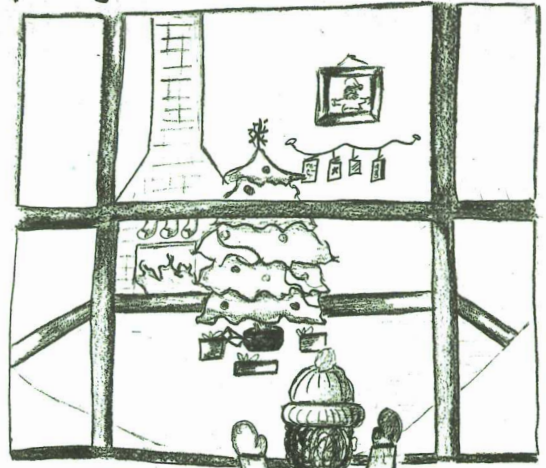




MERRY CHRISTMAS



Jeffery

HAPPY NEW YEAR



GOVERNOR

RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA
VOLUME 31 DECEMBER 1975 NUMBER 5

Riggs High Students speak out . . .

On Christmas. . . On dances . . .

On expulsion. . .

"It's fun to commercialize Christmas." Where did that statement ever originate? Commercialism is a sin, in a matter of speaking.

Where did the original idea of Christ's birth wander off to? I'll tell you. It was in a television commercial of one of the wise men giving baby Jesus an Acutron Digital Watch for only \$149.

Christians should celebrate Jesus' birth, not by wishing for a motorcycle for Christmas, but by renewing their faith in humanity and God's love.

Making someone happy should be another ingredient in the holiday spirit. Making them happy fills you with the same joy you gave to them.

Christmas shopping is also a part of Christmas but does it have to be the main activity at Christmas time?

Joyful times and fond memories of Christmas will last longer than a radio alarm clock. Do something for someone and make them happy. Be with someone you like and by all means make it a Merry Christmas.

Nan Williams

THE RIGGS HIGH GOVERNOR

Published Monthly

Riggs High School, Pierre, South Dakota

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A Riggs High guidance counselor felt the dances were a good place for people to get together. She commented that there should be more school dances and reminisced back to earlier years when after every other home game there was a dance at the school.

Not all adults were positive about attending the dances of their own free will. A teacher's comment revealed one opinion - "I don't go unless I have to (to chaperone) and I'm glad to leave!"

Everyone was of the same opinion, emphasizing that there should be more school dances. There has only been one this year, which was at homecoming.

A majority of senior high students and faculty have agreed that school and "Y" dances are good for something. That being keeping the kids out of trouble, and giving them somewhere to go to socialize.

The results of a survey in which 15 people participated, show dances for some senior high students are successful and serve a good purpose.

Out of ten students, eight said they would go to all dances, if more were held.

Asked if they thought the prices were reasonable, four said yes, and six said it depended on the band, but they thought it worth the price more often than not.

One girl said, "To me, the bands are really great. Back where I come from we dance to records." Where she comes from (France) they have a dance every week for a fee of 40 cents a dance.

Sigrid Werthman

Recently, I witnessed an incident in which a fellow student was expelled from class for three days.

In the past year and a half in Riggs High I recall at least five other such expulsions, only one of which I feel the seriousness of the penalty was justifiable.

These are my personal experiences, however I would guess that these might parallel similar experiences other students may have had.

In view of this and of the serious nature of any expulsion, be it from a class or from school itself, and of the consequences (lower grades, friction between parents, teachers, other students, etc) I believe it is time to take an objective look at the policies and penalties in relation to expulsion.

Perhaps the administration and the Student Council should re-evaluate existing policies to determine what, if any, changes should be made.

Mark Leach

Riggs High students and faculty welcomes home Mr. E.J. Jaeger, assistant principal, who returned last week from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. after undergoing surgery.

Mr. Jaeger left on Nov. 25 and returned to Pierre on Dec. 8 to recuperate before resuming his duties at Riggs.

We wish you a speedy recovery Mr. Jaeger, and hope to see you back early in the new year. The Staff



THE GOVERNOR IS A MEMBER OF
THE SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL
JOURNALISM ASSOCIATION
AND QUILL AND SCROLL



Art exhibit added to Christmas Concert

Music and art filled the gym Tuesday evening as the two departments presented a special Christmas concert and Art show for the students, parents and friends of Riggs High.

