

**HER DANA MES**

**A Messenger from Dana**

**"DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLAA"**

Wondrous are the azure skies  
 When the sunlight fades and dies  
 Then the golden stars awaken,  
 How they twinkle, smile, and beckon  
 Us from earth to heav'n above.

Every star that holy night  
 Waned and faintly showed its light;  
 All at once, a heav'nly wonder,  
 One star gleamed and glowed in splendor,  
 With the light of mid-day sun.

When that star so bright and clear  
 Did on midnight heavens appear,  
 Ancient seers had told the story  
 That a king of matchless glory  
 Should be born upon the earth.

Wise men from the East did bring  
 Precious off'rings for that King  
 At the feet of her who bore Him  
 They did kneel and long adore Him  
 Whom so far they'd come to see.

To the town of Bethlehem,  
 David's home, it guided them;  
 There, so runs the sacred story,  
 Was no pomp nor earthly glory  
 But a virgin with her child.

'Twas a star that led the way  
 To the place where Jesus lay.  
 On our path a bright star beameth,  
 If we follow where it gleameth,  
 We shall find the promised Lord.

This, our star, with cheerful ray  
 Which will never lead astray,  
 Is God's Word of revelation  
 Sent to every tribe and nation  
 As a guide to lead us home.

Original by N. F. S. Grundtvig.

Translated by H. C. Jensen.

**HERMES****A Messenger from Dana**

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**TO SUBSCRIBERS, ADVERTISERS, AND FRIENDS OF HERMES:** The staff extends sincere wishes for a joyous Christmas. This is the season when it seems as if man, wherever Christ's birth is tenderly remembered, lives life more abundantly because of the memory of that eternally momentous event. Our greeting to you is that angel-borne song whose celestial tones have through twenty centuries of Christian endeavor gladdened the hearts of untold millions; "Peace on earth, good will toward man."

J. J.

Christmas is that time of the year when the hearts of all should beat as one in the humble contemplation of the One Great Gift bestowed upon us all, and in solemn appreciation of the joyous tidings of: "Peace on Earth; Good Will toward Men."

C. A. N.

**COLLEGE IDEALS**

**Arthur E. Jensen**

Whatever work we may be doing, we should have certain ideals as a goal towards which we may strive, for the good of ourselves and others. Ideals are often thought of as un-

attainable dreams, as impracticable and visionary ideas incompatible with real life. This is, of course, in a measure, true, since ideals are mental conceptions of certain standards of perfection, and, consequently, are beyond our immediate reach. And yet, to be of the greatest benefit, our ideals should not be set so high that earnest effort will not be put forth in striving for them. Nor should they be dependent upon circumstances beyond our control. For example, I am sure every student at Dana has a mental picture of an ideal college, even though it may not be clearly defined. But it is of little use that we entertain vague thoughts and hopes of a "Greater Dana" by some means or other and at some indefinite time. If we simply picture in our minds a number of beautiful buildings, symmetrically arranged and splendidly equipped, with perhaps a corps of instructors suited to our individual tastes, and then rest content that we have high ideals for Dana College, we are fooling ourselves. All these things, however desirable they may be, do not immediately concern us as students. We should have concrete ideals of such a nature that they bring out our most earnest efforts to attain some definite ends.

Ideals vary with the characters of the individuals. In fact they form a part of the character of each one of us. The purpose for which we have come here determines largely our college ideals. If we are preparing for a definite vocation, we naturally strive for training that will be of value to us in pursuing that vocation. In seeking this training, we should not be too narrow-minded, but should try to put our best efforts into all of our work, even if some of it seems to have no direct bearing on the things in which we are interested. Knowledge which now appears to be of no value to us may prove very useful at some later time. Even if it does not, the habit of putting our best into whatever we are doing is well worth forming. Therefore ideals of well prepared lessons are important.

But knowledge is not all of college life. We may well reserve some of our ideals for the social side of it. The social life of our college is a composite structure of which each one of us is a part. Most of us have ideals of a social relationship which

we think would be desirable. There is perhaps a tendency on the part of college students to feel proud of themselves, and those who are especially gifted in some way are often apt to take a condescending attitude toward others not so favored. A humble spirit of social equality would do much to make our social life more pleasant for all, and would make an excellent ideal which each one of us might well strive to reach.

