NORMAL CHOIR WINS PLAUDITS

Capacity Crowd Cheers Ypsilanti Singers Under Alexander

By FREDERICK A. PROTHEROE

One could hardly imagine a more appropriate ushering in of the Christmas season than that furnished by the concert of the Ypsilanti Normal Choir at the Baptist Church Friday night.

The choir of 200 voices, under the direction of Frederick Alexander, was brought here by a committee headed by Dr. Lloyd Kemp, and its appearance was sponsored by the Exchange Club for the benefit of the children's free dental clinic.

Extra Chairs Needed

It required the placing of extra chairs in every possible corner to accomodate the large and enthusiastic audience that attended. The church was tastefully decorated and the tracery of the chancel windows beautifully outlined in flood of red and blue lights from below the rear screen. With the choir filing the chancel and front of the church, it made an impressive and lovely picture.

Mr. Alexander began his program with a few remarks outlining the first composition, "Praise the Name of the Lord," Gretchaninov. This little talk served the double purpose of acquainting the audience with the music and with the most unusual personality directing it.

Immediately one was aware of the director's deep love for his work, his spirituality and rare imagination. His choir of young singers responded to his demands with an enthusiasm that attested to the love and respect they bear him. And even as the soprano mounted to and sustained the high note of this first number for half after bar, so the concert rose to rare heights of gorgeous performances of every kind of music.

Women Outnumber Men

One wondered at the comparatively small number of men in the choir, there being but 40 to 160 women, but here again the cleverness of Mr. Alexander was apparent in keeping a splendid balance at all times never forcing his voices and obtaining tone qualities of exquisite purity and color, absolutely true to pitch.

It would be difficult, indeed, to choose high lights of accomplishment in the great variety of numbers presented, for the choir met the requirements of the simplest carols and the terrific vocal demands of the Sanctus from Bach's B minor Mass with an authority that must have pleased most the ear of its director.

Mr. Alexander graciously responded to the insistent applause at the end of the concert by allowing his hearers to choose their own encores.

Harpsichord Heard

John Challis, who specializes in building and playing instruments of earlier times, charmed his listeners with a groups of delightful pieces on the harpsichord. A brass quintet added variety and interest to the Bach chorus.

Dr. Kemp's committee consisted of Mrs. Norman Lyle, Mrs. Edith Wall, Mrs. Herbert E. Moore, F. W. Niedenfuhr, Waldo Fellows, A. Shanley Rossi, William G. Olsen, Mrs. John Gordon, Dr. Edward Spalding, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daisley and Frederick A. Protheroe.

It is to be hoped that their desire of making the visit of this choir to Birmingham a yearly event will be realized.

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DaLee. Phylis Hoston will be the accompanist.

St. James' Episcopal

"The Nativity," a short Christmas service for children in the form of a pageant, will be presented by St. James' Church School at 5 P. M. Friday. Sally Vynne will take the part of the Madonna, and Matthew B. Whittlesey, Jr., will play the role of Joseph.

Among others in the cast will be Sally Ann Farquhar as the angel and Philip Velie, William Cruickshank and Warner Forsyth, Jr., as the three shepherds.

The girls' choir, which will also represent the Heavenly Host, will sing Christmas carols. Only two scenes of the Christmas story will be enacted—that of the shepherds in the field by night, and that of the nativity itself.

The midnight carol service will be held at the church from 11 to 11:30 P. M. Saturday, with Holy Communion at 12. Communion will be observed Christmas morning at 11 o'clock. There will be no Sunday School classes.

First Presbyterian

Musicians from Detroit and Birmingham will present Matthew's cantata, "The Story of Christmas," at the only service in Birmingham Sunday evening, to be held at the First Presbyterian Church.

The cantata will be directed by Miss Mildred Green, organist, and will be sung by Mrs. Manley Tyson, first soprano; Mrs. Gerald McMechan, second soprano; Mrs. Karel Rickerson, first contralto; Mrs. Imogene Davis, second contralto; Ronald McMaster, first tenor; Young C. Smith, second tenor; Ernest W. Seaholm, first bass, and Robert Braman, second bass.

The annual midnight communion service will be held at 11:30 P. M. Christmas Eve at Christ Church Cranbrook. The service opens with the choir marching from the Guild Hall with lighted lanterns to the Christmas tree in front of the church, where the congregation joins in a community sing of Christmas carols.

The choir and congregation later file into the church, where the communion service is conducted by the rector, Rev. S. S. Marquis. The service will be preceded by a carillon recital at 10:40 P. M. by William Hall Miner, bellmaster.

Services at the church on Christmas Day will include holy communion at 8 A. M., sermon and holy communion at 11 A. M. carillon recital at 3:15 P. M., vespers at 4 P. M., and an organ recital at 4:45 P. M. Church school will be discontinued until Jan. 1.

Embury Methodist

Following the regular Christmas exercises Friday evening for the Sunday School of the Embury M. E. Church, carols will be sung around a large community Christmas tree outside the church, and Santa Claus will appear to distribute gifts. The service will begin at 7:30 P. M.

