

DECEMBER

Contributions:

Mercy  
McDowell

&

Christa  
Orbann

All the staff  
and residents  
at Orchard  
Senior Living



ORCHARD  
a community of care



2060 Idlewood Rd  
Tucker, GA 30084  
770-938-5600

# The Orchard Oracle

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 12



# “The Holidays” Orchard at Tucker

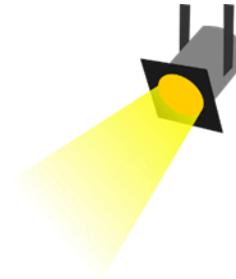
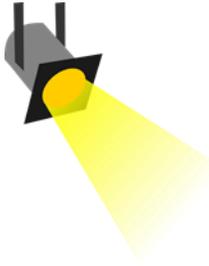


# “The Holidays” Orchard at Tucker



# RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

## “Jack Brantley”



**BY DICK SUEVER**

Florida’s first real estate bubble occurred in the early 1920’s. Miami had an image as a tropical paradise and outside investors across the United States began taking an interest in Miami real estate due in part to the publicity talents of audacious developers.

Walter Andrew Brantley had returned from France (WW1) in 1919 to the farm in Washington County, Georgia and was convinced by a family member to mortgage the Brantley Georgia property and invest in the “booming” Florida real estate market.

By January 1925 when Jack Brantley was born investors were beginning to read negative press about Florida investments. Forbes magazine warned that Florida land prices were based solely upon the expectations of finding eager investors, not upon real land values.

Too late to respond to the warnings, the W. A. Brantley family found themselves with worthless Florid real estate and Georgia property that could not be efficiently utilized under the terms of the mortgage, and without funds to pursue and means of living other than sharecropping. As the number in the family grew to 8 their economy plight worsened. In 1937 the Brantley’s eldest son joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, (CCC’s) in California. This left Jack to become his father’s first line of help. He was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade when the busy planting season required him to skip his schooling and help his father.

*(Continue on page 5)*

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: “Jack Brantley”

*(Continued from page 4)*

Jack’s mother pleaded with school officials to permit him to do 7<sup>th</sup> grade work even though he had not finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade. With the official’s permission granted Jack successfully completed the work and was promoted to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Encouraged by his success Jack’s mother made the same request to the school officials for his 8<sup>th</sup> grade work. Because Jack’s help was again required for the farm to survive until the next spring Jack’s efforts for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade were not successful so, he did not go to school the next 2 years.

In the summer of 1940 Jack’s aunt and her husband were disturbed to learn that Jack had not been to school for the two years. They persuaded Jack’s parents to allow him to live in Ft. Pierce, Florida with them, attend school regularly and help care for their invalid son, Bill, less than a year younger than Jack. This began in September, 1940 and lasted until February, 1943.

In 1943 Jack joined the U. S. Armed Forces, took intensive training at Fort Bragg, N. C., transferred to Fort Jackson, S.C. where he joined the 695<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Battalion and soon boarded the Marine Raven on Staten Island for the 5,000 mile trip to Scotland.

In many respects, the war had been the most rapid, the most completely successful war in history. Germany was utterly prostrate beneath the American, Russian and British conquerors. All of Germany was flattened, the German soldiers, no longer supermen were prisoners of war behind barbed wire. With the exception of the air activities, all this had transpired in the eleven months between D day on June 6, 1944 and the unconditional surrender of the German army remnants on May 8, 1945. Truly a fast war, achieved with staggering successful results.

Jack Brantley had no plans beyond the years he served during WW11. That all changed when the G. I. Bill of Rights was enacted giving free college education to those who served our country on active duty. Jack earned a degree in Architecture at Georgia Tech and had a very successful career.

# Legend of Santa-



## INTRODUCTION

The man we know as Santa Claus has a history all his own. Today, he is thought of mainly as the jolly man in red, but his story stretches all the way back to the 3rd century. Find out more about the history of Santa Claus from his earliest origins to the shopping mall favorite of today, and discover how two New Yorkers—Clement Clark Moore and Thomas Nast—were major influences on the Santa Claus millions of children wait for each Christmas Eve.

