



All the best
to you...
and yours
Merry Christmas!

the almanian



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NUMBER 207

Choir Meets A Crisis; Carries Thru

Smiley Doubles as Director at Allen Park

Sullivan Passes Out On Opening Night

The members of the Alma college A Cappella choir carried through a smooth performance at Allen Park, the first out-of-town engagement of the Christmas concert series, even when their director, Professor Ernest G. Sullivan, passed out during the program.

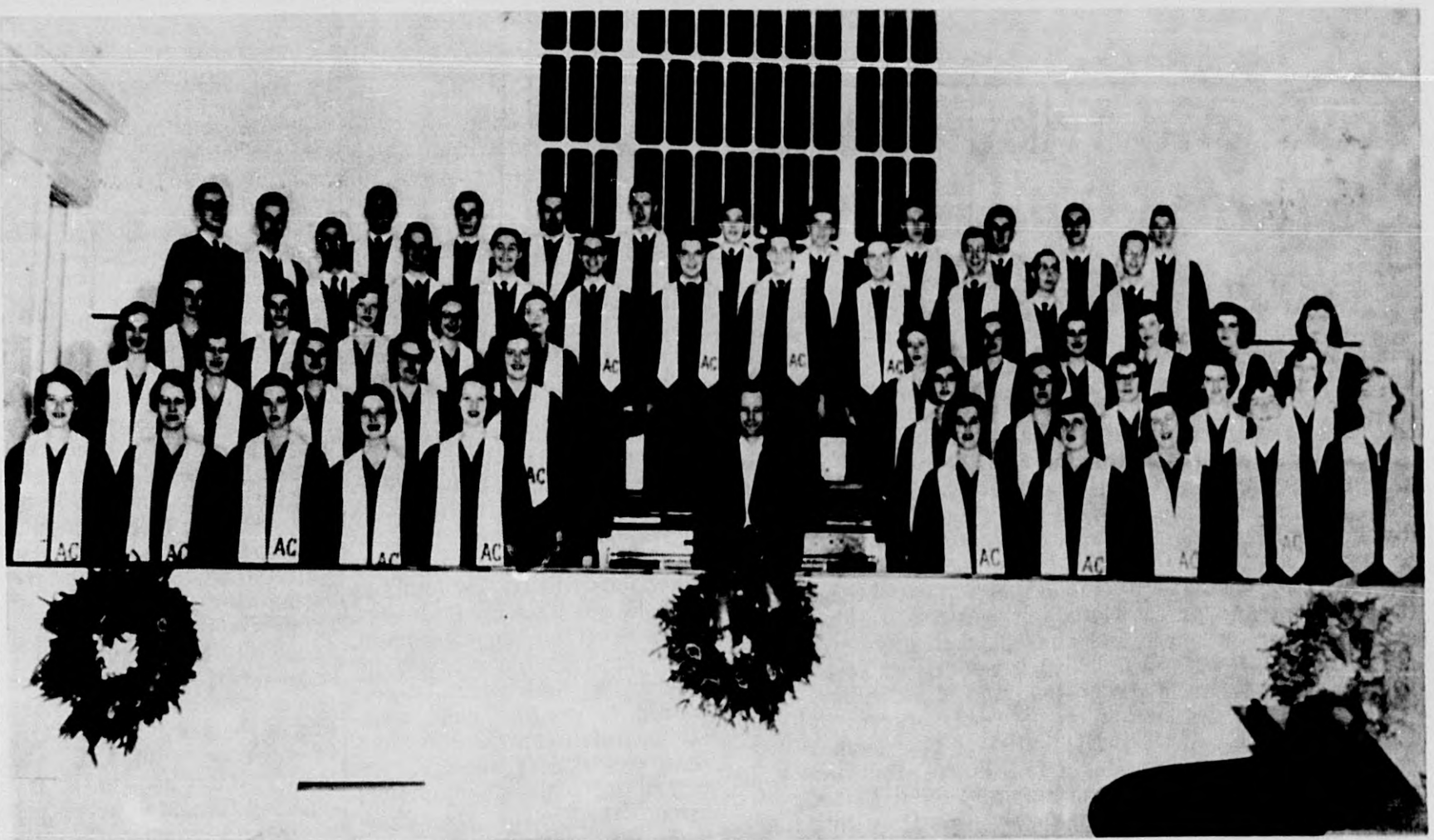
Members of the audience commented that the choir demonstrated remarkable maturity and excellent training as the concert continued with Al Smiley directing four numbers. Professor Sullivan was back for the following selection for which Al Smiley was scheduled as accompanist.

This first concert took place at 8 o'clock on Monday evening December 7 at Allen Park Presbyterian church, Allen Park. The Rev. Wanzer Brunelle was the sponsoring pastor of this concert. Tuesday and Wednesday brought a number of engagements at Detroit and at Ferndale and Howell.

"Mastering fatigue from the trip and the natural tendency to let down on the last night, the choir reached its peak and delivered the finest performance of the tour at the final concert given Wednesday evening at the First Presbyterian church of Howell," Professor Sullivan states.

Tuesday, December 8, began with a concert at 9:30 a. m. at Allen Park high school under sponsorship of James J. Bolten, prin-

See **CONCERT** Page 6



A Christmas concert presented over radio station WFYC, Alma, at 11 o'clock Friday morning, December 18, will conclude the annual Christmas concert series of the Alma college A Cappella choir.

Three days of last week the choir was touring southern Michigan presenting programs at Allen Park, Detroit, Ferndale, and Howell.

Merry Company to Sing Carols, Hear Xmas Story

Singing of the more famous German carols and the telling of the Christmas story in German will be featured at the Weihnachtsprogramm, or Christmas program, of Die Lustige Gesellschaft this evening, Tuesday, December 15, at 6:30.

Die Lustige Gesellschaft, or The Merry Company, has been organized by a group of German students, under the sponsorship of Dr. Grace M. Buchwalter, "to promote interest in German language and culture" on this campus.

Membership in this group, according to the constitution, which was approved at the meeting on Tuesday, December 8, is open to all persons who have had class experience in German and express their desire for membership by writing to the secretary.

Activities which have been suggested for the future are the production of German plays, meeting at the evening meal to develop conversational ability, a series of reports on famous Germans and German games.

Officers elected at the first meeting are George Spriggs, president; Eugene Pattison, vice-president; and Shirley Morgan, secretary-treasurer.

