SOCIETY IN BIRMINGHAM AND THE HILLS

BY DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS

Musical Comedy Hit By Players Applauded

For the second time in the history of their organization the Village Players scored a hit with a musical comedy production. Nearly 700 persons attended the public performances of "Peggy and the Pirate" Friday and Saturday evenings at the Playhouse.

Although "Peggy and the Pirate" with its swiftly moving plot, its large singing and dancing choruses, and its elaborate sets was a number little adapted to amateur production, superior direction combined with dramatic ability assured the bill of a crashing success. The number was accorded even higher praise than "Penny Buns and Roses," the musical bill of two years ago.

ReWritten By John

The libretto written by G. F. Morgan, was arranged by W. A. P. John to include flashes of local color. Music for the show was written by Geoffrey O'Hara.

Waldo Fellows was in a large measure responsible for the excellent performance. Not only did he direct the entire bill, but he filled one of the leading roles of the number, as Bill Manning, the pirate and hero. That he possessed years of experience was apparent from the very curtain rise.

But the Players are not without other marked ability. Miss Evelyn Livingstone Smith, prominent in Detroit dancing circles, arranged and directed the dance numbers. The appearance of Miss Smith in person in the solo Spanish dance in the first act was received with triumphant applause by the audiences. Second only to this was a specialty number in which she appeared with Mrs. John T. Edgerly, who assisted in the training of the dancing choruses. This met with marked approval and lent something of the delicate ballet atmosphere to a colorful second act.

Miss Smith was also assisted by Mrs. Robert Grindley, while Mrs. Warner L. Forsyth was assistant to Mr. Fellows.

Mrs. Reilly Stars

The role of the heroine, Peggy Mayfield, a romantic young girl with dreams of a hero, was admirably filled by Mrs. Raymond Reilly. Not only was she a charming young gypsy, but her songs "Pandora" and "The Lovelight in Your Eyes" were among the best received of the bill. Her voice was well suited to the numbers and proved most effective in contrast to that of Waldo Fellows as the pirate.

Mrs. John Gilray as Winnie Woodland, Peggy's classmate, scored in "Just Suppose." Throughout her delightful voice lent considerable to the gay collegiate air of the comedy.

Perhaps there was no song in the show more characteristic of the young, colorful atmosphere of "Peggy and the Pirate" than "The Language of Love," sung by Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Gilray Waldo Fellows and Lloyd Kemp.

"Blue is the Mighty Ocean" which opened the second act also features prominently among the song hits of the bill. The gypsy girls grouped on the beach of Pandora Island against a vivid background of sky offered a most striking effect as they sang the swinging sea song. Mrs. D. C. Murray, Mrs. Gilray and Mrs. Reilly featured in this number assisted by the girls chorus comprised of: Mrs. Herbert M. Zerbe, Mrs. W. L. Kemp, Mrs. Arthur G. Neff and Mrs. Joseph F. Little.

Many Encores

In keeping with the spectacular effect of the scene was "Follow the Gypsy Trail" sung by Mrs. Robert White and the chorus. The number met with tremendous applause Mrs. White being forced to answer repeated calls for encores.

But "Peggy and the Pirate" was not without its high spots of comedy. The performance of William G. Wall as Bingo Jones was little short of professional in its dark, shambling way—Bingo, the negro who was puzzled as to whether he was told to halt three times and shoot, or shoot three times and halt. As soon as he appeared, the stage was his, while one of the catchiest numbers of the play was Bingo's "Take Me Back to My H. h Brown Cutie." Again and again he shuffled across the stage singing of his "high brown" before an enthusiastic audience.

McGinnis and Gassaway, played by L. A. Morgan and Edward Tiemann provided high comedy and plot complications as two advocates of squatter sovereignty. With their schemes to secure illegally Pandora Island over the official land grants of Mayfield, played by Fletcher Plant, they furnished many intricacies of plot.

