A True Christmas Spirit Prevails On Normal Hill

CHRISTMAS PARTY GIVEN BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

"It is Christmas in the mansion,
Yule-log fires and silken frocks;
It is Christmas in the cottage,
Mother’s filling little socks.

"It is Christmas on the highway,
In the thronging, busy mart;
But the dearest, truest Christmas
Is Christmas in the heart!"

—from “Christmas in Poetry.”

That there was Christmas in the hearts of everyone who attended the party in East Hall dining room, Thursday evening, December 21, there can be no doubt. As soon as the supper bell had rung, eager feet came hurrying from many directions—East Hall and Robie, from third floor to first. With bright eyes and pretty dresses, they came to celebrate a gay occasion.

The fragrance of fire filled the dining room, which was fairly radiant of Christmas spirit. And the tree! There it stood in the center of the room, tall and elegant above the white tables. From every branch hung mysterious little gifts in gay wrapping, only less gay than the bright lights, bells, and tinsel which shimmered among the dark green houghs. Through their drapery of colored paper, the lights glowed softly about the room. Here and there, gay little candles flickered, competing with the tables in their rose and green decorations. Evergreen wreaths hung at every window.

The steady murmur of voices rose louder than usual that night as the supper progressed. But, hark! What was that? Supper was over and a jingle of bells was clearly heard. Someone was coming and who else should bounce in but Santa himself—all smiles and friendship: Bouncing, he gave you a little gift—do you suppose that might have been Alice King in disguise?

One after another, the mystifying little packages on the tree found their way to a wondering owner as Santa called off the names in a deep voice. Bracelets, dolls, hankies, candy, animals, almost anything you can name was unwrapped with shouts of laughter.

Finally, the last present was gone from the tree and everyone was happy! Then the program of Christmas carols, poems, readings and violin solos, rendered the last touch of Christmas joy and the party was over.

But was it over? No, indeed! At ten o’clock that night once again feet came hurrying down the stairs. About the fireplace in Robie Hall library, in the adjoining reception room, even out into the corridors, the girls of Robie and East gathered in gay pajamas and bathrobes ready for a good sing. As the lovely Christmas hymns faded away into the night, sleepy but happy girls scrambled to their feet and were away to bed. So ended the contribution of the House Committee to the Yuletide with a "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 22. “Happy Days are Here Again.” —Vacation.
Jan. 2. Back again.

OUR PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dr. Walter E. Russell

To each of you, members of the Gorham Normal School, the Principal of the school extends the wish that you may have a “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.” He hopes this is not an idle wish impossible of fulfillment. He realizes that times are hard, that money is not too plentiful, that one must get along without many things that one would like. He is not unmindful that duty is inexorable, that school tasks are heavy, that teachers are exacting, and that perhaps you didn’t earn the grades you would like to have received.

In spite of all these facts there is some joy left in the world; some reasons for happiness are still in existence. Perhaps you still have a frugal meal, a coat to wear, a room in which to live, and fuel with which to keep it warm. Perhaps you have good health with which to enjoy these things. Perhaps you have parents and brothers and sisters which mean something to you. Perhaps you have schoolmates and teachers who rejoice with you in your successes and sympathize with you in your failures. Perhaps you know somebody who needs a kindly deed from you. Perhaps you have the will to render that deed without thought of recom pense. If so, you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

QUALITY CREDITS

A short time ago, at the appearance of quarterly rank sheets, the Gorham student body began to renew the familiar and oftentimes alarming quarterly credits ranking system. Since a purpose of the Oracle is to inform, here are the answers to a few of the more commonly asked questions.

Question: Does each recitation count as one credit hour?

Answer: No, not as a rule, for with the exception of a few subjects, in proportion to the hours taken per week, continued on page two

A portion from Wagner’s Opera, “Tannhauser”

"From ‘Christmas in Poetry.’"

Dr. Walter E. Russell

The program follows:

“Hallelujah Chorus” from “The Messiah”
Handel

“O Holy Night!”
Silent Night, Holy Night!
(Sung a cappella)

"Glory to God on High”
Leomont

Violin solos by Miss Lois Pillsbury of Scarborough

Following selections by the orchestra:

"Under Fire"
A portion from Wagner’s Opera, “Tannhauser”

Another of today’s events was the excellent chapel program presented by the C. C. A.: Normal Planted, Arnold Comeau, Monroe Bean, John Massey, and Daniel Wight taking part.