## THE LEGEND OF ST. NICHOLAS

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best known of the St. Nicholas stories is that he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas's popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6. This was traditionally considered a lucky day to make large purchases or to get married. By the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe. Even after the Protestant Reformation, when the veneration of saints began to be discouraged, St. Nicholas maintained a positive reputation, especially in Holland.

## SINTER KLAAS COMES TO NEW YORK

St. Nicholas made his first inroads into American popular culture towards the end of the 18th century. In December 1773, and again in 1774, a **New York** newspaper reported that groups of Dutch families had gathered to honor the anniversary of his death. The name Santa Claus evolved from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas). In 1804, John Pintard, a member of the New York Historical Society, distributed woodcuts of St. Nicholas at the society's annual meeting. The background of the engraving contains now-familiar Santa images including stockings filled with toys and fruit hung over a fireplace. In

1809, **Washington** Irving helped to popularize the Sinter Klaas stories when he referred to St. Nicholas as the patron saint of New York in his book, *The History of New York*. As his prominence grew, Sinter Klaas was described as everything from a "rascal" with a blue three-cornered hat, red waistcoat, and yellow stockings to a man wearing a broad-brimmed hat and a "huge pair of Flemish trunk hose."

## A SANTA BY ANY OTHER NAME

18th-century America's Santa Claus was not the only St. Nicholas-inspired gift-giver to make an appearance at Christmastime. Similar figures were popular all over the world. Christkind or Kris Kringle was believed to deliver presents to well-behaved Swiss and German children. Meaning "Christ child," Christkind is an angel-like figure often accompanied by St. Nicholas on his holiday missions. In Scandinavia, a jolly elf named Jultomten was thought to deliver gifts in a sleigh drawn by goats. English legend explains that Father Christmas visits each home on Christmas Eve to fill children's stockings with holiday treats. Pere Noel is responsible for filling the shoes of French children. In Russia, it is believed that an elderly woman named Babouschka purposely gave the wise men wrong directions to Bethlehem so that they couldn't find Jesus. Later, she felt remorseful, but could not find the men to undo the damage. To this day, on January 5, Babouschka visits Russian children leaving gifts at their bedsides in the hope that one of them is the baby Jesus and she will be forgiven. In Italy, a similar story exists about a woman called La Befana, a kindly witch who rides a broomstick down the chimneys of Italian homes to deliver toys into the stockings of lucky children.



## Classic '40s and '50s Christmas Movies

**The Shop Around the Corner** – 1940; directed by Ernst Lubitsch; starring Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart, and Frank Morgan. Though not James Stewart's most famous Christmas classic, it's a great love story revolving around the holiday season.

**Holiday Inn** – 1942; directed by Mark Sandrich; starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, and Marjorie Reynolds. A musical comedy

about musicians preparing for Christmas festivities at a lodge that's only open on holidays.

**I'll Be Seeing You** – 1944; directed by William Dieterle and George Cukor; starring Ginger Rogers, Joseph Cotten, and Shirley Temple. A Christmastime romance blooms between a shell-shocked soldier and the convict out on furlough that he meets on a train.

**Christmas in Connecticut** – 1945; directed by Peter Godfrey; starring Barbara Stanwyck, Dennis Morgan, and Sydney Greenstreet. A food writer who's significantly misrepresented her housewife skills suddenly has to pull off a fabulous traditional Christmas dinner.

**It's a Wonderful Life** – 1946; directed by Frank Capra; starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, and Lionel Barrymore. Indisputably one of the most famous Christmas films of all time, an angel shows a businessman what the world would have been like without him.

**Miracle on 34th Street** – 1947; directed by George Seaton; starring Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara, and John Payne. If any film rivals the last entry as most famous Christmas movie ever, it's this one about the defense of an institutionalized man claiming to be Santa Claus.

**The Bishop's Wife** – 1947; directed by Henry Koster; starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven. An angel comes along in human form to help a bishop get his life in order and build a new cathedral during the holiday season.

**Holiday Affair** – 1949; directed by Don Hartman; starring Robert Mitchum, Janet Leigh, and Wendell Corey. A Christmastime romance blossoms between a department store clerk and the widow who cost him his job.

**The Great Rupert** – 1950; directed by Irving Pichel; starring Jimmy Durante, Terry Moore, and Tom Drake. A classic comedy that's great for kids, featuring a charming animated dancing squirrel who inadvertently helps out two families.

