

Greetings

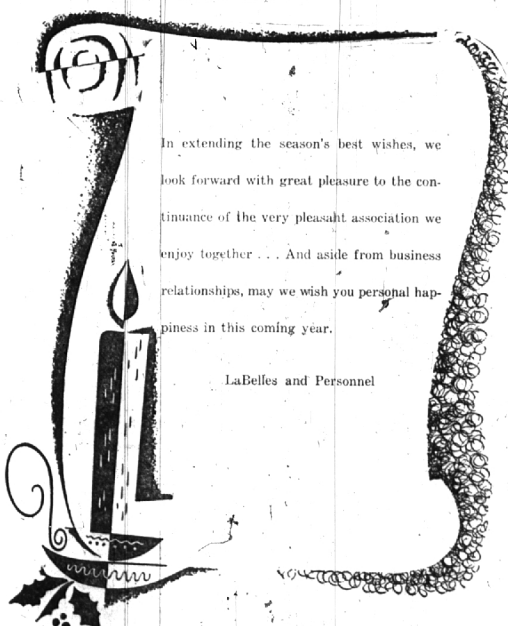


We sincerely hope that the New Year, now bowing onto the stage, will give a 365-day performance that will win the hearty applause of all our good friends and neighbors.

Star from HI-WAY FURNITURE MART
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You will find Many Bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns

Warmest Season's Greetings to the Nicest People on Earth "Our Customers"



LaBelles and Personnel

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137 W. MAPLE

Smile-A-Minute

Mother: Shirley, be still! Why don't you be nice and quiet like Johnny? He isn't making a sound and you're jumping and screaming.
Shirley: "Sure, that's our game. He's daddy coming home late and I'm you."
Kitty—I understand Jane has a had her face lifted.
Katty—What did they do to it with—a hundred-horsepower windshield?

GREETINGS



Our best wishes to you for a holiday season that is an open door to all good things!

Beresford-Thompson Agency
Phone MI 4-8930
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FOR AND ABOUT OUR YOUTH

MARTHA V. HURD, TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR

Try Painting With Light As a Hobby

By RAY GRUTER

Mr. Gruter is sales representative for Eastman Kodak Co. in Southeastern Michigan and Northwestern Ohio. He lives in Birmingham.

To say that teen-age life is loaded with activity, both in and out of school, is putting it mildly. If you have pictures to remember an event with, you can enjoy these activities one hundred percent more! It's fun to take pictures but even more fun to take out your picture album and reminisce on events gone by, living the experience, the football game, the dance, the date (dreamy, dreamy, eh?). It's all there with a click of your finger.

Even the home made movies have a special significance for you. Mom and Dad took them while you were growing up. It is hard to believe there has been such a physical change in you over the years. That's something that you can't see of physical change. We are never aware of it until we look at some old photographs such as those snapshots of you as a baby.

UNFORTUNATELY, we are not all born artists. To some, it is more than frustrating when we see the beautiful beauties of nature—glorious sunsets, clouds bursting in blue skies, snow covered country-side glowing in the sky—pour—and wish you could capture all that radiance on canvas. Even if you haven't been gifted with a talent for the brush, don't worry! There's still a way to retain not only the beauties of nature but the adventures and fun of everyday life. All by the simple click of your camera... it's as simple as that!

BACK IN grandpa's day, photography was not easy. Equipment was expensive and extremely bulky. Taking a picture required the skill of an artist and the back of a piano mover. The equipment was limited in so many ways that photography was taken not as a joy. Picture-taking was limited to still photograph only, because the camera lacked automatic stop action of any type. Not only was this inconvenient, but expensive, too. Today we are living in an age where we can all enjoy photography without hardship or expense. If we can throw a wall switch, we can take a picture. Today's cameras are equipped with sharp, fixed lenses, and shutters are synchronized.

CAMERAS ARE now made of highly durable, shock resistant light weight material. Many of them are inexpensive, too. Most of you high school seniors have spent four years together. You have made some wonderful friendships and soon you will be scattered all over the country. Young people being mobile will undoubtedly take positions far from home; that's why taking photographs of events and friends are invaluable in your memory book. Many of you are aware of the photographic contest for high school students sponsored by a major photographic manufacturer. The award money can be applied to your college education.

