

ACTRESS PLEADS FOR CLEANLINESS IN U. S. THEATERS

Miss Bonstelle Declares Women Can Prevent Legal Censorship of Plays

"It is with groups of women like you that the power to save the theater from the worst thing that could befall it, a general legal censorship lies," said Miss Bonstelle, Detroit actress and guiding spirit of the Bonstelle Playhouse to the women of the Women's Literary club at their meeting Tuesday afternoon at the Community House.

Miss Bonstelle was the guest of the club for the afternoon, where she talked on the general aspects of Modern drama. Mrs. Letta Barr, chairman of the literature department of the club, was hostess for the afternoon and introduced Miss Bonstelle to the largest assemblage the club has had this year. This meeting was open to guests of the members.

"As long as women countenance their husbands and brothers and sons—and selves—going to hear dirty shows, unnecessarily profane plays, snappy songs, suggestive skills in revues and things of that sort that go toward making censorship of our theater a necessity, they will continue."

"If women set their foot down on going to shows of that sort, if they choose instead the clean and decent in drama, the plays that are groups of women who, by the merit of their plot construction and character delineation without the aid of words and acting that produce blazes, there will soon be no case for the censors."

Modern Shakespeare.

Miss Bonstelle spoke of the modernization of Shakespeare which has been so popular of late. She did "Romeo and Juliet" last spring in knickers and evening gowns, with considerable success.

"I just told the members of the company to imagine they were doing a play by Austin Strong or Owen Davis, or some other modern author, to get into the spirit of the thing."

"It worked. Before we got through with it they were all crazy about Shakespeare, and some of them—would you believe it?—had never played him before in their lives. What's more, the public, especially the younger public, who gave up Shakespeare long ago as an old fogy, were crazy about it. One youngster asked me why I didn't change the name of the play. 'It'd go over bigger if people didn't know it was Shakespeare,' he said."

"The difficulty Miss Bonstelle believes is in the way Shakespeare is taught in our schools. The instructor presents it as literature instead of as drama," she said. "He doesn't show it to the students in its dramatic aspects and possibilities."

"The re-issuing of plays popular several years ago was discussed. 'I have had more requests to do again "The Lady from Oklahoma" a play we did at the Garrick about seven years ago, than any other play we've ever done,' she said. 'I've looked it over, and in its present state, it's impossible.'"

"The second act, which was the 'laugh' act, was laid in a beauty parlor, with many of the jokes about permanent waving and that sort of thing. Now permanent waving is such an everyday occurrence that the whole act would fall flat. The slang that was used there was another big item, but it's all out of date now. The second act would have to be almost completely re-written in order to go over."

An Old Play.

"On the other hand, there is the 'Dawn of Tomorrow,' which we did last week," Miss Bonstelle continued. "That play is about 18 years old, and it will 'go over big,' with but one change. A reference to the woman suffrage bill is changed to a reference to the prohibition act. It's a fundamental play, rather than a timely one. Timely plays, and they can be fundamental too, are great attractions for a while, but they won't stand re-issuing."

Following Miss Bonstelle's talk, the club voted to give \$25 to the Near East Relief Fund and to take care of family Christmas through the Community House. Two five-dollar donations to charity were also approved.

Members who attended brought canned and fresh fruits to be taken to the Tuberculosis Hospital at Pontiac, by the Sunshine committee.

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Library Contracts To Be Authorized

President Charles J. Shain and Village Clerk Hazel Lawler were authorized by members of the commission at their meeting Monday night to execute contracts with Marcus R. Burroughs and Frank Eulich, Jr., Detroit architects, for the library and fire station to be erected on the new civic center site. This contract had to do with the rate at which the architects were to be paid for their plans already submitted.

FORMER RESIDENT OF TROY IS DEAD

Word has come of the death of Mrs. G. A. Shannon, for many years a resident of Troy. Mrs. Shannon, who was formerly Miss Clara Dennison, had been ill for some time.

PROSECUTOR SPEAKS TO SERVICE CLUB

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Clarence Smith, of Pontiac, was the guest of honor and speaker at the meeting of the Young Men's Service club yesterday noon at the Chateau Tea Room. Mr. Smith explained to the young men the procedure followed in prosecuting and convicting law breakers. The club held a theater party in Detroit last night. Twenty cattle were killed by a meteor which fell in a field near Sofia, Bulgaria.

RELATIVES BELIEVE THE SHOCK OF THE DEATH OF MRS. SHANNON'S BROTHER, WILLIAM DENNISON, TWO WEEKS AGO IN ALPENA, BROUGHT ON A RELAPSE WHICH CAUSED HER DEATH.

Today's advice is to do your Christmas shopping late. You may forget somebody that way.

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