

MARION HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction To Christmas

You all know the traditional Christmas story of Joseph and Mary and the Christ Child born in a manger. In this issue of VOX, we have attempted to re-tell the old tale from a fresh point of view; in a carol, in a satire about the true meaning of CHRISTMAS. And don't forget Saint Nick. People go on believing in Santa and the spirit he represents. In a spirit of holiday fun and good cheer, we find a portion of Santa's gift list, and resolutions with which to ring in the new year. For those anticipating many more Merry Christmases, take note of the first of two editorials on smoking and pollution. Think about it. . . and Merry Christmas!

Happy Holiday

Saint Nick's lighting the way to see that you have the brightest Christmas yet.



CHRISTMAS VESPERS

By Debby Miner

The annual Christmas Vesper Service by the Vocal Music Department was presented on Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The guest organist and accompanist was Mrs. Elizabeth Stodola, choir director at LaSalle High School.

Favorite Christmas carols and songs from Handel's "Messiah" were sung. Soloists were Diane Ward, Anita Jones, Randy Wade and Jeff Preston. Solos were from the "Messiah". The final selection, the

"Hallelujah Chorus", was also from the "Messiah".

Debbie Snyder and her committee were responsible for the decorations in the auditorium.

On Friday, December 17th, the Vocal Music Department presented a Christmas concert to the entire faculty and student body. Some of the selections sung in the Christmas Vesper service were included. Numbers added were "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "The Little Drummer Boy."



A Christmas Parady

By Kathy Power

One day an extra-cool early bird named Earl started thinking that if he was to get up even earlier than he did, he would catch more worms because the rest of the early birds wouldn't get up as early. The next morning he decided to try it. He got up an hour earlier than all of the rest of the early birds. When the rest of the birds got up and went to look for worms, they found that Earl had already had his fill and didn't leave them as many worms as they were used to.

Soon this became a competitive sort of thing, each day all of the birds awoke earlier to try to be the earliest. After a while, all of the birds stayed awake all day so they wouldn't be beaten out of worms. Eventually they were all so tired that they dropped dead of exhaustion.

The moral of this story is that soon Christmas decorations will appear all year round, and the true Christmas spirit will vanish.

Traditional Tea Held At MHS

By Debbie Lovell

Even though we have a new home economics teacher the traditional tea goes on. This year the tea was held on Tuesday, December 15 at 3:45-5:30 in the Home Economics class rooms. All classes helped to make the tea a great success. The Home Economics I classes (4th & 6th hours) helped to beautify the rooms by making ceiling, window and bulletin board decorations, along with centerpieces and name tags. While they did this, the other classes (Boy's, Practical and Advanced Foods) helped even more by providing the tea with cookies, candies breads and drinks which they made in their classes. Besides making foods and decorations, they also helped serve food, wash dishes and clean up!

All Home Ec students, their parents, school board and faculty were invited. All in all, the tea was a smashing success and a lot of FUN!

After the tea, the classes returned to a busy schedule of routine work. The Home Ec I classes will begin a human relationships unit.

Practical Homemaking and Advanced Foods delve into preparations for more labs in the kitchen, while the Boys' class will sew--ties mostly.

Concerning the boys, Mrs. Mentzer remarked, "The first thing the boys wanted to know when I showed them the sewing machine was, 'Where is the gas pedal?'" Good Luck, Mrs. Mentzer. You'll need it!

SPANISH

By Pam Mullenix

Hear any strange sounds erupting from Room 26 lately? Don't be alarmed, it's only Spanish classes learning Christmas carols. What makes these sounds so strange? They're doing it in "español"! They were practicing for the caroling expedition they went on, on Dec. 16.

When asked about Mexico's most popular Christmas game, Mrs. Goldstein said the most popular is the pinata. You fill a paper-mache form with candy and attempt to break it by hitting it with a stick. Then you eat the candy. Sounds like fun!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Good tidings of good cheer are ringing through the empty halls as you leave for 11 days of rest, relaxation and recreation. The VOX staff extends warm wishes for a joyous and safe holiday to students, faculty, administration and their families during this Christmas season. See ya next year!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM SANTA?

Laurie Sandry-'Mokey Bear kiss
Debbie Newberry-for my Mom and Dad to get along with me, and for Gary to get well.

Dave Nagle-six blondes, one brunette
Julie Kirzek-a big, fluffy Teddy Bear
Steve Meek-records and gauges
Mark Jensen-a new wheel for my tri-cycle

Roger Hansen-Food enough for everyone in the world, stop wars, bring the boys home, and a little rest. (Is that asking too much?)

