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The Weekly Almanian

The Student Publication of Alma College

VOLUME FIFTEEN

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NUMBER THIRTEEN



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS 1921

GYMNASIUM IN HOLIDAY TRIM

PEPPY MUSIC AND EXTENSIVE DECORATING MARK FINE SOPHOMORE DANCE.

Not even the elements could mar the vast and extensive arrangements for the Sophomore dance, so it turned out to be the most successful social event of this semester.

Although there was a down-pouring rain all Saturday, which did not abate in the least by night, there was a record attendance at the dance. This is explained by the judicious advertising of the dance, the glittering reports circulated by the wide-awake Sophomores, resulting in an intense curiosity throughout the student body, so that they must come and be shown.

The dance was scheduled to commence on the stroke of eight, thus about fifteen minutes before the appointed time, scores of umbrella supplied young men, might be seen rushing from Pioneer towards Wright Hall, in a mad race through the wind and rain. The buzzer board worked overtime as anxious swains crowded around, and rang for the adored one, who, in a few minutes, would call downstairs and want to know if the young gentleman had brought a "rain-protector," or not. But such matters, finally being settled to the satisfaction of everyone, the wind and rain were braved once more, and hurrying couples skimmed over the puddles, and made their way to the brightly-lighted gymnasium.

Here, an up-to-date check-room had been installed under the capable management of Mr. K. Tarrant and Mr. Starr. These two worthy gentlemen, took full charge of the bewildering array of umbrellas, rubbers, goloshes, caps and coats, which were deposited by the pleasure seekers.

The gymnasium had been transformed into a veritable fairyland, reflecting great credit on the artistic qualities of the Sophomores. In the centre of the room, stood an enormous Xmas-tree, truly representative of the spirit of the party. Multi-colored streamers throughout the length of the gym, vied with each other, in brilliancy of color. The lights had been transformed to resemble glowing stars, adding immensely to the effect of the scene. A large maroon and cream "A" was suspended, towards the farther end of the gym, and when lighted, the "A" stood out so resplendent and luminous, that it was the cynosure of all eyes.

When everyone had contented themselves with the scene before them, there was a rush for the programs, and a consequent dating of dances for the rest of the evening.

Then, the music commenced and the couples swung out on the floor. Fox-trot after fox-trot followed one another in rapid succession, and still the dancers called for more. And who could not dance to such music, for there was Kenneth Thoms with his trusty violin, in the orchestra enclosure. He played with all his old fervor and abandon, putting such "pep" into the music as he alone is capable of. All the dance hits were played.

(Continued on page four)

ZUEBLIN OFFERS A FINE LECTURE

DISCUSSES CITY PROBLEMS AND DROPS MANY GOOD SUGGESTIONS.

A small crowd greeted the second number of the Lyceum, Mr. Charles Zueblin's lecture on the Twentieth Century City, last Friday night. Although the audience was small, it was very attentive, and all were satisfied that the lecture contained a wealth of information and advice for the citizens of Alma, and the students of city government.

After sketching briefly the growth of municipal reform in the last twenty years, Mr. Zueblin took up the discussion of the modern town from the standpoint of a visitor, treating the various topics in that order that a visitor might see them. The railway station is the entrance to the town, and should be as complete and attractive as possible. No city under five hundred thousand, said Mr. Zueblin, should have competing railway stations. For these cities a union depot is the only practicable and efficient system. Next in importance to the station is the main street. An expert can read a detailed description of the city from an examination of its main street. In discussing streets in general, the lecturer said that they should be paved, and should be kept clean and in good repair. The streets should all have good foundations. The secret of road building, he said, is to build a good foundation and keep the surface in repair. Another important point to observe in street construction is to build a conduit under the street before the heavy foundation is laid. This conduit should be adequate enough to house all the pipes, electric lines, gas lines, etc. that the city will need for years to come. No private corporation should be allowed to own a conduit under the street. The conduit should be owned by the city, and space in it should be rented to private corporations until the city sees fit to own and operate the utility itself. A city should have no poles whatever, and all the wiring of the city should be through this conduit. The streets should all be as attractive as possible, especially the one leading from the depot. He said that America's contribution to city building is the street lined with trees, and a common green of adjoining lawns free from fences. In this connection he brought forward some suggestions on town planning. Wherever new streets are laid out no residences should be built on the thoroughfare, but should be built in courts back from the street. When you plan, said Mr. Zueblin, plan not for today, but for two hundred years from now. There should be ample provision for playgrounds, parks, and swimming pools. These should be placed so that they will be accessible from all sides at a minimum distance from the people they serve.

