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HUGH RANGELER'S "HE-MAN" SONG SESSIONS ROUT SATURDAY SPORTS IN NEBRASKA

"Week after week I watched the boys, gym shoes slung over their shoulders, head for Saturday morning practice," writes Hugh Rangeler, Coordinator of Vocal Music, Secondary Schools, Lincoln, Nebraska. "It hurt. Many were singers.

"What's so important, I asked myself, about seeing which five boys can put a ball through a hoop more often than any other five boys? Or eleven big brutes trying to push a little ball across a double chalk line when eleven other big brutes are trying to keep them from it?"



**Saturday Morning Choir
of 125 School Boys**

"The lure of the big ball, the little ball — what is it? Clarion clear came my answer: release from boredom. For lack of other interests to engage idle Saturday mornings, the sports had got 'em.

New Ball Starts Rolling

"I got busy. I consulted with the school superintendent, the principals of junior and senior high schools. They gave me an attentive hearing . . . and a new kind of ball started rolling.

"Our call for vocal tryouts posted in each school drew a heartwarming turnout. Soon 65 boys became members of the Lincoln Boys' Choir, an

all-city group sponsored by the Board of Education. In our city there now was a new Saturday morning activity for musically talented youths.

We're A Travelling Troupe

"That first year we sang for our State Music Educators Convention. Then began our travelling. To sing at the North Central MENC in Cleveland. At Washington Cathedral in Washington, D. C. To Chicago to sing at the Kiwanis International Convention. To the National MENC in Atlantic City. To fill an engagement at the Riverside Church in New York. Where next — who knows? We are today 125 voices strong, and experienced travellers.

Robust Music Appeals

"Each Saturday morning our sports-minded-muscle-men-turned-choristers come together to sing the robust 'he-man' music of Bach, Handel, Mozart, Christiansen, Randall Thompson, Leroy Robertson. No "sissy" style music is wanted; even the sopranos are 'he-boy' variety.

"In public schools throughout the U.S. thousands upon thousands of talented boy singers are waiting for music teachers to get over their "girlish" ways, to quit bemoaning the fact that the 'sports has got 'em,' to organize groups and plan challenging activities . . . so that there is an interest other than gym for idle Saturday mornings.

"You who share my convictions may want to start a Saturday morning group of your own. I warn you it is hard work . . . but the satisfactions are tremendous."

MEET YOUR COLLEAGUES AT MENC

St. Louis, Missouri — Jan. 12-15
Atlantic City, N. J. — Feb. 28-Mar. 4
Charleston, W. Va. — Mar. 20-23
Minneapolis, Minn. — Mar. 29-Apr. 1
Bakersfield, Calif. — Apr. 7-10
Casper, Wyoming — Apr. 17-20