Famed Trapp Family Singers Return Jan. 6 For Concert At Auditorium

The world famous Trapp Family Singers — that unique chorus composed of the wife and seven daughters of the Austrian Baron George von Trapp — will favor Rochester music lovers with a Christmas Carol Concert at the Auditorium on the evening of Jan. 6.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic acclaim which the Trapps received in their first appearance here last year and by repeated demands for their return, the Rev. Arthur A. Fierack, pastor of St. Michael's Church, completed arrangements this week for the new presentation of the Austrian born choristers.

The Trapp Singers, appearing in Rochester under the auspices of the Young Ladies Society of St. Michael's Church. For the present, reservations for the concert may be made by calling Main 889.

"Silent Night" Featured

Highlighting the holiday program will be the Trapp's unusual presentation of that best-loved of all Christmas carols, "Silent Night, Holy Night," which the Family has recorded for Victor and sung many times over the air as well.

Special interest attaches to the performance of this exquisitely simple Yuletide song by the Trapp Family Singers, for it was through direct ancestors of the Baroness von Trapp, members of the Rainer family (an earlier troupe of Tyrolean family music-makers who toured this country in concerts during the first half of the 19th century), that America first came to know "Silent Night," both words and music of which were written in the little Austrian village of Oberndorf very near the former baronial home of the Trapps in Salzburg.

The song has thus become something of a family tradition with the Trapps, who perform it in a very special way, using the original Austrian version, which differs somewhat from the form in which Americans are accustomed to hearing it.

Although several legends already surround the origin of this song, which has become the universal expression of the spirit of Christmas, the one subscribed to by the Baroness von Trapp is that "Silent Night" was written by Pastor Franz Gruber and his choir director, Josef Mohr, one Christmas Eve when the church organ in Arnsdorf had broken down and the deep mountain snow made it impossible to reach anyone who could repair it in time for the Christmas services.

DAILY REHEARSALS perfect the Trapp Family for their concerts. The seven young daughters are shown with the Baroness Von Trapp grouped around the piano with their director, the Rev. Dr. Franz Wasner. They will all be heard Jan. 6 at the Auditorium, East Main St.

Only a new Christmas song which could be performed on some other instrument would ease this unfortunate situation, Pastor Gruber thought, so he and Mohr, on a moment's inspiration, sat down together and composed "Silent Night," which was performed for the first time a few hours later in the little village church to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Handed By Ringers

"Before many years had passed," the Baroness von Trapp recounts, "the song had become a part of the Christmas Midnight Mass in every church in the Tyrol. In some villages, the notes were blown out across the snow by trumpeters and guided the peasants who came down the mountain side with their lanterns to attend the Holy Services. In others, when Mass was over the people who stand outside the church in the snow while the choir climbed to the belfry and sang to those below the sweet old story of Our Lord's Nativity. So for us who come from the Tyrol, the singing of this song is bound up with happy and sacred memories of the year's most important holiday. It makes us very happy to know that the American audiences to whom we sing, even though they do not share our memories of Christmas in old Austria, do know and love this same song and that it brings back to them memories from their own childhood of an American Merry Christmas."

It was just a little over a hundred years ago in the year 1840 that "Silent Night" was first brought to this country by the Rainer Family from whose patriarch, Josef Rainer — known as the finest tenor in the Tyrol — the Baroness von Trapp is descended.

A pre-Civil War book discovered by the Trapps in the New York Public Library not long ago offers a quaint engraving of Josef Rainer and his five singing children at the time of their first American tour. They would have continued to tour America for years, apparently, had not the oldest daughter — the leading soprano — fallen in love and married a member of her American audiences. That, unfortunately, broke up the family chorus. No such fate is anticipated by the Trapp Family Singers, however, for the attractive young Baronesses Johanna, Hedwig, Maria, Agatha, Martina, Rosemarie and Eleanore have all promised to choose as husbands only potential tenor, baritone, or basso additions to the Family's singing ensemble!

Auburnians To Hear Chaplain Wheaton

(Continued from Page 1)

Father Wheaton attained national fame a few months ago as chaplain of the Cruiser Helena which was sunk in the battle of Kula Gulf on July 6, 1943. In that battle near the Solomon Islands, the Helena was the only U. S. ship lost but it took eleven Jap cruisers and destroyers with it to a watery grave. Father Wheaton was among the 1,000 survivors who were picked up in the sea or from nearby islands. He had spent 66 hours in the sea, sharing a life-raft with seven other men, before they floated onto a small island. Several days later even while Jap patrols were closing in on defenseless men, they were snatched away by a daring U. S. destroyer. Today Father Wheaton and all his rescued shipmates stand fit and ready to fight again. Anxiously they await the coming day when a new Helena will be launched and they may again go to sea to continue the proud tradition of a ship which holds the record of "having fired more shells at the enemy than any ship in the history of the U. S. Navy."