Song Fest in Tyler Around Fireplace Follows Dinner

The annual Christmas dinner will be served in Van Dusen commons on Wednesday evening, December 16. Immediately after dinner the student body is invited to gather in Tyler lounge for a group sing.

Leading the singing will be Miss Dilling, assisted by several choir students. The evening calls for singing around the Christmas tree and a fire in the fireplace.

Anthology Now at Printers Editor Reports for Parnassians

15 Students, 4 Faculty Represented in Magazine

The Pine River Anthology, literary magazine of Alma college, has been assembled and is in the hands of the printer, it was revealed today by Grant M. Gallup, editor and president of the Parnassians, who are sponsoring the publication.

Included in this selection are the writings of fifteen students and four faculty members.

Features of the magazine are a fairy tale by Roger Vance and a short story by May Butrick. Also included is poetry by Dick McMullen, Leone Hall, Alice Welsh, John Murphy, Mary Jo Frye,

Bob Woods, Cathy Campbell, Sandy Marshall, Barbara Bauer, Alyce Conti, Eugene Pattison and Mary Margaret Johnson and a short piece of prose by Jackie Elliot. Faculty members whose work is represented are Dr. Henry Klomp, Dr. Robert Wood Clack, Mr. Sam J. Underwood and Mr. Wilson Daughtery.

An edition of three hundred copies is being planned, copies of which will be sold by members of the Parnassians.

Grant L. Cook, Literary Sponsor, Dies in Detroit

Mr. Grant L. Cook, trustee of the college for many years and founder of the Grant L. Cook awards for creative writing, died in Detroit on Tuesday, November 24.

In 1949 and the following two years awards totaling \$100 were made available to Alma college students doing outstanding work in the field of creative composition. One prize of \$25 was available to freshmen and two other prizes, of \$50 and \$25, were offered for upperclassman work.

Mr. Cook was head of a large law firm in Detroit. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Miller Initiates Committee to Unify Campus Religious Life

An organizational meeting of the cooperative committee on religion was held last Wednesday, December 9, at 11:00 a. m. The purpose of this student-faculty group is to unify in this one committee, with the Dean of Religion as convener, the extra-curricular religious activities on campus.

According to Dr. Ross Miller, the students are to continue their initiative and leadership in the various projects in which they are now engaged but the committee members will be available to these students and prepared to offer their assistance.

The activities, and their student chairmen, that will be included in the cooperative effort are: weekly meetings of the Alma Christian association, Barbara Love; Mexican project, Jane French; Saturday recreational project, Bob Benjamin, working with the local Kiwanis club and the city of Alma; deputation teams, Peggy Lomas; WSSF, George Spriggs; Religion in Life week, Betty Anderson; chapel services, Lee Posey and Career week, Frank Williams for this past year.

Also included will be an organization that will be comprised of students interested in religious and social work.

Present membership of the committee includes: Dr. Ross Miller, Dr. Claude D. Dicks, Dr. Stephen Meyer, Dr. William Stielstra, Mr. Ernest G. Sullivan, Mrs. Esther F. Vreeland and The Rev. Mr. Robert V. Woods; ex-officio members are President John Stanley Harker and Dr. William McKeefery; students are James Johnson, David MacKenzie, James Wagar, Betty Anderson, Barbara Love and Dalton Love.

BARR DISCUSSES AUSTRALIA'S ROLE

Mr. Morris Barr, outstanding Australian journalist and lecturer, will speak at the assembly tomorrow, December 16, on the subject "Australia Cannot be Ignored." His singing of native bush ballads will be accompanied by Mrs. Mae Nelson Stewart on the piano.

Dr. Potter Receives Grant



\$1,250 sponsors research of Dr. Howard Potter

Dr. Howard Potter, head of the chemistry department at Alma college, has been given the Gardner Cottrell grant, in order to continue on his project entitled, "Reaction of Grignard Reagent with Alpha Beta Sulfoxides."

This grant was given to Dr. Potter from the Research Corporation of New York. The grant was for \$1,250 and is made for the nominal period of one year. Renewal of this grant can be considered if satisfactory progress has been made. These funds cannot be used for tuition fees or laboratory charges.

The Research Corporation will expect periodic progress reports, and the disposal of any invention or patent rights that grow from this grant will be the responsibility of Alma college.

the almanian

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Published by Students of Alma College

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Joys and Tribulations Of the Individualist

"Tanto buon che val niente"

What a dull world this would be if everyone were stereotyped. Realizing this many persons have systematically set out to entertain themselves and humanity by indulging in various idiosyncrasies. This is the spice that turns life into real living. It may be just a "cycle" that one goes through in the process of maturing but it is admittedly delightful.

Now anyone may enter into the brotherhood of individualism by casting aside self-restraint and letting fancy run wild. Immediately the question arises as to the degree of individualism desirable. Should one specialize in this respect or spread his talents around? There are arguments on both sides. In the specialized type one has a greater chance of obtaining fame and/or notoriety, for in specialization one may go to greater extremes and thus attract more wide-spread attention. However in the broad type one can keep the public constantly aware of the protruding individualism.

This leads to the distinction between common individualists and individualistic individualists. The former merely copies the latter and creates a fad. Since all of this is just a condition of the mind, there may also exist that rare individual who is so subtle that no one even realizes the existence of his individualism.

Each must decide for himself, for one of the demands of individualism is freedom to choose. In fact one may even go so far as to be completely original and not be individualistic at all.

