

Angel Choir Sings Out the News of the Holy Birth

The fulfillment of the prophecy that the Son of God would be born is told by a Heavenly Chorus in the opening scene of "The Nativity," presented by the Teachers College. Members of the angel choir, hovering above star-studded clouds, are garbed in ethereal costumes, complete with wings and halos. The carefully-made costumes and artistic stage

settings enhance the annual Christmas performance which will be given Sunday and Monday in Price Auditorium for the benefit of the public. Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, of the college English department, and Russell C. Gillam, director of choral music, are directing the tabloid, musical interpretation of the events leading up to the birth of Christ. (Express Photo)

## New Interpretation of TC's 'Nativity' Given Three Times

The public will have three opportunities to see a new interpretation of "The Nativity" presented by the Teachers College in Price Auditorium. The curtain will go up on the annual Christmas performance tomorrow at 4 and 7.30 p. m. The final presentation will be Monday evening at 7.30.

The story of the events leading up to the birth of Christ was first presented by the college in 1933 under the direction of Miss Grace Ullemeyer. Since then it has been presented annually with the exception of 1950.

This year's script, written by Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, departs from the traditional tableau rendition of the beautiful Biblical tale. The first scene shows the excitement in Heaven just before the star appears over Bethlehem.

### Choir of 57 Voices

Other scenes depicted include the public highway leading to Bethlehem, the shepherds on the hill side, and the adoration before Mary and her Son after His birth in the manger.

The cast includes about 80 persons. Several of the numbers sung by the choir of 57 voices were written by Russell C. Gillam, director of the choral groups. The costumes and settings were made by students, under the direction of Mrs. Ferguson, and with the assistance of E. Ross Nevel, superintendent of buildings and grounds, and his assistant, Clyde Batdorf.

The part of "Mary" is played by Miss Olga Fetzko of Brooklyn, N. Y. and that of "Joseph"

by Donald Sheely of Lewistown. The innkeeper is Albert Borish, of Bristol, and the beggar Corrin Corbin of Altoona.

The shepherds are Hulbert Jobson, Renovo; Gus Spizziri, Steelton; James Salathe, Bedford; and Leon Reese and Nicholas Salem, both of Coalport. The Wise Men are Edward Mayer, Williamsport; Richard

Marks, this city; and Dean McCreight, Clearfield.

The choir of angels includes Ann Balsinger, Emporium; Reba Baker, Belleville; Sandra Skean, Pottstown; Janice Clark, Beech Creek; and Carolyn Cook, Johnstown. The two travelers are Robert Dunsmore, Philipsburg; and Wallace Jewell, Bradford.

### Others in Cast

"Gabriel" is Frank Minner Williamsport; keeper of the Heavenly records is Gordon Blake, of Elkland, and his assistant is Nelson Bailey, Selinsgrove.

Among the behind-the-scenes workers are Florence Dick, this city, who is in charge of make-up; and Marilyn Mattson, Sharpville; and Donna Messerman, Lewistown, who are in charge of the costumes.

The program was well received when presented earlier this week in Renovo. The story was retold yesterday morning for the students of the college who responded with enthusiasm to the new version of "the most beautiful story ever told."



### LOCK HAVEN STORES OPEN

Dec. 14 to 18, Inc.  
10 A. M. to 9 P. M.

Dec. 19 Open  
9 A. M. to 9 P. M.

Chain Food Stores  
Will Close at 6  
Saturday

### Member of Skull And Boriety

Miss Jean Seese, daughter of Mrs. John Warren, Mill Hall, RD, has been elected an associate member of the Skull and Bones, biological society of Albright College, Reading.

A pre-nursing student, Miss Wise, who graduated last year from the Lock Haven High School, is on the Albrightian staff and a member of the Domino Club.

