

## MIRACLE NUMBER

# LINDEN BARK

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### Impressions of "The Miracle"

Three of the many Lindenwood students attending the production of "The Miracle" in the St. Louis Coliseum have written their impressions, which appear below.

#### SCENIC SPLENDORS.

The scenery, to me, was one of the most miraculous features of the 'MIRACLE'. With the Cathedral setting as a background throughout the entire production, scenes were entirely changed in a few seconds, while one's attention was drawn to something else. With no curtain and no elaborate properties, the ingenious use of lights and coloring gave an effectiveness that awed the entire assembly.

The only real drop curtain used was the effect of stained windows, used as a back ground in the banquet-scene. The coloring of the drop and the unusual lighting system gave the scene brilliance and atmosphere with very few other properties present. The costumes in this scene, one will remember, were in perfect harmony, made of tied and dyed materials that blended beautifully with the background.

Then the forest, crude, perhaps, with only its few pieces of artificial greenery and shadowy lights, yet very effective. And the horrible darkness of the trial scene with its black gallows and gaudy revolutionists in black and red who were within themselves the setting.

The most dazzling of all the scenes was the one in gold, created by the lovely costumes entirely of gold material and only two golden properties on which the Emperor and the heroine were enthroned. Even these were wheeled on by the people in the scene and constituted the entire change of scenery.

With each scene some creative genius has saved time and work through the settings which lent color, atmosphere, and lovely effects, noiselessly and so quickly that one could not become bored or tired by endless waits between scenes.

This was not only especially attractive, but essentially necessary; without it, the production would be prolonged to a great extent and the monotony of pantomime would be intense.

#### FOUND DEVOTION THERE

Bells, arousing, alarming, restful, inviting, every sensation might be experienced at the tolling of the churchly chimes, feelings that can not be expressed, creep over one. The religious atmosphere seizes one, worldly trifles are forgotten, or set aside for three hours of wonder in the realms of medieval pageantry.

A glance at the facial expressions of enraptured neighbors, causes one to realize that in her own face too, is the reflection of the piety and sanctity, created by the atmosphere. Stained glass windows of lovely design, music, soft, inspiring music, loud powerful music, gorgeous costumes, and stage setting, these and many other elements blend to leave in one's mind a vivid memory of one of the most spectacular performances ever produced.

#### TOUCHED BY THE EMOTIONS

That which impressed me most in that great production "The Miracle" was the fineness of the expressions of emotions. The almost resignedly tragic face of Iris Tree as the nun, in fulfilling her duties around the Cathedral was at once engaging and pathetic. The great depths in the glorious face of the Madonna, beautifully portrayed by Lady Diana Manners, made a fitting setting for the sweet, serene and peaceful forgiveness that she was supposed to express.

While the facial expressions of both Iris Tree and Lady Diana Manners were unsurpassable during the whole of the great production, the expressions of the piper who portrayed thorough devilishness throughout the pageant, showed unusual ability.

The most remarkable thing about the expressions of the nun (Iris Tree) was the time when she was running up and down the aisles of the great Cathedral in fulfilling her duties as keeper of the keys. Expectancy, responsibility, mystery, touched more

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#### "THE MIRACLE"

A Critique by Ellen Bradford

"The Miracle" was a truly great production, many great critics have so pronounced it, but criticism is best appreciated when measured with a commonplace standard, so I reject the criteria of more learned critics in order to judge its worth by the representative reaction of Lindenwood students. Many delightful attractions have had the sad misfortune of following some lengthy period of enjoyment when their loveliness falls on minds so sated with previous exhilaration that they can inspire only the transient interest of a useless anticlimax.

It is pleasure to observe that "The Miracle" could rise above this shallow fate, for practically all the Lindenwood students, though obliged to see it in those tired days between the Christmas vacation and the fatal mid-year examinations could give it their relaxed attention and come away feeling that they had been permitted some minutes in a world apart from the over seasoned routine of daily living.

