

Children's Book on Santa Penned by Miss Thompson

History of the legend of Santa Claus is traced in a new children's book, "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," written by Miss Blanche Jennings Thompson, well-known Rochester authoress.

To combat the modern secularization of the Feast of the Nativity, Miss Thompson, an English teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, has published this volume revealing the true origin of Santa Claus.

"She restores him to his original Christian purity," the publishers, the Ave Maria Press of Notre Dame, Indiana state, for her purposes, Rochester teacher delves into the wealth of stories, legend and otherwise, the concerning the good saint who lived during the third century.

IN NEW INTRODUCTION, Miss Thompson explains: "There is probably no other saint as popular as Saint Nicholas, about whom so little is known. The place of his birth and his burial is known, she says, and that his own Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, and a few other facts. The rest is legend, but few legends have been so persistent. In the course of the years Saint Nicholas has changed from a dignified bishop, kind and good to the one whose delight day to day is to toss a coin into a pigeon hole and call it charity."

Miss Thompson's other works include: "A Candle Burns For France," "With Harp and Lute," "Silver Pennies," "The Oldest Story," and "All Day With God." She has also written more than 130 articles, short stories, plays and poems.

The second Sodality Union meeting was held last Sunday at Holy Family High School, Auburn.

Delegates from Our Lady's Sodality, Elmira Catholic High were: Thomas Agan, Perfect; Thomas Crossed, Jeanne, Tormey, Pat Donohue, Thomas Morgan, Norman Hower, Mary Claire Frawley, Mary Theresa O'Brien and two moderators, Sr. Francis Cecilia and Sr. Jane Marie. The meeting began at three o'clock with about 140 delegates attending. Father Francis LaRuffe, S. J. presided.

A panel discussion was held, which centered on mental prayer. During the meeting Father LaRuffe, emphasized that Catholic youth must have the conviction of their faith as a priceless treasure, have the courage to believe and live their convictions and fight for their faith.

At the meeting plans were made to have a Summer School of Catholic Action condensed into one or two days during the month of February. Father J. Roger Lyons, S.J., Father Richard Rooney, S.J., will conduct the school, if plans are completed. After the meeting dinner was served in the School Auditorium.

Thomas Agan '49 won first place in the American Legion Oratorical, in a contest held last Friday at Elmira Catholic High. Agan's speech was entitled "Freedom of Speech and the Press." Runners up were: Pauline Kujawski '48—"The Framing Fathers" and Andrew Von Hopfy '50—"The Framing Fathers." Among the other contestants were: Mary Rose Trueser—"The History of the Constitution" and Cornelius Lorden—"The Framing Fathers." Attorney J. Vincent O'Brien representing the American Legion was chairman. Judges were, Mr. Julian Penney, Attorney Irving Etzkind, A. Lyman Wright. While the judge-

Elmira Catholic Highlights

By ANN REIDY

Dances Held
A dance sponsored by St. Patrick's Holy Name Society was held in the Assembly Rooms last Wednesday from 8:30 to 11:30. It was for all Catholic students of high school age. Ben Rossi and his "Playboy Masters" furnished the music among which were several polkas, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The evening was highlighted by a "Paul Jones."

Decorations at the hall was taken care of by the following: Thomas Agan, Frank Sarno, Theresa Crossed, Pat Donohue, Edward Lodioc and Marie Callahan. Chaperons were: Mr. and Mrs. John Reidy, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Kent; Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy; Mr. and Mrs. John Wilmont; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Agan.

Socially News
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Christian Brother Dies, Former Teacher Here

Brother Ablyn O'Mahoney, a member of the teaching congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and reported to have been a teacher in schools in this city at one time, died Dec. 21, 1947, in Chicago of injuries suffered in a fall on Dec. 10.

He had been a member of the faculty of St. Mel High School in Chicago since 1918, according to the Associated Press.

ing was taking place the students sang patriotic songs.

Sings In "Hosanna"

Thomas Hughes, senior, is a member of the Elmira Civic Chorus, which presented the "Messiah" on Dec. 14.

Alumni News
Gene Agan '47 a student of St. Francis Seminary, Staten Island is writing a series of articles for the seminary newspaper.

Jane Winski '45 is now recovering from an appendicitis operation. Christmas decorations were up early in the week in all the home rooms. At various times during the week, different classes could be heard singing Christmas carols. The week was highlighted by assemblies and plays, also general Christmas festivities on Friday.

From these the students sadly departed to begin their vacation, which extends until Monday, January 6.

Trappist Talk at Synod
Dubuque—(NC)—In an unprecedented action, the Abbot and ten of the choir monks and seminararian brothers of the New Mel-lary Trappist Monastery here left their cloistered home to take part in an archdiocesan ceremony. The monks were dispersed from their Trappist rule of silence when they attended the files of the Dubuque archdiocesan synod convened by Archbishop Henry P. Hohmann of Dubuque.

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Bureau Schedules 2 Catholic Sessions
The New York State Council, Knights of Columbus, and New York State Chapter, Catholic War Veterans, slated for May will be among the 153 conventions bringing 57,000 convention delegates to Rochester in 1948, according to J. Allan Doyle, executive secretary, Rochester Convention and Publicity Bureau.

Famed Clock Electrified
New Orleans—(NC)—The three-face clock in the tower of St. Patrick's Church here is being electrified, so that the sexton will no longer have to climb 153 steps each Saturday.

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