

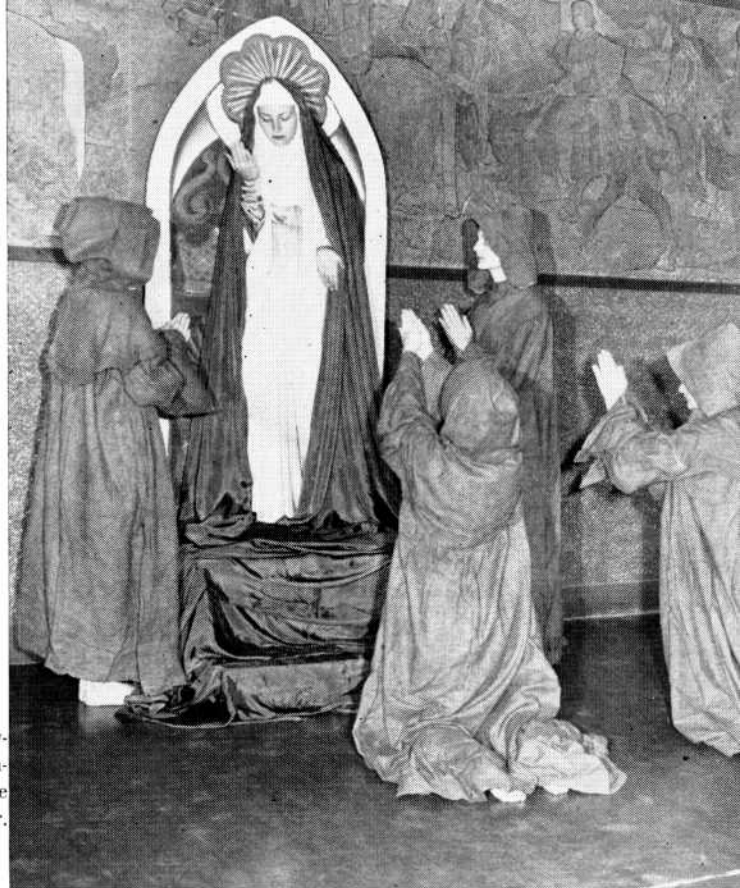
"'Twas not the costly gift nor precious jewel. But just the . . . heart he gave"

The Juggler Legend

Notre Dame, against a Christmas sky
Its twin cathedral towers raises high
Into the festive crowd comes Jean, a juggler
Above the square where Paris gaily dances.
His paltry tricks their revelry disturbing.
"Fie on you, Juggler. Hence with your sorry trade—
Here's room for nought but gayety to-night."
Away they dance. Disconsolate, he sinks
Before the friendly portals of the church.
Chilled by the worldlings' scorn, he seeks within
The comfort of a refuge offered him.

Her painted wooden face in candle glow
Softened and sweet, the blessed Mary stands
Motionless. Yet, that graven hand once rose
To bless the gift a suppliant sinner gave.
This miracle in vain the reverent monks
Seek, by their prayers and offerings, once more
To win from her whose church they serve.
Poor Jean! Have you no gift to offer her?
None but this trifling art, his juggler's mite,—
One meager talent that the world had scorned.
Doffing his cowl, he bows, performs his turns,
As to a captious public, for whose pennies
His beggar's cap he dangles; so to her
Oblivious of the holy place, he begs . . .
Ho! sacrilege! He thinks now where he is.
What shall atone for this? In his despair
He squanders all his strength to give
The utmost of his skill; then falls at last
Exhausted, dying, at her feet. The monks
Returning, shrink in horror from the scene.
But on her pedestal, the Virgin Mother stirs,
Radiant, she smiles and lifts her hand
In benediction. 'Twas not the costly gift
Nor precious jewel. But just the humble heart
He gave, that wrought the Miracle!

"THIS MIRACLE in vain the reverent monks seek." Marge Gammon, Enid, is portraying the Madonna for this year's Juggler.



"NONE BUT THIS TRIFLING ART, his juggler's mite, one meager talent that the world scorned. As to the captious public . . . he squanders all his strength to give the utmost of his skill." The Juggler has enjoyed 21 years of popularity in Soonerland as an annual campus program.

