

Merry Christmas—Merry Christmas—Merry Christmas—Merry Christmas



The Almanian

Mailed under PL&R
34.66
Permit No. 37
Alma, Michigan

A Student Publication Founded in 1900

Volume 45

Alma, Michigan, Tuesday, December 16, 1952

Number 108



This artfully done black print is the work of Peggy Pielou, the college nurse, and the wife of Mr. William Pielou, assistant professor in biology. Mrs. Pielou used the print to make her own Christmas cards this year, and graciously consented that we use it here on our front page as a greeting to the entire college community.

Carolers Climax Holiday Spirit

Alma Christian Association Sponsors Annual Tour Tonight

The Alma College Christian Association is again sponsoring its annual all-student caroling tour, to begin this evening at seven. The group of carolers will leave from the chapel at that time, and proceed to the Masonic home at the edge of town, then to the Maccabees home, the Smith Memorial and Wilcox hospitals, and to various other points in the city. After the caroling tour, all participants are invited to the President's House, where Mrs. Harker will serve hot chocolate and cookies.

The annual Christmas recess begins tomorrow at five o'clock, and classes will not meet again until January 5. All last weekend students and faculty gathered in varied holiday activities. On Friday, the Women's Athletic Association held a chocolate party at the President's House, and Zeta Sigma fraternity held its closed party in the evening.

The well-advertised "Holly House" was held on Saturday evening, sponsored by Delta Gamma Tau fraternity and Sigma Phi sorority. The faculty also held its annual dinner party at the Park Hotel in St. Louis, where Miss Molly Parrish, registrar, showed film slides of her trip to Europe last summer.

On Sunday evening, Handel's "Messiah" was presented at the high school auditorium by the Alma Choral Union. In the afternoon, Phi Phi Alpha members held a closed party, and in the evening another party took place for the residents of Wright Hall.

On Monday, the now traditional Christmas party for the children of Mexican migrant laborers was held in the student union, sponsored as always by the Alma Christian Association. The A Capella Choir traveled to Mt. Pleasant for a concert in the evening. This afternoon the faculty is holding its Christmas tea in the home economics room of the Arts building.

(The next issue of the Almanian will be January 9, 1953. Contributors are asked to submit their items on Monday, January 5.)

"All the Poets Said . . ."

Phrases from the Poetry of Christmas.

"O, who would think so sweet a babe as this
Should e'er be slain by a false-hearted
kiss!"

—Francis Quarles.

"The shepherds on the lawn
Or ere the point of dawn,
Sat simply chatting in a rustic row;
Full little thought they then,
That the mighty Pan
Was kindly come to live with them below."

—John Milton.

"To see this Babe in all innocence,
A martyr born in our defense;
Can man forget this story?"

—Ben Jonson.

"What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man,
I would do my part,—
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart."

—Christina Rossetti.

"For this your mother sweated in the
cold,
For this you bled upon the bitter tree:
A yard of tinsel ribbon bought and sold,
A paper wreath, a day at home for me."

—Edna St. Vincent Millay.

"Before the Babe the shepherds bow'd
their knees,
And springs ran nectar, honey dropped
from trees." —William Drummond.

"Heureux Les Debonnaires"

The French "Nouveau Testament" renders the Greek of Our Lord's words in the perfect phrase of the title, "happy are the debonnaire." The word means, "those who are of a good spirit, the pleasant, the gay." This is far different from our modern connotation of the Elizabethan word "meek," which we dislike especially when it is used to refer to "gentle Jesus, meek and mild." For obsequiousness is an abortive connotation which has no part in bon homie. The debonnaire can be bold and forthright, the doormat meek cannot.

The triumph of Christ's own life, too, came not as a result of his lowly background, but in his resounding victory over it, and over the confining mediocrity, the provincial dreariness of Nazareth (out of which it was thought nothing good could come). But it was not for his brief 28 years alone in northern Judea that he was born among us; even in this 20th "Christian Century" he would engraft his saviourhood into our own lives. The splendid seraphim hover with the angels at the nativity of every human child, offering the glowing sacrament of beauty for each life, even that of some poor ninito from the outskirts of town. It is the "terrible meek," the debonnaire, who can be the midwife at that renascence of beauty, and he can take courage from the gospel that tells us "whose side was spoken for, when comrade Jesus took the floor." It is these happy folk who shall inherit the earth.

