

American Colleges And Universities"

Mike Pegram

Having studied at N. C. State, P. J. C. and Flora Macdonald College, Michael Allen Pegram is completing his college career here at St. Andrews.

Mike is vice president of the student body and president of the Senate. He also fills the positions of chairman of the Publications Board, chairman of the Constitution Committee, and member of the Electies Committee. Mecklenburg dorm knows Mike also as a suite leader and member of the dorm council. The Christian Association and the Athletic Association list him as ex-officio members.

Mike is majoring in math and plans to go to U. N. C. graduate school upon graduation from St. Andrews.



MIKE PEGRAM



MARY E. WALKUP

Mary E. Walkup

A senior from Sanford, this Bible and Christian Education major is looking forward to continuing her church-related activities after graduation. During her years both at Flora Macdonald and here at St. Andrews, Mary Emma has taken much interest in the fields of music and religion particularly, while constantly maintaining a high scholastic average. She is an accomplished organist and quite a worker in the Christian Association, serving as president of the Westminster Fellowship and as a Sunday School teacher and at present a pianist in a nearby church.

Her leisure hours are spent playing tennis or reading and she has held a variety of summer jobs, ranging from being a waitress in Montreat to a hospital nurse's aide.

Jean Pigott

A senior from Shallotte, Jean Pigott has concentrated on a career in business education in many ways. Besides serving as a typist for both the newspaper and annual staffs, she is an officer in Phi Beta Lambda.

In addition to being a class officer and a dormitory section leader, Jean maintains grades no lower than B's. She is considering graduate school for next year.

At present her favorite pastime is riding around in a certain red Austin-Healy. Collegiate football games and beach activities such as water-skiing are also tops with this "Who's Who" honoree.



JEAN PIGOTT



ELAINE WARD

Elaine Ward

An individual who should be a familiar figure on the campus by now, this senior has had great effect on our campus life here at St. Andrews.

As editor of *The Lance* she has put many hours into being sure that *The Lance* meets the press on time and in good order. Her collegiate journalism began at FMC where she served as assistant editor of the newspaper. Elaine also serves on the Senate, the Publications Board, and the Points Committee.

Elaine will receive a BA in English, Bible, and Christian Education, yes, all three, and she intends to teach English after graduation.

Elaine's interests include the usual activities of an individual with excess energy, including sports, singing, and numerous others, not to mention the Honor society.

Origins Of Christmas

Ever wonder, as you deck the branches of that prize pine or spruce, who trimmed the first Christmas tree? Or when folks first "discovered" the existence of Santa Claus? Or who sang the first Christmas carol . . . hung up the first Christmas stockings . . . chose a strategic spot for the first holiday mistletoe?

Some Christmas customs are surprisingly recent, while others date back even beyond the earliest Christians. But the Yuletide we know — complete with gifts under the tree, friends calling to admire the decorations, and family reunions — has existed only for the past 200 years.

To our ancestors who celebrated "Christmas Messe" (The Mass of Christ) several centuries ago, Christmas was a time of solemn rejoicing and deep religious dedication, with little of the modern gaiety. The New England Puritans actually forbade joyous Yuletide demonstrations!

Follow The New York Dutch

New Englanders and other Americans eventually followed the lead of New York's Dutch settlers and succumbed to the charm of "San Nicolaas" — better known as Saint Nick or Santa Claus. But the jolly gent had a flourishing career long before he reached our shores.

More than 1600 years ago there was a St. Nicholas — a Turkish bishop whose countless works of charity made him a legend in his own lifetime. Martyred in 342 A.D., he became the patron saint of children and of three nations: Greece, Holland and Belgium.

People pictured him on a white horse ascribed to him by old Turkish tradition. But his fame spread to Scandinavia, whose citizens felt more at home with a Saint Nick who rode a reindeer-drawn sleigh. They also gave him his red suit, a hand-me-down from the ancient Norse god, Thor. As for the rosy cheeks, white beard and jolly-jelly belly, they came from the famous poem — "The Night Before Christmas," whose author, Dr. Clement Moore, modeled Santa after an Old Dutch gentleman he had once met!

About those Christmas stockings: one legend says that the original St. Nicholas, taking pity on a man too poor to provide a dowry for his daughters, dropped gold pieces into a stocking hung up by the fire to dry. Actually, the custom of hanging up Christmas stockings probably originated in Germany.

Evergreen Long Revered A Symbol

No matter how many gifts under the tree, the tree itself is still the center of attraction in most homes — a place of honor which is solidly rooted in history. Thousands of years before Christ's birth, evergreen was revered as a symbol of longlife and immortality. German tribesmen brought fir trees into their homes to please the godlike "spirits" they thought to inhabit the trees. When these pagans were converted to Christianity, they transferred their feelings for the evergreen to the new religion.

