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THE PANTHER

Vol. 22

Prairie View A. & M. College, Prairie View Branch, Hempstead, Texas, December, 1947

No. 1

THE BIRTH OF THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS SONG

By THELMA D. BROWN

Yes, there are many songs that raise our Christmas spirit with the beauty and simplicity of their tunes. Some such as "Merry Christmas Baby" by the Blazers stress the devotion of love; whereas, "Silent Night," the Perfect Christmas Song, reveals the sincere nature of Christmas tidings. Speaking of the perfect Christmas song, let us take a look at its birth.

High up in the Austrian Alps in the region known as the Tyrol we find the birthplace of "Silent Night." There the Tyrolean peaks, world famed for their snow-capped grandeur, rise in lofty simplicity into the cool clear air, and guard the little peaceful valleys.

Far up in these Alpine mountains, where a love of music is nature's gift to every child, nestles the remote town of Oberndorf, Austria where lived the writer and the composer of this great song. These two men were destined to give to the world the perfect Christmas song and meditating on this thought Mohr sat in his church study on Christmas Eve night in 1818 trying to think of something new for his choir to sing in church Christmas Day. Almost becoming overwhelmed he decided to walk, and while walking the hushed stillness of the night heightened the snowclad beauty of the mountain scene. The pure spirit of those high peaks filled his heart with a vision of the radiant peace and joy of the first Christmas tidings, "Jesus The Savior Is Born." Suddenly the thoughts which had been long forming in his mind found clear, musical expression that night in the song which we have come to know and love.

The next morning Mohr hurried to his friend Gruber's home. There Gruber composed a melody for the

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The above drawing was done by Luther Mitchell, a member of the Junior Class and a student in the Art Department.

The Spirit of Christmas

We come to an intermission in our program of college life. We pause for the spirit of Christmas which has already begun to work its powers upon us.

In some instances, the Christmas Spirit is taking shape in the infectious joy of little children, anticipating the merriment and festivity they have been taught by custom to expect. In other instances, the Spirit is drawn from the resounding echo of "good tidings of great joy", compelling one in the milieu of strife and great suffering to look up and be happy. And then, there's the self created spirit of people who can turn from the hardships of their own hearts, from the pain of separation, of concern for pitiable humanity engaged in terrible self-destruction to the wonderful things—the blessed spirit of BIG PEOPLE who find their happiness in audaciously thrusting themselves in the lives of others and giving service to a worthy cause.

There is, happily for us all, the magic of hope, whose power keeps our spirits moving, not only at Christmas, but throughout each changing year.

E. B. EVANS

ANNUAL "Y" BALL

More than 140 couples attended the annual Pre-Christmas "Y" Ball which was held on December 6th at the auditorium-gymnasium.

Upon entering the beautifully decorated room each individual was presented with a souvenir of a gayly colored balloon. Small lighted Christmas trees lined the sides of the wall, and a huge one was placed in the center of the floor. Trellises decked with pine, holly, mistletoe, and autumn leaves were placed along the sides. A beautiful back drop which showed Santa Claus and his sleigh was made by Misses Walden and Pratt in the Art Department. To complete the decorations, tinsled spots which reflected the light hung from the ceiling.

During the intermission, a floor show was presented, featuring exhibitions of ballroom dancing, of a rumba, and of military dancing.

This affair was one of the most colorful ones that has ever been presented by the "Y."

Gala Opening of Recreation Center

More than 1500 fun loving students turned out to witness the grand opening of the newly constructed Recreation Center. As "Miss Prairie View" cut the final ribbon officially opening the doors of the building, the fun hungry coeds cheered and made their entry. They had themselves quite a time as they marched happily about the building to the music of Louis Jordan's "Let The Good Times Roll." Yes Sir! Guys and gals, good times are here to stay. The new center is under the capable supervision of Prairie View's own tennis champion and recently appointed personnel director, Mr. L. E. Scott.

The first of its kind ever to be erected at Prairie View, the new fun spot is undoubtedly second to none in the Southwest. A series of

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THE PANTHER

"Voice of the Students"

Published by the students of Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College.

