

Sat. Dec 9, 1995

Sounds of Christmas

'Those were grand times. The parties and the chorus are part of Dayton's history.'

Matt Phelan

By Bob Batz
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Lots of people long to relive Christmases past, but most never get that chance.

Former Daytonian Matt Phelan, though, has recaptured some of his fondest childhood yuletide memories on a cassette — and in the true spirit of the season, is sharing it with others.

From 1938 to 1940, Phelan, now 66 and living in Atlanta, sang with the 100-member Inland Children's Chorus, made up mostly of the children of employees of Dayton's Inland Manufacturing, a division of General Motors Corp. The chorus, established in 1937, performed at many local Christmas events, including Inland's annual company party at Memorial Hall.

Phelan's memories of his stint as a lead singer with the chorus were captured for posterity when two 18-inch, 78-rpm recordings were made of the 1940 Christmas concert at the Dayton Art Institute. The recordings of traditional carols were given to company managers as Christmas presents.

Phelan, whose father was a guard at Inland, got a copy of the album and put it away in a closet — where it stayed for 40 years. Last year, he retrieved it.

"Since we no longer had a record player that could handle those original recordings, I decided to find a source that specialized in restoring old records," he said. The result is a nearly flawless cassette of that concert 55 years ago.

Phelan's not the only one with warm memories of the chorus. June Lavin, 72, of Centerville, was a soloist with the chorus from 1936 to 1940. She later appeared in operas in Chicago, summer stock musicals, and an Australian production of *Kismet*.

"Being a member of the chorus was fun. We got all dressed up for every concert. We also sang quite well," said Lavin, whose father managed the Inland cafeteria.

"Those were grand times," Phelan recalled. "The parties and the chorus are part of Dayton's history. I'm sure there are many people who remember them."

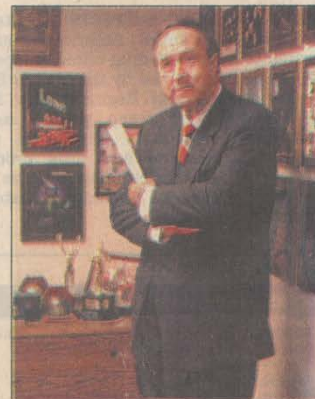
Phelan isn't worried about being deluged with requests for tapes.

"If I have to, I'll get more made," he said.

■ HOW TO ORDER: To get a free tape of the concert, write Matt Phelan at Phelan Communications, Atlanta Financial Center/East Tower, 3343 Peachtree Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, Ga. 30326.



BILL REINKE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

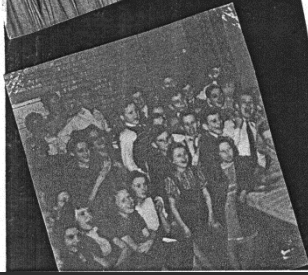


June Lavin (above) was one of the singers 50 years ago from the Inland Children's Chorus. Matt Phelan (left), chairman and president of Annual Reports Inc., recaptured some of his memories on a recording. The chorus is shown in a photo from 1940.

CHRISTMAS 1937



The Inland Children's Chorus. Director Richard Westbrook, Urban Deger at the organ and Mary Werner at the Piano.



CHRISTMAS 1938



Matthew Phelan Age 11



Matthew Phelan, above, is a good trouper. He is shown giving his shoes a final shine before the call to "places." He wears the regulation costume with striped trousers and Eton jacket.

Youths Like To Sing And Receive Good Training

BY EVELYN HART

Come winter, come snow (maybe), come Christmas, and the series of traditional mental images that are eternally associated with the holiday begins to travel slowly through the mind. One of these images presents a group of boys, mufflers tied close about their chins, knitted caps gayly slanted across their foreheads, noses growing redder, eyes shining excitedly and glowing in candlelight from the window—a group of boys standing ankle deep in snow outside a widow, heads close together, arms about each others' shoulders, singing clearly, sincerely, brightly the songs which are as much Christmas as is Santa Claus.

Always, it seems, there have been carollers, keeping alive a romantic, wistful, enchanting tradition, translating into the reality of music the intangible friendliness, benevolence, impulsive generosity and sudden understanding that spring alive on Christmas morning.

Carols, we believe, were written for the spontaneous voices of children, the high uninhibited voices of young boys and the unselfconscious, sweet voices of young girls. These are the things that make the annual Christmas concert of the Inland Children's chorus, with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra, one of the outstanding events of the Christmas season. The concert this year will be presented Wednesday night at the Masonic temple.

Richard Westbrook will be directing the chorus again this year.

career has been Mary Werner MacCash.

The pictures shown here indicate that the children are having fun along with receiving fine training in choral work, along with the experience of participating in concert presentations.