Raymond Mayer

Advance Social Calendar

DECEMBER

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 15 Student Council | 6:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| Die Lustige Gesellschaft | 6:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| F. T. A. | 7:00 p.m., Tuesday |
| Basketball, Central, here | 7:00 p.m., Tuesday |
| Le Cercle Francais | 7:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| 16 Assembly, Mr. Morris Barr | 11:00 a.m., Wednesday |
| W. A. A. Chocolate | 3:30 p.m., Wednesday |
| College division recital | 4:00 p.m., Wednesday |
| Annual Christmas dinner; song-fest | 5:30 p.m., Wednesday |
| A. C. A. | 7:30 p.m., Wednesday |
| Wright hall Christmas party | 10:30 p.m., Wednesday |
| 17 President's club | noon, Thursday |
| Bill of one acts: "At Liberty," "Harlequinade" and "The Monkey's Paw" | 8:00 p.m., Thursday |
| 18 Chapel, Dr. Miller | 11:00 a.m., Friday |
| Annual faculty dinner | 7:30 p.m., Friday |
| 19 Christmas vacation begins | 11:50 a.m., Saturday |
| DePauw Tournament | Sunday |

JANUARY

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 4 Classes resume | 8:00 a.m., Monday |
| Chapel | 11:00 a.m., Monday |
| Inter-fraternity council | 9:00 p.m., Monday |
| 5 Student council | 6:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| Die Lustige Gesellschaft | 6:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| F. T. A. | 7:00 p.m., Tuesday |
| 6 College division recital | 4:00 p.m., Wednesday |
| A. C. A. | 7:00 p.m., Wednesday |
| Basketball, Albion, there | Wednesday |
| 8 Chapel | 11:00 a.m., Friday |
| 9 Winter Fantasy, semi-formal dance | Saturday |
| 10 Parnassians | 7:30 p.m., Sunday |
| 11 Chapel | 11:00 a.m., Monday |
| Bradley oratorical contest preliminaries for women | Monday |
| 12 Bradley oratorical contest preliminaries for men | Tuesday |
| Student council | 6:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| Die Lustige Gesellschaft | 6:30 p.m., Tuesday |
| Home Ec club | 7:00 p.m., Tuesday |
| Chemistry club | 7:00 p.m., Tuesday |
| Basketball, Olivet, here | Tuesday |
| 13 Junior division recital | 4:30 p.m., Wednesday |
| A. C. A. | 7:00 p.m., Wednesday |
| 14 Bradley oratorical finals | Thursday |
| 15 Chapel, the Rev. Mr. Hahn | 11:00 a.m., Friday |

MY AFRICA

We are all going home for Christmas vacation and we hope to have a happy time and lots of fun with our folks and friends. Some of us have had thrilling experiences here at college and would like to speak big of them to our folks so that they may understand why they should give us more pocket money next semester.

Perhaps we shall begin our discussion by telling our folks about our progress at college. If we have not been able to make any A's yet, we shall give them good reasons for this deficiency and assure them of better work in the future.

You will, no doubt, want to tell your folks or friends about the foreign students here at college. Your folks or friends will be anxious to know where these foreign students come from. If you mention to them that one of the students comes from Nigeria, in Africa, you will have a lot more questions to answer.

The word Africa will perhaps bring back to their memory the last picture of **Mogambo** they saw at the movie. If your folks or friends have never seen this picture, it is all the better for you. Their questions will be few and you will be saved a great deal of trouble. If, on the other hand, they saw **Mogambo** and a lot more, you had better be prepared to answer their questions intelligently. But how can you satisfy them if you know no more about Africa than they? Do you know where on earth Africa is to be found? By the way, is Africa not ravaged by tigers and lions and gorillas, Man-Eaters of Tsavo, rhinoceros, elephants and vultures? Add to this list a dozen or more names of the familiar wild life in Africa and you have a fine Christmas story to tell at home. Of course, if you omit the "jungle" your tale becomes hackneyed and insipid.

Some of your folks or friends with inquiring minds will ask you questions similar to this: "Does that child of nature from Nigeria say that he really likes his country?" I venture to give you a ready answer to this one question. Tell them: **"He does not only like it but loves it, thinks about it every spare moment and plans to return for her service soon after his education is complete. He is tremendously proud of it."** If you do this, you will have gone a long way in promoting my happiness. I am sure you will, and I thank you for this service.

It is a common practice in Africa to reward any person that has done us some service, and as a reward for answering my question in the way I teach you, I shall tell you just a little bit about my Africa. You may call my reward to you a tip if it suits you best that way.

Facts About Africa

Africa of yesterday is in every way different from Africa of today. Most of us still think of present-day Africa in terms of the Dark Continent; yet we have plenty of sunshine just as any other continent. Perhaps our sunshine has lost its illumination. Most parts of Africa are not mechanized and will remain unmechanized for many years. These constitute the reserve and provide rendezvous for

'Life More Abundant' By John Obut Akpabio

the botanists and the naturalists.

Africa is not scientific in the Western sense of the word, yet Africa is not wanting in her own sciences. The western scientists know how to render themselves invulnerable to bullet shots. The Africans rub certain compounds on their bodies and these make the body bullet-proof. The ancient African warriors knew the art of camouflaging. This art is still a puzzle to the modern scientist for it was quite superior to and less expensive than the present method. **The modern scientists are still fumbling with rainmaking.** In Africa the methods are crude and have no steady formula. In a spirit of give and take the African and the modern scientists can better their knowledge.

Africa is usually called the Dark Continent or the White man's Grave. Today the Dark Continent, so-called, is the White Man's Paradise where life is abundantly lived. You, too, can have life more abundant in Africa, not in Florida. There are big towns and cities in Africa, but how often are we tempted to think of Africa as nothing but jungles and jungles and elephants? Take away all the jungles and all the wild life from Africa and you do the world much harm. **For in the world where nature loses her virginity, all is calamity. That is what Africa stands for: to perpetuate, adorn and embellish nature—nature in its wildest form, nature at its best. That is my Africa.**

Some of the Europeans who have visited Africa will tell you that Africa is a sweet and rare land. It is rich and gay. I like it and you will like it. What a lot of fun to play with those wild but friendly and beautiful creatures. "How beautiful?" you may ask. I say they are 100% more beautiful than those cats and dogs of which you are so fond. Without them, you have never dreamt of pleasure.

Have you ever tasted any tropical fruits? They are sweeter than honey, yet we don't have to buy them. They are the products of the jungle and are there for everyone.

When next you see **Mogambo** at the movie, remember that somewhere in Africa, at that same hour, your cowboy and cowgirl pictures are being shown for the entertainment of the African folks. Think of the fine people and imposing buildings in the United States. How little of these people and fine places are known in Africa, and perhaps in Asia and Australia, and how much is known of the cowboys and cowgirls all over the world? Ask yourself, "What do these places think of the people in America?" Then ask yourself this, too, "What do I think of the people of Africa from the picture of **Mogambo**?" The answer is identical. That is the humor of it.