A previous event of interest was the unique dancing party sponsored by the Massachusetts Club. Last Saturday night, Christmas spirit was made evident by a decorated tree at the party given by the Commuters’ Club.

On Thanksgiving, members of the school have joined in singing Christmas carols in chapel.

TEACHER TRAINING CERTIFICATION

Every wide-awake student in Gorham Normal School is aware of the high rating with which our school compares with other Maine normal schools. One aid which enables our Normal School to maintain this high rating is the many stimulative professional conferences held in our section of the country. Those, at which our principal and many students have already been present are: the State Normal School Conference, at Farmington, just before the opening of school; the Crawford October Conference; the State Teachers’ Convention in Lewiston; and in November, the New England Teacher Training Convention in Boston.

At the last mentioned convention, Doctor Russell listened to educational reports made by representatives from each New England state. In summarizing these statements, Mr. Russell spoke as follows:

The tendency in New England is to provide four years of teacher training for elementary school teachers. Rhode Island has made that requirement for the past eight years, Massachusetts and Connecticut are requiring three years with an optional four-year course. Vermont and Maine are still requiring only two years for an elementary teacher training diploma. State certification for elementary teacher training concluded on page four
CHRISTMAS

Just around the corner another great day looms. As Christ's birthday approaches, we prepare to leave the Annual Christmas tree in Center, Christmas caroling by the Gle Clubs, songs of the season sung in chapel, and Christmas dancing parties in Center, have all borne thoughts of this approaching birthday, the greatest in the history of the world.

If these festivities have brought happy recreation to the participants, they have served a very useful purpose. Yet, they must have surely failed if that is all they have accomplished. But, if they have brought in any measure, regardless how meager, a little of the grace of the Master, who desired above all else, peacefulness on earth and a spirit of good will among people, they have been veritably successful.

When we reunite in January, let it be with the resolve that the Christmas teachings of peace and good will may extend throughout the New Year of 1934.

PROJECT

A memorable project has been completed by the Advanced-Seniors History class. The class chose the “History of Gorham Normal School” as its work-unit. The completed work, now in the school library, should prove of interest to all students of the school.

There are but few students who are aware of the features related in the book. How many know the extent of the Campus? Who was the first Principal? Who were members of the first Faculty? What clubs were first organized? These and other interesting questions are answered in the History of Gorham Normal School.

OCEAN LINER

By Eleanor Parker

Lights, laughter, music, merriment, and, guile; such is an ocean liner at night. Among the gay dancers in the ballroom and the lovers, leaning on the rail. Perhaps, now, would have time for some diversion. If only he were sure. If!

Within their stateroom, Mr. Davis, balloon-faced and rosy, was in conference with Mr. Jameson, an exact replica of Sroorge.

"I tell you, Davis, if we put this deal through, we'll have certain control of the silk market."

"But, Jameson, think of the risk."

"Damn the risk! Think of the money."

In still another stateroom, Mrs. Huntington Nethers was trying with the aid of mascara, to make fat and puffy eyes exotic. Mrs. Nethers was also complaining, as usual, to her enduring mate.

"It does seem, Huntington, as if we might get better service," she whined. "A man of your position should demand it."

"Yes, dear, I'll find out what's wrong right away."

Directly below the Nethers, roomed the Sampson family, painless but happy. All their savings has been spent to cure little Jean, who at a year ago, had been a victim of infantile paralyis. Now, Jean was well again and they were happy. Mrs. Sampson was watching Jean in.

"Mummy, I ran very fast today, all up and down the deck."

That's fine, dear. Now try to get to sleep."

The great iceberg, slowly approaching the ship, shaved and shimmered with reflected light. Now, it struck with all the force of mighty armies. Everything became confusion, terror, horror, screaming, screeching, gurgling, and weeping.

Mr. Jameson, who dared risk all dangers to corner textile prices, dared not face the slow, cold death of drowning, so drew the revolver from the drawer and took the trigger. Davis sat munching his cigar and staring moodily at the contract before him.

Below, the Sampsons tied a rope around their little group, who were very still to wait—to wait for what?

Mighty Neptune must have rejoiced at the great catch, for he drew the great liner under the lights still shining from the ballroom.

"Alan!"

"Paula, where are you?"

"Oh, Mummy, Mummy."

CHRISTMAS EVE

The tumbling house was bleak and cold. The children huddled in.

To listen to the story told of the Baby Jesus dear. The cold they did not seem to mind.

Tomorrow was Christmas Day. They only were infirm to find Where Baby Jesus lay.