H. P. Doying, Sunday School superintendent; Mrs. N. Wray and Charles Holmes, representing the school, and H. B. Barrett, Elmer Houseworth and John Gill, representing the Men's Club, will be in charge of the celebration.

Redeemer Lutheran

The Bethlehem scene will be presented in pageant form at a children's Christmas Eve service at the Redeemer Lutheran Church at 7:30 P. M. Saturday. A Christmas morning candle light service will be held at 7 A. M. Sunday, with special music by the children's vested choir.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

James W. Parry, village manager: "Although a few minor accidents have been only narrowly averted since institution of the trial angle parking system on Woodward avenue between Oakland and Brown streets, it seems to be meeting with general satisfaction from both motorists and merchants."

Villagers and the Village

By THE WANDERER

Mrs. Mary T. Wilkinson, local director for the Salvation Army, who is in Birmingham to establish a local committee to co-operate with the Army, today issued a warning to the public against men and women in uniform soliciting funds from door to door, and representing themselves as members of the Salvation Army. The Army is selling its own publications and has placed kettles on corners in Birmingham, but is making no other solicitation, Mrs. Wilkinson declared. Donations received in the kettles will be used to purchase food baskets for Birmingham families in need, Mrs. Wilkinson explained.

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If Jim Walker, star speaker for the Baldwin High School debating team, should finish his career in a contest sometime with an appealing gesture and the drawn out word "Mam-my," he would be fulfilling the expectations of one of the judges for the Birmingham-Van Dyke argument which took place last Friday. C. W. Kumler, debate coach of Detroit Southeastern High School, was the referee who made the comment. Walker's affable and appealing manner on the platform, it is believed, prompted the remark.

And Mr. Kumler was not the first debate judge to comment good-naturedly on Walker's delivery. "A flannel-mouthed orator" was the appellation with the red-headed debater threw from Gorton Riethmuller, coach of Highland Park High, who acted as judge in a previous Birmingham session.

Both of the judges' remarks were preceded by complimentary criticisms of Walker's work, so although he may give the appearance of a "Mammy" orator, or even of a "flannel-mouthed orator," he is still the most important cog in the team.

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Probably W. J. Sweeney, 66 East Pike street, Pontiac, is wondering whether Birmingham policeman are given a course in memory training. Last week Mr. Sweeney was arraigned before Judge Floyd S. Buck Tuesday and fined $15 for reckless driving on

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tempt any appetite from the simplest to the most piquant. One may choose turkey, goose, duck or chicken from a splendid selection of plump fowls shown in all of the markets.

And Plum Pudding

If the housewife is old-fashioned and prefers to make her own plum pudding, she will find all the ingredients right here and easily available, no matter where she does her marketing. If she prefers to buy it ready-made Birmingham bakeries will supply her need, or she may purchase it in cans from her favorite grocer.

The same applies to minced meat for the ever-popular Christmas pie. Fruit cake, another tasty dessert for the Christmas season, may be purchased ready made from bakers and grocers, or made at home as all the supplies, even for the most luxurious of fruit cakes, may be found in Birmingham.

And don't forget flowers for the table. They are not high priced, and local florists will fill your orders, whatever color scheme you choose.

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said. The movement was begun by the Library Board after delinquencies in village tax collections had forced omission of all appropriations for new books from the Library's budget.

Other curtailments will include the two-week closing, beginning next Saturday, reduction of the staff from four to two members, and shortening of the library hours. After re-opening Jan. 3, the Library will be open from 2 P. M. to 6 P. M. daily except Sundays, and from 7 to 9 P. M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Books falling due when the Library is closed may be returned Jan. 3 and 4 without fines.

Vliet Reviews Record

The program for the birthday party last Saturday included musical selections by the Baldwin High School Orchestra, Mildred Brumsted's glee club, Mrs. Howard Tuggey, pianist, and Mrs. Earl C. Potter, vocalist.

Clarence J. Vliet, vice-president of the Library Board, reviewed briefly the achievements of the Library during the past five years, and outlined the plans and prospects for the immediate future.

Mrs. Nancy Harris Passes Suddenly

Mrs. Nancy Gray Harris, for the past five years a member of the household of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Shain of Pierce street, died suddenly Monday at their home following a heart attack.

Mrs. Harris, who was 73 years old, was well known in Birmingham where she had resided for about 10 years. Before a prominent family in Tecumseh, Mich., she was reared and educated in Ireland, returning to this country after the completion of her education.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Alice Percy and Mrs. Mary Ives both of Tecumseh, and two adopted children. Following brief services at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shain Monday evening, the body was removed to Tecumseh, where funeral services will be held today, and burial will take place.

Mrs. Harris was a member of St. James' Episcopal Church.

Subscribe to The Eccentric; $2 per year, two years for $3.50.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Today: Lions Club Christmas party, Community House, 7 P. M.

Friday, Dec. 23: Mat Gail's Winter Get-Together, Community House.

Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas carolers to meet at Community House.

Monday, Dec. 26: Young Peoples' Dance, Community House.