Dec. 4-53

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RENOVO, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1953

## Capacity Crowd Expected To Witness "The Nativity" Next Tues. Night At 7.30

An event of prime importance next Tuesday of concern to all of us here in Renovo and vicinity is when a group of some eighty of the student body and faculty of Lock Haven State Teachers College come to Renovo High School to give the portrayal of the scenes of The First Christmas. It is not very often that we have such a large delegation from a college as our guests for a day. They are coming in the interest of our Christian Faith and letting us see again a part of the meaning of what Christ means to all of us.

Even though this Pageantry has been repeated three times each year since 1933 a new feature awaits us in the opening of "The Nativity" in the office of the Keeper of the Heavenly Records, just before the first star shone on Bethlehem. The action shows the excitement in Heaven on the eve of the Prophecy's fulfillment. Here Gabriel reads from the Holy Book the prophecies concerning the birth of the Christ Child. And in order that this feature may be portrayed for us Jack Perry is making a large additional platform.

Please note the time so that no one will be late. 2:30 p. m. for the boys and girls of our schools and 7:30 p. m. for everyone. No admission charge will be made but an offering may be given in appreciation as each one leaves to help defray the expenses of the cast.



# **"The Nativity" To Be Presented For Renovo Residents Next Tuesday**

The Nativity will be given in the Renovo High School auditorium Tuesday evening, December 8, at 7:30 p. m.

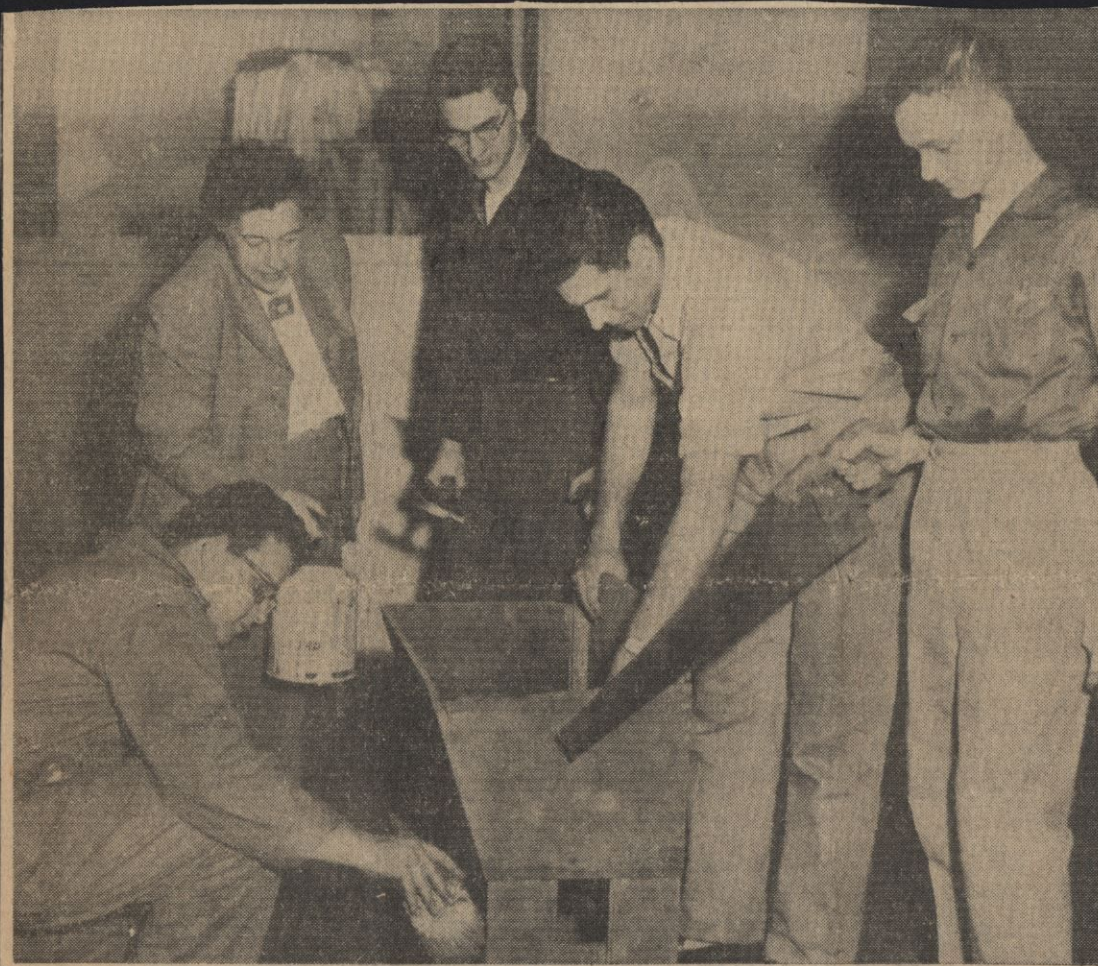
This has been an annual affair in Lock Haven since 1933. And it has been so popular that it has been necessary to render it three times each year to accommodate the crowds that desired to witness it. The faculty and members of the student body in round numbers, about 80 take part in the presentation of this Biblical Christmas Pageant.