Male Chorus

Assisting the cast was a male chorus comprised of: Ernest Chapin, Rolfe Spinning, Clifford H. Ranney and J. N. Hadjisky. Those who appeared in the dancing chorus were: Mrs. C. H. Weatherhead, Mrs. John H. Gordon, Mrs. John T. Edgerly, Mrs. A. J. Hart, Mrs. Spencer Withee, Mrs. L. A. Morgan, Dr. C. H. Greene, Robert Grindley, Raymond Reilly, Robert White, David Ballentine and G. Essen Olson.

Committees who assisted were headed as follows: Mrs. William G. Wall, costume; Mrs. Lane Bishop, properties; and Loren Robinson, scenic. Max Glover was director of the orchestra.

DETROIT COMMUNITY MAN TO SPEAK HERE

Ralph Cummins, director of the Dodge Community House, in Detroit, will be the guest speaker before the meeting of the Missionary Guild of the First Presbyterian Church to be held next Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Harlow Davock, of 112 Dewey street.

The meeting opens with a luncheon at 12:30 p. m. Mrs. Ralph Coryell heads the luncheon committee.

VILLAGE LIBRI GROUP MEETS IN DETROIT

Birmingham members of the Detroit Libri club Tuesday attended the musical tea given by the club at the home of Mrs. Theodore Grace, of Grosse Pointe Shores. Mrs. David Ballentine, of Birmingham, appeared on the program giving several piano selections. Villagers who will attend include: Mrs. Milton F. Coulson, Mrs. Charles E. Asper, Mrs. W. S. Gilbreath, Jr., and Mrs. A. L. Moses.

Mrs. Harry J. Connine, of Ravine road, is entertaining today at a luncheon at her home. Covers will be laid for 12 guests.

Chorus Man's Thoughts While Doing A Dance

Note: We asked Mr. Olsen what he was thinking and talking about while dancing in the chorus at the public performance of the Players Saturday night and this is the answer. It is believed to be the first document of its kind and naturally must come from an amatuer performer, for no professional chorus man ever thought.

By G. ESSEN OLSON

There goes the curtain! ! Looks like a good house—Max wielding his baton—no it's a fiddle bow—he's a little behind now—here's where we swing into line—right foot forward tra-la-la . . . smile for the customers—wonder if that last shot took the lipstick off—wish I knew the words to the opening chorus—Love's out of step—so it's Ray on the end—no it's me—wonder what we do next —two dollars to sit in an iron chair and set an amateur chorus trying to out-folly the Follies—left foot forward, vamp and back —wonder what Hup did yesterday —I shouldn't be playing the market—Carolyn singing the first chorus—watch the que now—"Pandora, Pandora"—we're doing better tonight—right foot back turn and drag—there's Wap John —a Birmingham boy who made good in the city—watch this now —two steps forward, vamp and turn or was it the other way around—the customers are applauding—we are getting better —two dollars a seat—not bad for a good show like this—"the Locker of Davey Jones"—Lloyd and the quintette—Waldo in an aside "Watch that baritone it was a little sour last night"—"Where the Great Sea Monsters Creep"—your friends applaud wildly—wonderful thing—friends—at a time like this—

Three encores—Fred Woodruff is smiling at one of the chorus girls—made her miss a step—Evelyn doing her Spanish dance and how! She gets an armful of roses—wonder if they delivered that case of Canada Dry—now we swing into "Just Suppose"—our best dance, hot stuff this—forward, cross and bend—ta-ta-ta-cross and bend—wonderful reducing exercise—Max Glover tries to look as if he didn't miss his cigar—wonder how Bill Wall will get his makeup off—four to the left, step and bend—five, six, seven, eight—Waldo and Carolyn in their big scene—there are your friends again—applauding—only two dollars for a gigantic production like this—where are the ticket scalpers—Ray doing a Will Mahoney—wondering if his black Pirate panties are long enough to cover his "shorts."—the boots are slipping down—should have tied them up—Joe Neebe looking as if he enjoyed the show—members of the Press —now for the grand finale—"the Lure of Pandora is calling"—four steps forward, four steps back—am I going to make Whoopee after this is over?—two to the right, two to the left—now we burst into song—"we'll all give a cheer, as we start for the pier"—marvelous ensemble this—there goes the curtain—your friends applaud again—they stamp and cheer—curtain calls—flowers, bows—no thanks, Mr. Ziegfeld, I'll stick to my Commercial Art—.

