

Walmesley on Staff of Top-Rank Yearbook

Haines P. Walmesley, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Walmesley of Washington road, has been named to the staff of the 1948 Karuz yearbook of Mercersburg Academy.

The Karuz has been named in the high rating yearbooks of the country by the Columbia Inter-scholastic Press Association, in a recent contest conducted by them.



As the old year draws to a close, I would like to thank the many Hoover users in Birmingham and vicinity for their patronage during 1947 - May everyone enjoy a Merry Christmas and find every good thing in 1948

your Hoover man A. J. DUBUC HUSTON HARDWARE CO. 205 N. Woodward Phone 1501

Hollywood Drive Inn will be CLOSED FOR DECORATING AND EMPLOYEE VACATIONS From December 24 to January 14 Reopening Thursday, January 15, 1948

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR to All of Our Friends and Customers

"America is Lucky", Says Greta Bergsbagen When She Returns from Europe

"We, in this country, are so lucky" seems to sum up the impression Greta Bergsbagen brought home with her from her recent trip through Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Greta, with her sister, Gunvor, left the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erik Bergsbagen, in the late summer to visit Denmark and members of their father's and mother's families there.

In speaking of conditions there, Greta says, "Gunnis plans to stay until spring, but I don't see how she can stand the cold. I have been home some time now, and it is bitterly cold before I left. It's a special kind of cold, it penetrates right into your body, and even after you get in a warm room, you are still cold, through and through. It seems impossible to get warm again."

No Central Heating "Of course, there are no warm rooms there, as we know them. The only fuel they have is peat and that is scarce. Fires are not kept at night, and there is no central heating. Each room has its own stove, and in the morning you must get up in an icy bedroom and start a fresh fire in the stove. It really doesn't know how she will stand it all winter long."

Greta went on to explain more about the heating problem and said that among other things which were hard to cope with was getting the fuel to the stove. Some of the flats are five stories above ground. The women have to carry all the fuel, for no man is hired, for any amount, to do it. Fuel is rationed, and regardless of how cold it may become, there is just so much to be had and no more. One family burned nearly their whole winter's supply, just to keep their American guest comfortable while she was there, and that was before the winter had really set in.

Food Scarce in Norway "Norway," Greta said, "is the worst of the three countries. They have less of everything. While the Germans were there they took everything. Now, in order to have money with which to carry on any sort of paying trade, they have to export most of their produce. Basically an agricultural country, this makes the food scarce."

"Clothing, in Denmark, is scarce and very expensive. At their present rates of exchange, and high prices, underclothing may cost as much as \$10 an item. Most of their good woolsens are sent out of the country, which just adds to the seriousness of the situation."

Greta told of going to the fruit market where she saw some delicious grapes. The girls asked the price, and found that they would cost, in American money \$7.00 per pound. Other foods are correspondingly high. Too, the quality is not what the lanes, themselves, nor their American visitors are used to. On landing there, the sisters thought they would like some candy—which there was none—or some ice cream, which turned out to be flavoring and water.

Germans Stupid, Say Danes During the time that the Germans occupied Denmark, the people were forced to undergo indignities which still irk them. All were compelled to carry identifica-

tion cards at all times, and if caught without a card, they were sentenced of varying degrees. One cousin of Greta's was forced to scrub floors day and night, until the "powers" decided she had been sufficiently punished.

The Danes, however, consider the Germans a very stupid race and cite many instances to back their opinion. Their underground destroyed German property and strongholds almost under the very noses of the supposed crack guards of the police. One doctoray and a visit from them, was constantly on the alert. When he saw the incoming army scaring his home, he cautioned his wife to open the door under no circumstances and slipped out the back way. She pleaded with him, fearing he would be captured, but the doctor carried out his duty.

Quietly "a slipped through the yard to the street, and then, in the face of the Gestapo, boldly walked to his own front door and rang his own bell. His wife obeyed his instructions, and after watching him a moment, she slipped out the back door, and went on her way, leaving the doctor to enter his home unmolested.

Great Need for Marshall Plan The Germans did not do a great deal of property damage in these three countries, if one compares them to France, Poland, Italy, and the other countries which suffered their presence. They did, of course, leave an indelible mark there, and it is one which will do much work to erase because of the materials they confiscated for their own use.

"These countries need the Marshall plan," Greta said. "They need it badly. They cannot get their machines, they cannot get their side aid they need for a sound economic structure without it."

