

# CARNEVALE



## in Misterbianco

by Carl Alan Nichols



*I can think of no other festive event as world-wide spread as Carnevale! In the southern states of the United States it is better known as "Marti Gras" and has become a week long (or more) party primarily for adults, but in other parts of the world it is still a very family oriented festival. Carnevale is the week (or more) that precedes Ash Wednesday which of course marks the beginning of Lent, and is therefore a period of parties and fulfilling life that ends on Fat Tuesday. This year that date fell on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, and next year (for those of you who may care) it will be the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.*



*Unfortunately I never did make it to either Canicattì or Acireale as I had anticipated, however, Misterbianco is very close to me, and has a long standing reputation for a colorful celebration. Earlier in the day I*



*had stopped in to a local café for lunch and discovered that the evenings parade would begin at 5:00 in the afternoon. Naturally*



*I arrived right on time, and stood waiting until almost 7:00 in the evening for the parade to finally come into view. It was well worth the wait, as float after float came by displaying their various themes, many of them having a theatrical flair.*

*One of the most enjoyable floats had a Grease theme and I got a shot of a boy of probably between seven and ten years of age looking cool in his shades and leather jacket!*



*Everywhere you looked there were impressive costumes on both young and old participants and they ranged from very elegant to leaning on gaudy. But it was all colorful and fun, and I just couldn't get enough of it.*





*There was also some very lively and well coordinate dancing to the music that filled the air from all of the speakers, both along the street, as well as those on each of the floats.*

*It is unfortunate that a still camera cannot capture well the movements of the dancing, but it should be apparent from these varied photos, that the players were well rehearsed.*



*Among the most impressive floats that came by me was this gigantic car. I had seen its construction chronicled in a local flyer, and was very happy to get to see it in living color as it were.*



*Later, when I got my film developed, I found yet another surprise waiting for me that I had not realized earlier. It seems that the street workers wear reflective tape on their clothes, and although I had not noticed it while taking pictures, this tape is very reflective indeed! I call these, the “Ghosts of Carnevale!”*



*I don't know what is next, but I'm keeping my camera handy, and will be on the lookout for any interesting moments in life here that I may share with all of you. I hope you are enjoying finding these bits of my Sicilian life in your e-mail boxes. Until the next time.... Arrivederci!*