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Christmas Celebrated In Various Ways

Skiing down a mountain with a lighted torch in your hand . . . strewing hay on the floor of your home . . . knocking on neighbors' doors in a symbolic pilgrimage — these are some of the ways you might find yourself celebrating Christmas in other parts of the world.

In token of Christ's birth in a manger, Poles spread hay on the floor and Lithuanians have straw under the tablecloth at their festive Christmas Eve meal. The colorful Mexican *posada* or pilgrimage dramatizes the search which led Mary and Joseph to the stable. For each of the nine nights before Christmas, a couple dressed as Mary and Joseph goes from house to house. Only at the last house are they — and the parade of neighbors which is now following them — invited in for supper.

An even more novel procession may be seen in the mountains of Austria. Wood carvers in the little town of Oberammergau meet on Christmas Eve and ski down the mountain slopes with flaming torches in their hands, singing as they go!

Just about every country which celebrates Christmas has its unique bit of seasonal folklore or ritual. In Sweden, it's the feast of St. Lucia on Dec. 13, ushering in the Christmas season. Each community chooses a lovely Lucia Queen to represent the young girl martyred for her religion centuries before in ancient Rome. In families with daughters, the prettiest plays the role of Lucia. Her "privilege": to wait on every-

one else for the day!

But even the standard holiday features — Christmas dinner, Christmas presents and Yuletide decorations — have picturesque local variations. Not only does Santa have numerous aliases (he's Julenissen in Denmark, Pere Noel in France, the Abbot of Unreason in Scotland), but in Italy he is *she*. Italian kids place their trust in Befana, an old woman on a broomstick who brings gifts to good children and ashes to bad ones. (In older versions of the legend, she ate the juvenile delinquents).

Americans are probably the champion gift-givers, spending more than \$27 billion for Christmas presents in a recent year! The most popular gifts? For women, probably perfumes and colognes; at least 22% of the nation's annual perfume sales occur in December. (In round numbers, this means over \$7 million in Yuletide fragrances!) Men who think this "scentationally" high should remember that this figure includes not only Joy — "the world's most expensive perfume."

Toiletries are a highly popular gift for men, too; despite the jokes about Christmas neckwear, many a man unwraps Old Spice instead of new ties on Christmas morn. Whether they give it, get it, or buy it for themselves, Americans spent over \$44 million a year on after-shave lotion!

Many countries find it so blessed to give Christmas gifts that they do it twice a Yuletide. While waiting for Befana

to come across on Jan. 6, Italian children and their elders draw small gifts on Christmas Eve from a jar called the "Urn of Fate." The French exchange gifts on New Year's Day, but the impatient young fry are visited by Pere Noel on Christmas Eve. And leave it to the systematic Boxing to establish Dec. 26 as Boxing Day. On this pugilistic-sounding occasion, servants and tradespeople are remembered with boxes of money!

The date of the big Christmas dinner also varies around the world; many countries have it on Christmas Eve, before or after midnight services. Our traditional Christmas turkey does not appear on many menus. The French *reveillon*, a feast which occurs after midnight mass, is apt to feature oysters and sausages; in the French province of Brittany, buckwheat cakes with sour cream are served. The Norwegian Christmas dinner features a fish called *lutisk*. At a Polish Christmas Eve dinner, the number of courses is fixed at 7, 9 or 11, a Lithuanian Christmas feast must include 12 courses, one for each of the 12 disciples.

During the Christmas season, Germans and Rumanians bake long, thin cakes that symbolize the Christ Child wrapped in swaddling clothes. In the Ukrainian part of Russia, cattle are given the first taste of the Christmas supper, because animals were the first to behold Christ. In parts of rural Germany, this is carried one step further — cattle and their

owners both fast the day before Christmas, and eat well on Christmas Eve!

"Deck the halls with boughs of holly" is a traditional refrain in English and American homes, but in Spain and Italy, householders decorate with flowers instead of evergreens at Christmas time. The Christmas tree, popular throughout the United States and Northern Europe, is relatively rare in Southern Europe; the *creche*, or manger scene, usually replaces it. In Sicily, many families use Christmas trees, but they decorate them with apples and oranges instead of tinsel! This carries out an old tradition that all the trees bore fruit when Christ was born.

In England and France, the Yule log is favored; in some districts of England, whole families go to the forest to select their Yule log. Pear, olive and applewood are considered best, and tradition says that the log must be large enough to last until New Year's Day.

Perhaps the most unusual Christmas tradition of all is the one still adhered to by some Swiss romantics. These folk advise a boy or girl to visit nine different fountains and take three sips from each at the time the bells are ringing for midnight services on Christmas Eve. After this odd rite has been completed, the future husband or wife will be found standing at the door of the church and regular courtship will begin — if the spell has worked.

Us, we'll take mistletoe.