



LITERARY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

"FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK"

The Principal Leaves Home!

The Principal was invited by the Executive Secretary of the Middle States Accrediting Association to serve as a member of the visiting committee to evaluate the Havertown Township Senior High School in Havertown, Pennsylvania on November 15, 16, 17. While the primary purpose of any visiting committee is to evaluate the whole school in terms of standardized check lists, it also affords members of the committee an opportunity to compare their own schools with the school being evaluated. The Principal is firmly convinced, as a result of this visit, that the Henry C. Conrad High School is adequately serving the needs of our youth.

Congratulations On A Job Well Done!

The Principal desires to extend his hearty congratulations to the editor, staff, and faculty adviser of the *Smoke Signal* on their fine literary work in the two issues of our school paper to date. No school activity is so widely accepted and deeply entrenched as the publication of the high-school newspaper. Its value as a builder of spirit and loyalty within the school, a public relations agent outside the school, and a learning experience for the students who work on it are widely recognized.

Plaudits For Student Council

The Principal is extremely proud of the well organized campaign carried on by our Student Council to provide food for the needy of our immediate locale at the Thanksgiving season. It is always gratifying to know that our youth are vitally concerned about the welfare of those less fortunate than ourselves. This represents the true spirit of the season.

Season's Greetings

The Principal desires to take this opportunity, at this wonderful season of the year, to express a sincere wish that each of you will have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, with God's richest blessing in all your future endeavors.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CHRISTMAS?

by Gail Borinsky
First

Through the years the spirit of Christmas has transformed from a spiritual one into a material one. Before Thanksgiving, stores begin advertising gifts, wreaths, decorations, and all the tangible objects which represent Christmas. The true and original idea of Christmas is lost in the hustle and bustle of shoppers and in the overgrowth of trees and greenery.

In the name itself is found the primary reason of the holiday — Christmas — the coming of the Savior. This is the day each Christian stops to honor and remember that he owes his existence to a Supreme Being. Lately, this main idea has been pushed aside and a new one inserted. Money, profit, and position have replaced the spiritual meaning of Christmas and people now strive for and think primarily of these three.

Young children think continuously of what Santa Claus will leave them while their parents threaten them that they better be good if they want any gifts. Instead of teaching them about the origin of Christmas and of the better gifts to be gained through celebrating Christmas religiously, the parents draw them into the artificial and corrupt spirit. These children grow up absent of the feeling that their ancestors had this holiday as they knelt before a Christmas crib to pay homage to the holy child. The glow in the children's eyes comes from lights and tinsel and not from their hearts.

Few people receive all the blessings and happiness Christmas may bestow. This material meaning leaves a gap and yearning in the hearts of people which can only be filled when the spiritual meaning is resumed. Unlike most instances, here it is possible to have everything, for while a person heeds and remembers the true spirit of Christmas it is also possible for him to follow the artificial one. If this is accomplished, complete happiness and satisfaction will fill the world, enlarging the hearts of the people and possibly bringing a degree of peace to the world.

WINTER

by Gerry Finan

Outside the snow swirls and moves, and the trees become visible. Bleak and bare, they lift their branches, like long fingers, straining to touch the softness of the sky. The gray clouds drift in quiet serenity.

Inside the people hurriedly prepare for the soon-to-be-here Christmas carolers. Golden cider in tall, frosty mugs and warm ginger cookies are placed on the table. The smell of baking pies and of pine decorations fills the house. Children with rosy cheeks eagerly anticipate the arrival of the jolly, fat man.

Then the darkness comes—a red icy mist, engulfing the world and snuffing out all life therein. And the stillness is a blanket.

BROADWAY COMES TO CONRAD

Conrad is about to become another Broadway. *Guys and Dolls* the renowned Broadway musical, will be presented in the Cummings' Auditorium some time in March.

Mr. Wayne Rudisill will direct a cast of seventy-five in the production. Mr. Donald Morgan will act as vocal coach, while Joan Fleetwood and Carol Sitiwitz will instruct the dancers.

