

THE SKIRMISHER

PUBLISHED BY THE CADETS OF ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL

VOL. XX

SALINA, KANSAS, DECEMBER 17, 1937

No. 2

First Formal Hop of Year Held in School Gymnasium

Entire Student Body Attends
Affair. Decorations are
Most Attractive

On November 20 the first formal dance of the year was held in the school gymnasium. The building had been tastefully decorated with many streamers draped in canopy shape from the ceiling, shading the electric lights. The background of the stage, upon which the orchestra played, was a great curtain of purple and gold.

As the guests arrived they passed the receiving line. Promptly at eight-thirty the orchestra started to play. The numbers were mostly fox trots and one-steps but an occasional waltz was played. Some of the boys who did not care to dance presided at a punch bowl set in a corner of the room. Here the dancers could quench their thirst when they felt so inclined.

At intermission the couples strolled through the main building. A few of them visited the school store and partook of candy and ice cream. The entire corps was in attendance at the dance though the younger boys were required to leave about ten o'clock.

Guests at the dance included Miss Helen Hungate, Miss Betty Worsley, Miss Betty Piper, Miss Helen Marts, Miss Tate Grey, Miss Joan Rice, Miss Jane Harris, Miss Nancy Hay, Miss Jean Mossman, Miss Anne McDermott, Miss Edith York, Miss Gwendolyn Dorsey, Miss Mary Anne Carney, Miss Thelma Dinsmore, Miss Patricia Royce, Miss Marian Tarpley, Miss Mary Simpson, Miss Faye Baird, Miss Cynthia Thorne, Miss Virginia Allen, Miss Henrietta Foege, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bitler, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodenberger, and Mrs. Jessie K. Dove and Mrs. E. M. Spalding, of Palmer Lake, Colo.

Thornton is Elected Cracksquad Captain

Thornton is captain of this year's Cracksquad. Early in the session the old members met and elected him to this position. Soon afterwards the new captain issued a call for tryouts among the new boys.

Several practices followed. The new members were voted in, and the personnel is now practically complete. Besides Thornton, the captain, it includes Becker, Blomstrom, Bradford, Boggs, Carroll, Comin, Erickson, Fulk, Gadeke, Goldstein, Gordon, Lucas, Lutz, Maker L., Maker H., McDowell, Musick, Stanard, and Tissaw.

The Cracksquad puts on a Zouave drill, difficult to execute as there are no commands given. Besides the manual of arms the drill calls for fast movements with a cadence more rapid than double quick time. It requires deep concentration and absolute execution.

The St. John's Cracksquad has made many public appearances in the past. It has drilled before audiences in a number of Kansas towns and cities, and on the stage of the Orpheum Theater in Denver.

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

"S" CLUB TAKES IN SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS

The "S" Club is quite active these days with frequent meetings in its new quarters high up in the old tower. The boys have fixed up the room, and among other things have hung on the walls group photographs of former "S" Club organizations.

Bradford, Gordon, Goldstein, Lutz, Musick, Murphy, Stanard, Fulk and Trueblood have been admitted to membership. They had to undergo a most strenuous initiation. Not only did they have to perform all sorts of crazy stunts here at school, but had to do all sorts of things down town such as delivering political speeches and mopping up floors. They were much relieved when it was all over.

Saint John's Instructors Make Vacation Plans

All Will be Away from School
Part of the Time

Major and Mrs. Clem will spend part of the Christmas holidays with the latter's sister in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lieutenant Evans will visit his home in Decatur, Illinois, and then go on to Chicago for a few days. The Reverend Mr. Nale will spend the vacation with relatives in Detroit, Michigan. Lieutenant Mahoney will go to his home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Captain Simpson will visit his father at Brewster, Kansas and his sister at Hoisington, Kansas. Captain Mosher will go to his home at Parsons, Kansas. Captain Brown will spend part of the time in Wichita. Lieutenant Hidalgo will visit his home in Emporia. Captain and Mrs. Tolbert will spend a week of the vacation with Mrs. Tolbert's mother in Colorado Springs. Mrs. Prince will make short trips to Manhattan and Topeka but will spend most of the holidays in Salina.