The complete program to be presented Wednesday night follows:

- Overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Op. 21 Mendelssohn
- Nocturne from the Suite, "King Christian II," Op. 27 Sibelius
- In Celebration of the 10th Birthday of Jan Sibelius.
- Dance of the Amazons Lidow
- Gloria to God in the Highest - Pergolesi
- A Cappella, directed by Richard Westbrook
- Ave Maria Vittoria
- Folk songs:
 - French—"Sur le Pont d'Avignon" Mr. Mayer
 - English—"The Staines Morris"
 - 16th century air Mr. Fletcher
 - Ukrainian—"A Violin Is Singing in

**Will Picnic
At Triangle Park**

Members of the Inland Children's Chorus will have an opportunity to release a lot of pent-up energy at an outing and picnic which will be held at Triangle Park, Thursday, August 1. It is anticipated that at least 160 members of the group will attend.

The program will commence at 10:30 a.m. when special rides and games will be made available. There will be circle swings, Box Hockey, Table Tennis, Code Ball on the Green, and pony rides.

At noon a picnic lunch will be served, followed by four reels of musical movies. Then the crowning activity of the day will take place in a softball game is played between a boys' and a girls' team. This attraction always causes a lot of friendly rivalry.

Field events, refreshments and amusements will bring the entertainment to a close.

Members Of Chorus Enjoy Big Picnic

Thursday, July 27, was a "Red Letter" day for members of the Inland Children's Chorus as they gathered at Triangle Park for their annual picnic. "Red pop," ice cream, plenty of eats and many forms of amusement made the picnic a huge success.

Thanks to the Picnic Committee consisting of Richard Westbrook, Joe Weaver, Clara Stautner, Bruce Gordon, Charles Westbrook, A. Albers, L. C. Snyder and E. G. Gorham, there was not a dull moment during the entire program.

Pictures of the Children's Chorus are found below.

In the morning the picnickers enjoyed rides on the ponies, and circle swing. The Box Hockey at Code Ball On the Green game (Continued on Page 4)



The pictures shown above were taken at the Inland Children's Chorus picnic, which was held at Triangle Park on Thursday, July 27.

The upper left picture was taken during the Rescue Race. Among those shown are: Robert Pieffer, John Carlin, Fred Wourms, Louis Herman Shay, Arthur Kronenberger, Joe Rittgers, Ted Moorman and Alan Krisher.

The circular picture shows the group playing Code Ball on the Green. At right are: Mary Wening, Betty Landis, Phyllis Denlinger and Angela Mae Lehman.

Some of the "Midnet" boys are shown in the upper right scene, as they start the Leap Frog race. Among those shown are: Robert Walters, Eugene Cordonnier, Raymond Stahl, Bernard "Butch" Loeb, Tom Connair, and Robert Harn.

The picture in the lower right hand corner shows the group playing Code Ball on the Green. Among those shown are: Verna Krisher, Mary Wening, Phyllis Denlinger, Angela Mae Lehman, Phyllis Denlinger, Geraldine White, and Rita Mae Halpin.

During the early afternoon a soft ball game was played between the girls and the boys. The winning girls team is shown in the lower center picture. Reading, left to right, front row, are: Betty Kessel, Delo Tanney, Pauline Meyer, Evelyn Gray, Lila Bowman, Helen Albers, Elizabeth Medisch and Loraine Keiger. In the back row are: He Reiger, Marian Moore, Betty Krisher, Carolyn Christensen, Je Driscoll, June Albers, Frances Shay and Irene Combs.

Box Hockey was a favorite diversion. In the lower right hand corner contestants Matthew Phelan and Jimmy Walsh square off for a game. Those looking on are: Hazel Blankenship, Jean Cordonnier, Betty Landis, Angela Mae Lehman, Tom Connair, Tim Connair, Mary Wening, and

WIN ONE YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS AT CHORUS AUDITION



The picture above was taken following the completion of auditions to determine the boys and girls of the Inland Children's Chorus, who will receive private singing instruction from Mr. Richard Westbrook during the coming year.

Reading from left to right in the front row are: June Albers, Helen Steiner, Helen Albers, Pauline Swallow, Virginia Southard (alternate) and Angela Mae Lehman.

In the second row are: Richard Murray, Herman Shay, Paul Connair, Mathew Phelan, Jr., Oakley Dagley (alternate), and Paul Durrum.

The alternates will receive instruction only in the event that one of the first five boys or girls are unable to take advantage of the lessons.

ONE PRIVATE LESSON SCHEDULED PER WEEK

Each year a group of not more than five boys and five girls of the Inland Children's Chorus receive scholarships entitling them to individual singing instruction during the following year. Mr. Richard Westbrook, Director of the Chorus, gives these weekly lessons for the purpose of equipping these children for solo work.

