

# Foreign Christmases recalled by Foreign Exchange students

by Cynthia Evans

Christmas in America will be a new and exciting experience for foreign exchange students Luis Couchonnal from Paraguay, Nobuko Inoue from Japan and Kanta Merchandani from India.

Having his home in the tropical climate of Paraguay, which averages 74 degrees year 'round and has "no snow," as he puts it, Luis enthusiastically anticipates the coming of a snowy winter season and maybe a white Christmas.

Recently during a trip to Mt. Hood, Luis witnessed his first snowfall. "You just don't know what a new experience it is to see snow for the first time in your life," he said.

Since the weather in Paraguay does not provide a setting for Santa Claus, January 6 is set aside and celebrated as the Feast of the Three Kings. On that morning all little children receive a present left by the bedside.

## Students to start year's scheduling of classes soon

by Elaine Wolfe

Which courses do I want to take? Which courses will I be able to take? Should I have a study hall? These questions have to be answered before forecasting for next year's schedule.

A meeting to inform parents of the courses offered will be conducted by the administration and counseling staff in January. This will start the forecasting procedures which will continue through to the end of January, at which time all forecast sheets must be turned in.

During this time forecasting booklets will be distributed to the present freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Each of the class counselors will speak in the classrooms to inform students of the revisions and additions to the curriculum.

Such changes in curriculum are implemented by a committee designed to function in the interest of the school. The committee consists of the academic department chairmen, Principal Roy O. Malo, Gust Kanas, vice-principal in charge of curriculum and the other administrators on occasion.

"Working to define and formulate policies and procedures in written form to help guide teachers in programming the best possible placement for students, this committee has done a very good job," stated Mr. Kanas. The information appearing in the forecasting materials is in great part due to the work of this committee.

Celebration of Christmas Day is similar to that of the United States. Relatives and close friends get together for a dinner or a party. "It is customary for the little kids to have made a manger scene," said Luis.

During the Christmas season in Japan everyone goes shopping in the brightly decorated stores. "We buy Christmas cakes, exchange cards and have many special programs and articles," commented Nobuko.

"When asked about Santa Claus, Nobuko said, "As small children we are told the story but when we grow older, as you know, we don't really believe anymore."

Trees are used as a room decoration and gifts are exchanged at dinnertime or morning. "It is not customary to put presents around the tree as in America," explained Nobuko.

Keeping the holy spirit of Christmas, on New Year's Day people go to the temple or shrine to pray for a good year.

To Kanta, Christmas is a decorated one-week holiday with dances, parties and cards sent to a few Christian friends. But, the really big feast and counterpart to Christmas of the Hindus is Diwali. Diwali, or festival of lights, is held in November. It is also the Hindu New Year.

On one day every family has a prayer or small ceremony. "We exchange gifts and have fireworks," concluded Kanta.

## Pilot courses use audio-visual aids to increase students' interest, skills

by Cindy Barrett

Freshman and sophomore English and social studies classes offer a pilot program that provides "additional equipment and classroom materials" designed to "increase student interest and basic learning skills," said Gust Kanas, vice-principal in charge of curriculum.

Teachers conducting pilot classes are: Miss Helen Cherry, sophomore English; Mrs. Diane Cedros, freshman English-social studies; Thomas Piennett, sophomore U.S. history; Leonard Whitlow, freshman English-social studies.

Using audio-visual aids such as tape recorders, slide and overhead projectors, many magazines, and a television set, the teachers break monotony of everyday classes, holding student interest.

"I have ample material," said Mr. Piennett, referring to the films, extra magazines he brings from home, and many historical pamphlets, and books he has been able to order. "I use them with my other classes," he stated. "It isn't 'canned' stuff."

Miss Cherry has made special efforts to make her room attrac-



On The Shelf  
by Cynthia Barrett

# Orphans seek safety, happiness

If you have a free study hall next week, pick up the December issue of Good Housekeeping magazine on the library rack, and turn to the story about four evangelists on page 93.

"Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John" is Pearl S. Buck's newest story. The four "good angels" are illegitimate half-Korean, half-American children, abandoned by their parents and living together in a cave in the Korean city of Pusan.

On Christmas day, as they beg at the gate of an American army base, they were, by mistake ushered into an orphans' Christmas party sponsored by the soldiers. They are fed well, clothed, and put into the orphanage.

Matthew is adopted by one GI, and goes home to America. But he still remembers his friends Mark, Luke and John, who are without families. By the next Christmas, plans are afoot to find homes in America for them.

Told in a serious manner that avoids the maudlin, the story deals with a subject that can be quite emotional. Americans don't relish being reminded that they have left their seed in a far country, and that their descendants are not treated with respect.

"Why am I considered foreign?" asks Matthew,

"one of 'those.'" Finding other half-Koreans like himself, he assumes the position of a father over them, to provide a semblance of the family.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are creations of the noted writer Pearl S. Buck, who seems to want them to be evangelists of a new movement, a movement to adopt or care for orphans of part-American parentage in foreign lands.

In Korea, children fathered by Americans, then deserted, have little chance to develop into respected, responsible citizens. Family backing and education are virtually necessary for advancement.

In all Asian countries, the apparent difference in appearance between the native and the half-Asian brings embarrassment to the child and his mother. In many cases, especially in Korea, Miss Buck indicates, the mother will abandon the child.

Miss Buck knows Asia well, as she was raised in China and has traveled extensively in the Near and Far East. The problem of the American-Asian child has troubled her for some time.

In 1949 she established Welcome House, Inc., an adoption agency which finds permanent

homes and parents for children of mixed Asian-American parentage. Another organization, the Pearl S. Buck foundation, tries to care for these children who must stay in the country of their birth. Miss Buck has raised nine adopted children herself.

Especially qualified, then, to write on the subject of Asian-American orphans, Miss Buck has done so in this story with the object of helping them. She asks Americans to be responsible for their progeny.

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