It is no exaggeration to state that the members of the Lindenwood faculty and student body who were so unfortunate as to miss "The Miracle" were few indeed. On Friday, January 8, the first chaperoned parties were taken by bus service to the New Coliseum, while many independent groups attended the matinee on the following Saturday. All of the succeeding Friday night and Saturday matinee performances were attended by large numbers of enthusiastic students, and many more took advantage of the extended stay to imitate the delightful experience of the others, or returned to witness it again and found it even more enjoyable on second sight.

Being such an unique performance, "The Miracle" almost necessitates the coining of new adjectives to express the enthusiastic approbation of Lindenwood.

Apart from the easily discernible and much lauded qualities of the thought, coloring, and technical perfection, "The Miracle" has an additional advantage over conventional dramatic production in that it allows a large degree of freedom in interpretation. As it was in fact a living tapestry woven on the woof threads of romantic ima-

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# LINDEN BARK

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 1926

### The Linden Bark:

*"When life is tight and things look black,  
Chose not, oh Man, a backward track,  
Instead, skip high, avoid the snares,  
A new list chose, of Dame Life's wares  
And start all new again."*

Anon

## A NEW BEGINNING

A long time ago, when the world first became worldly and women were even yet in the act of enticing men to eat forbidden fruit and do other wicked things, some brilliant person, a little more advanced for the age than the ordinary run of his fellows, hit upon the plan of a New Beginning for everyone, to be used either when they had come to the end of their row and needed a change, or when they had run their course and needed to begin all over again on a new one. At first this method of procedure was called effeminate and unbecoming to a cave and sports-man. But as the ideas of these ancient people advanced along with the other things of their life, and life became less free, and harder to live, they saw that what had hitherto been regarded as unsportsmanlike and sissified was really the last thing in Sportsmanship and so took it up as a permanent feature. How could they ever have thought a man game who didn't take a second chance on life and make a new beginning when he was regarded by his fellow-cliff-dwellers as a regular Down-and-Outer? "Well, live and learn!" shouted Chief Hairpuller, and so they did and still do.

All this only goes to prove the point that we are a very superior race at the present time and age. For, profiting by the examples set us by our fellows-

in-experience, the Ancestors, we are using this very "New Beginning" idea now in everything from woman's clothing to school years and second hand furniture. Taking the latter as an example, now, what is this pause in the middle of the winter for, if not to give us a chance to prepare and launch a new beginning and to take a new hold on our naturally optimistic natures? So avail thou of thy opportunities and put up a fight. Not only for better grades and more healthy school spirit but for a better lease on the really worthwhile things of life. At this, it is no more than we owe to these game ancestors, from the Missing Link on down to our own immediate ancestors, to carry on the fight they so spunkily initiated for the betterment of ourselves and our race. So come on Girls! let's rise as a tidal wave to the deck, and sing "Three Cheers for a New Beginning."

## MAN'S BOUNDEN DUTY

All ye who contemplate breaking through the thick wall of marble matrimony, Harken! The much sought after is found! Eureka! Those who are planning to jump into double harness and gallop through life with you, are to learn the gait to observe and the best road to choose. For the benefit of those gentle readers as yet unenlightened, may we introduce the New Matrimonial course to be inaugurated by the St. Louis Y. M. C. A. in the near future.

'Tis sad, but true, that those of the opposite sex have always put an excessive amount of faith in the advertisement of the furniture company that boldly promises, "You get the girl, we'll do the rest." Mr. Man looks around a bit, chooses the One and Only from a sea of charming females, pops the question, and leaves the business of the social proposition thus involved to Lady Love and relatives. Why should not he, too, worry over the style of engraving of the wedding invitations, and how to avoid asking that little brat to be flower girl, without offending her mother, sister of the bridegroom. And while aforementioned L. L. must prick her fingers in dainty labor toward filling her hope chest, Friend Fiance' "sows not".

