

SR's World Travel Calendar

DECEMBER. JANUARY. FEBRUARY

Africa

VOORTREKKER CELEBRATIONS (Pretoria, Dec. 16): Annual tribute to pioneers who settled South Africa. Pageant, dances.

COON CARNIVAL (Cape Town, Jan. 1): Celebration similar to one staged by Mummies in Philadelphia. Costumed marching clubs parade.

CRICKET TEST MATCHES (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Jan. 1-Feb. 10.)

Austria

SALUTE TO AUTHORS (Salzburg, Dec. 24): Austrians memorialize two men who composed "Silent Night, Holy Night" here.

SNOW SPORTS (Day of Long Distance Races, Igls, Dec. 26. Bob-sleigh races, Bad Aussee, Heiligenblut, Heuberg, St. Lambrecht, Dec. 26. International Ski Jump, Innsbruck, Jan. 2. Hahnenkamm Races, Kitzbuehel, Jan. 15, 16. Austrian Ski Championships, Semmering, Jan. 30-Feb. 6. World championship Ice Skating, Vienna, Feb. 13-17. Austrian Junior Ski Championships, Linz, Feb. 18-20.)

CARNIVAL (Salzburg. First part, Jan. 3-9; second part, Feb. 9-22.)

PAGEANTS (St. Gilgen, Jan. 5): "Gloecklerlauf" and "Dreikoenigsreiten" staged.

MARDI GRAS (Bad Aussee, Feb. 19-22; Vienna, Feb. 15-22.)

FUNKEN SONNTAG (Gargellen, Feb. 27): Austrians burn symbolic witch as farewell to winter.

Bermuda

FISHING CONTESTS (Dec. 1-Apr. 1): Bermuda chub, bonefish tournament with prizes for largest fish taken in each species on 12 lb., 20 lb., 30 lb. test lines. (Dec. 2-30): Holiday tournament.

GOLF (Dec. 3-5): Goodwill Tournament by invitation of Golf Association only; (Jan. 7-10): Men's, women's two-ball foursomes at Mid-Ocean Club. (Feb. 21-25): Men's tournament.

TENNIS (Christmas tournament, Dec. 27-Jan. 3.)

SAILING (Duke of Edinburgh Cup, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27.)

Britain

SMITHFIELD SHOW (London, Dec. 6-10): Agricultural exhibition at Earl's Court.

NATIONAL POULTRY SHOW (London, Dec. 9-11.)

CHELSEA ARTS BALL (London, Dec. 31): At Royal Albert Hall.

BURNS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (Edinburgh and Burns Country, Scotland, Jan. 17-25.)

PANCAKE RACE, Olney, Feb. 22. Traditional event; counterpart in Liberal, Kansas.

FASHION DISPLAY (London, Feb. 28-Mar. 4): At Royal Festival Hall.

Central America

SOCCER (Limon, Costa Rica, Dec. 5-19): Inaugural games of the Junior League for Central America, Caribbean area.

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION (Chichicastenango, Guatemala, Dec. 18-21): Processions, dances.

GOLF TOURNAMENT (Panama City, Jan. 13-15): Panama Open.

RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE (Esquipulas, Guatemala, Jan. 15): Annual celebration features important local statue of Christ.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS (Costa Rica, Feb. 9-13.) Second national religious meeting.

Finland

MUSIC WEEK (Nationwide, Dec. 2-8): Major observance in Helsinki will have salute to Jean Sibelius on his eighty-ninth birthday. Dec. 8.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (Nationwide, Dec. 6).

WINTER SPORTS (Nationwide, Dec.-Apr.)

France

MIDNIGHT MASS (Les Baux, Dec. 24): One of Europe's best-known religious observances.

PROCESSION (St. Jean-de-Luz, Jan. 10): Traditional parade of the Three Wise Men.

INTERNATIONAL SONGFEST (Nice, Jan. 15-31.)

SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS (Bareges and Cauterets, Jan. 16, 17; 23, 24.)

GRAND PRIX SKIING (Morzine, Jan. 22-24): Downhill, slalom title races. (Chamonix, Jan. 26-31): International de la Vallee de Chamonix.

TENNIS (Paris, Feb. 5-14): Indoor championships.

BLESSING THE FLEET (Bordeaux, Feb. 7; St. Malo, Feb. 14). Benediction pronounced as fishing fleet sails.

NIGHT OF FLOWERS (Nice, Feb. 11).

RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE (Lourdes, Feb. 11.)

MIMOSA FESTIVAL Cannes, Feb. 14.)

HORSE RACE (Paris, Feb. 13): Prix de Paris.

CARNIVAL (Amelie-les-Bains, Aix-en-Provence, Arles-sur-Tech, Bailleul, Dunkerque, Granville, Limoux, Feb. 15-22.)

BIKE RACE (Paris, Feb. 24-Mar. 2): Annual six-day meet.

Germany

CHRISTMAS FAIRS (Nuremberg, Dec. 3-24; Berlin, Dec. 4-19; Ulm, Dec. 5-12; Marburg, Dec. 12-22; Darmstadt, Dec. 20-24.)

SPORTS WEEK (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Jan. 15-23.)

AGRICULTURAL SHOW (Berlin, Jan. 28-Feb. 6): Annual Green Week exhibition.

CARNIVAL (Aachen, Bonn, Coblenze, Cologne, Duesseldorf, Mainz, Trier, Feb. 21; Augsburg, Frankfurt, Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, Munich, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden, Feb. 22.)

ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Duesseldorf, Feb. 25-Mar. 6.)

India

THYAGARAJ FESTIVAL (Dec. 30): Pay tribute to memory of St. Thyagaraj, Indian nineteenth century musician.

PONGAL (Jan. 14): Processions of sacred cattle featured in harvest festivals.

REPUBLIC DAY (Jan. 26): Anniversary of date on which India became a republic. Major celebration in Delhi. Fireworks.

MAHASHIVARATRI (Feb. 20): Fasting, chanting of hymns part of tribute to member of Hindu trinity.

Italy

OPERA SEASON (Milan, Dec. 7-Apr.): The 1954-55 season at La Scala. Opening dates for seasons at Florence, Naples, Rome to be announced.

FAIR (Rome, Jan. 4-6): Traditional Epiphany celebration centered in Piazza Navona.

CARNIVAL (Viareggio, Feb. 18-22): General masking, parade of floats; confetti, flower battles.

Middle East

ORATORIO (Beirut, Lebanon, Dec. 21-23): Bach's "Christmas Oratorio."

CHRISTMAS (High Mass, Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Dec. 24; Pontifical Mass, Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth, Dec. 25.)

EPIPHANY (Israel, Jan. 6): Commemorates Baptism of Jesus, visit of the Wise Men, and the Miracle at Cana.

Nassau

AUTO RACES (Dec. 6-12): First sports car contests ever staged here.

HORSE RACES (Jan. 14-Apr. 14): On Friday afternoons, Jan.-Feb.; Thursdays, Fridays, Mar.-Apr. 14.

NASSAU CUP RACE (Feb. 5): For boats that took part in Miami-Nassau race earlier in the week.

Portugal

RESTORATION DAY (Nationwide, Dec. 1): Major celebration in Lisbon.

ST. SYLVESTER'S DAY (Funchal, Madeira, Dec. 31): Tremendous fireworks display.

FAIR (Barcelos, Feb. 6): Feast of St. Braz.

CARNIVAL (Loule, Feb. 20-22.)

Spain

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT (Montserrat, Dec. 24): Performance by well-known boys' choir.

FIESTAS (Alicante and Malaga, Jan. 15-Feb. 15.)

RELIGIOUS DRAMA (Olesa de Montserrat, Feb. 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27; Apr. 2.): Dramatize the passion of Christ.