With eyes fixed on their mother now. They heard the story old. How Wise Men to his feet did bow And gave him myrrh and gold.

The tumbling house was bleak and cold. The children huddled round.

And as they heard that story told, The Christ-Child then was found. Margaret E. Perkins.

WHAT THE PAST HAS REVEALED

Ernest Libby can sing. Advanced-Senior History class chapel exercises.—November 10th.

The Mid-Seniors have a snappy basketball team! Victory over the Advanced-Seniors.—November 12th.

Even the Junior girls will fall in line with a ladies' choice number. Lambda Pi Sigma orchestra dance.—November 18th.

Everyone likes hot dogs and sandwiches. (Anything new?). Y. W. C. A. pool sale in Center.—November 22nd.

S. Leslie Marston is a born actor. Why? Ask anyone who saw the Lambda Pi Sigma initiation.—November 25th.

Soon we'll be seeing the world in twenty-four hours. Mrs. Lincoln told us "how" in chapel.—November 27th.

The 1933 Christmas bazaar was the most successful one in three years.—December 7th.

Even the walls of the dormitory were rocking in rhythm when the orchestra struck up for Boston Fancy. Massa
county—continued on page four

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there are a less number of credit hours. For example, all studies of four classes a week, except Art and Principles of Education, give three credit hours. However, no set rule can be applied but full knowledge as to the credits given each subject may be found in the Circular of Information.

Question: What relation is there between the quality credits per semester and the quarter credits?

Answer: The rating at the end of a semester is the average of the quality credits given the two preceding quarters.

Question: Is it possible for a pupil receiving all Cs to pass?

Answer: Yes, because this would generally give 32 credits. With eleven semester hours of Cs and five of Ds, a student will receive exactly twenty-seven points.

Question: Must some pupils fail in each class?

Answer: No. If a teacher believes a pupil has done sufficiently good work, that person will pass, although he may have had the lowest rank in the class. In other words, although there are as nearly as possible seven per cent receiving A's, twenty-four per cent, B's, and thirty-eight per cent, C's; below the C, the judgment of the teacher is used.
THE ORACLE

THE COUNTY FAIR

The Y. W. C. A. Bazaar held in Center, December seventh, was a booming success. From the time it opened to the end, there was a steady flow of people throughout the day, all having a good time.

One of the most popular attractions was the candy table. The table was set up in the center of the room and was surrounded by a crowd of people eager to sample the treats. The table was loaded with all sorts of sweets, including peanut brittle, stuffed dates, and popcorn balls. One of the most popular items was the candy made by the Home Economics department.

The Y. W. C. A. Bazaar was not only entertaining but helpful, for at the booths Christmas gift suggestions and cards were sold. The candy table was most attractive with delicious fudge, peanut brittle, stuffed dates, and popcorn balls. The Peanut Butter, Stuffed Date, and Popcorn Ball Booths were particularly popular.

The Y. W. C. A. Bazaar was a success and the committee is already planning for next year's event.

SANDY CLAWS

As I was rather short of material for this column due to the N. R. A. (new ranking activities), Santa said that I might impart some of his Christmas secrets.

As he was once a friend of George Washington, he prefers truthful people, and hearing that the Ethics class received no reward for this virtuous Christmas morning members of the above mentioned class will find six extra credit points carefully wrapped and sealed in the toe of their stocking next to the peppermint candy stick.

Merry Christmas, folks!!!
VARSI TY BASKETBALL
SEASON OPENS

Friday, December 8th, saw the official opening of the 1933-34 basketball season. A large crowd turned out for the event, and in spite of the depression, formed a very promising cheering section.

The Varsity game against the Alumni was preceded by the battle of the century, in other words, the clash of the Advanced-Senior minors with the Mid-Senior minors.

Without doubt, this game should go down in the history of Gorham Normal as a classic. Its equal has never been seen. All that it lacked in skill was offset by pure speed and endurance.

Ernest Libby, the star of the Advanced-Seniors, alone accounted for seven of his team’s nine points, and proved conclusively that he can take it. When it was discovered that Libby was a professional in disguise, several of the boys took occasion to gang up on him, but he went on, unaunted, leading his team to victory.

The Varsity game resulted in a victory for the home team by a creditable score of 51 to 23. The Alumni aggregation, one of the strongest in recent years, was composed of Verrill, Gilbert, Corey, Kimball, Gordon, King, Wescott, and Dow.

This game gave Coach Welden an opportunity to observe his charges in action, with a view to strengthening their weak points before the regular Varsity season opens against Bridgton.

