Candlelight Homes Tour which are:

1856 Tait Town House - 526 Wallace

This lovely antebellum home has been refurbished and redecorated many times over more than 151 years. The home is presently owned by Rita Louisa Tait Jackson, who, with other members of the family, will welcome visitors on tour. Jackson is the great granddaughter of Dr. Charles W. Tait and Louisa Williams Tait.

The parlor contains two fireplaces with identical mantels with a large Christmas tree dividing the room into two areas. Over one mantel, visitors will find a portrait of Dr. Tait, who moved to Texas from Alabama in the 1840's and over the other is a portrait of his wife, Louisa.

In this large living area, Jackson says, "Eight years ago we decorated the Christmas tree with shed deer horns and deer ornaments and this year we will continue that tradition." Her 1947 dollhouse will be in the hallway and her lovely collection of dolls lining the stairway will fascinate visitors as they enter the home.

Male visitors to the home will especially enjoy Dr. John H. Huffmeyer's trophy room in which 25 European mounted horns harvested in south and west Texas are displayed along with a Colorado County magnificent shoulder mount with horns in velvet.

Of special interest to visitors this year will be the extensive restorative work in an upstairs bedroom where the original gray painted floor can be seen and on a mantel in that same room is an area that shows three stages

of color treatments through the years. In a bathroom the original painted ivory floor has also been revealed.

Featured in the kitchen will be the Christmas cookie recipes of Matilda (Beadie) Tait and her sister, Hattie Sronce, Jackson's grandmother and great aunt. There will also be cookie making.

This home was built immediately preceding the Civil War and has cottonwood siding and hand-molded bricks in the four chimneys and basement. There are eight fireplaces that provided heat for the home.

The Maigne-Walther-Churchill Home, 904 Live Oak

This Greek Revival cottage with parapeted balustrade was built in 1869 of cypress with pine floors and interior walls for Charles Maigne. The foundation and fireplaces are made of handmade bricks, and square nails were used throughout the construction.

This beautifully restored home, furnished with many antiques, has a themed Christmas tree in every room, and this year includes a German tree with lighted candles.

Jo and Don Churchill will be hosts.

The Goodman-Theriot Home, 737 Houston

This home was built by A. W. Willrodt in 1933 with instructions to "make, erect, build and finish in a good substantial and workmanlike manner within fifty working days from the date hereof, the dwelling-house and improvements on the ...property (using) all good and substantial material from the dwelling-house now on {the} premises...{for} the sum of \$1,392.00." This explains why one side of the house has different windows than the other side of the house.

In 1961 the exterior of the house was 'enhanced with faux-stone siding' for a sum of \$2,320.67. In the ensuing years several families have made this their home, and at one point it was used as "Cousin's Corner", an antique resale shop. In 2000, Shane Theriot, son of the owner, had central air and heat installed and all hardwood floors refinished. In 2006 the present owners, Shane Theriot and Donovan Goodman, completed exterior aesthetic enhancements to the home such as porch upgrade, painting, street light installation, landscaping, etc.

The home decorations for Christmas will range from tra-

ditional reds and whites to a contemporary mixture of blues and whites. Decorations will be courtesy of Madeline Williamson, grandmother; Sharon McIntyre,

mother; as well as Mr. Theriot and Mr. Goodman.

Start the holiday season off with touring all of these Columbus homes during the Candlelight

Christmas Homes Tour on Saturday evening Dec. 6 from 6-9. Tickets will be sold at each home for \$3/adult, \$1/per child over six years old.

