

When the curtain opens for the Inland Children's Chorus 1965 spring concert, it will close outstanding musical experiences for 17 young people. They are this year's graduates, who will lend their voices one final time to the organization of which they have been a part for many years.

It won't be easy to say goodbye. Many fond memories and many fast friendships have been created. Some ties reach back to the days in 1936 when the chorus was founded.

Among the graduates this year is Judy Westbrook, 16, daughter of the late Richard Westbrook, who took the dream for a unique musical organization and cemented it into reality in 1936. Judy is a sophomore at Julienne and sang soprano in the chorus for nine years. She is the last of the Westbrook children to be a part of the Children's Chorus.

"I have a great appreciation for music. It is something that has become a part of my life," said Judy. "I have received invaluable experience in performing before people and in meeting them. I think Inland gives a child the responsibility and achievement needed in growing up."

Susie Butler, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Butler, has found a kinship to the Chorus through her mother, Jean.

"I feel that it has been an honor to sing in the same Chorus in which my mother sang as a charter member. The experience was great," she said.

Susie is a sophomore at Fairmont West and has been in the Chorus eight years, singing alto and soprano.

All of the graduates concur on many "extras" they received from their Chorus affiliation: knowledge of musical terms, ability to read music, an appreciation of quality.

A fuller understanding of cooperation, respect for each individual and, above all, a great sense of pride is Pauline Wagner's Chorus heritage. She is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zigmund Wagner, a sophomore at Julienne and a seven-year Chorus member, singing first soprano.

The other graduates: Judy Chappie, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chappie, a sophomore at Julienne, five-year Chorus member, singing alto.

Mary Lou Meckenbier, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Meckenbier, a sophomore at



Julienne, six years with the Chorus, singing alto.

Susan Brun, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Brun, a sophomore at Julienne, seven years with the Chorus, singing alto. Susan values the many friends she made in the Chorus, credits Director Joseph Geiger for making "the past seven years the happiest ones I've ever known."

Rose Pomuti, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pomuti, a sophomore at St. Joseph Commercial, a four-year Chorus member, singing soprano. She feels that the Children's Chorus has deepened her appreciation of all the goodness and joy that music brings.

Sharon Brun, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Brun, a sophomore at St. Joseph Commercial and a four-year Chorus member, singing soprano.

Julie Drummer, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Drummer, values the ability to harmonize, the poise on stage and the acceptance of long rehearsal and hard work she received through the Chorus. She is a sophomore at Julienne, a five-year Chorus member and sang alto.

Sharon Story, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Woodford N. Story, feels that her Chorus work has given her a chance toward a singing career. She is a sophomore at Northmont, an eight-year Chorus member, and a soprano.

Diann Thomas, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Thomas, a sophomore at Julienne, a seven-year Chorus member, singing alto and soprano.

Jeannette Boston, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Boston, a sophomore at St. Joseph Commercial, eight years with the Chorus, singing alto.

Kathy Boston, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boston, a sophomore at Julienne, four years with the Chorus, singing alto. Kathy said she learned that it takes practice and cooperation in every undertaking, be it a performance or an occupation.

Marianne Balazs, 16, daughter of Mrs. Mary Balazs, said she acquired "a sense of giving each time we had a concert". She is a sophomore at Julienne, a three-year Chorus member, singing soprano and alto.

David Alan Weidle, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Wei-

Our Graduates

Here are this year's Inland Children's Chorus graduates. Front row, left to right, Susie Butler, Diann Thomas, Marianne Balazs, Judy Westbrook, Sharon Story and Rose Pomuti. Second row, Don Stevens, Julie Drummer, Kathy Boston, Betty Kulhanek, Sharon Brun and Pauline Wagner. Third row, Joseph P. Geiger, director; David Weidle, Jeannette Boston, Susan Brun, Judy Chappie and Mary Lou Meckenbier.

dle, said his nine-year Chorus participation taught him "to appreciate the rewards one receives for a little honest effort. Personally," he continued, "I don't know where I could have received better training in both voice and becoming a better person." He is a junior at Fairmont East and sang soprano and tenor.

Don Stevens, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Stevens, is a sophomore at Colonel White and an eight-year Chorus member, singing soprano and baritone. He is especially grateful for the training in breath control and enunciation he received.

Betty Kulhanek, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Kulhanek, is a junior at Julienne and a seven-year Chorus member, singing alto. She hopes to supplement her enjoyment of good music acquired through the Chorus with the skills needed to teach music and other courses in the elementary grades.

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Courtesy of

Diann (Thomas) Brown

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