INTERCLASS BASKETBALL

Unlike last year, the class games of this winter have been a sizzling battle throughout with no odds asked or given.

To start it off the Mid-Senior team, comprising that group of notables which suffered such ignoble defeats last season, defeated the Juniors 20 to 18.

In the second round, the Advanced-Seniors, cup winners of the last two seasons, trimmed the Mid-Seniors by a tally of 24-26.

The third round saw the Advanced-Seniors again victorious, this time over the Juniors.

In the fourth game, the mighty Advanced-Seniors were humbled by the Mid-Seniors to the tune of 23-15. This game resulted in a tie for first honors between the two upper classes. Each, however, had to overcome the Juniors to maintain it. Both found no difficulty in this matter and the teams remain deadlock in a tie which is to be played off later. Don’t miss it! There are sure to be plenty of fireworks.

ATHLETIC NOTES

DO YOU BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION?

You do, if you are a student of the Gorham Normal School and have been observing the radical changes taking place.

When we returned to Gorham in September for our second or third year noticed but one change in our faculty, the girls’ physical director, Miss Flint. Most of us did not consider this a big change, but now we must admit that the athletic life of our Junior girls and those Seniors and Advanced-Seniors interested in physical education has changed.

Early in September our Junior girls appeared with light green rompers and tights, which replaced the gym suits as worn here for many years.

In the present season the sport undergoing the process of evolution is basketball. The members of this school acquainted with basketball as played in this section of Maine are surprised to find the new, two-court basketball rules in use. In place of the division teams of last year, color teams have been organized and there are four such teams. Beatrice Cook is captain of the Red Team, and Evelyn Moulton of the Yellow Team. The Blue and Green teams have not as yet chosen their captains. Each team has held practice twice each week in preparation for the round-robin series to be played early in January.

Later in the season one week will be devoted to class practice followed by one class game—unless the Advanced-Seniors also compete for the cup.

These are the prominent changes up to date. Watch and see what happens next.

GIRLS’ VARSITY BASKETBALL

Six years ago the girls of the Gorham Normal School participated in interscholastic basketball. Now only the boys have varsity teams. What is happening? Is interclass basketball for girls to disappear? Or can the students find class spirit enough to help the girls keep athletics alive? Let’s remember that health ranks high in the aims of the National Education Association.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

The Athletic Council met December 8th for the purpose of organization. The officers as elected were: Marguerite Boyce, President; David Gallison, Vice-President; Mr. Poat as Treasurer; Miss Flint, Secretary. The other members of the council present were: Dr. Russell, Honorary President; Mr. Welden, Beatrice Cook, Evelyn Moulton, and Norman Provencal.

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ALUMNI NOTES

The following are names of some of the notable alumni who have graduated from Gorham Normal School. These names were found in the History of Gorham Normal School, a new book in the library, presented by the Advanced-Senior History Method’s Class.

Mary E. Barrell—Physician, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Annie Chadbourne—Teacher of English, West Hanover, Massachusetts.

Elizabeth Collins—Principal of the Smith College Day School, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Grace Dolly—Teacher, Portland, Maine.

John Brackett—Lawyer, Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

Bernice Goddard—Government clerk, Washington, D. C.

Mary French—Mrs. J. Frank Rie—Chairman on the Board of County Commissioners, Rockland, Maine.

Grace Haskell—Principals of Winthrop High School, Winthrop, Maine.

Elvira Higgins—Principal of Worthington Hooker School, New Haven, Connecticut.

Hattie Hill—Mrs. Albinon Fenderson, Field Secretary of the Maine Public Health Association, Augusta, Maine.


Hiram Ingersoll—Principal of Rocky High School, Westbrook, Maine.

Mabel Jenkins—Teacher in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Elizabeth Kenney—Latin teacher, Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

Margaret Gallagher—Principal Elm Street School, Bangor, Maine.


Elvira Lord—Teacher and Principal of White School, Saco, Maine.

Harriett Rolfe—Mrs. Frank Cole—Trustee of the Eastern Maine General Hospital, Bangor, Maine.

Nathaniel Shaw—President; Charles Varney Company, Portland, Maine.

Georgia Strout—Principal Brunswick Grammar School, Brunswick, Maine.

Carrie Wight—Director and Teacher Training Course, Gould Academy, Bethel, Maine.

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The Gorham faculty and students are "good sports." Proved when many received "joke" presents at the House Committee Christmas party—December 21.