

Old-fashion German Christmas comes alive through family's joy

by Sally Leiner

Step into my time machine, courtesy of Mrs. Rooda and her German 4 class, and we will whirl back in time and across the ocean to a faraway country, where I would like to show you a different kind of Christmas.

A Christmas without Santa Claus and his eight reindeer, without overcrowded Fifth Ave., without hundreds of charity organizations begging for money or the seemingly once-a-year good will of the people, without . . . wait, we're here!

Our magic timemobile has changed into a sleigh with bells and two horses. Look around you. There's snow on the ground and more tumbling down from the sky. A wind catches some of the twinkling stuff and whirled it around us. There's no sound at all except for the jingling bells of our sleigh.

Where are we? We're in Germany. The time? Any time this century. For you see, Christmas hasn't changed in the lives of these Europeans as it has for all of us.

Tonight is Christmas Eve, so we'll turn up this road and see just what Christmas is like in a German home.

Brush the snow away from the window and we'll peek in. The family is having their feast, a goose stuffed with apples and stewed with potatoes. Food floating on its own aroma unendingly leaves the kitchen.

In the center of the table is a real gingerbread house, put together with icing and candy. It all looks so good. After dinner the parents decorate the tree. A tree? Yes, because Germany is where the Christmas tree comes from.

One day a long time ago Luther was walking through the forest in the snow and he thought that the trees looked very beautiful with their glittering branches. He cut one down and brought it home with him and decorated it with candles and popcorn and nuts. Since then, the idea of a Christmas tree has spread through Germany and Europe and finally was brought to America.

There is more to the story, but the parents have finished decorating and Father Christmas has

brought presents for all. The children sing and perform a play for their parents. Everyone opens their presents; everything is hand-made.

There is a lot of love in this house. See, it's melting the ice on these windows.

Oh, we've run out of time, we must get back home. Quickly, quickly, our time machine whirled us home, to our own Christmas.



The students of Mrs. Roberts' first grade send their season's greetings in the form of a flying Santa Claus on their classroom window.

APOLOGY

The Argo apologizes for a caption in the December 11 issue which erroneously stated that Pam Mallory is the fiancée of Charles Daniels. Miss Mallory appeared in the recent production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Hippolyta, engaged to Duke Theseus, played by Mr. Daniels.

Traditional Ukrainian food fills Christmas celebration

by Roman Buchachevsky

The holiday spirit and busy preparations for the traditional Christmas Eve Supper are a treasured part of the Ukrainian culture heritage for everyone of Ukrainian descent, including several of us at Prep.

Christmas Eve is primarily a family holiday. Guests are seldomly invited, unless they are travelers or persons with no families, because no one should be alone on this most holy night of the year.

The table, festively decorated with hand-embroidered white cloth with some fresh hay underneath it, is set with a special Christmas bread called "kolach" and a white candle, which is lit on the arrival of the first star in the sky. The head of the family then prays for the next year to be a good one with thanks for blessings already given. He then turns to everyone and says "Christ is born," and they reply "Praise him."

From the kitchen drift the aromas of 12 dishes, each one standing for an apostle. We put a bit of the 12 foods on a separate plate to commemorate our dear ones who are not with us anymore.

The family starts supper with "kutia" or "God's food." Taking the first spoonful of kutia everyone exchanges thoughts of health and long life and hopes that they will be able to be re-united next year. In some parts of Ukraine, white bread dipped in honey is also shared. Kutia is made of cooked wheat with honey, walnut, raisins and poppy seeds.

It is followed by "borsch," a red beet soup with mushrooms. Then come various kinds of dumplings ("varenky") filled with potato, and other fillings, along with two kinds of "holubtsi," which are cabbage, stuffed with rice and buckwheat, and two kinds of fish. For dessert there is either a cooked dry fruit which is cooled, called "uzvar" or "pampuchy," a donut filled with jelly. This is a meatless supper!

After Christmas supper, time is passed by singing old traditional carols, or going caroling with other friends.

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RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 1974

Mass and mangers characterize French families' Noel celebration

by Christopher Combest

In France, the religious aspect of Christmas is stressed to a higher degree than it is here. Manger scenes are present everywhere and, in some country churches, live scenes with real people and ani-

mals re-enact the birth of Christ.

