Christmas Tree

To dispel the sulleness of war clouds which hung over the campus, to collect funds for bettering the conditions of American soldiers in foreign prison camps and to institute Yuletide cheer and customs, the Christmas tree celebration was held for the first time in 1916.

The giant cedar, near the intersection of the long walk and the walk leading from University and Orton halls was decorated with bright colored lights, brilliant tinsel and multi-colored balls. Torch bearers together with the Girls' and Men's Glee Clubs came down the long walk, following a program in the Chapel, and led in the singing of Christmas carols.

This ritual was repeated in 1917, honoring the Ohio State men who were still across the sea.

In 1918, fighting had just ceased and a spirit of thanksgiving prompted the service. By this time the event had become a tradition dear to the hearts of everyone connected with the University.

Since the passing of the war clouds, the tradition has taken definite form. A short program is held in the University chapel, after which all gather around the Christmas tree to sing the carols, led by the glee clubs. During the ceremonies, the chimes contribute Christmas melodies.