



PASSING OUT MUSIC gives younger choir chance to stretch. Jimmy Martin of North Brunswick (lower left) scratches his neck. John Kelsaw of Princeton hands out music. Other Jerseyans are: Gary Raphael of Spotswood (above Martin), Mark

Crosby of Morrisville (top, second from left), and Woody Dixon of North Brunswick (behind Kelsaw). Junior choir learns to stand for three hours (a difficult task for any young boy). They endure it in hopes of making touring choir the following year.

year there is only one boy in the ninth grade.

The briefing of prospective pupils includes a history of the school. The choir was formed in Columbus, Ohio, in 1937, as a Kiwanis Club community project. A 1943 New York performance established them as a concert group and led to the purchase in 1950 of the 22-acre Lambert estate in Princeton. The school is housed in a 35 room mansion that was on the property.

THE new boys (53 of them this year) come each year from all over the United States and Canada, prepared to work hard. With the touring choir as a goal, they cheerfully attend classes from 8:30 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. Classes officially end at 4:15, but from then until 5:40 boys participate in "or-

ganized outdoor activity," commonly referred to elsewhere as gym.

After dinner the boys practice piano and spend an hour in the study hall doing homework. They have free time from 8 until 9 p.m., but most boys will bypass TV for more piano practice. The small amount of time to themselves does not bother them. One student observed, "We're so busy, we don't realize we don't have free time."

Basic studies are not sacrificed for music. Last year's Stanford Achievement Tests placed the Columbus boys scholastically two and a half years ahead of the national average. This undoubtedly results from a combination of factors: motivation, small classes (17 in the largest, 1 in the smallest), knowledge

gained through travel, and perhaps, most important, intellectual equality. Teachers need not contend with the very low to very high intellectual range of the public classroom.

Discipline can be a big problem. According to Mrs. Bryant, a teacher and wife of choir director, "They're so peppy they're hard to control. If a teacher here isn't several steps ahead of the students every minute, they lose interest and become bored."

New boys have no difficulty in adjusting to the academic schedule, but it is hard for any lively boy to learn to stand still in one place for the three hours of choir rehearsal. There is enough yawning, scratching, dropping of music and shifting of

feet to try the patience of a saint.

Yet, Robert Haley, director of the resident choir, manages, by constant reminders, to get them all into shape. Throughout rehearsals, he interrupts with, "Crosby, you looked away — never do that!"

"Altos, don't press! Let the notes float."

"Woody, I heard you take that breath! You can't breathe in that spot." Then, fairly exasperated, he stops them to exclaim, "Gentlemen, you *must* tune in on my frequency. Once a day we *must* get together!"

The singing begins again, only to be interrupted once more with, "Early is wrong, too late is wrong, we must start **RIGHT ON THE BUTTON.**" Finally the num-