

OPERA PLAYS

THE American people, ever keen for something new, have during the last year or two been indulging their fancy for an ever-increasing extent for a new form of amusement—that is it is new to the United States although it has had great vogue from time out of mind, in all the leading European countries. The operatic pageant or play is the object of this new fad, if it may be called—and the new style out-door entertainments are no means confined as some people might suppose to the summer months. In fact the spring is a favorite time for this form of "return to nature" whereas many such spectacles are held in the autumn and finally we are coming to find such productions provided as among the leading mid-winter attractions of such favored regions as Florida and Southern California.

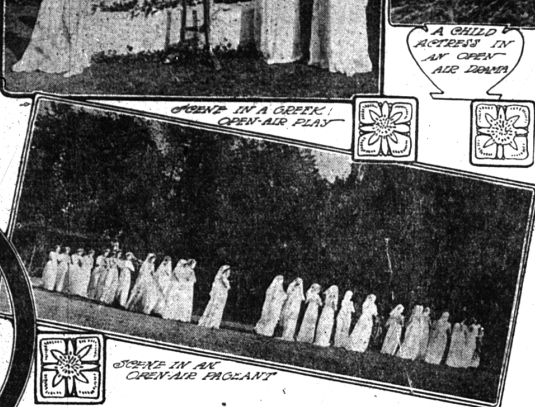
The people who do catering of amusements as a business were soon of caught unaware by this new popularity of the operatic pageant or play. It spread suddenly and of its own accord so to speak and thus we see an explanation of the fact that nearly all of these big spectacles are promoted by artistic or public-spirited private citizens who have no thought of gain in the matter. Similarly almost all the parts in such operatic dramas are enacted by amateurs rather than by professional actors and dancers, and the proceeds of almost every one of these undertakings have been devoted to some worthy cause.

As has been said, operatic plays and pageants that tell a story have from time out of mind. The best-known of these, of course, is the world-famous Passion play which is held once every three years and which thousands upon thousands of Americans witnessed during the last past presentation. There are operatic pageants as developed during the past few years in this country and have not been transplanted bodily from the Old World as many persons suppose. Certain it is that New World influences have had a part in the evolution of this novel class of entertainments. For instance, the Indians conducted in their tactics the most of the wonderful spectacles of those picturesque rites and a remnant among the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest. Connected with the original Americans handed down to us some of the ideas for our modern operatic spectacles it is natural and appropriate that we should now turn to Indian themes for our latter-day dramas on the green swards. The story of the Indians has proven particularly popular for such presentation and has been enlivened in all parts of the country, sometimes with real Indians in the roles and sometimes with folk with make-believe Indian costumes.

There are many persons who contend that the penchant for the operatic drama is America is but the natural outgrowth of the parades and festivals which have gradually attained to the dignity of local institutions in many of our cities, as for instance, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the frontier fairs held annually in many western cities, the Villed Froebel parades and the mid-winter Caravals in Southern California. Yet another factor that has undoubtedly helped to bring this whole broad subject to public attention is the penchant which many of our schools and colleges have shown for this form of entertainment. Particularly has the operatic spectacle entrenched itself at the colleges for women and the big preparatory schools for girls and there is scarce one of these institutions throughout the length and breadth of the land that does not now boast at least one elaborate play or pageant on the campus each year.

Companies of amateurs and organizations of professionals have presented Shakespeare's plays in sylvan surroundings in various parts of the country, as for instance has annual event of this kind on the White House lawn at Washington, but for the most part these events introduce original productions and in most instances not only is the dialogue original but the music has been specially composed and the dances specially arranged for that particular event. At the most notable pageant of 1910—that held at the home of the late Edward Macdowell in New Hampshire, the musical masterpieces of America's most famous composer were specially arranged to form a musical setting for the operatic drama.

Many of the spectacles which have been presented by local talent in various American communities are historical in theme, being designed to recount the events of the most stirring periods in the history of the respective regions where they are presented. However, the latest leaning seems to be toward Greek plays, original or otherwise. Undoubtedly the flowing costumes of the Grecian mode lend themselves to graceful posing and the current popularity of classical dancing has helped some. Among the women prominent in the production of Greek spectacles, and almost all the projects for operatic theatricals are in the hands of women, is Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney of Cincinnati and Washington, D. C., who has great wealth to allow the indulgence of her penchant for the artistic and the dramatic in new guise.



At the height of Washington's fame there were those who carped and criticized to some extent, warning him that being a celebrity was a precarious thing and that he should be most careful, lest he do or say something that would turn the tide of popular favor against him. To these admonitions Washington merely smiled.

"There is just one thing that might be done," he said, "and that is something that will not be done until long after I am dead. By that time my fame would be so solidified that nothing can make it. If we were sufficiently advanced in commerce for this one thing to happen, then, indeed, I should be careful."

"What is that one thing?" inquired the others. "Put you in a historical novel," said one.