And, finally, in harmony with the purpose of the Lutheran Church in founding our school, we should also include, as an essential part of our ideals, a desire to lead a Christian life. We are here surrounded with opportunities for learning God's purpose with us. Let us therefore not forget that most important of all is the ideal of a life in harmony with our Creator, since, in pushing forward towards this glorious ideal, we shall find the others much easier to attain.

**JULEGLEDE**

Naar Solen er dalet allerlængst mod Syd, naar Dagen er kortest, og Natten længst, naar Mørket og Ødet regerer derude i Naturens Verden, da kommer Jul. Hvor vilde dog ikke Vinteren være trist, hvis ikke Julen kom og spredte Lys midt i Mørket „med tindrende Tærter og Klokker-nes Klang, med barnlige Minder og jublende Sang", med hyggeligt Samvær med de kære omkring Hjemmets Arne.

Sammen med Julefesten falder ogsaa Vintersolhverv, der bebuder, at Lys og Sommer atter begynder at vende tilbage; men der er et Mørke, der er endnu tungere end det, der ligger over Naturen ved Solhvervstid. Esaias siger: Mørke skjuler Jorden, og Dunkelhed Folkene. Dette Mørke kan ikke Naturens Sol gennemtrænge; thi det er et aandeligt Mørke, som Synden har lagt over Menneskehjernerne. Ikke engang den naturlige Kærlighed, der straalere os i Møde i de kares Kreds, formaar at sprede Lys her, men kun at gøre Mørket tættere og Savnet dybere. Det er først og fremmest derfor, vi trænge til at holde Jul; thi:

Julen er kommen med Solhverv for  
Hjernerne bange,  
Jul med Guds barnet i Skød under  
Englenes Sange;

Kommen fra Gud —  
Bringer os Glædskabens Bud.  
Æren er Guds i det høje.

Dette Solhverv for bange Hjerter kommer altsaa fra ham, der lod sig føde som et fattigt Menneskebarn Julenat, hvis „Vugge stod paa Jord foruden Gænge”; men hvis første Vuggesang blev sunget af det himmelske Kor over Bethlehems Marker.

Men dette er jo saa barnligt. Javist saa! Derfor er der saa mange, der ikke forstaar at holde Jul; thi de er ikke længere Børn. Sig mig, du kloge Menneske: Hvad søger du efter? At faa noget ud af Tilværelsen, at faa Glæden i Eje — ikke sandt? Men har du da været rigtig glad, siden du var Barn? Hvis ikke, var det saa ikke klogere, at du standsede i dit Jag og blev Barn igen? Ellers har du ingen Del i Juleglæden, ellers kan du ikke tage imod dette „Glædskabens Bud”: Fred paa Jord, — der har Magt til at bortjage Syndens og Ufredens Mørke og bringe den sande Barneglæde ind i dit bange Hjerter; thi det er kun Børnene, der har Del i denne Glæde. Saa spørger du maaske ligesom fordem Nikodemus: Hvorledes skal dette gaa til? Det kan kun ske ved, at du vender dit Blik mod ham, der er „Lysset fra det høje,” ham, der Julenat blev Kød og tog Bolig iblandt os. Hvis du vil holde dit Øje fæstet paa ham, saaledes som han møder dig i sit Ord, da vil du ved hans Lys se Syndens og Mørkets Magter baade omkring dig og i dig, og tilsidt vil du, slagen af Rædsel, fly ind i hans Favn. Da først bliver Julens Evangelium ret et „Glædskabens Bud” for dig, da erfarer du, at:

Knuste Hjerter føle bedst,  
Hvad denne store Frydefest  
For Glæde har at bringe.

En saadan Jul ønskes alle Her-  
mes Læsere, og den er tilgængelig  
for alle; thi denne Glæde er „for he-  
le Folket.”