Mr. Zueblin had some very advanced ideas on the relation of the child to the school. The school properly conducted, is a far better training place for the child than the home. The child would be better off if he took his lunches at the school instead

(Continued on page three)

The Christmas Feel

THEY'S a kind-o' feel in the air to me,
When Christmas time sets in;
That's about as much o' a mystery
As ever I've run ag'in!
Fer instance, now while I gain in weight
An' general health, I swear,
They's a goneness somer's I can't just state
A kind o' feel in the air.

They's a feel in the Christmas air goes right
To a spot where a man lives at!
It gives a feller a appetite—
They ain't no doubt about that!
And yet they's somepin—I don't know what—
That follers me here and there,
And ha'nts and worries, and spares me not,
A kind o' feel in the air.

They's a feel, as I say, in the air that's jest
As touchingly sad as sweet!
In the same ra-sho as I feel the best
And am spryest on my feet.
They's allus a kind o' sort o' a ache
That I can't locate nowhere;
But it comes with Christmas and no mistake!
A kind o' feel in the air.

Is it the racket the children raise?
Why no! God bless 'em, no!
Is it the eyes and the cheeks ablaze—
Like my own wuz, long ago?
Is it the bleat o' the whistle, and beat
Of the little toy drum and blare
O' the horn? No! It is jest the sweet
The sad sweet feel in the air.

—JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY



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APOLOGY DUE

It is very unfortunate that in every group of people there are some who do not fairly represent the group. Every church has its hypocrites, and some people pass judgment on the church because of them. Every lodge has members untrue to their obligations, and lodges have been condemned because of them. Likewise there are men in Alma College who do not measure up to the standards, ideals, and traditions of their college, and who bring discredit upon the institution because of their lack of responsibility to the requirements of the college group. It was such a group of men, very small in numbers and wholly out of accord with the college men as a whole, that tampered with Mr. Miller's automobile and committed misdemeanors on his residential property, presumably as a result of the theater rushing affair. And, of course, the whole college was thrown into disfavor by the actions of these men.

Realizing that the conduct of a few had jeopardized the interests of the college as a whole, the men of the college held a meeting to decide upon their course of action. At this meeting the men condemned most sincerely the actions of those who perpetrated the misdeeds against Mr. Miller's automobile and residence, and expressed some very pointed and caustic opinions to the effect that the attitude of these few men is very far removed from the attitude of Alma College men as a whole. A committee was appointed to present to Mr. Miller the apologies of the men of Alma College for the disgraceful conduct of a few of their number, to make compensation for any damage done, and to assure him that such actions are not sanctioned by the men of Alma College as a whole.

Alma College men regret as much as any one that a few of their number would stoop to such turpitude. The men of Alma stand for clean sportsmanship, and they wish to have it known that they do not sanction any such actions as enumerated above. They ask merely the consideration that the Alma College men as a whole be not judged by the misdemeanors of a few.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

It is generally conceded that every person knows that Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of Christ, comes on the twenty-fifth day of the last month of the year, December. Further than that, what does the average person know of this most celebrated of all dates: just what does this Yuletide festivity mean? To some it signifies the hustle and bustle of Holiday shopping, a certain expression of good will to a circle of intimate friends, and then a hearty free for all attack on the dinner table. To others the outlook or prospects for a Merry Christmas may not be so bright and a feeling of isolation and despondency is allowed to creep in in place of the feeling of cheerfulness and thanksgiving which should possess all mankind. Generally the fortunate in all their satisfaction, the less gifted in their apparent neglect, are wont to forget the true significance of Christmas day. Obviously, Christ entered into this world for the purpose of serving the people of the earth and of teaching them the spirit of fellowship which should be transmitted down through the succeeding generations.

