

Special Events

SECTION IV

Our Biggest Event

By Frances Beale

One of the biggest events of our school year was the mid-September variety concert. Seats were reserved in advance for two night performances when the students played to large and appreciative audiences after having given two daytime shows for their fellow students.

There was dancing—supple and dainty; singing—clear and strong, and acting by performers who showed promising talent.

All teachers worked hard at training the students for the various items under the leadership of Miss Jeanne Wintringham and Mrs. B. H. (Mary) Turner, English singing instructors, and Daw Saw Yee, Burmese singing instructor, who also taught the Burmese dances. Miss Wintringham was concert chairman.

The kindergarten percussion band opened the concert by playing Burma's "National Anthem." Then students of the Burmese section presented solo dances followed by "Yein" or troupe dances and then gave a performance of "Progressions in Burmese Dancing."

In a Burmese drama, a group of boys enacted scenes from the reign of King Anawrahta, played by Aung Kyaw Nyein. The courtiers spoke powerfully and with good diction. The hermit, played by Teddy Whet, showed talent.

A duet dance in the reign of King Mindaon was performed by Khin Thant Han, mintha, and Khin Hta Nu, minthamee. A "pyi-daung-su" dance was done by Thelma Aung Tin, and the Burmese section came to a close with a scene depicting the major races of Burma.

The English section was narrated by the principal, Dr. G. W. Hollister, and featured the entrance of "Granny," played by May Saw Lwin, who seated herself in her favourite rocking chair at the corner of the stage, took out her knitting and began to reminisce. She was regretting her lost youth and as she pondered over her childhood dreams, each one was portrayed by an act. However, in the autumn of life, she was willing to revel in the "fount" of life and "take all it can give."

She first remembered "Toyland" and recalled the years that flew so swiftly as the combined choruses of sopranos, altos and basses sang the opening number, "Toyland," and then "Wishing Star," followed by the Star Dance. The bright little dancers, dressed like glittering stars, danced enthusiastically and twinkled under the bright lights.

"Toymaker's Dream" and the "Dance of the Toys" preceded the "March of the Toys" when little red-coated soldiers marched smartly in unison.

Children dressed like animals of the barnyard came on the stage next—the ducks waddling, dogs loping, horses trotting. They quacked, barked and neighed in turn. The audience sympathized with the little ducks, who became quite tired of waddling and departed with much difficulty. The horses could not resist stamping and peeping through their costumes at their parents. The roosters were particularly lovable when they rose on their legs to crow loudly.

The act was accompanied by members of the Junior Chorus who sang sweetly "Barnyard Family."

"I Have a Little Shadow" was recited by students of the fourth standard, and the Shadow Dance in ballet was depicted remarkably by poised amateurs.

"I Whistle a Happy Tune" by the Senior Girls' Ensemble was followed by "Dennis, the Menace," portrayed well by Doris Saw Han, who delighted the audience with Dennis' old tricks, stamping around defiantly and frightening the girls and smugly relating all the mischief "he" had caused.

Stephen Halton was "Christopher Robin," that wee boy who looked angelic after the day's mischief. The Ensemble sang the favourite "Christopher Robin Is Saying His Prayers," and continued with the "Prayer" from Hansel and Gretel. The solo was sung by Deborah Benjamin of the ninth standard.

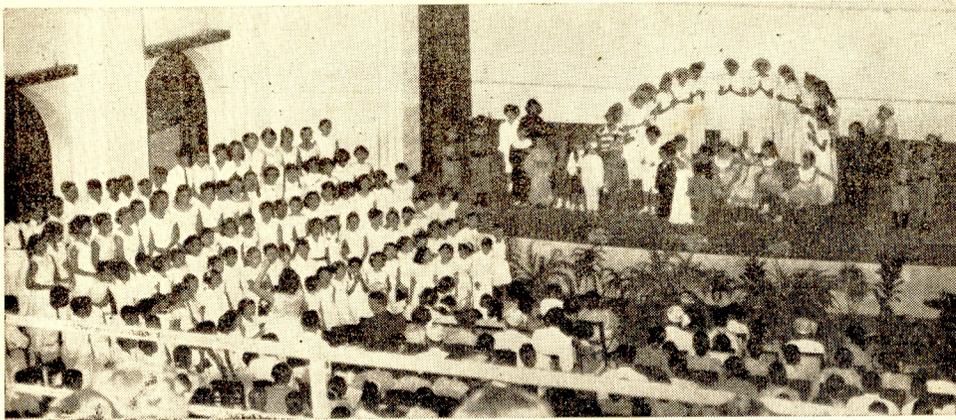
The combined choruses gave the finale, "I Love Life," and "Granny" tottered away to spend the rest of her days in peace and contentment.