EDITORIAL STAFF

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 Managing Editor.....Mary J. Scott
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 Sports Editor.....Charles S. Mitchell
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 Willie Mae Caruth and Lanoriss Hunter
 REPORTERS
 Luther Mitchell Vera Marie Claye
 Cleotha Lee Mary Francis Moore

Editorials

"AN OPTIMISTIC NEW YEAR"

The year nineteen hundred forty-seven has been one of setbacks politically, socially, and economically. It could be called very easily the dream of a pessimist who has had many opportunities to utter the infamous words, "I told you so."

On the political front the pessimist mocks the United Nations Council for its small accomplishments. He considers the partitioning of Palestine as just another blunder. It is his opinion that the policing of Europe is just a costly waste.

"Socially we are in reverse," yells the pessimist. He contends that racial equality is merely a fallacy; that President Truman's Committee On Equality is only a political gesture; that communism will soon envelop the entire world.

"Why feed Europe?" he asks. "As soon as their bellies have been filled they will start another war." The pessimist is convinced that rationing is the only solution to rising prices. He predicts another depression within ten years.

The statements and predictions of the pessimist are believed and accepted much more readily than those of the optimist. This is due to the disadvantages suffered by the optimist. He has to remove the obstacles thrown into his path by the pessimist. He must also figure out in advance what the pessimist will start next. He has to override the pessimist in order to be heard.

One will find it very difficult to be an optimist—but be one anyway. We should go into the New Year with added energy and determination. This was meant to be an optimistic world so let us strive to make it such in our time. Think big, act nobly, have faith, see good in people and in things. Our individual and collective future depends on an optimistic outlook. And when this time rolls around next year we can look back and say, "It was an Optimistic Old Year."

CHRISTMAS

Season Greetings fellow students and friends all over the campus. Many candles will illuminate American homes this Christmas and will shine with a beam that represents the true spirit of Christmas. A candle should be placed in your home as well as mine, not for its beauty, but for the true love that it represents for friends all over America.

Christmas is a time for mistletoe and holly; and, for the children it is a time for jolly old St. Nick whom they think will fill their stockings with gifts. But to us Christmas means or should mean more. It should mean an occasion that we hold sacred, and one that we honor with all our hearts.

The story of Christmas need not be related to you, because without a doubt it has been told to you from early childhood. We all know why we set aside the 25th day of December as Christmas. Christmas is not only a time to receive gifts, but also a time to give. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, a star hung over the crib where he lay. The three wise men followed the star and came to the place where he was born. With them they brought many valuable gifts of silver, gold, frankincense and myrrh, and gave them to their King. He accepted these gifts and in return he gave his life in order that we might have a right to the tree of life. How many of us appreciate this gift which is greater than any other gift that could be given.

Think how Christmas will be in the war-torn countries of Europe. Visualize their homes with no signs of Christmas, no candles, holly, mistletoe or other decorations. But, no doubt in their hearts a candle of love is burning. They cannot be happy with these crowded conditions and no food. Christmas to them may seem like another day. Our homes were not destroyed by bombs as their homes were separated from us and some were not fortunate in returning because they gave a gift to their country.

As they gave a gift to their country, let us make a committee within ourselves to make someone happy this Christmas and do as one author states, "Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you." Are you willing to give your best?

SNOOPING SAL

Well pals, another month of school has rolled around and the campus has been jumping with new and old pals to give out the latest on the Social Side of the campus.

If you want to see a perfect romance just observe Miss C. Stewart and her fiance, C. Dillard and her fiance, and Miss A. Johnson and T. Beasley.

I wonder who is W. Peoples living true to these late days. Seems like M. R. Taylor is finding the way to her heart.

The latest campus romances are B. Young and R. Buckley, W. Peoples and R. Taylor, J. Love and W. Loyd, B. Myers and A. Young, and C. Bruton and B. Phillips.

I wonder what has happened to M. Jones and M. Bigsby. Love is funny thing. It will make you do some things you don't want to do.

The campus' B-Bop Society includes the following young men: E. Drummond, J. Scott, F. Outley, J. Rhodes, J. Mudin, and the rest of the Houston and San Antonio gang.

O. W., A. J., and C. W., it seems as though you will have a full time position walking and talking to A. G., T. B., and E. W.

