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Over the Teacups

with *Wanda Ross*

LIKE A WINTER NIGHT under a brittle moon in a clear, cloudless sky was the background of the Junior League Christmas ball last night in the Billmore ballroom where Dayton society swayed to the rhythm of gay dance tunes in a sparkling setting of blue and silver.

Tall, graceful Christmas trees filled each corner with leafy silver branches, interlaced softly on the under side by blue lights on the floor, while large silvered wreaths wearing fat bows of shining blue satin graced each wall. Curving between the wreaths were ropes of silvered laurel. Behind Bob Chester's orchestra was draped a glittering metal cloth and blue satin drop, gleaming in the flashes of reflected light from the huge mirrored ball suspended from the center of the ceiling.

In the smaller ballroom, opening off the larger, a 40-foot bar was set up in a forest of silvered Christmas trees, and tables in both ballrooms were attractively decorated with white pine cones and sprigs of Michigan winter berry. Candelabra holding tall, slender white tapers whose wavering flames glistened against the silver and blue accented both rooms.

The dancers paused for a brief period during the evening to enjoy a brilliant, entertaining floor show presented by Junior League members under the direction of Al Allen. The costumes of the performers, designed by Robert Elder, added vividness to the cool winter background, although the winter motif was continued even in the apparel of the dancers. Introducing the show, a blue and white clarinet chorus, including Jane Earnshaw, Ruth Houk, Virginia Clegg, Marion Hulfman, Nancy Kirkpatrick, Adele Emerson, Jean Tobitt, Dorothy Lee Elder, Katharine Hilton and Helen Grant, effected a Time Stop, or waltz stop. The dancers were dressed in blue satin coats fitted at the waist, with short flared skirts, over white satin leotards. White satin flared collars gave a smart touch to the coats, and blue satin caps with jaunty white feathers completed the costumes.

Betty Eyer Rodgers, wearing a long blue

net gown, was featured in a specialty toe dance, followed by a clever military number by a trio composed of Jane Earnshaw, Helen Grant and Katherine Hilton whose costumes were crisply military in effect with their white pleated skirts showing scarlet stripes at either side, red epaulets and red caps with stiff white visors.

Katherine Gardner, of Middletown, wearing a smart white skirt, lined with scarlet, performed an intricate, novelty tap dance. The show was climaxed by an elaborate "Pony" number done to the tune of the appropriate "Jingle Bells." Three trios of performers, two representing ponies and one the driver in each group participated in this grand finale. The "ponies" wore white china silk costumes, with skirts edged with silver bells, and headresses of scarlet plumes served to create the desired illusion. Bells on their ankles, and touches of

red on their costumes were effective details. The drivers wore white satin suits with green stripes down either side, smart green satin stand-up collars and vivid green jockey caps.

The "pony" dancers included Virginia Clegg, Dorothy Lee Elder, Marion Hulfman, Helen Grant, Jane Earnshaw, Nancy Kirkpatrick, Ruth Houk, Adele Emerson and Jean Tobitt from Middletown.

The softly blended tones of the blue and silver setting accented the colorful confusion of the attractive gowns of the guests as they moved rhythmically across the dance floor. Miss Ruth Houk wore a lovely dress of turquoise blue, with chiffon skirt falling gracefully from a large bodice. Mrs. Colin Gardner, Sr., of Middletown, was dressed in deep wine crepe, with touches of sparkling rhinestones. Miss

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Mrs. Harrie G. Carnell Gives Holiday Party

JULIA SHAW and Frances Patterson Davidson, the effective twin daughters of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Howard Davidson, of Washington, D. C., will be guests of honor at a children's party Monday afternoon, December 27, given by their grandmother, Mrs. Harrie G. Carnell, at the Dayton Art Institute. The party will be followed by a dinner in the institute dining room.

The twins, with their parents and brother, Stuart, and sister, Mary, will arrive in Dayton Friday to be the guests of Mrs. Carnell, mother of Mrs. Davidson, until after New Years.

Guests at the party and dinner will include George and Lottie Shaw, Annie Fowler, Jennie and Caroline Bush, of St. Louis; Fredericks and Tony Haswell, Helen Rike, Ray Palmer, Howard and Cynthia Jones, Jack Garstson, Francis and Margot Thomas and Mary Rust and Diane McHenry.

Other young guests will be Kitty Colfield, and Johnnie Houk, Gordon Smith, Logan Burke, Eliza Thacker, Lynn Howard, Peter and John Hoover, Charles Clegg, Ross Winans, Annie, Bobbie and Constance Green and Ethel and Bobby Henry.

