

PHELAN Communications Inc.

Atlanta Financial Center / East Tower / 3343 Peachtree Rd. / Suite 200 / Atlanta, Georgia 30326 / (404)237-6085

Christmas, 1995

Dear Friend of The Inland Children's Chorus,

I am delighted to share with you a very special part of my early years by way of the enclosed cassette tape of The Inland Children's Chorus in concert at the Dayton Art Institute, Christmas of 1940.

The enclosed brochure describes in some detail how this project came about. Suffice it to say that this has been a "labor of love."

I am also very proud that the Dayton Daily News published the story and gave some of the background. I was not prepared, however, for the tremendous number of requests that have been recieved. As the article pointed out, I find it necessary to have more tapes produced - a task I am pleased to do.

I am also touched by the willingness of many respondents to pay for the tape or perhaps the postage. Many requests included cash, checks, stamps etc. While I genuinely appreciate the gesture, my preference is the suggestion made by one person who asked "May I at least make a contribution to your favorite charity?"

So, if you sent money or stamps originally, it is being returned herewith.

And, if you would like to continue this "spirit of sharing" during the Holiday Season, won't you please consider making a donation to:

MERCY SIENA WOODS
235 West Orchard Springs Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45415

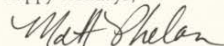
This marvelous home for senior citizens is run by the Sisters of Mercy who, for over fifty years, have cared for the special medical, physical and spiritual needs of many, many Dayton residents, including my own mother Mrs. Matt Phelan, Sr. My sister Mary Kathleen Phelan Moore, now deceased, was also an active volunteer at the Siena. Your donation in their memory would be deeply appreciated.

Finally, I know you will understand that the recording of the concert at the Dayton Art Institute in December of 1940, was done without benefit of the Hi-Tech recording capabilities available today. After all, we're talking fifty-five years ago. Then too, a lot of "little people" had access to the original records over the years and didn't always exercise a great deal of care in handling.

Having said that, I'm very pleased with the results of "computerization enhancement" of the originals into a new master, and the subsequent production of tape cassettes.

I hope you enjoy this "stroll down memory lane", and that it will rekindle pleasant memories for you and yours.

Happy Holidays,



Matt Phelan
Atlanta, GA
December, 1995

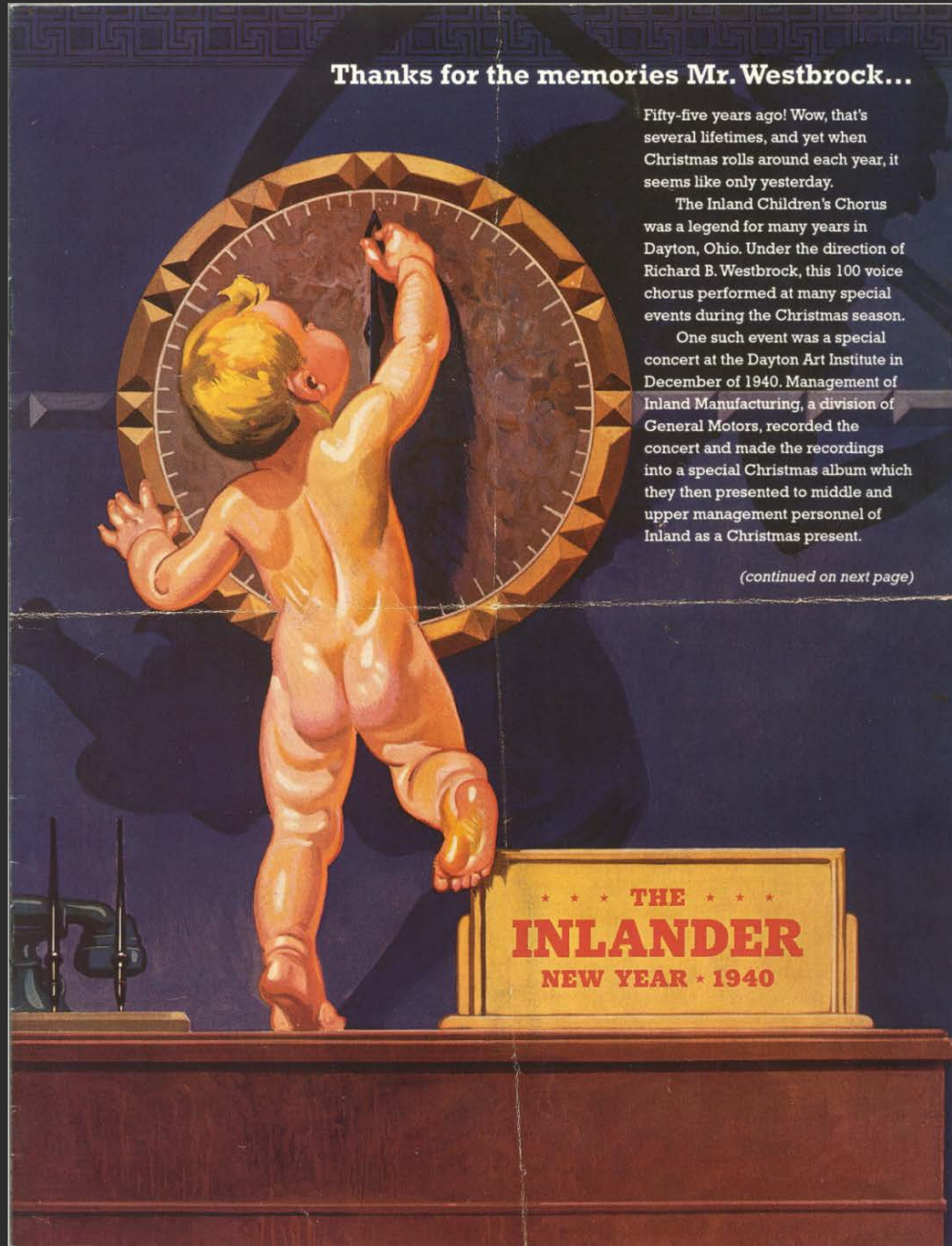
Thanks for the memories Mr. Westbrook...

