

# LISTENIN' IN

VOL. X, No. 2

Sacred Heart High School, Boone, Iowa

December Issue 1949

*May the blessings of the  
Christ Child  
and of His Holy Mother  
be yours on Christmas Day  
and throughout the New Year*



CHRISTMAS VACATION

Begins FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, and ends TUESDAY, JANUARY 3.

## WINTER HARDSHIPS

Here it is again! Cold, bitter, changeable weather with plenty of snow to keep Mr. Burke shoveling from morn 'til night. Cold and crisp in the mornings, but colder yet in the afternoons—expectant procedure during these trying days.

Our good janitor will be the center of public criticism because only about four or five rooms are ever above freezing degrees even though he does build a big fire. Of course it isn't his fault, but who else is there to fall back on?

Occasionally, however, the radiators do respond to some gentle coaxing and slowly things begin to thaw out—until—bang! Up goes a window. One of our scholarly male students, who, incidentally, is attired in three or four sweaters, decides it's too hot, so he politely gets up and opens a window directly behind you. O Joy! Shortly a door is opened and before you can wink there is such a draft blowing through the room you feel like you're in a snowstorm.

A warning to the science class! You'll need dissecting gloves for more reasons than one—no one stands still in that room and keeps warm—just a little biological advice.

To those who do not have accident insurance, get it! One of those enormous icicles hanging over the front entrance next April might fall and hit you on the head.

But please don't get discouraged. Spring always follows winter—and we do have a good roof.

## CLASS OF 1950

Of 1950's Senior Class, five are boys. Does that mean two girls—and an invisible third—total eight? Yes, that is what it amounts to. Gertrude Miller, absent because of prolonged illness is completing her work for her diploma in home study classes under Mrs. Dr. Gunn's supervision. But our home study member is none the less heart and soul in the interest and activities of Sacred Heart School. A pat on the back to a persevering Senior!

## CANDLE LIGHTING

The real spirit of Christmas was created in the hearts of children, Sisters and Pastors, by everyone participating in the Candle Lighting Program on Thurs., December 22.

The first and second grade presented "Christmas in the Home" which closed with the Nativity Scene.

## RECEPTION

On the vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the following students were received into the Sodality of Our Lady: William Biernatzki, Dale Shell, John Wilson, Louis Anderson, Donald Burke, Janice Brown, Delores Coffey, Robert Coffey, Patricia Conway, Herbert Dittmer, Miriam Fangman, Mary Jo Fitzgerald, Ann McNertney, Patricia Phelan, Marvel Shell and Jack Vest.

## ACCEPTS POSITION

Tom Mahoney, former editor of Listenin' In, has accepted a position on the copy desk of the "Salt Lake Herald" in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tom received his position on August 1, immediately after his graduation from Iowa State College, where he was a city editor of the university paper, "The Daily Iowan."

Tom was graduated from Sacred Heart with the class of 1944.

- Candysticks plentiful
- Heaps of presents
- Reindeer trucks loaded
- Cycles outside on the trees
- Snow gently falling
- Twinkling bells ringing
- Mass said in early morn
- Angels rejoicing
- Saviour, ours, is come!



## Closed til December 26th

One of my most vivid memories is of a Christmas spent in a two-room apartment with my family, victims of the housing shortage, and of the "dinner" we had on that day.

It happened during the Yuletide of 1947. We had been eating out because our flat contained only a hot-plate for cooking. So after Mass on Christmas Day, we went home and blithely called a favorite restaurant to learn the time they would begin to serve dinner. No response — Closed for the day! With some misgivings we called another and then another, but to no avail. What could we do?

A knock on the door of the home of the proprietor of a neighborhood store brought him to our aid. His meat department, however, had only cold cuts. These, therefore, formed the nucleus of our meal and were accompanied by various kinds of canned goods warmed over the hot-plate.

A Christmas of this kind would, as an annual occasion, leave much to be desired, and I am thankful that I have had the experience of such an austere one only once in my young life. When one is forced to do without during the season of traditional heavy-laden tables, he gains a truer knowledge of what the first Christmas really meant.

—William Biernatzki

## Visitor on Armistice Day

Father Martin Sweeney, missionary from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, Geneva, Ill., visited Sacred Heart School Friday, November 11. The theme of his address was religious vocations. Bringing out the advantages and disadvantages of being a nun or a priest, he was especially pleading for "recruits" for his order. Most of their work is done in the Philippines, China, Japan, and in and around Australia.

In pointing out the advantages Father Sweeney showed how a person's ordinary abilities and talents could readily be put to good use in religious order, especially in the field of foreign missions.

Several times Father used amusing anecdotes to bring out his point. They were fully appreciated because they were humorous, yet they made the message clear, and also supported the fact that those who sacrifice everything for God are just as happy and enjoy the same earthly things as you and I.

When snow is falling on the hills  
And gentle sleigh bells ring  
With children dashing all around  
Ah, winter what a joy you bring!  
Herb Dittmer

## SPORTS

by

Bert Carney

The high school boys have been playing football for the past three months at the 11:05 period, and are now getting ready to enter the basketball season.