What's wrong with "the Florida girl" Elizabeth Micheal? Aren't the Texas boys good enough for you?

F. Baugh we know that you are in love with C. Dillard, but please let her get her lessons.

C. R. W. are you still trying to play the married man's role or is it just old-fashioned love?

E. M. Dorsey is it true that you and U. J. were made for each other?

I wonder what happened to the love of L. Miller and B. P. Grant. It has been proved by certain famed lovers that "Old Love never dies."

G. Blue, why can't you keep a boy friend? Try a new solution if the old one has played out.

Has T. Shackelford made up her mind yet as to who she wants, or is she still trying to play both of them?

What happened to the boy friend that E. Sanders brought on the campus awhile ago? He must have disappeared because she has now started her same old routine. Worrying other men.

Well, W. Chandler keeps his face hid, since his "Juilet" is off the campus. Gee! Gee! Folks, he has put all his eggs in one basket.

B. McDonald is it true that old

love never dies or is it just friendship?

Say! has W. Dillard decided who he wants, or does he want either of them.

U. Hill and A. Alexander are talking and listening for bells and not "campus bells."

It seems as though I. L. H. and W. M. H. are fond of the "Rec" Hall. Probably because you have some place to go now, instead of pulling the leaves off the trees.

S. Clark is taking advice from Louis Jordan's record, "Look Out Sister," men are just that rugged.

C. Smith has decided to stop playing the certain two young ladies. Is it true that love respects no one, or it will mistreat anyone?

If you want to know where love starts, ask a young man to take you to the library, and if you want to know where love will end, ask him to take you to the Snack Bar of the "Rec" Hall. It'll work every time.

It is quite lonesome now to W. G. K. since E. Caroway has gone to practice teach.

E. M. and McK., have you taken your tip from a guy who knows? I still hold and maintain that there is no such a thing as a "perfect man." So please stop looking.

G. King is it true that you will get roses for Xmas from Elkison?

Well! I am sure the "Rec" Hall is making a great profit, because B. Fisher, I. Carroll, O. Berry and A. Halley are there spending their pennies every time the doors open.

H. Eaton, it seems as if you have spring fever in this late winter. Could it be you are thinking of your last year's love?

C. Trim, why don't you and J. Cole stop playing hard to get?

L. H. Walton, have you decided to take S. Haymes upon his question?

Well Chicks and Cats don't be cocky and keep your business straight or you'll be found in this column in the next issue.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT By WILLEOLA KING

On Christmas Eve we wait till morn,
 The day our Savior was born.
 A man who was to us so great,
 And that is why we celebrate.
 The Christmas spirit spreads great joy,
 All evils thoughts we do destroy;
 To man our hearts are open wide;
 To all the love we have inside.
 So on this coming Christmas day,
 Be careful of the things you say.
 Do all the good, where'er you can.
 For peace on earth, good will to men.

JUNIOR CLASS OFFICERS



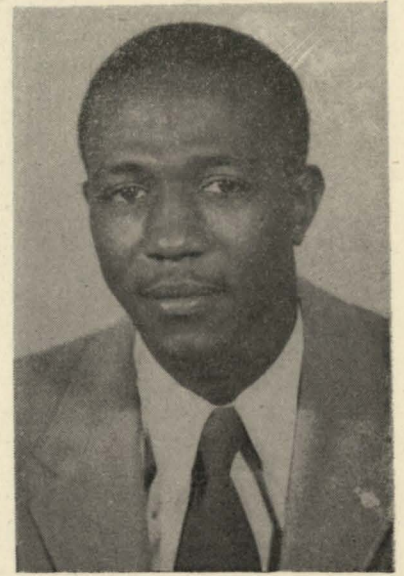
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LAVANIEL HENDERSON, Vice President

The Junior Class Sponsors

Dr. George Ruble Woolfolk, professor of History, is sponsor of the present Junior Class. He shares the class sponsorship with two capable assistants. Mr. L. C. McMillan, assistant to the Registrar and Miss Jenelsie Walden, instructor in Art Education complete the trio of Junior Class Sponsors.