In appreciation of Miss Wintringham's efforts in organizing the concert, the school presented her with a bouquet as the performance ended.

Among prominent guests in the audience were the distinguished U Nu and Daw Mya Yee (Madame Nu) and Ministers of the Cabinet.

The concert made a profit of K 6000, which went toward the building of the playshed.

The Grand Variety Concert...English



Chorus sings for concert's grand finale

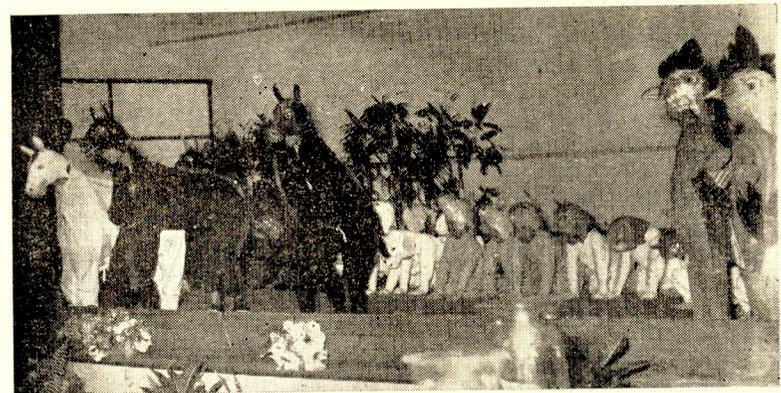
Twinkling stars
in the Star Dance
make a shining scene



The captain drills his toy soldiers



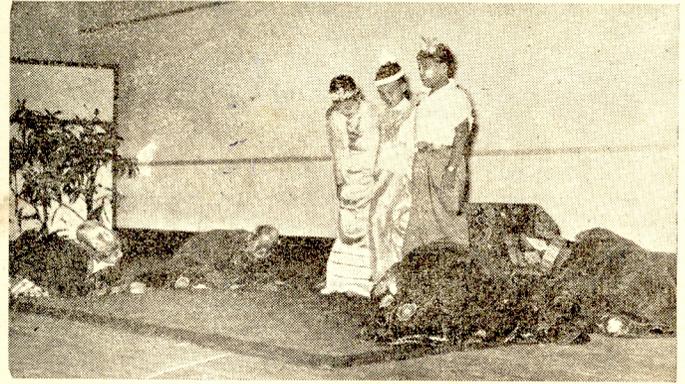
Most amusing act—the Barnyard Family



... and Burmese



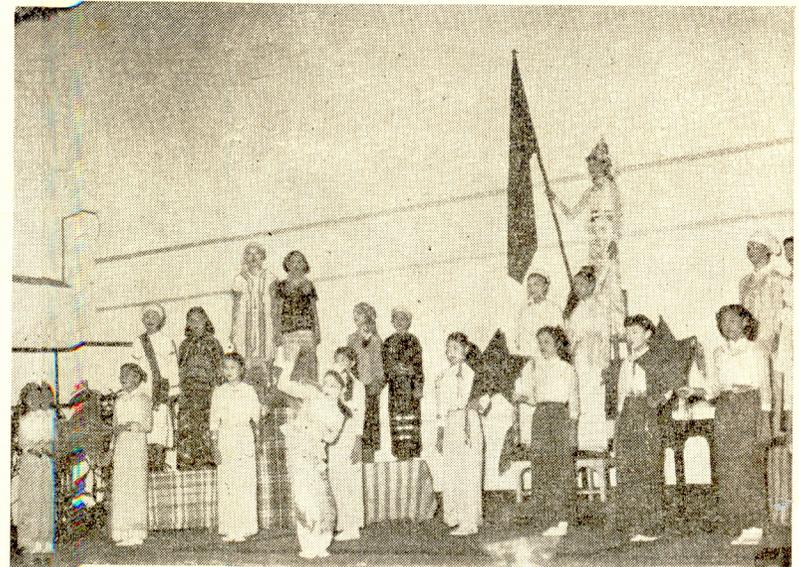
Talented M.E.H.S. dancers perform the "Yein"



