

Institute Report Outlines History Of Indian Silver

Navajo silversmithing, the widest known of American Indian arts, is observing its one-hundredth birthday this year.

Most admirers of the popular Navajo costume jewelry take it for granted that the Indians have been doing this sort of work since prehistoric times. Actually it is relatively modern, according to anthropologist Dr. Frederick J. Dockstader in a report issued recently by Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

The very first Navajo silversmith, Ataidi Sani (Old Smith), lived until 1918. Navajo accounts and historical data agree quite closely on the year 1853 as the year in which he first began to practice, after learning his craft from a Mexican smith near Mt. Taylor, New Mexico.

The strongest influence on Navajo work came from Mexican saddle designs, which in turn show a definite Spanish origin. Most of the designs, however, were created by

the Navajos themselves and reflect little interest in religious or cult symbolism.

CHIEFLY DECORATIVE, the silver made by the Navajo consists mostly of personal jewelry and adornments for brides, holsters and belts. Aside from its ornamental use, this work advertises the wealth of the wearer and is useful in barter with other Indians and white traders. It serves as an ever-present "bank account", since it can be pawned for goods.

The early followers of Ataidi Sani had only a few crude tools, and often worked brass, copper and silver coins which were hammered or melted up for casting in hand-carved sandstone molds. Stone-setting developed about 1800 and featured various local stones including turquoise, garnet, jet and malachite, turquoise being the favorite.

Dr. Dockstader, who lived among the Indians of the southwest for many years, has been a history instructor at Cranbrook School, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and is now associated with the Dartmouth College Museum, Hanover, New Hampshire.

To Assist SOC UF Director

Assistant campaign director for the 1953 United Foundation Torch Drive in South Oakland County is Edward W. Barnard, 1396 Maryland, Birmingham.

Barnard will assist Forrest B. Bradley, campaign director, in the headquarters at 307 W. Sixth St., Royal Oak. He succeeds Harold H. Hanson who served in that capacity last year.

Barnard is employed in the sales division of Ford Tractor Division.

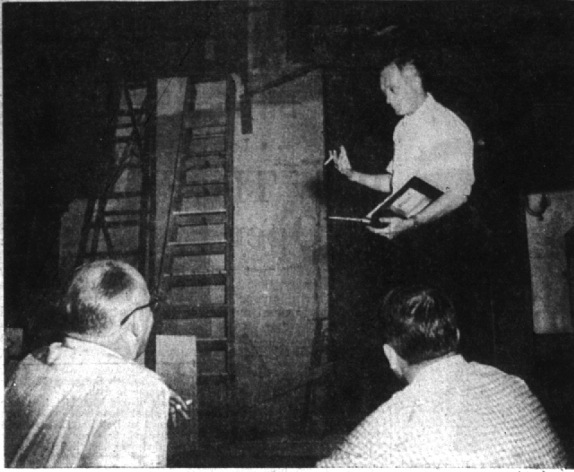
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JACK HASSBERGER DIRECTING CAST OF 'MISTER ROBERTS'
Actors C. Lawton Tabor (left) and Norman James listen attentively.

Directing 'Mister Roberts' A Natural for Hassberger

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

Dr. Jack B. Hassberger, a well known and popular pediatrician of Birmingham, is directing the Village Players October presentation, "Mister Roberts".

While Dr. Hassberger has directed and acted in many plays presented by the Village Players, none before have had such personal interest as his present assignment.

"Mister Roberts", a World War I comedy-drama, was a play which Hassberger has wanted to "do" ever since he first saw it in 1948 in New York with the original cast. It has just recently become available to amateur groups and the Village Players took the first opportunity offered to present it.

"Mister Roberts" is a play concerning naval life on a U. S. Navy cargo ship, operating in the back areas of the Pacific, and, Hassberger believes, a realistic picture of men aboard a ship sailing from "Tedium to Apathy and back—with an occasional side-trip to Monotony."

THE PLAY so closely paralleled some of Hassberger's own activities in the Navy during the past war that in seeing "Mister Roberts", he was literally reliving his past experiences.

"Just a play," said Hassberger, "but the things that happen in 'Mister Roberts' could have happened in the Navy and did."

Hassberger joined the Navy in July 1942, boarded the USS Massachusetts in Nov. 1942. This ship had been active in bombing the North African coast and was, at the time he boarded it, on North Atlantic patrol.

During the 18 months he spent aboard this ship, the USS Massachusetts was sent to the South Pacific where it took part in the invasion of the Admiralties, the Marianas and Kwajalein. Hassberger served as medical officer.

FOLLOWING HIS duty aboard the Massachusetts, he was sent to the Seattle Naval hospital for three months, then spent 12 months at the San Diego Naval hospital.

Finally he was ordered aboard an attack personnel auxiliary, a vessel which was carrying troops to the Philippines and Japan. Hassberger held the rank of commander aboard it and spent three months on this vessel as medical officer before the war ended.

Before Jack came aboard, a new lieutenant was sent aboard to replace another who had just died. The new lieutenant was named Mister Roberts and was the same kind of fine young man as was "Mister Roberts", the hero in the play that Hassberger is now directing.

THE CAPTAIN of the APA, a commander in rank, had come up from the Merchant Marine, much like the captain in the play.

Hassberger was honorably discharged and separated from the Navy in January 1946.

The Village Players feel very fortunate in having Hassberger direct "Mister Roberts". It is a play which requires adept directing and he is considered one of their top directors. It also requires an understanding of men and an understanding of the Navy—and Hassberger has that, too.

Amateur theatrical group work

has been of long time interest to Jack Hassberger.

Serves As Gunner
WITH THE 45TH INFANTRY DIV. IN KOREA — Army Cpl. JOHN W. MCFARLAND, 2E, whose wife, Barbara, lives at 631 Big Beaver, Troy Township, is taking part in the intensive post-traffic training program of the 45th Infantry Division in Korea.

Captain MCFarland, son of Mrs. Edith L. MCFarland, 630 Creston, Troy Township, arrived in Korea last March and is serving as a gunner in Company F of the division's 17th Regiment.



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