Now that you see me and know me as a Black Man from Africa, think of Africa also in terms of her rich gold deposits in Witwatersrand, diamond deposits in Kimberly, gold in Gold Coast and Nigeria, uranium, manganese, tin-ore, bitumen, zinc in Ni-

geria, and copper in the very heart of the jungle, the Congo Basin. You may someday want to mine gold in Africa, and you will be welcomed.

The new Africa is awake from her historical and pre-historical slumbers, and that is why I am here. **My Africa is on the move in all directions and its ancient quietude is profoundly disturbed.** But we shall preserve some of our old characteristics and culture which have constituted our perennial charm in the past. We shall remain Africans in the strictest sense of the word, and perhaps you will find me so.

The happy song and dance will continue to brighten our villages. That wonderful wild music, with instruments wilder still, will continue to make its peculiar appeal. **The children of nature will continue to enjoy the simple joys of the village life and on our sunshine the gloom and the stern temper of colder Europe and the United States will never prevail.** Beyond the human inhabitants there will remain, I hope, for centuries to come, the wild animals which make this country so attractive to the lover of nature. I look forward to the time when those who love the wilds (including the beautiful ladies who love dogs and cats) and their shy denizens and intimate ways will come from all parts of the earth to find peace and refreshment in Africa. In the stress and strain of civilization, the nervous tension of high culture, the friction of the industrial system, the daily divorce suits and murder in a civilized world, **My Africa will be a place of refuge, a temple set apart where the human spirit can once more practice nature worship and enjoy peace and quietude.**

The new Africa in spite of all changes will still remain Africa and its distinctive features among the continent will continue to be the perpetuation of nature, its aloofness and solitude and its mysterious, eerie, brooding spirit.

Is this a good reward for your service to me?

Shall I ask the brave soldier, who fights by my side
In the cause of mankind, if our creeds agree?
Moore

December '53

The unthinking pause made profound the platitude that fell upon our ears.

Love was a hard and brittle thing like a hammer upon cold steel, and sadly the Sunday stole away from the Sun. Day and night were one.

The carols were sung in Crinoline by Caroline line by line tip-toe where the rock and the spring became song without benefit of clergy.

And delight was sold for shillings and pence (dollars and cents where currency was god).

Who could deny the burning bush of a Neon Merry Xmas?

Merry Xmas!
W. Daugherty



Three members of the play production class are applying pressure on their casts and in turn are themselves experiencing the headaches of play production and direction as the final rehearsals are held and opening night approaches. Bud Davies, Robert Fritch and Bruce Reed are presenting a bill of one acts this Thursday, December 17, as part of their required course work.

Davies, Fritch, Reed Direct One-Acts Thurs.

Class Presents 'Harlequinade,' 'At Liberty,' and 'The Monkey's Paw'

Bud Davies, Robert Fritch and Bruce Reed, members of the play production class of Professor William A. Gregory, are directing a series of one act plays to be presented in Tyler auditorium at 8 o'clock on Thursday, December 17.

Bud Davies is directing *The Monkey's Paw* by W. W. Jacobs. *Harlequinade*, a one-act farce by Terence Rattigan, will be directed by Robert Fritch, and Bruce Reed is presenting *At Liberty* by Tennessee Williams. In the first bill of one acts, presented Tuesday, November 24, Bud Davis was in charge of lighting. Bud has had a number of roles in other campus productions: The late George Apley, Macbeth, Change About Charm, Family Portrait, The Tam-

ing of the Shrew and two one-acts, Hello Out There and The Browning Version. Last spring Bud Davies received recognition for the best male supporting role. The following summer he enrolled at the Lake Michigan Summer Playhouse.

Robert Fritch was stage manager of the first set of one acts produced this year. Robert has filled roles and at the same time served as stage manager in the following productions presented on the Alma campus: The Late George Apley, Macbeth, Change About Charm and Family Portrait. Last spring Robert was recognized as best technical director of the year, and he also spent last summer at the Playhouse. Robert is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, national dramatic fraternity.

Bruce managed props for the previous one-acts. He has had acting experience in The Late George Apley, and is publicity manager for the Highland Masquers. The play production class is a one semester course offering two credit hours. Before and during the production of one-acts, class discussion and lectures center around technical aspects of play production which are encountered in the actual rehearsals.

ACA to Sponsor Caroling Party Wednesday Night

The traditional caroling party, sponsored by the Alma Christian association, will be held on Wednesday, December 16. A list is posted in Tyler center to be signed by those interested in participating in the caroling. Transportation will be provided for the carolers.

Walter F. Carey, Trustee, Honored at Detroit Dinner

Mr. Walter F. Carey, trustee of the college and owner of the Commercial Trucking company of Detroit, was honored at a testimonial dinner given by Mr. Roy Fruehauf in Detroit on December 4.

President Harker represented the college and Mr. Carl W. Bonbright represented the board of trustees. Heads of transportation companies from all over the United States were present at the dinner.

Mr. Carey is the immediate past president of the American Trucking association. He also was the man who conceived the idea of transporting automobiles by truck and he, himself, drove the first load of truck-transported automobiles out from the plant in Flint.

Agnostic's Christmas

"Peace on Earth, good will towards men,"
an angel (might have) sung
And above the stable of His birth
a huge star (might have) hung.
He (may have been) God or (maybe) man;
(perhaps) He was a King.
But since I was not there to see,

I cannot believe a thing.
If this indifferant attitude is something you despise,
remember this, my Christian friend:
I have no mystic eyes.

John Murphy

Randolph Gives Dance History of America

A lecture demonstration of unique originality entitled "Dance Americana" is scheduled for the first assembly program in January. Mr. Gary Randolph will narrate the program.

Interwoven into Mr. Randolph's narration are gay, impressive interpretations of a negro spiritual, the Charleston, The Blues, "the old soft shoe," and other typical folk dances. Also included will be an authentic and informative dance history of America.

Gary Randolph has been dancing since he was fifteen years old. He is proficient in all types of dancing. He has appeared in such Broadway operettas as "A Connecticut Yankee" and "The Merry Widow." He is also a concert artist and night club entertainer. Vivid stories and anecdotes are included in his lecture materials.

He has studied under such great teachers as Jose Limon, Pearl Primus, Raoul Gilabert.

The assembly is tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 18, in which case it will be held in place of the regular chapel.