"No, name a five-cent cigar for me," said WILBUR D. NEESBIT.

Trials of Life in a Small Town.

"I suppose you find it a little difficult to become accustomed to life in a small town, after having lived so long in a large city?"

"Oh, dear, yes; it is very hard. I fear I never shall be able to feel at home here. When my little boy caught the whooping cough every one was sure to bring his block."

"No, it isn't. He's dead."

Irrelevant Travel.

"Here's a paradoxical sort of way of traveling in this town."

"What is it?"

"It tells a footman approaching on horseback."

Manoeuvres of the Humorists

Had No Fears.

The Opportunist.

"Gee-whilkus, Skillington," said Blinworth, meeting his Chicago friend in the corridor of a New York hotel, "you must be prosperous! I see you and Mrs. Skillington out motoring in the park every blessed morning and afternoon. What does it cost you?"

"Nothing at all, Blab," said Skillington. "The madam and I are enjoying a few demonstrations, that's all. With six first-class cars on the market one can motor around New York twice a day for a whole month at the cost of a blue veil and a pair of goggles."

Harpers Weekly.

The Seven Wonders.

I wonder if my wife will stand for that "right-work-at-the-office" gas again?

I wonder who I can touch for her?

I wonder if he will come again tonight.

I wonder whether he's holding a good hand or only bluffing.

I wonder how she keeps from showing her age?

I wonder if that's her last year's hat made over?

I wonder how they keep up appearances on his salary?—Puck.

She Saw Too Much.

(After marriage.)—You told me that I was your first love, but I have found a whole trunkful of letters from all sorts of girls, just bursting with tenderness.

He—I—I said you were the first I loved. I didn't say you were the only one who ever loved me. See?

Cause and Effect.

"See that man over there? Ever hear of the romance in his life?"

"No, who is he and what was it?"

"He is Winter Loose, and he was his wife by a game of cards."

"What does he do?"

"Lectures on the 'Evils of Gambling.'"

WILBUR D. NEESBIT.

An Expert.

Origins—Weren't you surprised that the customs inspector didn't find those things you smuggled into the brig?—Oh, no, my wife stowed them away. She can pack things in a trunk where she can't even find them herself."

Among the Flyers.

"I took a flyer in Wall street."

"And?"

"Same old aviation news. A few start and all of a sudden a feather bump."

Chief Mr. Wondering.

"Let her go," she said. "You will learn to love some great girl."

"Oh, yes," he replied. "It's easy for you to say that, but what if she were poor in addition to being plain?"

WOLGAST KNOCKS OUT MORAN.

Great Crowd Sees Michigan Fighter Defeat Lightweight Title.

The lightweight title will remain in America. Champion Ad Wolgast of Cadillac, Mich., successfully maintained his right to the title by knocking out Owen Moran, Briton, in the twentieth round at San Francisco.

The method of attack used by the victor was essentially as he declared. He turned his entire attention to the body of his opponent and sapped his strength by repeated blows to kidneys and stomach. He intermingled them with cuts to face and head. The first few rounds were rather even.

Two Hurt in Muskegon.

As a result of premature explosion of fireworks at Lake Michigan park, Muskegon, where thousands of people were congregated late Tuesday night, Helen Baker, 20, and Miss Maida Medema, 22, were injured by the rush of a crowd to safety. Ray Studebaker, 14, may lose the sight of both his eyes. Over a score of others were badly hurt. The women are in a serious condition.

THE MARKETS.

DETROIT—Cattle—Good' cattle steady. Poor kinds 10c lower. Best dry cows, \$24.00; best 1000 lb. medium butter steers, \$19.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$18.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$17.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$16.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$15.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$14.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$13.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$12.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$11.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$10.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$9.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$8.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$7.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$6.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$5.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$4.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$3.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$2.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$1.00; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$0.50; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$0.25; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$0.10; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$0.05; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$0.02; best 1000 lb. medium steers, \$0.01.

TO LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

Soville, Mich.—"I want to tell you how much good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Sensitive Wash have done for me. I live on a farm and have worked very hard. I am forty years old, and am the mother of thirteen children. Many people think it strange that I am not broken down with hard work and the care of my family, but I tell them of my good friend, Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound, and that down pills for them if they will take it as I have. I am scarcely ever without it in the house."

I will say also that I think there is no better medicine to be found for young girls to build them up and make them strong. My eldest daughter had taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for pains and irregularity, and it has always helped her.

"I am always ready and willing to speak a good word for the Lydia E. Pinkham's Remedies. I tell every one I meet that I owe my health and happiness to these wonderful medicines."—Mrs. J. G. JOHNSON, Soville, Mich., R. F. D.

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Three Women Hurt in Jackson.