John Christensen



### INDIAN LIFE AT OAKS, OKLAHOMA

In describing the life and customs of the Indians here at Oaks, Oklahoma, I must say that I found it slightly different from what I had imagined. The word Indian is such a cannotative word. One at once thinks of wigwams from which a gray smoke curls slowly up into a blue sky; of Indian chiefs wrapped in gay colored blankets lazily squat-  
ted in front of the wigwams, enjoying a smoke from old corn pipes, while Indian women are busily engaged in preparing corn for use.



CHRISTMASTIDE, thou art the season of gifts and of light. Long ago three wise men saw a star in the east and followed it. When they came to the place where the Child lay, they fell down and worshipped Him, the Light of the World, and offered their gifts unto Him, who is Himself the Gift of God unto mankind.

Wise men of all ages still seek that cradle by following the Light. They bow down in worship to Him, and offer in reverence their gifts: glorious hymns, sublime poems, deep philosophies, marvellous pictures, magnificent churches—all to His praise and glory.

What gift have we to bring unto Him? Shall we not, like the wise men of old, bow down and worship Him, and like them, be not content with the bringing of earthly substance, however rare, but give ourselves unto Him?

N. F. F.

One thinks of beads, bead bags, bracelets, of beautiful pottery and basketry. But the Indians here no longer dress in bright colored feathers and blankets;—they have substituted the house for the wigwam; they have in a measure adopted the American method of living.

The land around Oaks is very woody, and in these woods are found massive oaks, towering pines, hickory, walnut, elm and sycamore trees. When autumn comes and the leaves are all arrayed in their festive costumes, a hill side is a mass of flaming color. The leaves often turn such bright red colors that the woods glow as if on fire. I have never seen trees turn such glorious colors before and I am sure that if it were possible for man to feast on beautiful scenery, we who live here would

certainly wax fat. But as the human being is not capable of existing on beauty alone it becomes necessary for them to satisfy his needs in another way. The land is rocky and very hard to cultivate so farming is not a very prosperous occupation and yet most of the Indians earn their living by farming. They are able to raise cotton, sweet potatoes, sugar cane and a little corn besides garden vegetables. If they wish to prosper at all they must labor intensely and as the Indians are not naturally industrious they are all quite poor. Their method of living can, then, best be explained by their poverty caused in great measure by their lazy nature.

The homes of the Indians offer a great contrast to the homes of the common people of the north. I shall endeavor to picture the home life of Indians as I have observed it by my visit to the various families of the community. All the homes are dull and uninteresting in appearance having never been painted and are as a consequence worn and gray. Quite a few live in log cabins with even log chimneys. The homes are poorly built so that it must be a task to keep them warm in the winter. They are neither air nor water tight and when it rains one can almost satisfy one's thirst by

