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Vol 8, No. 6

LEW WALLACE SCHOOL — GARY, INDIANA

December 20, 1940

Merry
Christmas



Happy
New Year

Musical Program Presented in Auditorium

"Work wins!" These two little words make the motto of a man who really knows and values its meaning, and who, under a great handicap, has proved its truth.

Tuesday, December 3, Mr. Giovanni Sperandeo, the man whose motto is "Work wins" and his wife, gave a musical show in the Lew Wallace auditorium. Mr. Sperandeo sang several selections with his wife accompanying him on the piano. He also played several piano solos.

Between selections Mr. Sperandeo gave a brief account of his interesting life. His name, Giovanni Sperandeo, means "faith in God". He was born in Sicily, and lived there until he was fifteen, when he came to the United States. At the time he couldn't speak a word of English; now he can speak six languages. After he had been in America three years, he was involved in a railroad accident in which he lost his left arm and right hand. His family thought that he would be helpless the rest of his life, but Giovanni Sperandeo was not one to give up. He found that if he wore a little leather strap around his wrist, by inserting a pencil he could learn to write. So after weeks of hard practice he learned to write all over again. It wasn't long before he was feeding himself. He demonstrated some of the things he can do as well as anyone else, such as putting on his hat, drinking water, drinking coffee, brushing his hair, writing, playing croquet, and painting. He showed the audience two of his beautiful paintings.

He has studied music for many years under famous artists and has taught it in colleges and conservatories.

The selections he sang were: "Santa Lucia", "Mary", "I Shall Not Pass Again", "This Way", "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life", "Tippy Tippy Tin", and "Mexicali Rose."

Mrs. Sperandeo played "Tarantelle" and "Along the Coast of Scotland" as piano solos.

Saint Nicks of Different Countries

Not all countries have a Saint Nicholas or a Santa Claus, but each has its own type of gift giver.

In Belgium he is depicted as being dressed in bishop's robes with a pastoral staff and mitre. He gives praise or punishment to the children and promises to reward with presents. The Czechoslovakian people have Saint Mikulas, the patron saint of children who is supposed to descend from heaven on a golden cord. He is conducted to earth by a white-clad angel, and leads an evil spirit, Cert, in a black hood.

The Danish people have Jule-nissen, similar to our Santa Claus with long white whiskers and a sack full of toys.

In some sections of Finland gifts are presented to the children by Wainamoinen, impersonated by an old man with a long, white moustache, a white cap with blue bands, and a red coat. Generally the gifts exchanged are food, wines, and useful wearing apparel.

In Germany Saint Nicholas was replaced by Christkind, which has been modified into Kriss Kringle. The children are taught that Christkind brings them their presents, although it is not the Infant Jesus himself but his messenger who comes to earth at Christmas time. The Christkind is generally represented by a child dressed in white robes, wearing a golden crown, and having big golden wings. Candles are placed in the window to direct Christkind to each home.

There are many other types of gift-givers, but they are very similar to the ones mentioned. In some countries where they have no Santa Claus, a Christmas crib with straw and a doll inside represents birth of the Infant Jesus.

Auditorium Council Celebrates With a Potluck

The Auditorium Council had a potluck dinner for all its members on December 17. The time—6 o'clock to 9; the place—the west building gym.

Lew Wallace R. O. T. C. Progresses

Under the new leadership of Lt. Colonel C. B. Hayden, the Lew Wallace R. O. T. C. unit has progressed rapidly since the beginning of this school term.

This year Lawrence Lane, Lew Wallace Senior, leads the cadets as cadet colonel. Daily requirements demand that the R. O. T. C. do calisthenics everyday, followed by classes which are arranged according to seniority in the unit. First year cadets are brushing up on rifle marksmanship. Second and third year men are learning the principles of map-reading.

The rifle team at Lew Wallace has been disbanded, as at all other Gary schools. Before each meet, the ten best marksmen in the city will be selected to compete instead of individual school teams. No meets have been held yet.

Inspection of cadets is held every Monday. The neatest cadet in each platoon receives a ribbon which he will wear until another cadet is awarded the honor. Consequently he must forfeit the ribbon to the winner.

This year senior officers include: Lawrence Lane, cadet colonel; Bill Pierce, cadet major; Gerald Butler and Don Valo, cadet captains; Bill Trapp, Harry Lothian, Grayson Kellenberger, Sheridan Underwood, Gino Baseggio, and Bob Dammarell, cadet lieutenants. Sergeant Souders is the instructor.

