

The
National
Christmas Tree
1923



*Under the auspices of the Community Center
Department, Public Schools, District of Columbia*

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM

December 24, 1923



5:00 P. M.—Tree lighted by the President of the United States.

Fanfare of Trumpets

Carol Service by the Multitude

Led by A. Torovsky, Director, and the Choir of Epiphany Church, accompanied by the following quartette of the Marine Band:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------|
| Arthur S. Whitcomb | } |Corns |
| John J. Miller | | |
| Peter A. Hazes | | Euphonium |
| Lee C. Sanford | | Trombone |

7:00 P. M.—Christmas Concert by the Marine Band.

Led by Taylor Bransom, second leader of band.

MIDNIGHT SERVICE AT THE COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE ELLIPSE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1923

by

THE COLORED COMMUNITY CENTERS OF THE D. C.



Program

1. "O, Come All Ye Faithful"
*Community Centers Band and everybody led by Birney,
Burrville, Deanwood and Lovejoy Choral Club.*
2. The Prophecy
Emory B. Smith, D. D., Howard University
3. Pastoral Symphony from "The Messiah"
Community Centers Band
4. The Story
Emory B. Smith, D. D., Howard University
5. "The Shepherds"—a short pageant
The Ira Aldridge Community Players
6. "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"
Everybody
7. "Holy Night"
The Amphion Glee Club
8. A cross of light appears in the sky as a symbol of the
coming Atonement.
The Amphion Glee Club will then sing
"Steal away, steal away,
Steal away to Jesus,
Steal away, steal away home,
I ain't got long to stay here."
9. "Joy to the World"
Band and everybody

WASHINGTON'S Community Christmas Tree is in fact the Nation's Christmas Tree. It is symbolic of the spirit of Christmas and the desire to emphasize further the good will and the cheer which are so characteristic of the world's greatest and most joyous festival.

It was through outside, as well as local, cooperation that the Community Center Department of the Public Schools of the District of Columbia was able to make this contribution to the Commemoration of Christmas.

The tree grew in the heart of the Green Mountains of Vermont and was brought to Washington in a special express car. It was consigned to the President, a native son of that State, by Middlebury College. The tree was grown on the forest preserve of that institution.

So that the electrical industry may contribute to the public's enjoyment of the Christmas period, the Society for Electrical Development is sponsoring the Community Christmas Tree idea throughout the Nation. That organization was particularly glad of an opportunity to assist in an event having national significance.

The Federal Horticultural Board arranged a special examination of the tree to establish that it is free from plant disease.

The tree was hauled and erected by the Potomac Electric Power Company. That company, in addition to furnishing the current, also made the necessary connection with the high-powered cable which passes under the White Lot. In the interest of public safety, it was necessary to place a large transformer underground, near the tree.

The Electrical League of Washington furnished and installed all electrical equipment and decorations for the tree itself. Specialists from the Forest Service fitted additional branches to the tree. E. Kirby Smith, the President of the Louisiana Society of Washington, in order that the South might cooperate in the endeavor, contributed to the expense of the undertaking. Ransdell Incorporated furnished the necessary printing. Stanford Paper Co. furnished the paper stock. Other interests cooperating are: The Capital Traction Company, the Washington Railway and Electric Company, the Masonic Service Association of the United States, the Tree of Light Committee, and the McGraw-Hill Engineering Publications.