The Holy Name Society are anxious that the Catholic men and women of Auburn have the opportunity of hearing Father Wheaton in order that they may have a true picture of the Navy at war and of the work of a chaplain at the Sampson Naval Training Station, which has a total population nearly as large as the entire city of Auburn. They feel, too, that Auburnians will be interested in hearing about Navy life, for a glance at the Jubilee Edition of the CATHOLIC COURIER tells us that on Oct. 1 there were 1,581 Catholic men from Auburn serving with the forces; nine of the 36 Chaplains from the Rochester Diocese claim Auburn as their home and seven of the chaplains were at one time assistants in Auburn. Besides the nine chaplains from Auburn affiliated with the Rochester Diocese, St. Hyacinth's has four more chaplains serving with Uncle Sam who are affiliated with the Franciscan Order. Two of the Auxiliary Chaplains in the Rochester Diocese have also served as assistant pastors in Auburn.

A gossip is one who talks to you about others; a bore is one who talks to you about himself; a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D.D., President
Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, S.T.D., National Secretary
Rev. Joseph J. Tennant, S.T.D., Assistant Secretary

Holy Oculist

St. Lucy is honored on December 13th. All who have eye trouble should pray to her, even for eyes of faith. Why not have our missionaries offer Mass in her honor, for your intention?

NEEDIEST CASES

Here are some of our neediest cases. We thought you would like to know about them before Christmas.

* * *

Father Joseph Abdallah needs One Hundred Dollars for his poor little three-room school at Amouda, Syria.

* * *

Bishop Kalacherry of Changanacherry, India, pleads for a Christmas gift of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars, for two homes for the aged and three orphanages. These are destitute and often without food.

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In far off Addis Ababa, Ethopia, with the smoke of battle cleared away, the native Catholics look for better times. The little seminary, where Bishop Childane's students are trained, needs very badly Two Hundred Dollars.

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The Franciscan Fathers, long the mainstay of the Church in northern Egypt, have all they can do to keep their novitiate open. Even Fifty Dollars, they say, will contest them.

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The wretchedly poor Armenian Catholics of Istanbul, Turkey, are a remnant of a nation now no more. You can relieve the terrible situation in which they find themselves by sending One Hundred Dollars for their homeless orphans.

* * *

Father Paul Bliss is a poor parish priest in Teheran, the capital city of Iran. He lives in abject poverty in the Mohammedan quarter, far from his people. Even Ten Dollars will give him encouragement.

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What can you do for our neediest at Christmas? We know you will help them with a gift that comes from the heart.

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SUNSET

Men's faces are golden when they gaze into a sunset. How much more golden are they when they gaze at the flaming Monstrance which enshrines Christ on the altar. Won't you give a Monstrance to a Near East Mission? It costs only Twenty-Five Dollars.

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POWDER KEG

Someone called the Balkans the powder keg of Europe. But the Near or Middle East has more problems. Christians live on little islands [illegible] If you join our Missionary Support Club by giving One Dollar every month, you will help to send more missionaries there.

MIRACLE

St. Gregory once wrote a life of St. Benedict. Some people think that the miracles he describes could never have happened. But St. Gregory had more faith than those who criticize him. This great saint encouraged the celebration of Holy Mass for a departed soul on thirty consecutive days. Write for our free leaflet explaining this practice. You can help our missionaries.

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IMITATION

After the Bible, a little book called "The Imitation of Christ" is most read. In it we read: "If there were only one Mass and one priest, how the people would flock there!" Now there are over 300,000 priests and plenty of Masses, at least in some places. In the Near East we still need many priests. Join our Students' Support Club—One dollar a month.

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CHRISTMAS CLUB

We know that it is not easy to give Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars to build a chapel in the Near East. Perhaps you may be able to start your own Christmas Club with us, sending a few dollars a month towards a chapel. In God's good time, you will build His and your house.

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GREEK TO ME

"Antimensium" may be a Greek word but it is beautiful. On this ornamental linen corporal, with the relics of the martyrs, rest the host and chalice at Mass. We need many for our needy priests in the Near East. Five Dollars will buy one.

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I WISH

I wish everybody could be home this Christmas, out of the trenches, away from the guns. Yet we know that the foxholes, the jungles and the sand dunes are all close to Bethlehem. We must be grateful to God. Show your thanks by sending a Stringless Gift for our missionaries.

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BIG MONEY

Fifty plus seventeen plus ten plus five make eighty-three. For eighty-three dollars—a fortune in the Near East—you can give an Altar, Crucifix and Candlesticks, a Chalice and Altar Linens. God will bless you for giving Him these.