Outlines Faults of Teaching System

Chicago, Ill. (I.P.) — American school teachers haven't fallen down on the job, but rather their job, ridiculously expanded in response to unrealistic theory and to popular demands, has fallen down on them, according to the Rev. Bernard Iddings Bell, Protestant Episcopal church canon and religious adviser at the University of Chicago. Dr. Bell outlines five major faults in our educational system.

First, proper drill in what he calls "prerequisites to thinking" is neglected. Included here are the use of words in writing, speaking, reading and listening, the use of numbers in abstracting and generalizing, and the use of the five senses in perception of size, form and texture.

Secondly, Dr. Bell believes that people are growing up today without tolerance, respect for age, or physical consideration. He says manners must be taught; they are not acquired naturally. The third thing Dr. Bell thinks needs changing is the process by which everyone receives recognition for his work when some deserve it more than others. Because of this, he explained, some students are passed into the next class before they are ready. They learn to expect "something for nothing" all through life.

Fourth on Dr. Bell's outline is religion. He feels this "fourth dimension" of life should be included in schools. His last point is that the school of today treats all students alike. For this reason superior students are retarded and dull students are led to believe they are "teachable."

According to Dr. Bell, within the next five years 80,000 teachers will be needed to fill the gap in our rising school population, but that at present only 32,000 persons were in training to undertake the job. He further stated "that of the one million teachers now working, 300,000 had been inadequately trained, and at least 100,000 never even got through high school."

Biology Class Dissects Cats; Notes Bean Growth

The students of vertebrate zoology are now studying the structure of the cat. The laboratory specimens have been skinned and will be further dissected by the class members.

Cyrus Azimi gave a lecture to the general biology class concerning his project on plant growth in water. He has been growing bean plants in various solutions, each of which were deficient in one particular mineral. Observation of the effect of these deficiencies on plant growth furnishes significant agricultural information.

Chem Club Hears Corrosion Problem Discussed at Dow

Members of the Chem club attended a joint meeting of the American Chemical society and the Electrical Chemical society in Midland Wednesday, December 9. There they heard a lecture by Dr. Robert McKay on research work done on the corrosion problem involved in electroplated products such as nickel plated steel used for chrome trim on cars.

Members attending with Dr. Potter were Bill Luger, Lowell Lindy, Charles Kelly, John Kinner and Ray Mayer.

At the last regular meeting of the Chem club the member saw a film "Paul" Bunyan" put out by Weyerhaeuser Lumber company that showed the conservation of wood products and reforestation carried on by modern scientific lumbering companies.

Ray Mayer talked on his summer experiences while working with Dow Chemical company in Midland. Refreshments of cookies and hot chocolate were served by Dr. Potter and Professor Skinner.

For the Editor

Dear Miss B.
It was with great joy at the propinquity of our thoughts that I read your editorial in the almanian of Friday, December 4, 1953.

On coming to Alma college I was deeply disturbed by the great number of non-conformists and, so to speak, "rugged individualists" who wondered about attempting with poisoned words to shatter the security of the traditional and the accepted.

In this chaotic world we must, above all things else, cling to the "time-tried and proven."

It is wonderful, I think, that someone on campus can see this truth. Keep it up!

R. H. Woods

Klomp, Underwood Visit U. of Mich. English Association

Dr. Henry Klomp, head of the English department, and Professor Sam Underwood attended a meeting of the Michigan College English Teacher's association at the University of Michigan, Saturday, December 5. The purpose of this meeting was to bring college teachers of English together to discuss mutual problems in the field of English.

President Harlan H. Hatcher, University of Michigan, greeted the group; and Professor Russell Kirk, author of *The Conservative Mind*, gave an address entitled: "Literature and the Contract of Eternal Society." Following Professor Kirk's address, the Rev. Spear Strahan, of Aquinas, Michigan, spoke on the topic: "The Ardors and Endurances of the English Teacher."

The group was served a luncheon in Michigan Union, and Dr. Warner G. Rice, head of the department of English of the University of Michigan, acted as chairman of a discussion group whose subject was "The Proposed Revision of the Teacher Certification Code." Professor John B. Virtue, Michigan State Normal and Professor Robert M. Limpus, Western Michigan college, spoke for the panel discussion.

Townsend Shows Floral Techniques

Townsend's Florists gave a demonstration on floral arrangements and the proper care of flowers and plants at the meeting of the Home Ec club on Tuesday, December 8.

This evening, Tuesday, December 15, the club will sell sandwiches on campus.

Plans in the near future include a trip to the Province Workshop VII in Chicago on February 18, 19 and 20 by Mary Jane Hart and Marion Pike. The alternate is Isabelle Worth. The ideas obtained at that time will be put to use in the club work.

Funeral Services Held for Former College Librarian

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 8, for Miss Annette Persis Ward, librarian at Alma college and professor of library methods from 1919 to 1939.

She was a graduate of Oberlin college and later studied at the University of Michigan for her A. M. degree and at the Pratt Institute library school. After her retirement from work in the Alma college library she remained active in the Republican party and also served as assistant secretary of the Alma Chamber of Commerce.

Debaters at Wayne Lovell Is High Scorer One Team Undefeated

Last Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, Alma's debate squad traveled to Detroit to participate in Wayne university's first annual forensics conference.

Entered in the debate section were Ronald Nicoson, Walter Lovell, Gene Schnelz and Tom Scholl. The negative team of Nicoson and Lovell were unbeaten and the latter was high scorer.

The affirmative team of Schnelz and Scholl won four out of six debates. They lost to stiff competition: Notre Dame and Professor Mickle's ex-debate team from Bowling Green. The subject of the debates was the current free trade topic.

The forensics conference included discussion, debate, oratory and extempore speaking. Schools from New York, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan were represented.

The next debate tournament will be at Illinois State Normal university on January 7, 8 and 9. This is one of the largest forensic meetings in the United States. Professor Mickle plans to take eight debaters and orators.

Tentative plans are being made to present a debate March 19, 1954, between our debate team and a team from India. Last year Alma college was host to a British team. The debate would be held in parliamentary style.

Ballad of the Christmas Tree

(from a German legend)

In the Garden long ago
The fall of man began
As Eva took the apple
In her fair white hand.

Apple tree then withered
Dark it grew and green
Needles springing from its
leaves
To complete the scheme.

Evergreen it stands for aye
Telling by its face
The sin of man forever new
With the fall from grace.

But when in a winter's eve
Christ the Lord was born
The fir-tree too, rejoiced, was glad
For the hallowed morn.