Tryouts for the play were held Thursday, December 7 and Friday, December 8. Those students chosen for the major and minor roles are as follows:

Nicely Nicely Johnson — James Browning

Benny Southstreet — Wally Schock

Rusty Charlie—James Downs

Sarah Brown—Peggy Taylor

Arvide Abernathy — Gary Dawson

Agatha—Barbara Wilson

Mission Band Priscilla — Jackie Tharp

Calvin—Sam Hughes

Lt. Brannigan — Donald Lowden

Nathan Detroit—Herman Holmquist

Angie the Ox—Bruce Speakman

Brandy-Bottle-Bates — Robert Tanner

Joey Biltmore—Paul Johnson

Miss Adilaide—Judith Hudon

Sky Masterson—John Wilson

General Matilda B. Cartwright

—Rosemarie Guilianai

Big Jule—Lawrence Campanelli

Drunk—Marcia Williams

Guys—Ernest Qucella, William Watson

Non Speaking Roles

Bobbie Sockers—Jeanne Berry,

Carolyn Caum, Michele Re-

getz, Buella Hamilton, Suzanne Chatam

Sightseeing Guide — Michael Dchaoff

Sightseers — Joyce Daugherty,

Nina Leech, Bonnie Ahern,

Donna Chalmers, Mildred Gre-

hewick, Kathy Griest, Mary Collings

Chorus Girls — Judi Kennedy,

Bonnie Bunting

Orchestration — David Casto

Advertising — Sharon Shoenfelt

Student Director and Assistant

Director are to be chosen later

along with other non speaking

roles.

CARD SENSE

by Dianne Moshier

Our Christmas cards have all been sent,
And now I'm wondering what they've meant.

In some ways I think that we
Are sending them exclusively
To people whom we really shouldn't,
And I for one wish we wouldn't.
The reason for my seeming mutiny
Is that our list, when given scrutiny,

Reveals that we are sending cards
To folks who own adjacent yards;
And to those with whom we go to
school each day

As if, somehow, we were far away.
I think this custom needs revision,
Does anyone agree with my decision?

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE A SUCCESS

Conrad's first semi-formal of the year, the Christmas Dance, was held on December 16, 1961, in the high school gymnasium. Music was provided by the recording artists, the Illusions.

The Christmas Court was chosen by the business staff of the Conradian from candidates nominated by each homeroom. The members of the court were: seniors—Linda Hockenberry, Elaine Bramble, Linda Morris, and Dixie Martin; juniors—Linda Jantz, Mary Lowenstein, and Peggy Taylor; sophomores—Jean Kennedy, and Doreen Lucas.

SPORTS SCRIPTS

Conrad alumni are certainly holding their own in faster competition. Nate and Pete Cloud along with Salesianum grad Dave Sysko have sparked the University of Delaware basketball squad to four straight victories. Roy Jernigan and Lee McMaster were the number two and three men respectively on the undefeated Delaware cross-country squad. Mike Brown was Delaware's leading ground gainer in the '61 football season, and teammate Dick Broadbent fared so well at end that he was drafted by the Detroit Lions of the

National Football League. Ron Bianco, after captaining the Golds to a 20-13 victory in the Delaware High School football game — he was named the outstanding lineman in the game — went on to captain the Delaware freshman team to a .500 season . . . This isn't even mentioning Dallas Green the Phillies hurler . . . Congratulations are in order to senior guard Jim Brooks for being selected on the All-Blue Hen Conference second team . . . Jim consistently led the Redskin's linemen in tackles and proved to be a most devastating blocker.

About Wrestling

Since the majority of the students here at Conrad know little or nothing about the sport of wrestling, the Smoke Signal has decided to run a two-part feature explaining the general concepts and terminology of this sport. This first installment was written for the purpose of explaining the general procedures undertaken at a wrestling meet.

Each wrestling meet consists of twelve matches with a different weight class represented in each match. A match is six minutes long divided into three periods of two minutes each. In the first period the contestants start in a standing position and try to effect a take-down. In the second peri-

od the contestant who has won the toss of the coin has the choice of taking the top or bottom position in what is called the referee's position. The third period is begun with the wrestler taking position opposite to that of the second period.

