"Remember the Day" is Next Dramatic Offering of Ergasterion Club

Village Variety

By CONSTANCE LEWIS

"When I get an idea, I just have to carry it into action," says Mrs. Ralph Yonker, of 1736 Dorchester road, and that just about sums up her personality in a few words. Proofs of her liking for action are that she is general chairman of the Neighborhood War Clubs, leader of the Culbertson Plan Group, organizer of a history class, and a member of other organizations that have no claims to social clubs but that are current and up-to-the-minute with a reason for being.

Before meeting Mrs. Yonker, I expected me would be the "harrassed club-woman- type," continually going to meetings, teas, and such. I thought she'd breeze in, dash off a few facts about herself while answering the telephone at every other breath and then suddenly depart.

Smile Like Sunshine

I was surprised when a tall woman with slightly mussed hair, happy-go-lucky clothes, and a smile like spring sunshine came into the room and calmly sat in a big chair by the fireplace.

Her three dogs came tumbling in after her—two red blonde spaniels and a liver-spotted springer with laughing faces and soft curling hair. A white cat streaked with gray, with spears of whiskers jutting perkly from an innocent face, lounged into the room nonchalantly while the dogs jumped madly for their mistress's favor.

"Not so long ago," Mrs. Yonker laughed, "I had eight cats and twelve dogs."

We talked pleasantly and long as the fire subsided. A clock bonged softly somewhere in the quiet house and the phone rang only once.

A Paradox

Her crystal clear mind seemed to reach down into the heart of a thought and send it up gasping for action. She is a paradox; a dreamer who puts her dream into reality.

She was telling about the time a group of friends were sitting in her home on Pine Lake and talking about why man never seems to learn from his mistakes.

"Maybe they don't remember their history," someone remarked.

"Probably not, if they don't remember any more than I do," Mrs. Yonker answered.

Study Past Mistakes

Then and there an idea came to Mrs. Yonker and naturally, she had to put it into action. Why not conduct a history class so that they could study the past mistakes men had made. The four friends contacted six other women and began their classes. They knew absolutely nothing about teaching or history, but undaunted, they waded into deciding where the world came from and how it started.

They took an elementary textbook and studied it up to the period of 1500. Then they studied Carlton J. Hayes' "Political and Social History of Modern Civilization," first and second volumes, which brought them up to the era of Bismarck.

About this time, trouble was brewing in Czechoslovakia, and the press of current events decided the club on abandoning Bismarck and taking up with Hitler. The club meets regularly now and membership is limited to 12 women who choose 12 topics of current events to discuss at meetings.

Organizes War Clubs

Not long ago Mrs. Yonker made a survey of a street in Birmingham and found that on the whole street there were only three baskets of processed tin cans. She thought, then, that something should be done to mobilize these people in their part in civilian defense. That's why she is so pleased with the War Clubs and their progress here as well as all over the country. These War Clubs completely organize the whole community through their block captains who are in "charge" of 20 families each.

Ahent another current passion, there is a chair that hangs on the living room wall (even when she talks, she draws a chart to make it clear what she is talking about) which Mrs. Yonker made and which gives a comprehensive view of the Culbertson plan for a World Federation. At the drop of a hat, she will explain the whole complicated process to you. She says it is an answer to the world's problem, but doesn't think it will be accepted by the world for a number of years.

Birmingham and Pine Lake

Mrs. Yonker moved to Birmingham after she was married in 1930 and stayed here four years. Then she and her husband moved to Pine Lake and eventually back here again. Before her marriage, she was a ladies' wear buyer for retail stores and at one time managed a shop here in Birmingham.

She is a vital, young-minded woman with her heart and soul in getting the war over with and making her contribution to the important settlement of the peace that will follow.

School Life Play To Be Staged by Cranbrook Groups

"Remember the Day," the Philo Higley-Philip Dunning play that the late George M. Cohan called the "most human drama in our times" will be the next dramatic offering of Ergasterion, Cranbrook's play-producing organization. Scheduled for April 16-17, "Remember the Day" will continue the saga of great plays about school life started this fall by Ergasterion with its production of "Housemaster."