Jeff Welch-something soft

Cindy Danford-new tonsils (I have a sore throat)

Bob Huffman-a jeep with a 445 in it
Ken York-better grades in school, but I won't get it from him unless he can speak Spanish.

Karen Hudock-a pair of wire-rims
Angelo Carrillo-I already have one; a trip home.

Sherri Griswold-a jumping saddle
Carol Rutan-I already know what I'm getting. It's not a question of what I want!

Julie Clark-six feet of black mustache, black longish hair, worth about 25 million, and must have a brand new baby blue Jaguar

Renee Marks-Rudolph

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IN SANTA?

1. Vic Welch-because he gives me presents every year. Someone who does that can't be all bad.

2. Ken Murdoch-(Grin!!) I don't

3. Deb Melchers-Ay, because he's a saint

4. Peg Bowen-It's hard to break a 17-1/2 year old habit.

5. Ken Walton-because I help him put presents under the tree every year.

6. Joanita Barlow-because he's a sweet old man.

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

Ruth McNitt-get some more sleep

Liz Frye-to be kind to other people

Vic Welch-I haven't made any yet.

Jeff Welch-I'm not making any, period.

Wendell Gould-to quit dancing (I just got out of dancing class.)

Don Jensen-I'll be a good boy the rest of the year.

Julie Klein-not to be so guillible

Arlette Pelley-to better myself

Bob Huffman-to proceed onward and upward to greater heights of glory

Joe Taylor-stop smoking, drinking, driving recklessly (What have you left out, Joe?)

Bob Wool

Bob Woodland-I quit!

Val Gillman-to stay away from Janice next time she's sick

John Flory-to go to class more often; to come to homeroom

Peg Bowen-I give up. What is it?

NEWS FLASH. . .

Marion Band Has Chance To Visit Europe

Yes, it's true. The band has been invited to participate in the Olympic Marching Band Tour and Competition in Germany, August 13 to 27. Not only would they have a chance to play at the opening day of the Games, but would give concerts in various cities throughout Germany. Under the heading of touring would come such places as Brussels, Belgium and the Netherlands, along with many cities of Germany.

Yet, while dreaming of this implausible, though not impossible trip, the band has been busy on the home front. On December 4, five students took part in the N.E.I.B.A. band festival at Independence. Participating in the senior high band were Janet Campbell, French horn, playing first chair, first part; Kathy Power, French Horn, second chair, second part; and Jim King, cornet, third chair, first part. In the junior high band were Ken York, trombone, first chair, second part; and Jennie Balcom, bass clarinet, taking first chair overall. The two bands practiced hard during the day, then presented a concert in the evening.

Our own concert, given December 7, presented a mixture of selections both for the music lover and those listening

for fun. Starting the evening with "Fanfare and Star Spangled Banner" by Key, a Karl King march, "Big Four", reminiscent of the football season followed. Other selections included: "Morgen" by Richard Strauss, arranged by Davis; David Bennett's "The Four Hornsmen", a French Horn sextet featuring Janet Campbell, Kathy Power, Pam Olson, Mark Zeigler, Jane Risk and Denise Hunt; "Toccata and Fugue" by Eberlin; F.E. Werle's arrangement of "Walt Disney Band Showcase"; a medley of 30 different tunes by Harold Walters under the title of "Instant Concert"; and "The Brighter Side of Christmas", another medley arranged by L. Goldstyne, this time with only three tunes - "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Constituting a surprise ending were "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke" by William Backer, arranged by Hal Lenard and "Mame," a Moffitt arrangement of Jerry Herman's song, featuring the Marion Band Singers.

December 14, the Horn sextet provided music for the Lion's Club, again playing, "The Four Hornsmen."

Looking forward, the pep band will play at all home basketball games, the Wamac band festival at Anamosa in January 15, and our next concert is March 10. Meanwhile, hard practice for band and ensembles is on the agenda.

By Pam Olson

Experiment

By Jill Hunt

The Physics students held a strange experiment in class a couple of weeks ago. They decided to see how much energy a going-away party for Nancy Chihak would take to prepare. They found that it was relatively easy.

Nancy did have a few final thoughts for the class, especially for the two girls who will be left with all of the boys in the class. She suggested that the boys start an all-out campaign to bring more girls into Physics class at the semester but the girls didn't find the idea too agreeable.