Midnight Mass is a tradition and in very devout families the children are taught that it is the infant Jesus (le petit Jesus) who brings presents to the good children and coal and thistles to the bad. However in the majority of French homes it is Father Christmas (le pere Noel) who brings the gifts.

Christmas in France is a very family-oriented holiday, according to Mrs. Spratford, who was born in Marseilles. After Mass, the adults have a feast called le reveillon; the children place their shoes in front of the fireplace and the family is together for the day.

Many traditions surround Christmas. Le Pere Noel is a country-wide symbol, but different areas have their own customs. In Northern France the Christmas tree is the traditional emblem, while in the South it is the manger filled with clay figurines called les santons. The midnight Mass is a general custom, also.

Menus vary according to locale. In Alsace goose is the main dish, while in Brittany buck-wheats with sour cream are served. The meal is turkey and chestnuts in the province of Burgandy and oysters; goose liver and champagne are favorites in Paris and the Ile-de-France region.

The Christmas Tree, universally identified with the fir tree, made its appearance in France in 1605. It symbolized the tree in the Garden of Eden and was decorated with artificial colored roses, apples and sugar. In this symbolism the great religious connotation of Christmas in France is again shown.

Manger scenes began in the 12th century as a form of drama, taking the appearance of an altar. Now, it is a small stage in a prom-

inent section of the home, filled with the small santons (little saints).

France is not without Christmas carols, either. They appeared about the 15th century and soon were collected in small booklets called Christmas Bibles. Puppet shows, descendants of the miracle plays born in the 14th and 15th century, are presented every year at Christmas in Paris and Lyons.

Christmas is definitely a children's holiday, the adults having their day at New Year's. No gifts are exchanged between adults, and no Christmas cards are sent. Christmas is generally left for the children to enjoy while the adults aren't very involved.

Due to the absolute separation of Church and State in France, no celebrations of any kind take place in the schools. The students get a winter vacation, but only occasionally in a school for the underprivileged, for instance, will one see any parties. This again points up the heavy religious atmosphere associated with Christmas.

However, France is not immune to the financial pressures of Christmas. Christmas trees, once rarely seen in public, adorn all store windows, with each company attempting to out do the other.

Christmas lights and displays are everywhere as are the department store Santas. This is Mrs. Spratford's main lament about Christmas in France; "It's becoming more and more commercial."

Pinatas spread Mexican cheer

by Susan Chimene

Christmas in the primarily Catholic country of Mexico is a joyous holiday.

December 20 marks the beginning of a round of continuous parties. "There is something for everyone at these parties," declared Bert Rodriguez, a Mexican exchange student currently attending Prep. "Dancing, pinatas for the children . . ."

The breaking of the colorfully decorated pinata (a clay or papier-mache figure filled with fruits, candy, and small gifts, which is suspended from the ceiling and broken in a game by blindfolded players wielding sticks) forms an integral part of the children's merriment.

When the pinata is finally broken, showering its much desired contents over all, a scrambling race ensues. To add an element of suspense one of the pinatas is often filled with flour, to the misfortune of any unsuspecting, overzealous children.

The extensive partying culminates in "la cena de la Nochebuena," Christmas Eve dinner, traditionally a large family gathering which lasts well into the night. Many types of appetizers and hors d'oeuvres are served throughout the evening as well as the traditional main course of turkey. The family "nacimiento" or crèche is admired; each family's is uniquely different.

Prep gets eight Chanukah presents

by Janet Borrus

First night—Gas masks for those people entering the girls' bathroom.

Second night—A new Pickett gigantour slide for Mr. Daviet.

Third night—A new name for Ieva Miesnieks, since no one on The Argo can spell her current one.

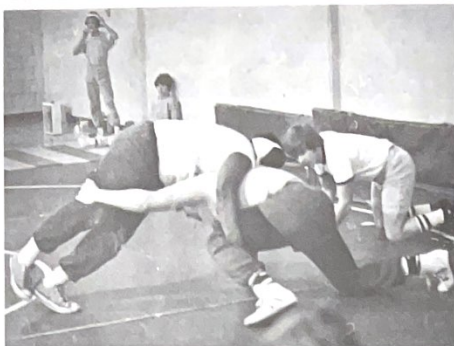
Fourth night—Durable cafeteria utensils to replace those awful plastic spoons that shrivel up and sink upon entering a warm can of fine field house ravioli.

