

Christmas Gifts Gathered at Garden Club Meeting Go to Air Base Soldiers

Ian Hay Comedy Aibly Presented by Cranbrook Club

By JEAN KERR KETCHUM
Featured by the brilliant performance of its leading character, the play "Housmaster," by Ian Hay, was presented to enthusiastic audiences last Friday and Saturday evenings at Cranbrook auditorium by Ergasterson, the school's dramatic society.

The play was the 14th annual Christmas presentation of the club. It was a happy choice, since the scenes were laid in an English school with enough similarity to Cranbrook to be relished greatly by the students in the audience.

CONVINCING

Tom Tucker played the leading role of the crotchety bachelor Professor Charles Donkin in a most convincing manner. His difficult characterization of a middle-aged and blustering teacher held up perfectly throughout the play.

When the curtain goes up, Donkin is shown in the purely male atmosphere of the school, surrounded by his fellow masters, Victor Beamish and Frank Harings (played by Charles Stuart and Dennis Wright), a pompous and unsympathetic headmaster, the Rev. Edmund Ovington (Raiph Hitz), his faithful house matron (Mary Ward) and housemaid (Patsy Prowse); and numerous students who hate the master. He is merely loyal to the housemaster.

Donkin is then thrown into ill repute with the head when an old friend, Miss Barbara Panes (Pat Newhall) arrives with her god-daughters from Paris, announcing that they are now going to live with him and one of his boys. The three girls are amusingly portrayed by Anne Ballew, taking the part of the 20-year-old Rosemary Farlington; Nancy Sanders, playing the sophisticated and charming Mrs. Charles Farlington; and Sara Weeks, most appealing as the youngest, "Hottentot," and "Hottentot" is at the healthy young animal, and constantly conals food about her person, she shared in secret with her twin brother, a student at the school, the "Bimbi" Farlington, played by Dick Crumrine.

More of the Plot

The young music master, Philip de Fourville, (Bill Le Messurier) falls in love with Rosemary, while Chris (Florence) is the whole school proposing to her, as she is still young and pink. Her most devoted admirer is "Flossie," a Nightingale who is to and soon to go into the diplomatic service. Ernest Stavley gave an excellent performance in this part.

Other entertaining student characters were Travers (Jimmy Prower), "Pop" (Bill Daye), and sleepy-eyed "Crump" (Arthur Copeland).

The girls finally succeed in causing so much excitement that Donkin is discredited with the headmaster and forced to resign. However, in the nick of time, Mr. Berkeley Nightingale (played with a most convincing mastery by Don O'Connor) saves the day. He is "Flossie's" uncle and on the board of trustees for the school. By offering the officious headmaster a tempting position elsewhere, he is able to promote Donkin to the headmastership, much to the delight of all the students.

Happy Ending
The play ends with Rosemary engaged to her musician, Chris, about to leave for Paris to make life complicated for young Nightingale studying at the Sorbonne. Barbara Panes prepares to marry her old beau the master Frank Hastings; and as the curtain falls, Donkin gives an impressive, and a bit of a lonely bachelor, everyone paired off except him, settling down contentedly to his slips and fireside.

Much of the play's success was undoubtedly due to the direction of Carl G. Wombberger of the Cranbrook English department. The staging was ably mastered by Walter Gerke, stage manager; Bill Kay, technician; Dave Raymond, property manager; Milt Sperber and Gerald Dunin, house.

Alma Grimes' Pupils To Give Recital

The first of a series of piano recitals to be given by the Alma B. Grimes Studio on Bates street will be given next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The junior group is being featured and those who will take part are Linda Miller, Ann Mock, Joyce Stafford, Richard Rogers, Janice Barnes, Sue Manning, Carlissa Adams, Carol Wobrock, Dickie Shave, Mac Booth, Joanne Sproule, Janet Campbell, Ellen Campbell, and Ann Groves.