The Ministerium early in September made contacts with the authorities of The Lock Haven State Teachers College to see if the way may be clear to have it presented in Renovo. The response has been exceedingly favorable through the courtesy of the president Dr. Richard Parsons, the head of the Dramatics Department, Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, Associate Professor of Dramatics, and Mr. Russell Gillam, Assistant Professor of Music.

This large group from the College comes to Renovo for no remuneration. They will leave the college next Tuesday at 11:30 a. m. in order to have a dress rehearsal for the boys and girls of Renovo at 2:30.

Through the courtesy of the local YMCA and under the direction of LeRoy Good, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club an evening meal will be served the visiting guests from Lock Haven. No expense has been spared in this production of the Christmas Pageant.

The costumes are rich in color and elaborate, and they have been made by the students of the college.



## **Stage Crew Puts Finishing Touches on Props**

Some of the behind-the-scenes workers on settings for the presentation of "The Nativity" are (left to right) Pete Brunner, who is wielding a paint brush; Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, of the Teachers College English department, who wrote the script; Peter Demchak, stage manager; David Fetter,

lighting technician; and James Yoxthelmer. The interpretation of the Christmas story, annually presented by the college, this year departs from the traditional tableau. A choir of 57 voices and a cast of 23 will tell how the prophecy that the Son of God would be born was fulfilled. (Express Photo)

# **Capacity Crowds See 'Nativity' at College**

The story of the events leading up to the birth of Christ was told twice yesterday to capacity crowds which overflowed Price Auditorium where the annual Teachers College performance of "The Nativity" was given.

The final presentation of the Christmas story will be given this evening at 7:30 in the college auditorium.

Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, of the English department, who wrote the script, departed from the tableau rendition of the Biblical tale which marked previous presentations.

## **Miracle Play Spirit**

The writer and director employed the spirit and technique used in the Medieval miracle plays in bringing the story to life.

The audience responded warmly to the new interpretation which was performed by a cast of 80, including a 57-voice choir under the direction of Russell C. Gillam. Three of the songs were written by Mr. Gillam, director of vocal music.

The opening scene is laid in Heaven where all is excitement as the angel, "Gabriel," announces that the prophecy that the Son of God is to be born would soon be fulfilled. A Heavenly choir, composed of five ethereal angels, enhance the spiritual poignancy of the scene.

## **Costumes and Settings**

Exquisite costumes, and detailed settings, combined with

the effective use of lights, succeeded in making the entire performance a highly professional presentation. The costumes and settings were made by the students, under the direction of Mrs. Ferguson, and with the assistance of Ross E. Nevel, superintendent of buildings and grounds, and his assistant, Clyde Batdorf. David Fetter, Kylerstown, was lighting technician.

The choir, dressed in white surplices, were an arresting sight as they filed into the auditorium, carrying lighted candles and singing their way to their seats on the stage.