Among other things which they are having to face is the education of their children. Even this can be helped by the Marshall plan. In Denmark, while the Germans were there, public schools and hotels and other buildings were closed except to serve the Germans. There were over 200,000 Germans, and the Danes had to feed and clothe them all. Yes, these countries need the Marshall plan—and they need it now.

Referring again to the food available, and the coming Christmas season, Greta said, "The parents are doing all they can for their children, but really, they can do so little, which now they are saying, 'Maybe for Christmas you will get an orange!'"

Children Need Clothing "And food is not all they need clothing. They desperately need every bit of help we can give them, but mostly for the children. There is nothing for them. I nearly cried as I saw them. Little children, out in that bitter, bitter cold, dressed as they would be dressed in the summer. No warm hose, no sweaters, no coats, no mittens, no caps. Those poor children will die if they do not have clothing that is better than what they have now."

"You see, they are each given 24 clothing stamps, but unlike our rationing here, they do not know when they will get more. If it takes about 14 stamps for cloth enough for one dress, 2 for an item of underclothing, and so on. Just to get one complete set of clothing would take all the stamps, and then what happens when they are worn out? The only thing they can get is footwear. They do have leather, and it is unrationed, but there is the cost, and in large families..." Greta left the sentence unfinished.

"Don't think our whole trip was sad, though. We did have a great deal of fun, and we saw some marvelous sights. The country is beautiful, but I can't describe it. The hills, rivers, and the magnificent buildings. It's all so different, and all so spotlessly clean."

Beautiful Fountain "We visited one huge amusement park. There was everything there, and one of the most famous restaurants in the country. Also the huge fountain, which at night was full of brightly colored lights. It was beautiful."

"We had our ally moments, too, like going through a door which apparently was none of our business and finding ourselves located in the catacombs under a castle. Another time, in Odessa, where Hans Christian Andersen was born, we got ourselves locked in the cemetery!"

"Odessa is a beautiful place, in a typical foreign (to us) manner. The streets are very narrow, and the buildings are right on top of them. All the houses are two, three, little doll-like places finished in brilliant colors. They look like the houses in a child's picture book."

"On my return trip, we saw a large school of whales. Just like in stories, they played among themselves, and we saw several spouts. "Off Newfoundland, though, we ran into a storm. We were all thrown from our beds, and it was impossible to stand. The ship would roll until the floor seemed to take the place of the sea. The first three days out I was seasick and had gotten over it. Then the storm hit. I wasn't sick again, and I certainly was scared. The waves would break over the ship until it seemed we were sure to go down."

"Once, during the night just before the storm came, I dreamed that another ship had run into a storm, and the ship had broken in half. The next day we learned over radio that another ship had done just that. Then I really was scared! That kept up for a part of the night, the following day and night, and well on into the next day before we rode out of it."

"The rest of the trip was fine and calm, and I was so thrilled when someone spotted a school of dolphins playing around the ship. I watched them for quite a while. The sailors all took this to be a good omen, and after having safely come through the storm, felt very much better."

"We Have So Much" Asked if the homeland didn't look awfully good, Greta grew thoughtful, and then, somewhat contented before she replied, "I thought it would. All the way home I thought I'd probably cry but I

Christmas Midnight Service December 24... 11:30 P.M. 'A Service of Carols and Candle Lighting' Lutheran Church of the Redeemer West Maple near Chesterfield 'O Come, Let Us Adore Him'

Merry Christmas to one and all illustration of a woman in a dress

One man—one of many—created a character who in child-like faith and all-embracing love will live through the centuries as the symbol of Christmas. The man was Charles Dickens; his character was Tiny Tim. And in the words of Tiny Tim, oft-repeated, we'd like to say:

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS, GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE!"

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TO GREET YOU AT Christmas

If we could— we would say "Merry Christmas" to each of you personally. Since we can't, the next best thing is to put our greetings in print.

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loads of good cheer for an old fashioned CHRISTMAS illustration of a train with Santa Claus

Santa is at the throttle and good fellowship has the right of way. Full speed ahead for the Merriest Christmas of them all!

Times have changed since we started business in this community, and we have seen a great many changes. But one thing always remains the same. We continue to serve in the best possible manner the very best people it is possible to serve.

And to all of you our entire organization wishes loads of good cheer and a genuine old-fashioned merry Christmas!

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