

MERRY

Christmas

If  
I were a  
Christmas Tree,  
Oldest and most beloved  
of all the Trees on Earth,  
I would ask  
No greater favor  
Than that I might be chosen  
To occupy a niche within your home  
This Christmas Day

And to so inspire you with new strength  
That you would forget all your troubles, both  
Past and Present, and just be glad  
Christmas Day,  
And if you could understand my language I would say  
To you things like this: "Think of your life  
As just begun, with every rising of  
The Sun

Just know the past has cancelled - buried deep - all  
Yesterdays - there let them sleep.  
Concern yourself with but today,  
Grasp it, and teach it to obey."

I would advise you to talk and think only of success, and to  
Forget the mistakes of the past, for we leave the lesser  
That is behind - only by pressing onward  
Toward the greater that is before.

I would ask you to remember that almost any event in life might  
Become an obstacle if we take it in the wrong way - but  
It is just as sure to become a golden opportunity  
If we take it in the right way.

For to be Successful and Happy we must form the habit of expecting that  
The best in life will come to us. Say to yourself constantly -  
"Happiness is my birthright." He who has conquered doubt  
And fear has conquered failure. There is no  
Defeat - save in no longer trying.

# FLETCHER NEWS LETTER

FLETCHER ACADEMY AND MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM AND HOSPITAL  
Fletcher, North Carolina

Vol. XXVII, No. 3 December, 1960  
 Editor-in-Chief.....Allen Steele  
 Assistant Editor.....Ava Anderson  
 Reporters: Roger Gardner, Carol White, Will  
 McClung, Billy Lewis, Carolyn Turner,  
 Paul Boynton, Connie Zanes, Danny Ray.  
 Typists: Carol Branch, Shirley Bremson,  
 Sharon Ulloth, Dianne Pritchard, Kenneth  
 Armstrong, Pat Roberts, Connie Wheeler.  
 Literary critic: Jimmy Lewis.

### CHRISTMAS TIME

Once again the Christmas spirit fills the air and out come all the old Christmas carols. Once more plans are made for Christmas parties; out of hiding come the decorations for the yuletide holiday. A spirit of giving and of joyous reunion with loved ones overwhelms all. The aroma of homecooked foods for the Christmas dinner is everywhere. A certain mysterious refreshment of life overtakes all as the holiday season appears.

How wonderful to have this welcome break in a year filled with repetition! If it weren't for this break, the monotony of life would become irksome, to say the least. As it is, holidays furnish an interval for a deep breath and a rekindling of zeal for the next episode in life's routine.

--A.S.

### CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT

March steps and students voices blended with piano and organ music to start the 1960 Christmas Candlelight program. The audience sat in rapt attention as the combined choirs sang "The First Noel", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "Silent Night", to create an atmosphere of Christmas reverence. Other sacred numbers included "Lullaby on Christmas Eve", "My Pretty Little Jesus", and "The Birthday of a King". "The Hallelujah Chorus" by the combined choirs provided an awe inspiring conclusion to the sacred numbers.

As an interlude in the sacred and secular sections of the program, Sharon Ulloth and Elaine Anderson played several piano and organ duets.

The academy chorus came down the aisles singing "Deck the Halls" as Dara Mosely, Anne Miller, Connie Zanes, Karen Coleman, Ava Anderson, Diane Pritchard, Brenda Behre, and Betty Rowe hung Christmas wreathes at the windows. Memories of childhood were recalled as the children came in with their toys while the academy chorus sang "Toyland". Keith and Neil McDonald, two little eight year olds, sang "Our Christmas Problem, I'm Gettin' Nothin' for Christmas." According

### CANDLELIGHT--Cont'd.

to the song, they had resolved to be good this coming year so Santa will visit them next year. For the students remaining here during the Christmas vacation Daryl Meyers sang "I'll Be Home for Christmas If Only in My Dreams." While Nancy Hileman and Lillian Nicholson decorated a super-sized snowman, the girls' chorus sang "Winter Wonderland". Other selections were "The Christmas Song", "Silver Bells", "The Sleigh", and "The Sleighride". Dennis Schwartz sang "Merry Christmas". To conclude the program the choirs sang "White Christmas" amidst artificial falling snow.

Participants in the Christmas Candlelight program were the Nurses' Chorus, the Juvitones, and the Academy "A" Choir. Mrs. Helen Rust was the director of music, Sharon Ulloth, accompanist at the piano, and Elaine Anderson at the organ. The ushers were Barry Ulloth, Joe Hodges, Jerry Reilly, Mary Sue Cartledge, Cathy Deverell, and Marcella Collins.

### "Sugar and Spice"

'Twas the night before Christmas vacation, and Whitford Hall was anything but quiet! A company of sixty girls met in the parlor for the annual Christmas party. The program and food committees had worked extra hard to make this a Christmas party we would never forget.

The girls on the two committees were Carolyn Turner, Eloise Thomas, Marilyn Carey, Ava Anderson, Pat Roberts, Ellen Greenlee, Carol White, Donna Martin, and Lorraine Johnson. First we gathered in the dining room for something to eat. The food committee surely knew the way to a girls heart--"through her stomach." We had gingerale and ice cream floats with doughnuts, peanuts, potato chips, and candy mints. After we had feasted we settled ourselves in the parlor on the floor, in chairs, on the steps or anywhere possible, and sang Christmas songs such as "Winter Wonderland", "Rudolph", and "White Christmas".

