

The Almanian

"Where Friendliness Links Learning to Living"

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Caroling Planned by Students

Tonight the Denominational Clubs will form groups for Christmas caroling. The Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Lutheran students will serenade through the different parts of town and end the evening by caroling at the President's house.

Bert White, Bob McComb and Red Rogers are in charge of this annual event. Everyone is welcome to join any group for an evening of fun.

Attention Mister Claus!

December 14, 1948.

Dear Santa Claus:

I haven't bothered you for a long time, not since I was five—you remember, the winter it snowed so hard, and I wanted a lacy pink parasol for Christmas. Mother and Father said I was silly to want that, and I guess you thought so, too, because you didn't answer my letter. I always thought that maybe it didn't reach you; I couldn't believe that you would be bound by the prosaic ways of parents.

However, to get down to the present, I'm in a predicament! As you know, there are quite a few instructors on the campus. Now I don't know, Santa Claus, whether or not you have ever been to college, but if so you will probably remember that at a certain time of year instructors are subject to a disease which causes them to become somewhat demented in one line of thinking. Now mind you, I said in one line of thinking. They really are quite stable in most respects. This year I find that a high percentage of my instructors have become afflicted with this illness. The disease is known variously by such names as: term-paperitis, book reportitis; or, taken generally, as library-osis. The peculiar thing about it is that it breaks out not on the instructors, but on their students—people like me. My roommate wonders why I count the striations on metamorphic rocks to go to sleep and mumble in the middle of the night about the lost peace of 1918. But it is all caused by this mania for library research. Each day there is added to my load one more book report, another term paper, a formal research paper, or as a last resort, an exam. I wouldn't mind if all of these things didn't have to be done at once. That, Santa, is where you come in. You have powers unlike mine; can't you slip just one more week into this month? That is all I want for Christmas—just one more week!

Goodbye, Santa,
Hazel King.