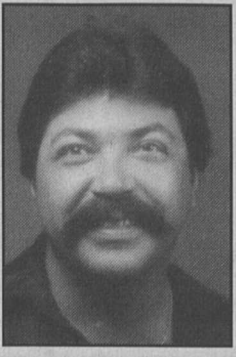
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Oct. 27, 1951 - Nov. 10, 1998

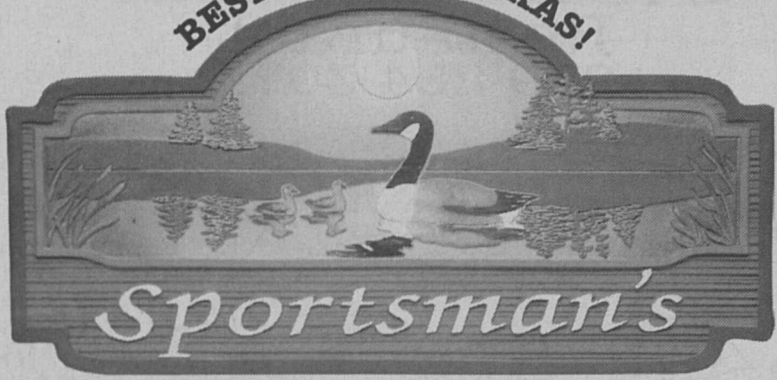
Dad, it's been 10 years since you've been gone, sometimes it seems we hear our voice and see your smile.

We know that we will see you again in heaven in just a little while.

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Love,
Your children,
Gilbert and Priscilla

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Ecumenical Angels (from top) Nelma Strey, Mary Lynn Skinner, Arlene Johnsey, Robyn Adams and Sue Evans will be singing yuletide carols at the Tate-Senftenberg-Brandon House during the Candlelight Christmas Homes Tour.

school lunch menu

Rice Schools Nov. 24-Nov. 28

Breakfast

Mon.-Scrambled Egg Toast or Cereal, Juice Milk

Tue.-Cinnamon Roll, Sausage patty or Cereal Juice Milk

Wed.-Thanksgiving holiday

Thu.-Thanksgiving holiday

Fri.-Thanksgiving holiday

Lunch

Mon.-Hot Pocket, Green Beans, Squash, Fresh Fruit, Milk

HS Alt: Chicken Salad Sandwich

Tue.-Ravioli, Texas Toast, Salad, Fresh broccoli, hot cinnamon apples Milk

HS Alt: sausage link

Wed.-Thanksgiving holiday

HS Alt:

Thu.-Thanksgiving holiday

HS Alt:

Fri.-Thanksgiving holiday

HS Alt:

Charter Bus

Continued from page 4

tionally, all charter bus drivers must hold a current commercial driver license (CDL). Make sure the company you're considering is aware of the legal requirements and follows them to the letter. You can also run a criminal conviction check on the driver if you have their information, which may include past DWI convictions, at <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us>.

In addition to these suggestions, the FMCSA has made available their own list of suggested topics to ask about. Those topics can be found online by visiting <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security/safety-initiatives/other/bus.htm>.

School Days

Rice School Calendar Nov. 24 -Nov 28

Mon.-4:30p Jr. High Basketball
Boys @ Weimar
Girls @ Home
G-Basketball@Bellville-5:00/6:30
Girls BB vs. Weimar @ Home
Boys BB vs. Weimar - away

Tue.-B-Basketball@Bellville-5:00

Wed.-Fri.-THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

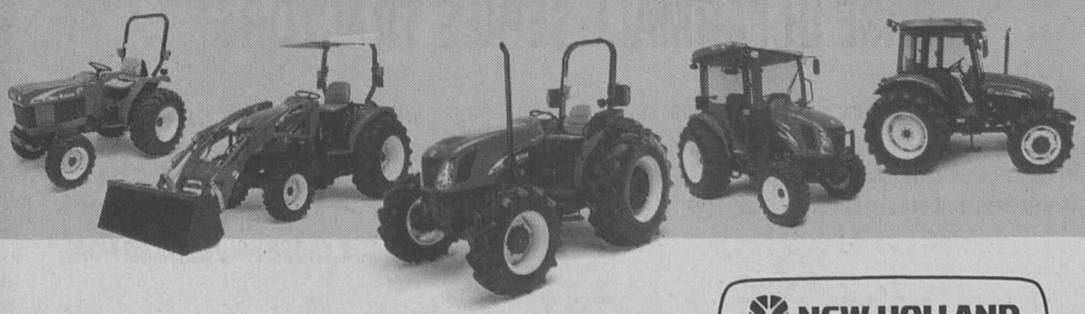
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