But after the wedding bells have jingled, after the ring is on (even if it didn't slip from trembling masculine fingers and roll under the second pew), even after the rice has been shaken from wearing apparel, and the odor of orange blossoms has faded then, when a fellow answers to "Hubby", we wonder if he knows where and who he is. Friend Caesar, with a shake of his sagacious head, "Old Boy, you've crossed the Rubicon."

This business of acquiring a wife, is a serious one, "Ask the man who owns one." She is there to bake his biscuits, to sit across the table from him in that little house of dreams, but it's really a 50-50 proposition,

## COLLEGE CALENDAR

Thursday, February 4:

11 A. M., Music Recital.

Friday, February 5:

6 P. M., Birthday Party

Sunday, February 7:

4:15 P. M., Organ Recital, Miss Treat, Sibley Chapel.

6:30 P. M., Rev. Dr. William Crowe, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. Louis.

if Mr. Man, as well as his better half, learns the secrets of how to be happy though married, they shall live happily ever afterwards.

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than slightly by a shade of anguish, gave a light to a naturally wonderful face that one can never forget.

Lady Diana Manners as the Madonna looked in every feature, in every manner or gesture, the thorough saint that she was portraying. The serenity of her face; the utter goodness that the expression of even statuary portrayed, gave a dignity to that role that I am sure no other actress could have achieved.

Something that should not be omitted in a criticism of "The Miracle" is the recitation of the Lord's Prayer by the wayward nun that had sinned and was seeking forgiveness for her transgressions. The only spoken words in the whole spectacle, it was one of the most impressive and heart-rending scenes of play. Spoken in the deep, tremulous voice of Iris Tree it almost added more dignity to that fine, wonderful prayer that is so familiar to everyone.

## "GOOD LOSERS"

Excitement? Grief? Or just Carelessness? The question arises as to what is at the root of all this "losing" business. Notices have appeared on the bulletin boards, of Lindenwood bags found all the way from Omaha, Nebraska, to Wichita, Kansas, and even in St. Louis and St. Charles. Of course, it isn't as if we were the only college who misplaced things, it's done in the best of 'em, but we will have to admit that we have about as large a list as any along this line.

The story of the girl whose notice for a lost fountain pen appeared on the bulletin-board just beneath the notice of the finding of said pen for several days, may not be an exceptional case at all around this campus. Jubilee office is the scene of many "reunitings" and so is the Dean's office. Wonder what is wrong with us anyway? Three guesses. Some Sophomore explains that it is "only freshmen who do such things" but we cannot be so sure about that. Anyway we will give the Soph the benefit of the doubt and say it's just Youth, and, Hark Ye, Frosh! and be consoled, even Seniors are sometimes Youthful!

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(Continued from Page 1)

gination it challenges the often self-ridiculed delight in the more juvenile fairy tale. It is fairly safe to wager that a majority of the spectators (excluding of course those cast iron personalities who went because it was the thing to do) delighted in it because it was one of the rare occasions when the more mature mind is allowed to escape in a conventional manner to a heart free enjoyment of the mystic make believe.

There is, too, a secret satisfaction in being able to formulate and maintain an individual opinion on the why and the wherefore of the movement. The American audience has long been instructed to find the hidden soul of any drama, and in order to flatter, the typical playwright has forcibly blazoned this forth and so tricked the play-going public into lauding their own cleverness in dissecting it. That "The Miracle" has a soul is felt, and it is original in that this guiding theme is truly hidden. Of course every one thinks he alone has caught the true spirit and accordingly hugs this to his heart with secret satisfaction.

It has often been debated on the campus, as it has been everywhere, as to what is the allegorical synopsis, but all remain convinced that of all the multitude who shared their joy in seeing any particular performance they alone caught the vital significance of the plot and characters. Therefore "The Miracle", with its never before equaled personal appeal to the group as separate individuals, will ever be great.