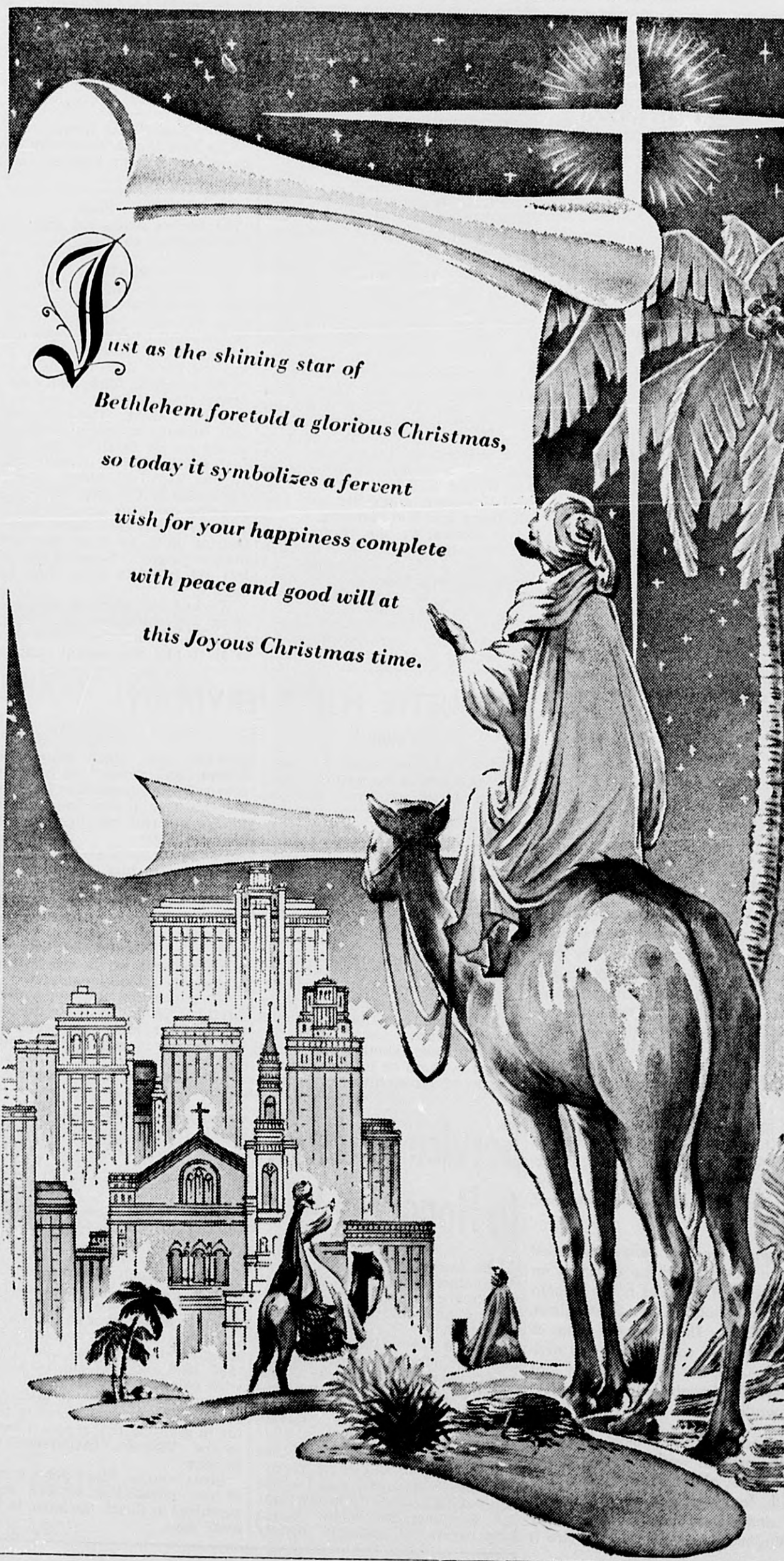
ANNOUNCEMENT

Students who are planning social events are asked to make arrangements for their chaperons with Mrs. Rogert Rufener, the Social Director. It was agreed at the opening of the year in a conference with Dean Fyfe and Mrs. Rufener that this should be the procedure for the current year, and since the word had not gotten to all social groups the faculty has asked that this announcement to the students be made.

UNION GETS "NEW LOOK"

Dr. Welch has announced that plans are being made to paint the Student Union during the Christmas vacation. He also added that if there is time to do the work, there will be five newly decorated rooms at Wright Hall. This means they will have new ceilings, floors, and wall paint.

"And when they saw the Star, they Rejoiced"



A Merry Christmas to One and All

Mrs. Welch joins me in expressing the hope that the members of the faculty and the students of Alma College will have a pleasant Christmas and that the New Year will be one filled with hope and promise.

Instead of giving you something or saying that we hope you receive as a present what you want, let us say that on the contrary we would like to take from you certain things. At this holiday season it is our hope and prayer that you may be relieved of any note of sorrow. We would take from you any worry or problem that is making you unhappy. We would have you forsake any spirit of intolerance that keeps you out of happy fellowship with all men. We would take from your lives any sin that separates you from the love of God.

With these things removed there will be room for the Christmas spirit and you will have it. May God bless you one and all during these happy days that are ahead.

President and Mrs. Dale D. Walch

Santa Comes to Wright Hall

Wednesday, December 15th, will be a big night for Wright Hall, for that is the night the girls have their annual Christmas Party. The Christmas tree, which is already up, was decorated by Chairman Kathy Shaw and her able committee consisting of the Rose sisters, Peggy and Ruth, Peg Powers, Delpha Crawford, and Nan Fullen. Carroll MacLeod, Chairman of the lounge decorations, is aided by Elaine Crabb, Hazel Brown, Olive Cravens, and Virginia Bryan. Phyllis Cluchey and Ann Hobart are co-chairmen of the entertainment committee. Peggy Donkin, Janice Bleil, and Gloria Koch form the rest of their committee. Becky Lyberg, Rosemary Nicoli, and Ann Putz, led by Janie Kohler, will send out the invitations.

Monday, December 6th, the girls drew names at a house meeting. The name they drew was to be their "buddy" until the Christmas Party. They were to give them a gift every day until the big night. On the gift they give their buddy that night, they sign their names. The gifts are to be handed out by Santa Claus himself. Each girl is eagerly waiting not only to open her Christmas package but also to unbar Santa Claus.