MAJOR AND MRS. CLEM GIVE CHRISTMAS TEA

The faculty and members of the senior class were the guests of Major and Mrs. Clem at a tea on the afternoon of December 12. Dean and Mrs. H. B. Vinnedge of Salina were also present.

The Clem's quarters presented a decided Christmas atmosphere. A lighted tree stood in one corner of the room, and here and there were decorations appropriate to the season.

Dean Vinnedge gave an original religious reading entitled "Judas the Shepherd," Mrs. Clem played a piano selection, and Cadet Moffat led in group singing of some of the best known carols.

The Leslie Kreps Post of the American Legion in Salina is awarding a medal this year to the cadet officer making the highest academic record.

NEW ORGAN REPLACES OLD ONE IN CHAPEL

Early in November St. John's acquired an electric organ for the chapel to replace the old pedal one. The new instrument is made by the Estey Company of Brattleboro, Vermont, one of the oldest and most reliable concerns in the country.

The organ is operated by an electric blower, located at the back. It has two manuals, one Swell and one Great; also a pedal manual for bass notes. The soft stops are especially adapted for religious work. It does not have the shallow reeds found on a concert organ.

The organ is a second hand one, formerly owned by the Episcopal Church in Hutchinson.

Christmas Holidays Will Begin on December 18

Gay Affair Has Been Planned
for Last Afternoon

Hurrah for home and Christmas! The time is almost here for the cadets to leave for the holidays.

At noon on Saturday, December 18 the boys will be free to depart. But, most of them are remaining for the tea dance to be held that afternoon from three thirty to six in the school dining room. The young ladies from Salina will be on hand, an orchestra will play, and a buffet supper will be served for everybody.

This year there will be no Christmas tree or exchange of presents among the cadets. Instead, the boys and faculty are making up a sum of money which they will turn over to Deaconess Anne Gilliland to be used in providing a basket for one of the poor families in the city of Salina.

The Christmas recess ends on Monday, January 3 at eight o'clock in the morning.

BASKETBALL SEASON LOOKS MOST PROMISING

Basketball season opened on November 30 with twenty two boys reporting for practice.

There are two lettermen from last year's quintet, Boggs and Maker H. Goldstein is a letterman from last year's Ellsworth team. A number of the boys who reported are from last year's second team that only lost two games. They are: Culp, Becker, Tissaw, Gordon, and Bradford.

Some of this year's crop of new boys are showing a great deal of promise. Coach Mosher is not making any predictions but seems to be very optimistic about the approaching season.

St. John's beat Kipp in basketball, 22 to 18, on December 14. The season is starting out well.

Cadets Overcome Marquette 7 to 0 on a Muddy Field

Team Wins Last Game of Season.
Touchdown Made in Middle
of Third Quarter

The St. John's cadets closed their football season November 24 by defeating Marquette high school, 7 to 0. The game was played on a snowy, slippery field with a strong wind blowing. The St. John's team kicked off to Marquette with the heavy wind at their back and held the Marquette team for downs. Marquette was forced to punt and the cadets ran the ball into their opponent's territory. The St. John's running attack was functioning better than at any time of the season. The cadets carried the ball deep into Marquette territory but lost the ball on downs. The first half was a battle inside of Marquette's forty yard line.

The second half started with Marquette's kicking off to St. John's. The kick was very short, and Marquette recovered it on the 40 yard line. They failed to gain and had to kick. They punted against the strong wind and the ball only traveled ten yards. The cadets started a running attack that could not be stopped until the ball was over the goal line. Becker and Goldstein drove through the line and skirted the ends, carrying the ball from their own 30 yard line to the opposing team's 31 yard line. On the next play Becker carried the ball around end for a 25 yard gain, the longest run of the game. From the 6 yard line Goldstein drove over tackle for the touchdown. The slippery field made a place kick almost impossible, but a cleverly executed pass from Goldstein to Maker, the left end, was good for the extra point making the score 7 to 0 in the cadet's favor. The score did not change the rest of the game although St. John's drove down to the Marquette 10 yard line just before the game ended.