*(Continued on page 9)*

*(Continued from page 8)*

**A Christmas Carol** – 1951; directed by Brian Desmond Hurst; starring Alastair Sim, Jack Warner, and Kathleen Harrison. This is easily one of the most beloved film portrayals of the famous Charles Dickens Christmas classic.

**The Lemon Drop Kid** – 1951; directed by Sidney Lanfield and Frank Tashlin; starring Bob Hope, Marilyn Maxwell, and Lloyd Nolan. The Lemon Drop kid finds himself owing an unhappy gangster \$10,000 and takes advantage of the Christmas spirit to make some money.

**The Holly and the Ivy** – 1952; directed by George More O’Ferrall; starring Ralph Richardson, Celia Johnson, and Margaret Leighton. A dramatic story about a minister and his family reunited at Christmas, with an emphasis on struggles during the WWII years.

**Susan Slept Here** – 1954; directed by Frank Tashlin; starring Dick Powell, Debbie Reynolds, and Anne Francis. The comedic tale of a struggling scriptwriter’s unexpected Christmas present, a juvenile delinquent named Susan.

**White Christmas** – 1954; directed by Michael Curtiz; starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney. Music, comedy, and romance come together in the Christmastime tale that involves saving a failing inn in Vermont.

**We’re No Angels** – 1955; directed by Michael Curtiz; starring Humphrey Bogart, Peter Ustinov, and Aldo Ray. An iconic Christmas comedy about the helpful holiday hijinx of three escaped convicts.



REMINDER:  
GENTLEMEN’S CLUB  
With James



EVERY FRIDAY\* 2:30 PM  
MOVIE THEATER ROOM

## 4 Unique Christmas Traditions From Around the World

The world is, of course, a multicultural place, with its people celebrating myriad holidays during the final weeks of the year, from Hanukkah to Kwanzaa.

With one-third of the world's population Christian, Christmas is celebrated in many nations. Yet in places where Christians are in the minority — take Japan, for example, where less than 1 percent of the population follow the religion — many may still honor the holiday, albeit in unexpected ways.

### 1. The Philippines

No other country in the world celebrates the season quite like Filipinos, the third-largest Catholic nation in the world.

The Philippines one-up the United States' propensity for immediately replacing Halloween décor with Christmas lights by commencing celebrations in September — making it the longest Christmas celebration in the world.

The southeast Asian's Catholicism is a holdover from the Spanish colonial era of the Philippines, as are traditions like the marathon nine-day series of Christmas masses called *simbang gabi*.

So, too, are the festive parols, or star-shaped lanterns, that brighten windows during the entire holiday season. The lights, which are meant to reflect the Star of Bethlehem in design, are named after the Spanish word for lantern, *farol*.

This year, the lighting of the traditional Christmas lanterns carries particular meaning in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda. In the Philippines, Merry Christmas is “*Maligayang Pasko*.”

### 2. Sweden

The Yule Log is customary in European-derived Christmas traditions. It crackles brightly on many an American TV as something of a faux hearth. The French bake a confectionary version of the holiday-themed tree part. But Sweden skips the wood and goes for the goat instead.

The Yule Goat isn't a real animal; it's typically made almost entirely of straw. In the Swedish tongue, the Christmas goat is known as the *Julbok*. The *Julbok*'s origins are rooted in mythology, but it's been warmly adopted by Swedes as part of modern Christian tradition — perhaps too warmly.

The Swedish town of Gävle has erected a giant version of the Yule Goat since 1966. And every year since, people have tried to torch it, kidnap it and otherwise harass the apparently rather expensive symbol of Christmas joy. At least 28 of the 45 goats have succumbed to what the authorities dub as “vandals.”

But, according to *The Local*, an English-language Swedish newspaper, “half of (Gävle's) inhabitants take pride in the giant animal, while the other half take equal pride in attempting to burn it down.” Merry Christmas in Swedish is “*God Jul*.”

*(Continue on Page 11)*

### 3. Australia

In Australia, Christmas falls right in the middle of some of the hottest weather of the year. Because of the extreme heat, Christmas is often marked by electrical storms and brush-fires rather than gently falling snow.