A contestant must always try to pin his opponent; that is to say that he must make the effort to place his adversary's shoulders on the mat for a period of two seconds. If he succeeds his team receives five points. If the match goes the full six minutes the victor is awarded a decision based on the individual points he accumulates during the course of the match. (Next month we will attempt to explain some wrestling terms and the scoring system.)

REDSKIN GRAPPLERS EYE WINNING SEASON

Conrad's wrestling squad for 1962 contains six lettermen returning from last year. They are, seniors, Neal Larson, Don Latourney, Albert Sheppard, juniors, Ron Nichols, Emory Reader, and Bill Taylor.

Although Coach Pletcher's charges do not yet appear capable of capturing conference honors, Mr. Pletcher says that Conrad's matmen of '62" are much stronger this year than they were in the past year. The squad hopes to do well and better last year's record which was two wins, eight losses. We defeated P. S. DuPont and Wilmington High School.

Thus far the 43 wrestling candidates have demonstrated more strength in the upper and middle weight classes.

Outlook at a Glance

1961 RECORD: Won 2, Lost 8.

LETTERMEN: 6.

KEY RETURNEES: Albert Sheppard, Don Latourney, and Emory Reader.

PROSPECTS: Should do better than last year.

J. V. SQUAD ALL SOPHOMORES

Members of the Junior Varsity Basketball squad for this season are Dave Cathcart, Buzzy Atkins, Harry Crystal, Randy Jernigan, Ralph Fillingame, Bob Purnell, Bob Wright, Jay Thompson, Bill Stone, Dale Lewis, Bob Smith, Ronnie Tryczinski, and Ronnie Anderson.

Coach Ott says that while the boys lack height and possess only fair shooting ability, they are very fast and are good rebounders.

Boys' Junior Varsity games will be held on Wednesday and Friday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

Outlook at a Glance

1961 RECORD: Won 4, Lost 14.

LETTERMEN: 5

KEY RETURNEES: Bill Taylor, Wayne Blackway, and Harry Griesbach.

NEWCOMERS TO WATCH: Jock Mahoney, Ernie Anderson, and Bill Beatty.

PROSPECTS: A rebuilding year with success depending greatly upon development of underclassmen.



Dave Lemmon stops Dickinson quarterback, John Rose, after a short gain on an end sweep. This was one of the few times Rose was stopped, however. The Ram field general later went on to score the two touchdowns which beat Conrad.



CONRAD BASKETBALLERS EYE COMEBACK

GIRLS BASKETBALL PRACTICE BEGINS

Boys are not the only ones who are working exceptionally hard this year at basketball practices. Any night after school from 3:30 to 5:30 you can see sophomore, junior, and senior girls going through their various practice drills endeavoring to make this year's basketball team the best Conrad has ever had. The girls do not seem to tire of this strenuous work as they listen to the instructions and suggestions their coach, Miss Eipper, has to offer.

This year the team has many and skilled players and we're sure they would fully appreciate your support at their games which will be played immediately after school home and away. Let's not forget to congratulate the team members and give them the recognition which they deserve but often times do not receive. We sincerely hope the girls are rewarded for their difficult work in the best way possible — a winning season.

The varsity basketball squad and coach Brehony are working together towards a winning season for victory-hungry Conrad.

To accomplish this end, Mr. Brehony has set up the following practice schedule: five laps around the gym; outside shooting for a half hour; layup and teamwork drills; and playing under actual game conditions.

There is a lot of room for improvement in all departments, however, but with Mr. Brehony's coaching and with the team's attitude look for the fastest improvement possible.

The most pronounced weakness of the team is their shooting. But with a half hour practice nightly and with the individual coaching of all the boys by Mr. Brehony, the team should become "dead" shots. The team has in their favor speed-a-foot, teamwork, and a good attitude.

Bill Taylor was elected captain by the boys. The Smoke Signal sites the comeback-of-the-year made by Bill Taylor.

On December 13 Conrad begins its scrimmage schedule by facing Brown Vocational. December 19, Conrad faces always tough Sallies, and on December 22 the team finishes their scrimmages against Gunning Bedford.