Recently, auditions were held to pick winners of scholarships for the coming year. Acting as judges were: Mr. Westbrook; Douglas MacCash, Choir Director of Central Reformed Church; and Harold Unverferth, organist at Holy Trinity Church.

The winners of the final tabulations have been checked, the following girls were awarded scholarships: June Albers, second soprano; Helen Steiner, first soprano; Helen Albers, second soprano; Pauline Swallow, second soprano; and Angela Mae Lehman, first soprano.

In the boys' division the winners were: Richard Murray, alto; Herman Shay, alto; Paul Connair, tenor; Mathew Phelan, Jr., alto; and Paul Durrum, soprano.

In each group an alternate was also chosen. These alternates were: Virginia Southard, first soprano; and Oakley Dagley, soprano. They will be given individual instruction only in case those originally chosen are unable to take advantage of the scholarships.

The Publication Staff of "The Inlander" wishes to congratulate the winners and to remind the less fortunate that these special auditions will be held again next year.

GIRLS SELECTED FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

On Saturday morning, March 19, five girls were chosen from the Inland Children's Chorus to receive special individual instruction to be given by Chorus Director Richard Westbrook. This instruction is to prepare them for special solo work, one lesson being given per week or one season. Scholarships may be renewed from season to season on a competitive basis.

The girls receiving this award were: Angela Mae Lehman, a first soprano and daughter of James Lehman of the Stock and Receiving Department; Helen Steiner, first soprano and daughter of Arthur Reiger of Experimental Engineering; June Albers, second soprano and daughter of A. T. Albers, Cafeteria Manager; Phyllis Schaffer, second soprano and granddaughter of George Liffick of the Rubber Mill Department; and Pauline Swallow, second soprano and daughter of Lewis Swallow of Inspection.

The awards were made by a committee of judges composed of Douglas MacCash, Harold Unver-

Scholarships Awarded Boys of Chorus

Recently an individual scholarship plan was established whereby five boys and five girls of the Inland Children's Chorus are to receive special individual instruction from Mr. Richard Westbrook,

Chorus Scholarships To Be Awarded Soon

During the past week semi-final auditions were conducted among the members of the Inland Children's Chorus, to determine who would receive scholarships entitling them to one year of individual singing instruction under Chorus Director Richard Westbrook. Tomorrow afternoon final auditions will be held and scholarships awarded.

Five scholarships are given to both the girls and the boys each year.

Girls Pass Age Limit

At this time each year girls of the Chorus, who have attained the age of 16 years, retire. This year ten girls leave the chorus for this reason. These girls have served faithfully. They have contributed their ability and loyal support toward the development and improvement of the Chorus.

These girls, who graduate with musical knowledge and fond expe-

director of the chorus. This instruction is to prepare them for solo work, and one lesson will be given each week for one season. Scholarships may, however, be renewed from season to season on a competitive basis.

During the past week the awards were made to the boys' division of the chorus, by a committee of judges composed of Douglas MacCash, Harold Unverferth, and Mr. Westbrook.

Chorus Scholarships To Be Awarded Soon

The boys chosen to receive this special training were: Michael Connair, son of Sylvan Connair, plant engineer; Thomas and Paul Durrum, sons of Hugo Durrum, foreman in the Inspection Department; Richard Murray, nephew of Louis Knab who was formerly employed in the Production Control Department; and Mathew Phelan, Jr., son of Mathew Phelan of the Plant Protection Department.

Selection of the girls from the Chorus to receive this special training will be made next Saturday morning. The same committee of judges will preside. Training for those chosen will start next week and continue to September 1st.

EARLY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED IN CHORUS

The final auditions to select girls and five boys of the Inland Children's Chorus who will receive one year of individual voice instruction under Director Richard Westbrook was held on Saturday, January 10. Here are the results.

Among the girls Barbara Cordonnier was awarded a scholarship with 96.6%; Frances Shay, 94.1%; Helen Albers, 94.1%; Angela Mae Lehman, 94.1%; and Pauline Swallow, 94.1%. Among the boys, the girls with the highest scores were: Phyllis Schaffer, 91.1% and Shirley Woodard, 90.8%. The first alternates, Virginia Southard and Oakley Dagley, had scores of 88.1% and 88.1% respectively.

DIRECTOR WESTBROCK ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Mr. Richard Westbrook, director of the Inland Children's Chorus, states that auditions for prospective new members to the Chorus will be held at the Industries Building auditorium, corner West Third and Ludlow Streets, tomorrow and next week. These auditions will be held according to the following schedule:

Monday, Sept. 23, 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 30, 2:00 p.m.