After careful selection from a large group of try-outs, Director Carl G. Wonnberger has selected for the lead Dick Crumrine, veteran depictor of small-boy roles, who at the age of 16 has already had parts in six major plays and who shared honors a year ago in Ergasterion's Easter production of "Family Portrait." Dick, playing the part of a young boy who falls in love with his teacher, will have Sally McClure, Kingswood senior, playing the beautiful teacher. George Heideman, Cranbrook senior, who by coincidence comes from East Lansing, Sally's home town, will complete the love triangle which eventually drives Dick from his home and friends.

A very superior supporting cast is headed by Nancy Loud, of Bloomfield Hills, playing Kate, the little girl who loves Dick; Peggy Zeder plays the trouble maker; Ernest Stavely, the lad who likes to hurl spit balls; Charles Stuart, the track athlete; Pat Newhall and Lew Hack, the very amusing parents of the hero; Paul May, the cantankerous principal; Sonja Drews, the old maid; Bill Davenport, Jim Prowse, Jean Beresford, Barbara Longway, and Joan Grindley, supporting characters. Jean Thompson and Gloria Lane, together with John Eden, Hank Whiting, Alex Riker, Tom Fennell and Bob Lockwood complete an excellent cast.

In charge of the cast assignments and assisting the director is George Richardson, while Ken Wood and Paul May, with John Dye assisting have, to the present moment done all the stage work. Dave Raymond is in charge of properties; Dick Mixer is business manager.

To Explain Duties Of Block Captains In New Project

A rally of more than 300 Neighborhood War Club leaders, to be addressed by Mayor John E. Martz, will mark the completion of Birmingham's official block organization under the Council of Defense.

The rally will be held at 2 p. m. Thursday, March 25, in the Community House and will be presided over by Mrs. Ralph Yonker, Birmingham chairman. Mrs. Yonker stresses that the Neighborhood War Clubs are primarily an organization for all civilians and invites any citizen who is interested to attend the rally.

At the meeting Mrs. Yonker will explain their duties to the newly-named block captains, who number more than 250. Mayor Martz will describe the organizational set-up of the Offices of Civilian Defense in Birmingham. Other speakers will be the five chairmen of Birmingham committees of Civilian War Services. Each chairman will explain the functions of her committee and will tell the assembled women how, as war club leaders, they can help with the war service program.

These speakers will include: Mrs. William McCallum, chairman of the committee on victory gardening; Mrs. George Finch, chairman of the committee on women's home salvage; Mrs. Milton Mallender, chairman of the committee on nutrition; Mrs. William Laurance Shaffner, chairman of the committee on child care; and Mrs. Casdius L. Miller, chairman of the committee on consumer interest.

"Purpose of the rally," commented Mrs. Yonker, "is to enable to assemble all war club workers for instruction and to identify to them the chairmen of our committees on civilian war services. Most of the important programs to be carried out by the war club workers will be initiated by these committees."

Mrs. Yonker attributed the success of organizing Birmingham so quickly to the fact that "Birmingham people realized the need of a co-ordinating agency to get correct information to and from citizens and that Birmingham people say 'yes' readily when their cooperation is asked."

Strategy

Bride: "Yes, I cooked my first meal last night—it was a grand success."

Visitor: "How nice!"

Bride: "Yes, he's going to get me a cook right away."

'Kate Smith'

Fellow workers have nicknamed 220 pound Mrs. Anna Mae Pugmore, Port Newark, N. J., the 'Kate Smith' of the shipyards. She's 27, a mother, and almost always sings at her work.

Monetta Becker Exchanges Vows With John Collins

At a ceremony solemnized in St. Dunstan's Chapel of Christ Church Cranbrook Saturday afternoon, Monetta Becker became the bride of John Armstrong Collins. The Rev. Charles H. Cadigan read the service before an altar decorated with white gladioli and white tulips.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence F. Becker, of Meadowbrook road, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Collins, of Townsend avenue.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a silver blue crepe dress trimmed with loops of the same material on the skirt and sleeves with a blue veil. She carried white orchids.