Mr. Rinas came up with the best solution. He said that if Nancy could conquer the theory of relativity, enabling her to move at the speed of light, she could be back here at every Physics class. But until she does, her address is: Taylor Road, Stow, Massachusetts 01775. for all those who are interested.



Model United Nations Club

Much has happened in the Model U.N. club since last month. It was disclosed to the group what nation they would represent in the April, 1972 meeting of all the Iowa schools, which will be held at the University of Northern Iowa. Then committees were formed. Marion High School's U.N. received Columbia and Ghana. The first deadline the club will have to meet will be January 10, which is when resolutions discovered through research will be submitted to the University for selection of topics to be discussed at the April meeting.

Topics to be researched are: 1. a) Pakistan, b) Arms and Disarmament by the Political and Security Committee, consisting of Gary Hoag and Mary Tims for Columbia, and Bob Hemmingsen and Jennie Balcom for Ghana; 2. a) War and Crimes, b) Palestine refugees by the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee consisting of Dan Hoover and Steve Arnold for Columbia, and Eric Bower for Ghana; 3. a) The problems of territories under Portuguese administration, b) South

Africa by the Trusteeship committee consisting of Becky Downey and Debbie Vinson for Columbia, and Ken Walton and Jim Cemej for Ghana; 4. a) The Middle East, b) Currency and the World Trade by the Special Political Committee consisting of Ken York and DiMar Barker for Columbia, and Frank York for Ghana. Last but not least, Julie Taylor and Susan Lane will research the questions, a) Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, b) International control of narcotic drugs, c) Status of women and d) Environment vs. development in the third world countries. Their committee name is ECOSOC--Economic and Socialization. Only Ghana will be researched by this committee; Columbia has no such organization.

At the time of this writing, the U.N. calendar reads as follows: January 10--Deadline for research papers to U.N.I., February 3-U.N.A. test, April 3-8-Trip to New York, April 21-22 Meeting of all State Model United Nations Clubs at the University of Northern Iowa. That's it for this month.

Underclassmen: Face it Mrs. Bennett's Class A Must

By Andrea Marg

All underclassmen have to face the reality; there is no way to get out of Mrs. Bennett's English III class for one semester. Since you cannot avoid it, try it, you'll like it.

The activities are involved with the spreading of information which is either true or false, but in all cases someone's opinion otherwise called propaganda.

The class is concerned with protecting you from the evils of political speeches, news, T.V., and books that are twisted around, which we encounter all through life.

You are given the opportunity to read HUCK FINN, a satire, for you Twain fans.

There is one thing that will strike many as being oppressive; sure every teacher you have had has told you, "Don't complain, next year you won't have spelling

tests." There are regular vocabulary drills. Mrs. Bennett can say that her class is the last year of spelling and she's not pulling your big toe.

If you think you can survive it all, then you should think about taking Mrs. Bennett's senior classes. They are involved with writing. These classes are, of course, for those students who like to write.

She works with non-fictional writings, such as term papers and factual themes. The other senior elective is creative writing. It looks into the development of different elements in short stories, poems, and plays.

Really there is no reason to oppose English III, you may find it to be a fun place to be. You will all make it--if you haven't already--with a little help from your friends.

Buying Stock

By Sheila Overton

On December 2, 1971, Mr. Hanson's Introduction to Business class bought 20 shares of stock in American Motors. The class had been studying stock for at least a month. On November 24, 1971, the class went to First Mid-America, (a stock exchange) and was told how it worked. They were greeted at the door by Mr. Bartholomew, who told us that they get their information from New York, and the information is shown on a 'ticker-tape stock board' on the wall.

The next day in class, we looked at certain stocks and decided to buy in American Motors at \$7.45 a share. Some people bought a whole share or more, and some people got together and bought one share.

We plan to keep the stock for two years or until it reaches a certain amount that we want to sell at. Some kids might keep it until they are 21 and change it over.

Maybe The Younger Generation

By Andrea Marg

Pollution is supposed to be a main concern of today's youth. One student I overheard, after taking a simple survey on pollution and smoking, put it quite nicely. "Sure everyone is against pollution, but I'm not going to do anything about it."

Smoking falls into this grouping also. This generation generally feels that smoking is a privilege, at least in Marion High. 78% of 700 students present, when asked if it was OK for anyone to smoke if they wished to, answered affirmatively. A class survey showed that the freshmen were most against smoking, with 64% for smoking. The sophomores and juniors follow with a positive answer percentage of 78% and 90%. The seniors seem to be changing ideas with 80% of the opinions being positive, in comparison to the 90% in the junior class at M.H.S.