Gadeke's defensive work was outstanding, but the entire cadet forward wall was in the Marquette backfield most of the game.

Cadets Take Part in Program at Marymount

A group of St. John's cadets participated in the activities at Marymount College on the evening of Marymount Day, November 15. Cadets Lotker, Moore, and Blomstrom of the Bugle Corps sounded the flourishes announcing the arrival of the five candidates for queen, and Cadets Goldstein, Moffat, Becker, Tissaw, Thornton, Gadeke, Boggs, Gordon, Meyer, and Culp served as a guard of honor as the procession marched into the college chapel for religious devotions.

At the conclusion of the service, the faculty, students, and friends of the school assembled in the rotunda of the main hall where the Reverend Mr. Moran, chaplain, announced that Miss Margaret McKenna had been chosen as Miss Marymount. The student body then gave some cheers and sang their school song.

On the program during the banquet which followed the cadets sang two numbers, Prof. Ralph W. Reitz, accompanying them at the piano.

At nine o'clock the boys attended the ball held in the auditorium.

THE SKIRMISHER

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Greetings

Once upon a time—so begins many fairy tales, tales that do not pretend to be true. The story, however, of Jesus Christ begins this way: Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King behold there came . . . One great thing about our Faith is that we openly state when, where, and how our leader was born. No one considers the birth place of Buddha, and it has taken scholars and historians many years to find the approximate place. It was what Buddha thought rather than what he did that matters to buddhists. Neither does the life of their leader matter much to the followers of Confucius, of Mohammed, of Marx, of Hitler, of Mussolini. But the followers of Jesus Christ have always been most careful to present the true story of His life.

Why have a holiday, why worship God at this time so extravagantly, why splurge a year's wages on others' happiness, why stoop the mail man's shoulders with ponderous loads, why gather families together now of all times in the year when traveling is most difficult, when all nature says stay home and rest and keep warm? Because—and only because—in the days of Herod the King, in Bethlehem of Judea—of a virgin, in a manger, Jesus Christ was born.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, forgetfulness of tedious studies, renewal of old friendships and discovering of new chums and girls. May God grant that in each St. John's cadet, old and young, a new love for Jesus Christ may be born. Have a swell time, go to church, and pray for those who need your prayers. And while you are at it, have a Happy New Year too.

RICHARD NALE,
Chaplain.

Cadets Pass Most Pleasant Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving and the furlough which followed will long be remembered most pleasantly by all the cadets. The day began with two religious services, Holy Communion before breakfast and short devotional exercises later in the morning.

At two o'clock a big turkey dinner was served at which many of the cadet's parents were present. A short program came towards the close of the meal. Kenneth Jones, '26, sang two numbers, "On the Road to Mandalay" and "Anchored." Aso soon as possible after the group was dismissed, those boys going home departed by train, bus, or private cars.

The cadets remaining at school had a most lazy and enjoyable time. They were allowed to sleep as late as they wanted to every morning. There were only two meals a day, breakfast at ten and dinner at five. The boys played basketball, took hikes, and attended picture shows.

On Saturday Major Clem took a crowd over to the football game in Manhattan. The same evening the Reverend Mr. Menard took a group of the boys to Ellsworth where a church dance was being held. Some of the boys returned to Salina that night, while others stayed in Ellsworth until Monday as Mr. Menard's guests. One of the things they did was to go on a hunting trip.

Monday afternoon the boys who had been on furlough began returning to school. Practically everybody was on hand when school opened Tuesday morning.

LIBRARY HAS ACQUIRED MANY EXCELLENT BOOKS

The library presents a most attractive appearance these days with its fine new lot of books. Recently it acquired from Major Clem about two hundred volumes from his own personal collection, some donated and others sold at a reduced cost. All the volumes are in good condition, and most of them possess the highest quality of binding. The greater part is fiction though there are some volumes of poetry, essays, history, and government. All the volumes are adaptable to the reading needs of high school students.

