THE CLINTON CHRONICLE

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on Highway 460 near Belleville, Ill., exhibits an outstanding Nativity group of sculp-tured life-sized figures during the Christmas season.

the era. Mary's robe was woven and embroidered in Jerusalem by

Christian Arab refugees, and her hair is worn in the style of a married Hebrew woman of the time. Joseph's robe has vertical gray and black stripes, also char-

acteristic. His brown shawl has

Lips and eyes of all three figures are touched with color.

Statues Recreate Nativity Scene

Dickens' 'Carol' still

a Favorite

One of the most popular and perhaps best known short stories concerning the celebration of Christmas was written during a dreary age of commercialism, secularism and anti-clerical-ism. Furthermore, this story of joyful mystery of Christmas has as its main character a miserly bore.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", written in 1843, is this great liter-

and horror.

a period.

genius caught the many pagan feast of the sun. injustices, the extreme pov-

he also revealed how Chris- day of the "return of the sun" as Christ's birthday. tian love could exist in such

scrooge; for poverty, a poor following year. family named Cratchit; and

for Christian love, a crip- Mistletoe, still popular at Christmas time, was used by pled innocent called Tiny the ancient Celts of Ireland in their elaborate pagan



Fun with Mexican Piñatas...

One new and very color-ful Christmas decoration seen in many neighborhood stores this year comes from Mexico. It is a large papier-mache container which may take the form of a large take the form of a large

animal, bird or person. Inside this brightly colored be manipulated out of reach the ceiling of your room. bag is placed candy, nuts or by adults, there is much toys. Hung from the ceiling laughter at watching the of your room by a movable youngsters swing.

home.



ary work concerning Christ- Although most Christian customs originated in the East, tian love in an age of cruelty the identification of December 25 with the birthday of Christ is believed to have been initiated by Latins. As

early as 354 A.D., the feast was said to have been trans-In this story Dickens' ferred from January 6 to December 25, the day for the

erty and the unhealthful Not only in Latin countries, but also in German and conditions of his time. But Celtic provinces the early Christians celebrated the feast

From the pagan celebration in Teutonic lands many

To represent injustice, cluding the Yule log and the wassail bowl. In many places, Dickens created a miserly part of the Yule log was retained to light the log of the

festivities.



Children also like the Piñ-

The statues were placed in a background and setting designed by Max Autenreib, Edwardsville, Ill. Authenticity is the keynote of the setting, framed in a lean-to at the entrance of a simulated grotto. Paintings of farm animals and stable furnishings are so positioned as to lend depth and perspective to the familiar Christmas scene. The statues, carved out of lin- | sive research into the clothing of

den wood by Frank Haines, noted Ambler, Pa., sculptor who specializes in character studies and portrait figures, were com-pleted in 1961 and displayed at New Harmony last year. They will be housed permanently in New Harmony's Paul Tillich park next year.

In Illinois:

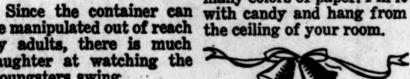
four purple tassels, to remind the wearer to obey God's laws, with the tassels also representative of The New Harmony settlement, founded in 1814 by George Rapp as the site for a religious sect the four consonants in Jehovah's known as the Harmonists, was later purchased by the Welsh-Scot industrialist and philan-thropist, Robert Owen, who thropist, Robert Owen, who gathered about him well-known competition in California in 1959. gathered about him well-known scientists, educators, social re-formers and artists. His utopian experiment in communal living collapsed in 1827, but now the principal donor of the Blaffer Trust, Mrs. Kenneth D. Owen of Houston—wife of a direct des-cendant of Robert Owen—is trying to preserve and enrich the old community through great art and careful restorations. In the case of Mary and the Child, the "skin" is the natural color of the linden wood used with a preservative. They were carved smooth, as having the Di-vine Spirit, while Joseph was carved with facets to lend virility

and careful restorations. Research The statues, commissioned by Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes designed by Elizabeth Hzines, Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes designed by Elizabeth Hzines, Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes designed by Elizabeth Hzines, Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes designed by Elizabeth Hzines, Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes designed by Elizabeth Hzines, Mrs. Owens, are clad in costumes Mrs. Owens, are clad i wife of the sculptor, after exten- | carpenter.



FAMOUS CHOIR Choirs and carels are an imper part of each Christmas observance and the famous Boy's Town Choir of fifty voices each year presents a stirring program of Christmas music.





string, the festive container will add a "South of the When one child manages to crack the container there Border" touch to your is a mad scramble for the goodies which have scat-

tered over the floor.

many colors of paper. Fill it



On Christmas Day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas Day in the morning.