To live with quiet courage, to plan gently and uncompromisingly for citizenship in the heavenly kingdom (nowadays called the brave new world), to believe unrepentantly in the worth of the truths we have discovered in our own experience, and to be a pilgrim, is to have some semblance of the genuine and gracious gentility of the debonnaire.

G. M. G.

The Almanian

Published Fortnightly by Students of Alma College
 Subscription Price, \$1.50 per annum. Address for all purposes, Almanian, Alma College, Almc, Michigan.
 Member, Intercollegiate Press

Grant M. Gallup	Editor
R. Pingree Vance	Associate Editor
J. Douglas Gillesby	Assistant Editor
Jane French	News Editor
Stuart Friesema	Feature Editor
Walt Roman	Sports Editor
Howard Wiley	Assistant Sports Writer
Robert H. Kelley	Business Manager

STAFF

NEWS—Barb Bauer, Marion McDonough, Ann Hoffman, Pat Anderson, Peggy Lomas, Jim Hollingsworth, Martha MacClennan, Wilma Beatty, Jody Lilley.

PROOFREADER—May Butrick.

TYPISTS—Dick Humphreys, Gwen Cross.

PHOTOGRAPHERS—Gordon Converse, Larry Stevens.

Christmas Message from an Editor

I so despair of discovering or inventing any new angle to the Christmas spirit to write about, which is not better off left alone, that I have taken the opportunity to lightly versify in a mode which smacks of Christmas only to the degree the reader wishes. And why not? Oscar tells us that "Consistency is the last resource of the unimaginative."

SUBVERSIVES' CHANT

Foolish ideas have come and gone,
 and more are surely to come;
 But none can be so foolish or droll
 as the myth of usefulness.

Elbows they say are made that way
 so men may distort themselves for work,
 When true hearts know that they are so
 to hoist a glass or encircle a lass.

Mouths are on us so we may feed;
 plainly, this is utter rot.
 A mouth should sing the sun away
 and sneak smooches in the dark.

Hands are given to be shaken by
 beloved stalwart cronies;
 Surely to work them the length of day
 is very secondary.

Our elders thought work would earn the stars,
 but as I sit down to write
 I sit as far as in days before
 from the merry ice-chip stars.

The only way to gain us those stars,
 to hitch our wagon on,
 Is impound their twinkle in our eyes,
 and cake our smiles with mirth.

So smooch ahead all, bend the elbows,
 and let your legs gyrate to rhythm;
 Man's term on earth is meant for living,
 encrusted with fun *ad libitum*.

—R. Pingree Vance.

The Almanian staff extends sincere holiday greetings to all our readers.



And the very best for the coming year!



The Paradox of Christmas

The following are random selections from Christmas sermon notes of Dr. Roy Hamilton, late Professor of English language and literature.

"Religious leaders remind us that Christmas is a day or a season for some folk: a day or season of cheer, of giving, or of decoration. (They are symbolized by snow, by neckties, and by candles). These are largely objective features of a lovely season. True Christmas is a spiritual state, wherein good-willed men find peace. The unselfish giving of good will brings the happiness of peace. In our feverish days, we seek peace and do not find it. We try to buy it. Then, at Christmas, we turn to good will, and lo! Peace comes of itself. That is the paradox of Christmas!

Seek peace and you cannot find it; give peace in good will and the angel song echoes within us. John Haynes Holmes has said that the wonderful thing about Christmas is that it fulfills our dreams. Indifferences, selfishness, fears and hates are suspended, and men are spiritually kin. Our supreme task is to seize and hold and perpetuate the Christmastide; to commit ourselves to understanding, compassion, and goodwill."

"Christmas is the season of wonder, adapted to the childlike mind. We all need a touch of this madness, this poetry of Christmas that surrounded our childhood."