There were some opinions expressed, in some of the sophomore English classes.

In comparing smoking and pollution, the basic response was: "World pollution is a major problem. We should try to do something about it, BUT CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DIFFERENT." The reason for this being it seems, that a smoker harms only himself

To me it seems that people who smoke are as much at fault as those who throw junk down on the ground. People who smoke must obviously think that their vice does not pollute and therefore is good for everyone surrounding them to breathe it all in.

There is no doubt that there are many different ideas that arise when the question of either of these topics comes up. Many people honestly know not what to think or believe. It is only understandable, that if we, the youth of today, unify and know where we stand, then we will be able to combat the problems of tomorrow's world.

Special Report On Gary Hoag

By Wendy Hall

Each year, twenty high school students from all over Iowa are selected to serve as pages during the meeting of the State of Iowa Legislature. This year (1972), selected to work under the House Administration Committee, of the House of Representatives, was a Marion High School Junior, Gary Hoag.

As Gary told me, it all started in June, 1971, when Mr. Boquist, a teacher at Marion High School, informed him of the page program in the State of Iowa Legislature. Soon Gary had a legislator from the district, Mrs. Sorg, presenting his "cape" to the House Administration Committee. His background and record of activities were carefully researched.

Gary's sharp interest in political science and debate, and his membership to the Model United Nations Club and Speech Club, certainly helped when his records were reviewed. Soon after, Gary received a letter of acceptance. He will be leaving January 9th, 1972, and will travel with Mr. Sorg to Des Moines.

His first day in court will begin at 7:30 a.m. the morning of the 10th. Although Gary will not discover his actual assignment until his first day, his main duty as a page will consist of the operation of communication--that is, carrying notes for the legislators.

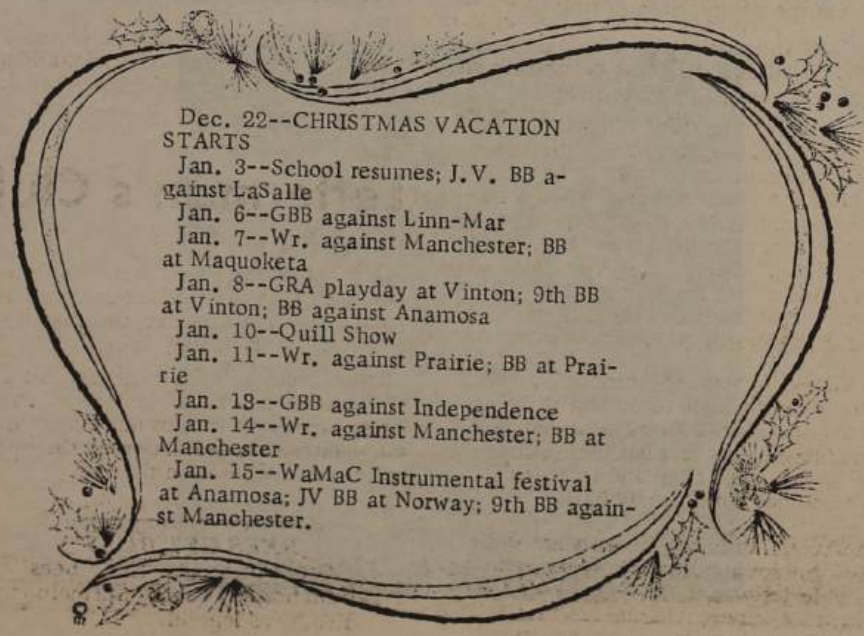
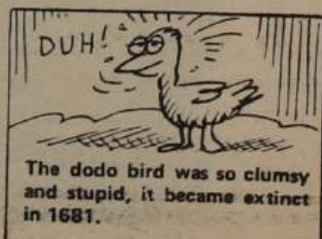
He will be given regular "homework" assignments pertaining to the subjects being discussed and will be expected to research and hand in all work by predetermined dates.

Gary will serve as a page 5 days a week for as long as the legislature meets. His home during these five days will be in Des Moines, then he will travel home with other legislators from this district for the weekend. He will be paid enough to live on and a little extra.

During his term, Gary will be making up his high school credits by a correspondence course from a university.

From Gary: "I am looking forward to the job as a learning experience. It will broaden my knowledge on many legislative procedures."

Best of Luck to you, Gary !!



Marion Basketball

Marion Downs Tipton in Opener

By Tim Begley

Marion journeyed to Tipton Tuesday and opened the Wamac basketball season on a winning note as they defeated the Tigers 59-52.