The following 12 boys have been selected to represent Conrad on the basketball court: seniors: Bill Taylor, Captain, 5' 11"; Wayne Blackway, 5' 10"; Matt Lygate, 6' 1"; Bob Short, 6' 2"; juniors; John Burgess, 6'; Harry Griesbach, 6' 6"; John Maloney, 5' 11"; Leon Price, 5' 7"; Roger Suro, 6' 1"; sophomores; Ernest Anderson, 5' 10"; Bill Beatty, 6' 3".

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AROUND CONRAD

by Al Sonchen

After the last issue of our paper was out we received the bad news of Report Cards. I'm sure most of you feel that the new way they have of issuing them is more torture than getting the marks all at once. You stand over the teacher's shoulder watching him thumb his way down the list of names until he gets to yours and you see a B. Then as you give a sigh of relief he puts a C on your report card.

All Conrad boys are familiar with that budding student teacher, Mr. Archino from the U. of D. He recently completed giving all gym classes tests on the apparatus. The only words I have ever heard him say are, "no, your knees were bent!" Conrad is also lucky to have Miss Quinn who is from Delaware too. She is Miss Morrison's "right hand". Funny though, I haven't heard her say one word in Spanish!

The Military Ball on December 1 was held at De La Warr High School and was a very successful dance. I was very surprised to see another State Policeman attending a semi-formal, because he didn't even have a date. He had his real cool band uniform on though, you know the one with a gun and holster.

Mr. Kilhefner's and Miss Nielsen's A.F.S. Club, on December seventh sold Mason Candy from door to door throughout parts of the Conrad District. We wouldn't have done had if it hadn't been for Cathy Hendrickson and Connie Reed and Ed Simpners who ate all the profit. No wonder, the candy was very good even though it was 100 years old — Speaking of A.F.S. I really don't want to go to Tanganyika!

Mr. Shahan had his first accident a few weeks ago. It happened one morning about 8:10. Visibility was good but he couldn't keep his eyes on the road. While he was joking and teasing two Conrad couples he ran head-on into Miss Burns at the corner of room 201 and the gym. Neither was hurt, but both a little shaken. Somebody who has a bad temper takes Driver Education. It seems he got so upset he pulled the turn signal indicator off. Be good Mr. Shahan and Santa will bring you a new one!

Last week I caught part of a conversation between Mr. Lacek and Miss Eipper. All I heard was Mr. Lacek asking Miss Eipper how the girls' basketball team was "shaping up." I never did hear her answer.

I'm changing my seat in Mr. Palermo's History class. I think I'll move right next to Judy Ryan. Mainly because she was the only student to get a perfect paper on his last test out of his 140 students.

Congratulations to the boys that made the J.V. and Varsity basketball teams. They can't play basketball very well but they can sure skip rope and outrun anybody in Conrad.

Mr. Patterson has thought of what he is giving his physics students for Christmas. A very appropriate gift for all, crying towels. No wonder, the test they had a few weeks ago was enough to stump Charles Van Duren, even if it was fixed!

A. F. S. CLUB SELLS CANDY

Candy sales of the American Field Service club are reported to be going well. Two-thirds of the Mason chocolate-covered candies have been sold and the club members intend to sell the remaining amount.

Candy selling is just one of the ways by which the A.F.S. club plans to make money. A dance has been planned and will probably take place in the spring.

Penny Wednesday, a new idea in money-making projects here at Conrad, will occur on a date which has not yet been set. A bowl will be placed at the end of the lunch line for students to deposit their extra change. Debbie Smith is chairman of this project; Mary Jane Simmons is general publicity chairman.

Proceeds from the A.F.S. club projects will be used to help sponsor American and foreign exchange students.

"MAD" CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As the Christmas season closes in, many students begin to scheme —uh — plan what to get their teachers. The following ideas have run through many students' minds:

1. A record entitled "How to be Very, Very Interesting."
2. For the bald-headed teacher—a can of Simoniz.
3. A flexible yardstick for the teacher who enjoys hitting students over the head.
4. Ten dozen pencils for the English teacher who has a habit of breaking them against his desk.
5. Several cans of Metracal for the overweight teachers.
6. Some yarn for the teachers who like to knit in class.