Dr. Hamilton used the great poetry of Christmas to illustrate his sermons. Among his notes can be found the poems of Thackeray, Herrick, Bliss Carmen, and Clement G. Moore. One of the poems found in his notes is reprinted here. Its author is that wonderful Scot, George MacDonald, who wrote "At the Back of the North Wind."

THAT HOLY THING George MacDonald

They all were looking for a king
 To slay their foes and lift them high,
 Thou cam'st, a little baby thing,
 That made a woman cry.

O son of man, to right my lot
 Nought but thy presence can avail;
 Yet on the road thy wheels are not,
 Nor on the seas thy sail!

My fancied way why shouldst thou heed?
 Thou com'st down thine own secret stair;
 Com'st down to answer all my need,
 Yea, every bygone prayer!

Econ Class Travels to Gary, Indiana

Last Thursday, December 11, the Economics 27 class, headed by Dr. Stephen Meyer, traveled to Gary, Indiana, to observe the work of the United States Steel Corporation plant. The trip is part of their study of American industries. Similar to this trip were those made to the Dow Chemical plant in Midland, and to the Oldsmobile factory in Lansing.

The members of the class who went to Gary were: Ray Banwell, Fran Booth, Jack Carleton, Gordon Converse, Max Haase, Alton Kaufman, Dale Lawson, Donna Leddy, Judy Bickert, Marge Lyda, Sue McLaughlin, Homer Smith, Robert Stebbins, William Taylor, Don Videan, Ken Walker, Robert Graham and Aubry Clapp.

Furnishings Ordered for New Student Center

Orders have been placed for lounge furniture, draperies, and a stage curtain for the Jerry Tyler Student Center, and delivery is expected before February 1. The walls of the recreation rooms have been painted, tile has been installed in the rest rooms, and finishing touches have been made on the building itself. It is scheduled to be ready for use by the second semester.

Alumnus Gives Spire Light for Chapel

Herb Estes, former president of the alumni association, has presented the college with a set of lights to illuminate the chapel spire by night. During the Christmas season, the lights are blue and red, but later will be white. The possibility of restoring or replacing the carillon chimes is also being investigated.

Congressman Evokes Student Questions

The Hon. Alvin Bentley, speaking before a Career Week assembly of faculty and students at the chapel, offered his views of the best solution for the Korean conflict and his analysis of the problem of international communism. The speech evoked interested questions from several students, which Mr. Bentley took time to answer during the program. Afterwards, a group of students surrounded the youthful speaker and once again plied him with questions. Mr. Bentley was accompanied on his second visit to our campus by his young bride.

FOR DRY CLEANING
SATISFACTION TRY

Modern Cleaners

PAUL'S SODA BAR
A Friendly Place to Eat



Santa Claus Charles Skinner at last year's Mexican Christmas party in the student union. Though most of the children seem to have implicit faith in the fat holiday clown, the faces of a few betray some incredulity.

Students Entertained Ninos at Third Annual A.C.A. Christmas Party Yesterday

The Mexican children's third annual Christmas party, sponsored by the Alma Christian Association and the sociology department, was held yesterday afternoon in the student union. Approximately ninety children attended, and college students took part in the supervision of the party. Refreshments of cookies, milk, ice cream, candy and fruit were served to the young guests. These were purchased with the donations which students have made through the canisters placed about the campus the past few weeks. A toy or gift was presented to each child by Santa Claus (Bruce Reed this year) through the Christian generosity of some Alma merchants.

The children also played various games, one of them a traditional Mexican Christmas game. Small candies are placed in a bag (called a pinata) which is suspended at a certain height; the children are blindfolded and must hit at the bag with sticks; the sooner they break the bag, the sooner they have the candies to eat. The announcement of this game is usually ac-

companied by delighted signs of recognition from the older children who have played it before.

The Christmas party is but one of a series of projects which is carried on throughout the school year, and even the summer vacation period, by students and faculty who are interested in this opportunity for the practical application of the social gospel. The A.C.A. and the sociology department have been cooperating to extend the effectiveness of the program, and though much of the work has been done by a nucleus of zealous students, the "Mexican Project," as it is called, is the concern of the campus-at-large. The Christmas party is one of the times that this is most believably demonstrated.