Fifty-five years ago! Wow, that's several lifetimes, and yet when Christmas rolls around each year, it seems like only yesterday.

The Inland Children's Chorus was a legend for many years in Dayton, Ohio. Under the direction of Richard B. Westbrook, this 100 voice chorus performed at many special events during the Christmas season.

One such event was a special concert at the Dayton Art Institute in December of 1940. Management of Inland Manufacturing, a division of General Motors, recorded the concert and made the recordings into a special Christmas album which they then presented to middle and upper management personnel of Inland as a Christmas present.

(continued on next page)





My brother, Art McWhorter, was in management at that time at Inland and received one of the albums. It was played many times over the years and received the usual number of scratches, nicks and needle slides that you might expect. There were 2 records measuring 18 inches across and recorded at 78 rpm.

Eventually, the records were given to me for nostalgic reasons since contemporary record players could no longer handle this size at 78 rpm.

They occupied a "hallowed" place on the top shelf of my closet for the past 40 years.

Then, this past Christmas of 1994, my 12 year old grandson, Jeremy Phelan, was telling me about his church's Christmas concert and I asked him what songs they sang. In a rather aloof manner he informed me that

I "probably had never heard of them since they were not the traditional Christmas Carols". (Grandchildren have a way of letting you know that you are not as young as you would like to think.)

I persisted and he told me one of the songs was "Gesu Bambino" (Baby Jesus). I said, "Heard it? I recorded it when I was your age!" That brought roars of laughter from everyone in the room, especially the other six brothers, sisters and cousins.

That did it!!

Since we no longer had a record player that could handle the original recordings, I decided to find a source that specialized in restoring old records.

Well, after a long search (and several hundred dollars) I found a company that, through some pretty

sophisticated electronic wizardry, was able to take these 55 year old records and restore the sound to a near flawless original master tape.

From this master, I have made a number of tapes which I am pleased to share (free of charge) with anyone who had anything to do with the chorus at that time.

Incidentally, my grandson Jeremy thought my solo of "Gesu Bambino" was neat. (That's all. Fifty five years of blood, sweat and tears, and all I get is neat!)

Finally, the beautiful high note in "Gesu Bambino" as well as the opening lines of "Ave Maria" were sung by my "High Note Assistant," Jim Walsh. By this time in our careers, Jim was still a soprano, and my voice had dropped down to alto. The reason, I think, is that I finally

discovered girls, and Jim had discovered basketball. (Only kidding Jim).

The following pages are reproductions of the Inland Employee Magazine for Christmas of 1940 and 1941.

I hope you enjoy this "stroll down memory lane" as much as I have enjoyed recreating a moment in history that meant a lot to me.

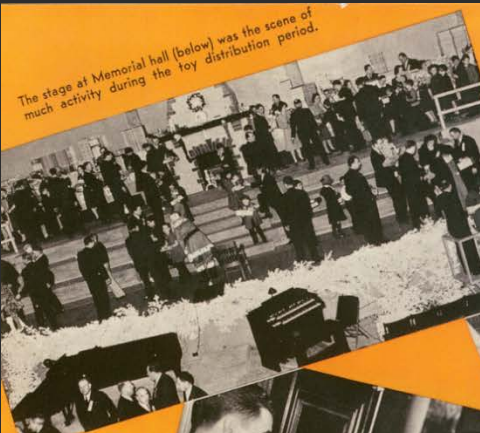
Interested parties may contact me at PO Box 52456, Atlanta, GA 30355.