And thus one day of all the
year
Gifts of love it holds
Symbols of the blessed Lord
Born in manger fold.

Barbara Bernard Bauer

WITH THE GREEKS

CHRISTMAS COOKIES OF PHI CHEFS SOLD

The latest money-making project of the Phi Phi Alpha fraternity is selling Christmas cookies under the chairmanship of Chefs Don Howarth and John Bridgewater. Orders will be taken by telephone at 502.

The Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 13, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Santa Claus attended and exchange gifts were distributed. Santa Claus was portrayed by Jack Carleton who withdrew out of sight crying "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

This year the Phi Phi Alpha fraternity journeyed to Nome, Alaska, for "On the Town," the Phi dance held on Saturday, December 12. Music was furnished by their Phi brother, Lefty Gadzinski, from Hazel Park, who has an outstanding college dance band this year.

The Phi Phi Alpha fraternity would like to take this opportunity to wish the student body of Alma college, the faculty and all their friends a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The brothers have immensely enjoyed working with all those affiliated with Alma college in the past year and hope that the year 1954 will bring truer meaning to the motto of Alma college "Where friendliness links learning to living."

KI VOLLEY BALL TEAM WINS THREE, TIES ONE IN PROMISING SEASON

The Kappa Iota volley ball team has been doing very well this year and is looking forward to finishing the season with a good record. The K. I. team has won three games, tied one game and lost one.

The K. I. Christmas party was held yesterday evening at 10:00 p.m. in the sorority room.

DELTS SHARE SUCCESS OF THE 'HOLLY HOUSE' WITH SIG PHI SISTERS

Last Friday evening the Delta Gamma Tau fraternity brothers put on a real Christmas party at their annual Holly House with the help of the Sigma Phi sorority. The Delts didn't know whether Santa Claus would be able to make it or not, but he did, with presents for all. Refreshments, dancing, card games and entertainment by the Delts and Sigma Phi were included in the evening's activities. The Delts wish to thank Marilyn Gordon and Don Drew who were joint chairmen of entertainment. Thanks are also due the Sigma Phi sorority for putting up the house decorations.

One of the Delt alumnus, Bill Taylor, is engaged to Eleanor Patz. Both are members of the class of 1953. Another alumnus, Dick Wylie, is engaged to Joan Horn. Dick is also a member of the class of 1953. The Delta Gamma Tau fraternity would also like to congratulate Jim Swallow on pinning Shirley Smith.

Last Wednesday John Fields, now at the University of Michigan medical school, visited the house.

The Delts would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

TABLE CLOTHS, NAPKINS GIVEN TO SIGMA PHI

For Christmas the sisters of Sigma Phi are going to give luncheon cloths and napkins to the sorority.

The Sigma Phis wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Study Ideas, Don't Merely Collect Facts

Providence, R. I. (I. P.)—"The Identification and Criticism of Ideas" is the keynote of a new curriculum offered to freshmen and sophomores at Brown university and Pembroke college. Emphasis in the new program will lie on discussion, analyzing, and the studying of ideas instead of collecting information. President Henry M. Wriston said it was an effort to develop freer and more mature expression from freshmen and sophomores by applying teaching methods reserved for the junior and senior years.

Significant books will replace the text book. Each course will be based on several classics which will be read intensively and analytically to see where the ideas came from, where they went, and what their meaning has been.

The curriculum committee plans to accept ten or twelve experimental courses. Faculty members have suggested almost twice this number. All the courses are designed to emphasize the difference between the memorization required in school and the real thought and reflection necessary in college.

Acceptance into the course is based on college board exams and rank in secondary schools. The program lasts only during the freshman and sophomore years after which students revert to the regular curriculum.

A quarter-million-dollar grant from the Carnegie corporation is making this experiment possible. The money will be used over a five year period to pay the salaries of teachers replacing those professors giving "idea" courses.

Although curriculums similar in some features have been tried at other colleges, the Brown plan is essentially experimental. It will be subject to constant observation, and improvements will probably be made.

President Wriston said the new courses are designed to treat the intellectual capacity of the younger Brown and Pembroke students with utmost respect and thus encourage their best efforts. According to Dr. Wriston, a major mistake in American education has been underestimating the capacity of the student.

What About Our Basketball?

By Ed Pless

When you think about it, this seems a very silly question to ask, especially by students who have been here at Alma since the fall of 1951. These students know that we have had good material with which to work. Yes, for three years we have had excellent teams. No, I am not kidding; we really have had the makings of champions. But you and I know it takes more than just good material to win games and take championships. It takes a leader: a person who can and will do everything possible to bring these potential teams to the top. It takes someone who can gain respect and hold it.

Yes, the lack of respect is the big problem which holds many teams back. That is what makes each player play for himself instead of as one of a team of five. It is not and cannot be considered the fault of the team men. They need and must have someone to help bring them a more successful season than last year's record of four out of eighteen games. This can and will happen again.

There were times, not too long ago, when everyone went to the games at Hope, Albion, Kazoo, and the others. Why it is not true any more should be obvious. It's not the fault of the team or the students, but of the leader who isn't there. We have tried to find a leader who will be respected by all before we can have winning teams.

Now, I'm not saying I have any great idea or any fool-proof solution to the problem, but I do realize that something must be done or our team will keep on losing games. There must be a leader who carries respect in one hand and a basketball in the other to build this potential team of players up to a seat of honor at this college.

Lullaby

Sleep my precious, sleep my lamb,
Sleep in lowly manger,
There are watchers all around
Sleep my own dear stranger.

Outside is the winter night
Sharp the cold as arrow,
Outside is a shining star
Outside is a carol.

Inside kneel strange shepherds
down
On their knees before me,
Little love, they marveling gaze
And their lips adore thee.

There are watchers all around
Sleep my own dear stranger,
Sleep my precious, sleep my lamb,
Sleep in lowly manger.

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Like Gifts of the Wise Men, Our Deeds Are Tokens of Love

By Jody Lilley

We live in an ever-changing world of new machines designed to make life better, faster transportation and 3-D movies, yet there is one part of our lives that should never change: the meaning of Christmas. Once a baby was born to humble people; an ordinary baby as far as most were concerned, yet kings and shepherds went to worship him. This child grew up and went among men to teach them to love one another. No one realized his worth until he was gone; it took a crucifixion to open our eyes.

