



A BOY SINGS! He is Tommy Borton, member of the Inland Children's Chorus, who attends Jackson school, lives at 3305 West Second street and comes to rehearsals with his sister, Glenna, another member of the chorus. Their grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca Borton, is employed in the cafeteria at Inland.

Staff Photo by Keen.

It's Nigh Onto Christmas:

And There's Music In The Air

By MERAB EBERLE

Fifty small girls in long powder-blue gowns and a like number of boys in Eton suits will step in the rhythms of a processional to their places on a silver-gray tiered platform. Silver spruce trees will know a sudden flowering in blue lights and the city's annual concert by the Inland Children's chorus and the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra will be under way.

Two performances will be staged this season to take care of those desiring to see this almost spectacular performance: the first next Saturday evening, and the second, Sunday afternoon, Dec. 17, in Memorial hall.

People say when they see these singers trained in precision of department, custained in taste and singing with much of sweetness and no small fervor, "It doesn't seem like Dayton!" What they mean is that with this staging the performance does not resemble an amateur performance here or elsewhere. Now there is good reason that it should look so well, for a master hand in scenic effects has so ordered.

The Inland Manufacturing division of General Motors corporation, which sponsors the chorus, brings here each season Raymond Sovey of New York City who builds up

glamorous settings for New York productions. Now without the singing children Mr. Sovey couldn't

(See pictures on pages 8 and 9.)

do anything. Here is where Richard Westbrook, Dayton organist and choirmaster, comes in. Nine years ago he was approached by Col. Wallace S. Whittaker who asked that Westbrook take over the task of organizing a chorus made up of children of Inland employes.

One hundred and ninety children are trained annually by Westbrook for concert performance. Those who do the best work are selected for the Christmas appearance with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra.

Mr. Westbrook directs the different sections of the choir—soprano, second sopranos and alto—separately and then brings them together each Saturday for ensemble rehearsal. Some of the children are in the chorus because their parents want them to profit culturally, others because they love to sing and wouldn't give up a rehearsal for a party topped with ice cream and cake.

The director needs to be something of a disciplinarian and is something of a disciplinarian. When he is

present the children keep excellent order. Should he depart for a moment there is restless stirring which mounts to pandemonium.

And how does he exact obedience? His methods are not drastic, but they are onerous. Each culprit is made to write out 100 times such self-counselings as "I must be better behaved," . . . "I am going to sit still." . . . "I intend to keep from whispering."

Should the required exercise not be hunded in by the culprit at the next rehearsal, the punishment is doubled. By the time that it reaches the point of 400 the child, humbled under the sense of increasing penalty and some parental pressure, comes forth with completed task and bettered behavior.

The chorus broadcasts each Christmas Eve, either in person or in transcription. Last Christmas Eve a former member of the chorus, serving in the armed forces of this country, heard his own voice being broadcast in transcription from Dayton as he listened to a radio program in Brazil.

Yes, some of the boys who sang with the chorus back in 1936 are now serving their country. Some of the girls who were little maidens then are wives and mothers and are asking Westbrook to hold places open in the chorus for their children.

Transcription of text above on following page

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All Is Calm? ... As Inland Children's Chorus Rehearses



EUGENE BRAUNSCHWEIGER, preparing with the score rather he serves as a member of the chorus, is the son of Carl Braunschweiger, employe in Inland's fuel control department. He is an eighth grade pupil at Cleveland school.



BILL MCCORD shows his mother and sister, Mrs. Corrie McCord and Ellen Ann McCord an airplane model he has just completed. Bill, 12, is in the eighth grade at Washington school. His mother is an employe in Inland's payroll department. His sister is not yet of chorus age. The McCords live at 21 Westview avenue.



A BOY AND A GIRL, Marlene DeLuitt and Jerry Reichard. Jerry is the son of Maurine Reichard, director of music at the University of Dayton. His sisters, Evelyn and Maurine, who are members of the Inland Children's chorus.



MARILYN ENGEL carries her share of the song books belonging a chorus of the rehearsal. Marilyn's brother, Richard, and a sister, Barbara, are also in the chorus. Their mother, Mattie Engel is employed at Inland.
—Staff Photos by Keen.



SOPRANO IN REHEARSAL. Left to right, Beverly Baker, whose aunt works at Inland; Margaret Cox; Billy Westbrock, nephew of Richard Westbrock; Dorsey Hagan, nephew of Leo Hainingsbauer, Inland employe, and Jerry Wootley, whose father, John Wootley is in the Engineering Laboratory at Inland.



RICHARD WESTBROCK, director, imparts special instructions to these youngsters, left to right, John Miller of 903 avenue who has been in the chorus for four and one-half years, Phyllis DeWinger of R. K. 10; Bill Clinegan, 718 Valley street, Skidley Ashfordville, 288 Franklin avenue; Richard Engel, 27 West Bannock drive.



ROBERT ECKLEY illustrates how a member of the chorus must do "lines" if he has violated one of the rules of chorus rehearsal conduct. He lives at 121 Eagle street and is 11 years old.



SIX TUNNY children line up for rehearsal. Left to right, are Gerald, Coral Ann and Kathleen of 1029 Hayes street and Norma, Tom and Jim, of 1291 Old Orchard street. Their fathers are brothers; Bill is a former Inland employe, and James, in Inland's budget section.



HELEN WALTERS, 21 Upper avenue, when not rehearsing or attending school, helps his father, former employe at Inland on a fitting machine.