The Concert Band, Swing Choir and Mixed Chorus entertained with an hour of Christmas carols, Christmas songs and other modern holiday tunes.

The Junior and Senior High School art departments arranged an impressive display of over 100 pieces of their work from wire sculpture to paintings and drawings. Craft classes contributed macrame, decorative stitchery, beading, copper tooling, plaster crafts and plaster carvings. The drawing and painting classes had several exhibits of their best work, and the modeling and sculpture classes had their finished pieces on display. Leather tooling was exhibited in one area. Mrs. Cindy Thies is the Senior High art teacher and Miss Kathy Schrock teaches the Junior High art classes.



Lori Everts and Nancy Davis examine some of the art work which was on display at the Art Show and Christmas music concert Tuesday evening. (photo by Laura Pottratz)

The Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Gerald Cutshaw, presented four Christmas numbers, concluding with a medley of "Great Songs of Christmas" arranged by Lowden.

The Swing Choir, also under the direction of Mr. Cutshaw, entertained with two Christmas hymns, "Tambourine Noel" by Young and "Love One Another" by Sleeth.

The Mixed Chorus, under the

direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, entertained with six numbers. They opened their portion of the program with "Choral Fanfare for Christmas" by Nelson with a brass accompaniment. An echo choir added to the arrangement of "Silent Night." They concluded with the "Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah" by Handel.

The band and chorus combined for the final number on the program, "Three Songs for Christmas" by Grundman.

Safety Council encourages seat belts

A survey conducted by the Riggs High Safety Council aimed at increasing traffic safety in the Pierre area is now under way on random mornings in the school parking area.

Safety Council officers John Smith, Syliva Mefford, Kryisia Newell, Patti Marso, George Wilner and Jackie Kolbo, under the supervision of Mr. Robert Townsend, have incorporated a new method of assuring traffic safety by presenting seat belt wearers with cash awards. They have also put up seat belt posters thru out the school.

Safe driver awards of \$1 each went to Lou Ann Wallenstrom, Bill Voss and Mrs. Jack Kolbo in the parking lot on the morning of Dec. 10 for wearing their seat belts.

The Council's safe driving "drive" has already shown promising results, as on the second morning of surveys, the number of safe drivers had increased from 3 to 13 as a result of the spread of the cash award news. These 13 people were presented with warm congratulations by the survey crew.

The Safety Council will conduct a similar survey later in the season and give safe driver cash awards to keep high school students aware of the need to wear seat belts at all times.

Clara Warne chosen Miss Holiday



Senior Clara Warne was chosen by the Pep Club as Riggs High School's Miss Holiday contestant.

Clara Warne has been chosen by the members of Pep club to represent Riggs High School in the Miss Holiday contest in Huron on December 29 and 30. This contest is sponsored by the "Huron Daily Plainsman" and Huron College. It is being held in conjunction with a college basketball tournament.

Part of Clara's expenses will be paid by the Pep club. She will be chaperoned at the contest by her sister.

There are over 30 contestants from South Dakota schools competing for Miss Holiday. They will have the opportunity to work with professional models during practice.

On the afternoon of the 30th the judges will conduct personal interviews with the contestants. On both evenings the contestants must model during halftime on the basketball court.

The winner and runners-up will receive scholarships to Huron College. Monetary gifts will also be awarded to the schools sponsoring the winners.

December 26th

*December 26th gives me the blues,
As I stare forlornly at my new
Christmas shoes.
I think of the bill at Bert's
That we'll have to pay 'till
it hurts.
My eyes study the scuff
That I got when I kicked our
dog Duff.
He received this punishment
you see,
For gnawing our \$20 Christmas tree.*

*The tree now stands before me,
as barren as can be,
The Christmas spirit faded,
The needles dangling listlessly.
Our Christmas Eve turkey, a
glorious winner,
After two weeks of sandwiches
loses its glimmer.*

*The presents this year were
both useful and clever,
Like the 20 foot scarf I got
for the weather.
We were destined for bad luck
of unknown length,
Because of the Six Million Dollar
Man's great strength.*

*It took just one bionic thrust,
To shatter mother's Beethoven Bust,
and followed by that went Susie's
glass dishes, with Evil Knievel's
best wishes.
You'll say it's my mood, or the food,
or the toys and the noise.
But December 26th, as you can see,
is a day of the year that just
shouldn't be.*

Lisa Hickman



Child Awaits Santa

Eyes gazing over pages of toys in a Christmas catalogue, a tiny girl clutched her hands and exclaimed, "I can't wait till Santa comes!"

