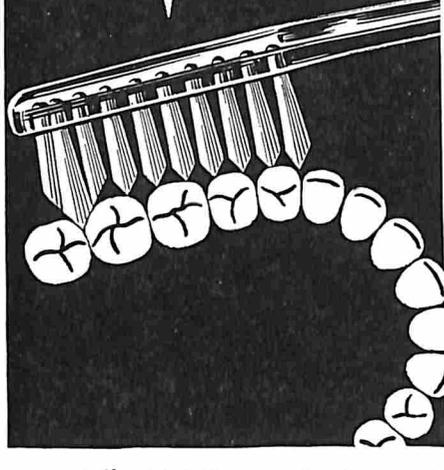


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ille.

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CONTENTS

THE WEEK'S EVENTS
THERE WAS A CHRISTMAS IN KOREA
EDITORIAL: THE BLESSING OF GOD
THE LONG COUNT IN MICHIGAN
AMERICA'S LEADING DEBUTANTES ARE WELCOMED INTO SOCIETY
PROTESTANTS UNITE IN SEVERAL FIELDS

CHRISTMAS SECTION FOR CHILDREN
BREUGHEL'S GAMES
CARNIVAL TOYS
MODEL LOCOMOTIVES
YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE
PERFORMING BIRDS
CLIMB THE MATTERHORN
THE BEAR PARTY
THINGS TO MAKE

PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY
PROUD BYZANTIUM'S CHRISTIAN TREASURE
PHOTOGRAPHED FOR LIFE BY DMITRI KESSEL

ARTICLE
WITH MY OWN EYES, by OGDEN NASH

ART
JIGSAW HELMET

MOVIES
A HOLLIDAY TREAT

THEATER
"GUYS AND DOLLS"

OTHER DEPARTMENTS
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
LIFE VISITS WONDERLAND

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NOTICE TO LIFE'S READERS

Because of the embargo placed on rail shipments
as a result of the switchmen's strike, some readers
may be late in receiving their copies of this issue.

LIFE'S COVER

People who are acquainted with the work of Artist John Koch, one of the best-known portrait painters in the U.S., may find his cover painting very familiar, although none of them has ever seen it before. When LIFE began to search for a Christmas cover that would go hand in hand with the special 23-page children's section which begins on page 29, the editors were much impressed with another, very similar painting that Artist Koch had done some 15 years ago. But when he was asked for permission to reproduce the work, Koch said, "I can do better now," and forthwith painted this brand-new version just in time for this week's issue.



The following list, page by page, shows the source from which each picture in this issue was obtained. Where a single page is indebted to several sources, credit is recorded page by page (left to right, top to bottom) and line by line (lines separated by dashes) unless otherwise indicated.

COVER—PAINTING BY JOHN KOCH
5—LT. BURTON GLINN, RT. A. Y. OWEN
8 THROUGH 15—DAVID DOUGLAS DUNCAN
16—JOE SCHERSHEL—HANK WALKER
17, 18, 19—HANS SCHERHEL—HANK WALKER
23—JUSTIN SAVAGE COURTESY CITY ART
25, 26—LOUIS CLARK
29—ILLUSTRATIONS BY CARL KOEHLER
30—FRANK WHITE
31—FRANK WHITE
32—FRANK WHITE
35—LT. ARNOLD NEWMAN, RT. A. Y. OWEN
36—LT. ORNAMENTS BY CARL KOEHLER
37—FRANK WHITE
38—FRANK WHITE
39—FRANK WHITE
40—FRANK WHITE
41—FRANK WHITE
42—FRANK WHITE
43—FRANK WHITE
44—FRANK WHITE
45—FRANK WHITE
46—FRANK WHITE
47—FRANK WHITE
48—FRANK WHITE
49—FRANK WHITE
50—FRANK WHITE

LIFE

IN THIS ISSUE
SPECIAL SECTION FOR CHILDREN
23 PAGES OF CHRISTMAS FUN IN COLOR



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20 CENTS