Sweden

NOBEL PRIZE AWARDS (Stockholm, Dec. 10.)

ST. LUCIA'S DAY (Nationwide, Dec. 13): Parties honor the Queen of Light.

PARLIAMENT OPENS (Stockholm, Jan. 11.)

WINTER SPORTS (Dec.-Apr.)

U.S.A.

"LAS POSADAS" (Claremont, Calif., Dec. 1-Jan. 1): Dramatize Christmas in Old Mexico.

ALL-BREED DOG SHOW (Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 11, 12). The fiftieth annual.

JAI ALAI (Tampa, Fla., Dec. 11-Apr. 9): One of few places in which the famous Basque sport is played in USA.

FIELD TRIAL (Union Springs, Ala., Dec. 12): National Shooting Dog Stake.

CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY (Hot Springs, Ark., Dec. 17): Choral singing, procession in national park.

COWBOY BALL (Anson, Tex., Dec. 21-23.)

BOWL GAMES (Jan. 1: Orange Bowl, Miami; Rose Bowl, Pasadena; Sugar Bowl, New Orleans; Cotton Bowl, Dallas; Sun Bowl, El Paso.)

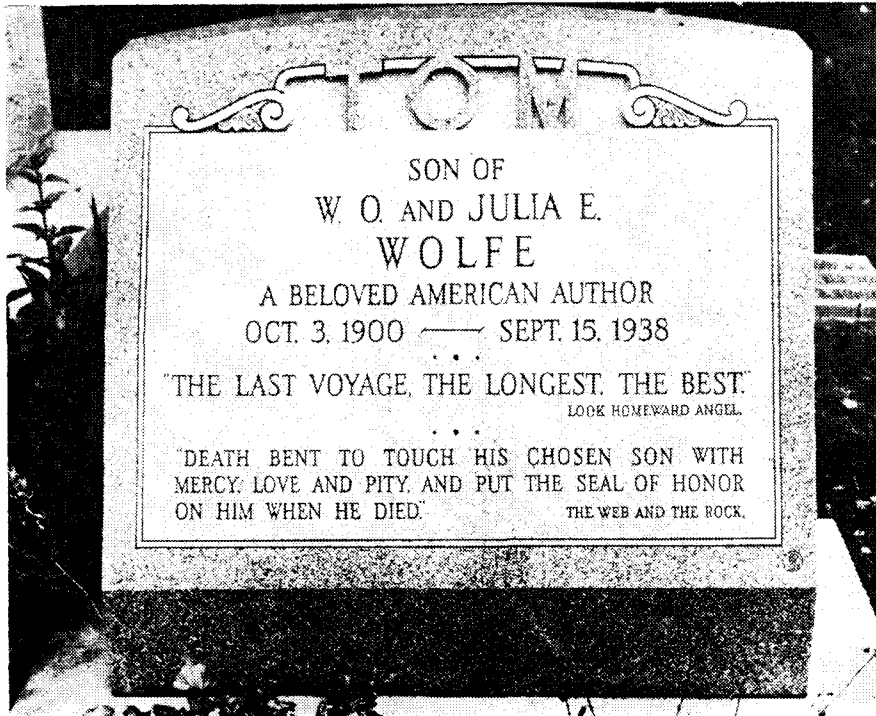
SILVER SKATES CARNIVAL (Groton, S.D., Jan. 1, 2.)

—ROBERT MEYER, JR.

Further information may be obtained by writing World Calendar, The Saturday Review, 25 West 45th St., New York 36, N. Y.



Look Homeward, Asheville



Thomas Wolfe's grave in Riverside Cemetery, Asheville, near O. Henry's grave.

ASHEVILLE.

