

## Students Give Santa Party For Orphans

The Home Economics Department of Queens College held their annual Christmas party for the orphans and faculty children at 4:30 o'clock, Dec. 10, in the recreation room of the college.

Various girls in the student body were given names of the children and turned in presents to the Home Economics Department for distribution to the children. Serving as Santa Claus for the occasion was Mr. Merle Kesler.

The presents were put under the tree along with stockings of fruits and nuts for the children. During the afternoon the children were led in various games by members of the Home Economics Department who also served ice cream and gingerbread men to the 40 guests from the Alexander Home and the 21 faculty children guests.

## College Women May Qualify as WAC Officers

Women may apply for officer training in the Women's Army Corps directly if they have had at least four years of experience in work, study, social or civic fields.

The four years' required experience may include one or two years of college with experience to fill out the four years. Or she may enter WAC officer candidate training school following basic training if she is a college graduate, with no business experience but with a record of responsibility, resourcefulness and leadership to her college credit.

WAC officers' duties are varied and interesting. They serve as company commanders, teach basic training and courses in WAC... specialist schools and administer the affairs of the WAC in training centers.

Officers also are assigned as assistants to high-ranking officers in practically all phases of operation jobs. They work in public relations, personnel and recruiting and are assigned to the staffs of commanding generals in all service commands and overseas.

When the officer-qualified woman joins the WAC, she will go through basic training as an officer candidate and be sent directly to officer candidate school when she has completed the basic courses. At the end of eight weeks of officer training, successful graduates are commissioned second lieutenants in the Army of the United States. And they proudly wear the gold bars of a WAC officer.

Opportunities for advancement are many. Interested college women should contact the recruiting office nearest them immediately and find out how they may become officers in the WAC. The Army needs many more WAC officers.

## Song Writers! Attention To New Contest

Can you write the song of World War II? Magazine Digest in cooperation with Raymond Paige and his NBC "Salute to Youth" orchestra is sponsoring a war song contest in high schools and colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

The judges are Raymond Paige, Frank Sinatra, James Melton, Helen Jepson, and Arnold Eidus. Winners will receive \$250 in cash and a trip to New York for an appearance on "Salute to Youth" if wartime facilities and the individual's personal situation permit.

Send entries to Magazine Digest, 8 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York.

## Group Actors Present Play December 10

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Allison; Rosah, Troyanne Freeland; Thaylah, Mary Grace Goddard; Lupetah, Nancy Sanford; Tetah, Alma Cuthbertson; Dolores, Katherine Loy; Nonetah, Betty Rideout; Nenah, Jean Noble; Tomesetah, Alice Ross; The Madonna, Betty McGill. Angel chorus consisted of Gwyn Shiflet, Virginia Falls and Margaret Ezell. The Wise Men were Rebecca Nickles, Betty Schaff, and Lucille Wayland.

## MAY COURT ATTENDANTS



ATTENDANTS—Members of May Queen Jean Brown's court who will participate in the May day exercises at Queens college next spring are shown above on the steps of Burwell hall on the campus. They are, left to right, first row, Annelle McCall, Mary Louise Whitmire, Elizabeth Henry, Lois Wilson, Eloise Dent, Connie Slicer, Elsie Blackburn and

Betsy Hodges; second row, Jane Carter, Quince Parrish, Doris Nunn, Catherine Patterson, Frances Pound, Betty Barrentine, Edna Adams and Betty McGill; third row, Virginia Falls, Mary McGill, Lucille Wayland, Margaret Ezell, Lucy Pate and Jeanne Throckmorton. Two members of the court, Carolyn Wilson and Mary Clark, were not present when the picture was made. (Observer Staff photo.)

## S. C. A. Project Announced To Students

The Student Christian Association Cabinet has selected as its project this year to help the Fairview Homes settlement, and the World Student Federation fund, as it has been announced to the student body.

The Fairview Homes is a Negro district in Charlotte. The S. C. A. plans to send materials for the advancement of the religious work in the Sunday School and community.

The World Student fund is sent to those students in other countries who have lost everything in the war. This fund was started in China in 1937, and later spread into Europe and other parts of the Continent.

## Duke Women Organize COG

DURHAM, N. C.—A new war organization at the Woman's College of Duke University which is gaining momentum in its own prescribed march to victory, and is now being rapidly flanked by duplicate organizations in other colleges and universities, is that of COGS (College Organizations for General Service.) This organization embraces in membership every coed who registers at the university and in service every phase of war work that a college woman can do.

Student contribution to this war service is optional and voluntary. Each coed who completes 55 hours of work in one semester is given a COG key. All members receive activity points according to the number of hours each has given to the victory campaign. The "Cog of the Month" is the title given to the girl who does the greatest number of hours work in at least three phrases of COG service. With an ever increasing demand in all lines of war work, including the 1,600 Navy V-12 students, hundreds of Marines, the Army Finance School on the campus, and Camp Butner near the city, no interested COG can remain idle in turning the wheel of war at Duke University.

Special war work done by the COGS includes assistance in church activities; Red Cross bandage rolling; assistance in community war fund drives; operation of defense stamp booths; community projects including day nursery and orphan work; assistance in community welfare centers; hospital work, including nurses' aide and clerical work; alumni work, including filing and letter-writing to Duke students in war service; and entertainment of service men, including dances on the campus and nearby camps. More recent activities include rationing assistance at the Office of Civilian Defense in the city.

## Origin of Christmas Customs Differs Greatly In Many Lands

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early church where nativity plays were presented and songs in praise of Christ were sung. Later the carols were sung by groups who progressed from house to house on Christmas Eve, sending forth their glad message.