To be eligible for the auditions, applicants should be a son, daughter, brother, sister, or other close relative of an Inland employee, between the ages of nine and fifteen years, and have an ear for music. Qualifications are not rigid and previous experience is necessary. All rehearsals of the Chorus will be held last Saturday and will continue throughout the winter. Three rehearsals will be held in the following schedule:

Auditions For Prospective Chorus Members. Rehearsals Start Tomorrow at 1 P. M.

Mr. Richard Westbrook, director of the Inland Children's Chorus, recently announced that auditions for prospective new members of the Chorus, will be held each Saturday afternoon from January, from 2 to 3 p.m., starting January 13.

If you are interested in having your son, daughter, brother, sister or other near relative try out for the Chorus, and his or her age is between seven and sixteen, have him or her report at the Industries Building Auditorium, corner Third and Ludlow streets, one of the above auditions.

Rehearsals Saturday
Following a short vacation, the entire Children's Chorus will rehearse at the Industries Building Auditorium at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 13. Starting next week, regular weekly rehearsals will be held as follows:
Tuesday, 4 p.m. — Soprano II and Boys.
Thursday, 4 p.m. — Soprano I and Boys.
Friday, 4 p.m. — Alto Boys.
Saturday, 1 p.m. — Entire Chorus.

Auditions Children's Chorus Are Next Week

Mr. Richard Westbrook, Director of the Inland Children's Chorus, recently announced that auditions for prospective new members to the Chorus would be held next week. These auditions will be held at the Young Women's League Auditorium, 24 W. Fourth Street, second floor.
Here is the schedule for the auditions:
Thursday, September 26, from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.
Saturday, September 28, from 3:00 to 2:00 p.m.

To be eligible for the auditions, applicants should be a son, daughter, brother, sister, or other close relative of an Inland employee, between the ages of nine and fifteen years, and have an "ear for music." The qualifications are not rigid and no previous experience is necessary.

Members of Chorus Win Scholarships

Each year ten scholarships entitling the winners to private vocal instruction under Director Richard Westbrook, are given to members of the Inland Children's Chorus. Recently auditions were conducted to determine those who are to receive the private lessons during the coming year.

Director Westbrook recently announced that, due to a tie at the auditions, it has been necessary this year to make awards to six boys. These are: James Walsh, Harry Kistler, Bobbie Gibbs, Matthew Phelan, Tom Sullivan and Richard Solly. Richard Jackson and Robert Connair were selected as alternates.

Two girls were recorded among the girls. These were both within the first five ranking choristers; however, the fortunate girls are: Angela Mae Lehman, Helen Albers, Barbara Cannon, Shirley Wood and Frances Shay. Virginia Southard and Shirley Broughton were selected as alternates.

NOTES FROM INLAND CHILDREN'S CHORUS

A special Spring Rehearsal of the Inland Children's Chorus was held at the Dayton Art Institute Tuesday afternoon of this year. As no Spring Concert was held, to express the interest and appreciation of the Inland management for the fine work that the girls are doing.

A number of guests attended and in addition the following: Mrs. E. A. McClure, Mrs. G. Herbert R. Simonds, Mrs. G. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Dart, Miss Miriam Rosenthal, Mrs. Eberle, Mrs. Virginia S. and guest, Mrs. R. E. McClure, Gordon Battelle, Mrs. E. A. McClure, Mrs. E. A. McClure, Mrs. W. E. Merkle, Mr. O. E.hardt, Mr. Carlton McHenry, G. R. Routsong and guest, Miss E. more McCann, Mrs. Ben Westbrook, Mrs. William Westbrook, Mrs. Coy and Mrs. Richard Westbrook.

Picnic Scheduled
Members of the Chorus will go on a picnic to the lake. Details of events is being arranged for this occasion.

Summer Rehearsals
During the summer vacation months the Chorus is having rehearsal each week, this being Tuesday morning at 10:30 o'clock with both the boys and girls groups present.

New Members
Mr. Richard Westbrook, Director of the Chorus, reports that a number of new members have been added recently. These are: Jan Walsh, L. Haley, Eugene Schum, Gwendolyn Gunn, Pauline McDonna Berry, Jerry Wilson, Shirley Shuman and Janet Broughton.

Many Children Apply For Membership In Chorus; Regulations Necessary

The high degree of success experienced by the Inland Children's when presented on the Philharmonia Concert program and on our Christmas Party program, has increased by leaps and bounds the number of applicants who desire to receive this fine musical training. At present time the Chorus is composed of 150 voices, with a number of applications for membership pending.

Due to this increase it has become necessary to establish regulations governing the selection and training of this group, as follows:

- Eligibility**
Membership in the Chorus will be limited to the following:
1. Members of the immediate families of Inland employees who meet the entrance requirements.
2. A limited number of children of relatives of employees who are unusual talents.
3. A limited number of other children with exceptional talent who will be selected by the Director with the approval of the Management.