Warmest Regards,

Matt Phelan

September, 1995

Inland's Christmas Party



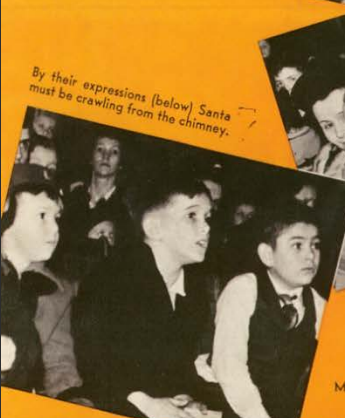
The stage at Memorial hall (below) was the scene of much activity during the toy distribution period.



Santa Claus greets more little Inlanders (above).



Many infants in arms attended the party. At right Usher greets Wayne Martin [Brake Hose] and child at the door.



By their expressions (below) Santa must be crawling from the chimney.



Dorothy (Misc. Finish) and Joe Scheidweller (C. V. Strip) and child enjoy the program.



Little girl receives doll (below) from Santa's Helpers, Julia Steinbrugge and John Pabst.

Starting happily home having seen Santa (left below). Munching pop corn balls received at the party (center below). Leaving the party with gifts from Santa (right below).

In this issue are photographs taken as Inlanders enjoyed their 18th Annual Christmas Party at Memorial Hall on Sunday, December 22.
 Featured on the program was the Inland Children's Chorus (two views on pages 2 and 5) and Santa Claus, shown above as he welcomed two small girls to the party. Arriving at the party are the groups shown in the pictures to the right.



THE INLANDER

Vol. 6

Jan. 3, 1941

No. 22

TO STAGE OUR ANNUAL PARTY

Has it ever occurred to you that the services of some 450 persons are required to stage our annual Christmas Party?

Quite a number, isn't it?—but true. To enumerate: there are the General Committee and the Inland Children's Chorus, Maintenance Department help, stage hands, Cafeteria employees, ushers, toy distributors, delivery and trucking employes, chorus attendants, the orchestra, members of Plant Protection, and assistants of City Police and Firemen. And if you wish to go further the figure might be greatly increased by addition of those necessary to the manufacture of the toys, the candy and popcorn balls.

For the services of all these people Santa Claus and the Inland Management is indeed grateful. The time and effort so freely given has afforded additional happiness for many persons.

"How are you children?" greets Santa Claus (left).



On their way home are Stanley Smith (Clutch), his son and other youngsters.



Leaving the party are George Francis (Rubber Wheel), his child and others.



In appreciation of their fine work Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Westbrook issue presents to members of the Children's Chorus.



Appesement of hungry party workers' appetites was accomplished by A. J. Albers and Cafeteria workers.



HERE'S THAT JOLLY MAN AGAIN with Darlene Fiola, daughter of Reggie Fiola of Standards Department and Linda Jo Schlecty, daughter of Glenn Schlecty.



GIFT DRUMS FROM SANTA CLAUS and the sight of the photographer quieted these happy youngsters—for the time being.



HE'S KEPT BUSY. Robert Metz of the Payroll Department explains again that his daughters, Marjorie and Barbara, are not twins.



HAPPY ABOUT THE WHOLE THING is Patty Lou Weaver, member of the Chorus and her Dad, Joe Weaver, of the Plant Protection Staff.



THE END OF A PERFECT PARTY for these gift-laden children. With a final look at the photographer they start happily towards home.



APPRECIATION GIFTS to Chorus members are distributed by W. S. Whittaker, General Manager, assisted by Richard Westbrook, Director of Chorus and Ernest Gorham, Personnel Department. The boys monopolized this picture—but not the gifts. Girls received manicure sets and bracelets while the boys got footballs.



TURKEY DINNERS FOR SANTA'S HELPERS. A. J. Albers, Manager of the Cafeteria, serves a dinner of turkey and "trimmin's" to members of the Children's Chorus. Thanks to the cooperation of the cafeteria employees, all of the 400 assistants to St. Nicholas enjoyed turkey dinners.



TWO OF THE TINIEST at the party were Donna and Carol Olasek, granddaughters of Stanley Olasek, of General Service Department.



FUN BACKSTAGE between parties as these members of the Children's Chorus demonstrate that their talents are not entirely vocal.

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER! That was the happy verdict of the 8,200 and more children and parents who attended the 17th Annual Inland Christmas Party at Memorial Hall, Saturday, December 23, 1939.

It was a grand party and Inland Management is happy to express its heartfelt appreciation to the 400 volunteers who unselfishly contributed their time and efforts to stage three great shows beginning at 12:30, 3:30 and 7:00 o'clock.

And we believe it fitting to add the sincere thanks of all Inlanders to the Children's Chorus, the ushers, the toy distributors, the Plant Protection Staff (also, our City Police and Firemen), to Delco Products for the use of parking space and to all others who cooperated so splendidly to make the 1939 Christmas Party a grand success.



Santa's Helper, Mary Robinson, issues toys to these little fellows.

Ushers Bergman and Rowland assist guests from the stage.





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