The A.C.A. has also been sponsoring an old clothing drive during the pre-Christmas weeks, and the items which have been placed in the boxes about the campus will now be sorted and parceled out to migrant families according to their needs.

Those who are interested in helping with the continued program are urged to see Don Gordon, Jane French, or Nancy Stockham.



Miss Kimiko Ogouchi plays her Japanese koto in the lounge of Wright Hall. While posing for photographer Gordon Converse she played "Jingle Bells" for a small audience on this interesting Oriental musical instrument. Kimi says the cost of shipping the very light-weight koto to this country was very near the cost of the instrument itself.

Kimiko Ogouchi Tells of Christmas in Japan

by Jane French

Just one week from today, Alma College students will find themselves in the midst of Christmas festivities. One student celebrating these holidays in America for the first time is Kimiko Ogouchi from Tokyo, Japan. Kimi tells us that her people look forward to the holiday season with just as much interest and expectation as Americans do. Christians, wherever they are, will pause in their homes and churches to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, and small children await the arrival of Santa Claus once more.

Japanese children, however, celebrate another very important holiday. This is the Japanese New Year, called Sanganichi, a festival which lasts for three days. Starting on the 29th of December, the celebrative atmosphere can be felt in the air. Folk songs, dancing, and general gaiety fill many Japanese homes with happiness. A very sweet rice-wine called saki is served to young and old alike. Special foods are prepared in honor of the coming New Year. Most important of these foods is the rice cake. All families, even the poor ones, celebrate the ending of the old year and the beginning of the new by eating a rice cake.

The children have special games to play, but perhaps the most interesting of all their toys are the kites which are flown by the young boys. These kites are carefully

made in the shapes of fish and birds and other small animals. They are brilliantly colored and each young owner is very proud to display the kite he flies on the first day of the New Year.

Small gifts are wrapped in beautiful little papers covered with Japanese prints, and given to friends and loved ones to bring good fortune in the New Year.

As we have the Christmas tree, so the Japanese have a New Year's tree. It is made of large pieces of bamboo tied together and surrounded by pine boughs. Decorations are very simple, but very beautiful.

Then the traveling entertainers come. In groups of three and occasionally four, they go from home to home, singing and dancing in exchange for any amount of money the families will give them for their efforts. One of these men carries a small monkey trained to do tricks to amuse the children, another plays native songs on a hand drum, while a third, wearing a grotesque lion's head, dances around the house to scare away any evil spirits which might have settled there. Celebrations and customs such as these often last until January 15, and thus Japan welcomes in the new year.

Kimi, as we stated earlier, lives with her family in Tokyo, and, living in that city, she has seen many changes made since the

arrival of American soldiers a few years ago. Far away from home, the soldiers are often taken into Japanese homes and given a warm welcome. In return, the troops have taken more than one Japanese orphanage under their sponsorship and shared their Christmas with these unfortunate children.

Kimi will spend Christmas in Flint this year with her sponsors, Miss Jane Grills and Dr. David E. Molyneaux, and she is eager to see all the American customs connected with the holiday season.

Kimi completed four years of college before the war and then went into radio work. She had her own program over the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation on which she interviewed personalities, including students who had been in the United States. Upon returning to Tokyo she will continue with her radio work, but while she is here Kimi is supplementing her formal education with a study of American customs and ways.

Dr. Harker Announces Start of Film Collection

Dr. Harker has announced the beginning of a collection of 35 mm. technicolor slides to be used by the publicity and admissions offices in presenting Alma College to prospective students. Suitable pictures of the buildings have already been obtained, but pictures of daily campus life and special ones of campus organization activities are still to be found in order to finish up the collection. If you have any slides of your own or of your parents which would be suitable to add to this group, Dr. Harker has requested that you let him borrow them in order to have copies made. After the copies had been obtained, the originals would, of course, be returned to the owners in good condition.

Examination Schedule Released

The registrar's office has released the examination schedule for semester 133. Finals will begin on Friday, January 23, 1953, and will continue through Wednesday, January 28, 1953. A copy of the schedule is posted in the lobby of the administration building, and further copies may be obtained in the office of the registrar.