In order that we may keep this purpose in view do we celebrate the birth of Christ, and for this reason alone, the preparation of a great feast and the extensive granting of gifts to a certain chain of friends having been contributed by generations in the past. The great aim in Christmas celebrations, however, has evidently been covered up by the lesser formalities and the greeting "Merry Christmas" has become a mere collection of words with no significance. Such a condition, were it universal, would admit the defeat of

a principle for which Christ stood and the reflection cast thereupon the people would be far from complimentary.

No one is willing to sacrifice the true Christmas spirit for the sake of inexcusable carelessness. Consequently, with the approaching Holidays may we not all resolve, in the real light, to pass the spirit of friendship along to our neighbor whether he fares better or worse at the Christmas season. Surely the mouth of the student body as a whole should speak first. The Almanian wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

C. L. H.

Y. M. C. A. Gives An Xmas Party

The Y. M. C. A. gave the first annual old-fashioned Christmas party for all the students of the College Friday night in the College Chapel. The entertainment of the evening was furnished by representatives of the various organizations on the Campus.

The idea which prompted the occurrence of the affair came from a desire on the part of Y men to give a party which should include all of the College students. It was planned as a general get-together for students and faculty alike where everyone could thoroughly enjoy one's self without too perceptibly sacrificing his or her dignity. Consequently, every organization was asked to furnish a bit of entertainment and everyone in turn was entertained. A huge, brilliantly decorated tree sheltered a present of some sort for everyone. Santa Claus was more than amiable that evening, cracking jokes and giving away presents that ranged from "Lolly-pops" for the faculty members to toys of every description. The numbers on the program except for a miscue or two when the music and the act didn't match, apparently "went over big" whether they were extemporaneous or not.

This sort of party is quite novel for College folks to indulge in but nevertheless it furnished a good time for all present and this fact alone warrants it a great deal of praise and a right to appear next year.

PHI PHI ALPHA

The regular meeting of Phi Phi Alpha Literary society was held in the society rooms Monday, Dec. 12. President Williams presided. The meeting opened with prayer by Wenger. After the reading of the minutes, the business of the evening was transacted and the date for the Phi-Philo party was definitely set for Dec. 19.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to the program of the evening the main feature of which was a debate on the proposition: "Resolved, that the principle of the closed shop should be adopted in the industries of the U. S." Teams: Affirmative, R. Zinn and R. Boyd. Negative, T. Dasef and F. Freeman. The question is a live one and the debate was full of "pep" and "snap" resulting in a victory for the negative.

Impromptus on the same subject, "Open Shop vs. Closed Shop," were given by Bailey, H. Williams, Ainsworth, Dawydoff, and Kemp.

The critics report, given by C. Hendershot was mainly constructive and pointed out the fact that there is plenty of debating material in Phi Phi Alpha.

ZETA SIGMA

A varied and interesting literary program was enjoyed at the meeting of December 12. A short report of "Robert's Rules of Order" was given by Arthur Carty.

A paper on "The Life of Ferdinand Foch" was read by Creighton Cathcart.

K. Tarrant read an interesting paper on "Modern Poetry." A written report was given by K. Laycock on the subject of "Modern Drama."

A motion was made and carried that Zeta Sigma accept, as a whole, the invitation of Alpha Theta to attend a party to be given on Dec. 19th.

The society then proceeded to elect officers for the coming term. The following men were elected:

President, V. Crittenden; vice pres., G. Bates; sec'y, S. Vliet; treas. E. Von der Heide; ass't treas., A. Graham; house manager, V. Handley; critics, Marks and Bates. F. Shaver was unanimously elected janitor. The installation service was read by Bob Wyatt.

Following this ceremony the society adjourned.