That excited 5-year old, Cheri Bartlett, and millions of other youngsters, think Santa Claus is the "best person in the world."

Though Santa is the most loveable character, he's also the most puzzling. Cheri marvels at how Santa Claus slides down chimneys without getting stuck and how he makes so many toys.

Children are often amazed at the feats Santa can perform, such as delivering packages to every child and riding in a magic sleigh.

Santa's great feats often lead to grand wishes and gifts. Cheri wishes that "Christmas is everyday" and wants Santa to give "a lot of money to everybody."

Cheri decided to help Santa so he'll have one less gift to deliver. She's giving her younger brother a dog collar and leash. Declared Cheri, "I want to use my baby brother as a dog."

Every child's dream is to stay awake on Christmas Eve and see Santa. Cheri promised, "I'm going to stay up, hide very quietly, and watch for Santa."

Though they have the desire most kids never make it through the night.

Shelly Wooley

Improves Voice Kristofferson LP

Metamorphosis is something caterpillars usually do. Basically, it means to change, and that is exactly what Kris Kristofferson had done.

Several people may recall him for his talent for writing songs. "Help Me Make It Through The Night," "Me and Bobby McGee," etc. However, some of his critics (including me) easily tired of his slow monotone singing voice. That could be why many of his songs were recorded as hits by other artists.

But his new album "Who's to Bless and Who's to Blame?" is very, very good because, not only are his songs well written and well played, but his voice sounds better than it ever has.

The songs themselves are all originals by Kristofferson. The lyrics are excellent and the music is equally good on nearly all songs.

One of the highlights is the songs in which Rita Coolidge joins in to compliment Kris's voice, sounding as good as any I recall.

"Stay if you want to, don't be ashamed.
Leaving is easy, Lord, losin's the same.
Life is a promise nobody keeps,
Lay yourself down girl, rock me to sleep."

His voice has always had a humanness others sometimes lack. His powerful and sometimes raspy voice conveys the emotion behind his words. He sometimes uses songs to poke fun at the world, although — sometimes he sounds fairly cynical.

"Welcome to the year 2000 minus 25—
Oh say, can you smell her for the smoke
God's still up there laughing, so he's
gotta be alive
Who says he can't take a dirty joke?"

This is a quality album that I think many, many people, including the hard rockers, would enjoy. **Mark Leach**

New Year's traditions explored by student

Hauoli Makahiki Hou Bonne Annee Godt Nytt Ar . . . Feliz Año Nuevo . . . Shana Tova . . . Gutes Neuss sahr Buon Capo d' Anno Gelukkig nienwajaar . .

No, it's not Merry Christmas in different languages, it's Happy New Year. New Years was a time when in ancient Rome, the first day of the year was given over to honoring Janue, the god of gates and doors and of beginnings and endings. The month of January was named after the god.

People all over the world have

observed New Years celebration though the time has varied widely. Sometimes as early as September 21, autumnal equinox, to June 22, the Midsummer's Day.

In China, the chinese go into great detail preparing for New Years. Every debt must be paid, every house swept and cleaned and each person furnished with holiday clothes. And in Japan it's even gayer.

In the Orient, too, elaborate festivals correspond to that of Christmas celebrations of the Western Countries.

In France gifts are exchanged, with family parties, and much merrymaking and general exchange of visits.

New Years Day became a holy day in the christian church in 487 A.D. when it was declared the Feast of the Circumcision.

If people only realize, when they are celebrating on December 31, that ringing in the new year is not merely living it up with friends and watching the new year ball fall in Times Square, New York, it is a tradition of most of the civilized world.

Brent Adney

Riggs High clubs prepare for Christmas

Christmas time is here and clubs have been preparing special events as that holiday feeling keeps growing.