Fifth night—A winning season for Coach Fenstermaker.

Sixth night—A new rack of "mod" ties for Mr. Beronio.

Seventh night—Better proofreading of all materials sent home to parents so that they will not be given an erroneous impression of the literacy at Prep.

Eighth night—Finally, we all need a lo-n-g vacation. Relax, sleep late, eat a lot—ENJOY!



Sophomore Duane Marshall sprawls against his South River opponent in the 188 pound class match. Marshall went on to pin.

Grapplers look to lower weights to bring success

by Russel Best

A successful wrestling scrimmage against South River opened the Varsity wrestling team's winter season. South River, a public school, which puts them out of our category, was 10-3 last year. Mr. Frezza was proud that the team did as well as it did because our team is comprised of many undergraduates, whereas South River consists of many seniors and juniors.

From the scrimmage, Mr. Frezza could determine how the year would turn out. "If we stay healthy, we will have a lot of close meets and we will have a winning season. With a little luck, it will be almost as good as last year; but with a little bad luck, we will struggle to make .500." The bad luck Mr. Frezza was talking about is the bunching of weight classes. As Mr. Frezza sees it, we will still be forfeiting one weight every meet. Going into a meet down 6 points is like going to bat with 2 strikes against you.

We'll have a tough schedule this year and Mr. Frezza thinks the lower weights will carry the team. It consists of Dave Yurcisin, Jim Faczak, Paul Grippo, Ed Pahler, Tony Jones and Doug Jones. "The 1st four meets will tell a lot," said Coach Frezza. "We handled these teams easily last year and if we win handily again, we'll have a good year."

Doug Jones looked very good against South River. But Paul Grippo did not retain his old form. Although he won his first meet, he lost the second one to their best wrestler. Mr. Frezza thought Paul

lost because he had already wrestled before he faced this new rival. Nevertheless, the Varsity wrestling team should have a fairly successful season and with a little luck could equal their fine performance of last year.

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Mid-Year Examinations
1975 Thursday, January 5
9:00 U.S. History, Western Civ., Baldwin Hall.
12:00 Modern European History, Economics, Baldwin Hall.
12:00 Russian History, American Gov't., Baldwin Hall.
12:00 Drawing & Design I, Art Studio.
12:00 Drawing & Design II, Art Studio.
Friday, January 17
9:00 Calculus, Computer Program, Room 109.
9:00 Algebra I, Algebra II, Baldwin Hall.
12:00 Geometry, Pre Calculus, Baldwin Hall.
12:00 Logic, Finite Math, Baldwin Hall.
Monday, January 20
9:00 Art History, Room 110.
9:00 Biology, Chemistry, Physics Baldwin Hall.
12:00 Phys/Chem., Earth Science, Adv. Bio., Baldwin Hall.
Tuesday, January 21
9:00 English III, English IV, Baldwin Hall.
12:00 English I, English II, Baldwin Hall.
Wednesday, January 22
9:00 Spanish, Latin, Baldwin Hall.
12:00 French, German, Baldwin Hall.

Fans urged to support all deserving athletes

by Robert M. Weiss

An athlete's ability cannot be accurately summed up by statistics alone.

To see an athlete in action is the only way to tell who actually contributes to a team and who is valuable to a team's success. Statistics cannot show a complete or real picture of a game. A person who scores twenty points a game in basketball or runs for one hundred yards in a football game should receive his much deserved glory, but scoring is not the only criteria for judging the importance and value of a ballplayer to a team.

There is always the athlete who excels in other skills of a game besides scoring. He, too, should be given more attention than he has received in the past. This athlete has also worked hard at his own skill to benefit the team. His work and good play should be recognized by the fan.

The only way to give all the athletes credit and recognize he who is the skillful and hard-working athlete is by watching more games, and trying to understand the game better. It is the more knowledgeable fan who can give proper credit where credit is due. An extremely important part of sports is to be able to give the credit and recognition to the athlete who contributes to a team in other ways than scoring, as well as to the athlete who contributes by scoring.

by Robert M. Weiss

Early season victories are building, as the Varsity Basketball team is 3-0. Led by Nate Mullins and Todd Milligan the Argonaut squad defeated Highland Park High School 83-64 last Friday, December 13. Nate and Todd combined for 60 points and 53 rebounds in the win. The team has also defeated Gill-St. Bernards and Morristown-Beard decisively.