The victory left 2-0 on the season while Tipton went to 2-1.

The Indians took a 15-8 lead in a quick moving first quarter, but opened up 24-11 lead midway through the 2nd quarter. Tipton fought back though and trailed only 26-23 at halftime.

At the end of the third quarter Marion had managed to pull out a seven point lead and eight minutes later that's how it ended, although a scrappy Tipton gave the Indians a run for their money.

Coach Bush cited Jon Morris for his fine defensive show on Tipton's Randy Moore. Moore had been in the area of 25 points per game, but against Morris he managed but 5.

Morris also led the Indians in scoring with 15. Gregg Anderson was close behind with 14 while Brad Kiburz also hit double figures with 10 markers: Barry Hopkins 8, Mark Hess 7, Don Wisniewsky 5. Brad Gaul had 12 and Marv Woode had 14 to spearhead the Tipton attack.

Marion's varsity team traveled to Monticello Friday night only to be defeated at the hands of the Panthers 60-55.

Marion's record is now 2-1 while the Panther's gained their first victory of the season against two defeats.

The Indians were victimized by a tremendous rebounding display by win hungry Monticello led by Intlekofer's 16 grabs.

Gregg Anderson led a balanced Marion scoring attack with 12, Barry Hopkins hit 11, Don Wisniewsky 9, Mark Hess 8, Jon Morris 7, Brad Kiburz 6, and Bruce Witte 2. Four of Monticello's players were in the double figures as Fitzsimmons took scoring honors with 20 followed by Hines with 14, Ray 12, and Intlekofer 10.

Sophs Take Opener at Tipton

Like the Varsity, the Sophomores also opened the Wamac conference season with a victory over Tipton by the score of 52-38, there at Tipton.

The Marion Sophs were led by Terry Jensen with 22, Jerry Crowley hit 8, Tom Bice 7, Jeff Knott 6, John Niles, 5, Paul Winistorfer 2, Tom Dye 2, Goetz was the only Tiger to hit double figures as he accumulated 16 points.

The Marion Sophs narrowly escaped Monticello, 48-47, to collect their second Wamac victory against no defeats.

The Indians trailed 47-43 with 57 seconds remaining but hit 5 free throws (including one by Terry Jensen with 8 seconds left) to claim the win.

Jerry Crowley headed Marion with 17, while Terry Jensen made 14, Bice 8, Dye 3, Knott, Stolz, and Niles with 2. Steve Brokens had 17 and Duff Heeven had 14 for Monticello.

Health Careers

By Jill Hunt.

Mrs. Sharon and about 30 members of the Health Careers Club left school following first hour on Thursday, the ninth of December, to visit Kirkwood Community College and view the health training facilities available at that college.

The tour lasted about two hours and was very informative although there wasn't enough time to really find out about the curriculum in each area. The administration at Kirkwood is willing to give more information about any one of their courses but the seniors in the group were warned to apply early because the classes are filling up.

The field trip turned out to be another successful endeavor of the Health Careers Club.

Crash Course

By Neil Machen

The American Studies I students are having a crash course in American government following their simulation game. They are studying out of booklets given to them by John C. Culver. They study from the booklets and then they have a quiz over the material.

MATH

The various math classes of Marion High School were, are, and will be doing a number of things. They range from addition and subtraction to graphing equations to studying vectors. The following paragraphs will tell you generally what the classes are doing.

Mr. Hipple teaches three classes of pre-algebra and two classes of consumers' math. His pre-algebra classes are presently adding, subtracting and multiplying and dividing whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Consumers' Math just finished a unit on percentages, had a test on that, and are ready to start computing wages on a time basis, with time cards and payroll deductions (Social Security, income tax, etc.)

Mr. Hansen says his geometry and college prep students are doing "nothing fabulous", just finishing studying congruent figures, and analytic geometry. Then his geometry students will go on to the trials and tribulations of the slide rule. His college prep class is "just getting the basics. This class is just fine. They are leaning how to study and are willing to learn."

Mrs. Rowan is trying to freshen up her math curriculum with new methods. She has one sophomore student, Pat Kratoska, from FTA members to tutor math because of the lacking of experience with math in high school students. She would like to have FTA members overcome this lack of understanding.

Mrs. Rowan and Mr. Perkins teach Algebra I and II. Their classes are solving equations, inequalities, absolute values and doing linear and three-dimensional graphing. Mrs. Rowan and Mr. Perkins have had two group lectures, both of them giving one lecture. They would like to team-teach somewhat this year and have just started on "putting it all together."