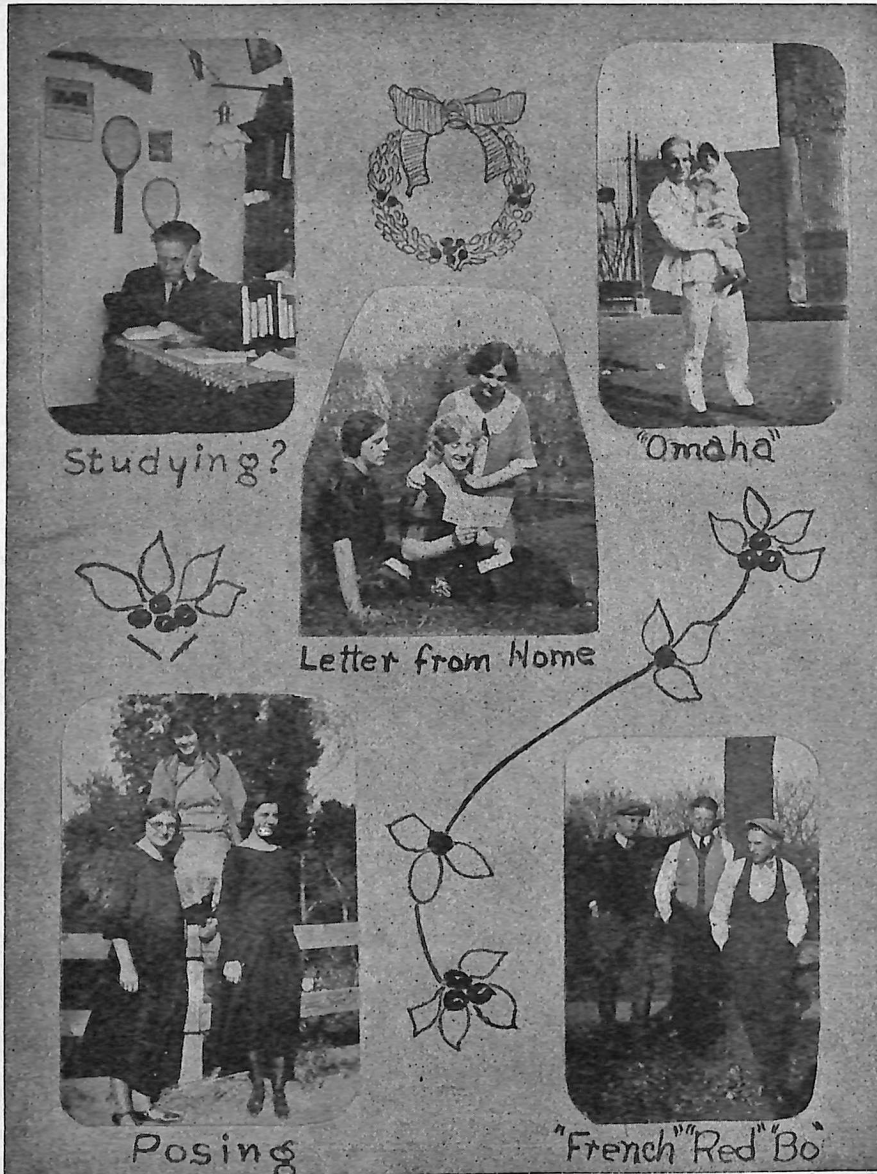
standing in certain places with mouth wide open. Windows are scarce and few homes can boast more than one window per room. Some do not even enjoy the luxury of one window the only inlet for air and sunshine being the space between the boards and the door. In one home in which I visited they evidently felt the need of a window for they had cut a space about two feet by one foot where the sun might have a chance once a day to send its golden messengers to play with the dark little baby crawling on the floor. If homes are blessed with windows few are blessed with curtains. There are no soft rugs for cold little feet to patter over in the evening, no comfortable leather chairs where tired folks can rest when eve has spread its dark mantle over the sleepy earth — — noth-

ing that suggests comfort. It is sometimes hard even to supply us with a chair of any kind in some of the homes in which we have visited and they have had to resort to crude home made benches. The home is usually made up of two or three rooms and one will be sure to find a bed in every room. Just as the Dana Quartet used to sing: "Here

chick, there chick, everywhere chick, chick." I sometimes feel like singing, here beds, there beds, everywhere beds, beds. They do not feel that their rooms are completely furnished unless they have a bed in each room.

While the walls of our rooms are all decorated with gay flowers or artistic designs the people here must

be satisfied with less beautiful wall paper. How should you like to paper your home with newspaper? The people here consider themselves lucky if they can get enough papers to cover all their rooms. This wall paper does not, perhaps, satisfy the sense of the beautiful but it serves another purpose. When we find that the conversation is slacking, we have



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only to right about face and we will at once be entertained with everything from a hair splitting murder story to the study of the styles of Paris.

I must not forget to speak of the fireplace, the poets' and artists' delight. In nearly every home we find a friendly fire burning in a fireplace, throwing a glow of warmth and beauty over the otherwise bare and desolate room. Here chirp the lucky crickets their gay promises, here we are told old tales of war and might—here the cold little children gather to be warmed and gladdened by the lively fire sprites. By one of these firesides I found what I call "a second Abraham Lincoln." While Abe used an old shovel on which to

work his sums, a little Indian girl busies herself by writing push, pull and compact ovals all over the front of the fireplace. Perhaps it would be of interest to know how she got the chalk for her penmanship. Her brother was playing the organ and in his enthusiasm he had unconsciously caused the organ to sway to such an extent that a cupie doll perched high upon it as a decorative spot fell with a loud crash and broke into many pieces. These pieces proved to be Elsie's chalk. When they are gone perhaps the cupie doll on the fireplace will suffer in the same manner.

