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**CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING GROWING IN HUNDREDS OF TOWNS**  
**Bureau for Advancement Music Reports Great Increase in Interest in This Annual Custom**

Like a snow-ball, the total number of American cities that have held outdoor Christmas caroling has increased from 30 in 1918 to an aggregate of 2025 different places, including last year's celebration. These statistics are embodied in "Christmas Caroling in 1923," a survey just issued by the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music. The actual number of cities that had outdoor caroling in 1923 was 1285, according to definite reports received by the bureau. The information was gathered from newspaper clippings from all parts of the country, as well as by direct correspondence, and it is probable that many cities were overlooked.

**Records Show Gain**  
 According to the bureau's records the number of cities having caroling during the various years was the following:  
 30 cities and towns in 1918; 110 in 1919; 383 in 1920; 712 in 1921; 1173 in 1922; 1285 in 1923.  
 This last figure does not include 450 cities and towns from which no reports were received as to 1923, although a large percentage of them undoubtedly observed the custom.  
**Country-Wide Expansion**  
 Shortly after the inception of the national bureau, it began at the suggestion of C. A. Grinnell, of Detroit, working for the country-wide expansion of the old custom of Christmas caroling by groups called "waits." As a model for caroling organizations it suggested the plan worked out on a city-wide basis in Detroit. The bureau also issued an informational booklet, "Christmas Eve Caroling Being Revived," which is now to be obtained, in revised form, by cities wishing to inaugurate the custom. With systematic stimulation by the bureau each year the movement has now reached such national proportions as to indicate that it is a fixed annual custom in a great number of cities.

**VALUE OF PICTURES IN SCHOOL ROOMS**

**Importance of Instilling Artistic Taste in Growing Child Seen**

Pictures are as important as blackboards in the equipment of school-rooms. The board of education of Chicago has decided that henceforth in every new school erected there is to be a space for a picture in the front blackboard and also a special room in each building set aside as a small art museum for the pupils. Thus official backing is given to work that has been carried on for thirty years by the Public School Art society of Chicago. This organization has been working steadily toward the goal of making the schoolroom a place of beauty, decorating it with appropriate pictures so that from the first grade on the child will be surrounded by beautiful things and learn artistic appreciation along with his three R's. The new decision of the school board is a victory for the Public School Art society and at the same time increases the scope of their work, for it is up to them to supply the pictures to be placed in the niches provided by the board. At a meeting held last week at the home of Mrs. Paul Schulze, 2305 Commonwealth avenue, plans were discussed. A response was not lacking. Director Robert B. Harsho of the Art Institute promised active support on the part of the museum, which can render valuable assistance by loans of paintings and of cases showing the stages in the manufacture of various artistic wares, such as are now installed in the new children's gallery at the Art Institute.

The general interest in the important question of instilling artistic taste in the growing child was demonstrated by the presence of a number of leading figures in the civic and art world, who attended the meeting and pledged support. Among those present were Raymond P. Ensign, dean of the school of the Art Institute, Albin Polasek, noted sculptor, C. M. Moderwell, president of the board of education, Mr. Louis Betts, New York portrait painter, Donald Cameron, of the Chicago Society of Artists, the Rev. Dr. John Timothy Stone, and Mrs. William Taylor, president of the Chicago Woman's club.

**GOLDEN RULE SUNDAY**

By official proclamation, all churches in the Holy Land will observe December 7th as International Golden Rule Sunday. The three patriarchs have issued pastoral letters, urging their followers to eat a refugee meal and to make a donation to the work of caring for the refugees, of whom there are hundreds in every town in Palestine and Syria. The observance of the day originated in America, but has been adopted by 23 other countries.

**COOK BOOK MADE BY H. S. STUDENTS**

The first cook book of its kind ever to be published, in that it is made up of material furnished by high school students of home economics in all parts of the United States, will soon be off the press, says a statement coming from the National Live Stock and Meat board today. Under the title, "Meat and How to Cook It," this publication, featuring attractive ways of preparing the less-demanded cuts of meat, will be given free national distribution to schools, colleges and housewives who request it, according to the board.

The publication is the outgrowth of the National Meat Story contest held recently under the auspices of the board. Nearly 12,000 girls competed in the story contest, which also required that they submit recipes tested at home or at school. The recipes appearing in the cook book were selected as the best of the thousands submitted and each is accompanied by the name and address of the girl sending it in. The title, "Meat, and How I Cook It," is pointed to as doubly significant. Under this caption Miss Pearl Graves of Lemoore, Calif., wrote the story which won the national championship and it was selected as most appropriate for the cook book, for each of the girls, through this medium, is telling of "meat, and how I cook it."

**CLOSER RELATIONS WITH STOCKHOLDERS**

A closer relationship exists now between heads of the big public utility companies and their stockholders than ever before and is aiding in rapid enlargement of properties, according to William A. Baehr, vice-president and general manager of the Illinois Power and Light corporation. "More and more the human element is becoming involved in the business of manufacturing and furnishing electric power, gas, water, street car and railway service, all of which are now

absolute essentials in our every-day life," Mr. Baehr said. "This has been brought about largely through the employe and customer ownership stock selling campaigns. Thousands of consumers of the services are now part owners of the business that is producing them. Probably the greater percentage of employes are stockholders. This new order of things is creating, more and more, confidence in the companies and in the men directing them. Consequently more money is available for extension of the properties and this is going ahead at a pace beyond the most sanguine hopes of engineers and builders of even ten years ago."

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