Students are not the only ones involved in these thoughts. The teachers' minds are also working. They have come up with the following ideas:

1. One pair of foam-rubber shoes for the foot-tapping student.
2. A muzzle for the student who chatters constantly during class.
3. An alarm clock for that one student who always stumbles into homeroom late.
4. A bar of soap with which to wash the smart aleck's mouth. Remember these ideas when you open your gifts, and if any of them tick . . . well, Merry Christmas anyway.

Speaking of Christmas, Eddie Simpners and a few other pranksters gave Linda Morris her gift a little early. Linda was so happy when she opened her locker and found it, she just screamed with joy! Mr. Schulze is afraid he won't get his new gym for Christmas but he says he can wait until next year. Gary Chanko got an hour detention for Christmas. I already have my "little present".

I guess I should end my article with a Merry Christmas and a Happy Vacation, but since I won't be the first I'm not going to. So as usual, stay loose.

P.S. Thanks for more of your swell compliments, I appreciate them.

A BUSY CHRISTMAS FOR S. C.

Conrad's Student Council has been very busy this Yuletide season. Their business included passing a new Constitution and also planning to buy new American flags for the old ones.

They have gotten into the Christmas spirit by sending Fred George and Al Sonchen out into the cold to purchase a Christmas tree or not to come back. Well, they didn't let the council down because they came back with a tree about 11 feet tall. The Council decorated it this past Thursday and had a party afterwards.

This past Saturday the council conducted a toy drive within the Conrad District. They spread out in carloads and asked the members of the nearby neighborhoods for their children's old toys.

At this season of the year all our thoughts turn to parties and receiving a lot for Christmas, but we fail to realize that there are a lot less fortunate than we are at Christmas. Fortunately we not all think of ourselves but also the welfare of others at this joyous time of the year.

Congratulations to Mr. Kilhefner and Miss Hardy and their Student Council for their fine job.

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CHRISTMAS SEASON AT HOME

Originally we did not have Christmas, but in the past ten years, the Japanese have celebrated Christmas after the American customs, decorating a Christmas tree, exchanging Christmas presents, and singing Christmas carols. When entering a town, you will find stores with various kinds of decorations, large Christmas trees, Santa Clauses, signs saying, "Merry Christmas," people busily shopping, and others singing Christmas carols.

Since most of the Japanese are not Christians, we don't have any connection with the church, but some are Christians who celebrate Christmas. Generally speaking, Christmas is the time for young people. They get quite excited those days.

Six days after Christmas comes New Year's Eve. People sit up late this evening to hear the "Joya no kane" or New Year's Eve Bell, which the temples strike at 12:00 p.m.

Many people get up early in the morning to see the sunrise on the first day of the year. We call this day "Gantan". We have special foods on Gantan. We celebrate "Ozoni." This is a broth containing "mochi" or rice cake and vegetables. Some of the other foods are black peas, which are supposed to help us work hard, chestnuts, deliciously cooked, daikon or a variety of radish and dried combu, a seaweed, for happiness. Besides these, a special drink, "O-toso" is served in belief that it possesses a preventative power against sickness.

We wear special clothes called "kimonos" on New Year's Days. Some people wear the Western clothes, but most of the Japanese change into "kimonos" on this special occasion. The whole family gets together. School children have a 2 week's vacation for New Years.

One of the most enjoyable things on Gantan are the New Year's

SAFE DRIVER'S LEAGUE IN NEWS

Allen Swain, Richard Brown, and Sandy Sianni were elected president, vice-president, and secretary respectively of the Conrad Safe Driver's League. Mr. R. Shahan, driving instructor, sponsors this monthly activity with Mr. J. Hinnerscheetz as acting co-sponsor.

Promoting safe driving and performing a school service are the main purposes of this club. Services include directing traffic in the parking lot before the opening of school and assisting in keeping traffic moving about the school when the need arises.

Cards which the postman delivers in piles. It's a lot of fun to find the cards and read them. You will find that each card says a different thing except, "A Happy New Year to you."

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