Our Christmas today would lack an important quality if we suddenly discontinued our custom of giving gifts. This observance goes back to the ancient Romans, who distributed gifts in the course of their Midwinter festival. In the Bible story, the Baby Jesus received gifts from the Three Wise Men twelve days after His Birth. Thus it is that in Spain, Italy, and certain other countries, the children receive their presents on the eve of Epiphany and not on Christmas Day. In certain northern countries, the gifts come three weeks before Christmas, or on the eve of the feast of Saint Nicholas—Dec. 6.

## Santa Claus

Saint Nicholas was a bishop of the Fourth Century. He came to be regarded as a special friend and protector of children. Now, in Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, and some parts of Germany, he returns every year on the Eve of Saint Nicholas, bringing gifts for good children and switches for the bad. Our own jolly Santa Claus is only another form of Saint Nicholas. He was brought to the New World by the jovial Dutch who settled New York. They called him "San Nicolaas," which soon became "Sankt Klaus," and eventually, "Santa Claus." Of course we all know Santa Claus from our childhood—his joviality and merriment, his happy spirit of giving, and above all, his big bag of toys slung across his back. He is fat to represent liberality and plenty of good things to eat. He is dressed in red to represent warmth and heartiness. He is as old as Father Time and has a long white beard; but his rosy cheeks show that he is also as young as a child. Santa Claus is timeless and ageless.

In no land and in no age has Christmas been so festive or so colorful as in "Ole England" of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. This celebration began on Christmas Eve and continued until Twelfth Day. Every peasant hung mistletoe over his door and flung a Yule log on his fire. Royal observance was imitated in castle and manor house. A "Lord of Misrule" was appointed who took charge of the games and entertainments. Carols were sung all through the season, and bands of musicians called waits paraded the streets at night.

In Shakespeare's time, Yuletide celebrations reached their height. Then, under stern Puritan rule, they were abolished. However, when Charles II was restored to the throne, many of the old customs were revived and still exist in England today.

The modern Christmas, evolving from these ancient customs, varies as did they. In Germany today (or up until the rule of Hitler) the festivities lasted for days. On the Eve of Saint Nicholas, a man dressed as the good old patron

saint went from house to house, asking the children how they had behaved during the year. The good would receive gifts; and the bad switches. On Christmas Eve, Kriss Kringle arrived to distribute the gifts. In churches and homes, Kristlieder were sung and many other customs practised. It is from Germany that many of our lovely customs and symbols came; thus Germany may be called the "Christmas Country."

France makes a great festival of the Christmas season. On Christmas Eve, the children expect either the Christ Child (Petit Noel) or Father Christmas (Bonhomme Noel) to fill their shoes with candy and toys. Midnight Mass is celebrated on Christmas Eve; and afterwards, all make merry at family gatherings called reveillons.

Other countries have various other diversions of the celebration. In Holland and Belgium, it is devoted almost entirely to church services. In Rumania, a special cake is made to represent the swaddling clothes of the Infant Jesus. The Yule log is the center of festivities in the Balkans. As for the Holy Land itself in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve a lovely procession makes its way through the streets to the Church of the Nativity. There the Christmas story is told and midnight Mass is sung. So is the Christmas of Christ's own birthplace.

Could there be a more meaningful day than December 25th? England, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, our United States—each has slightly different symbols of this great festival; but all possess one common bond which makes Christmas everywhere the same—the bond which cries out again the joyous words of that heavenly host which sang on a cold winter hillside in a far country so long ago:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth and peace, good will toward men."

## Clubbing 'Round

Many of the organizations on the campus have been active this Fall and already have big plans for the new year.

### ALPHA KAPPA GAMMA

Alpha Kappa Gamma initiated Marjorie Imbody, Sara Francis McLaurin, Laura Smith, Virginia Prunty, Miss Inglis, and Miss Nooe on Nov. 9.

### SIGMA MU

Sigma Mu initiated Eleanor Biggers, Laura Smith, Betty Howard, and Marie Sitton on Nov. 7.

### CAMERA CLUB

One of the clubs which has been reorganized this fall is the Camera Club. The members have made Christmas cards with photographs of the campus and other interesting college scenes as the main theme.

### ALPHA IOTA

Alpha Iota gave two teas for the new business students, and members of the club are now buying stamps for a building fund to make a sorority house after the war.

### I. R. C.

I. R. C. has reorganized with Dr. Lycon as the faculty advisor, and the members are planning for a bigger and better year.

### S. C. A.

S. C. A. fellowship group is sponsoring Christmas caroling tomorrow night, Dec. 15.

### HOME ECONOMICS

A bright and successful year seems in store for the girls in the Home Economics Club who have started the year with the annual Orphans' Party.

### CHORAL CLUB

Choral Club has been very active this semester with the "Messiah" and Christmas vespers, and plans have been made for next semester when Debussy's "The Blessed Damsel" and Haydn's "The Creation" will be presented.

Exams begin on January 26, 1944, and continue through February 1. Registration for second semester will be February 2 and the classes begin on February 3.

## THE COLUMN

They asked me to write them a column. "A column? A column?" I said.

"O column?" I looked at their faces. "A column?" I thought of my bed.

But they didn't seem to be fooling; they apparently wanted it—then!

"I would love to oblige with a column but the question is, how and when?"

Gravely they consulted a wristwatch, "It's only half through the night—

If you sit down now and start it, you'll be through by morning light."

So I sat down to write them a column. But the subject? What was it about?

"I'll wait 'till I'm through to decide that; when I'm finished there can be no doubt!"

I wandered a bit in my column—(That was such a beautiful star!) And when a glad cock announced morning I was just exactly THIS far.

But I laughed because I had fooled them. (And I ask you—wasn't it fair?)

I laughed 'cause they asked for a column—and because I had written a SQUARE.