

## Editorial

### Traditions at Christmastime

Christmas traditions are passed on through family generations. The importance of these holiday rituals can not be stressed more; they represent that which is sacred to us.

Each home celebrates in a unique manner. It is this specialness that instills in us fond memories and develops that joyous atmosphere occurring every year just after Thanksgiving. It surrounds us...the spirit of peace, love, sharing and giving creeps into our subconscious through the practice of customs spreading among all people.

Not only do the traditions hold special meanings for the family, but they also serve as a comfort. It's satisfying to know that each year will be spent doing favorite seasonal acts. It is a schedule we look forward to, and we enjoy repeating year after year. Traditions are something we've come to anticipate, like the aromas that fill our senses at this time.

What would Christmas be without every woman in the house falling over each other in the process of preparing coffee-cake, eggs and strawberry jam for Christmas breakfast? Who ever heard of not driving miles for the freshly-cut jack pine during the heaviest blizzard and on the coldest day of the season? Christmas just wouldn't be the same without the breaking of the suddenly "favorite" delicate tree ornament.

Traditions at Christmas time exist because we feel secure in doing them. They tend to get confused with "habits" by some, but shouldn't because habits occur without pleasure being the premise. It is the spiritual bond and carefree happiness that traditions create, making the commemoration of the original event so spectacular.



## Council deals with campus problems

In January of 1976, the Wurtsmith Air Force Base extension of ACC formed a Student Advisory Committee to aid students with local campus problems. It is the equivalent of the local Student Senate.

Over the past three years that the Council has been in existence, it has made numerous improvements in the campus facilities, i.e. better lighting, parking, and more comfortable lounge areas.

Currently, the Student Advisory is working on a Christmas service project for the Oscoda community.

## Honor Society ceremony initiates new members

Phi Theta Kappa, ACC's honor society, welcomed eight new members into its ranks at the initiation ceremony, held in NRC 450 on December 9.

Faye Donald, President of Phi Theta Kappa conducted the ceremony with the aid of Vice-President, John Garrett; Treasurer, Cathy Mason; and Sponsor, Dr. Richard Moreau.

Candidates carrying lit, blue candles and white carnations, which symbolize knowledge and purity, repeated their membership vows as a crowd of spectators looked on.

ACC President, Dr. Charles Donnelly, congratulated the new initiates on their admittance to the local Nu Omicron chapter, expressing that it was "very comforting to know students such as you, will be around to solve...problems for us."

All the Phi Theta Kappans joined in singing the fraternity song. Following the initiation, a reception, with cookies and punch made by Mrs. Moreau, was enjoyed by candidates, friends, and family.

The Fall of 1979 initiates for Phi Theta Kappa include: Donna Belusar, Greg Chittick, Andrea Dean, Larry Herber, Mark Timm, Harold Hoover, Richard Kent, and Kimberly Schaudt.

## ACC bids farewell to two faculty members

### Ruth Thackston

Deb Beronet, Staff Reporter

Ruth Thackston, Director of Nursing and founder of ACC's practical nursing program, is retiring at the end of this semester.

The stethoscope and bedpans are being packed away in favor of a garden hose and fertilizer, because Thackston and her husband are heading toward the warmer climate of Virginia to try their hands at "mini-farming".

Thackston's job at ACC has been to maintain the quality of the nursing program and to coordinate the students' clinical nursing experiences. Eight years ago, Thackston originated the program and admitted the first students in August of 1972. Since then, 196 LPN's have graduated.

After receiving her BS in Nursing from Wayne State University, Thackston moved back to her native Canada to work with the Victoria Order of Nurses. There she gained much experience in rural nursing; she aided in many home deliveries.

Thackston's interests include all types of crafts and outdoor activities, such as cross-country skiing, bicycling, camping in the family motorhome, and gardening. The Thackstons have 19 fruit trees as well as many shrubs and flowers on their seven acres in Virginia. After December 26, she will be joining her husband who is hard at work in Virginia, building their new home.

The highpoint of her career, however was "the joy and achievement in meeting the challenge of starting this program. It was a wonderful opportunity to practice all the skills and knowledge I'd acquired," she explained, and continued saying, "Practical nursing is still a very important part of nursing and these graduates play a significant role in the health care of this community."

The Thackstons have two children, a son and a married daughter residing in Colorado.

### John Heimnick

Ken Lechtanski, Sports Editor

After 21 years of service in the Alpena school system, John Heim-

nick, Dean of Faculty, will retire at the end of this semester.

Of his stay in Alpena, Heimnick says, "I like the area. It's a small town so you get to know everybody and you feel more secure."

A native of Detroit, Heimnick attended Eastern Michigan where he received his B.A. He then transferred to the University of Michigan where he earned his M.A. and continued in the Advanced Studies program.

After graduation, Heimnick traveled to Mexico for field work in Indian culture. He later left to teach at North Carolina and then worked in industry for five years. Heimnick came to Alpena in 1958 where he began his teaching career. He taught part-time in the elementary grades, at Alpena high and at ACC. In 1969 he was appointed to his current position as Dean of Faculty at ACC.

Heimnick explains that his job involves arranging the liberal arts departments at ACC. This includes setting up class schedules, ordering textbooks, assigning instructors, and other necessary duties. Heimnick adds that his responsibilities also require that he assist in forming petitions for grants, hiring personnel, and writing policies among other things.

Family members include his wife, Mildred, two sons, Paul and Mark, and daughter, Jean.

When he retires Heimnick will have more time to enjoy his hobbies of fishing, boating, sailing, and photography. Once an avid cross country skier, Heimnick has opted to hang up his runners for now.

After he leaves ACC, Heimnick plans to vacation south for the duration of winter. He has no long range plans; instead he intends to face life as it comes.

Reflecting on his career, Heimnick says, "I enjoyed the teaching. I taught a lot of students."

### Aids procrastinators

A Procrastination Workshop has been set up by the U. of California-Berkley counseling center for those students who habitually put off academic requirements.



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