The Junior class together with its sponsors wish to each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Class Sponsor



DR. G. R. WOOLFOLK

The Junior Elites

By DOROTHEA COLLIER

Surely Fate and the god of diligence have joined forces and showered smiles of knowledge upon the junior class. The class possesses six officers who have constantly maintained honor roll status; four of these students have obtained straight A averages during some time of their college career.

Miss Larutha Odom, a native of Newton, Texas, is president of the class. During the second semester of the school term of 1946-1947, Miss Odom maintained a straight A average. She is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Mu Society, Dilletante Literary Society and the Y.W.C.A. She has received medals for her outstanding participation in varsity and interclass debates and dramatic performances. Miss Odom is an English major and is quite active in that department.

Another of the junior elites is Mr. Lavaniel Henderson, a resident of Washington, Texas. He is a major in the field of Agriculture and is vice president of the junior class. At present, Mr. Henderson plays the following polygamous social roles: vice president of the Y.M.C.A., vice president of the Alpha Kappa Mu Society, assistant secretary of the Veterans' Club and assistant superintendent of the Sunday School. He too, has won medals for his grand participation

in the varsity and interclass debates. Up to this point, Mr. Henderson has made exceptionally high grades, the lowest of which were four B's. He is a recipient of the Jesse Jones' Scholarship.

Miss Onis Fox, from Denton, Texas, is secretary of the class. She is a Home Economics major and a receiver of the Mary Gibb Jones' Scholarship. Miss Onis Fox graduated from high school with honors and so far has maintained an A average with the exception of two B's. She is an active member of the Y.W.C.A. and the Alpha Kappa Mu Honorary Society.

Miss Marion Jones of Houston, Texas is assistant secretary of the class. She is a Home Economics major and a recipient of the Mary Gibbs Jones' Scholarship. Miss Jones is an active member of the N.H.T., the Y.W.C.A., and a member of the usher board.

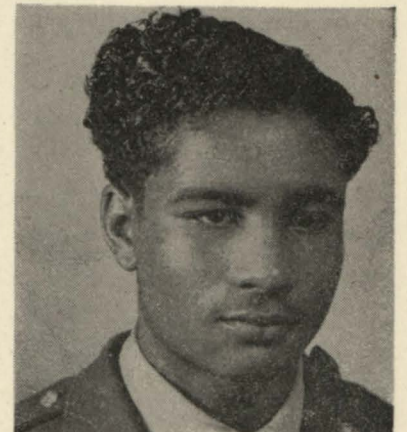
Mr. Joseph Davis, a citizen of Dallas, Texas, is class treasurer. He is a major in the field of Economics and is active in both the Veterans' and Prairie View-Dallas Clubs. He frequently participates in religious activities and is a member of the male glee club and the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Davis is an honor roll student.

Mr. Maurice Bigsby, a native of Brenham, Texas, is the business manager of the class. He is enrolled in the Department of Music and spends his leisure with the military band, school orchestra, and the usher board.

Mr. Winston William is a native of Longview, Texas and serves in the capacity of sargent-at-arms. He is an honorable cadet of the R.O.T.C. and of the Longview-Prairie View Club and the usher board.

Mr. Samuel Collins of Port Arthur, Texas, is editor of the PANTHER and is enrolled in the Division of Mechanical Arts. He is president of the Prairie View-Port Arthur Club and vice president of the Mechanical Arts Club. Mr. Collins maintained a straight A average the first semester of 1946-47.

It goes without saying that the Junior Class possesses some of the most ambitious and active students of the college campus; thus it is justifiable that they be classified as the junior elites.



