

## An Omaha Girl Who Does Things



Miss Carmelita Chase



Miss Chase in City Tennis Tourney



**T**RULY typical of the New American girl, who, without shoutings from the house-tops or blare of trumpets, modestly but thoroughly batters down the age-old prejudices and catches step with man as his equal in endeavor and accomplishment, is Miss Carmelita Chase of Omaha, whose latest enterprise was a big municipal Christmas, about which 15,000 citizens gathered to celebrate the nativity of the Savior.

Although her tireless energies and activities keep her friends marvelling and wondering what she will do next Miss Chase, with her unswerving loyalty to friends, love of home and merry disposition, is a girl to make her parents proud and these parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clement Chase, believe she is one of the finest girls in the land and those who know her endorse their opinion unequivocally.

When Miss Chase, having seen the municipal Christmas tree in Madison Square, New York, a year ago, decided Omaha ought to adopt the custom she went direct to County Commissioner John Lynch and asked his co-operation. Mr. Lynch proceeded to introduce Miss Chase to the powers in county officialdom. "This little girl is planning a big municipal Christmas tree," he said, "and she wants you to help."

All of a sudden Mr. Lynch ceased to say "this little girl," although she is little and is still in her early twenties. He began to speak of her as "Miss Chase," for he discovered that she had worked out the plan for the big celebration in every detail and had personally arranged to purchase the big tree, set it up in the court house square, have it decorated, had secured choirs to sing at the celebration, had engaged soloists, planned the

program, had the mayor issue a proclamation, caused the street railway company to put on extra street cars for the night and to run them as noiselessly as possible through the crowds.

With a gasp Johnny Lynch decided that about the best thing he could do was to follow the lead of Miss Carmelita Chase and this same he proceeded to do. At the close of the big celebration Miss Chase thanked him profusely for his services, but he insisted that they be not mentioned. He has a reputation for doing things himself and when Miss Chase asked him for assistance it may have come upon him that the success of the undertaking would depend entirely upon him, but he was content to abandon this idea at an early stage of the game.

It has been this same spirit which has made Miss Chase a success at everything she has undertaken and which will make her a literary success also, her friends believe. For Miss Chase has literary ambitions—not for the fame nor even the publicity she would receive, but merely because she wants to write. During her tour of Europe last year she described in an intimate, interesting style places she visited and people she met. These letters were published in the Omaha Excelsior, of which she has been society editor for several months.

When Miss Chase entered Brownell Hall she became so thoroughly engrossed in her work that her position at the head of her classes followed as a matter of course. When she graduated she ranked highest in school and carrying this reputation with her to Bryn Mawr, from which college she graduated in 1912, she soon became one of the leaders in this renowned institution. One of the three honors of the college—president of the athletic association—was held by her for two years.

While at Bryn Mawr she wrote the freshman play, a travesty on Mother Goose rhymes and other jingles. Eighty-six characters figured in the play, a part being written for each character. The play was a success and was one of the incidents which augmented Miss Chase's ambition to try her hand at literature. She was captain of the basket ball team and also captain of the hockey team at Bryn Mawr and took an active interest in all the other college organizations.

Miss Helen Taft was a classmate of Miss Chase and the two girls became great chums. Miss Chase was a guest at the White House during President Taft's administration, spending all of her Easter vacation as the guest of the president's daughter.

Later Miss Chase became interested in settlement work in Philadelphia and for many months was one of the moving forces for the betterment of the poor in the slums of that city. She also spent some time working at Trinity cathedral.

In Miss Chase's opinion one of her most important accomplishments was the organization of the girls of the Brandeis stores into a branch association of the Campfire Girls of America. Prior to this no attempt had been made to organize working girls into "campfire associations," the impression being that this association was chiefly for society girls. Forty girls joined the association and during the summer Miss Chase led them on long hikes into the open country, where she taught them to prepare their own meals and to look after the camp itinerary. The girls became so greatly interested in the work that with one accord they voted the organization permanent and they now meet once weekly at the Young Women's Christian association.