- Size of Group**
1. The Chorus will be limited to 150 voices. The objective is to have 75 girls and 75 boys. Until such time as the desired number of voices is secured, the number of girls may exceed 75.
2. The concert group will be limited to 100 voices to be selected by the Director.

3. In addition to the Chorus of 150 a supplementary group of not more than 50 voices will be given training for a probationary period of six months. If at the conclusion of this probationary period they qualify for admission to the chorus they will be dropped.

- Age Limit**
1. Children under seven years of age will not be admitted.
2. Members of the Chorus will be dropped on September 1st following their sixteenth birthday.

Individual Scholarships
The Director will select a group of not more than five girls and boys with exceptional talent to whom he will give private instruction one lesson per week—as training for solo work. Scholarships granted for one season only will not be renewed from season to season on a competitive basis.

Inland Children's Chorus Excels In Annual Concert

BY EMMA MCCLURE

In a spectacle of beauty that will remain long in the memory of those privileged to witness it, 100 voices of the Inland Children's Chorus, accompanied by Dayton's Philharmonic orchestra, ushered in the 10th anniversary season of music in the magnificent amphitheater of the Masonic temple Tuesday night.

To single out highlights of this evening of rare musical pleasure would be at once difficult and unduly. For it was the combination of "superior" performance by the orchestra and by this unique chorus of child voices and an atmosphere of quiet dignity that seemed to harmonize with the feeling of the occasion that produced this truly artistic utterance.

In four short years of training under the exacting baton of Richard Westbrook, the Inland Children's chorus has clung so earnestly to an ideal that today it ranks among the foremost cultural projects of its kind in the country. Singing to those of the Inland manufacturing division of General Motors who conceived it, and to the home community of Dayton at large a cultural prestige that cannot be measured in cold terms of success.

We feel that it is thoroughly fitting that the proprieties be digressed a moment from the performance itself for a bit of observation into the background of this children's chorus. To Wallace S. Whittier, president of Inland Manufacturing division, belongs full credit for originating the idea of a chorus made up of children from the families of his own employees.

It was more than an idea. It was an ideal that when young boys and girls come together to enjoy the good fellowship of song, they can at the same time be induced to integrate a certain cultural ideal into their own lives and into the very fabric of their home community life. It was this ideal conception of the founder which lifted this organization of children from the category of an industrial group to an ensemble able to truly artistic attainments.

It means much to Dayton, as it does to any community, to have an industry which is accustomed to giving up events from the cold viewpoint of business accounting and see the worth of having a hand in creating the plus values in the community.

Victoriously and musically the Tuesday night concert reached a high point in Dayton's unusually rich musical feast of the current season. As the top lights of the auditorium dimmed, hundreds of delicate blue lights, hidden in the branches of snow-white cedars which were massed along the passageway to the platform, signalled the opening of the choral section of the program.

From one entrance came the girl singers, wearing quaint powder-blue dresses of floor length, the color reciprocating the soft blue that glittered from the cedars. From the opposite entrance came the boy singers, wearing Eton suits of black coats and dark striped trousers. To Raymond Sovey of New York, who was brought on to Dayton as technical director of the performance, belongs credit for the superb lighting effects which transformed the spectacle of the children's chorus into a truly ethereal scene.

As for Katz and the orchestra, never have they performed with greater excellence. It might be said that at least here the orchestra's finer effects were not lost nor distorted by the poor acoustics to which they are usually subjected.

To Israel Baker, concert-master, belongs warm praise for his splendid rendition of the solo in Saint-Saens' prelude to "Le Deluge."

Audience Delighted With Inland Children's Chorus

BY EMMA MCCLURE

A concert was presented at the Victory theater Tuesday night, with Beryl Rubinstein and Arthur Loesser, duo-pianists, and George Polnar, violinist, as visiting artists, together with the Inland Children's chorus. The concert was a feature of the Ohio Music Teachers' association convention, meeting here this week.

Mr. Rubinstein and Mr. Loesser of the Cleveland Institute of Music gave a gay and sparkling rendition of the Mozart-Busoni "Duetto Concertante." There was a crispness of response and variety of color, so often lacking in Mozart. The Adagio from the Sonata in F gave evidence of the thoughtful musician, who feels and believes what he plays.

The audience gave evidence of its delight in each number presented by the children, and to Richard Westbrook must be the credit for this achievement.

Mary Werner MacCash and Isabel Herbst were the accompanists.



RICHARD B. WESTBROCK



INLAND CHORUS —“A capacity audience of 2000 persons sat enthralled by the loveliest and most inspiring event of like nature ever staged in Dayton . . . It was their singing that completely captivated the large audience. There were soprano voices of the utmost clarity, remarkably so among the boys, with attacks of the utmost precision, and enunciation that was splendid . . .”