The most familiar song on the Campus is "Oh Day of Rest and Gladness." The day is conveniently stretched into ten days with heavy accent on the word "Rest."

The student body wishes to extend the heartiest wishes to Mr. Bates for a razorless Christmas and a sprouting New Year.

Merry Christmas.

Alumni

Heart disease yesterday afternoon caused the death of Roy Cook, 40 years old, pioneer mining man of the Coer d'Alene district, and for the past year superintendent of the Hecla mine at Burke, according to word reaching Wallace from Spokane. The body was taken to the Smith company undertaking parlors at Spokane, where it will await further funeral arrangements. Mrs. Cook, was in Spokane at the time of his unexpected death, having gone over to spend Thanksgiving with him.

Mr. Cook came to the district about 20 years ago. He was employed as a miner in different properties of the district, going to the Hecla about 15 years ago. He was made foreman about six years ago, and last year, on the death of Fremont S. Rowe, was made mine superintendent.

About two years ago Mr. Cook was married to Miss Boag, then teaching in the public schools of Burke, who survives him. They had no children.

Friends said last night that Mr. Cook had been warned by his physician that his high blood pressure would not permit of his continuing underground mining, and that plans were being made for a removal to Spokane. He has spent much time in the immediate past in that city, and Mrs. Cook went over Wednesday to be with him over Thanksgiving. Death occurred about 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Cook leaves no family here with the exception of his widow, as far as could be learned last night.

ENGINEERING CLUB

The meeting was called to order Thursday evening by temporary chairman Sullivan. Report of the constitutional committee heard and accepted. Motion made and seconded that the club holds its regular meetings every two weeks. Motion was carried.

John Wright was nominated and unanimously elected secretary.

W. Roth was nominated and unanimously elected vice-president.

B. Rathsborg was nominated and unanimously elected secretary.

R. Waggoner and D. Sullivan were elected to be on the program committee which is headed by the vice-president.

Motion made and carried that the secretary act as press representative.

It was decided that the president and vice president give the program next meeting.

A discussion on meeting night was brought to a conclusion by a motion to adjourn until the first Wednesday evening after Christmas vacation. Carried.

SCIENCE CLUB

The Science club held its first regular meeting Wednesday, December 14, in Professor MacCurdy's room. After calling the meeting to order, the president read the constitution and by-laws. These were duly discussed and approved and those who wished to become active members of the club signed the membership cards. It was decided that the meetings should be held on the evenings of the second and fourth Saturday's of the month. No definite decision was reached as to the qualifications of an active member.

Professor MacCurdy gave a short and interesting talk on the benefits to be derived from the science club. The meeting was then adjourned until further notice.

It is the intention of the members of this club to make this meeting so interesting and beneficial that a large number will join. To this end the officers of the organization are planning an excellent program for the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday noon the dining room that greeted the Wright Hall boarders was resplendent with holly, Christmas trees, and lighted candles. Mrs. Way and Dean Roberts had decorated the place in such a fashion that it seemed real homelike, and one could almost imagine Santa Claus coming down the big fire place at the further end of the hall.

Then came the dinner. Chicken and all the fixings, and other delicacies too numerous to mention were placed before the hungry students who certainly did justice to that splendid meal. The dinner was the result of Mrs. Way's planning, and Marie's cooking. Wright Hall is fortunate indeed to have such a combination of culinary experts.

Marjorie Dunton entertained as her guests over Sunday Miss Margaret Newell of Detroit.

Donna Kelly of Saginaw was the guests of Esther Packard for the week end.

Helen Huff of Saginaw has been a Wright Hall visitor for a few days.

CONTRIBUTED

O sing a song of bloody men, of a hall of deadly fame.

O sing a song of a dusky den and a clan that has no name.

And sing of the night when the stars shine bright and the moon gleams o'er the pines;

And sing of the fight of wit and might and the souls that pay the fines.

O sing of the deadly mid-night hour when lights and life burn low; And sing of the men from their dark, dank den as they off to the forage go.