Tuesday, Dec. 27: Village Players' Christmas Dance, Playhouse.

Wednesday, Dec. 28: DeMolay dance, 9 P. M. Community House. Luncheon meeting, Lions Club, Community House.

Services Held For Mrs. Phoebe Martin

Widow Of Pioneer Lumberman Dies At Home Of Daughter Here

Funeral services were held here Saturday for Mrs. Phoebe Jane Martin, mother of Mrs. Norman James, 887 Wimbleton drive, and of O. E. Martin, 250 Pleasant avenue, who died last Thursday night at the home of Mrs. James.

Mrs. Martin, who was 69 years old, was the widow of William L. Martin, pioneer Michigan lumberman who preceded her in death nine years ago.

She was born in Sarnia, Ont., and was brought by her family as an infant to Bay City, where she lived until her marriage in 1885. She had resided in Cheboygan until a year and a half ago, when she became ill, and had made her home since that time with Mrs. James.

Surviving, besides her son and daughter, are a sister, Mrs. C. L. Marquette of Detroit, and two grandchildren.

The services Saturday were held at 10:30 A. M. from S. O. Wylie Bell's Funeral Home. Burial was in Pine Hill Cemetery, Cheboygan, Sunday afternoon.

TOWNSHIP TO COLLECT TAX

Bloomfield Hills Commission Decides Not To Take Rolls

Bloomfield Township will collect 1932 state, county, township and school taxes from residents of the City of Bloomfield Hills this winter, it was decided last night at a meeting of the City Commission with Township Supervisor Perry A. Vaughan.

The statements to Bloomfield Hills taxpayers had been held up to await the decision. They will be mailed today, Mr. Vaughan said.

Although he declined to pass on the validity of the tax, Commissioner Frank W. Atkinson, city attorney, recommended that the township collect it, rather than the city, as had been suggested.

The question had been raised as to whether Bloomfield Hills, which became a city in September, could legally be assessed for a township tax this year, which is for expenses incurred by the township from April 1, 1932, to April 1, 1933.

"I would suggest that the township collect the tax, and that its validity be established at the time of settlement between the city and the township. Meanwhile, if any individual taxpayer objects to paying it, let him fight his own battle," Mr. Atkinson said. Members of the Commission agreed that payment of the tax was a matter for individuals, rather than the city as a governmental unit, to decide.

The Commission adopted a resolution approving an agreement by the Detroit Edison Company to reduce the city's street lighting bill from $478 to $319 a month by turning out approximately one-third of the existing highway lights.

Commissioner Luther D. Allen, although he voted for the resolution, expressed his disapproval on the grounds the reduced lighting would endanger traffic on the highways.

A sharp discussion was precipitated when Commissioner Robert D. Hargreaves, city treasurer, introduced a resolution which would have limited city expenditures to $2,409.42 a month for the next three months. This sum, he said, was what the city could expect to receive in income from all sources. Expenditures for 1932 have averaged approximately $3,500 per month, he said.

The resolution died for lack of support, but the Commission agreed to proceed with plans for definite curtailments in the budget at another meeting next Wednesday. The curtailments are expected to affect the clerk, engineer, police and fire departments.

Southfield Expects 40% Tax Collection

A 40 per cent tax collection is expected this year in Southfield Township, which last year collected less than 20 per cent according to Supervisor George Bingham.

The total levy has been reduced from more than $800,000 to $289,000, sentiment of taxpayers is more favorable, and collections to date are highly encouraging, Mr. Bingham said.

Practically all of the statements were mailed before Dec. 10. Material reductions have been made in every tax item except that for the schools, which remains about the same as that of last year, Mr. Bingham said.

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CHRISTMAS DAY

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This Christmas and Throughout the Years to Come

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For those last-minute Gifts!

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Whitman's Wonder Box with Fairy Tale Cover ... 25c

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Plenty of pound and 2-pound Packages of Whitman's, Gilbert's, Stover's.

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Moulds in Great Variety!

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HINTS... *For the Last Minute Shoppers*

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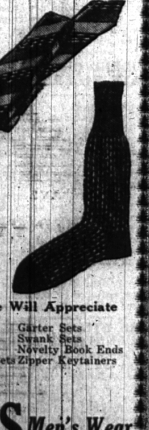
TIES . . in unusual and attractive pattern and color combinations. Prices from 50c to $3.50.

SOCKS are always a welcomed gift. Silks, Lisles, Wools and mixtures at prices ranging from 35c to $1.50.



Here Are Other Gift Items He Will Appreciate

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11th HOUR SUGGESTIONS

inexpensive, too

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Perfume Atomizers, 50c up

Compacts 25c up

Bridge Sets 35c up

Jig Saw Puzzles all prices

Fountain Pens 50c up

Stationery 29c up

FOR DAD, BIG BROTHER and SON

Cameras 95c up

Shaving Sets $1.00 up

Stationery 29c up

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Bill Folds 50c up

Cigarette Lighters 25c up

Pipes 39c up

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Boxes, 29c and up

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