Burmese drama depicts the reign of famous King Anawrahta of Pagan.

Final Burmese act: Scene of all the races of Burma

A graceful little Burma minthami performs for us



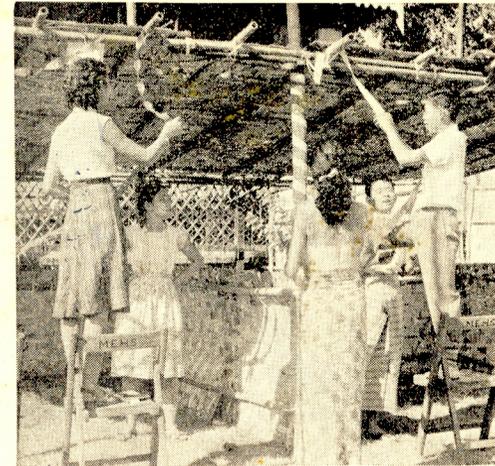
A Most Awaited Event

By Shirley Lal

The most-awaited event after the Variety Concert was the annual Fun Fair. It was a brilliant success with everyone enjoying themselves.

The fair, as usual, began at 3 P.M. on the first Saturday in December, and as in the years before was swarming with people by 5 P.M. The various

stalls were all fancifully decorated and added colour to the rather dry and dusty grounds, and the ice cream, cold drinks and tea were welcomed by the dry and dusty throats. The Santa Claus kyat-a-gift stall was the first to sell out, possibly due to Miss Brown's policy: "It pays to advertise."



It's work to decorate—but fun too

Santa Claus, Miss Brown and Christmas gifts



Small children were delighted with their fancy paper hats and rides on the merry-go-round and ferris wheel, while young and old alike flocked to the "khaukswe," "mohinga," and doughnut stalls, bought all the Christmas cards and candles, baskets, novelties, etc.

A special attraction was the science stall, organized by Miss Johnson whose science students made "M.E.H.S. Spink" —"a guaranteed ink" which they sold with great success along with their laboratory-made plant food.

As night drew on, coloured lights were switched on, music was on full swing and by 7 P.M. the school hall was packed for an evening of square dancing.

After the co-operation and donations of parents, friends, teachers and students, the fair made a profit of Kyats 15,000. It will be used for school stipends and community welfare.

For the third consecutive year the Methodist English High School has won the shield in the annual elocution contest sponsored by the National Council of the Women of Burma.

The event was held in the M.E.H.S. assembly hall on Saturday, December 1, 1956, and the prize-giving ceremony was held at this school also, on Saturday, January 26, when Daw Mya Yee (Mrs. Nu) presented the prizes. On behalf of the M.E.H.S. participants, Miss Annette Jenkins received the Council's large prize-winning shield as well as a miniature shield to be kept permanently by the school for having won the big shield three years in a row.

The following students helped to win the shield:

Babies Section—Peggy Wallace and Albert Aung, who both recited "Whisky Frisky," tied for second place.

Midgets Section—Dorothy Gould, first prize, and Boh Zaw Win, third prize, for reciting "My Shadow."

Junior Sections—

(a) *Individual recitation*—Aileen Welti, first prize for reciting "The Little Whistler;"

(b) *Dialogue*—Betty McKertich and Lynette Tun Tin, first prize, Rochelle Solomon and Lavendra Kumar, second

prize, for reciting "Where Are You Going, My Pretty Maid?"