But that doesn't keep Aussies from getting into the Christmas spirit. A Canberra family recently broke a world record by stringing more than 31 miles of Christmas lights around its property.

Some Australians who celebrate Christmas honor the nation's Anglo-Celtic influence with English-style holiday fare likely more appropriate for colder climates. Roast turkey, steamed pudding and gingerbread all might end up on the table.

But it's not all about plum pudding, which is increasingly served with ice cream to help tolerate the Australian summer temperatures, anyway. To further beat the heat, up to 40,000 Australians flock to Bondi Beach in Sydney at Christmastime — and beaches mean barbecues.

Carols by Candlelight, derived from a 19th-century Australian tradition, has turned into a big, down-under outdoor Christmas festival. Held on Christmas Eve in Melbourne for the past 76 years, the outdoor concert is now a fundraiser for Vision Australia. Similar events are now held around the world.

### 4. Finland

Finland seems made for Christmas. Reindeer run rampant in Finnish Lapland and Joulupukki, a bearded mythical figure who looks and acts for all the world like Santa Claus, is said to make his home where those same reindeer roam.

But it's not all snowflakes and cookies on Christmas Eve, when at noon the Declaration of Christmas Peace is read in a formal ceremony in South Finland.

The statement, which has been tweaked a bit since it was first read in the 13th century, offers a surprisingly emphatic reminder that any sort of unruly behavior that challenges the holiday “shall under aggravating circumstances be guilty and punished according to what the law and statutes prescribe for each and every offense separately.” In other words, hooligans, don't mess with Finnish Christmas.

The peaceful declaration goes on to wish the inhabitants of Finland a joyous Christmas feast. There, a feast is made joyous with the addition of Christmas ham, smoked and pickled fish, cheeses and sweet Christmas breads. The people in the northernmost parts of Finland sometimes even eat reindeer for Christmas.

Sorry, Rudolph. In Finland, people wish each other “Hyvää Joulua” on Christmas.



**A traditional Yule Goat in Gävle, Sweden, 2010. The Gävle Goat is a massive version of a traditional Scandinavian Christmas symbol. Built annually, these giant straw structures have a notorious history of being burned down by saboteurs.**

## ***HOLIDAY CAROLER'S***



***Saturday, December 9th 2:30 pm =  
Violin & Viola Performance, C2***

***Sunday, December 10th  
11:15 am = Mount Moriah Chil-  
dren's Choir, DR***

***Sunday, December 10th  
2:30 pm = Eagles Landing Dance  
Performance***

***Monday, December 11th  
11:00 am = The Silvertones  
Caroler's***

***Thursday, December 14th  
10:30 am = Generations  
Music Together Class***

***Thursday, December 21st  
11:00 am = Art of Living, C2***

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
DECEMBER 31st  
7:00 PM, C2  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:  
ERIC HASSEL**



**STAFF KUDOS WINNERS  
(NOVEMBER)  
VOTED BY RESIDENTS  
& FAMILY MEMBERS**

**JAMES, ENGAGEMENT  
PETRONA, MED TECH  
ANNE, CARE PARTNER**



*Thursday, December 14th  
1:30 pm = Snow Ball with  
Live Entertainment, "Gina & Staci"*

*Sunday, December 17th  
3:30 pm = Ugly Christmas Sweater  
Contest/Party*

*Thursday, December 21st  
3:30 pm = New Resident  
Welcome Party with Live  
Entertainment "Jerry Smith"*

*Sunday, December 24th  
2:00 pm = Christmas Eve  
Pajama Party & T'was Night*



PICTURES  
WITH SANTA  
DECEMBER  
19TH  
1:30 PM  
CARLTON-  
2nd CLUB



**Sunday, December 10th**

**"Christmas at Tucker"  
Theatrical Performance  
Load at 5:15 PM**

**Thursday, December 14th  
Peachtree Symphonic  
Winds Concert  
Load at 7:15 pm**

**Thursday, December 21st  
Holiday Lights Scenic**

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS  
NEWSLETTER BY RETURNING TO  
ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT!**



**HELP KEEP PAPER & INK USAGE  
LOW BY RECYCLING THIS  
NEWSLETTER!**

**PLEASE—  
DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY!**

**ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED  
READING, PLEASE RETURN IF YOU  
DO NOT WANT TO KEEP!**