FORD OFFERS USE OF BAND

International Peace League Dance Date Set For May 25

Henry Ford has offered the services of his old time orchestra for dancing to follow the song and dance entertainment to be given May 25 at the Baldwin High School under the sponsorship of the Oakland County Branch of the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom, it is announced today.

The program, which is being arranged by Mrs. J. N. Hadjisky, offers talent of considerable merit in the portrayal of international songs and folk dances.

Miss Jessie Bonstelle and Miss Edith Rhetts are endorsing the performance.

George P. Nelson, of Beverly Hills, returned Saturday from a business trip to Canton, O.

CHILDREN SCORE IN PANTOMIME GIVEN BY COMMUNITY ARTS

"Cinderella," a pantomime, presented at the Konsky-Birmingham theater last Saturday, under the direction of Miss Nettie Bauer, marked the first dramatic activity of the Oakland County Community Arts association. It was enthusiastically received by an audience of nearly 300 persons.

The performance dealt with the best known of all fairy tales, Cinderella, all actions being in pantomime accompanied only by music. In addition to the well known characters of the fairy godmothers, the prince and the haughty sisters, considerable atmosphere was lent by less important roles such a the Dutch Baker Boy, played by Priscilla Angstman, and the Cat, by Isabelle Kulsavage.

Realistic Interpretations

All the characters, from the Irish Washerwoman's Children to the mice, gave realistic interpretations of their parts. The effect of the pantomime in the entirety was outstanding.

Cinderella, played by Ellen Milotte, was gracefully done, carrying the audience sympathetically through the romance of the little cinders girl. Alice Osterman, whose work on the posters for the performance aroused considerable favorable comment, was the charming Prince.

Costumes in the court scene offered a striking effect, especially that of Barbara Spalding, the lovely Queen. Perhaps the most outstanding acting of the court scene, if not the whole play was that of Sally Davis and Ruth Stanford as the haughty sisters. Their work in pantomime was most effective, bringing considerable humor to the act. From Peggy Lighter as Slipper Bearer to Jeanne Shuell as the Elf the acting was good, boasting a grace and rhythm unusual in the work of children.

Other Parts

Other parts in the production were taken as follows: Trumpters, Barbar Shuell, Shirley Wilson; Herald, Priscilla Angstman; Irish Washerwoman's Children, Frances Anne Morley, Jane Hyde, Patricia Hawley, Betty Bird, Harriet Babcock, Peggy Strong, Virginia Bird, Peggy Lighter, Jane Brede, Lydine Bowen, and Barbara Spalding; English Children, Ruth Hargreaves, Barbara Brown, Virginia Ward, Virginia Bird, Ellen Wallace, Janet Forbush, Frances Anne Morley, Virginia Osterman and Peggy Lighter; Fairy Godmother, Sally Davis; Queen of the Fairies, Marjorie Beaudette; Cloud Fairies, Peggy Lighter, Virginia Hills; Flower Fairies, Virginia Bird, Virginia Osterman, Virginia Ward; Dew Drop Fairy, Dorothy Harvey; Mice, David Bradi, Jean McKinney, Margaret Walsh, Suzanne Keller, Billy Osterman, Ruth Mary Whittlesey; Lizards, Shirley Keppel, Martha Ann Mellinger; Gnomes, Barbara Brown, Patricia Hawley, Jane Hyde, Peggy Lighter, Mary Wirts; Pumpkin, Lydine Bowen; Guards, John Bowen, Donald Wilson; King, Marceline Granger; Train Bearers, Sally Hunter, Kitty Ruthenberg; Guests at Court, Kathleen Lefebvre, Marjorie Beaudette, Frances Anne Morley, Elizabeth Wallace, Jane Brede, Jean Bell, Betty Bird, Janet Forbush, Sally Davis, Ruth Stanford and Virginia Hills; and Court Announcer, Peggy Strong.

