

# Over the Teacups

With Lelia D. Routzohn

"Zowie" . . .  
"Whacko"—  
"Yoodle-oodle!"

These are only a few of the restrained exclamations that emanate from the Young Women's league auditorium most every afternoon. The exuberant, liddle expressions are those of the Inland children's chorus. The colorful utterances, signifying nothing, aid considerably in a successful running slide from one part of the room to the other. The stairs are handy, too, for various games, including tag, and the rail serves to mutilate seats of pants.

All this is a prelude to rehearsals for the annual concert with the Philharmonic orchestra, December 18, at Masonic Temple—sort of a tuning up, as it were. A few minutes before practice begins Richard Westbrook, director, enters and is immediately surrounded by bangs, pig tails and cowlicks in gay wool skirts and lumber jack-

ets. They ply him with questions about the concert, about songs, the Christmas party and scads of other items that come to their minds. Mr. Westbrook is their friend, and they consult him as such; he is one of them and they treat him that way.

Suddenly on the hour he is their teacher, and at a tap of his stick transforms 120 live wires into angelic, sweet-voiced altos and sopranos whom you'd never suspect would do anything more than go to Sunday school. The children have come to depend a great deal on Mary Werner MacCash, accompanist, who helps them no end with snags in their music.

## Miss Stafford Honored At Parties

"Daisies pure and white as snow, daffodils like gold aflow," warble the youngsters, heads high and giving their all to "Waltz of the Flowers" from "The Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikowsky. The age group of the chorus is 9 to 16 years. Auditions are given those who wish to try out for the concert. One hundred are chosen, and there are 20 understudies.

"Don't quit if you didn't get in the concert group," comforts Mr. Westbrook. "All of us can't play on the first team. Besides, there's always next year. Apply yourselves, and reward will come. The boys and girls who were selected to sing at Masonic temple are sacrificing a lot this yuletide season to come to rehearsals. We must work, work, work to make this performance the finest ever."

This, by the way, is the fifth annual presentation of the Inland Children's chorus. The boys will wear their usual Eton jacket suits. The girls—ah—the girls—they have new dresses. They're light blue taffeta designed with bouffant skirts, short puffed sleeves and white organdy collars. The necklines are round, with flat, white organdy collars.

Outstanding in the alto section is Butch Loeb (Bernard). It is debatable what is most outstanding about him, his fine voice or sandy hair which manages to march in all directions when he sings "The Staines Morris." Other chorus members of interest are Joseph Thomas Mulhern and Don Spitzig. Wack, Thomas Mulhern and Don Spitzig. Don is the youngest in the chorus and has a careful eye kept in him by his sister, Mary, also in the chorus. Noted among the older boys is Forrest Winchell,

who will stay in the chorus forever if possible 'cause it's a "swell" hobby. Angela Lehman and Shirley Broughton are veteran girl members.

The Connair youngsters are charter members of the chorus. Sylvan was the first to register, Michael the second, Paul third, Bob fourth. Tom and Tim Connair are in the choir now, and Susan, their sister, will be eligible next year.

Jimmy Walsh, soprano, and Matthew Phelan, alto, are concert soloists this year. One of the beautiful numbers on the program is "Ave Maria." You'll like the folk songs and the splendid choral work presented in "Glory to God in the Highest."

Newly organized is the Inland Graduate chorus. When those in the children's group are no longer eligible, they may join the graduate chorus, which meets every Thursday.

You see, this is the sort of thing that grows, that goes on and on, that lives forever in the lives it made beautiful, that spreads happiness over the years, that makes Christmas in Dayton so much more special than anywhere in the whole world.