Christ still lives, and each year we pause to remember his birth. The gifts we give to one another are tokens of our love, just as Christ received the gifts of the wise men. However, no gift on earth can duplicate that which God gave to us through Jesus Christ. Do we really appreciate what he has given? We can never expect to hold anything in life unless we appreciate and value it. When we fail to do this we are quite apt to lose it.

When we commence to appreciate a person, our love for him increases. Even the clerks in the stores, the door man, the janitor, teachers, friends, and acquaintances are people to whom we owe thanks for kindly deeds done that we might be happier. Every little kindness we render for someone else is returned to us in some way. Others like to do things for us when they know that we appreciate what they do.

In our schoolwork we find problems, but if we realize that each difficulty helps us gain insight and knowledge, the work will seem easier. Do we appreciate our home and families, or do we tend to take them for granted? Do we take care of our possessions, small though they seem, or do

we treat them unkindly? Consider the buildings on campus. They are made for our comfort in many respects, yet even a look into a lounge in Tyler will show evidence of carelessness, such as burned table tops and disheveled appearance. We cannot hope to be abundantly supplied in the future if we do not appreciate what we now have.

Appreciation will open the way to a greater, deeper faith. For instance, you may have no faith in a certain person, but if you can start to appreciate him—and there is not a person who has not his good points if you take time to look for them — then your faith in him will grow.

When you go home for Christmas vacation, you might spend one night at home visiting with your family. You'd be surprised at the things you've missed by going outside your home to find entertainment. The love your family has for you is greater than any present you could buy.

Perhaps we could reshuffle our values and see what we have. We cannot show our appreciation as much through material goods as we can by being truly nice to people and demonstrating our love through understanding and friendship.

God gave us Christ that he could go on before us as a light to guide us just as the Star of Bethlehem showed the way to those who would seek truth. It was a simple beginning, but great things are frequently disguised. One can do so much by one small act of kindness, unselfishly performed, by a grateful giver.

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MEN'S CLOTHING



Spurred along by the suggestions and friendliness of student leaders of the Alma Christian association, these children of Alma and the surrounding area are designing and making their own Christmas cards. Each of the stencils is designed by the student himself and is



carried out with colored paper and decorative "glitter." Emphasis throughout the Saturday recreation program is on handicraft projects.

Enthusiasm Greet's ACA Social Projects

A record day of 115 children and an average age of 78 reflects the enthusiastic response to the Saturday afternoon recreation program for Alma children. This program is sponsored by the Alma Christian association and carried on with the cooperation of Mr. Arnold Spoon, Alma Recreation Director.

Handicraft projects are centered on the Christmas theme at present and the 3rd Annual Children's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 19.

A generous response allowed the A.C.A. Mexican clothing drive which began just before Thanksgiving vacation. Clothes are now being sorted and gathered, to be used in Christmas boxes, under the direction of the sociology case work class.

Handel's 'The Messiah' Presented By Community Choral Group Directed by Professor Sullivan

George Frederic Handel's "The Messiah," directed by Professor Ernest Sullivan, was presented at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13, in the Alma high school auditorium, by the Alma Choral Union, a community choral group. Mrs. Mae Nelson Stewart was pianist and Glen C. Stewart was organist.

The chorus, composed of residents of Cratiot county and the surrounding area and a few students of Alma college, presents the oratorio annually.

Soloists on the program were: Mrs. Jane Mernitz, Gail Donaldson and Gail Hooper, each of Alma, sopranos; Peggy Smith, Alma, alto; Mr. Melvin Larimer and Mr. Paul Mernitz, Alma, tenors; John Ward, Pontiac, baritone; and Alton Smiley, Fraser, bass.

The program was listed as follows:

Messiah Program

- Overture
- Tenor Recitative and Air ... Paul Mernitz
"Comfort Ye"
"Every Valley Shall Be Exalted"
"And the Glory of the Lord"
- Chorus: "And the Glory of the Lord"
- Bass Recitative and Air ... John Ward
"Thus Saith the Lord"
"But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming"
- Alto Recitative ... Peggy Smith
"Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive"
- Chorus: "O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings"
- Bass Recitative and Air ... Alton Smiley
"For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth"
"The People that Walked in Darkness"
Chorus: "For Unto Us a Child Is Born"
- Pastoral Symphony
- Soprano Recitatives ... Gail Donaldson
"There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field"
"And Lo, The Angel of the Lord"
"And the Angel Said unto Them"
"And Suddenly There Was with the Angel"
- Chorus: "Glory to God"
- Soprano Air ... Gail Donaldson
"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion"
- Alto Recitative and Air ... Peggy Smith
"Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Opened"
"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd"
- Soprano Air ... Gail Hooper
"Come Unto Him"
Chorus: "His Yoke Is Easy, and His Burden Is Light"
- Chorus: "Behold the Lamb of God"
- Alto Air ... Peggy Smith
"He Was Despised"
- Chorus: "Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs"
Chorus: "And with His Stripes We Are Healed"
- Chorus: "All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray"
- Tenor Recitative and Air ... Melvin Larimer
"The Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart"
"Behold, And See if There Be Any Sorrow"
- Tenor Recitative and Air ... Melvin Larimer
"He Was Cut Off Out of The Land of the Living"

- Chorus: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates"
Offertory Prelude and Fugue in G Major... J. S. Bach
- Soprano Air ... Jane Mernitz
"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"
- Chorus: "Since by Man Came Death"
- Chorus: "Worthy Is the Lamb that Was Slain"
- Chorus: "Hallelujah"
"But Thou Didst Not Leave His Soul in Hell"

Demonstrate Clinic Material This Thursday

Dr. Henry Klomp, head of the English department, announces that there will be a demonstration of the reading clinic materials Thursday, December 17, at 2:00 o'clock in room 100 of the administration building.

The purpose of this preview of the reading clinic is to acquaint prospective students with procedures and techniques which will be used in the reading clinic next semester. Professor Sam J. Underwood will be in charge of the demonstration, and he will administer a reading test designed to let each student know his particular reading speed. Following this test, he will show several of the Harvard university films that will be used in developing more skill in reading phrases. In addition to the speed of reading test, Professor Underwood will give a short test of comprehension on the reading matter to show students how well they comprehend what they have read. There will also be a demonstration of the Reading Accelerator, which is designed to increase the speed of reading.

