

West Sets Christmas Program

West High School will present its annual Christmas Concert Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. The program will feature seasonal songs of both a traditional and contemporary nature, centered around the theme of the Christmas Story.

The school's five choral groups will participate, including the newly formed "Westcoast Aristocracy," a mixed ensemble of 20 voices. Other groups to sing will be the 90-voice Concert Choir, Boys Chorus, and two Girls Glee Clubs. In all, more than 250 students will be participating.

Reading the narration this year will be Stuart Deikel. Accompanists for the groups will be Laura Lee and Beth Zimmerman.

Selections will range from such familiar songs as "Silent Night" and "Angels We Have Heard on High" to the less commonly known Christmas songs such as "Some Children See Him," "The Nativity" from "King of Kings," "Regem Natum," and "A Star, A Shepherd—A Lamb."

Admission to the concert is free.

Began at YMCA

Basketball First Played With Old Peach Baskets

There is little question that basketball is one of the world's most popular sports, and Gary Kuenzli, executive director of the Torrance Branch of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, explained his organization's role in the sport's invention.

The YMCA has always been a pioneer in the field of physical education, Kuenzli said, and its role in the 1891 invention of basketball was really the beginning of the Y's prominence in the field.

Dr. James Naismith, the game's originator, was an instructor of physical education at Springfield College, a YMCA training school.

HE AND another eminent recreation expert, Dr. Luther Gulick, had been talking of the need for a new game — "one that would be a mid-winter substitute for football and could be played under most indoor conditions with artificial light," Kuenzli said.

Naismith in his own book "Basketball, Its History and Origin," written many years later listed the criteria for his new game: "First, it must be interesting in itself; second, it must be easy to learn; third, it must be such as could be played indoors; fourth, it should be as free from roughness as possible; fifth, it must be able to accommodate a large or small group; sixth, it should give an all-around development; seventh, it should be scientific enough to be of interest to old players," Naismith said.

The college janitor had no boxes for goals, Naismith reported, but a couple of peach baskets were tacked to the gymnasium balcony, 10 feet above the floor.

AS AN APPARENT last thought before the class of YMCA physical directors was scheduled to meet, Naismith posted his rules on a bulletin board. Eighteen directors were present, so the first game was

played with nine men on each team.

A few years after the invention, Naismith looked back and said that "basketball was a game made up in an office and was a direct adaptation of certain means to accomplish certain ends."

Kuenzli said the game spread quickly, and by the third class period, spectators were in attendance. They wrote home about the game, and soon it was being played in scores of places.

THE FIRST suggestion was to call the game "Naismith Ball," to which the inventor was reported to have replied "such a name would kill any game." Thus, "Basketball" was the official name.

Kuenzli said the YMCA is still a leader in physical conditioning and those interested in programs at the local YMCA branch should stop by 2900 W. Sepulveda Blvd., for more information.

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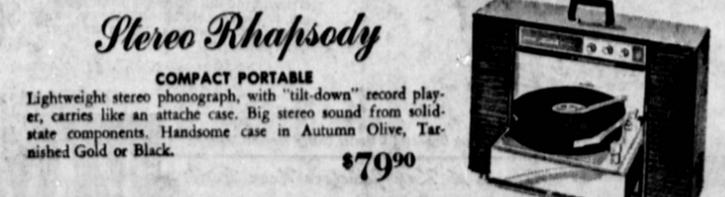
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