Generally, teachers' comments were to the effect that large numbers of students were doing fine, but there were those who aren't getting out of it what they should. Heed well this warning, students of math. Keep up the general good work!

Speech Club Members Active

By Janet Gallagher

The extemporaneous speakers and debaters seem to be the most active members of Speech club this month, although no member of Speech is ever totally inactive.

Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11, found our speakers at the Brinley Forensic Contest, one of the toughest contests in terms of competition. Only the best schools even bother to attend, and Marion did quite well against such competition. Attending and competing for Marion were Dave White, Jill Hunt, Gary Hoag, Dale Folkers, Michelle Klink and Kim Reynolds.

The two two-man teams of Hunt-White and Folkers-Klink split their debates, compiling a composite 6-6 won-lost record, which is impressive considering the other teams they were up against. Kim, Jill and Michelle placed fourth overall in each of their individual events. They will be awarded a special certificate of honor.

At the Forensic Conference at the University of Iowa, December 4, the two stars were Kim Reynolds and Jill Hunt. Kim reached the semi-finals in extemporaneous speaking, while Jill will receive a certificate of honor for high speaker points in debate.

Besides contests, the Speech Club has been involved in public service activities. Seven members gave an interpretive Christmas program for the Chi chapter of the Teachers' Sorority December 9. Interpretators are available for programs for any organization interested.

* * *

Mistletoe Has Powers

Mysterious powers by the dozens have been credited to mistletoe, among them the power to heal, to ward off evil, to summon ghosts and force them to answer questions.

At present, the most prized property of mistletoe is the license it gives for plenty of Yuletide kissing. Fortunately, there's plenty of mistletoe.

Thanks to the birds, the plant spreads widely. The birds eat mistletoe berries and carry the seeds to trees near and far, say the editors of the Encyclopedia International.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ACTION SHOTS



PROOF OF PUDDING?
In European countries, finding an almond in the holiday pudding means marriage next year.

BUSINESS EDUCATION NOT JUST FOR BUSINESSMAN

By Mike Ryan

Business Education isn't just for the students planning to become businessmen, it's for everyone, and will help anyone, regardless of what he or she wants to become.

There are many business courses from which to choose, ranging from typing to secretarial practice.

This year there are five typing classes. Three vocational and two personal. This year in vocational typing a new approach is being taken, the teaching of numbers first. The emphasis on numbers is used because of the increased use of numbers in daily life.

Shorthand I is directed toward girls planning to be secretaries. The classes of shorthand are almost through with the theory of shorthand and will soon be starting on shorthand work to increase speed.

The accounting classes this year are on an individual progress basis with minimum requirements of work to be completed for a passing grade. When a student has completed a chapter, he or she must discuss a "management Case" with Mrs. Stack. There is also a chance for extra credit. Mrs. Stack believes most students are capable of handling this type of classroom situation.

In Clerical Practice, instructions are being given to students on office machines. Due to the shortage of equipment the students receive their instructions during class time and work with the machines during study hall.

Secretarial Practice students are working on improving dictation speed with mailable letters.

General Business students are studying the stock market. In this course, stu-

dents have seen films, listened to speakers and have gone on field trips.

The Business Department instructors are trying to prepare their students for the working world.

BOY'S PE

By Rich Delp

The Boy's P.E. has started a few new things this year, like power volleyball. After learning one form of volleyball over the last three years, I think it was hard for some to convert to Olympic rules.

Now the boy's P.E. class is engaged in a relatively new area of Physical Education at Marion High; it's socialized dancing, with the girl's. Opinions from both sides are varied.