WINSTON WILLIAMS, Sargent-at-Arms

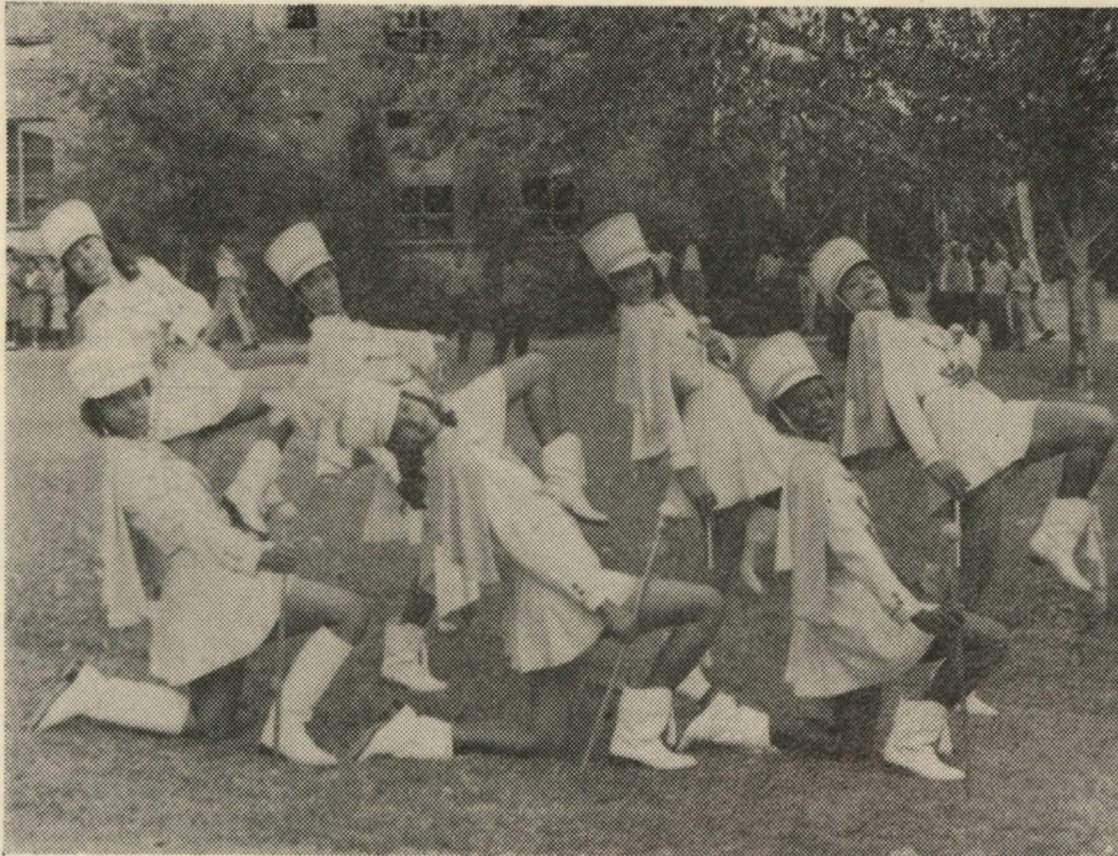
Student Lounge at the Recreation Hall



Pictured above is a scene from the Student Lounge in the "REC" HALL. It is furnished with attractive furniture which was given by a Prairie View alumnus, Mr. Hobart Taylor.

Below is a picture of the BAND MAJORETTES. None better are to be found in the Southwest.

The Prairie View Majorettes



New Athletic Field

A new field will be ready for the 1948 edition of the Prairie View A. & M. College Football Team. The field is being moved from its present site in front of the Library Building, where the new Administration Building will be erected, to a 25-acre tract southwest of the Gymnasium. Grading of the new area has been completed. The work was done by the Reaves Brothers Construction Company at a cost of \$7,150. The steel bleachers will be moved to the new site and faced eastward. The entire area will be enclosed in steel fencing. In addition to the main football field, a baseball field, four tennis courts with a small grandstand, a regulation cinder track, a club house and parking space for 300 automobiles. An elaborate system of sidewalks and drives has been included in the plans. The outlay when complete will cost \$40,000. Original plans and surveys for the project were prepared by the Division of Mechanic Arts, under the direction of Messrs. C. L. Wilson and H. S. Houston.

Gala Opening of Recreation Center

(Continued from Page One)

speeches, short and informal, were made by class presidents and other student leaders. The building is available to all students and faculty members that are living and walking, various clubs and committee meetings, invitational dances, parties, and all types of indoor recreation.

It is believed by all that this new accomplishment will provide everyone who participates with good clean fun. Chicken dinners, steaks, fountain drinks of all kinds, a variety of sandwiches and ice cream are served on the spot.

Perfect Christmas

(Continued from Page One)

perfect song, and so today when this beautiful song is sung we become so entranced that we continue for hours at a time still humming the tune.

Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heaven with peace,
Sleep in heaven with peace.