

PARTY AT ORPHANAGE

The girls all gathered at Berth's house a rainy, miserable night. Despite the weather the "Evergreens" were out for a good time. When it was time to leave, each person carried some package and off we started. Santa Claus walked up Eastern Avenue arrayed in his Christmas costume much to the amusement of many people. The orphanage at last. We all went in, put down our bundles and finally got seated. "And there certainly was some bunch to seat." The singing of hymns accompanied by the music from the violin was then begun. After singing for sometime, a small Christmas tree was trimmed and the presents were then brought in. Each of the orphan girls received a stocking filled with nuts, candy and cakes also a lovely pair of woolen gloves. The smallest of the girls received a doll and carriage, a book and a stocking top. The little boy was given a dollar and a game. They all seemed to be pleased with their gifts. Each girl in the club either received a very nice eversharp or a pretty picture calendar from Bertha. After the distribution of these gifts; the actors in the playlet which we were to give, were told to get ready. The audience apparently seemed to like the sketch despite the fact that the actresses had a small area in which to act. We then played some games and danced the Virginia Reel. Next came the "Eats!" All the grape juice and sugar cakes you wanted and they were both very good. After having spent a very pleasant evening we all left the orphanage for home.

Helen LeBrun

"CHRISTMAS EVE-----1925"

Oh joyous Christmas Eve -- when our expectations are at the highest point, our minds filled with wonder as to what the following day will bring forth, our hearts singing with joy and thanksgiving at the remembrance of God's unspeakable gift to the world, of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us!

At 606 S. Clinton St., a number of folks had gathered, awaiting the members of the "Evergreen". There were a number of jolly looking little packages scattered about, hymnals stacked on a table, a bible or two, and a violin -- all awaiting 6.30 when the jolly Evergreeners would arrive. We were going to visit a number of Shut-ins, friends of our Sister Lena.

Anna Mack was about the first member to arrive. She had come right from work and having had no supper, just like Anna, she did not hesitate a moment, asking for a sandwich to keep her alive until she reached her home. Always willing to feed the starving Armenians, or rather Germans, I led hungry Ann to the kitchen, and gave her something to eat. By the time she had made herself comfortable the whole gang had arrived, and when we went upstairs, I was led into the front room, where a large mysterious package awaited me. Upon tearing off the paper, I discovered to my surprise and delight, a beautiful cedar chest, a Christmas gift from my Evergreeners! Gosh, but a queer feeling came over me for a little while, and I could scarcely thank the girls. However I did manage to do so in some kind of a way, but it was impossible to really show how happy because of the gift, I was a million times happier because of the fact that my Evergreeners thought of giving me such a gift. A cedar chest from the most beautiful "Evergreen" that ever grew!

The presents for our Shut-in friends were divided among the girls and other folks, each one was given a hymnal, Irene got her fiddle and we started out, about thirty strong. The first home we went to, we met an old lady -- Mrs. Marsch. She was lovely and was so delighted with our visit. We sang a few Christmas carols, read the Christmas story from St. Luke 2,

On joyous Christmas Eve -- when our
and prayed, and after presenting the gift
from the Deaconess Asso. and wishing her a
happy and peaceful Christmas, we left for
the next home. We visited several other folks,
including Mr. Whinell, who we were happy to
see downstairs for the first time in years,
Mrs. Korhler, Mr. Herz and Miss May Oczs
and a few others. At each home we sang and
prayed as we did at Mrs. Marsch's home and
left a little present from the Deaconess Asso.

We reached home about 11 o'clock, tired
and cold. Everyone had a lovely time -- it
was impossible not to. The joy in our hearts
was so great, it just burst forth into song and
praises as a rose bud bursts forth into bloom,
and all who saw the roses of our joy were made
happy that joyous Christmas Eve!

Bertha Norden
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