Virginia Barden Weds Flight Sgt. At Valdosta, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldred S. Barden, of the former of Birmingham, announce the marriage of their daughter, Virginia, to Sgt. David Barden, Nov. 28 at Valdosta, Ga.

The marriage was solemnized at the First Presbyterian Church at three o'clock in the afternoon. The bride, wearing an afternoon dress of tawny crepe, trimmed with pearls, accented by rust-colored accessories and an orchid corsage, was given in marriage by her father.

Virginia graduated from Baldwin High School at Ohio State University where she was a member of Phi Mu Sorority.

Sgt. Barden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Dalley of Albany, Ohio, received his wings on Dec. 13 and is now stationed at Tuskegee Army Airfield at Sebring, Fla.

Friends to the bride and groom were honored at parties given by three Birmingham hostesses—Mrs. Robert W. Wilson, Mrs. W. W. Hogen and Mrs. E. H. P. Elliott.

Winter Club Plans Dance Saturday

The Winter Club will hold its first dance in the Bloomfield Hills Country Club on Saturday. There will be a light dinner and cocktail parties preceding the dance.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Pierce, of Arlington Road, will entertain 20 members at a cocktail party, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Rippey, of 1214 1/2th Street, will entertain 20 hosts to a dinner party, and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Rickenbaugh will host a cocktail party at their home on Brookwood court, honoring the W. H. Shepards, who have been members for four years and are moving to Glenoce, Ill., Dec. 29.

Mrs. W. F. Herdrich Hostess for Club

Mrs. Walter F. Herdrich entertained her book club at her home at 1114 Le Messurier, and had a most convincing mastery by Don O'Connor) saves the day. He is "Flossie's" uncle and on the board of trustees for the school. By offering the officious headmaster a tempting position elsewhere, he is able to promote Donkin to the headmastership, much to the delight of all the students.

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Annual Yuletide Event Has Practical Purpose

The Birmingham Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association adapted its usual Christmas exhibit, given Monday at the Community House, to the trend of the times and the result was an unusual and timely presentation. Members arranged their Christmas greens during the morning, and the social hour consisted of Mrs. Woodrow B. Gamble as chairman and Mrs. J. C. Kinsel, Mrs. Maurice Smith, Mrs. E. H. Wells, Mrs. A. W. Collins, Mrs. Hiram P. Holmes, Mrs. John Verne L. Murray, and Mrs. George L. Stone served a complimentary lunch, "canteen style," at noon.

Arrange Interesting Centerpiece
The long table was decorated with a large centerpiece of pine and spruce greens, large pine cones and tall red tapers. When the exhibit was opened to the public at 2:30, the Community House was glowing with candlelight. At the far end of the main room stood the soldiers' Christmas tree decorated by Mrs. Arthur Underwood and Mrs. Spencer Hopkins on a red and green Y-shaped table. Mrs. Harry M. Denney was in charge of the ingathering of gifts for soldiers, and all afternoon many gay packages were left on this table to be taken by the motor-coach to Safford Field on Wednesday at 3:30. The club and community contribution to the soldiers' Christmas cheer.

Mrs. Lewis C. Dibble helped members with their own Christmas decorating. A central what was kind of a round-table discussion as people talked of making their own large Christmas centerpieces in tin cans, or of dipping wreaths in starch to be sprinkled with artificial snow or of using snow-berries of high-bush cranberries for color with green branches.

All of the arrangements on display this year were placed on a non-competitive basis. Mrs. Underwood decorated the mantle in the "canteen" room with red oilcloth stockings and a red, white, and blue centerpiece with gold trumpets. Another very attractive mantle was made by Mrs. C. V. Crockett, using old-fashioned candle-molds, evergreens, red candles, and a round pewter tray.