The food of the Indians consists mainly of cornbread, biscuits, and 'lasses made from sugar cane. They

eat an enormous amount of molasses. They seldom make light bread as they call it and then only when we are invited to be their guests. They do eat other things besides the above mentioned articles, but if you visit an Indian home you will not fail to see biscuits, cornbread and molasses.

We still find the horse the main means for transportation and it seems quite comical to me when I relate that when I last drove in a car we turned calmly out and around a wagon drawn by two lazy mules, having to drive nearly in the ditch to pass them, while the driver of the wagon sat in his seat continually smoking a pipe as unconcerned as if he hadn't heard us honk. Many people travel horseback and at least one by calf. I was coming through the woods one dark evening after supper when I was suddenly disturbed from my meditation by a loud Indian whoop and up rode a boy on a —? At first I couldn't make out what it was he was riding when I came to the conclusion that some bear must have jumped from the pages of a fairy tale book and I was just about to speak when the clouds suddenly parted and the moon looked down and then I saw it was only one of the school boys on a calf. He was traveling at an awful rate considering the means.

(Continued on page 10)

## THE FARMERS STATE BANK

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### STUDENT OUTLET Saturday School

"School on Saturdays!" Oh, what a thought! Yet 'tis as true as that you are alive. Though our schedule is crowded, we must add to our lot one more day of each week to the five. Though Christmas is coming and fills all our minds, and we think of the shopping to do, our Saturdays, for reasons of several kinds, must be used for recitations too.

"But you want a Christmas vacation?" you say. "Indeed," we reply as a rule. "But couldn't we get it without having to pay with low grades caused by Saturday school?"

Were I a believer in old Santa Claus, I'd ask him some plan to devise, that would give us vacation sans Saturday school,—“Will you this?—Oh, Santa—!” (sighs.)

—A. Stude.

We appreciate the fact that a new system is being adopted in the Library.



Alfred Nelson former student of Dana College, is attending St. Olaf this year. He is enjoying his work very much.

We have received word that Rev. M. L. Kirkegaard, '23, is the happy father of a daughter born Nov. 26, 1924. We extend congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Kirkegaard.

Miss Olivia Johnson is employed as stenographer at the Cedar Falls High School.

Helen Rasmussen '23 secured 14 new subscribers for Hermes. Thanks!

By Lillian Lund

Miss Agnes Hansen, '24, is at Cedar Falls, where she is employed as stenographer at the Iowa State Teachers' College.

Miss Sarah Jensen is engaged in office work in Des Moines.

We are very glad to hear that our friend Anders Steensen, who has been seriously ill at our sanatorium in Brush, is improving in health. This good news was kindly received and welcome to his many friends here at Dana, as well as elsewhere, who are hoping that he may soon recover.

Harold Larsen, '20, "Lars" is superintendent of the High School at Rocklake, North Dakota.

**DANA NEWS**

The following are members of Dana College Choir: Agnes Anderson, Co. Bluffs, Ia.; Martha Anderson, Webster Groves, Mo.; Martinus Bolleson, Omaha, Nebr.; Elmer Christensen, Racine, Wis.; Herbert Christensen, Racine, Wis.; Esther Fogdahl, Cedar Falls, Ia.; Johanna Frandsen, Battle Creek, Ia.; Dorothy Gray, Blair, Nebr.; Astrid Hansen, Sioux City, Ia.; Margaret Hansen, Racine, Wis.; Phillip Hansen, Blair, Nebr.; Lilyan Hindley, Blair, Nebr.; Carl Hjortsvang, Cordova, Nebr.; Ingfried Holm-Møller, Chicago, Ill.; Myrtle Hurdum, Blair, Nebr.; Asaph

