

**CALENDAR**

Dec. 12 Christmas Dinner  
 "The Juggler"  
 Dec. 13 Examinations begin  
 Senior Sing  
 Dec. 14 Special Carol Service  
 Dec. 16 Gladys Swarthout

# The Belles

OF SAINT MARY'S

Jan. 4—Gr-r-r.

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RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

December 12, 1941

## Saint Mary's "Adopts" British Children

### Gladys Swarthout To Present Concert

Star of Radio, Screen, and Opera to Give Concert in Auditorium on Tuesday, December 16

Gladys Swarthout, star of opera, screen, and radio, will present a Civic Music Series concert at the Raleigh Auditorium on Tuesday, December 16.

Arriving on December 25, 1904, Gladys Swarthout was a wonderful Christmas present to her mother and father, Ruth and Frank Leslie. She grew up just as other children do and graduated from Central High School in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1920. She then studied at the Bush Conservatory of Music in Chicago from 1920 to 1923. In 1925 she was married to Harry Kern, who died in 1931. In 1932 she married her present husband, (See P. 2)

### Music Students Give First Recital of Year

Advanced Students from Voice, Piano, and Violin Departments Present Recital on December 2

Saint Mary's first student recital of the year took place in the auditorium on the afternoon of December 2. The program was short but varied, containing numbers from the voice, the piano, and the violin departments. The recital drew all music students and many outsiders.

The girls playing piano pieces were Meredith Johnston who opened the program, Elizabeth Hackney, Jane Hurt, Mary Ann Dixon, Essie Bryce Evans, Mary Coons, who was also student accompanist, and Mary Drewry Estes.

The violinists were Shirley Shepherd and Mary Belle Woolery. Mary (See P. 4)

### Student Body Plays Godmother to British Children in Aid to Britain Drive

#### Christmas Doings Begin With Banquet

Orchestra Club to Give "The Juggler of Notre Dame": Sextet to Present Two Selections

The Christmas spirit has had Saint Mary's girls in its grip for a long time. But beginning today, the actual Christmas activity will take over, and tonight the school celebrates with that long awaited Christmas dinner. The excitement of decorations, and the candle light, and the long dinner dresses add to the thrill and high spirits of students and faculty. Immediately after dinner, the students go to the auditorium for a performance of "The Juggler of Notre Dame" by the Orchestra Club under the direction of Mrs. Guess. Miss Cate will present the sextet, which includes Nancy Poe, Fannie Ferguson, Marie Hodges, Jane Garrett, Pattie Ross, and Pat Coder, in the singing of old Christmas songs, and Mr. Broughton plans to lead the audience in Christmas carols.

#### SENIORS CAROL SATURDAY

Late Saturday night, at eleven o'clock, the Seniors will make their rounds singing familiar Christmas carols. At five o'clock in the afternoon Christmas celebrations at Saint Mary's will reach a climax with a special Vesper Service. The service will include "Carol of the Advent," an old Besancon tune, sung by the choir; an organ selection, "Offertoire pour la Messe de Minuet"; Brahms' "A Rose Breaks Into Bloom" by the vocal ensemble; "Greensleeves," an old English air of Henry the Eighth's time, sung first by the choir and then presented as a violin solo; the choral "How the Morning Star," by the choir; and then the modern carol, "The Kings," sung by members of the Vocal Ensemble with violin and organ.

Soloists on the program will be Mr. Bird, violinist; Mr. Broughton, organist, and members of the Saint Mary's Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Miss Cate. This program will precede the usual 5:30 chapel service.

Miss Harvey, while preparing the girls for their first Civic Music Concert, warned them, "Don't leave your seats until the audience passes out."

### Circle Project Is Taken Over by Entire School in Effort to Raise Money for Fifteen Children

The Order of the Circle at Saint Mary's annually sponsors a project for a worthy cause. This year a drive is being made for the *Save the Children Federation of America*. The Federation is a sister organization to the *Save the Children Fund of Great Britain*, which was founded at the close of the last war when hundreds of children were starving in war-ravaged countries. The British Fund is now appealing to the American Federation for help in the present crisis in Britain. In order to give this help, the Federation needs the co-operation of all. Saint Mary's Student Body has decided to contribute enough money to provide necessities for fifteen children.

Help is indeed needed. These are children whose homes and parents have been taken from them by the war. These children must be provided for; they must be evacuated to a safer place and be given as nearly as possible a normal life. The evacuation of such great numbers of people even in peace-time would present a difficult problem, and, with conditions as they are today, the difficulties are doubled and tripled. Children arrive at their destinations without food or clothing and with few prospects of getting either. Also there are children in Britain who have come there as refugees from other countries and who must be provided for.

#### SPECIAL "ADOPTION" SCHEME

A special scheme of sponsorship has been evolved by which an individual or an organization can provide a year's essential needs for one child for only thirty dollars. Thirty dollars, of course, can provide only the barest necessities, such as butter, eggs, milk, shoes, and clothes; but these provisions may save the life of a child. Thirty dollars is a small sum when thought of in terms of life and death.

So far, \$81.50 has been paid on pledges, almost enough for three children. In assembly Tuesday, Marion McLeod presented a poster she had made. Every time enough money is collected for another child a baby will be placed in the pink and white bassinet poster. It is characteristic of Saint Mary's that, with one hundred years to look back upon, she is looking toward the future.

### IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

FRANK P. CHURCH

The following was reprinted from the editorial page of the *New York Sun*:

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which

childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.