The sets include the works of Scott, Mark Twain, Bret Harte, O. Henry, Tolstoy, Burroughs, Balzac, De Maupassant, Dumas, Kipling, Melville, Longfellow, and Tennyson.

This is not the first private collection of books that the St. John's School has acquired. The libraries of Mr. Robert Ryberg, a Salina gentleman, and Mr. George Brooks, a former instructor, were donated.

Promotions

The following list of promotions has recently been made:

To the rank of private first class—Bradford, Lavery, Mitchell, Stokes, and Tissaw.

To the rank of corporal—Big Eagle, Gadeke, Lotker, Lucas, Maker L., and Prather.

CORPS TAKES PART IN TWO SALINA PARADES

Within the past few weeks the Cadet Corps has marched in two parades. The first was held in honor of Armistice Day; the second, on December 4 to celebrate the coming of Santa Claus to town. On both occasions the boys made a good appearance and conducted themselves with particular credit.

On Armistice Day the line of march also included the Gold Star mothers, all ex-service men, members of the women's auxiliaries, members of the National Guard, the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, bands from both the Salina High School, and Sacred Heart Academy, boy and girl scouts, and the Salina Fire Department.

The parade ended at the band shell where patriotic exercises were held. The program consisted of songs, declamations, and an address. At eleven o'clock there was a period of silence broken only by rifle salutes at regular intervals. Squads of St. John's cadets were among those doing the firing.

On the occasion of Santa Claus' visit to town the St. John's cadets led the parade. Bands marched in line, and on one of the floats a musician played Christmas carols on chimes. Many of the characters from Mother Goose were on hand as well as persons from some of the classics studied in school. Old Santa Claus himself was all smiles. From the decorated float upon which he rode he continually released bright colored balloons and shouted out "Merry Christmas to every body."

HIGH AVERAGES

3rd Month of School

Upper School	Lower School
Gordon 93.3	Clem 90.5
Blomstrom . . . 90.8	Marchington . 83.7
Musick 90.8	Davis, Wm. . . 82.7
Davis R. 90	Bradley 81.8
Mitchell 90	York 81.7
Gadeke 88.8	Phillips 81
Erickson 87.8	Davis, Wayne 80.7
McDowell 87.8	
Lotker 87.5	
Thornton 87.5	

Football Lettermen

At a recent meeting of the Athletic Board of Control, the following boys were awarded letters: Becker (capt.) Goldstein, Boggs, Murphy, and Musick, backfield; Lutz and Maker H., ends; Culp, Tissaw, and Trueblood, tackles; Thornton and Gadeke, guards; Gordon and Stanard, centers. All these players except Lutz, Maker H., Stanard, Bradford, and Tissaw are graduates this year.

The boys awarded provisional letters were: Carroll, Comin, Lucas, and Mitchell. Fulk received the manager's letter.



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JOKES

Which will get the Buick, Lutz or Blomstrom?

* * *

"And I was just laying for you," said the hen to Prather just before he chopped off her head.

* * *

Miss Baird: "What beautiful fresh flowers. I believe there is some dew on them yet."

Coach Mosher (stammering): "Yes, but I am going to pay it when I get my next check."

* * *

Tradition says St. Cecelia played the organ so beautifully that she brought an angel down from above to listen to her. But she hasn't much on Captain Simpson. He brought an angel down to listen to him play the organ too—Angel Lucas from the "S" Club room in the tower.

* * *

Mr. Tolbert: "The shirts we provide for you boys are especially strong. They simply laugh at the laundry."

Stokes: "I know that kind; I had some that came back with their sides split."

* * *

She: "Would you kiss me even if I told you not to?"

Boggs: "I surely would."

She: "Oh, goody! Then I can mind mama."

* * *

The question comes up whether they operated or blasted on Johnny West when he had his appendicitis operation.

* * *

Virginia: "I'll be needing a new fur soon."

Thornton: "But I gave you one last year. It's only a year old."

Virginia: "You must remember the fox wore it three years."

