

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING MOVEMENT PROGRESSES

### Two Thousand Cities and Towns Revive Age-old Custom; Ob- serve Ceremony Here

The revival of the old-time, Old World custom of Christmas Eve caroling has made such rapid progress in the United States during the past decade, according to the statistics of the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, that it will be organized in probably more than 2,000 towns and cities this year, many of which are already recruiting and rehearsing their singers. Wilmette has been observing the custom for several years.

Among the first to announce its plans is Chicago, whose caroling committee includes Mayor Dever as honorary chairman, Max Mason and Harry Pratt Johnson, president and president emeritus respectively of the University of Chicago, Frederick Stock, director of the Chicago Symphony orchestra, William McAndrew, superintendent of schools, and Mrs. James W. Morrison, president of the Illinois League of Women Voters. Hotel lobbies, schools, churches, theaters, clubs, homes, hospitals, jails and all public institutions where people are gathered will be visited by the group of carol singers, and their music will also be broadcast by radio. The committee plans to have every human voice in Chicago join in the singing on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

#### Collect for Needy

In Detroit, where the caroling has been done on a larger scale each year since 1916, the head of the 1925 committee is Mrs. C. B. Chamberlain, chairman of the Fine Arts department, Detroit Federation of Women's clubs. The Camp Fire Girls and the Girl Scouts will furnish the caroling bands, or waits, for the residential districts. In this city, as in St. Louis, Atlanta and others, a charitable purpose has been combined with the social one of bringing the message of good will to all through the bright and charming traditional melodies. In each of these places money collected by the carolers has gone toward the care of the city's needy children.

The Music League of Philadelphia is organizing the caroling in that city as it has done for the past two years and is preparing 60,000 song sheets for the purpose. The rehearsing will be in the hands mainly of 150 song

leaders, trained by Robert Lawrence, the well known music director of Washington, D. C. A special "remembrance carol" will be sung where two candles in the window signify that a member of the family is absent.

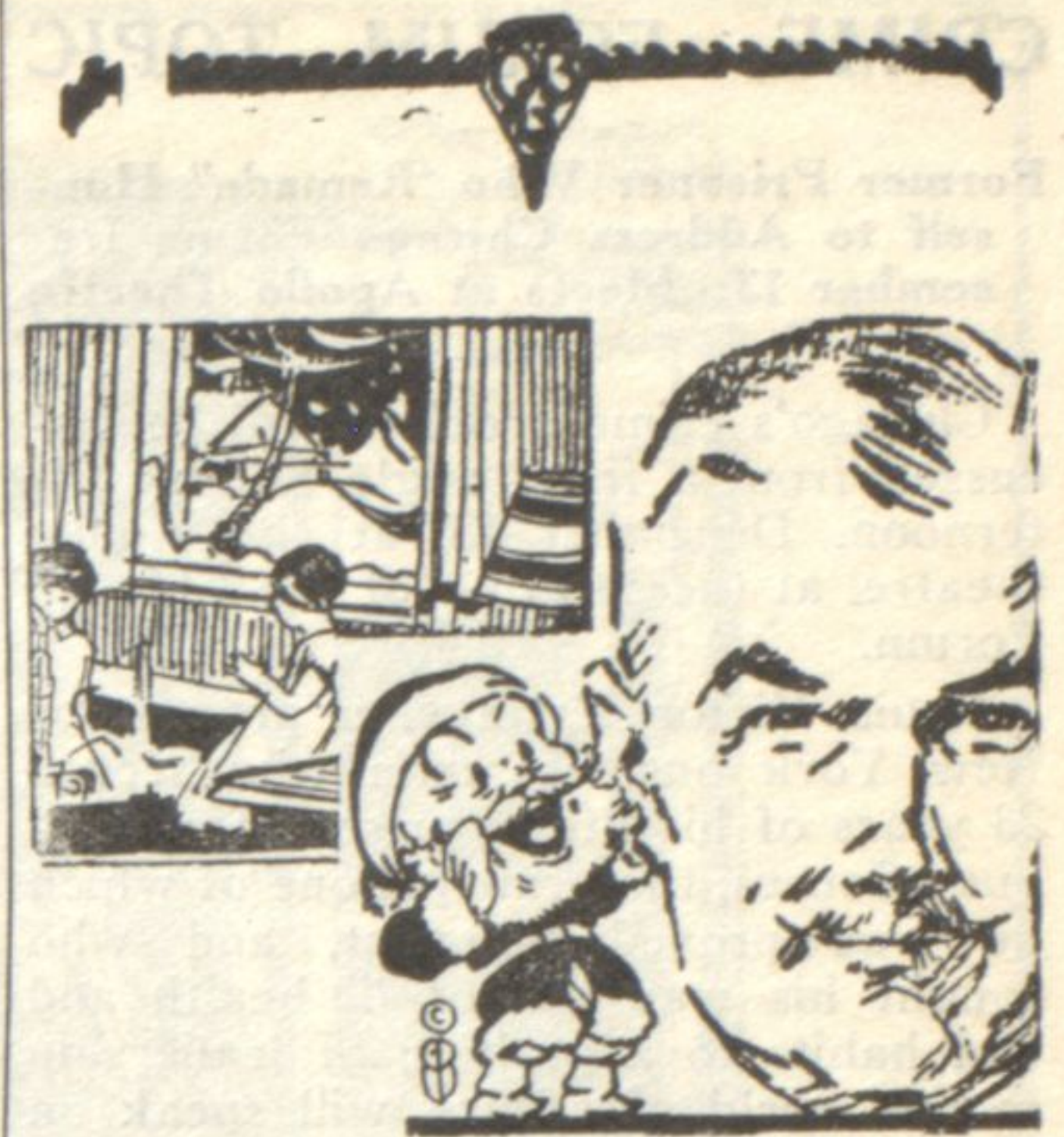
#### Popular in Country

One of the interesting later developments of the movement has been its spread into the rural communities, with the carolers conveyed by auto, or when there is snow on the ground, by sleigh, from village to village. In North Dakota the state university at Grand Forks, through its extension division, is giving impetus to this activity for the coming Christmas.

For those who wish to organize caroling groups there is considerable information and assistance available, which may be obtained by writing to the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music at 45 West 45th street, New York, and which is free upon request in single copies. It includes the general descriptive booklet, "Christmas Eve Caroling Being Revived," outlining the methods adopted in places of various sizes, a survey listing the 1,285 towns and cities, reports of whose caroling activity had been received up to last year, and a paper pattern of the hood and cape costume which is

being widely used by the itinerant bands, and which adds so much to the color and picturesqueness of the scene. Those who organize the groups are most frequently school teachers, music teachers, Sunday school superintendents, club leaders and individuals generally who enjoy working with young people and helping them to serve their community.

Mrs. Benjamin C. Hawkes, 157 Kenilworth avenue, Kenilworth, entertained Saturday at a small luncheon for her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Belnap Hawkes of Buffalo.



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