Letterman's Club

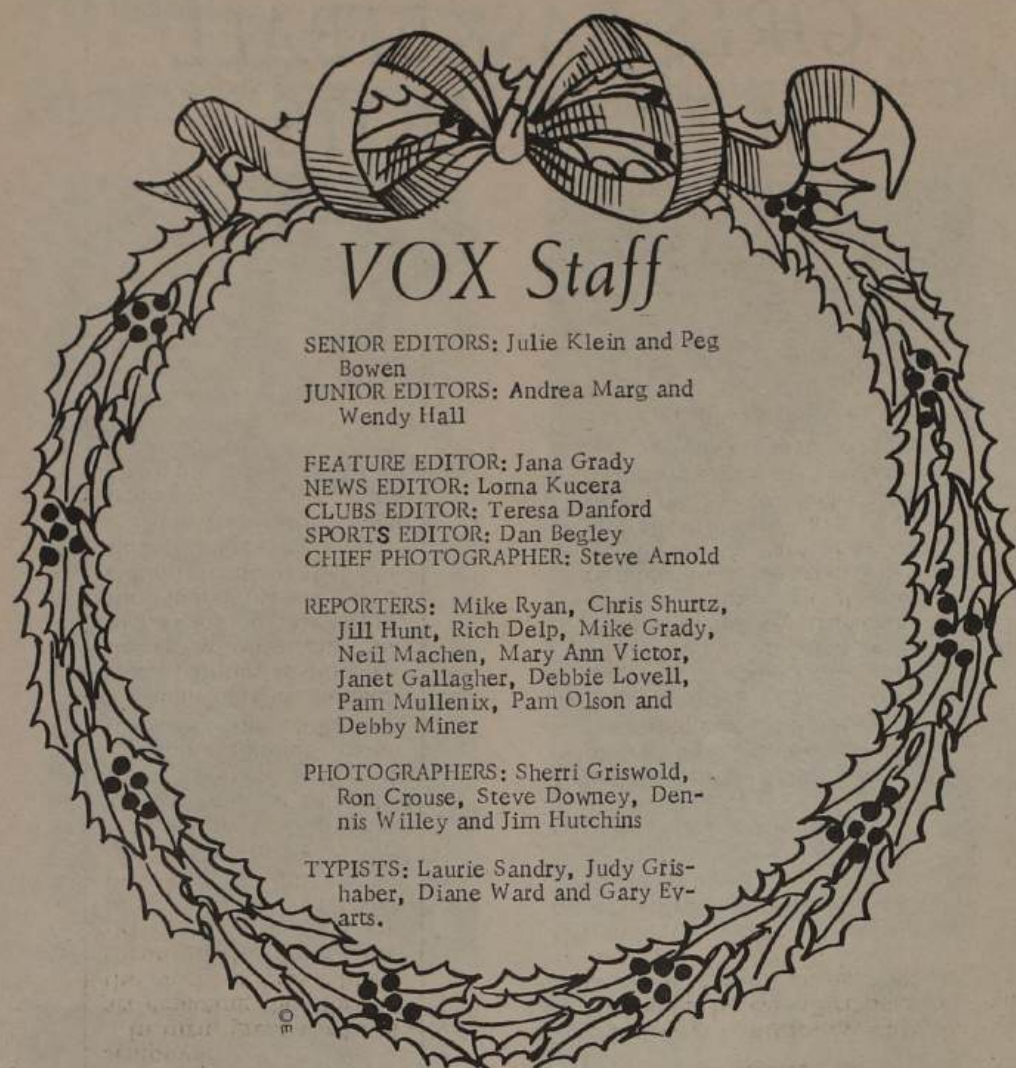
By Rich Delp

The Letterman's Club has given the appearance that it is going through a dry spell. But it now appears that the club will pick up in its activities.

The Letterman's Club has just initiated the new letter winners in Football and Cross Country. With this new blood in the club and with rededication by the officers, Letterman's Club is on the rise.

BEES GET BUSY

On Christmas Eve, bees hum holiday carols and melodies, says legend.



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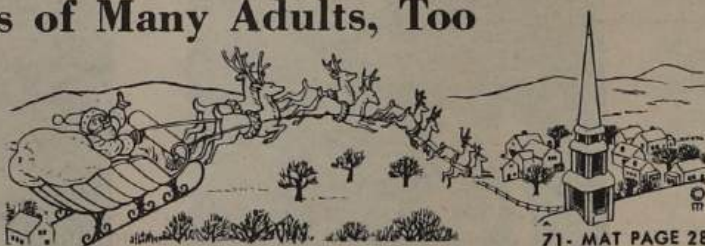
By Any Name, Santa Always Pleases Children, Guards Fortunes of Many Adults, Too

When what's-his-name arrives in town, everyone is glad to see him.

Who's that again? Oh, Santa Claus, of course. Or he could be—depending on where he is—St. Nick, Pere Noel, Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, Kris Kringle.

Washington Irving called him Father Knickerbocker. To Russians, he's Grandfather Frost.

This magical man of many names not only brings gifts,



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he also has a lot of special gifts and powers, according to the lore of Christmas.

Santa inherits his powers from St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop.

Consequently, he's said to

be gifted at guarding the fortunes of children, merchants and sailors. He takes a special interest in helping single girls find husbands, and the earliest pawnbrokers called him their patron.