Everyone has an excellent opportunity to win one of the awards if they will remember that the judges are not looking for professional photographs but just simple, heart-touching incidents, perhaps even funny situations, like that unexpected scot on the ice. Photographing these events is simple today with such easy-to-use cameras. Carry a camera with you, keep it close by. You never know when that special "shot" is going to appear on your shutters. Photography (from the French word "photographia" means "to paint with light"). Perhaps you too will become a painter "with light."

Hi Life

by TOM MANHARD

In Germany they celebrate Christmas for not only one day, but three—December 25, 26, and 27. The holiday season ends with New Year's festivities and the typical foods of potato salad and pickled herring. Although the German "Weihnachten" is somewhat different than our Christmas, it still has the same wonderful meaning—the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Beverly (left), her uncle and foster sister Ortrud. In the background are the German Alps.

German Christmas Is Celebrated Over Three Days

This is the second of three articles by Betsy Svalya, 16, who spent the entire summer in southern Germany, Austria and Holland, on the American Field Service student program. Her home is at 2953 Lathrup, Southfield, is an officer on the Senior Board at Southfield high school.

Christmas is a wonderful word in any language, especially a German "Weihnachten." Since Germany's faiths are predominantly Christian, Christmas is a very important season of the year there. In fact, the Christmas tree or "Tannenbaum" originated there.

Martin Luther first put candles on the Christmas tree in the forest. Christmas songs such as "Joy to the World," "White Shepherds Watched their Flocks," and "Hansel and Gretel" also originated in Germany.

CHRISTMAS season starts with Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas. Every family has a wreath on the dining room table and each Sunday they light another candle until all four are burning.

The German Santa Claus, Old Saint Nicholas, comes to visit on Dec. 6, bringing gifts to children. On Christmas Eve the entire building is lighted, and the boys' choir can be heard echoing through the beautiful Gothic structure. Since there are many American soldiers stationed in Ulm, two services are held—one in English, one in German.

Along with other gifts, every child gets a dish of cookies, gingerbread, apples, and nuts. For Christmas dinner comes the delicious aroma of roast goose and gingerbread from almost every German kitchen.

IN THE GERMAN Alps, the Edelweiss is the Christmas flower, probably because it is star-shaped and pure white. It is also the flower of love. Many young men climb the mountains in search of one for their sweethearts, but since it is very treacherous, sometimes they slip and kill themselves with their own hands. Also, the farmers in the Alps believe that on Christmas Eve the animals can talk.

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Although the German "Weihnachten" is somewhat different than our Christmas, it still has the same wonderful meaning—the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you Americans must be very lucky to live in such a nice land. But what are the things which made me like your country and what are the things which surprised me most? "Michigan Water Wonderland" is this as I found out very true. Beautiful woods and lovely lakes with wonderful beaches makes Michigan a real vacation place, but Michigan's a place for hard work, too.

In contrast to my American home state let us have a look at my German province of Westfalen, where the people work hard from dawn to dusk in coal mines and steel mills, but my province is no vacation place. You have to drive for quite a long time to find a nice spot where you can recover from the hard work of the week.

Since the United States is 32 times as large as West Germany in area, but has only three times the population you really can imagine that our Federal Republic is congested.

WITH SO many people living in such a small area in Germany there is a different feeling about the people. This feeling is just the opposite of what you may have expected. There is distrust, dislike and formality.

When you Americans meet a stranger, you trust him at once and continue to do so unless he violates this trust. In Germany it is exactly the opposite. When the Germans meet a stranger they do not trust him as long as this stranger has not proved that people can trust in him.

Let me speak to you a bit more about an American trait for which the American people are very famous and that is generosity. Generosity is a simple word but it has a power, which gave me, coming from a European country, the biggest astonishment.

Teen Panel Question: Should Students Be Placed In Classes According to Their Scholastic Ability?

The Teen Panel, when asked this question, voted a unanimous "yes". We felt that people who had developed an aptitude for a certain subject should not be slowed down by slower students. They should, however, be put in classes with students of their own caliber.