Others Who Made Entries
Mrs. H. R. Chapel arranged a tea-wagon using miniature and Victory stamps around a bay candle. Other entries were made by Mrs. William C. Hicken, Mrs. Karl B. Lutz, Mrs. Arthur E. Underwood, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. H. C. Miller, Mrs. J. W. Behm, Mrs. R. L. Rickenbaugh, Mrs. C. L. Miller, Mrs. E. C. Johnson, Mrs. H. V. Spike, Mrs. Wm. McCallum, Mrs. Martina R. Underwood, Mrs. E. C. Underwood, Mrs. E. C. Underwood, Mrs. William P. Henderson, Mrs. R. H. Ahlers, Mrs. A. E. Rebert, Mrs. James J. Ferris, Mrs. C. C. Cline, Mrs. Wood B. Hamman, Mrs. R. M. Dyer, Mrs. Walter H. Beyer, Mrs. D. King.

Two exhibits of unusual interest were done by children. Jocelyn Spike, age 12, had a Christmas scene of evergreen trees, and more or little chenille and wire figures skied, skated, and coasted while a group of carolers stood by a little log cabin.

Mrs. E. C. Crockett, a yearling, had a log cabin of sticks and mud-whittled twigs, with firewood piled outside and an American flag in the background.

Mrs. E. E. Schaffer was chairman of the program committee, assisted by Mrs. A. E. Roberts, Mrs. C. V. Crockett, and Mrs. W. A. Slaney.

Three Flages Chapter, Three Years Old

The third annual birthday luncheon of Three Flages Chapter, D. A. R. was held at Devon Gables, Tuesday noon. Mrs. Ormond D. Heaverlich, state regent, was the speaker, and guests included the state board.

Members of the state board are Miss Laura C. Cook, first vice regent; Mrs. Chester F. Mills, second vice regent; Mrs. Thomas Stead, Jr., recording secretary; Mrs. Charles Mooney, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Raymond B. Layley, treasurer; Mrs. Lee Clark, public relations; Mrs. Miss Karlotta M. Fox, historian; Mrs. Ernest G. Clark, director.

Visiting regents included Mrs. Raymond H. Berry, of Louisiana State University, covering an entire table with 15 or more little chenille and wire figures skied, skated, and coasted while a group of carolers stood by a little log cabin.

The executive board of Three Flages Chapter met at the home of the regent, Mrs. Robert Vint, on Friday.

Don't Forget Christmas Eve Carol Sing!

The Community Carol Sing on Christmas Eve, sponsored every year by the Birmingham Branch, will be presented at 8 o'clock in the Civic Center park around the lighted manger scene.

Mrs. Frederick Protheroe is in charge of the sing, assisted by Arnold W. Berndt who will direct the brass ensemble which will accompany and Vernon Kellett will lead the singing.

It is suggested that flashlights will be necessary in order to see the words of the carols.

St. Dunstan's Will Sing Also

The St. Dunstan's Guild will give its Christmas caroling party in the Carnegie Cafeteria, Tuesday evening, Dec. 23, 8 o'clock, with Henry Whiting directing the affair and Nelly Beveridge in charge of refreshments.

Former Resident Describes Africa In Rotary Talk

A graphically described word picture of Africa, with emphasis on the Union of South Africa, was given by Birmingham Rotarian Monday noon at the Community House by Tony Endres, 538 Pleasant avenue, who spent the last four years of his life there. Mr. Endres, an architect, told his audience that the Union of South Africa States is independent of British rule, although a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It contains only eight and a half million white people, and its population is 20,000,000, and its area is 2,200,000 square miles, and 8,000 miles long. Its military value in the present war is important, stated Mr. Endres. He was introduced by Rotarian Bill Torrence.

He pictured the entire continent as containing everything, in and out of formation, minerals and verdure that is in the United States, only on a larger scale—area 2,200,000 square miles, the widest part, and 8,000 miles long. Its military value in the present war is important, stated Mr. Endres. He was introduced by Rotarian Bill Torrence.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in and for said County, on the 14th day of November, A. D. 1942.