The DECA Club is starting their Christmas with a money raising project — a raffle for a stereo and tape player. Some lucky person will have a new stereo system for their Christmas listening and DECA will have earned money for their year's activities.

DECA students are also showing Christmas spirit by decorating a Christmas tree in room 110. Mr. Stan Wahl, DECA adviser, said the students thought the tree still looked bare without presents so they drew names and bought gifts which they will exchange at their party on Friday.

The language clubs did not plan extensive holiday activities because they were busy with the Language Festival which was held Saturday Dec. 13 at the Junior High Gym.

German club members are going caroling at Rivercrest on Thursday with a party following the caroling at Mary Jo Pietrus' home.

In the spirit of the Holidays, the 15 Art Club members decorated the lunch room windows on Monday. Scenes ranged from Santa Claus to candy canes done in all the traditional holiday colors.

Language Festival attracts 150 students Saturday

A Christmas Language Festival held at the Junior High brought together over 150 language and foreign students Sat. Dec. 13.

The event started with registration in the morning for people from Mitchell, Murdo, and Scotland. Pierre's German Club, Latin Club and Spanish Club were hosts for the all day event.

A Continental breakfast of rolls and hot chocolate was served after which the group saw slides of Peru, Rome and Turkey narrated by Luis Vich, Amity Aide, Kathy Rougenventre and Erkan Tural, AFS students. Scenes of bullfight and castles were featured in the slide presentations.

During the day skits and performances were put on by the language students depicting the culture and language of the country that group is studying. German, French, Spanish and Latin students participated. A Spanish type lunch was served after a hot game of soccer.

This year, as in years past, the FNA are going to share the joys of Christmas with a welfare family.

"First the group as a whole buys a tree. There are usually two to three children in the family and so each member buys or makes gifts for them," explained F.N.A. president Gaye Zimmerman.

This Christmas, a mother with two small children has been chosen. Their gifts will be delivered by all the Future Nurses sometime at the end of this week.

The members of Hero Club (Home Economic Related Occupations) remembered their employers this Christmas, baking various cookies,

candies and breads and packing them in brightly colored holiday gift boxes.

The 14 members of Hero Club work at nine food service businesses in Pierre. These include Holiday Inn, Country Kitchen, Taco John's, Spies Lunch Counter, Pizza Hut, Ray's Town and Country, Red Owl Restaurant, D & E Cafe, and Burger Queen. Hero Club members not only work in the kitchens but some may also be waiters or waitresses. One boy is even an assistant manager.

Hero Club began baking their goodies last Thursday and Friday during their class hour, and they delivered their gifts this week.

FFA fruit arrives for Holidays

The annual fruit sale, decorating their classroom for the holidays and a Christmas party with special guests have kept the FFA members busy during the month of Dec.

The Oahe chapter of FFA invited FFA alumni as special guests to their Christmas party of Dec. 13 in the Voc. Ag. building where the fruit was sorted and stock piled until it could be delivered.

1500 boxes of oranges, apples and grapefruit arrived by truck on Monday, and FFA members spent all of their free time sorting and delivering their orders. This sale is their money raising project for the year. The 114 members earn over \$11,000 a year to meet their expenses which includes trips to judging schools, conventions and meetings, as well as a parent banquet in the spring.

It was back to education right afterwards as several language professors talked on the various language programs in South Dakota's colleges.

Next on the agenda was Peruvian and Panamanian dancing, taught by Luisa Vich, Pierre's Amity Aide, and Mrs. Robert Hiatt, and assisted by several Pierre students.

Christmas carols were sung by all students in their different languages including French, Spanish, German and Latin.

To end the occasion, all of the guests and Pierre students joined in trying to break the pinata, a Spanish custom. The Pierre students had made two for the

occasion and filled them with candy which everyone shared after the breaking ceremony.

Mrs. Phyliss Leach, Spanish teacher, Mrs. Beverly Mickelson, German teacher, and Mr. Jay Mickelson, Latin teacher, were in charge of the festival.



The large pinata in the foreground was broken by the guests at the language festival as the climax to the days activities on Sat. in the Junior High gym.

Gov cagers play host to Stevens

Following a disappointing weekend in which the Govs fell to a tough Mitchell club by a score of 62-51 on Fri. Dec. 12, and were beaten by the narrow margin of 46-40 by a tall Stevens team, on Sat. Dec. 13 at home, the Govs will attempt to better their season record of 2-3 as they face Madison on Friday night and then the awesome Yankton squad, on Saturday nite, both in Riggs High gym.