Alma Wood, of Piqua; Jeanette Thurston, Edie Davis, Edie Reynolds III, Charles and Marie Coudert, Nancy Canby and Gretchen Annery.

Also at this attractive children's party will be Georgiana Ozias, Deborah and Tony Spaeth, Suzanne Patterson, Gay Patterson and Sophia and Mary Louise Emmons.

Prominent Engagements Revealed at Party

Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Corwin of Belmont Park, North, announced last evening the engagement of their daughter, Miss Mary Louise, to Robert Edward Jaeger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Jaeger of Grand avenue. No date has been set for the marriage.

The announcement was made at a party (Concluded on Page Five)

Traditions and Gayety of Christmases Gone-by Recalled by Appearance of Children's Chorus

Starlight above the whiteness of deep, soft snow—the stillness of a winter night too cold for wind—clear, sharp, stinging air that tingles in the throat with every breath—cottages breaking the monotony of snow, showing squares of pale candlelight here and there in the white world—sound of singing far away at first then nearer and more distinct—young, high voices and deeper, older tones—a group of boys and men, standing in the snow in a square of reflected candlelight, singing songs they've known forever—because it's Christmas. And the singing ended, something hot to drink and something good to eat inside the cottages—laughter and more singing—gayety and comradeship, beginning and ending in a song—Christmas in England.

Perhaps it's just a myth in 1937—like the Santa Claus that sophistication cannot touch. Perhaps it's only something suggested vaguely by a page from Washington Irving's "Sketch Book." Perhaps even England has forgotten.

But there is a peculiar appeal in this simple expression of the meaning of Christmas—carols

singers standing in the snow outside the window—that creates a desire to revive it. Realists would tilt their noses and snub "Sentimental." Well, maybe. Yes—obviously. But, after all, Christmas is admittedly the "romanticist" holiday, and if we are honest we will confess that, looking backward, we see, our "ghosts of Christmas past" not bearing the expensive and lovely gifts we have received, but holding out to us the satisfying memory of the confusion of excited voices, the fun of helping to trim the tree, the pleasant glow of softly tinted lights against green branches, the sudden magic of "Silent Night, Holy Night" that pleases us breathless, a little wistful and perhaps a little older.

We like our Christmas, in spite of the realists. And we like believing that England has not forgotten, and that we will never forget. We would not sacrifice the enjoyment of hearing children's voices singing the lovely old carols that we remember from our very first Christmas for the questionable satisfaction of being practical and realistic. We would remember all of these things as we listen to the Inland Children's

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These happy youngsters will be among the 100 young voices of the Inland Children's chorus when it makes one of its few public appearances Tuesday evening with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra under the direction of Paul Katz. They are, from left: Paul Durum. Second row: Roberto Ritter, Richard Alan Tunney and Phyllis Denlinger. Third row: Angeline Mae Lehman and Thomas Conant. Directed by Richard Westbrock, the Inland chorus, since its founding in September, 1936, has come to be recognized as one of the outstanding groups of its kind in the United States. (Wallace Martin photograph)



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(Wallace-Martin photograph)



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Traditions--

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chorus Tuesday night at Memorial hall—100 young voices singing together the same songs that cut through the still, cold night outside the cottage windows in old England. This, perhaps, may be described as Dayton's preservation and interpretation of the best traditions of Christmas.

One hundred youngsters, between the ages of eight and 15, the boys dressed in neatly cut long trousers and the conventional Eton jackets with white collars, the girls wearing long dresses of French blue taffeta, will create again that desired Christmas atmosphere—"Peace on Earth"—as they remind us in familiar rhythms of the significance of this holiday that is both gay and serious. They represent the children of the world, the children of this

century and of ages past who have walked through the snow under starlit skies singing, exultantly, sincerely, reverently — because Christmas was their greatest gift.

The chorus, directed by Richard Westbrook, was founded by the Inland Manufacturing company to give the children of its employes an opportunity to develop one of the most satisfying forms of self-expression and to make them conscious of the value of music—and to create a group which might contribute to the cultural life of the community. Children's choruses have played an important role in the history of musical development, but very little has been done thus far in our own country. The Inland chorus, since its founding in September, 1936, has come to be recognized as one of the outstanding groups of its kind in the United States. Its appearance Tuesday night with the Philharmonic orchestra, directed by Paul Katz, will be one of its few public performances.