Senior Sections—

(a) *Individual recitation*—Marina Pereira, third prize for reciting "High Flight;"

(b) *Team Work*—Annette Jenkins, Louise Chamarette, Marika Barrington and Robert Barnett, first prize, for their rendition of "The Mikado."

These successful candidates were presented with individual prizes from the school in December at the annual graduation ceremony. Mrs. Htun Tin, wife of the Minister for Education, presented the prizes of money and book tokens.

ELOCUTION CONTEST:

M. E. H. S. Wins Permanent Shield

By Frances Beale

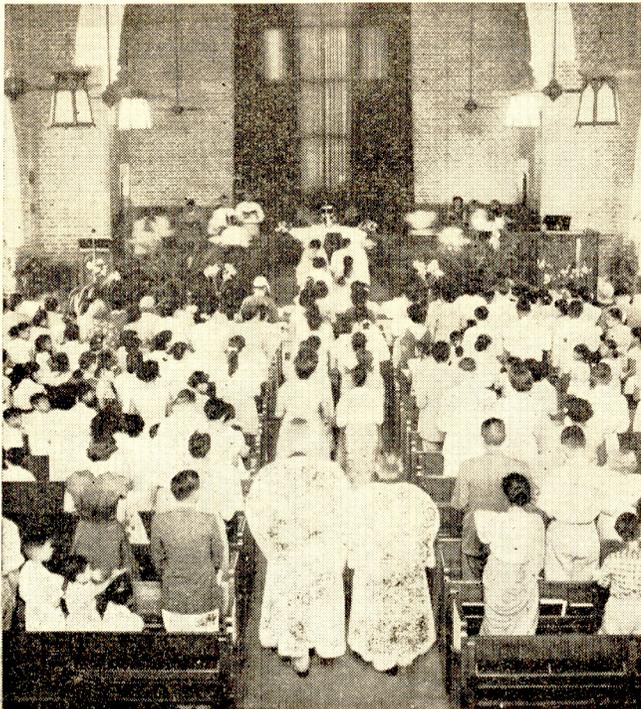
Daw Mya Yee presents winning shield to Annette



Church Honours School Staff

By Ann Gillmon

Processional of teachers' choir



Every year an annual ceremony is held at the Methodist English Church to honour the staff and the Board of Governors and students of the Methodist English School. This past year it was held on Sunday, July 29.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Frank E. Manton, pastor of the church, and the Rev. George Beadon, assistant pastor.

During the service, the chairman of the Board of Governors, U San Shein, read the Scriptures. The teachers' choir and the church choir each sang an anthem, and a solo was sung by the director of both choirs, Miss Jeanne Wintringham, the school music teacher.

The sermon by Dr. Manton was entitled "Things That Never Wear Out."

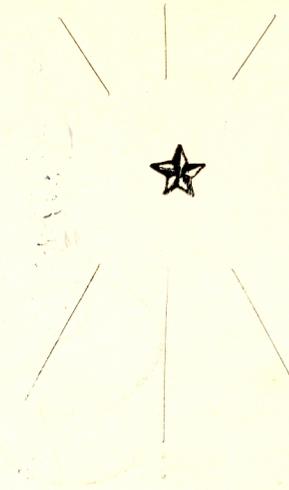
Some said that last year the staff choir sang "Lift Up Your Heads," but that this year the choir was weary and could only sing "Lift Up Your Eyes."

Principals of three Methodist schools in the congregation were Dr. G. W. Hollister of Methodist English, Miss Maureen Cavett of Kingswood School, Kalaw, and Daw Thein Nyoon of the Methodist School at Syriam.

A Christmas Tradition



**“We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star...”
The M.E.H.S. Wise Men and bearers**



**“Unto us a child is born in the City of David—a Saviour who
is Christ the Lord”...The final scene of the annual Nativity
Play which followed the graduation ceremony. Students are
shown here depicting Mary, Joseph and the babe in the manger
surrounded by angels, shepherds and wise men.**