

## German Yule Customs Differ From Yanks

by Donna Dell

The German people begin their Christmas celebrations on the fourth Sunday before Christmas by lighting one of the four candles on the Advent Wreath. One candle will be lit every Sunday until the last one is lit on the Sunday before Christmas.

On the eve of Dec. 6, which is St. Nicholas Day, the children put their shoes outside their door and when they awake, they find their shoes filled with candy and nuts.

### Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve the children are sent to their room while the parents decorate the tree with nuts, candy wrapped in bright foil, and apples. When the parents are finished the children are called and each finds a small pile of packages under the tree which they quickly open. Then its cookies and cocoa and off to bed they go.

To the German people Christmas Day is a holy day. They begin their day by attending mass. Then it's home for breakfast of sweet bread, rolls, and cocoa for the children.

Later in the afternoon friends may drop in and everyone enjoys a feast of cream cakes, pies, and we mustn't forget the cookies and candy.

They attend mass again that evening and after returning home there may be songs and games.

Jan. 7, the children undress the tree and are allowed to eat the nuts, candy, and apples.

This ritual closes the Christmas season.

## What Would BHS Be Like If . . .

- W. S. had a flat-top.
- R. C. wore baggy pants.
- Mr. Rayburn grew a beard.
- K. C. came to English class on time every day.
- S. M. bleached her hair.
- Sandy U. knew her right from her left.

## My Gift

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am;  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would give Him a lamb.  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part.  
But what can I give Him?  
I will give Him my heart.

Christina Rossetti

## Jr. High Council Elects Officers

by Jan Donneson

The newly formed Junior High Student Council has just gotten under way. The following newly elected officers are:

- President—Larone James
- 1st Vice-President—Harold Shwiff
- 2nd Vice-President—Lee Batsel
- Secretary—Kathi Dolan
- Treasurer—Sandy Hendershot
- Advisor—Mr. Willis

One of the first tasks of the new Junior High Student Council is the forming of a constitution. This is "in the work" now.

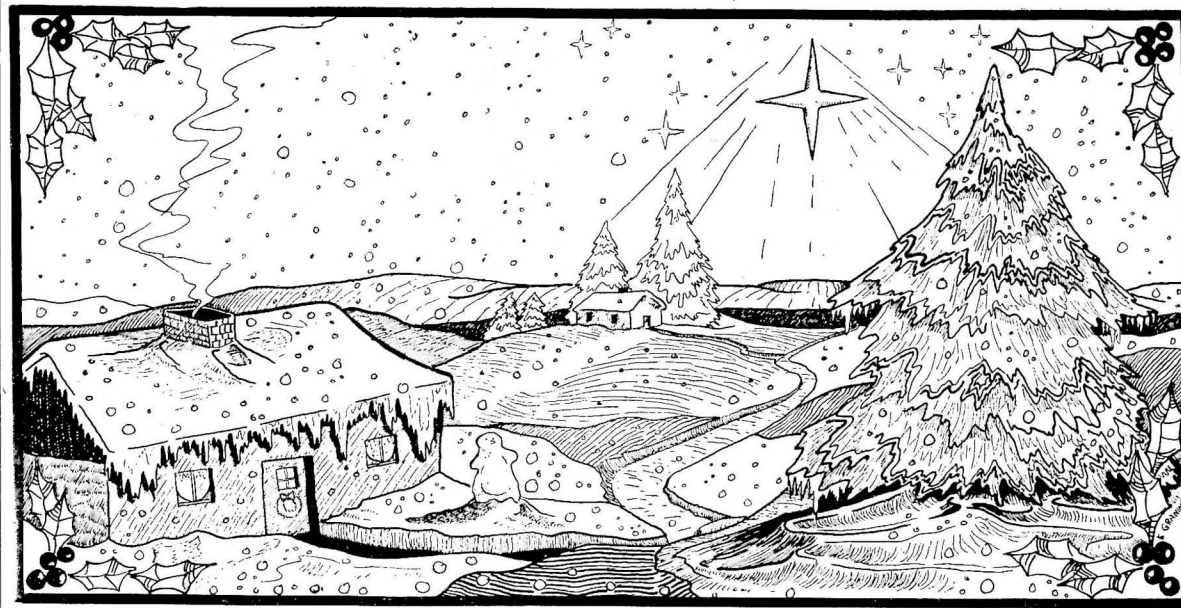
Another one of the major problems is the coordination of the Junior High activities with the Senior High.



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## Student Writes Story With Christmas Theme

It wasn't a cold and snowy Christmas like most. Instead it was nice and warm. So warm that I decided to take a walk along the beach. It was very daintly played with my scarf.

It wasn't until I had almost fallen over him that I saw the small boy sitting in the sand building a fabulous sand castle.

"Oh I'm sorry," I said, "What are you doing here all alone?"

"I came here to wish everyone a Merry Christmas" he answered.

"That is a beautiful sand castle you are making."

"Is it really!" he exclaimed.

"What's your name?"

"Johnny".

I stood there watching his little fingers mold the sand into place. Suddenly his hand slipped and he knocked down part of his castle.

"Oh dear!" I exclaimed "you have ruined your lovely sand castle." At that he turned his head, laid it on the sand and began to cry.

It wasn't until then that the realization struck me—HE WAS BLIND!

I took him up in my arms and ask him where he lived. He hesitatingly pointed in the direction of a small hut under a bridge. I dried the tears from his tiny face and ask, "would you like for me to show you the Christmas decorations in the village?" I led him up the path to the little town, and as we walked along I told him about all the beautiful lights and decorations.