Kenneth Plaxton Added to Faculty

It has been announced that Mr. Kenneth Plaxton will be added to the faculty next semester. At present he is assisting the Alumni Office in contacting prospective students. He will teach the second semester of the Business Law course now being given by Mr. Gordon Netzorg. Mr. Plaxton, who passed his bar examination recently, will instruct classes as well as operate his own law firm.

Frosh Frolic Carried Out in Christmas

The annual Frosh frolic was held last Friday night in the Memorial Gymnasium. The dance floor was centered by a huge Christmas tree, and the surrounding walls were done in evergreen boughs and holly. Joe La Vigne and his Aristocrats supplied the music for the formally attired girls and their escorts. The refreshments were punch and cookies.

Red Johnson arrived in a Santa Claus outfit to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. The dance was enjoyed by everyone and many comments of praise are in order to the Freshman Class for the Christmas spirit that was involved in the affair.

MISS KLEIN TO BE MARRIED IN SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Miss Charlotte Klein, Alma College librarian for the past nine years, left Wednesday for home in Syracuse, N. Y. She will be married there on December 18 to Wendell Cole, formerly of the Alma College faculty, who is now dramatics instructor at Leland-Stanford university, Palo Alto, Calif. They will drive to the coast on their wedding trip.

Mrs. D. W. Robinson, assistant librarian, will be acting librarian at the college pending the appointment of the new librarian. Miss Jenette Faber will assist Mrs. Robinson in the library.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Cole will live near Mrs. William McCurdy, who was formerly Alma's Dean of Women.

Miss Klein Honored at Party

The faculty Christmas party was held at the Park Hotel in St. Louis on Tuesday, December 7th. Entertainment was provided by Miss Vanderhart and Miss Bacon. Dr. Rice led the group in the singing of Christmas carols. Miss Charlotte Klein was the guest of honor and was presented with a silver tea service.

Dr. Welch spoke Monday, December 13 at the Chamber of Commerce meeting in Ovid, Michigan.

Jane College Likes Hep-Mits

One more homely, every day article has yielded to the modern vogue for style and color and as a result another national college campus fad appears to be in the making.

The common white cotton work glove, which has remained unchanged in appearance for generations, can now be had in a range of nine brilliant colors. You can buy them in matched pairs, you can mix them to match your school colors, or you can exchange left hands with a boy friend or girl friend and the two of you have corresponding mixed pairs of "Date Mates" or "Love Gloves."

The "new look" gloves have been nicknamed hep-mits and the idea was thought up by Miss Peggy Ann Garner, young star of William Moss Productions whose picture, "The Big Cat," is soon to be released by Eagle Lion Films. Peggy's hobby is gardening and she decided that color should apply to gloves as well as to flowers. She had no trouble selling her idea to a big eastern textile firm.

The manufacturers thought they had a style item for women but when market tests were conducted in the Midwest, students at Northwestern and elsewhere began buying them in mixed pairs to correspond with their school colors. The fad got a boost in the East when Princeton athletic officials arranged to outfit their entire cheering section in orange and black gloves for the Princeton-Yale game.

Peggy's hep-mits are now to be had in a color range which includes red, green, gold, orange, blue, maroon, yellow, gray, purple, black, and white. You can mix 'em or match 'em.

THE MIXUP

Percy Homer Sputts was the only Senior in Alma College who flunked Chem. II, Dr. P.....'s class, three times. As a result, poor Percy had obtained a defeatist's complex but was still persistent in taking the basic chemistry course for the fourth time.

However, Percy was a man after the Doctor's heart. For three long and hard years Percy had served as the handyman and valet for Dr. P..... on his farm which was located on the outskirts of Alma. His many numerous chores were to chop the firewood, milk the cows, serve the meals, feed the chickens, clean the pig pen, and last but not least, to draw the good Doctor's bath. As a gratitude for this form of servitude, the Doctor had flunked Percy three times. Of course, we know that Percy never studied.