Our decision was based on several facts. First of all, slower students who can't grasp the subject as readily as the faster students, slow down the faster students and tend to pull them down to their level.

The teacher of a class made up of such a variety of students has a problem. He or she had to try and satisfy both types in the class. Therefore, it is satisfying to the faster student the teacher is really going much too fast for the slower student to grasp the material.

WE ALSO AGREED that if there was such a classification of ability in engineering, mathematics, to grade, not IQ. Some very intelligent people never use their native intelligence. There are some students who have the capacity for attaining good grades but they don't try. They are also helpful as the hard worker who doesn't have as much gray matter.

One of the panelists suggested that tests be given to students in order to find out their aptitudes, and since the teacher is directing a student towards his natural interests and capabilities.

These tests may also be helpful to, say, a mathematics teacher who could give the student whose interest is in engineering, more practice pertaining to the field of engineering. With the stress being put on the student, the student will come up and a slow student will develop into a fast student.

PUTTING PEOPLE in different classes according to learning ability is an engineering, mathematics, to grade, not IQ. Some very intelligent people never use their native intelligence. There are some students who have the capacity for attaining good grades but they don't try. They are also helpful as the hard worker who doesn't have as much gray matter.

Another point brought out was, if there was too much advanced learning by the faster group, they would turn into "egg heads" or "brains". These points only prove that to be successful, there must be moderation for a system of fast and slow classes.

Do you have a question for the Teen Panel can work on? Write it down, sign your name and address, the school you attend, and send to: TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR, c/o The Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Mich.

The Teen Panel will deliberate the question, and the answer will appear shortly thereafter in these columns.

As Others See Us

ing about it I realized that my adventure would be almost impossible in Germany, due to the lack of trust which I mentioned before. Besides being generous, the Americans are famous for their smiles. Making a mistake here or there always finds a severe face of the supervisors, but here it is different.

Let me give you another example: During the holidays I have been working in the camera department. Since this was the first job I ever had in my life, I made several mistakes. Making a mistake in the head of our department showed me, with an encouraging smile how to do it correctly.

THESE PEOPLE, working with me, are very patient and they never forget to smile while they are correcting me. But not only these friends smile, no, I receive the smile from the customer, the man in the street, the woman in the office, the doctor, the bus driver and the newspaper boy. Everywhere the Americans are ready to encourage a foreigner with a smile.

The part of the country, as well as the people I have met here in the new world, are friendly to newcomers. The Americans want me to like their country through themselves and they try to let me see the best of their country.

Besides trips to Detroit, Jackson and Flint, I have traveled, on invitations of friends, to Ann Arbor, where I saw two big football games of the University of Michigan. Since there is another big college football team in Michigan, I saw the Michigan State University winning against Minnesota, and I spent one night in a fraternity house in Lansing.

ANOTHER big trip brought me to Pittsburgh where I attended, on the invitation of one of our teachers, the social study teachers meeting of 1957. All of this surprises me. How can people give so much to me? The simple answer is, they are good citizens of a free nation. Differences in philosophy, school and education, cars, TVs, homes and food, don't make Americans differ from Germans, because they are both people created by one God.

Despite the many traits and characteristics in the American people, which I have discovered and admire, I still retain a deep loyalty to the many virtues of my German Mother Country.

Popular Items

Interesting News Items From Our Elementary School Newspapers

FALLING SNOW
Falling falling snow,
Whiter than white,
Big puffy diamonds
So soft and so serene,
Falling all night,
Cold, cold snow,
Never stop falling,
Fall all night.

CHILDREN OF OTHER LANDS
In the land of ice and snow,
Lives a little Eskimo
He wears clothes of skin and fur,
But when its cold, he says,
"I'm warm."

LAUREA WEAVER
In the land of Mexico,
Lives a little Navajo,
Every day he wears his
Laughing and playing in the sun,
In the East, over the seas,
Lives a little Japanese.

He eats his rice and drinks his tea
And he's as happy as can be.
But where I live
I think it's best
For it's not like all the rest.
It is the land of the free,
For it's America, you see.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This poem by Laura who is in the 4th grade at Midvale Elementary School, was an outgrowth of a social studies unit.

"I wonder if we can find a man to handle the..."