SITTING on the open terrace of the Sky Club the other night with some of the local hillwilliams (it can be very formal here), I watched the sun drop behind the mountains and shine like hidden footlights against the determined blue curtain of the evening sky. The Pisgah range made a black deckled edge of the Carolina horizon, Venus glowed uncountable karats above the peaks, and in the valley Asheville pulsed with neon around its dozen-story skyscrapers—the city hall, the county building, and that gingerbread pile where Tom Wolfe's father had his marble-cutting offices.

It was perfectly plain why this perch I sat on was named Beaucatcher Mountain, for I suspect that beaux brought there by hill girls had hardly a chance. Asheville has a way of beguiling wayfarers of the most varied assortment—old W. O. Wolfe, and twenty-three retired generals whose home was the Army, and Demeree and Dorothy Bess of *The Saturday Evening Post*, whose home was China and Moscow and Paris, and old George Vanderbilt, who could have bought any home he wanted and indeed he did.

Old George looked out at the view

one night from the top of the Battery Park Hotel and stated that he would possess all that he saw. Now, that is not a fatuous statement coming from a man with George's collection of banknotes, and he soon held the deed to a parcel of 100,000 acres including Mount Pisgah itself, a hillcock that measures 5,721 feet above sea level. On this plot he built himself a modest French Renaissance chateau of 183 rooms, patterned after the extravaganzas of Blois and Chambord in the Loire Valley.

Track was laid from the present railroad line at Biltmore, and it took artisans and drones five years to put the whole thing together. The result is far more appealing and certainly better maintained than either Blois or Chambord. The thirty-five acres of gardens and lawns, after all, were laid out by Frederick Olmstead, who had designed the grounds for the Capitol at Washington and also Manhattan's Central Park.

The Great Banquet Hall measures seventy-two feet long, has a ceiling seventy-five feet high, and in case anybody ever has a chill there are three cavernous fireplaces side by side any of which could take a sizable bite of a California redwood without yawning. Napoleon's chess-set deco-

rates the Print Room, a forest of greenery decorates the Court of Palms, and the library could service Chicago.

Although the preserve has been trimmed in recent years to 12,000 acres, and gas stations are scattered before the entrance, there is enough property on hand to require a three-mile drive from gate to front door. Seventeen miles of paved road wind through the grounds and there are 120 miles of equestrian path. Six maids keep house for Lord Cecil, who was once married to Cornelia Vanderbilt and stays there with his son as a condition of the divorce. Tourists can visit there now as a condition of the times.

When Mrs. George Vanderbilt was alive she organized Biltmore Industries, a wool-weaving enterprise designed to help the mountain people make use of the trade that had been hand-propelled across oaken looms. Fine homespun is still being woven at Biltmore Industries by mountain people who still use dogwood shuttles, handpropelled across oaken looms. Wool comes in from England, Australia, and Scotland, and visitors can see whole fleece from Scottish black-face sheep being unpacked. The Scottish wool is easily recognizable, the mountain people say, since a piece of ear is frequently found in the fleece and only a Scotsman would clip that close. At any rate, the crystal waters of the springs running from Mount Mitchell are used in the dyes, the fabric is pre-shrunk and dried in the Carolina sun, all of which is said to impart a special brilliance of color, not to mention durability.

Not long ago John D. Rockefeller stopped by with the unworn pair of trousers to a two-pants suit he had bought from Biltmore thirty years ago. The coat and one pair of trousers had worn out, and Rockefeller wanted Biltmore to make him a new coat to match the unworn trousers. They did, too.

ASHEVILLE's other famous house is rather more modest than the Vanderbilt chateau. It is the white frame building on Spruce Street, behind the Asheville Biltmore Hotel, where Tom Wolfe's family lived and which Wolfe used as a setting for his first novel, "Look Homeward, Angel." The fictional Gant family of fictional Altamont were the actual Wolfes of actual Asheville, and so many characters were so thinly disguised in the book that Asheville hasn't quite gotten over the shock yet.

When I stopped by the Spruce St. place the other day Mrs. Mabel Wheaton, Tom's sister, was sitting on the porch under a sign which identi-