Jensen, West Branch, Ia.; Ezra Jensen, Luck, Wis.; Ingeborg Jensen, Blair, Nebr.; Ruth Jensen, Royal, Ia.; Cornelia, Johnson, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Esther Johnson, Plainview, Nebr.; Christian Justesen, Westbrook, Me.; Joseph Kjøller, Standard, Can.; Lillian Lund, Mason City, Nebr.; Anita Madson, Coulter, Ia.; Carl Nelson, Racine, Wis.; Elise Nelson, Bowlus, Minn.; Emerald Nielsen, Minden, Nebr.; Walter Nielsen, Racine, Wis.; Paul Nyholm, Copenhagen, Denmark; Edwin Petrusson, Chicago, Ill.; Gudmund Pedersen, Kenmare, N. Dak.; Lena Petersen,

Hampton, Nebr.; Maria Pedersen, Kenmare, N. Dak.; Nena Petersen, Ruskin, Nebr.; Olga Petersen, Dannebrog, Nebr.; Bessie Robeson, Blair, Nebr.; Olga Simonsen, Blair, Nebr.; Tillman M. Sogge, Jackson, Minn.; Harry Thomsen, Memphis, Tenn.; Elliot Viale, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Orchestra members, Prof. Nielsen, director:

Carl Hjortsvang, Cordova, Nebr., President; Jane Noble, Blair, Nebr., Secretary-Treasurer; Martha Anderson, Webster Groves, Mo.; Elvin Bentsen, Sidney, Mont.; Ansgar Christensen, Palmerston, North New Zealand; Johanna Frandsen, Battle Creek, Ia.; Lilyan Hindley, Blair,

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Nebr.; Esra Jensen, Luck, Wis.; Ruth Jensen, Cedar Falls, Ia.; Emerald Nielsen, Upland (Fredriksburg), Nebr.; Bessie Robeson, Blair, Nebr.; Opal Tucker, Blair, Nebr.; Harry Thomsen, Memphis, Tenn.

Saturday, December 6, the students of Trinity Seminary were invited to Prof. T. M. Hansen's. The evening was spent in discussing practical problems which a person may meet when college days are over. These gatherings were held last year, too, and are appreciated very much as they give opportunity to discuss such topics which the students are unable to present in the classroom.

Coach T. Andersen is hard at work getting his men in shape for some lively basket ball games scheduled after the Christmas vacation.

December 13, the following topic was debated: Resolved: That congress shall have power to overrule the decisions of the supreme court, declaring federal acts annulled. Those on the negative side were John Jensen, Wm. Rathman and Verner Carlsen; the affirmative, Johannes Lund, Arthur Jensen and Arthur Mehrens. The decision was 2-1 in favor of the negative.

The Senior Class has been selling Christmas greeting cards to start a

fund for financing the 1925 Annual. One team was captained by Arthur Nelson; the other by Knud Larsen. The winning team has not yet been announced, but results are close.

These staff members have been chosen: Editor-in-chief, Carl A. Nelson; Business manager, Arthur Nelson; Circulation manager, Chris Christensen. Watch for further announcements and be ready to enter your subscription!

**THE LIBRARY CORNER**

Our library has not been used to the extent it ought to be used. There are a number of students who have not as yet drawn any books. Such a condition shows that the library

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James Kirby

has not nearly reached its limit of usefulness. The aim of every library is to have 100 per cent of its possible constituency as its users. With the hope of increasing our usefulness toward this goal we will each month have a column of library news in Hermes.

Since the beginning of the year 164 books have been added to the library. Of these 119 have been donated and the other 45 bought by the school.

We hope before the end of the year to become a United States depository for Government publications.

Do you know that we have in the library several very old copies of the Bible? We have one that was printed in 1633, and another printed in 1665. Each of these are worth

**J. D. Garrison**  
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over sixty dollars. We have also a set of eight volumes of the works of Martin Luther printed in 1558-62. We have another book with an interesting history. It was printed in 1578, and sold at public auction in 1774. From the way many of the sentences are underscored it would seem that it had been thoroughly studied in these early years. Furthermore, most of these books still have their original binding, some being of sheepskin, with brass corners and clasps, and some being of a heavy parchment. We have a dictionary, donated by Von Moltke, the Danish consul to America.