MANY ATTEND 'U' AFFAIR

Quiet Settles On Social Affairs In Village, Hills

With the exception of the dance and bridge given last evening at Cranbrook School by the American Association of University Women a social quiet has settled on Birmingham and the Hills.

A large contingent of Birmingham's younger set attended the function, which is the second May dance to be given at Cranbrook by the A. A. U. W. Mrs. C. J. Keppel and Mrs. W. O. Stevens, Cranbrook members of the association, were hostesses upon the occasion.

Mrs. Verne Burnett, of Brookside drive, was chairman of the function, while Mrs. Y. C. Smith headed the ticket committee. Those assisting Mrs. Burnett were: Mrs. Keppel, Mrs. C. H. Loomis, Mrs. F. F. McKinney and Mrs. Harry J. Connine.

Preceding the dance a number of dinner parties were given. Among the most delightful of these was the dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Verne Burnett, at their home on Brookside drive. Guests upon the occasion included: Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Plant; Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Connie; Mr. and Mrs. F. F. McKinney; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Loomis; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dickinson; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. O'Sullivan; Mrs. Arthur J. Halgren; W. A. F. John and Eugene Rouse.

A dinner of delightful appointments preceding the A. A. U. W. dance was that of Mr. and Mrs. George Dwelley, of east Maple avenue. Places were marked for 18 guests.

300 CHILDREN APPEAR ON STAGE

Pierce School Group In Readiness For Friday Musicale

More than 300 children of the Pierce School will appear in a musicale at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the Pierce auditorium, under the direction of Miss Edith Roach.

All divisions of the music department will appear, including a first grade band of 50 pieces, a harmonica band of 20 boys, a Girls' Glee club of 35 voices and a teachers' triple quartet, according to Miss Roach. In addition to this, each class will participate, she said.

JOHNSON TO MAKE FINAL SERIES TALK

Nearly 60 persons are expected to hear the final talk of Irwin Johnson, of Cranbrook school, at 7:45 p. m. Tuesday in the Baldwin Public Library, before the Adolescent Child Study group.

This meeting which is open to the public will close the activities of the class this season, Mrs. Stowe D. Baldwin, chairman of the group, announced.

In his address Mr. Johnson will summarize his series of talk given before the group this season, especially stressing points of interest to fathers of adolescent children.

The course has been given under the sponsorship of the Birmingham branch of American Association of University Women.

More Society news on next page and on page 2, part 2.

MUSIC

Closing a year of activity the Thursday Musicale at 10 a. m. next Thursday will present an American Music Festival at the Public Library. The program is arranged by Mrs. Whiting Raymond and marks a fitting climax of the year's work which covered music from seven countries.

Mrs. Raymond will give a talk on American music, including Indian and Negro melodies and some modern composers, illustrating her remarks with selections from records.

A group of Indian songs sung by Mrs. Lawrence Clark will be the next feature on the program. She will be accompanied by Mrs. C. H. Bangs. Included in her selections are: an aria from Victor Herbert's opera, "Uatonia"; "The Robin Woman's Song," from Cadman's "Shanewis"; and three harmonized Indian melodies by Thurlow Lieurance.

Mrs. J. A. Gilray, accompanied by Mrs. Helen Neff, will present a group of modern American songs.

A talk by Mrs. Ruth Haller Ottaway, of Port Huron, second vice-president and chairman of extension of the national federation of music clubs will conclude the program.

All business will be deferred until the annual meeting and luncheon which will be held May 24 at the First Baptist Church, those in charge announce.

The sixth national music week will be observed from May 5 to 11 throughout the country. The slogan is "Hear music, make music, enjoy music." All churches theaters clubs and organizations in the village are urged to participate in the event, members of the Thursday Musicale announce.

ASSOCIATION MEETS

Election of officers will feature the annual meeting of the Greenwood Cemetery association next Thursday at 8 p. m. in the First Methodist Church. Annual business will be transacted at this time, Miss Mabel Keyser, secretary, announced.

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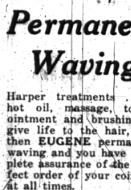

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