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FIGURE EIGHT

A perfect "figure eight" on ice is a joy to the skater forever. You can give more joy to a needy Near East mission if you send eight dollars for a Censer and Boat, or a year's supply of Candles.

Send all communications to

Catholic Near East Welfare Association
419 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

Basketball

Junior Recreation League

AUBURN — Basketball teams in the Recreation Commission Junior League played the opening games of the season on Saturday at the Fulton Street School Auditorium. The defending and undefeated championship holders of St. Francis Church won the opening game by defeating St. Aloysius Church team by a score of 38-A. Other scores were: Independent St. M. Mary's, 28; Squires 14, Holy Family 5; St. Peter-Paul 21, St. Hyacinth's 10. The referees were Doug Fahy and Bobby Pietrosimo.

The schedule for next Saturday as announced by Sports Supervisor Avery E. Neagle will be as follows: 9 o'clock, St. Francis vs. Independents; 9:40, Squires vs. St. Hyacinth's; 10:20, St. Aloysius vs. St. Peter-Paul; 11 o'clock, Holy Family vs. St. Mary's.

During the past month the Catholic members of Circle III, have been practicing for the basketball season. The Auburn boys have lost many [illegible] to put up their opponents. [illegible] Club has [illegible] the Catholic [illegible] Rochester [illegible] the sponsorship of the Catholic League [illegible]

Dansville K. of C. Mark Council's 40th Anniversary

DANSVILLE—Featured by a gripping story of the sinking of the U.S.S. Helena told by Chaplain John K. Wheaton, one of the survivors and now Senior Chaplain at the U. S. N.T.S., Sampson, the members of Dansville Council celebrated the Council's fortieth anniversary, Wednesday of last week.

Father Wheaton was accompanied here by his father, Henry K. Wheaton, a former member of Dansville Council.

The festivities took place in the K. of C. home where the guests were welcomed by Grand Knight Braxton Middleton.

Priests in Attendance

Chaplain Wheaton was presented by the Rev. Edward K. Ball, pastor of St. Patrick's Church. The Rev. Edward M. Schied, pastor of St. Mary's Church and Council Chaplain, gave the blessing, opening the [illegible] and the Rev. Adalbert Schneider of Wayland, the closing prayer. The Rev. Orin Fuller, assistant pastor of St. Mary's was also at the speakers' table.

Others on the program included State Warden Edward T. Burke who brought the greetings of the state officers; Financial Secretary George J. Haberstro, who recited the council's history, and A. D. Chatwin, song leader.

J. V. Muldoon, as chairman, introduced [illegible] Father of the Auburn [illegible] the United States.

[illegible] surviving charter members were: William J. Mahoney, [illegible] Anthony J. Wygant, [illegible] Thomas J. McNeil, George J. Haberstro, John F. Hogan, William F. Frank, Frank [illegible] Thomas A. Ryan, Jr. [illegible] Chatwin.

[illegible] exemplification of the three degrees of the order in the old Dyer Hall and the presentation of the charter.

Bowling

CATHOLIC CHURCH LEAGUE

AUBURN — The Catholic Bowling League of Auburn met for their weekly session on Wednesday evening at the Auburn Bowling Center. The bowlers representing St. Bridget's were the winners with a score of 2485 and St. Alphonsus team was second with a score of 2469. High singleton honors went to Paul Graney with 268 and Michalowski was second with 258. Individual leaders were: Michalowski, 568; Quinn, 535; Osterman, 531; Steigerwald, 518; Connors, 516 and Salvatore, 507.

St. Francis				Holy Family			
Spano	137	164	142	Edwards	191	150	144
Ft. B'Md'y	134	180	136	Major	116	143	134
Graney	138	164	156	Castro	138	148	143
Quinn	179	188	118	Kinney	144	139	139
Salvatore	168	169	169	Gaynor	166	144	167
+	0	2	0				
Totals	756	775	690	Totals	748	724	736
St. Alphonsus				St. Bridget's			
Kenyon	147	158	161	Wysocki	168	170	178
Riley	128	168	138	Major	138	148	161
Blackwell	132	113	139	Quinn	138	139	158
Carroll	148	167	152	Michalowski	161	202	168
Osterman	152	151	178	Connors	171	168	178
+	20	20	20				
Totals	725	741	807	Totals	821	855	861
St. Mary's				St. Augustine			
Palumbo	138	168	138	Hennessy	170	148	168
Kelly	138	168	138	Hennessy	138	148	168
Kelly	138	168	138	Hennessy	138	148	168
Kelly	138	168	138	Hennessy	138	148	168
Kelly	138	168	138	Hennessy	138	148	168
+					0	0	0
Totals	690	840	690	Totals	782	740	840