### Where Objection is Made

What a joy it would be if this great production could have attained the impossible heights of perfection. But there were in all many defects although it seems almost sacrilegious to mention them. The comments of the college are many and varied, but there were some principal criticisms mirrored in the campus talk. There are very few objections found with the acting, attitude, and appearance of the actors. The knight fell far short of being the ideal pictured for the part; it does seem unfortunate that even in these

days so far removed from the days of knighthood there could not be found some actor much better qualified for the part.

It is quite to be expected that rare tributes of praise and homage be paid to the Nun and Madonna, always admirably portrayed by the various favorites.

Undoubtedly there has been more campus controversy over the character of The Piper than any of the others of the admirable cast. The personal interpretation of this character is of course a matter of individual interest, and what one thinks of the Piper is a matter of private visualization, but all cannot but pay tribute to the marvelous work of Fritz Feld in this part. Often when there was grave danger of the scene becoming a colorful picture of one flat dimension, his revelry gave it greater depth.

The scenes were real, illusions were subtly preserved to a triumphant extent, yet after much consideration I am still unable to satisfy myself that there was any real reason for degrading the nobility of a majestic forest with the intricate wanderings of petty shrubbery of apparent artificiality.

"The Miracle" is too big to be defaced by countless discussions of minute details which disturb because they have no authentic precedence. It successfully demonstrates with what ease complex situations may be expressed through the medium of the pantomimic art.

The greatness of "The Miracle" is perhaps its real weakness; too much is known about it, and for this reason many of the regal climaxes are not able to equal the heights formulated in the anticipation. No amount of knowledge of the settings, dramatic action, and abilities of the various actors however, can prepare one for the emotional reaction invariably experienced. This intangible mental and spiritual illumination made it seem a borrowed fragment of eternity and this was the real Miracle. Future productions may, in fact they must improve on it in technique and beautiful expression if they hope to rival its success, but nothing the future may bring forth can displace it, for time will only mellow the few discrepancies till all the faults are hidden in the golden memory of the abundant whole.

## HOLIDAYS SPENT PROFITABLY

Miss E. Louise Stone, head of the Modern Language Department attended the forty-second meeting of the Modern Language Association of America, which was held at Chicago University, December 29-31, 1925.

Tuesday noon, December 29, a joint luncheon was given for the members of the Association and members of the American Association of University Professors, at the Del Prado Hotel. During the afternoon, the session was devoted to group meetings which were held in two Divisions. Papers were read on the different phases of modern languages.

Wednesday, the 30th, was devoted to general and sectional meetings, as was Thursday. Professors from the best known colleges and universities in America were present, and Hermann Collitz from Johns Hopkins, delivered the presidential address at the first assembly of the Modern Language Association. President Max Mason of the University of Chicago, President William Allan Neilson, of Smith College, and Dr. Percy W. Long of Springfield, Massachusetts, were among the prominent members present.

Several papers were read on the recent research work in the field of phonetics, in which Miss Stone is particularly interested.

Other Lindenwood faculty members who belong to the Association are Dr. Gipson, and Miss Dolese.

## SAY IT WITH NAMES:

What size is Jane? (Bigger)

When Mary Louise gets the measles, what must we do? (Blocher from society)

Where does Ruth get money? (Bullion)

Who does Pauline's hoeing? (Gardner)

What part of the wedding is Chaille? (Groom)

## CHANGING CARS

The first semester of the school year of 1925-26 has run its course. Faculty and students of the college have been occupied in the business of completing the term satisfactorily. Term papers are all in the hands of the proper authorities, and exams are over. The three weeks since the return after the Christmas holidays have been busy ones for those in the pursuit of knowledge. To make up for two extra days generously added to the vacation, classes were in session on the first two Saturday mornings, until eleven o'clock. Dismissal at this hour gave the girls the opportunity of attending the Miracle in the afternoon.

Registration for the new semester is practically finished, and the last lap of the year will soon be running smoothly.