Full Program for the Booster Club

A banquet for the football team and a big basketball pep meeting were the new subjects discussed by the Senior Booster Club at their last meeting.

They are going to help the Boys' Club and the Girls' Club sponsor a skating party December 23 at the Silver Rollerway and start the contest to raise money for Band uniforms.

New blouses for the cheer leaders are being made this week.

PHILOSOPHER

Lew Wallace School

Gary, Indiana

Published bi-weekly by the Journalism class.

Slow Pokes Get a Chance

In last month's *Reader's Digest* there appeared an article about a professor who believes that anything done imperfectly, is nothing done at all. This also seems to be Miss Elster's theme in swimming.

Of her three divisions in swimming, she is excusing all the intermediate and advanced swimmers, but all beginners must go into the pool and successfully pass all tests in the beginner's exam.

By this method she hopes to have all the students perfect the basic elements of swimming so that they will be able to play water basketball in the near future.

Peace on Earth Goodwill Toward Men

Christmas will soon be with us bringing its message of old, "Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward men".

Yes, Christmas will come to us here in the United States and with it will come laughter, gaiety, and fun, no blackout to hide the gleaming candles from coast to coast, no shrieking bombs to mar the quiet stillness of the day. Peace will be in the hearts of everyone.

Christmas will come to the people of other nations and with it will come not peace but turmoil, agony and destruction. There will be no laughter and fun, no gleaming lights or tinkling bells to herald the glad tidings. It is our earnest wish that peace may come to the world again and that in all nations there may be good will among men.

Christmas Eve

By Eileen Michaely

Soft snow falling swiftly, silently;
Cheerful lights gleaming through windows;
Friendly faces smiling from doors
Opened in welcome;
Pleasant greeting exchanged
By friends and strangers alike;
Sacred songs sung by bands of young car-
olers

Tramping along with sparkling eyes and
ruddy cheeks;

A huge log blazing on the hearth
Throwing out a circle of glowing warmth
And hospitality; children's stockings
Hanging empty before the fireplace
Waiting for the magic hour
When a fat, little, bearded man,
Dressed all in red, will come to fill them
From his bulging pack;
Stately fir trees, decked with ornaments
and lights

Surrounded by gay packages;
And wide-eyed, open-mouthed children,
Who stare curiously at the Christ-Child
Lyon in the manger,
And listen breathlessly to their mother's
story

Of the first Christmas night.

THE STUDENT ECHO

Good News Gets Around Fast

The Teachers' Union of Gary has recently introduced a plan for shortening the school hours. If the plan is carried out, we will start school at 8:30 and be excused at 3:45. One thing which will be confusing is the fact that we have lunch hour at 11:15 and another one at 12:45. Therefore, the students that have 12:15 lunch will have an hour class at 11:15 and the students having lunch at 11:15 will have an hour class at 12:15. If it were not necessary for students to go so far for their dinner this conflict would not exist.

The main idea in having the long day originally was because students did not have very warm homes in the winter time and also had no place to play. Thus the students were kept at school longer so they could be warm and have clean, organized play. Since these conditions no longer exist, there is no reason for a long day such as we have now.

The minimum length of a recitation period in Indiana is forty minutes but it is strongly recommended that schools use the lengthened hour (fifty-five to sixty-four minutes.) In Indiana it is required that a student taking shop or science should have ten periods a week, if they have the shortened hours. As it is in Lew Wallace, we have to have only 5 fifty-five minute periods. If we changed to the shortened hours, some type of science would have to drop a solid of some kind in order to have the minimum time for study and for his shop or science.

These are just a few existing facts pro and con the shortening of our school hours.

Artist Commends Lew Wallace Audience

Mr. Josef Wagner, pianist and composer, commended the Lew Wallace audience for whom he played on Friday, December 6. He said he enjoyed playing for the audience because they were so attentive and interested. He felt this when he first sat down to play.

Mr. Wagner played two of his own compositions, "Toccata" and "Variations on a French Nursery Song." The last song was the tune that the Singing Lady sang for her theme song. Since Mr. Wagner won the International Chopin Prize in Warsaw in 1932 the program would not have been complete if he had not played "Nocturne D flat major" and "Five Etudes", both by Chopin. He ended the program with "Soires de Vienne" by Strauss-Gruenfeld.

