With carols, trees, Iowa Staters Say Merry Christmas

Joan Ahern
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker
Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Ahern, Joan (1947) "With carols, trees, Iowa Staters Say Merry Christmas," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 27 : No. 5 , Article 3.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol27/iss5/3
With carols, trees, Iowa Staters Say

Merry Christmas

by Joan Ahern

CHRISTMAS happiness is traditional, and music is an essential part of this tradition. Handel's Messiah, which will be presented the first week in December, will introduce the Christmas mood to Iowa State. This is the twenty-seventh year that Prof. Tolbert R. MacRae, head of the Department of Music, has directed the Messiah.

Lighted Christmas Tree

The giant Christmas tree in front of Beardshear Hall will be lighted officially the week following the presentation of the Messiah. Prof. Ira Schroeder, of the Department of Music, will play an old Christmas carol on the carillon in the campanile. As the notes of the carol die away, men and women of the glee clubs will start their procession from the steps of Curtis Hall. Gowned in choir robes and carrying lighted candles, the group will approach the tree singing “Adeste Fidelis.” Pres. Charles E. Friley will officiate when the lights first twinkle through the green branches. Spectators will then join in the singing of Christmas carols.

Song creates many memories of Iowa State for those living here. During the Christmas season many groups will sing to shut-ins, organized houses and faculty members. Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha, honorary women's and men's music fraternities, will serenade. In addition, a pan-hellenic group composed of six women from each sorority on campus will gather to carol for many of the organized houses and for the hospitals.

Glee Clubs Broadcast

The Department of Music is planning a special Christmas broadcast over WOI. Members of the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs will participate.

Another symbol of Christmas joys, the Christmas tree, will be prominently displayed in many campus buildings. The Memorial Union, YWCA, YMCA and College Hospital are some of these. The YWCA makes its tree especially memorable by decorating it with ornaments created in the “Y” crafts group. Just before students go home for the holidays this tree is given to Mary Greeley Hospital.

Children are the heart of the Christmas spirit. For them the YWCA plans a party to be held during the holiday season. Toys made by "Y" members are given to each child. Each year Iowa State fraternity men play Santa to children of Ames by giving a party and program for them. "Y" members contacted each foreign student on campus last year to make sure he had an invitation for an American Christmas with an Ames family.

Holiday food is part of Christmas. Fruit cakes will be baked by members of Phi Upsilon Omicron, professional home economics fraternity, and sold during the last two weeks of fall quarter.

The campus Red Cross last year packed boxes for patients in Veterans' Hospitals. The College Hospital, too, does its part in creating this holiday spirit for its patients. A special dinner is served.

Officially heralding Christmas in the women's dormitories is the traditional White Breakfast, given the Sunday before vacation begins. Before the candle-lighted breakfast, the women, wearing white dresses, walk through the halls of their dormitories singing Christmas carols.

Students individually celebrate Christmas by purchasing Christmas seals and by attending church services.