Finally after three years Percy had decided to get even with the good Dr. P..... Dr. P..... had just summoned Percy to draw his bath. Since the house had no water, Percy's daily routine was to carry in the water from the well, boil it in a tank in the cellar, and pour the water into the old metal bath-tub in the bath room. "There was no time like the present to get even," thought Percy, so he put his plan into action. Percy trod down the cellar steps into the Doctor's laboratory. After five minutes he emerged

carrying a ten gallon glass jug of 90 per cent concentrated Sulphuric Acid.

Straight to the bathroom he went. Percy proceeded to pour the contents of the jug into the metal bathtub. Yes, revenge would be sweet, especially when the good Doctor stepped into the bathtub and took a bath in the soothing, concentrated H-2-SO-4. The sulphuric acid had the lustering appearance of water. Such was the saying "Johnny was a chemist, but Johnny is no more, what Johnny thought was H-2-O was H-2-SO-4."

Percy emptied the last of the contents into the tub and then took the jug back to the cellar. After glouting over his project for ten minutes, Percy decided to go upstairs and see how the Doctor was cooking. But what Percy didn't know, was that the Doctor had fallen asleep in his study and had neglected to take his bath. Young ambitious Percival ran up to the bathroom, opened the door and looked in to see how Dr. P..... would take a friendly joke. A very funny thing was taking place. The sulphuric acid was acting on the metal tub, rapidly eating it away and displacing hydrogen, a deadly explosive gas throughout the bathroom. This is something every amateur high school chemist should know. The action of an acid on a metal will displace hydrogen. However, 10 gallons of concentrated Sulphuric Acid and a metal tub will give off enough hydrogen to roast a litter of pigs and a herd of cattle. Maybe this was why Percy flunked Chem. 11. three times.

So, Percy not seeing the Doc., decided to investigate. He also decided to have at the same time one of the Chemistry student's special cigarettes, a chlorinated reefer. Percy struck a match to light el cigarello, when suddenly there was a loud explosion in the bathroom where Percy was standing. The hydrogen gas had ignited from Percy' match. Dr. P..... heard the explosion and came running in to the scene of the crime. All he found among the wreckage and smoke was the badly mutilated body of Jercy Homer Sputts and next to Homer lay the tattered and torn cover of Basic Beginning College Chemistry by Babor.

Wright Hall News

On Friday, December 10th, Dean Fyfe and Mrs. Powell decided to declare war, preferably on coke bottles and dust. So an extensive search was conducted while our haphazard little innocents (the Wright Hall women) were all attending chapel. Said innocents, who are not above ignoring brooms and coke bottles, returned merrily from chapel. They were shocked and chagrined to find that people had been looking under their beds. Many a little white note was found with the ultimatum: "Clean up your room before one o'clock this afternoon or ten demerits for you." With the threat of ten demerits, everybody proceeded to wield brooms. You know, now the place doesn't feel the same any more.

Dorothy Dugal, former Alma College student, is a member of the cast for "I Remember Mama," which will be presented by the Central Michigan College's drama club on January 18th.

BASKETBALL . . . Originates Here

Basketball is the only major sport played in the U. S. which is purely of American origin. All other games are either direct importations from foreign lands or are hybrids.

Dr. James A. Naismith created basketball while he was a physical director at a Y. M. C. A. in Springfield, Massachusetts. The first game was played January 20, 1892.

He was given the mandate to invent a game that would fulfill the Y. M. C. A. winter recreation program. Feeling that mature individuals desired some enjoyable form of recreation rather than the physical development programs advocated by the European nations, Dr. Naismith began his experiments.

In considering the fundamental principals of all games, Dr. Naismith learned that in all team games some kind of a ball was used. In football you had to allow the chance to tackle. Because the offense weren't allowed to run with the ball, there would be no necessity for tackling and roughness would be eliminated. Oddly enough from football Naismith evolved a counter proposition that embodies the fundamental principle of basketball.