He: "Please?"

She: "No".

He: "Just this once?"

She: "No".

He: "Aw, Ma, all the kids are going barefoot."

—Pioneer News

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Hornets In Two Conference Victories

Fast on the trail of another N. I. H. S. C. basketball crown, the Lew Wallace Hornets came up with their first two conference "scalps" by mauling a Hammond High quintet by a 55-27 score and by edging Oilers of Whiting with a 36-30 score. These two games plus the Tolleston victory give the Hornets a three game winning streak.

In the Hammond game the Hornets were hitting from all angles with "push-shot" Steve Gaza making 19 points to lead Wallace scoring. After a close first period the Hornets came up with an eighteen point second quarter to give the game the appearance of a horse race. Kenney Biggs and Johnny Carlson each poured in eight points to add to the Hornet total. Captain Sikora, Alex Shuman and Milton Hansen each contributed their share of scoring in addition to playing a fast, "wide-awake" game. Hammond scoring was lead by Nagy who counted 11 points on 3 fielders and 5 free throws.

Behind at half time by a 17-15 score in the Whiting game the boys came back after a Coach Polk "pep talk" to outscore Whiting 12 to 3 and to take a 27-20 lead at the third period. This drive was lead by Captain Ted Sikora who hit three consecutive fielders at the start of the third period. The team then coasted to it's 36-30 score by matching Whiting scoring in the final quarter. Parker, giant center, was the "big noise" for Whiting as he scored 16 points for the Oilers. Steve Gaza and Captain Sikora led Lew Wallace scoring with 13 and 12 points respectively. Alex Shuman, forward, did more than his share by adding his six points. The 13 points he scored in the Whiting game gives Gaza a three game total of 43 points.

Hornets Bow to Central, 13 to 0

The Lew Wallace football team departed from Gleason Field on November 30, after suffering its initial defeat of the season at the hands of South Bend Central in the N. I. H. S. C. title play off.

Central scored in the third and fourth quarters. Hampton, Central halfback, opened the scoring by cutting over his own left guard from the Hornet 33-yard line. Late in the fourth period, Rusk, Central fullback, scored from one yard out and plunged for the extra point.

Nineteen seniors of the squad either witnessed or played their final game in prep football in uniform. They are: Kuzma, Szymanski, Hall, Black, Brasaemle, Kerr, Pavletich, Chalich, Underwood, Baromich, Cleary, Manion, Stram, McFann, Laster, Pendleton, Hoffman, Smith, and Tomasich.

Alumni News

"Day Lost," a poem by Mary Remus, was published in "Hoosier College Verse of 1940". Mary is now a senior at Indiana University.

Reserves Drop Two Close Battles

After trouncing a weak Tolleston reserve squad by a 23-14 score, the Lew Wallace "B" team dropped two last minute thrillers to Hammond by a 20-22 score and to Whiting reserves in a double overtime by a 22-24 score.

Heavy Lew Wallace scoring in the second and fourth quarters marked the Hornet-Tolleston fray. Leading at the end of the third period by just two points, the reserves got down to business in the final quarter and outscored their opposition 10-3 to earn their 23-14 victory. Steve Vukin, forward, led Wallace scoring with three field goals.

In the Hammond game the reserves lost a "heartbreaker." After a 9-9 half-time tie, the Hornet squad pulled away to a 17-13 third quarter lead, only to lose the game with seconds to go when Bandura, Hammond forward, hit from the middle of the floor. Seconds before, Holock, Lew Wallace guard, had given the reserves new life by tying the score with a freetoss. Vukin again led the "B" team scoring with 7 points on 2 field goals and 3 free throws. Solay and Biggs contributed 6 and 5 points, respectively, to the total.

Coming from behind in the Whiting game, the "B" team scored 11 points in a wild fourth period to tie the game at the gun by a 20-20 score. Both teams were unable to score in the first 3 minute period but in the second overtime, Buckley, Whiting center, hit from the circle to give Whiting a 22-20 victory. Rebracca, Lew Wallace forward, scored 8 points for scoring honors, with Holock adding 5 and Vukin 4 points to the Lew Wallace total.

Christmas Traditions Handed Down

Amidst our happy times and joys during the Christmas Season, do you sometimes wonder about the origin of Christmas?

