

# Things Past and Things to Come With the Birmingham Summer Players

By Alice E. Morgan

While telling of things to come on the program of the Birmingham Summer Theatre, residents should also be informed of the splendid things which have already been presented.

The opening spot was taken by "Kiss and Tell"; that hilarious comedy of Corlies Archer and her troupe, began its three-night run June 25. Under the direction of Ruth Hall and her assistant, Kit Scheidts, the members of the cast turned in a splendid, finished performance, sharing honors equally in the fast-moving comedy.

Sally Howard as Corlies and Jim Kniga as Dexter, continued their cat-and-dog friendship with all the spasm of experienced stage personalities. Tom Hawley, as Raymond Pringle, irritated Ed Smith (Mr. Willard, the painter) and everyone else, and kept the family feud at its pitch most of the time. His few efforts at being humane and helpful, were ad-

quately overcome by his more obnoxious character.

**Family Feud**  
Gertrude Robertson and Jack Hemsteger, as the suffering parents of Corlies, suffered convincingly and fended right and left with Imogene Powrie, Raymond's mother. The situation did nothing to ease the love affair and secret marriage of Joanne Laucomer and Ted Mansfield, the Pringle daughter and Archer son. Carolyn Abbott and Bob Ervin tried, unsuccessfully, to smooth things over, and as the somewhat distraught parents of the not-too-bright Dexter, found themselves in plenty of trouble through the misunderstanding actions and double talk of the various offspring.

Supporting roles were ably handled by Sally Buck as the long-suffering servant in the Archer household; Steve Campbell as Private Earhart and Jack Sheneff as Uncle George Archer, a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy.

The former Baldwin high student took the part of the cunning, mentally warped murderer in a convincing manner, and held his audience completely as he switched smoothly from one mental level to another. His portrayal of the many-sided character of Dan was worthy of far wider stage experience than the young University of Michigan student has had. Miss Ritter carried on the fea-

ing of suspense and horror by her portrayal of suspended emotion, letting her audience sense her every reaction to the situations around her, and feel the ferocity with which she held these reactions under control. It was a difficult role for a young and comparatively inexperienced player, handled beautifully.

Betty Lou Ackerman and Margaret York, as the erratic and exorable English maids, horrified at the idea of a murderer in the midst of his attempt to see the man, were excellent. Other supporting roles were capably handled by Austin Jones, Phyllis Morse and Tim Adams.

The big variety show, which opened last night in the Baldwin auditorium, will also be seen tonight and tomorrow. The directors have rounded up some of the city's best talent in a fast-moving program of songs, dances and dramatic skits.

**Mass Hart Play**  
The fourth presentation of the summer season will be staged next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at the customary time, 8:15, in the air-cooled Baldwin Auditorium.

The Mass Hart farce, "George Washington Slept Here", will be another complete reversal in type. This play, has been outstanding as a motion picture, legitimate production and is a favorite of all summer stock companies.

This completely new cast, directed by Miss Hull, will have Henry Muller in the leading role. Muller made a hit when, as a Baldwin student, he played in "Dear Ruth". He plays the part of the impractical but very well-meaning, new owner of the house where Washington once slept.

His attractive wife, Patty Dix, a newcomer to the ranks of the Village Players, is not much impressed by the history of their home, which contributes much to the play. Vincent Hayes, remembered for his "Poor Willie" verses in "Turnabout", is cast as the comic hired man.

Other college students, vacationing at home, who are included in the cast are Mary Powers from Michigan; Jane Barnes, Western College in Oxford, Ohio; George Bardick from Western Michigan college; Bruce Robb from Indiana; Phyllis Morse from Wooster and Jo Flies from Michigan State.

Charlie Thomas, Bill Aikens, Pete Plumstead and Jim Patterson, Baldwin students are cast in supporting roles.

Miss Hull is assisted by Mary Kemp in directing the play, which is also giving the stage crew an extra workout with sound effects and tricky staging, playing a major part in the hoped-for success of the production.

## Dr. John P. Wood Attends Convention

St. Louis, Mo.—Dr. John P. Wood, of Birmingham, Mich., is attending the 53rd annual convention of the American Osteopathic association, being held at Kiel auditorium in St. Louis July 11-15. Dr. K. R. M. Thompson, program chairman, has announced.

Dr. Wood is chairman of the association's bureau of public education on health, which will meet during the convention.

The Birmingham physician was president of the national association in 1946-47.

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Furniture and Fixtures	412,360.58
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Income Accrued Receivable	33,578.88
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>208,324.63</b>
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LIABILITIES	
Capital	\$ 1,200,000.00
Surplus	1,250,000.00
Undivided Profits	569,001.53
Interest and Expense Accrued Payable	93,578.90
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State of Michigan Deposits	515,882.07
Other Public Funds	4,040,732.42
Cashier's, Certified and Dividend Checks Outstanding	1,501,184.90
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>81,996,146.33</b>
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