Applications for Practice Teaching Invited

Professor McCall announced that all juniors planning to practice teach during the school term 1953-4 should see him personally during the month of January, and make application at that time.

He further announced that a placement service is available for all seniors, and that any one wishing to make use of it may obtain an application form at registration time in February. This placement service was expanded last year to include all seniors, and Mr. McCall hopes that more students will take advantage of it this year.

Coffee Cup

Essays

by Bill Farris

•Good night. Christmas," we will say at midnight on the 25th of December. And the midnight of the soul will return to cover up. plunge down, and weaken unto destruction.

Why is it that every year towards the end of November we unpack our principles of love and brotherhood along with the tinsel and tree ornaments, and then on the day after Christmas put the whole works away for another year?

Are love and brotherhood items to be classified with trimmings and tinsel? Is the spirit that Christmas represents - and should be uppermost in our minds all year long - to be resurrected only every 25th day of December? Is something wrong with the world - nay! with humanity! - that this spirit cannot survive every day of every year?

Christmas, to many people means the birthday of a child, the adoration of a king, the fulfillment of a prophecy. Whether it means this to you is not so important.

Fox Nets Dazzling 13

It was "George Fox night" here in the Memorial gymnasium last Tuesday as the scrappy Alma guard tossed in 33 points against Central Michigan before a capacity crowd. However, while the question "How many points does Fox have now?" reverberated throughout the packed gym, Alma was losing to Central by the creditable score of 85-75.

In banging these 33 points home, the brilliant Fox was also a sterling defensive performer, constantly stealing the ball from the Central Michigan players, and then converting these defensive maneuvers into tallies for the Alma squad. There seemed to be a friendly feud between Fox and Central's Al Thelen, both from Fowler high school, class "D" state champs last year. It was Alma's Fox all the way, as he outscored Thelen 33 to 19 points. George hit 12 to 17 shots from the floor, a .705 percentage, with nine out of ten free shots.

The Alma quintet got off to a fast start and fought to a six-point first quarter lead. This margin was short-lived as Central threw a pressing defense against the inexperienced Scots and pulled away to a substantial lead. The inability of the Alma basketeers to cope with this defense was an important factor in the final score of the contest, and by the time the Scots reorganized, they found themselves with a six-point deficit. The score at the half was 34-28 with Central ahead.

The second half found Alma playing Central's "racehorse" style of basketball, and Central pulled out front early in the third quarter, leading 60-34 at one time. Alma came back to narrow the margin to ten points at the conclusion of the contest. The game was another of the thrilling battles between the two schools. The record with Central since 1930 now reads Alma 56 victories as against 53 losses.

Other players contributing to the Alma scoring were Bud Miller with 14 points, and Bud Buerman with 10. Leading the chips were Al Thelen and Dick Parfitt with 19 tallies each. The next game for the Scots will be on Wednesday, December 17, against Albion at the Britons gym.

Sport Sidelights

The "Little Scot" cagers have played two games this year, one with the Saginaw Garment Cleaners, and the other with Central Michigan Frosh. The Scots lost both games, but they are gradually gaining confidence and are improving as the season progresses. The squad is composed of all freshmen, some of whom have already shared varsity chores along with their frosh duties. Coach Lawrence is confident these boys will be a great asset to the team's depth on the varsity squad next year. The players who have seen action on the Frosh team are as follows: John Acton, Marv

MARTIN'S STANDARD SERVICE

Lubrication and Wash

PH. 505

ALMA

FROM US TO YOU . . .
BEST WISHES FOR A
"MERRY HOLIDAY"

ALMA HARDWARE

325 N. State

Adventures of the Choir on Tour

by Andy Walsh

My and my hair days of riotous living came to an end at 11:30 Thursday morning as the A Cappella Choir returned to the Alma campus. We're happy to say that we arrived intact, which is more than we managed to accomplish during the trip. The escapades of "Donaldson and Cummings left in Dearborn" make quite a story; and then, of course, there's Ed Pless who missed the bus from Pontiac to Orchard Lake, but luckily arrived in time for the concert.