The day, December 25, originated from the Roman festive day for the sun god, Mithra, and because the exact date of Christ's birth was unknown and because he came to us as the "Light of the World," the date December 25, for the Roman sun god's festive day, was chosen.

A person known to a small child as Santa Claus first began about the 13th century in Holland. A father desiring to surprise his child, wore a mask and appeared as a fat, jolly, old fellow and rode up to the house in a sleigh drawn by a horse. The child was overjoyed at the thought of receiving a gift from such a jolly old fellow. The idea was so liked that the world has made it a tradition. But in the different countries he is called, other names, rather than Santa Claus. In Holland he is called "Good Old Saint Nick".

James Forsythe and Ella Mae Owens were married December 1.

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

RAMBLIN' ROUND THE CAMPUS

Christmas Wishes

Coach Baer — Reversal of score of South Bend Central-Wallace Game.

Bud Williams—Television set so that he can go home to lunch and still know what Lois and Dick Ehlen are doing in the cafeteria.

Claude Pendleton—To be able to keep my major letter for myself—well, Donna?

Mary Nicksic—The make believe romance between her and Jimmie Morris to become a reality. Well, Jimmie, what are you waiting for?

Mr. Martin—A course on "How to Become Boss". (No explanation needed.)

Mary Mele—Give Santa a couple of pounds.

Doug Hallam—Gas etc. for model "A". Why not a new car? It would be cheaper.

Violet Sherman—A certain senior to hurry up and get his class ring as he won't part with his national art pin.

Steve Gaza — Get better acquainted with Frances.

Miss Richardson—A "sixth" sense to tell me where my pocket book has gone—Why not just a good strong arm for the future.

Jill Pritchard—A "Choo Choo" twain. Thay Jill that ith thwell.

Some freshman girls — That Harold Pendleton would wait three years before getting serious. Of course Jackie doesn't wish this.

John Vale—Certain Horace Mann girls to transfer to Wallace. But then who wouldn't?

George Hines—Have Marjorie Whitaker say "Hi" to him just once. That would last for a couple of Christmases, eh, George?

Bernard Droney—A rich mother-in-law. ('Nough sed).

James Dumigan—A cute little sophomore.—Which one of the four, Jimmie?

Sam Gray — A name plate to wear around his neck so people will stop calling him Kenny.

Yours Truly—A bomb shelter to protect him from patrons of this column.

"I'll now illustrate what I have in mind," said the teacher as she erased the board.

My Christmas Wish for this Troubled World

Coach Baer:

"Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Miss Nesbit:

"I hope that the youth of America can learn to discipline themselves and learn to budget their time so as to be able to get their work done satisfactorily and on time not only in school but in later life." Mrs. G. Krueger:

"My wish for this troubled world is that the spirit of brotherly love be restored to the universe. To help foster this feeling I shall perform helpful deeds and speak cheerful words whenever and wherever I can."

Mr. Tormohlen:

"May peace and understanding come to the nations of the world in 1941".

Mary Jean Phipps:

"I wish that all the children in Europe might have nice fat turkeys for their Christmas dinner."

Stanley Hutches:

"I hope that in 1941 Hitler and company will be liquidated."

Good Will Toward Men

Making the Yuletide the happiest time of the year is the aim of the members of the G. A. A. who are contributing in some small way to those who are in need.

This organization will give to the Red Cross a box of toys which in turn will be given to children who otherwise would receive no toys for Christmas.

Each member of the Auditorium Council will contribute something to make up a Christmas basket to be given to some needy family.

The Olympians are contributing \$5.00 to the Goodfellow fund.

Let us all try to promote the Christmas spirit by treating our fellowmen as brothers.

Santa Attends Annual G. A. A. Potluck

Short dresses, hair bows, and toys emphasized the "kid party" theme of the annual G. A. A. potluck, held last Tuesday in the school cafeteria. Red and green streamers and Christmas carols filled the room with the Christmas spirit.

The evening was full of surprises, the first of which, was the entertainment planned by the senior members. Eileen Michaely and Mary Mele came as Miss Elster and Mrs. Kelly respectively. The Lew Wallace football squad was there with bells on, or rather their uniforms came draped on some of the senior girls.

Another pleasant surprise was the favors planned by the junior class. They presented each girl with a hair bow and a bracelet, the finishing touch to their costumes.

The evening ended with a fat jolly Santa Claus distributing toys to all the girls.

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