Coach O'Connell feels that this year's team is the strongest team he has ever coached. The team is well-balanced and all the players are experienced and have the ability to score.

Another strong point of the team is its tremendous depth. Six of the top seven players are returning Varsity players from last year. Coach O'Connell had to find a way to play guards Rory O'Connell,

Bob Vosbrinck, and Dan Howell at the same time, so he moved Bob Vosbrinck to a starting forward position this year. Forward Tony Sciallaba, last year's top J.V. scorer, is the first reserve for each of these three guards. Bob Vosbrinck moves to a guard position if Tony comes in for either of the guard.

Dave Rockhill is the first substitute for the two front court juniors Nate Mullins and Todd Milligan. Coach O'Connell believes that all the boys can score, but he looks to these "two kids with their super ability to really help carry the team through the season."

The coach is pleased with the improvement of the individual skills of each Varsity player. Most of the boys on the team worked on their offensive skills for 12 weeks over the summer. Coach O'Connell is also pleased with the number of boys who are now participating in the three boys' basketball squads at Prep. There are 52 boys out for the Varsity, J.V., and Seventh-and-Eighth Grades basketball team. Mr. O'Connell feels that there are more boys who really know how to play than there have ever been.

Mr. O'Connell's new assistant, Tony DiPaolo, has helped a great deal with the Varsity defense and with the total J.V. team. Most of the players enjoy DiPaolo as their new coach.

The team plays last year's state champ, Bishop Eustace, tomorrow. This team has been the best team in New Jersey the past two years. It has three of the top 100 players in the East and its entire team has returned this year. This team, which the Prep team plays so early in the season, will be the toughest squad it faces all year. The Argonaut team also plays in the Somerset County Tournament between December 26 and December 30. Coach O'Connell's goal is to win two of the three tournaments the squad is entered in and also to win 20 games or more.



Mr. O'Connell asks Rory O'Connell, Dan Howell and Bob Vosbrinck what they want for Christmas during St. Bernards game Dec. 6.

Enthusiasm and victories mark girl season's start

by Ieva Miesnieks

The first taste of competition this winter brought success to both girls' winter teams. The girls are starting the season with more interest and participation than in recent years of girls' winter athletics.

The girls' basketball team won their first scrimmage, 49-33, against Somerset Vo Tech on December 7th. Coaches Leone and Abate were very pleased with the game, saying that everyone got to play. They are emphasizing increasing teamwork and stronger joint efforts over individual scoring and participation; after all, basketball is a team sport.

With a total of 17 girls playing basketball, there is a J.V. team and a Varsity team. The J.V. team is basically made up of 7th and 8th graders, although some of them will also play Varsity this winter.

Starting for Varsity will be co-captains Randy Roberts (senior) and Debbie Dudas (junior), and sophomores Mary Valenti, Nancy Page, and Mary Ann Hatala. The coaches are especially pleased with Mary Ann Hatala, a new student, who came out for the team for the first time and proved herself worthy of being a starter.

There are a few more scrimmages scheduled, and the actual season begins Dec. 18, at Somerset Vo Tech. The team is confident that it will do well in this game. A total of 12 games are scheduled, many of which are home, so, hopefully students will go out and support their school's team.

Volleyball

In their opener against Mt. Saint Elizabeth's, the Girls' volleyball team lost the first game, yet came back to win the second two decisively, to start their season victoriously.

Led by captain Ieva Miesnieks, the team largely consists of seniors. It must be clarified that the team is not only for seniors—any girl may join the team.

Although limited in number, the team feels it will do well this winter. Eleven games are scheduled, and it is believed that Princeton

Day School, St. John's, and Vail Dean will present the stiffest competition, thus probably resulting in the most interesting games.

The team attended a clinic at Princeton Day School, presented by the volleyball coach and team captain of Princeton University. Techniques and effective drills for improving volleyball skills were demonstrated, from which the girls who attended seemed to have gained an overall understanding and view of the game. The girls were instructed as to how a practice should be run, and what drills would be advisable for developing specific skills.



Al Archer (Number 40) "goes up for two" in win against St. Bernards.

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