Phyllis Becker was her sister's maid of honor in a beige crepe dress trimmed in small bows of the material, a matching hat with a brown veil, and a shoulder spray of green orchids.

Russell Fisher was best man and the groom's two uncles, John Collins and Richard Armstrong, were ushers.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Becker chose a navy blue dress trimmed in white and a navy hat with touches of white. She wore a corsage of gardenias.

Mrs. Collins' dress was also navy blue and with it she wore a hat made of violets and a corsage of violets.

A reception was held for close friends and relatives at the home of the bride after which the couple left for a short wedding trip. They will make their home in Birmingham.

Freedom of India Subject of Debate

Mrs. Charles J. Shain, leader of the International Relations Class of Birmingham has invited two former members of the class, Mrs. Lawrence King and Mrs. William J. Norton, of Pleasant Ridge, to give their debate "Freedom of India Now."

Mrs. King and Mrs. Norton have made a study of this country over a period of ten months, reading everything available, consulting with visiting lecturers who come from or know India well, as well as studying the history of India with the University of Michigan Extension Department. Their preparation of this debate has been for the specific purpose of objectively pointing out India's vital place in the world of today.

This presentation will be a preview of the debate that is scheduled to be given for a larger audience later in the season at Pleasant Ridge. All are invited to come to the International Relations Class which meets in the Community House every Tuesday at 10 o'clock.

Generosity

Marine: "Say, Pal, will you loan me a nickel? I want to call a friend."

Sailor: "Here's 15 cents, call all your friends."—U. S. S. Melville Job Order.

10,000 Books Will Be Sent to Service Centers

The Victory Book Campaign has come to a victorious climax with stacks of books filling the workroom and overflowing the tables at the Baldwin Library. Lindo Moore, director of Birmingham's campaign, has received over 10,000 volumes.

Three thousand of these came in from the special book drive put on by Baldwin High School. Two hundred volunteer workers contacted people by visit or telephone within the city limits and in over 15 suburban areas. A corps of Junior A. W. V. S. members scouted all over town for cartons and rope; volunteer high school boys gave hours of their time tying and lifting heavy boxes that had been sorted and packed by Miss Moore, Miss Adeline Cooke, Miss Ruth Poueher, and Mrs. H. J. Stringham of the library staff.

Miss Cooke, librarian, said there was evidence that most of Birmingham and suburbs subscribed to the national book club and the quality and number of recent books was in the majority. The books were sorted 'according to fiction and non-fiction.

Miss Moore stated that as the final boxes are being packed, she only now awaits the order of the national headquarters of the Victory Book Committee as to what military and naval centers Birmingham's contribution will go. The handling of 10,000 books has been a tremendous undertaking but Miss Moore has dispatched this job in usual stride.

Last year, the funds derived from the key scrap drive carried on by the library staff were used to defray the transportation charges from Birmingham to the specified service libraries. There is a small fund remaining that will cover these current charges in part only, but several interested persons have already added to this fund and when it is sufficiently large enough, the Birmingham Victory Books will move into the hands of the boys who eagerly await them.

GIRL SCOUTS

ATTENTION GIRL SCOUTS!

Mrs. Robert F. Kohr and Mrs. Carl W. Moyer took a group of Mrs. A. W. White's girls to the Poppleton School in Troy Township to help invest a new troop of 18 girls. This new troop is led by Mrs. V. Moore. The following girls helped with the investiture: Carolyn Harslig, Elizabeth Henshaw, Nancy Chesna, Judy Tucker, and Patty Williams. The color guard was made up of Janet Steele, Marilyn Stanley, Mary Haladay, and Joan Schafer.

Waste Fats Drive

The great Kitchen Waste Fat Collection is going to start next week. The girls of Troop 6 are doing their part by helping this weekend.

The Birmingham Girl Scouts have a beautiful window in Mulholland's which has been entered in the national prize contest. We hope that all of the Scouts and their friends have seen it. It is quite unusual.

Election Held

The results of the election in the Birmingham Girl Scout Council were as follows: Mrs. E. F. Brumbaum, commissioner; Mrs. George B. Finch, deputy commissioner; Mrs. Edward L. Ruslander, treasurer, and Mrs. Charles B. Kass, secretary.