The choir members turned in some excellent performances, including those of "Unca Gene" Grove (forgive me, Prof), "Little Sir Echo" Larry Waggoner, and Al Smiley as accompanist, soloist, pitchgiver and conductor of note. Everywhere the choir was well received.

It was good to see so many former Alma students, including Carole Rhoffs, Mary Ann Morris, Marge and Harry Jessop, and Eamer Roepcke, pastor of the Orchard Lake church.

Our three-hour stop in Pontiac provided some rare entertainment for the pedestrians of said city as Jerry Psotka, in his own inimitable fashion, modelled the latest style in pedal-pushers a la aryle, complete with the one and only original Psotka walk. Our own Ron Black will probably go down in history as the second Sir Walter Raleigh for his gallantry displayed while carrying Gail across an intersection.

While colds, fatigue, frostbite, spells, and other minor mishaps, we've all managed to survive. This doesn't mean we made these nine o'clocks, and we have a hundred unforgettable memories of the tour, the broadcast over WJR and the wonderful people we met.

MARTIN'S STORE, INC.
Quality Wear at Prices
You Can Afford to Pay

ROSLUND GULF
SERVICE
The Friendly Service

Students and Faculty
Have a Good Vacation
and
A Merry Christmas

THE ALMA RECORD

Christmas is for Children

by Barbara Bauer

"Christmas is for children." It is a statement of no great import as we see it; a statement we have heard many times before. "We won't make much fuss over Christmas this year. Now that the children are gone, there isn't much sense in it."

Walk down the street. Santa Claus shows his red cheeks and white beard, and laughing children surround him. Walk down the department store aisles, and on every side are the things that children love. Christmas is, in truth, for children. Christ's mass, the advent of the Lord, celebrates the birth of a child. Christ was a child, who grew up as any ordinary child does. He had a home, parents, brothers, and sisters. He loved God and worshipped him. He loved and understood children when he was a man, and all mankind were his children.

Go to church on Christmas, and there you will see men, women, yes, and children too, kneeling in praise to the Gracious One who gave us a child. Listen to the carols which herald the one thousand fifty second anniversary of that child's birth. Watch as the age-old pageants tell the story of the birth of a deity "who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man," and you will realize suddenly that we all are children.

Yes, Christmas is for children; and thank God that we are His children.

CHIC'S BAKERY

PASTRIES

Fit for a King

BE THRIFTY AT COLLEGE
SHOP AT

Gay's 5-10c Store

It's Geller's for Gifts!

Watches—Kings—Glassware

We enter a gift for the one you want
in please the most.

GELLER'S JEWELRY

"Look for the Street Clock"

Christmas Is Such a Busy Season Anyway

by May Butrick

The holy flame of the spirit of Christmas is ever carefully nurtured and reverently handed on to succeeding generations. Love, charity, and fellowship radiate from its celestial beams. "Do unto others as you would thy neighbor; lay not up for yourself..." these words are wafted down from the heavens and permeate the soul of man. But observe: the flame gutters and threatens to go out. The sacred dicta ring falsely when echoed by the hollow Christian spirit.

The financier peers over his palm at his chief accountant, and determines what donations will reap the highest publicity claim and effect the greatest tax deduction. The busy, civic-minded leader of the Women's Auxiliary frets over which children should be invited to the Christmas party. One can't be too discreet in making such selections. Everywhere our friends gather together to exchange gifts. Names are drawn and a minimum price established. Price tags are left on objects so their value may be verified.

The blind man still begs on the corner, the waif still rummages the dump, the homeless still bemoans his fate. The have-nots struggle to eke out an existence. We pray for them—in a vague, general sort of way. They really can't expect us to do anything more. Christmas is such a busy season anyway. But may God help them.

Sportsman's Center

Outdoor Man's Headquarters

306 E. Superior Street
ALMA, MICHIGAN

ALMA STATE BANK

SAFE, RELIABLE

Your Patronage Appreciated

Do Your Christmas Shopping
at

SAWKINS Music & Record Shop

100's of unusual gift items

Season's Greetings
to Ye All