Be merry, girls,

Celebrate the passing out of the  
Old Semester

And the coming in of a  
New Semester!

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merry Lindenwood)



Wow! My surname is Hound, my first name Campus. My middle name used to be Scandal, but now I haf to call myself just Campus Hound or C. Hound; which is not nearly as dignified as Campus Scandal Hound or C. S. Hound. Ain't that bad? Just like they ain't no justice any place, just so they ain't no scandal; and I believe if you all knew how I loathe and despise to gripe every week about the long, drawn out faces of the kampus kids instead of actually getting a bite into this thing which I am supposed to do, you'd create some scandal; or make some up and hand it in for the truth.

Many people have been talking lots about going home second semester, but talk is the cheapest thing you can do around here, and anyhow they have a fat chance of getting away from here second semester if they want to take any credits with 'em. Ain't it the truth? Gotta stick it out, gals. The world has no place for would-be quitters, even if the alma mater has.

Exams? Something like that has recently been uttered in my ear several times. Well, exams aren't any little tea hours even if the faculty do get big hearted enuf to try to ease your nerves and mind so that you'll live long enough to haf to take 'em. When we think how General Sherman said that war is hell, it makes us just wonder if the darned fool ever took an exam. Or maybe these exams are just wars and they are keeping it from us so we won't get conscientious and tell our teachers to quit the homo-cide; that we're young and wish to have the right to live our lives in a fit way and not unsanitarily sticking our noses in uncouth books and studying under all kinds of shocking conditions! Any Lindenwood student that says, "I am in total darkness" when she starts cramming may have more than one reason for the exclamation! But, studes, we're College Women and we must take on them there college responsibilities, I reckon!

Well, will stop this silly stuff and bid you goodbye. Cooperation! That's what we strive for! We even aim at being of assistance to the Lindenwood girl after she's read every word on every page of every issue of this, her own enlightening school paper! Good luck and God help you, 'cause you'll need it. And it's safer policy to let Him do the helping than the little girl in front of you.

The faculty program for January 19 was the first one of the new year and was of unusual interest. Miss Josephine Chandler of the English Department gave a splendid talk on

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**ORGAN NUMBERS**

The Organ Department of Lindenwood gave a very interesting program in the recital of Tuesday, January 19, at 5:00 P. M. in Sibley Chapel. The program was as follows:

Prelude and Fugue, G. Major.....Bach  
Nellie Ruth Don Carlos

In Spring time.....Caffin  
Fantasia.....Shelley

Elizabeth Burke  
Within a Chinese Garden.....Stoughton  
Wilma Sanderson

The Grandmother  
The City from afar  
Urchin whistling in the Streets

Nevin  
(From suite "Sketches of the City")  
Geraldine Fitzgerald

Woodland Idylle.....Reiff  
March in B flat.....Faulkes

Eugenia Bair  
Meditation (Thais).....Massenet  
Alberta Keys

In the Twilight.....Harker  
Helen James

Burlesca and Melody.....Baldwin  
Elise Rumph

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Saturday Night

POLA NEGRI

in  
"THE WOMAN OF  
THE WORLD"

Admission .....35c

Donn Byrne. She gave a brief discussion of his life and his latest works since 1921. The points that were particularly stressed were: his choice of subject, the portrayal of his characters, his peculiar philosophy of life, and his individual style of writing.

Miss Mary Brown, of the Science Department, gave an illustrated lecture on the Puger Sound Biological Laboratory at Friday Harbor, Washington. In her lecture, Miss Brown was able to give firsthand information through some of her personal research done while pursuing a course in Ecology there last summer.

**SAY IT WITH NAMES:**

- What part of the dorm is Dorothy?  
(Hall)
- What kind of a tree is Betty?  
(Birch)
- Where does Helen get her bread?  
(Baker)
- What kind of a nut is Helen?  
(Almond)
- Where does June buy her ties?  
(Taylor)

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