

CLUB AND PERFORMANCES

Pierce Milk Fund Grows With Gifts From Local Clubs

Mrs. J. L. Thornberry, president of the Parent-Teacher Association of Pierce School, announces that checks to aid in furnishing milk daily to children of the school have been received from the American Legion Auxiliary, the Teachers' Club and from several individuals.

Milk is served to the children at the morning recess at the school, with the understanding that those able will purchase it. The P. T. A. supplies milk without cost to children who cannot buy it.

"We have about 40 children on the free milk list this year," Mrs. Thornberry said, "this is about twice as many as we had a year ago. Without the assistance of the organizations and individuals who have come forward with gifts, the P. T. A. could not stand so great an expense. We are hoping to be able to supply all children with their daily milk until April."

Following a donation of graham crackers for three days each week by the milkman on the Pierce school, mothers also volunteered crackers for the remaining days of the week until the middle

Spirit of Giving Has Bound World In Lasting Xmas Since Time Began

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Paris has originated a more elaborate celebration of Christmas Eve, staging its "revillon" in cafes with its climax in midnight Christmas supper. "Kolenda" comes with its Christmas Eve procession through the streets, its carol-singing for cup-bearers, the masquerading of revelers as animals, significant of the manger.

Scandinavia has given us many a Christmas custom. Peace prevails for all the season there, with old fables forgotten. There the shoes of the family are set in a row with their retiring, that its members might live in peace throughout the year to come. There is found the Yule log, the dancing and the skating, and it

Master Of Ceremony At Alumni Dinner

Janet Forbush was cast as "Mary" with Sally Davis in the role of St. Joseph. Dean McDougal led the band of angels, and other parts were taken by Margaret Lightner, who represented "A Little Girl"; Virginia Burt, who took the part of a shepherd; and a chorus of 25 angels, all parts of which was visible to the audience.

The school closed for the Christmas vacation Friday following an assembly of students, and luncheon gay with Christmas greens and red tapers, at which Mrs. George C. Booth, her sister, Mrs. Grace Scripps Clark, and Dr. and Mrs. Marquis were guests.

There was a custom of long-standing in other years, and may still be followed in parts of the peninsula, to celebrate the season with the yearly bath, the great wash tub dragged out into the center of the house for the series of ablutions. Candles burn all night for "Kris-tine" with candles, the gifts, there are games until the carolers burn in upon the revelers, masked performance of pantomime and mock military drill.

Many countries claim the Christmas tree. In Scandinavia there is the legend of the "evergreen" tree supposed to have sprung from the soil where a pair of lovers were killed by violence, and where the tree mysteriously appears with its myriad of lights at Christmas time when winds blow. A 13th century romance features the gigantic tree ablaze with burning candles, the tree a questing hero, with the haloed child shining as its top, the whole aflame with candles, the tree significant of mankind, the child of humans, good or bad, the child of the Christ Child. Germany, keeping Christmas, often welcomes its guests with green branches ornamented with lighted candles. One of the loveliest of its legends tells that Martin Luther, walking over the snowy winter hills at night and observing the beauty of the glittering stars against the dark set up for his children a tiny fir, with candles representing the stars.

Back so far as to the time of ancient Egypt is traced the origin of the custom of decking our homes with greens, for their branches of the date palm were hung in homes during the winter solstice, symbolic of "life triumphant" the symbol that our Christmas greens today interpret.

It was during the reign of Queen Victoria and her marriage to the German prince that the custom of the Christmas tree was brought into England, and German emigrants brought it to America.

Carols had their beginning back to a few centuries after the birth of Christ when bishops sang them in the churches to their clergy. Not until the 16th century did they take the parish and form in what we hear them sing. They became festal chants introduced by the Norman French into England, but repudiated by the Puritans along with Christmas. The ballad form appeared about this time and it was then that the "waits" made their rounds of the houses before dawn on Christmas morning singing in payment for coins. The word carol comes from the Latin cantare (to sing) and "rol" (the rejection of joy).

The Christmas card originated in England in 1840 as a successor to the "Christmas piece," a roll of ornamental note paper bearing greetings from engraver's apprentices to their friends. One Thomas Sharrock is credited with originating the first Christmas card, but the first one of which a copy exists was by Sir Henry Cole and 1,000 impressions of it were lithographed and hand colored for sale in London. It was not until 1881, however, that the card was revived and reprinted in color process for general use, and from that time the popularity of the card rose rapidly. Kate Green-was was but one of the celebrated artists who received good prices for original paintings for cards. Cards were printed and frosted and padded and scented (those made of silk), and their subjects were generally children, kittens, puppies, sprays of flowers and scenes. Then, as later, the religious card, America originated the more general use of holly and mistletoe cards and added the poinsettia because of its seasonableness and color, in the 1890's.

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