After everyone had settled down to a quiet roar, Ava Anderson read the poem "'Twas the Night Before Christmas". It just wouldn't seem like Christmas unless it was read. When Ava had finished reading, we heard some bells jingling, and who should appear but Santa Clause himself, in a very jolly mood. He had brought with him four of his "best" helpers--Marilyn Carey, Ava Anderson, Eloise Thomas, and Carolyn Turner. Santa walked right over to the Christmas tree after we "Saw Mama Kissing Santa Clause" and started handing out presents with his "helpers" help. I'll bet I know sixty girls who really were surprised when they found out who their secret pals were. I know I was!



"SUGAR AND SPICE" (from page 2)

After all the presents were opened and properly admired and commented upon we tumbled off into bed for a dream of vacation fun, which started the next day.

Oops! I almost forgot to tell you. The Thursday night before our party we had a film in the chapel, entitled "A Christmas Carol" starring none other than Scrooge himself!

Well, so long for this time--see you next year! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

--Carol White

"FROGS AND SNAILS"

Christmas vacation time again and soon most of the students will be going home! Those of us who are staying at school are planning for much work, plenty of evening fun, and some extra hours of sleep, but first I must tell you about the Boys' Club Christmas Party on Tuesday night.

The boys all gathered around the Christmas tree in the study hall to open packages and compare presents. The smell of popcorn was in the air. Everyone seemed to like root beer floats and there were plenty of them. Ed Schneider and Will McClung were in charge of making the popcorn and what a mountain of it they made. It was wonderful. Our club president, Dennis Schwartz, had ordered a film for us that made even those of us who were just a little blue because we would have to be home for Christmas "only in our dreams" laugh. The evening's fun finally ended and we went to our rooms to pack for leaving on the morrow or to crawl into our warm beds for dreamless sleep.

The Boys' Club is planning some very interesting things for the New Year. We are especially anxious to get our bus paid for and painted so we can use it. Wouldn't it be a lovely Christmas present for all of us, if on returning after vacation it was all painted and ready to roll?

I don't know how "Doodles" is getting along with the girls' news, but I'm not doing too well as you can tell. It's vacation time and I'm top excited. So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Boys' Club.

--Will McClung

CHAPEL PLATES

The Teachers of Tomorrow Club have dinner plates for sale with a picture of our chapel on them. In honor of the 50th Anniversary year one plate is gold rimmed with the chapel done in blue. The other plate has the chapel done in charcoal. Prices: Gold rimmed...\$2.50 Mailing Charge...30¢ Charcoal..... 2.00

MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM GETS \$50,000 GRANT FOR BUILDING

Winston-Salem--The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation announced Saturday \$992,700 in grants to North Carolina hospitals and related causes topped by a \$500,000 grant for the Forsyth General Hospital.

Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital at Fletcher received a grant of \$50,000 to be used toward construction of a new sanitarium building. This was the only grant of 13 announced which affected Western North Carolina counties.--Asheville Citizen, Sunday, December 18, 1960.

DECEMBER NEWS BRIEFS:

December 1. Mrs. Marion S. Simmons from S.M.C. talks about nursing and obtaining a college education at Southern Missionary College.

December 3, brought Elder Coe to speak to us for the eleven o'clock worship hour.

Senior nurses of Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital sponsored film "Battle Hymn".

December 4. Elder D. R. Rees showed slides in Pearson Hall of his recent tour of Africa and of our church work carried on in that area of the world.

December 6. Student Association elects the following officers: President--Eugene Slaughter; Girls' President--Karen Brown; Boys' President--Roger Gardner; Secretary-Treasurer--Sandra Edwards; Parliamentarian--Joe Hodges; Missionary Fellowship President--Bill Kenney; American Temperance President--Jeanne Hawkes.

December 12. The Fletcher Academy Band rendered several instrumental selections for the weekly assembly.

December 13. Recordings of musical selections in "Christmas Candlelight" were made. Dr. D.J. Michaels took recordings that will later be made into records.

December 15. "A Christmas Carol" shown in chapel presented by the Girls' Club.

DOCTOR POWELL IN ACCIDENT

Doctor Jack Powell, class of '39, was admitted to Memorial Mission Hospital, Sunday, December 18, for treatment of severe forehead lacerations and other injuries received when his 1958 Triumph collided with a 1958 pickup truck. Both vehicles were heavily damaged in the collision. Dr. Powell was returning to Asheville from the Sanitarium when the accident occurred. Mrs. Bessie Powell, Dr. Powell's mother and head of our sewing department, reported that the doctor had a good night following the accident and should be home in a few days. HAPPY THOUGHT! SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS ARE DONE and we can start the new semester and New Year off without an examination worry.

H A P P Y      N E W      Y E A R ! !



"SAY PEACHES"



Student Association President, Eugene Slaughter, comes to us from Macon, Georgia. He is a senior this year and currently all his conversation morning, noon, and night has been "Have you sent any bus letters off as yet?" Eugene works in the service station and helps to keep all the "wheels" of the place running smoothly.

Ava Anderson, Editor of the 1960-1961 WHISPERING HILLS claims Ellijay, Georgia as her home. She is also a senior and works in the library. The worried expression on her face the last few days before vacation was caused by not having all the work done on the Annual that she had planned to have done before vacation time. Don't worry, Ava, it will be waiting for you January 3!



Assistant WHISPERING HILLS Editor, Connie Zanes, a senior who claims Florida and New Jersey both as home, works for the dear of girls, Mrs. Mabel Baker. She keeps the dormitory shining, looks after absences, monitors, and helps to make life at Fletcher worth while.