RICHARD WESTBROCK

who enjoys an enviable reputation for his skill in developing choral groups to standards of high artistic achievements. Under his direction the Inland Children's Chorus of one hundred voices will appear in Christmas concert with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra the fourth season.

Chorus And Orchestra On Masonic Program

Following a custom established two years ago, the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra and the Inland Children's chours will be heard in the annual Christmas carol concert at the Masonic temple auditorium Thursday evening. The program will be given under auspices of the Ancient, Accepted Scottish Rite. The concert open to all Masons, friends and families, will open at 8:30 p. m., the doors opening at 8: Monday, and Tuesday, Dec. 23 and 24, have been announced as dates of the Christmas chimes program with Frank Michael playing. This program on the temple organ is sent out over the community through an amplifying system. Such programs started several years ago.

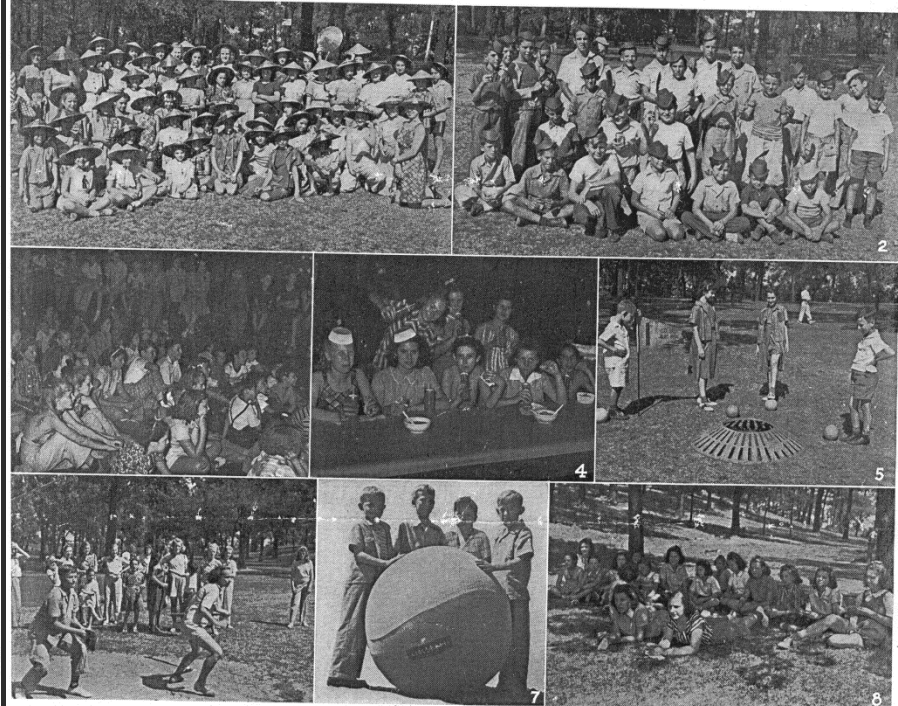
Chorus On Concert

The Inland Children's Chorus will be featured in a Philharmonic Concert to be presented on December 18 and 19 at the Masonic Temple. The Children of the Chorus are working like trojans in preparation for this program which will be given in conjunction with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Children's Chorus To Picnic At Lake

Members of the Inland Children's Chorus have a special treat in store this year as their fifth annual picnic will be held at LeSourdsville Lake. The big outing will be held at the resort on Tuesday, July 1. Other plans are in the format stage at this writing. However, it is quite probable that the entire group will be transported to the lake, and returned, by motor bus. While there members of the chorus will enter into games and contests, see a diving exhibition and enjoy the many rides. In all an exceptional treat is the offering for the group.