The general organization of the library is being slowly changed and improved. A book case is being made to accommodate the books for which we at present have no shelf room. The magazine room has not been set in order yet, but we hope to have that ready for use before the end of the Christmas vacation. Pockets, date slips, and book cards are being put in all the books as the first step to establish the "Newark" charging system. This will make a much easier and more convenient method of keeping a check on the books withdrawn.

Carl Hjortsvang,  
Chief Librarian.

**"JEST" OURSELVES**

Miss F., purchasing a pair of hose, after buying a pair of silk ones said: "I want a pair for **Gym**, too." (jim)

Clerk: "What size does your husband wear?"

(In Bookkeeping Class) Mrs. Z.: "Your figures are about right, but your "cents" are off."

Miss C.: "Thank you!"

Mr. J.: "Use the first, second, and third person in a sentence."

Miss X.: "Adam, Eve, and Cain lived to be very old."

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Winter Student: "I want a bar of soap, to let."

Clerk: "A bar of soap to let? Sorry sir, we don't have soap to let, but we have toilet soap to sell!"

Mr. X.: "Don't you know that you are far behind in your studies? Why are you so far behind?"

Miss B.: "So that I can pursue them better."

L. P. in Penmanship, to winter student: "Can you read these letters?"

Student: "Yes."

L. P.: "Have you ever written them before?"

Student: "Yes."

L. P.: "Do you understand them?"

Student: "Surely; I was born in North Dakota."

Sogge, in Economics: "Why is it impossible to get a "corner" on ice?"

Moore: "The ice chips too easily."

Nyholm, ude at køre i sin nye gamle Ford, hører en Knald. „Det var nok en „punctuation”."

Winter Student: "I got zero in my examination."

E. G.: "You mean 10 before zero."

W. S.: "Sure, 10 below zero."

Notice on Bulletin Board

These books are due and must be returned at once:

Ruth Jensen

J. Lund

Ezra Jensen

C. H., Librarian.

What do you mean Hjortsvang? Books or bookworms?

L. H., in Chemistry: "It is a vicious liquid." Meaning viscous, of course.

Bollesen's stentorian voice, after eating onions: "Can you smell my voice?"

John C. at business meeting: "I think we ought to have an extemporaneous speech—just a short—about half or three-quarters of an hour." How long is a long one, John?

THAT WEEKLY LETTER

Dana College.

Dear Folks:

It is nearing Xmas, and I kinda get the blues as I would like to be at home. However, we always have such a nice time here at Dana, so that helps out like everything. We have been very busy lately. We have to go to school on Saturdays too. We have off Sunday tho. Last Sat.

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we surely had a good time. You know several were invited out to a kinda party. Well I got no invitation, for some reason or other. Maybe they overlooked my name. Well, as I was at home together with a few others we had to rig up something. We tipped over several of the beds of those who were out; then we waited at the door for those who were out to come home. We had some snow ready. It so happened that the first one who came was a member of the faculty, so we had to let that opportunity go. I live on the second floor. We have called that Main Street, as the main students live on that floor you know.

I shouldn't tell this, but I know you won't tell, and surely this is nothing wrong; but you know we have discovered a dandy way of signalling. We are not supposed to leave our rooms after 7 o'clock. We don't as a rule, we don't need to. If we want anything we just tap one long and two short on my radiator. The girls below can hear that. Well, then they open the window and I open mine then I send either a weiner sandwege or some candy by means of a string and they take it. If they have something they do the same and I hang out my string and I take what they put on. That is a dandy way. Don't tell, will you, cause that will spoil our fun.

My it is already supper time. There goes the waiter beating the old dish pan. Good-bye, folks. Wish you all a merry, merry Xmas.

Best regards to all.

Always your loving daughter,

Jensine Maren Johansen.