Of the curse in the night, of the shirt-tail flight and the dusky eyes that glow

Like gruesome lamps from the quagmire damps so sullen, awful slow.

Ye blithesome maids when ye seek your beds in the hall the world calls Wright,

Thank God for the rest in the land of the blest and the freedom from such flight.

And pray for the peace of the victim heart who goes to pay the cost

Of the fiendish sport of the dread cohort whose scruples all are lost.

And when ye wake in the awful night and the silence seems to speak In the long black halls no footstep falls and you turn to slumber seek,

Then think a thought of the bughouse where the night reeks with shriek and groan,

And the battered door and the blood strewn floor lead up to Bedlam's throne.

—Guess Who!

Mr. G. J. Scheper of Ann Arbor was the guest of Ellen Laman over Sunday.

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That Dreadful Explosion

(Continued from last week)

In the meantime, while St. Peter had been sending the unlucky ones from Pioneer to their respective dwelling places, there arose in the breasts of the others who were yet to be called, a great indignity that surged and grew until it became a living thing. It took complete possession of the mob, making them bristling with anger. To see their fellows going to the regions below, when they should have gone elsewhere, drove them to riot. Led by the toughest ring-leader in the one-time Pioneer, Toughy Burke, the mob assaulted St. Peter.

Needless to say, the saint was rudely shocked. Such carrying on before the very Gates of Heaven he had never seen before. For an instant he was too surprised to act, saint though he was. Towering above him, snipping him with lightning-like rapidity, punching him with the force of a pile driver, tossing him around as if he were a foot ball, the indignant ones gave him a beating such as he had never experienced before. Combating him was the daring, blond giant from the north, Gustafson, the mighty Sieg, and Dasef, whose voice fairly shook the gates on their hinges; Crawford and Burke; Zuelch and Apsey; and Williams, member of the Coal Heavers Union; Boyd and Manwaring, members of the Dirty Six, were all fighting. Burke and Manwaring, who were not satisfied with their mighty slams, picked up Waddy Crawford and threw him at St. Peter. The saint fell over with the terrible impact, but he gained his feet again in an instant. For the first time he suddenly came to himself, and seizing the entire mob in his two arms, as if they were but sheaves of grain, he hurled them far over his head. With righteous indignation, he watched the soaring mass fly into space, then he calmly brushed his clothes.

The wicked ones might have kept on sailing for centuries, had St. Peter so wished it. But he remembered who he was and that his position demanded that he give them a fair trial. So it was that he caused them to boomerang back.

After returning from their heated journey, Zuelch was the first to recover himself, then Apsey. Finally, upon perceiving that all had returned to their senses, St. Peter began to lecture them severely. Said he to Burke:

"For this gross insult to my person, for this insult to my artificial indignity, I'll put you on the tail of a kite and let you sail around the solar system for a couple of years. When the people in Paw Paw see you they will think that a devil is about to get them all.

"And you, Manwaring, I realize that you fought under the influence of Burke, so I'll not sentence you so heavily. However, there is a very serious charge against you, and that is that you use tooth paste for shaving cream. Such carrying on will send you below until I get ready to let you come up."

Ere Peter had finished speaking, the two most desperate characters of Pioneer had vanished.

Suddenly St. Peter broke down and began to weep most violently.

"My soul," cried he. "I am filled with compassion for you. An innocent man, yet I fear that he can't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. You, my dear Crawford, you who were dragged into this fight against your will, I forgive all. My poor boy, come to me. During all the time that I've been guarding these gates, no person has quite taken my fancy as you have. Yet I am forced to send you away. Oh! Come here; let me weep on your manly shoulder!"

Waddy was so astounded that he promptly fainted. Iron man though he was, the pitiful scene of St. Peter weeping, holding his arms out to him, robbed him of his senses. But alas, when he recovered himself, he was not before the Gates of Heaven, nor in Heaven.

In the meantime, Peter had dried his eyes, and was addressing that blond giant from the north, Gustafson.

"Let me question you, Gus," said he. "Where were you born?"