Members Of Childrens Chorus Enjoyed Picnic At Triangle Park

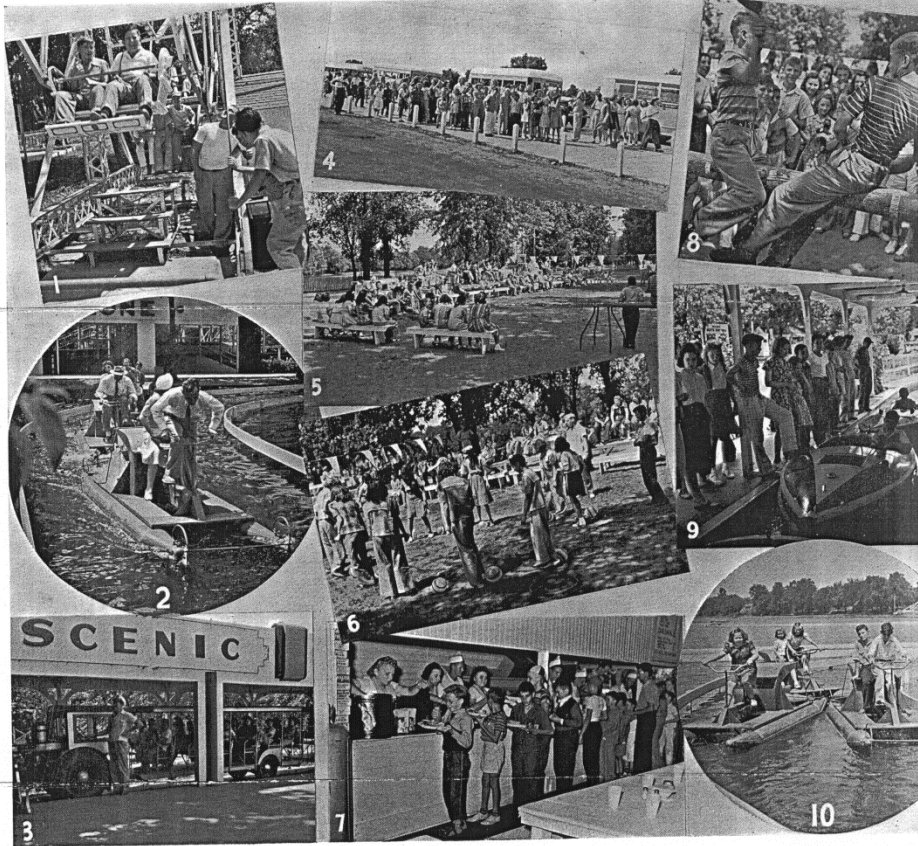


above pictures were taken as members of the Inland Children's Chorus enjoyed a picnic at Triangle Park on Thursday of last week.
 up No. 1—Just before the close of the festivities each girl received a d-brimmed vari-colored straw hat and a "Yo Yo" top as souvenirs. Some of the girls display their bonnets.
 up No. 2—The boys of the Chorus each received Robin Hood hats, and all, and "Yo Yo" tops. Here they pose with the new items.
 up No. 3—Following lunch the picnickers assembled in the dance see the movies. Here some of the members of the group intently these movies.
 up No. 4—Sandwiches, lemonade, potato chips and ice cream were by "Gus" Albers and his cafeteria crew at lunch time. Enjoying

their lunch seated, left to right, are: Marcella Delzeith, Phyllis McGlothlin, Shirley Woodall, Loraine Kiger and Helen Kistner. In the back row are: Barbara Cameron, Frances Swallow and Pauline Swallow.
 Group No. 5—Code Ball on the Green was a prominent diversion. This foursome was composed of, left to right: Tommy Lees, Wanda Lee Vahn, Helen Dagley and Tim Connair.
 Group No. 6—A softball game between a girls' and a boys' team was one of the feature attractions. Here is a bit of action in the game which was won by the boys in a close contest.
 Group No. 7—This push ball, 3 feet in diameter, occupied the attention of many lads. Shown here are, left to right: Bobby Walters, Connie Fecher, Ray Stohl, and Bobby Combs.
 Group No. 8—In the protection of large shade trees these girls watch the ball game.

THE INLANDER

With the Inland Children's Chorus On Their Annual Picnic



The candid shots above were taken as members of the Inland Children's Chorus enjoyed their annual picnic at LeSourdsville Lake.
 No. 1—Among the many rides enjoyed was the Ferris Wheel. All rides were kept busy during the entire afternoon.
 No. 2—Members of the Committee enjoyed the fun as much as the choristers. Here Ernest Gorham pedals one of the water bikes with nurse Clara Stautner a passenger, closely followed by Bruce Gordon with his wife, the back seat driver.
 No. 3—A Scenic ride along the edge of the lake also proved a prominent diversion.
 No. 4—Buses transported the 150 members of the chorus and the Committee to the lake. Here the kiddies disembark at the entrance.
 No. 5—The morning was spent in playing games. Here a portion of

the gallery is shown watching one of the games.
 No. 6—These girls were waiting the signal to start a balloon boat contest. The girl who kept her balloon intact the longest was the winner.
 No. 7—At noon time a very welcome and delicious lunch was served in the dining room at the park.
 No. 8—This contest climaxed the games. Here two boys are engaged in a contest to dismount each other from the pole. The weapons were popguns.
 No. 9—The motor boat ride drew the attention of all the kiddies. Here a couple lads are about to start out in their water conveyances and await their turns.
 No. 10—The boys and girls enjoyed the water bike ride as well as the other activities of the picnic.
 Committee.

Chorus To Travel To Picnic By Bus

CHILDREN HAVE FUN WHILE PREPARING FOR



The Inland chorus concert group of 100 children is shown above at dress rehearsal in the Masonic Temple. In the foreground a part of the Philharmonic orchestra may be seen.



The youngsters can dance, too. Here you see some of the girls turning momentarily flippant in the dressing rooms.