That the said Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In Matter of the Estate of Mabel Bell Kane, Mental Incompetent. If said estate, having filed in said Court a petition for the appointment of a receiver, guardian, conservator, or trustee, and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjudge said claims and demands against said Mabel Bell Kane by and before said Judge of Probate.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 1st day of February, 1943, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said Mabel Bell Kane.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.
687 Greenwood St., Birmingham, Michigan, 16-37-33.

Village Variety

By CONSTANCE LEWIS
If you father-in-law is a retired chief of detectives and you have a background of checking high school and writing literary reviews, you may become a successful crime club writer. Melba Marlett, "The Devil Builds a Chapel" has just arrived at the library.

Born in Alliance, Ohio, a little over 30 years ago as Melba Olmes, she came to Michigan to enter the State University and received her bachelor of arts degree there at the age of 19. The same year, she started teaching English and dramatics at McKenzie High School in Detroit and taught there for ten years. Later, she received her master's degree at Wayne University.

3 Books To Credit
She has written three books, "Death Has a Thousand Doors," "Another Day, Tomorrow, Today," which was published recently, and "The Devil Builds a Chapel," which will be out Jan. 22.

Mrs. Marlett plans her books by starting out with a sketch of the plot and then, as she writes, waits to see what happens. What usually happens is not in the sketch, so she starts over again.

The high school background for "Death Has a Thousand Doors" was taken from her teaching experience, but she prefers to "make up" her characters as she says, and believes them anyway.

Having a father-in-law who before his retirement was a chief of detectives in Detroit was no small aid, for police jargon and procedures are an art in themselves, and it would never do for a detective story to reveal anything but a professional air.

She has been interested in writing since she was in college but at that time her tastes ran to poetry and literary reviews. While in college, she wrote a book review which was published in "The Saturday Review of Literature."

She happened to remark one day, years later, on an idea for a

Barbara Rhodes Weds C. H. Hamlin

Mr. and Mrs. Karl E. Rhodes, of Franklin road, announce the marriage of their daughter, Barbara Estlin, to Clarence Harold Hamlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Winford Hamlin, of 2400 1/2th Street, on Saturday evening, Dec. 12 at the Methodist parsonage in Pontiac with the Rev. Robert Bryce officiating.

The couple were attended by Mrs. Margaret Leslie, sister of the bride, as matron of honor, and Jack Fawcett, of Birmingham as best man.

After Dec. 16, Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin will be at home to their friends at 643 Elm street.

Tea Is Planned For Miss Woolson

Helene Woolson, recent bride, is going ahead with the plans for her wedding on Dec. 29 to Midshipman Edward Caldwell Moore. The couple will be married at an afternoon ceremony in Christ Church Cranbrook with the Rev. Charles H. Cadigan officiating.

Helene has asked her sister, Joy, to be maid of honor, and Madeline Kearns to be bridesmaid.

Mrs. L. M. Baker will be hostess at a tea honoring Helene, Sunday, Dec. 20 at her home on Riverside drive for about 25 guests.

Former Residents Entertained Here

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wacker, of Safford avenue, entertained Mrs. Judson Turner Hertz of Shakertown, Heights, O., and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Martin formerly of Birmingham, at a dinner at their home, 1100 W. 11th St., Minn., over last weekend.

Mrs. Wacker gave a tea Saturday afternoon, honoring Mrs. Pierce, and Mr. and Mrs. Sanford H. Allen entertained in their home on Watkins avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Wheeler, of Linden road, and Mrs. W. W. Dwyer, of Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Pierce and the Martins returned to their respective homes after a whirlwind weekend.



Two Cars Crash At Frank, Pierce

Jessie R. Dennis, of 29 Pingree, Detroit, driving east on Frank, collided Sunday evening with a car going south on Pierce driven by Edwin B. Hagerman, Berkshire road, route 1, Pontiac. The pavement was icy. The Dennis car received the greater damage, estimated at \$200.

Decided
H. G. Wells is said to be one of the most prolific writers of the age, his output being exceeded only by that of Anonymous—Buff (N. Y.) Times.

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