"Two out of three ain't bad."

That saying has been around for years. It applies to many things; among these are coin tosses and checker tournaments.

On the basketball court with regards to win-loss records it's interpreted as, "not quite perfect." That "not quite perfect" record is held now by the varsity Basketball team.

The Govs sent a visiting Chamberlain team home with a score of 69 to 38 on Nov. 28 for the first game of the season, thus starting the year on a happy note for the Pierre Governors.

The Govs hosted the Huron Tigers Dec. 5 and narrowly defeated them in a nip and tuck ball game that ended with a score of 45 to 41.

This year's team has an obvious lack of height which could prove to be a disadvantage. Coach Roger Pries says, "We're pretty optimistic and satisfied with what we've got. It's awful early in the season but the lack of height hasn't hurt us yet."

Boys intramurals now in full swing

Boys Intramurals is underway having already played their first game on Dec. 11. The season continues on Thursday nights under the supervision of Mr. Phil Trautner, athletic director.

Experienced players now in the team captain positions are Tom Kelly, Tim Wilsey, Jeff Curry, Glen Kane, Doug Rounds, Marty Finley, Mark Zarecky and Bob Gordon.

Intramural organization, using a draft method to arrive at the team, took place Dec. 1 resulting in the present eight teams.

Later in the school year, intramural volleyball is definitely scheduled. Last year's volleyball letdown was due to bad planning and conflicts with other school activities, according to Mr. Trautner.

When asked how strategy would be affected by the deficit of "altitude", Coach Pries said, "We're going to work on aggressiveness. We do well against a tall team like Huron if they are not as

aggressive as we are. However, Miller was about our height but more aggressive. Consequently they got more rebounds. We will emphasize tactics such as presses and so on in the way of aggressiveness."

Girls capture consolation at state

The girls basketball team, after taking the consolation championship at the sectional tournament in Chamberlain on Dec. 3 have completed their first season. They played Chamberlain for consolation honors, winning by a wide margin.

According to Coach Barb Felderman, the girls now know what is expected of them in state-wide competition, having gained valuable experience for next season.

Girl's basketball is considered the upcoming high school sport in South Dakota.

Random interviews with students and adults showed that people believe that given a few more years and more experience, girls basketball could easily become one of the top sports of South Dakota.

The only tradition girls basketball will have to break is the scheduling of football in the fall and basketball in the winter, according to Mr. Bob Judson. The girl's season starts during football season.

The participation by fans is appreciated by the coaches and players, and they hope it will continue in future years as the teams improve. They hope to

get the support of the Bleacher Bums too.

Doug Rounds, Senior Bleacher Bum, said, "We weren't really organized enough to yell at the girls basketball games this year. In future years maybe the leader will get the Bums ready for these earlier games." He predicted also that in future years, the games will get much better as the teams get more experience.

"Some Riggs High students seem disappointed in the Girls BB season, but they really should be proud. A lot of hardwork, dedication, determination, desire and responsibility made the coaches and several other people proud of Pierre's girl basketball teams," commented one of the Junior girls.

Principal Roger Lonbaken stated, "The girls improved greatly from the beginning, they went from games that lasted until 10:15 to where they usually ended by 9:15."

He was disappointed in the size of the crowds, but the participation was excellent. According to him, the fans and skeptics have to be convinced.

Miss Pickering said, "I'm glad girls now have the opportunity to show enthusiasm and interest in the sport. I hope it continues."

Tania Brusseau



Spanish Club is worked over by the faculty in their fund raising volle y ball game held Tuesday, Dec. 9. The students lost to the faculty team 1-4. The money from the game will go to help finance the Spanish Amity Aide who is helping in the Spanish classes for one semester. (photo by Phil Coler)

Riggs Sr. High Grapplers preparing for tough season

The Riggs High grapplers are hard at work in preparation for the Rapid City and Stanley County Invationals Friday and Saturday.

The varsity squad will travel to Rapid City on Friday, Dec. 19 for an individual tournament with wrestlers from South and North Dakota as well as Wyoming competing.