Well-Loved Carols Ring Out Everywhere

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"

"It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old."

"Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright."

"Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant."

Throughout Christendom, the words of these well-loved carols are familiar even to little children, and they'll be heard this Christmas

wherever carolers get together.

"Joy to the World" was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), English hymnist.

Watts, who is known as the creator of the modern hymn, wrote nearly 600 hymns. Many of these still appear in Protestant hymnals, says the Encyclopedia Americana.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" is the work of Edmund H. Sears, a Unitarian minister in Massachusetts, more than a century ago.

Perhaps the most famous of Christmas carols, "Silent Night" was first sung on Christmas Eve, 1818, to guitar music.

Mice in the bellows had silenced the organ of a tiny Austrian church. Father Joseph Mohr met the challenge by writing "Silent Night." His organist composed a melody for guitar.

Father Mohr's inspiration—aside from the mice—was the vast, still beauty of the snowy mountains around the village.

"Oh come, all ye faithful" is translated from the Latin, "Adeste Fidelis," and its exact beginnings are shrouded in the mists of time.

Historians say it may have been written by Saint Bonaventure, in the 13th century.

Art Spreads Story Of His Birth

The Nativity scene has always stimulated and challenged painters and sculptors.

In turn, great works of art depicting the story of the birth of Christ have, through the years, enriched the lives and enhanced the spiritual insights of millions.

Earliest Christian art was simple and graphic, as clear and easy to appreciate as a comic strip.

Later, religious paintings became stilted.

Then, Italian Renaissance painters instilled renewed warmth and humanity into art, renewing, too, individual art appreciation, through their natural, lifelike creations.

Their work gained much from the stimulus of the changing times and the new approach to art, fostered by the support of the Medici and commissions for paintings and sculpture from the church.

For instance, Raphael, famous for the "Sistine Madonna," came to Rome from Florence to do a fresco decoration in the Vatican at the same time that Michelangelo was painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Artists from other countries, too, traveled to Italy, there to experience and be influenced by Renaissance thought and feeling.



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Decorating for Christmas

Indoors, outdoors, all around the house—Christmas is the season for decorating, and what a wealth of decorations there are!

The tree seems to be just the beginning. Its ornaments and lights become continually more varied and delightful.

Wreaths and greens, plants and bouquets, table centerpieces and window adornments appear in the home.

Outdoors, decorations range from a string of lights and a wreath on the door to manger scenes to such creations as Santa, sleigh and reindeer up on the roof-top.

Some of the yard and roof embellishments are real works of art—no wonder communities give prizes for outdoor decorating and lighting.

A diversity of designs for decorating are ready-made, offering welcome help during the bustling holiday season.

Still, it's fun to use personal ingenuity and creativity in making unusual Yule decorations, suggest the editors of the Grolier Universal Encyclopedia.

One thought might appeal to bird-lovers: Place a wreath, ready- or hand-made, outside a window. "Decorate" it with foods tasty to birds, such as peanuts, popcorn, cranberries and bits of suet.

Simple, personal touches make a difference. For in-

stance, greens, ribbons and glittering balls can be attractively arranged on a table or shelf.

Just putting some colorful ornaments and pine cones in a big glass bowl brightens things up.

Set the kids to stringing cranberries and popcorn in the good old-fashioned way.

It's surprising how pleasingly they blend with the modern marvels of tree ornaments.

Every area of the home deserves some holiday accents. How about fastening candy canes to a broad, bright ribbon and draping it around the kitchen bulletin board?

For the more ambitious, there's the kissing bunch, an old English tradition.

An easy way to make one is to buy a ball of plastic foam. Greens—red-berried holly for color, mistletoe for kissing—can be inserted in the foam ball. Then a gala red bow and length of ribbon to hang it by are all that's needed.

Too late for this season? Much of the joy of Christmas is planning for the next one.

IT'S LEGAL

Alabama was the first U.S. state to make Christmas a legal holiday, in 1836.



Students at Dance Classes



How to Keep Yule Plants

Yes, those cherished holiday plants can keep on growing into next year.

As a tropical plant, poinsettias like plenty of water and warmth—70 to 80 degrees. Be sure to keep these plants in a warm place at night.

Though they blaze with fiery-red-colored balls, Jerusalem cherries are rather cool natured. For them, the temperature should be held at 60 to 65 degrees. Avoid overwatering.

UNDER THE PALM

Some say the traditional Christmas tree was once a palm with 12 parts, each part representing one of the 12 apostles.