I told him how Mr. Jones had big brown reindeers on the roof of his store, and how the pastry shop had the most delicious cakes and cookies in the window. We walked and talked as I watched his little face glow with delight. Presently it began to grow dark, and I told him we had better be going home.

"But first you sit right down here Johnny and don't move—I'll be right back."

I dashed inside the Pastry Shop and brought him a big chocolate Santa Claus and went next door and got a large, white, fuzzy teddy bear.

When we arrived at his home I gave him the presents and whispered, "Merry Christmas Johnny".

I just stood there watching him run his fingers over them for a

while and then said, "Bend down lady." As I did he played a quick warm kiss on my cheek. I couldn't say anything because of the lump in my throat. He turned and ran inside the house calling, "Mother! Mother! an Angel of God brought me a teddy bear and a Santa Claus and—and—"

As I turned to walk through the sand along the beach for home I realized for the first time that truly it is far more blessed to give than to receive. As the wind from the Heavens played with my scarf, I could hear the voices in the breeze singing, "PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN".

by Juli Ann Hodges

## One Teacher Weds; Second To Take Vow

In Wiesbaden on November 19, Peggy Grunbeck and Jack Fugate, Bitburg High School teachers, were married.

Mrs. Fugate will be teaching at the Pruem Elementary School.

The couple will be residing in Schoenecken.

☆

Mr. Mader and Miss Laag will be married during the Christmas vacation.

Miss Laag, from New York, went to New York University. Here at Bitburg she teaches the fourth grade.

Mr. Mader is from Pennsylvania and attended West Virginia University, Southern California, and Louisville University.

The wedding and reception will be held in Trier.

## Can You Beat These Excuses For Not Finishing Homework?

When some one forgets to do homework or when someone forgets and leaves it somewhere, it

seems the excuses are always the same.

"My math book is in my locker and my paper is in it."

"I left my 500 sentences at home."

"My little brother tore up my book report."

"My paper is in my history book."

"I didn't feel very good last night when I came home."

"Someone stole my science book so I didn't do it."

"When someone is late for class: My locker door fell off."

"I spilled ink all over myself."

"I was at the nurse's office."

"Mr. Trull stopped me in the hall."

Tardy for first or fourth period: "The alarm didn't go off."

"I overslept."

"I was sick this morning."

"I had to wait in the line for my lunch."

When some of these typical excuses are given to Mr. Fish in his science class, he calmly retorts "Can't grade excuses; all I can grade is the work."

## New Counselor Has Varied Interests

Miss Brooke Dillard, the school counselor, was born in Dover, Pennsylvania. Syracuse University, Pennsylvania State University, and Shippensburg State Teachers' College are the places from which she obtained her teachers degree.

Two years ago, before she started counseling, she taught the first grade.

Miss Dillard has many varied interests and hobbies, such as music, art, and reading. Her favorite sport is swimming.

This is Miss Dillard's first trip to Europe, which she finds most enjoyable. And, of course, Europe is the best place to find art and music of all types; and many rare books.

Miss Dillard hopes this will be one of her most successful school years.

## Student Council Receives Nod on 60 Minute Lunch

The Student Council, after six weeks of hard work, is slated to announce that their toil has not been in vain.

During elections, speeches included the promise to make the lengthening of the noon hour a project for the Council. This promise was made in all probability, for we will have a sixty minute lunch hour by the beginning of the next marking period.

First order of business under the problem was to appoint a committee which would devote its time to finding arguments and ideas in favor of lengthened noon hour. These were finally consolidated into the form of a resolution which was sent to Mr. Roberson, through Mr. Trull. Included with this was a suggested revised schedule.

The principals considered our reasoning and presented our plan to the faculty. Our teachers approved our arguments with a majority vote. The faculty did their part well, now why don't you the student body show your gratitude. Observe the rules of good conduct and work with the Student Council toward maintaining and improving the high standards of Bitburg High School.

## Fasching Began In Old Rome

Fasching originated from the carnival in Rome which takes place before Lent. It was a time of great merry-making and revelry. The carnival spread to Venice and Nice which are still the most famous in Europe today.

The name of carnival has been changed to Fasching for most parts of Germany. Fasching starts the 11th month and ends at midnight the night before Ash Wednesday.

The largest centers of Fasching are Duesseldorf, Mainz, and Koln. Each city has a carnival or Fasching committee which plans the celebration. For these festivities a Fasching prince and princess are elected by the committee.

The height of the celebration is the last three days before Ash Wednesday. In these three days the mayor allows the prince to take charge of the town's administration.

On Rosen Montag the parades are held, led by the prince and princess in the large towns, like Duesseldorf, Mainz, and Koln.

Fasching takes place in mostly Catholic areas since in olden times its purpose was to allow the people to have fun before the arrival of Lent and to eat all the meat possible. Meat could not be eaten again until the Saturday before Easter.

## Basketball Schedule

### Home Games

- Jan. 6-7 Bremerhaven
- Feb. 10-11 Augsburg
- Feb. 17-18 Baumholder
- Feb. 24-25 Karlsruhe

### Away Games

- Dec. 9-10 Wuerzburg
- Jan. 20-21 Bad Kreuznach
- Jan. 27-28 Berlin

## Annual Staff Picked

The members of the Annual staff selected by Mr. Rayburn are as follows: Editor in chief-Pat Berry, Art Editor-Delores Woods, Publicity Editor-Lena Schwind, Typing Editor-Pam Beeley, Layout Editor-Bonnie Goana, Photography-Howard Deakyne, Sports-Sid Love and Literary Editor-Lois Jacobs.