"Oh, most high man, I was born on the top of the North Pole where the polar bears and the seals rove by the thousands."

"Did you find the climate there to your liking?"

"Oh, it was a little cold. But my mother offset that difficulty early in life when she taught me the art of jazz and the shake. I learned to kick the piano and shake myself with a great deal of gusto."

"How would you like a change in climate?"

"Er--er--I don't know."
"That's fine. I really think that you would like the warm land better. Be on your way."

Six persons yet remained, some of them one-time desperados. In the latter class was Sieg, a bold, bad man. Many a scandal was he mixed up in while on earth. Said the saint to him:

"Sieg, the book says that you are charged with attempted robbery. It says that you and seventeen others tried to rob a poor house. What have you to say to that?"

"Dear Peter, there is nothing I can say in regard to my highly justifiable action. However, I might remark that my men and I suffered an unpleasant moment a few minutes after we left the poor house. We had retired to the park in order to hide, and there we were set upon by a band of squirrels. How do you explain that?"

"Hum--hum!" said St. Peter adjusting his glasses. "I think that the squirrels must have taken you for a gang of 'nuts'."

Howls—howls—howls like those of a dog. And Dasef's mad baying. St. Peter was shocked at the uproar which followed his words.

"What ho," cried he. "Stop this unholy racket. You, Dasef, come aside, and you, Apsey, that's it. There is nothing funny about this matter. Sieg, I sentence you to be the official guard of the Devil. And you, Apsey and Dasef, I bid you enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I know that when the angels wish some amusement, they would like to call upon a man who can roar. For fear that you will not feel like roaring at all times, dear Thomas, you will please look at Apsey and receive your stimulant. You will roar whenever you see him. Pass through the gates."

Zuelch, Boyd, and Williams (H)—what a group of "he" men. Boyd, the ex-strong man of the U. S. Navy, the man who wrenched a cannon loose from the decks of the New Mexico and threw it at a German submarine 100 yards away. Zuelch, the man who crawled out into No Man's Land and captured an entire regiment of Germans. And Williams, the hero from Brown City, the man who will no doubt be the future president of the P. M. R. R., the man who held up the broken bridge while a train ran over it.

Three men with great records, three men, tried and true. Yet Peter condemned them all. All he could do was to give them a recommendation to the "Who's Who Below." Said St. Peter in parting.

"Williams, you followed in the footsteps of your brother too long to keep you a pure man. Boyd, you once attacked a child on the streets of Cairo, Egypt, and since that time you have never been in your right senses. And Zuelch, I have pity for you. Poor man, you let women ruin your life. How sad I am. Good bye, my men. Be on the downward trail."

Whereupon St. Peter dropped his head, passed through the gates and was lost sight of in the dewy mists of Heaven.

**ZUEBLIN OFFERS
A FINE LECTURE**

Continued from page one)
of at home, thus giving him the proper food and plenty of time to eat in. There should be frequent physical examinations, as at present it is estimated that on the average each child loses one year of school to ailments affecting him from the throat up. Pupils should not be promoted by classes, but should be advanced in each study as soon as they are individually prove themselves masters of the portion assigned for their respective grades. Children should stay in school until they are eighteen years of age, and should be given experiments annually after their tenth year to ascertain what sort of life work they may be fitted for.

In regard to city government, the lecturer advocated the city manager type. The manager should be assisted by an elected commission or council, whose members serve without pay, and a mayor whose chief duty shall be to preside over the various ceremonies in which the city is represented. He cited the city government of Cleveland as an example of the city manager type. The manager should be a highly paid competent man. The hope of efficient city government, said Mr. Zueblin, lies in the placing of faith and trust by the citizens in a small body of men who shall have absolute power in engaging and dismissing a city manager, who in turn shall have complete authority over city employees.

Those going to Northern Michigan who have to wait for trains in Bay City should remember that Alma College plays basket ball with the Bay City Industrials that Wednesday night. Be there.

Be sure to pray for good sleighing on the night before Christmas.

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