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*To Relax Before
A Hard Week Of
Finals, Take A...*

PRE-HOLIDAY SPREE

by Alane Baird

Technical Journalism Senior

CHRISTMAS ARRIVES in Des Moines in a flurry of festivity, merry greetings and bustling shoppers. Street corner Santas ringing bells, crystalline snow flakes drifting past the brilliant lights and holly wreaths will set your holiday mood if you spend a vacation weekend there.

You might begin your trip with a shopping tour of the gaily decorated stores. Each display you'll find seems more wonderful than the one before. Windows are full of bedazzling winter formal and each new store will have a hundred answers to your Christmas gift problems. If your shopping is all done, a trip downtown is well worth the time just to see the special trees and Christmas designs used in all the department stores.

Holiday Art Displays

Now, your next stop might well be a late afternoon tour of the Art Center out on Grand Avenue. All during the holiday season special displays have been planned for people just like you.

Nov. 26 to Dec. 28—Davenport Artist's Group
Oils by Titner

Nov. 25 to Dec. 7—Dilettante Club, a Negro
Art Group

Dec. 23 to 28 —Special Christmas exhibit
Henry Koerner solo show

Dec. 30 to Jan. 31—Des Moines Art Center per-
manent collection.

You'll find the Art Center a fascinating place to spend an hour or so. It's a must when spending a weekend in Des Moines.

Dine And Dance

Next stop — dinner! A weekend trip requires a wonderful, special dinner and Des Moines won't disappoint you. On the airport road you'll find several fine spots for a good steak dinner with atmosphere, too! You're looking for different food and fun rather than atmosphere? Then try an Italian restaurant and look up the other specialty houses.

After dinner comes dancing, music or a stage show. The Tromar ballroom is open every weekend with a name band or good dance music from a local band. The lights are low, soft drinks are served and you'll dance yourself into a magical whirl. The KRNT Theatre offers stage shows and musical programs, with several special ones in December. Early in the month Cornelia Otis Skinner will be there with the play, "Paris 90" and later on the Drake Symphony plans a concert.

Drama And Music

The local Kendall Players have a reputation for excellent dramatic productions and if you are lucky enough to be in time for tickets you'll want to include it in your weekend.

If you're a music lover the churches throughout the city will be having special Christmas music programs. "The Messiah," a traditional part of every Christmas, will be given several times on Sunday afternoons.

Oh, so you want something more active in your weekend! Well, bring along your ice skates and the Des Moines lagoons furnish you with perfect skating rinks. The golf courses near the city are converted into toboggan slides and at one place there is a lodge to rent for special parties. After a night in a nippy air try a chili supper at a local snack spot.

A Treat For Iowans

If you're a native Iowan you'll be especially interested in the trip to the capitol. Iowa is known far and wide for its gold-plated capitol dome and the view from it. The guides have all sorts of interesting facts about our State and its history.

All of these things you'll find amidst the merry spirit of Christmas and all its excitement. Christmas is a holiday season and your holiday in Des Moines is a very special way to spend part of that very special season.