Other scenes artfully depicted included the public highway leading to Bethlehem, the shepherds on the hillside, and the adoration before Mary and her Son after his birth in the manger.

# **Crowds Throng To 'Nativity'**

## **College Yule Program Presented in Renovo**

The auditorium of the Renovo High School was overflowing and many persons had to be turned away last night when "The Nativity," annual Christmas presentation by the Teachers College, was given there.

An afternoon performance for the student body also played to a full house with chairs placed in the aisles to accommodate the overflow. Mrs. Hazel R. Ferguson, of the college English department, wrote the script and directed the production, assisted by Russell C. Gillam, director of the choral groups.

The story of the events leading up to the birth of Christ will be given tomorrow at 10 a. m. in Price Auditorium for the college students. The public will have an opportunity to see the familiar Bible story on Sunday, Dec. 13, when it will be retold at two performances, at 4:30 and 7:30 p. m. in the college auditorium. The final presentation will be Monday at 7:30 p. m.

The Renovo performance was sponsored by the Rotary and Lions clubs of that place. A silver offering was taken which was presented to the Renovo Ministerium Association.

The 82 men and women, participating in the story of Christmas, were entertained at dinner at the YMCA with the Rotarians assuming the jobs of waiters. After the evening performance the group was treated to ice cream at the Y.

Lock Haven  
Express

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Dec 7, 1953

# "The Nativity" To Be Presented Tomorrow Night

Renovo is privileged above many other communities in being the place where "The Nativity" is to be dramatized in word and song by a college group from the State Teachers College in Lock Haven.

It is always commendable when the policy of our colleges to put the Christian Religion central, and every one in this area should welcome the opportunity of again witnessing this portyal tomorrow evening at 7:30

A dress rehearsal will be presented at 2:30 tomorrow afternoon for the students of Renovo High School. Supervising Principal Einar Eliason said today that there will not be room for the outlying schools to be accommodated in the afternoon and children attending the evening performance, must be accompanied by their parents.

An effort is being made to make room for everyone and by this means the mission of "The Nativity" will be accomplished if each and every one makes room in his heart for the Christ child to enter in.

Through the courtesy of the local YMCA and under the direction of LeRoy Good, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club an evening meal will be served the visiting guests from Lock Haven. No expense has been spared in this production of the Christmas Pageant.

The costumes are rich in color, and elaborate, and they have been made by the students of the college.

Hulbert Jobson of Renovo is a member of the cast.

There are seventy-six characters in the play, including the famous A Capella Choir directed by Russell Gilliam, Assistant Professor of Music at the College. The pageant this year was written and is being directed by Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, Associate Professor at the college.

The Lock Haven pageant has become famous throughout this section of the country and has had to be presented each season three times, each time to an overflowing house in the large college auditorium.

Renovo is indeed fortunate to have this talented choir and group of players to present it in our High School auditorium, so that all in the Renovo area may have the pleasure and inspiration of seeing and hearing this great performance.

10—Thursday, Dec. 3, 1953—The Lock Haven Express, Lock Haven, Pa.

## 'Nativity' Is Promised With a Modern Flavor

Since 1933 when Miss Grace Ullemeyer started the tradition, only one Christmas—that of 1950—has passed by without a college presentation of the Nativity.

The pageantry and music that tell of Christ's birth have become as traditional as the holiday lights on campus, the gift processional for the Salvation Army in chapel, and the student Christmas parties in the festive college halls.

This year is to be no exception. Twice on Sunday, Dec. 13, and once on Monday, Dec. 14, the annual pageantry will be performed in Price auditorium, for all who come from far and near to see.

It appears there will be some changes this year. Mrs. Hazel Ferguson, associate professor at the college, has written a new script. It will have the modern touch. She says, "You may be seeing 'Green Pastures' and 'The White-Face'."

