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Cranbrook Theatre Season Is Closed

The eleventh annual Cranbrook Summer Theatre season ended today after more than 180 students had given 29 short and eight major performances in the Greek Theatre at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, during the past six weeks.

Granting both secondary and college credits to qualified students, the theatre school, under the direction of Carl G. Woonberger, its founder, gave courses in makeup, voice, diction, pantomime and dancing.

Over 20 faculty members supervised the presentation of plays and participated in recreation activities, which included swimming instruction in Cranbrook's Jonah pools.

Students ranging from nine to 23 years old included the following from Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills area: Nan Adams, Barbara Akers, Carol A. Bain, Rosalyn A. Biggs, Carole L. Burger, Mary Barton, Jo Frederickson, Virginia D. Hunston, Carolyn G. Hunston, Nancy J. Hamill, Priscilla Holmes, Alice Holmes, Andy Hawley, Mary B. Hawley, Joyce Harlan, Pat Hogan, Sara Hines, John Hawley, Linda Lewis, Maryjo McLintock, Maria M. McLintock, Winnie Roensch, Alice Shaw, Sarah J. Schlichter, Sally Satterthwaite, Marilyn Anderson Voegt, Karen Vanderkloof, Judith A. Wood and Robert Whittaker.

MEN IN SERVICE



U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY MIDSHIPMAN, first class Roger G. Booth, USN, son of Col. and Mrs. W. G. Booth, 1951 Groefield, stands a lookout watch aboard the minelayer USS Fraser during a midshipman practice cruise. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

NATURE NOW

By LYDIA KING-FRENSE

Atop the hill with its gentle southern and western slopes, lies the cherry orchard, where this week the last of the sweet rich fruit was picked and sent to market.

The orchard lies on the northern rim of the cherry country, whose center is Traverse City. Protected from frost by the waters' nearness and nurtured in the well-drained gravelly soils deposited here by the last glacier in a pattern of rolling hills, this locality is well suited to the cultivation of the cherry tree, whose fruit is one of Michigan's valuable crops.

The comely wife of the manager of the orchard sold me a quart of large black sweet cherries to eat at a picnic. It was a second box of the red sour variety to make a pie. Her husband was supervising the loading of a truck with "lugs" of both varieties to be taken swiftly to the factory at Ellsworth for canning.

CHERRIES ARE picked by local people, many of them boys and girls who thus earn money toward their next year's school expenses. A good picker can fill 12 to 15 "lugs" per day, each holding 15 quarts. The picking season lasts about two weeks depending upon the amount of sun and moisture at harvesting time.

This particular orchard covers 35 acres, has about 4,000 trees and in a good season produces some 60 tons of fruit.

The first trees were planted about 40 years ago. New plots are added as the older trees cease bearing and approximately 150 replantings are needed each year, which causes trunks to crack and limbs to break off.

The cherry farmer follows a yearly routine in caring for his orchard. After picking is finished he plants a cover crop. In early June of the following year he dunks it under, and thereafter keeps the weeds down by regular cultivation, until the first fruit ripens.

SPRAYING must be done at well-timed intervals, to destroy blights caused by fungus diseases and to keep in check insect invaders such as the cherry maggot. Four of these sprays are spaced between "petal-fall" and picking time and a fifth is applied to the trees after the fruit is harvested.

In previous columns I have mentioned the importance of insects as pollen carriers. So necessary is the bee to cherry culture that an orchard owner must look to the bee population of his area and if it is not adequate must import enough bees to insure fertilization at blooming time.

Each year 15 swarms are brought in to this particular orchard and placed in a sunny, protected spot preferably in a small valley, centrally located so the bees can go about their important task of distributing pollen.

THE SOUR cherry has male and female blossoms on the same tree, but the sweet cherry has each sex growing on a separate tree. The

wind also assists with pollination by blowing this microscopic dust from flower to flower. After "petal-fall" the bees are removed, since they could not survive the arsenic spray which soon follows. Thus again, nature uses the curious little insect, to insure her handiwork.

Many varieties of cherries are cultivated in Michigan orchards. The Montmorency red sour, and both the Bing and Schnitz sweet varieties, are favorites in this area.

All cherries grown in America were introduced from Europe. They were developed from the wild trees by patient selection and grafting, over many hundreds of years.

As some such fashion has the clever hand of man perfected all our fruits from wild varieties, bear little resemblance to the delicious varieties that adorn our tables today.

All cherries are members of the large rose family and belong to the genus "Prunus." This group contains some 2,500 species and vies with the grasses for the honor of being the most valuable family of cultivated plants.

AND SO ends my visit with the last quiet young man of the farmed face and the very blue eyes. We watched the last load of cherries on its way to all sorts of good desserts for next winter's table disappear down the winding road. He looked out over the rolling hills to his comfortable home just visible over the tops of the now stripped trees. His pretty wife and a small blond boy, together with his smaller and equally blond sister, came out of the cherry shed

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MATS Deputy Head In Washington

Major Joseph E. Murphy, USAF, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Murphy, 1482 East Maple, and former adjutant general of the Army-Navy Air Force Joint Command in Iceland, is now serving as deputy chief of Reserve Branch for the Military Air Transport Service headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Major Murphy was assigned to the Joint Iceland command in May, 1951, served there one year, returning to the United States in May of this year.

In Korea With Marines

Serving with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's headquarters squadron in Korea is Staff Sgt. Duane E. Becker, USMC, of Route 4, Birmingham. The squadron handles all administration of the aerial combat units flying against Korean and Chinese Communist forces.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

SERVING WITH THE U. S. ARMY Corps of Engineers in Korea is Sgt. Henry C. Dugger, Jr., son of Henry C. Dugger, 1376 Cole. A graduate of Baldwin High school, Sgt. Dugger entered service Aug. 3, 1951, and arrived in Korea in February of this year.



SGT. DAVID E. TOMPKINS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Tompkins, Sr., Cranbrook Institute of Science, is serving with the 5th Training Battalion, Marine Corps Basic Training school, Quantico, Va., where he is a platoon leader. Sgt. Tompkins was a student at Cranbrook school when he entered the Marine Corps in January, 1951.

Signalman in Germany

Cpl. Dale E. Blank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob E. Blank, 1944 Boulton, Troy township, is serving with the 552nd Signal Base Maintenance Company of the U. S. Army in Pirmasens, Germany. Cpl. Blank entered service on February 27, 1951 and was sent to Camp Gordon, Ga., where he was assigned to the 552nd for basic training.

In Naval Aviation Course

Naval Aviation Cadet Donald R. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Wilson, 1927 Riverside, Beverly Hills, recently reported to the U. S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Corry Field, Pensacola, Fla., where he is undergoing training in radio, instrument and night flying. A graduate of Birmingham High school and a student at the University of Michigan, Wilson entered the Naval Aviation Cadet program in November, 1951.



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