* * *

Murphy: "If you don't say you love me I'll take a rope and hang myself in your front yard."

Mary Ann: "Now, John, you know Dad doesn't want you hanging around."

* * *

Mistress: "What pretty scallops you have made on these pies, Mandy. How did you do it?"

Mandy: "Ah's glad you like dem. Ah just used my false teeth to make the impressions."

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santy,

I am so scared of mouses and rats. Please bring me a trap to catch them.

Your little friend,
Vic Fulk

Dearest Santa,

Please bring me a pair of wings to wear so I can be an honest-to-goodness angel. Also bring me some cold cream so I can keep my peaches and cream complexion this winter.

Your pal,
Angel Lucas

Dear Santy Claus,

Please bring me a book on what to do in matters of love. I do so want to keep both Thelma and Virginia interested.

Your perplexed,
"Prettyboy" Thornton

Santy Old Boy,

Please bring me some clothes pins to attach to Tissaw's nose at night. Gee, it's awful to have a roommate who snores so.

Your palsy walsy,
Clyde Carroll

Dear Santa,

Please bring me some vases to put flowers in. I am often sick and my friends send them to me.

Your admirer,
Herb Becker

Dear Santy,

I am such a happy little boy that I like to see others the same way. Please bring all my friends song birds to gladden their lives.

Your friend,
Happy Kintz

Mr. Claus, Honored Sir,

Please bring me a loud speaker so I can get these lazy boys out of bed on cold mornings. I like to lie in bed myself.

Yours respectfully,
Lieutenant Evans

Dear Santa Claus,

Please bring me a book on salad recipes and fillings for spinach rings. I want the boys to get the proper amount of vitamins and calories.

Thank you,
Mrs. Prince

Dear Santy,

How about bringing me a large floor mirror? I surely like to admire my officer's boots.

Yours,
Billie Culp

Santa dear,

Please bring me a picture of Shirley Temple. Some mean boys stole my other picture. She is the darlinest little thing.

Your chum,
Robert Austin

ALUMNI NOTES

Clifford Alderson, '26, is in the clothing business at Lafayette, Colo.

Geo. Warren, '21, is finishing his Dental studies at the University of Nebraska.

Edward Copeland, x'29, is employed at the First National Bank in Kansas City, Mo.

Recent visitors included Richard Williams, '37; Carson McCoy, '37; Jimmie Eaker, x'34; Leonard Maker, '36.

GROUP GOES TO CAVE HOLLOW FOR PICNIC

One afternoon early in November Lieutenant Evans and Captain Brown took a group of cadets in the school truck on a picnic out to Cave Hollow about twenty five miles west of town.

When the party reached its destination the crowd scattered. Some of the boys, who were provided with flashlights, immediately set out to explore the caves. Others tried their luck fishing in either the pond or one of the little streams. Others had fun chasing some horses, which were grazing in one of the fields, and trying to ride them.

At five o'clock the crowd cooked supper over a grate provided for the purpose and received the meal cafeteria style from one of the picnic tables. At about six thirty the party left for Salina and arrived back at school in time for evening study hall.

Pingpong Tournament

A ping-pong tournament held in the game room last month provided a great deal of interest. In the singles matches Goldstein showed his prowess by winning from Kurtz, five out of seven games.

In the doubles tournament Goldstein and Gordon defeated Erickson and Kurtz by a score of 4 to 0. The cadets making the semi-finals in the tournament were Becker, Thornton, Lavery, and Henze.

The ping-pong tournament was part of the Army-Navy intra-mural competition, the winning scores providing points for the two rival clubs.

One of the pianos has been moved up into the study hall. The glee club now practices there.

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Frequent Services are Held in Chapel

Services in the school chapel this year are taking place more frequently than in the past. On week day mornings at 6:30, Sunday at 7:30, the Rev. Mr. Nale holds a celebration of the Holy Communion at which attendance is voluntary. Every school day prior to the meeting of the first period classes he conducts short devotional exercises. On Saints' Days he frequently has a later celebration of the Communion.