This year's team shows promise and can do no worse than last year's. Those making a bid for the first team are: Jack Vest, Dale Shell, Tom Garvey, Roger Burke, Jim Bennett, Mickey Conway, Clarence Dittmer, Mike Carney, Herb Dittmer, Dick Burke and Bert Carney.

There are five returning "veterans" in Tom Garvey, Roger Burke, Clarence Dittmer, Jim Bennett, and Bert Carney. If we are to have a good season we'll have to have more support from the cheering section

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LISTENIN' IN  
published by  
SACRED HEART-HIGH SCHOOL  
Boone, Iowa

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The Christmas Season is here again. It is the time of the year when everyone is filled with friendship and gladness as the words, "PEACE ON EARTH TO MEN OF GOOD WILL" echo through the icy air. Thoughts turn toward the little town of Bethlehem where the Christ Child was born, but does it mean anything to people? Through the years the meaning of Christmas has been distorted by wishes for fame and money. Unconsciously for some, this holy season has been changed into a commercial race. It is quite fitting to send a gift at Christmas for this practice was started by God when He sent His only Son to us, and by the Magi who brought the Infant gifts of gold, frank incense and myrrh. But the custom predominates to the extent that it has become a threat to the real meaning of this great day.

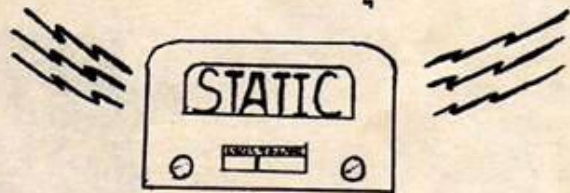
Just stop and ask yourself, "What does Christmas mean to me?" Review and see if your thoughts are not, "I wonder if I will get a gun?" or, "I hope Mother and dad will get me that new dress." If we could recall our second birthday, we would understand that in our young age we were told that Santa Claus brought our toys. It was not until the fourth or fifth birthday that we heard of the birth of Christ.

Christ's birth is a very deep subject and it is easier to understand, "Christmas is the day on which Santa Claus comes; than "It's the day Jesus was born in Bethlehem." As we have grown in age, have we grown in wisdom?

Even though it is our custom to give and receive many gifts, let us not be carried away by the commercial angle of the great day. Rather let us turn our thoughts toward God more frequently as the Holy Season draws near, and give thanks for our Greatest Gift from God—His Son.

#### FATHER APT'S TREAT

The members of the SACRED HEART Choral Group and the Altar Boys, were guests of Father Apt on a trip to the local theater, Friday afternoon, December 9. As each student entered the theater he was offered a candy bar and a box of popcorn. This also was through the courtesy of Father Apt and was greatly appreciated. The treat was a Christmas gift from Father to grateful students.



By  
DALE SHELL

L -ittle known about it  
A -lways have it wrong.  
T -hink I'll never pass it  
I -t's mixed up like a throng  
N -o use trying? Yes, I must.

Along with the groan, typing skills have grown.

Geography is very hard, but you can learn it  
in your own back yard—a 1st grader.

An idle mind is the devil's brain-child.

GUESS WHO?

Blessed with much talent,  
But grinning his life away like an oaf.

Under the spreading lilac tree

All of the boys will gather,

When authority comes across the street,

The lads you see will scatter.

(With Apology To Poe)

Hear the horrid school bells—  
Awful bells!

What a world of tragedy their ring-a-long foretells!  
Through the spirited air of morn  
How they ring out their forlorn!—  
From the heavy, sounding notes,  
Not all in tune,

What a creaking ditty floats  
To the ticking clock that listens, while it moves  
Toward the noon!

Oh, from out the playing fields,  
What a gush of kicking,  
Noisy heels!  
Oh the teals!  
How it deals

On the stairway!—How it tells  
Of the falling that impends  
To the ringing and the swinging  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells—  
To the rhyming and the ringing of the school bells!





St  
Barry  
Happy  
Christmas

Barry  
Rickey  
and  
Robert



The Two  
Jims



Rosellen  
Susie  
and  
Maquette



When the children pictured above received their first Holy Communion, Christ was born into their hearts much as He was born into the world on the first Christmas.

Their early growth in the spiritual life and their early religious education follow the pattern of His development into manhood at Nazareth under the careful training He received from His blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

At Confirmation their duties as His apostles will begin. Mortal sins will be His Passion and Death; their Confessions, His resurrection in their souls.

Frequent Communions will be their Ascension to a participation in that Love which is the Cause of our very existence.

## A CHRISTMAS WISH

Oh Mother! Oh Father! Thanksgiving time is done,  
And comes the time to rack your brain for a present for your son.

Christmas is near, the bells I hear, the people  
all exulting.

While you think of your gift buying, you only  
hear me calling.

A car, car, car!

A car of shining red,

If I don't receive it now,

I'll be falling cold and dead.

But Mother does not hear my words, My Father is  
keeping still,

Either they don't love me anymore, or are thinking  
of the bill.

But maybe when I older grow, and run a great  
large store.

I can pay my own car bills and on dad won't  
depend any more.

So O tears! tears! tears!

Quit welling in my eyes.

Maybe for Christmas morning,

They will plan a big surprise.