The Junior varsity squad will compete in an individual tournament at Stanley County High School on Sat., Dec. 20 where they hope to gain valuable experience for the season ahead.

Coaches Larry Lundeen and Dean Johnson talked to the "Governor" sports editors about some of the prospects in each weight class. There are many other valuable wrestlers on the team who will

develop as the season progresses, coach Johnson stressed.

98 lb. — Kevin Kusler-freshman—"Kevin is quick and aggressive but is young, being only a freshman. We'll be looking for him to come on as the season progresses, gaining valuable experience in the early matches."

105 lb.-Erik Johnson-junior—"Erik is a good wrestler who saw varsity action last year. We expect him to be one of the top contenders in the state in his weight class."

112 lb.-Roy O'Day-freshman—"Roy is a hard worker and is rapidly improving. He'll be in there working his opponent."

119 lb.-Pat Rose-junior—"Pat is another returning letterman from last year, a knowledgeable wrestler who combines the right moves for the situation."

126 lb.-Redgie Olson-junior letterman—"Redgie is very quick and should be one of the better wrestlers on the squad."

132 lb.-Mike Bryan-senior—"One of the team leaders, Mike is in his third year of varsity wrestling and is a dedicated team wrestler."

138 lb.-Dale Everson-senior—"Dale lacks varsity experience but makes up for it through his strength and speed."

145 lb.-Bob Truax-junior—"One of our more natural wrestlers and a good pinner. We're looking for a good season for him."

155 lb.-Del Padgett-senior—"Another team leader, Del would be an asset to any team and we're glad to have him."

167 lb.-Brad Fawcett-senior—"Brad is a developing wrestler with great determination and strength."

185 lb.-Pat Madigan-senior—"Pat needs some more experience. We expect him to progress and come on strong."

Hwt.-Scott Stabnow-senior—"In his second year on the varsity, Scott is really coming on, as he has beaten the no. 2 rated wrestler in the state."

The Gov's will see more action during the holiday break, as they meet Brookings here on Friday Jan. 2 then travel to Winner on Saturday Jan. 3.

According to assistant coach Lundeen, "The first few matches have been an indication that we will be a definite contender in the ESD, and we hope to get it together to State."

In looking over the opposition, Coach Johnson stated that on a state-wide basis, "Rapid City Stevens, the number one rated squad and Watertown are the teams to go after. Here in the ESD, Huron and Mitchell pose the greatest threat."

Gymnastics squad anticipates action

Pierre's gymnastic's team keeps growing every year. Not only in size but in ability and enthusiasm. Coach Tom Ball has hopes of sending several girls to the State meet on March 20.

Gymnastics season officially opened Monday, Dec. 1, with 40 girls reporting for action. The first week ended with sore muscles but happy gymnasts.

Every night the gymnasts meet in the Junior High gym in leotards, with sweaters, shorts, and tee-shirts to begin their warm-up exercises, which last a half an hour. Then they go through chase-offs and split into groups to work on different skills. All this is in preparation for their first meet at Douglas Air Force Base Thursday, Dec. 18.

The girls work in bars, beam, vault and floor exercises while the boys work on the side horse, floor exercises, parallel bars, rings and the high bar.

Returning to the girls' team this year are Cindy Lenners, Deb Hayes, Colleen Hinkley, Billie Kielhorn and Cathy Kloiber with Hyrma Zakahi as student manager. New on the team are Carleen Corcoran and Cheryl Bohn.

Susan Jahraus, a Riggs High senior, has been hired as an assistant for Mr. Ball.

On the boys' team are returning letterman Doug Rounds and Chris Whalen, and new is Brett Sampson.

There are also many excellent gymnasts from the Junior High.

The team has expanded the number of meets they will travel to this year, and they will also host three home meets.



The 1975-76 Mat Maids are right behind their mat men at every home event. The group from the left standing: Sue Wheeler, Lori Young, Mona Warne, Kristi Fawcett, Yvette Hedman, Cathy Ryan, Laura Pottratz, Sue Lipetzky. Seated: Cathy Kloiber, Lisa Yocum, Lori Everts and Peggy Martin.

Christmas spirit glows from country to country

It seems that no matter where you go, Christmas differs from house to house, town to town, and country to country.