One other innovation is to have a cult one, confronts the 76 students, including

pella choir which Russell C. Gilliam directs. Tuesday of next week they will go on the road with "Nativity," presenting it at afternoon and evening performances, 2:30 and 7:30 p. m., in the Renovo High School.

The wide-canvass presentation, designed for the open spaces of Price auditorium stage, will have to be squeezed together like a sponge to fit on the boards at Renovo, Mrs. Ferguson thinks. But the experience seems worth the try.

Renovo Rotarians are sponsoring the Renovo performance, through their association with Dr. Richard T. Parsons, president of the college and district governor of the Rotary Club.

The college performances will be Dec. 13 at 4 and 7:30 p. m. and Dec. 14 at 7:30 p. m. A silver offering is received.

Dec 53

## "The Nativity" To Be Presented Next Tuesday

Renovo is being given a special treat this Christmas season. "The Nativity," one of the most beautiful and impressive pageants of the Christmas story, will be presented by the Lock Haven State Teachers' College at the High School Auditorium here in Renovo on Tuesday evening, December 8th, at 7:30 p. m. There are seventy-six characters in the play, including the famous A Capella Choir directed by Russell Gilliam, Assistant Professor of Music at the College. The pageant this year was written and is being directed by Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, Associate Professor at the college.

The Lock Haven pageant has become famous throughout this section of the country and has had to be presented each season three times, each time to an overflowing house in the large college auditorium.

Renovo is indeed fortunate to have this talented choir and group of players to present it in our High School auditorium, so that all in the Renovo area may have the pleasure and inspiration of seeing and hearing this great performance.

## "THE NATIVITY" TO BE PRESENTED IN RHS AUD. TONIGHT AT 7:30

Tonight is the night of "The Nativity". It is to be seen at the High School and will be presented by our talented guests from the Lock Haven State Teachers College. It portrays the Night of Nights—the night that eventually will conquer the darkness and bring in the day when there shall be night no more. This is a night when they who sit in darkness shall see a great light. This is the night that shall make eternal light, for it is the night when God brought into the world Him who is the light of the world. No one need be without that light in his life. It ought to be a great night for all in Renovo.

Word will come from the lips of R. O. Raymond announcing from the loud speaker of the truck of the Citizens Hose Co. the details concerning the Nativity. The sound of his voice will be heard through out all our streets and highways, so that he who hears may profit and see this great sight which the Lord has made known unto us.

A dozen or more hands were at work yesterday making ready the High School for this great event. Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson and her working force also were present and have been hard at work all day. These are good tidings which no one can afford to miss. This is your invitation.



# "The Nativity" Is Effective

T. C. Students In  
Annual Christmas  
Production Sunday

The new auditorium at the Teachers College was filled on Sunday afternoon for the annual presentation of "The Nativity," given with great effectiveness by the members of the music and dramatics departments under the direction of Miss Grace Ullemeyer and Miss C. Cordelia Brong.

The appearance of a verse choir, which recited parts of the program, was one of the outstanding phases of the presentation. Brilliant tableau, depicting the scene of the first Christmas, was more beautiful this year than ever before, according to those who have seen the presentation in past years.

The robed choirs, both vocal and verse, sat on a stage which was appropriately decorated with stained-glass window backgrounds and candelabra, arranged by the art department. The tableau appeared above the heads of singers and verse choir members.

A Watts' procession, with lighted candles, formed the finale of the program and brought together on the stage all of the 80 students taking part.

Tableau characters were "Prophet," Richard Brown; "Mary," Miss Jane Shull; "Angel," Elizabeth Ogden; "Joseph," Rowland Evers; "shepherds," Fred Weak-

land, Robert Hosterman, Laurence Folk, Joseph Danis; "kings," Robert Rozak, George Given and Joel Freedman.

Student committees were headed by William Masterson, tableau; Robert Bowes, lighting; Miss Lois Wagner, costumes; and Miss Margaret Priest, make-up.

Accompanists were Misses Marion Kyler and Dorothy Sheasley.

