

In the Neapolitan Nativity scenes in Italy, the villagers and merchants are depicted in 18th Century clothing. In France, the villagers and merchants are usually in 18th or 19th Century clothing. A look at a Belen in Spain, will show the figures dressed in clothing from two or three hundred years ago.

Up until now, this has never been done by crèche artists in the U.S. since our manger scene tradition comes to us from Woolworth's five and dime stores.

Now, thanks to Deland artist Elizabeth Maglievaz, figures have been created to depict people from 19th century U.S. in a scene with the Holy Family. This may be the first nativity scene to depict a Seminole family and their chickee, a man grinding sugar cane, and a historic Episcopal clergyman taking to a Seminole. The clergyman is Rev. John Freeman Young, Bishop of Florida, who translated "Stille Nacht" to "Silent Night," the best-known Christmas carol in English-speaking nations. Bishop Young has a direct connection to Daytona Beach where he was responsible for the founding of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Every nativity scene needs accessories so Samantra Wolf created miniature baskets from pine needles. Her daughter is Dr. Amy Wolf whose chiropractic office is in downtown Daytona. Graphics depicting an old building and elaborate stone wall in St. Augustine were provided by Jim Kenney of Alpha Graphics, also from downtown Daytona, This is the first time that the graphics shop provided scenery for a display of this type.

Landscape and other buildings are by creche artist Bill Egan. Sand is by Mother Nature.

See this unique and artistic depiction of this historic event in a window at Tic Toc, 166 S. Beach Street, Daytona Beach.