The three women were quite badly injured in Jackson while watching a display of fireworks. The city firemen were present to look after the celebration, but in some manner a rocket slipped from its place and struck the crowd. Mrs. Duncan Farthing and her two daughters and the other two women were struck by the rocket and sustained a compound fracture. Her daughter, Daisy, and another daughter, 12-year-old Kirtland, were badly hurt about the limbs, while their clothing caught fire. Mrs. McFarland and her two daughters were taken to the hospital, while the other lady was taken to her home. They will all recover.

Many Arrests in Lansing.

Lansing had a sane Fourth as far as Lansing was concerned, and outside of a few minor breaches caused by over zealous youths, the accident department reported no serious injuries in the capital city. Hundreds spent the day at summer resorts and those who remained in Lansing were kept busy watching the heat of the day. The thermometer registered 90, which is the hottest yet in Lansing. The police were kept busy arresting drunks who came from neighboring wet cities and the city jail is overflowing with them.

No Accidents at Bay City.

The Fourth was celebrated in Bay City in the usual manner, with parades and at summer resorts on Bay shore. The police regulation of the more dangerous sorts, and accidents were all of minor nature. Two small fires were caused by fireworks.

No Serious Accidents at Saginaw.

Saginaw passed the sane Fourth as far as Saginaw was concerned. There were no serious accidents and the people amused themselves by visiting the city. The celebration was slightly burned about the face and his eyes were injured by the explosion of a firework. He will not lose the sight.

Sad Day for Smith Family at Plainwell.

Fred Smith, 10-year-old son of Ed. Smith, was drowned in the Kalamazoo river near Plainwell, a mile from Plainwell. The Smith family, together with several other families, were holding a picnic at the river and the lad went in swimming. Finally his mother noticed that he was not in the river. His coat was still on the bank, and in a short time the body was found in a deep hole a short distance from the shore.

Port Huron's Celebration Was Sane.

Port Huron's celebration was sane and quiet. The celebration was sane. No accidents as the results of explosives have been reported.

Miss Josephine Frank, of Cincinnati, aged 21, was drowned at Gull Lake. There was no witness to the accident. She went out to the lake with two cousins, and while they were writing letters she walked out on the dock alone. When a second cousin returned she was found in six feet of water.

Geo. Tibbets, of Galesburg, was killed by a stone thrown from a building. He had been thrown into a mixture of powder and chemicals was broken into several pieces. The stone was thrown from a building. The stone struck him in the back, knocking out all of his teeth.

The big Buckleberry marshes in Jackson county promise a big crop. The buckleberry yield will approximate 10,000 bushels.

Letters will be sent out in a few days to residents of the upper peninsula similar to the one made recently by the Detroit Chamber of Commerce to the peninsula. On the last trip of the Detroiters to the peninsula an incident occurred at the residence of that place by President McRae, and they have been favorable to the proposition ever since.

The bridge over Salt river at Phoenix, Ariz., the longest concrete structure in the world, was opened. The bridge proper is 2150 feet in length, with its approach 4000 feet long.

At a joint meeting of the board of control for the Michigan Home for the Feeble Minded, Epileptics at Lapeer and the state board of auditors in Lansing the rate of maintenance for the Home for the Feeble Minded was fixed at 45 cents per day or \$3.26 per week. This rate is the same as was fixed for the last two years and it has been demonstrated that the amount is ample.

ADVANCED INSURANCE POLICY.

"No" says the man who is being solicited to take out a policy. "I guess I've got about all the insurance I can carry. Looks like a waste of money anyhow to keep sinking it into this game, and have to wait so long for even an endowment policy to mature."

"But we have a new form now," argues the agent.

"What is that?"

"By paying four years' premiums at once you become entitled to an invitation to our fancy dress dinners. Preparing the whole term of premiums gives you a season ticket for all the speakers' table, also."

WILBUR D. NEESBIT.

Crowded.

The microbe crowd clung desperately to a thread on the trailing end of the street car.

To the angry germs who waited for a ride, he shouted:

"Hold any more! Take the next train!"

WILBUR D. NEESBIT.

A Splendid Part.

"What sort of a part has your daughter in the new play?"

"Splendid. She doesn't have much to say, but she wears six different gowns."

Fashion's Woes.

"Why do you weep?" inquired the sympathetic woman. "Is your hat out of style?"

"Worse than that," replied Mrs. Chuggina. "My husband has decided that we will have to go through the summer with a 1910 automobile."

Chief Mr. Wondering.

"Let her go," she said. "You will learn to love some great girl."

"Oh, yes," he replied. "It's easy for you to say that, but what if she were poor in addition to being plain?"

Playing Blind.

This is a funny little stunt enjoyed by old and young. If one has never tried it it is very amusing to find anything with your eyes shut or to judge distances.

First place a piece of paper on the floor before you, shut your eyes, walk backward two steps; then try to walk on the paper and pick it up. Then stick a pin in the wall about four feet up and try to pick it off blindfolded.

Stand about five or six feet away from a table, shut your eyes; then try to walk up to it without knocking against it.—Woman's World.

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