The next consideration was to find a suitable goal through which to pass the ball. It was decided that by making the goal parallel with the floor the severe driving effect of the ball would be eliminated, since the ball would have to be thrown on a curve to drop it in. In order to prevent the defense from crowding the goal area, the goal was placed overhead, so that once the ball left the individual's hands it was not likely to be interfered with. The first goals employed were a couple of old peach baskets hanging at each end of the gym.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The United States Civil Service Commission announces that applications are being accepted for two Student Aid (trainee) examinations for filling positions in various scientific fields. One of the examinations was announced by the central office of the Commission with the optional fields of engineering, chemistry, mathematics, metallurgy, physics, meteorology, and geology. The positions pay \$2,498 and \$2,724 a year and are in the Bureau of Standards, the Bureau of Aeronautics, the Bureau of Ships, the Geological Survey, the Federal Power Commission, the Department of the Army, and other agencies located in Washington, D. C., and vicinity. Meteorologist positions in the Weather Bureau will also be filled throughout the United States. The other Student Aid examination was announced by the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners of the Potomac River Naval Command for filling trainee positions paying \$2,724 in various naval establishments in Washington, D. C., and vicinity. This examination includes all of the optional fields mentioned above except meteorology and geology.

The central office examination is open to sophomore and junior students who expect to complete all the required courses by June 30, 1949. The Potomac River Naval Command examination is open only to juniors. To qualify for these trainee positions, applicants must pass a written test and, in addition, must have completed either 2 or 3 years of academic study with major work in one of the optional fields.

Further information along with a sample of the written test may be obtained from the Almanian office.

Canterbury Club New

A dinner meeting was held Wednesday, December 1st, under the guiding hand of Spike Smith, our entertainment chairman. Bert White and Hugh Freeman, her right-hand men, looked just darling in their little aprons while they stirred pudding and poked meat loaf. Bert can sure wield a mean egg-beater when he gets going. After dinner the guest speaker, Dr. Herbert Wohler of the Michigan Chemical Company, addressed the group of the pros and cons of careers in various fields of business.

Another project under way is that of sending a relief package to a needy family in Greece. Each member will bring his contribution of food and clothing to the next meeting.

Students Make Survey

Last Sunday a group of Alma College students consisting of members of the Sociology Department and the religious denominations went to Flint to make a survey. The survey was made for the Presbyterian Church and the Department of Sociology at Columbia University. Columbia University is interested in the movement of people from the city to the rural areas that has taken place in the last ten years. The survey was for the purpose of discovering how long the members of this area had worked at their present job and how long they had lived at their present location. After the results have been tabulated they will be sent to Columbia University where they will be carefully studied. Rev. Robert Woods was in charge of the project and Glen Rogers acted as his assistant.

RADIO SCHEDULE

W. F. Y. C. presents the following radio programs from the college campus at 3:05 P. M.:

Wednesday, December 15th, Christmas Broadcast, "The Unfriendly Village."

Monday, January 3rd, Student Quiz.

Wednesday, January 5th, Alma College Barbershop Quartet.

CHAPEL NEWS

A religious drama was presented at the chapel program last Friday. The cast included: Donna Holland, Jim Sanford, Dick Hinderliter, and Glen Rogers. The play was directed by Jenette Faber under the supervision of the Alma College Drama Club.

Tomorrow the assembly will be presented by the Speech and Music departments.

World Relation Club

The International World Relations club held its regular meeting, Thursday evening. The discussion was led by Chia Hyun Yoon of Korea, who is a student at Alma this year. He gave some interesting sidelights on the political and social conditions in his country.

The next meeting will be held the first Thursday in January at the home of Professors Howe.

IWO NEWS

Four new members were formally received into the IWO last week. They were Barbara Ward, Mary Jo Herren, Suad Wakim, and Ann Putz.

Our volley ball team played the Philos last Thursday and came out with a 34-30 victory. The week before our team was victorious over the WAA team.

The IWO room has been partitioned and painted and is now waiting for the finishing touches that will make it comfortable for relaxing or studying.

On November 6, 1948 Miss Jane Durham became the bride of Gerald Barnett, class of 1941, at the Saginaw Congregational Church. Mrs. Barnett is a member of the 1940 graduating class of Michigan State College.

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