Governor reporters asked five students from foreign countries how the birth of Christ is celebrated in their area of the world. This round-up of holiday traditions includes events from France, Peru, Turkey, Honduras and Micronesia.

FRANCE

Kathy Rougeventre, AFS student from Rouelles, France, says that there aren't many things different about Christmas, but she was startled the other day when . . . "My American sister was wrapping gifts in front of the little sister, who still believes in Saint Nicholas. In France, children get gifts only from him, not from parents too."

Kathy says that the trees in France are decorated mostly with balls, instead of putting cookies and toys on too. On Christmas Eve, the families enjoy big feasts. The first course is oysters, followed by a spicy, expensive sausage. After that comes a turkey with stuffing, cheese, and fruit, topped off with a chocolate log. Kathy says that in France they don't eat many cookies and baked goods as in America. Most of their holiday snacks are chocolate.

On Christmas Eve at mid-night, everyone usually goes to church and then returns to open gifts. The next morning, Christmas Day, the children celebrate. Christmas Day is mostly the children's day.

PERU

To Maria Luisa Vich, Riggs High Amity aide from Lima, Peru, being in South Dakota where there is plenty of snow for Christmas is "something really nice."

On Christmas Eve in Peru, Luisa's family celebrates with a big holiday meal, which consists of turkey, nuts, and "paneton", a traditional sweet bread. They also enjoy Christmas treats such as cookies and cakes, with wine and hot chocolate to drink.

A common belief among Peruvian children is Santa Claus. "Our Santa Claus is dressed now as an Indian boy," said Luisa. The trees that the Indian Santa Claus plenishes with gifts are decorated with colored ornaments and lights.

Nativity scenes, or "nacimientos," of all sizes stand in many Peruvian homes.

Christmas caroling is also common in Peru. "Silent Night," "O Come All Ye



Five International students warm up to the holiday spirit under the Capitol Christmas tree. They are from the left: Roberto Fernandez, Maria Luisa Vich, Erkan Tural, Kathy Rougeventre and Mark Krebs.

Faithful," and "Jingle Bells" are some of the popular carols.

TURKEY

Erkan Tural, AFS student, tells about Christmas in Gazianter, Turkey. "I think Christmas is more important for Christians." He goes on "My country is Moslem, so it is not such an important holiday."

Some people do celebrate, including Erkan's family. They have a tree — few families do — which they decorate. Their family exchanges gifts within the immediate family, but not with others. Unlike us, they do not get a long vacation, a few days at the most. Usually on Christmas, Erkan's family will go out and visit neighbors. He says that traditions are few in his country, that he will miss his Christmas, but he thinks he will enjoy the prospect of an American Christmas.

HONDURAS

Roberto Fernandez says that Christmas in San Padro Sula, Honduras is a big, eventful occasion. But fireworks in December?

Starting around the 19th, the people of San Padro Sula begin to celebrate with what, in America, belongs on the fourth of July. Sky rockets and firecrackers take the place of falling snow during the holiday season. There is no snow in Honduras.

Another somewhat unusual tradition in Honduras, according to Roberto, who is staying with relatives and attending school in Pierre, is competitive Christmas

caroling, where several families compete to see who are the best carolers.

Much baking and preparation is made for the big meal on Christmas Day. "Tamales, tacos, enchiladas, and montucas," said Roberto, are some of the traditional foods. "It's a big deal," he said.

MICRONESIA

Mark Krebs has spent the last five years of his life on Kusau, an island near Guam — and is staying and attending school in Pierre with relatives.

The week before Christmas, the natives have marching - singing contests. Each of the four villages on the island dress up in a special colored costume and march in time to Christmas carols.

After church, about four o'clock on Christmas day, they adjourn to a feast. Their Christmas dinner consists of roasted pigs, fafa, a food for important events which is made of ground taro and bananas shaped into balls, and a sauce with sweetened coconut over it. They also have water lobster, boiled breadfruit, bananas, oranges, and rice. They use their fingers and eat from plates made of woven palm leaves.

And even so far out in the ocean, Santa Claus comes to the children — in an outrigger canoe!

A few things remain the same for Turkey, France, Peru, Honduras, Micronesia, and America. Our guests will really miss their families on Christmas, but they will have their new American families to share their Christmas joys.