

# *Christmas Kearny Style*

## *At School in Philippines*

Peace Corps Worker Sharon Kenworthy  
Cheered by Favorite Hometown Carol

By **FRANK V. GOODMAN** Far across the Pacific where due to the international dateline, it is already tomorrow, a young Peace Corps worker, will be

cheered by a bit o Christmas in Kearny today.

At a Peace Corps school in Majayjay, Philippines more than 1,000 young voices will sing a carol that will carry Miss Sharon L. Kenworthy on wings of song 'to her Kearny home.

That carol, "Winds Through the Olive Trees," traditional in Kearny, is rarely heard elsewhere and almost certainly unknown in the Philippine Islands before Miss Kenworthy brought it there.

The Kearny High School alumnae, daughter of Water Purveyer and Mrs. Harvey W. Kenworthy of 22 Oakwood avenue, taught the carol to the music teacher at her Philippine School. At a small assembly surprised to hear her sixth grade class dedicate their offering to her. It was "Winds Through the Olive Trees."

At the school's Christmas program today, the entire school will offer Kearny's own carol as a Christmas present to Miss Kenworthy.

"Winds Through the Olive Trees" was introduced in Kearny schools more than 50 years ago by the late John Piersall, supervisor of music, and has been sung by every Kearny school child since.

The annual high school Christmas concert is traditionally closed by the audience join the choir in singing this' favorite piece.

"Its popularity stems from the simplicity and beauty of words and music that have endeared it to the hearts of so many," according to Miss Catherine Killough, for many years supervisor of music until her retirement three years' ago.

Miss Killough recalls that each year many Keamy expatriates write to the high school music department for copies of the beloved carol which is so little known outside their home town.

"Winds Through the Olive Trees" has been included in few collections or anthologies and thus' remains relatively obscure outside Kearny where, through its use in the schools, it has been passed in the manner of folk song.

Where it does appear in print, it is usually with the notation, "source unknown" or "anonymous," as in an arrangement copyrighted in 1938 by the Willia Music Co.

However, in a Sunday School book printed by the Educational Publishing Co. more than 50 years ago, found in the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, it appears under the title, "In Little Bethlehem" and is attributed to Katherine Parker and George W. Wilmot.

It is not known if the carol has ever been recorded, but if it has,

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## *Carol*

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it is probable that because of its brevity it would be part of a collection rather than a single.

### **Winds through the Olive Trees**

Winds, through the olive trees  
Softly did blow  
Round little Bethlehem,  
Long, long ago.  
Sheep on the hillside lay  
Whiter then snow,  
Shepherds were watching them  
Long, long ago.  
Then from the happy skies  
Angels bent low,  
Singing their songs of joy;  
Long, long ago.  
For in a manger bed,  
Cradled we know  
Christ came to Bethlehem;  
Long, long ago,  
Long, long ago.

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