Did any of you hear Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt broadcasting from the 31st birthday dinner of the Girl Scouts in New York last Tuesday night?

Village Players Produce Laugh-Studded Fantasy

By CONSTANCE LEWIS

The gay and unusual story of "Heaven Can Wait" by Harry Segall, more familiarly known as "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," unfolded to the guffaws, applause, and rapt attention of the usual informal audience at the Saturday night performance of the Village Players.

The story of the play concerns an aviation-minded, saxophone-tooting pugilist, Joe Pendleton, who prides himself, almost obnoxiously, on being "in the pink." Unfortunately, he is collected by Messenger 7013 from his hurtling plane one day, and taken to heaven where calm, business-like Mr. Jordan, who is Big Boss up there, discovers that the messenger had made a mistake and that according to his records, Joe has 60 more years to go on earth. Joe and the messenger rush back to earth to get Joe back into his covering but his manager, Max Levine, has already had the body cremated.

This complicates matters no end as Joe is a very determined fellow and insists on his "in the pink" body. He and Mr. Jordan dash around the world inspecting prospective residents of Heaven but none of them pass Joe's inspection. They finally end up at the swanky home of a wealthy playboy, Jonathan Farnsworth, who is in the process of being drowned in his bathtub by his wife and her lover. A caller at the home is a beautiful and personable young woman named Bette Logan whose father has been put in jail by Farnsworth. She definitely appeals to Joe who agrees to take Farnsworth's body only until he gets the beautiful creature out of trouble.

During the ensuing action, Joe—or Farnsworth—has fallen in love with Bette and is in training for a fight with his former manager, Max Levine, whom he has managed to convince, by playing his saxophone off-key, that he is really Joe Pendleton in Farnsworth's body. However, that dastardly pair, Mrs. Farnsworth and her lover, Tony, intend to make sure that Farnsworth is done away with this time and they shoot him and stuff him in a refrigerator leaving Joe again without a body.

He settled on a fighter named Kayo Murdock who has been shot by gangsters, and wise Mr. Jordan wipes all thoughts of Joe Pendleton from his mind. Murdock meets Bette again and they are strangely attracted to each other. You know the rest.

James Bampton, as the bewildered Pendleton, was particularly suited for the part of the athletic prize fighter and played it with considerable gusto and enthusiasm. Mr. Jordan, as played by Tom Adams, lent the unusual wanderings of the play a credibility and sincerity with his quiet but effective playing of the role.

Warren Pease, as Max Levine, practically walked off with the show in his performance of the tough, incredulous Max, who believes Joe's story about Mr. Jordan but is frankly uneasy at having someone around that he can't see. Charles McCall's performance of a typical fight manager, Lefty, manager of Kayo Murdock, was also good though small.

Mrs. Ames, the staid housekeeper of the Farnsworth mansion, has one bright scene where she discusses the odds before betting on Farnsworth in her dignified and cultured language. Hope Lewis played the scene to great advantage. Marion Eynon made a beautiful Bette Logan. Other members of the cast who ably supported were Ned Shattuck as the blundering Messenger 7013, Florine Grier as the conniving Julia Farnsworth and Bill Martin as Tony Abbott, her lover. Pat Eden played the roaring detective, Williams. Others were Myrna Brosch, Harriet Stauffer, Dorothy de Beaubien, Berrien Ketchum, Jim Grier, and Larry Colgrove.

The play's smoothness of action denoted many rehearsals and tedious work for the director, Margaret Stringham, assisted by Wilda McCall. Lois Bampton held the lines, and May Schjolin was in charge of properties.

CASE DISMISSED

Carl Mudge, 17 years old, was arrested last week on a charge of larceny of railroad articles—two tires from the Robert Milks gasoline station. However, when the matter was settled to the satisfaction of Milks, he suggested that the charge be dropped, and on motion of Assistant Prosecutor Donald Noggle, the case was dismissed by Justice Forbes S. Hascall.

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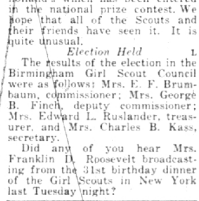

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