

Christmas with the Treemont family

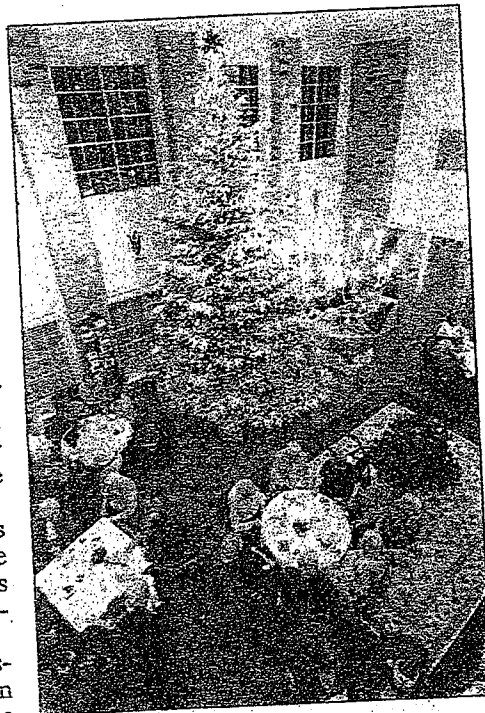
Every loving family has its own holiday traditions, and Treemont, often likened to one big family by its residents, has its own also. The minute you walk in the door your senses begin to take them in ... the aroma of the 16-foot live Christmas tree, and a mysterious spicy cinnamon-apple-clove fragrance wafting in from the kitchen as a hint of good things to come.

The next thing that impresses you is the sound. At one time it may be a group of residents engaged in a sing-along around the grand piano. Another day it could be a professional entertainer singing songs of the season. Often in the afternoons there are local groups from schools, churches, or organizations such as the Junior League offering a concert for the residents.

Treemont's lobby is large and two stories high, but is made warm and inviting by the two fireplaces and by the special Christmas decorations that bring out the childlike delight in each of us.

Each year immediately after Thanksgiving, the ritual begins. JoAnn Caperton of the staff directs the decorating while many residents choose to spend most of the day in the lobby watching. The cherry-picker is brought in for the maintenance staff to place lights and soccer-ball sized ornaments on the lightly flocked tree, with special pieces to hang from the brass chandelier. The balcony overhang features Christmas stockings, part of a worldwide collection loaned by a resident. Pots of poinsettias adorn the lobby area.

The December calendar is packed with events, including the annual dinner party, when the dining room extends its borders to provide tables throughout the lobby area to accommodate families of the residents. Guests are treated to a special menu with traditional food favorites,



BEAUTIFULLY DECKED: The two-story Treemont lobby is home to a large Christmas tree and other decorations.

champagne, eggnog, coffee, hot cider and cookies. Of course tables of bridge, 42, and board games are omnipresent, as are the semi-weekly bingo sessions.

Various worship services and Bible studies emphasize the season and encourage members of the family to look out for each other. It is possible to be alone at Christmas, but no one at Treemont need ever be lonely. Happy Holidays from the Treemont family.

By Lois McCall, Treemont resident