R CHORAL CONCERT



Although the age range for eligibility in the chorus is only from 9 to 16, the height range shows more leeway. Here is Helen Albers walking beside diminutive Patty Weaver. They are wearing the regulation pale blue faille gowns with organdie collars and cuff trim.



A group of girls in a huddle for rehearsal of their parts.

Employ
of 250 youngsters can dance, too. Here you see some of the

Inland Children's Chorus Gives Memorable Program

By EMMA McCLURE

Once there was a captain, but he had no ship. So one day he started to build one in his mind. That was back in 1936. It had to be a sturdy ship—one that could weather the storms and last a life time. There was no use building it without the best material, and once built, it must be matched with a fine crew.

These were the thoughts that occupied the captain's mind.

But this was not an ordinary ship that he was thinking about. This one was to be built of a group of children,—boys and girls, from seven to 16—sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, of employees of the Inland Manufacturing Co.

These boys and girls were to sing—sing for one reason alone—because they love it.

This was still a dream, but it could be made to come true. Why not start today? There were many problems, as one might expect, but getting members for the chorus was not one of them. All the children wanted to join.

Here the captain needed a first mate—that was certain—so he chose Richard Westbrook as director. As soon as Westbrook had gathered his crew, regular rehearsals began—then a program was learned—a concert followed, and the ship was launched in the open.

"Now," said the captain, "the crew must be given every possible advantage. We must arrange for scholarships, weekly lessons for those fitted for solo work—provide musical education—develop appreciation of music in youth, and provide recreational activity for the Inland children."

Those who know the captain, Wallace S. Whittaker, with his enthusiasm and capacity for work, will understand why his ship, "The Inland Children's Chorus," has been sailing the seas, landing in safe waters, and now, has only adventures ahead.

It was hard to believe that Wednesday night was not Christmas. As the Masonic temple opened its doors, there was an atmosphere of welcome; and once inside, one completely forgot the outside world.

The Inland Children's Chorus, which has delighted Dayton audiences for four consecutive seasons, gave one of its memorable programs. It was a spirited performance, with much stirring music by Richard Westbrook and Paul Katz.

Katz and his players gave an especially effective rendering of the two overtures, "Midsummer Night's Dream," and "Romeo and Juliet."

The setting sang with the music. It was one of exquisite beauty, for which Raymond Solvey, of New York, the well-known artist of stage decor, was responsible, as he has been for all Inland performances in the past.

It was one of those occasions when we feel ourselves transplanted into fairyland.

When Wallace Whittaker started out wanting, "something that would be an inspiration to every boy and girl who comes here to do something worthwhile; something that would be of real lifetime value to all of our people's children" . . . may we say that his wish has been crowned with success.

Noted New York Technician Stages Inland Choral Group

By A. S. KANY

Had you been in New York last week attending the performance of Molnar's "Delicate Story" you would have among the credits, "Settings by Raymond Solvey." Which mean nothing locally were it not for the fact that Mr. Solvey is responsible for the beautiful staging and lighting of the Children's chorus which patrons of the Dayton Symphony or will hear (and see) in the Masonic temple Wednesday night.

Several years ago, when it was first planned to stage this Christmas concert in the Masonic temple, Wallace Whittaker, general manager of the Inland, who more than any one person has been responsible for this grand work among the children of factory employes, urged Solvey to come here and arrange the staging.

To the average person that's a rather peculiar order, bringing a New York expert to Dayton just to stage a concert presentation, but Solvey came, sized up the situation, arranged the staging and lighting and audiences ever since have been nothing less than thrilled at the results.

Solvey has been technical director for a number of the more prominent New York productions, among them "Our Town," "Babes in Arms," "Oscar Wilde" and "Ladies in Retirement," in which Flora Robson appears in Cincinnati for three days beginning Christmas night. For four summers, too, Solvey staged the St. Louis municipal operas.

Solvey is back in Dayton this week attending rehearsals of the children's choral group and seeing that the staging is as near perfection as possible. Dayton Philharmonic patrons will see the results Wednesday night, while Masons and families will enjoy the same concert Thursday night.



RAYMOND SOVEY

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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 employes, ushers, toy distributors, delivery and trucking employes, chorus attendants, the orchestra, members of Plant Protection, and assistance 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.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Again Inland has completed a year of progress that can give all of us the greatest satisfaction. Once more we have demonstrated our dependability and have thus increased the confidence in Inland of those with whom we carry on those relationships necessary to our continued progress.

The year 1941 gives promise of continued opportunities. I am sure we all realize that the present emergency demands the full productive effort of each of us and I believe that every member of this organization will do his full share in whatever task may be given Inland.

I appreciate the contribution that has been made by each member of this organization during 1940 and wish every one of you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

W. S. Whittaker
General Manager



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