

Merry Christmas



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Catharine Zeller

**Teacher of Week
 Catharine Zeller**

Why is it that a lot of former students at Donegal High School say, "When I was there I didn't appreciate Miss Zeller as much as I do now that I'm out."

Many, many former students say, "Miss Zeller had a profound influence on my life."

Of herself, Catharine Zeller, now retired, says, "I was a hard taskmaster. I would get upset if they were not working up to capacity. When I knew they could do it, and were not doing it, I would get upset."

"I would tell myself, 'I'm not reaching some of these people.'"

"Once I said that to John Hart, and he said, 'Well, do tell. The Greatest Teacher of Them All couldn't reach everyone.'" She smiles, resignedly.

Catharine Zeller was graduated from Mount Joy High School and then went to Penn State. She did her student teaching, not in English for which she is so well known, but in social studies and Latin.

At Mr. Beahm's request (he was supervising principal then) she taught some Latin when she returned to Mount Joy as a teacher. "I taught it and loved it," she

says.

She remembers fondly when she tutored some students in Latin in an intensive, hot summer ten-week course; that was before air conditioning and was a real ordeal, but a lot was learned.

Later Miss Zeller was to earn her M.A. in English from the Breadloaf School of English of Middlebury College. It is as an English teacher that most of her former students remember her.

They remember her as being tough. Miss Zeller says, "Between my tenth and twentieth year in teaching I was very hard in marking. It was then that I wanted perfection. I demanded perfection, of myself as well as of the students."

"Al Brooks, who taught me to drive in 1964 (after my mother died) said to me, 'You don't have to have perfection.'"

"I feel that I was either intensely liked or intensely disliked by my students. My former students are among my best friends today. But some disliked me; I feel I deserved to be disliked; I have a different perspective since I retired in August,

1978."

[continued on page 14]

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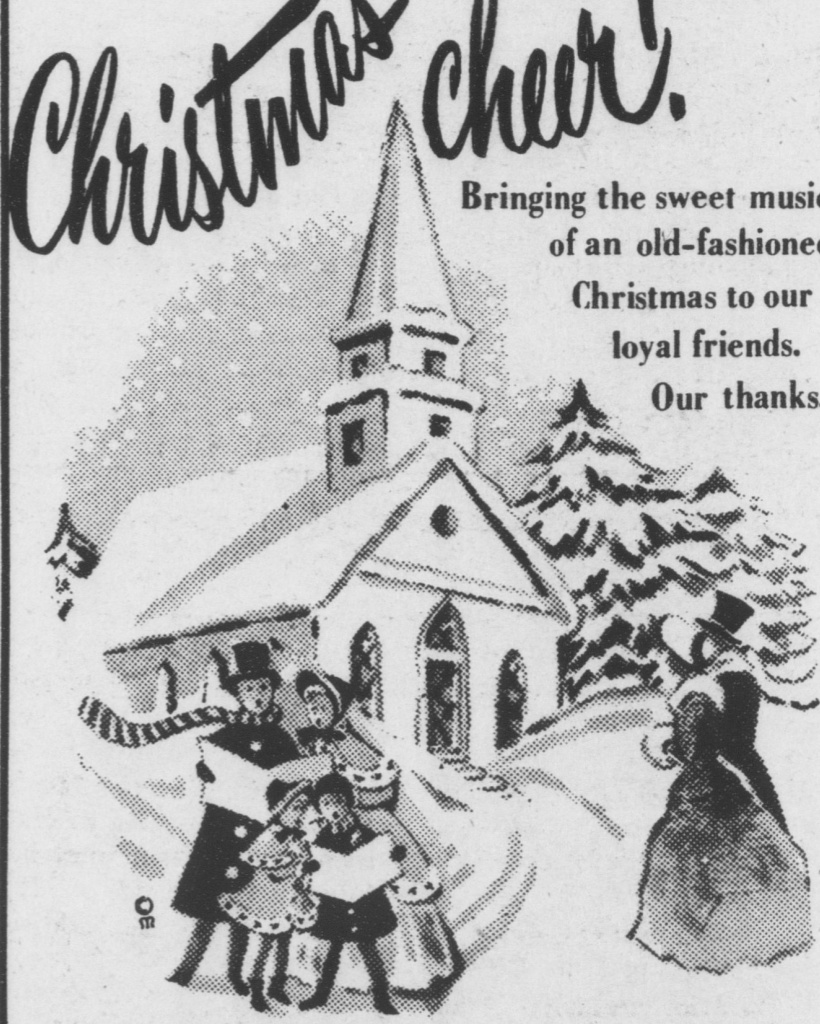
Our warm thanks.

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Christmas cheer!

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Our thanks.



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