P. S.—If possible send all my presents in one bundle, as the mail man charges 10 cents per bundle.

#### INDIAN LIFE AT OAKS, OKLAHOMA

(Continued from page 5)

I shall speak briefly on the character of the Indians. As you no doubt already know, they are naturally very lazy and would almost rather starve than work to secure the bare necessities of life. They are easy to anger and are very apt to carry a grudge against anyone who has angered them. When they become angry they do not hesitate to act and we have even found school boys ready to fly at one another with open jack knives in their hands. Let me

tell how Armistice Day was celebrated here. As we were not granted any holiday I had gone over to school and was busy getting my work planned, when I was interrupted by a child who came running up to me

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and said, "Oh, they are fighting over town." I stepped to the window and looked over toward Oaks and there I saw both men, women, and children standing tense in the middle of the road, ready to spring at each other when the signal was given. Presently it must have been given, for all at once they began to fight one another and soon blood was trickling down more than one face, hair was flying wildly, clothes was torn and girls were sitting in a heap in the dusty road. The women fight just as often and as willingly as men and none feel ashamed to do so even in the middle of town.

The characteristics of the Indian which I have just mentioned belong more to the mixed Indian than to the full blood. The latter is more likable. He is quite timid and peaceful. He is slow to anger and slow to act if angered. But it seems that we as a mission fail to reach many of the full bloods, that the work is carried on at the most among the mixed Indians. We have very few full blood children in school and very few are seen around Oaks. Those who have attended the large Cherokee meetings, which are held off and on during the year, say that there are many full bloods present who have never been seen near Oaks.

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I shall only give a short summary of the religious life of the Indians. The Oaks Mission has been in existence for over thirty years and it has of course done much towards civilizing the people and educating them about the true God. The people in this community seem to realize that there is a God, that Jesus Christ died that they might not perish if they only believe and that they must love and serve Him if they expect to inherit eternal life. And yet it

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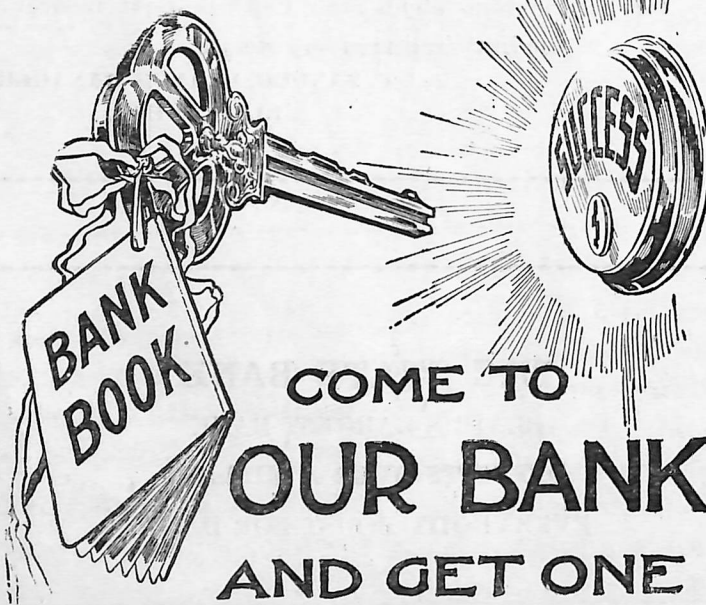
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seems extremely difficult to find a real Christian among any of them. They have no zeal or desire to attend the different meetings held for their benefit; at church there is seldom more than three or four grown up members present and then it is usually different ones each Sunday. The children usually attend Sunday School each Sunday, but when they get older they drop out and it seems to me that it is natural, for if the parents will not go they can not expect their children to continue. Children are imitative and when they see that their parents have no need of worship they will also ignore it. Many of the parents are desirous that their children attend Sunday School and seem to think it is queer that they can't get them to go. We visited in two homes one Sunday afternoon and when we questioned the parents as to why their children didn't attend Sunday School they said that they had coaxed, commanded, pleaded and threatened and yet their children didn't seem to care to go. Then we raised the question, "Why don't the mamas and papas go?" Naturally excuses rained fast and hard, then, for they haven't the time or the clothes, or as one gave the excuse "he guessed it was for meanness."

Our mission must then awaken an interest in the older people if it expects the children to grow up as Christian citizens who will have an earnest desire to obey and serve the true and living God.

Hannah Nyholm.

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