Six cadets, Goldstein, Gordon, Lavery, Lotker, Moffat, Murphy, and Stanard take turns serving at the Communion services. A group of boys have organized themselves into a choir and assist with the music when the celebration is a choral one.

Captain Simpson is the organist. When he took over this position last year, he did so reluctantly, claiming he was not qualified. However his playing has proved most satisfactory and would do credit to any service.

Mrs. Prince, the housemother, has taken a special interest in caring for the altar. Besides keeping the sacred vessels in good condition and laying out the vestments, she provided flowers as long as they were available.

LIEUTENANT MAHONEY GIVES SCHOOL PARTY

Lieutenant Mahoney, assisted by the Reverend Mr. Nale and Captain Brown, entertained the Junior School and freshmen class at a Hallowe'en party. Other members of the faculty and the housemother were present for all or part of the evening.

The time was spent in playing games and solving various contests. The boys getting first, second, and third place in the contests were given coupons which counted points towards the prizes. When these prizes were distributed later on, boys with the largest number of points were given first choice.

The Junior School boys had partitioned off a section of their class room and made it into a ghost chamber. The faculty as well as the freshmen were given the opportunity to enter and receive some chills and thrills at first hand.

At ten o'clock refreshments of soda pop, sandwiches, and cake were served.

Football Rally

The football rallies held this fall were inspirational and full of pep. On the evening before the Solomon game all the cadets gathered around a big bonfire just east of Vail Hall. The boys performed snake dances, practiced yells, and sang songs. Both Coach Mosher and Becker, the captain of the team, made speeches. The former complimented the team on their untiring work, and the corps on their excellent spirit. However, he said what the team needed most of all was the confidence of the cadet corps. This would do much toward helping them to win.

LOCAL NEWS

Thanksgiving guests at St. John's included: Mrs. Katherine Prather and daughter, Betty, Salina; Mrs. E. M. Spalding, Palmer Lake, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Watson, Tulsa, Okla.; Rev. V. A. Menard, Ellsworth; Mr. and Mrs. Amos King, Center, Colo.; Mr. Ross Maker and Fred Maker, Hominy, Okla.; Mrs. Emma J. Marchington, Idaho Springs, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Moffat, Kinsley; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Moore, Wichita; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bubenzer, Evergreen, Colo.; Mrs. Carrie L. Carroll, Russell; Mrs. Jessie Dove, Palmer Lake, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Enloe, El Reno, Okla.; Mrs. Gladys Gadeke, Wellington; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Gadeke, Pratt; and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Lucas, Wichita.

For the Thanksgiving furlough Tissaw went home with Bradford; Mitchell, with Carroll; McDowell, with Lucas; and Lieut. Mahoney, with Watson.

One evening recently Major Clem gave a late supper party for the faculty at the home of Dean and Mrs. Vinnedge. The dish featured on the menu was elk meat, a gift from Cadet Murphy. The donor had shot the animal himself up in Wyoming.

Cadet West was operated on for appendicitis on Thanksgiving morning. He recovered most satisfactorily.

A delightful bridge party was held in Captain Simpson and Coach Mosher's quarters on the Monday evening before Thanksgiving. Those present besides the faculty were Mrs. E. M. Spalding, Mrs. Jessie K. Dove, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burg, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hiller, and Col. W. L. Ganssle. Mrs. Hiller and Captain Brown made high scores.

The Reverend Mr. Menard and the Reverend Mr. Nale recently entertained the boys on the first floor to an after taps party. While the crowd told jokes and stories, they partook of refreshments of soda pop and sandwiches.

Many of the football lettermen are purchasing sweaters. There are three different styles and weights.

The chaplain is planning to have a candlelight vesper service in the chapel one or two evenings before the holidays begin.

On November 17 the second formal dinner of the year took place. Especially invited guests were Dr. and Mrs. Stafford, Dr. and Mrs. Mowery, Dr. and Mrs. Cheney, and Dean and Mrs. H. B. Vinnedge. At the conclusion of the meal Dean Vinnedge gave a humorous reading.

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