All students who are interested are invited to attend the demonstration. The reading clinic will be offered on a semester basis to those students who will be taking English II next semester. The clinic will be held in room 100 on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Any student who would like to take the work may register for the clinic.

NO Molecule Involved In Years of Research

by Raymond Mayer

The following is a digest of Dr. Nathan L. Nichols' thesis on "The Near Infra-red Spectrum of Nitric Oxide" and the work leading up to the writing of it. Dr. Nichols has recently received his Ph. D. in physics at Michigan State college.

Dr. Nichols' thesis work concerned the nitric oxide (NO) molecule. It is a colorless, poisonous gas, of about the same density as air. The molecule is composed of two atoms that are arranged similar to two doorknobs connected together. The molecule is rotating end over end, and the atoms are also vibrating in and out, so that their separation is constantly changing. At the same time the molecule is traveling through space.

Dr. Nichols determined that the molecule rotates about one hundred billion times per second and that it vibrates in and out about fifty trillion times per second. Another calculation was the distance between the two atoms. They are a "very short" .0000000047 inches apart.

The molecule vibrates like a string on a musical instrument in that it has a certain fundamental frequency and also overtones that are multiples of the fundamental. Dr. Nichols studied the frequencies all the way up to the fourth overtone. He did the same with the rotational frequencies. Both are peculiar in that their frequencies change by jumps, leaving no in-between values.

Dr. Nichols gained information by means of the absorption spectrum of the molecule in the near infra-red region. He did this by shining a beam of light through the gas and measuring the wave lengths that were absorbed in the region beyond the red that we can see.

The source of light was similar to an auto headlight which also gives out light of all the different wave lengths. This beam was passed through an air-tight brass cylinder about eight inches in diameter and two feet long that was filled with nitric oxide gas. It was fitted with mirrors at each end that bounced the light back and forth before letting it out through a small window. This made the light shine through about 100 feet of gas, all in a two foot tube.

Dr. Nichols had to do all the machine work on the absorption cell which meant making the mirror mounts, pivots, adjustment devices and other details.

The wave lengths that are just right excite the molecule and are absorbed. Thus the light that comes out of the tube is full of holes or vacant lines.

To analyze the light or determine what parts were missing required the use of a special spectrograph built over a period of five years by a former Michigan State college professor. This contained three plane, three paraboloidal and one ellipsoidal mirror, all especially ground, a prism made of rock salt, a grating having 7200 lines per inch scratched on its surface, and a radiation detector connected through amplifiers to an automatic recorder. All this was housed in a steel vacuum-tight cylinder four feet in diameter and six feet long. A mathematical analysis of the ab-

sorbed lines gave the desired information on the molecule.

Dr. Nichols started his research on the problem back in 1948 with nitric oxide, using photographic plates and a different spectrograph. This gave no results as the intensity was too weak to measure. Then for a while he tried formaldehyde gas but this gave inconclusive results. During this period he became, in his words, "an experienced but far from expert glass blower while patching periodic glass breakages" for the entire system had to be kept at a temperature of about 300° F. This also caused a few minor explosions that gassed the entire building but did not cause any injury.

When the new spectrograph was built he switched back to the nitric oxide and got the needed results. The problem was pure fundamental research that has no practical applications at present. It did add to the knowledge of the structure of the nitric oxide molecule and he hopes that it will "someday lead to some important application."

The Lights of Christmas

Christmas candles glowing bright
In the darkness of the night
Serve as guide for those who roam
Light the precious Christ
Child home.

Christmas stars that bravely shine
Heaven to earth this evening bind
Born the King in manger cold
Lying in the stable fold.

Christmas lights of human part
Show the love of human hearts.
Stars are placed in Christmas sky
By the hand of God on high.
Barbara Bernard Bauer

BRADLEY ORATORICAL FINALS HELD JAN. 14

Preliminaries for the Bradley Oratorical contest will be held here January 11 and 12. The finals will be held Thursday, January 14. Entrants so far include John Akpabio, James Mills, Eugene Pattison, Marcia Bolo, Carole Cummings, Edna Williams, Paula Bare and Karen Erdman. Others interested in entering this contest should contact Professor Mikle.

Abbey Floor Coverings

If your floor is shabby,
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Lovell, Cook in State Extemp

The Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League held the state extempore contest at Alma college on Saturday, December 5. Walter Lovell and Mary Alice Cook represented Alma. Mary Alice Cook qualified to enter the finals.

The winner among the men was a representative of Wayne university; for the women, University of Detroit.

The areas in which the students spoke were "Congressional Investigations" for the men and "Religion in the Public Schools" for the women. The preliminaries were held in Tyler center and the final debates in the chapel.

Participating in the event were Albion, Calvin, Central Michigan, Detroit Technical, Hope, Michigan State, University of Detroit, Wayne, Western Michigan, and Michigan State Normal.

ALL I WANT THIS CHRISTMAS IS A REST

By Jody Lilley

'Tis four days 'til vacation
And all through Wright Hall
Suitcases are packed,
Trimm covers each wall.

Did you see it? It was wee, and it squeaked, and then it was gone. You think those mice never stir on the night before Christmas? Well, don't let them fool you. They do, and they get caught in traps, too. I don't know what the attraction is but they love to reside in our cupboards and wastebaskets.

Buddy Party

Setting up the business at hand, we find that our Buddies have left goodies outside the door. Buddy week is a time when each girl has a secret pal and doesn't find out who she is until the night of the Christmas party, which is tomorrow night. The Buddies have been busy since last Thursday doing nice things and giving us presents. Tomorrow, though, Santa Claus will tell us who our Buddies are and we'll have a party. After that we will hustle to our beds and get nice and snug as the senior girls carol through the hall, each carrying a lighted candle. It is a bit sad to know these girls will leave us soon, but we will enjoy their singing while we may.

New Wing Progresses

The halls are decorated with clothes hung with care on drying racks and the aroma of paint brings tears to our burning eyes. This paint comes from the new wing on the first floor. It surely looks fine down there. The spacious rooms have built-in drawers and closet space. Lucky the girls who live there!

Back to Christmas, though; it is a nice time of the year, trying to get those term papers finished and that last present wrapped. One thought looms up in my head this time: Only five more weeks 'til finals!

As Santa Claus says,
As he goes out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all."
I say this, too,
"May you do alright."

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