

'Teahouse' Ends Excellent Season At Will-O-Way

By DONALD A. YATES

Monday evening I witnessed the opening performance of the last comedy in Will-O-Way Playhouse's 1957 summer season—a show that will be playing for a solid three weeks, ending Sept. 15. The show is "The Teahouse of the August Moon."

I'm happy to say that it is representative of Will-O-Way's '57 season; it was a soundly acted, well-directed performance.

This is as it should be, since Director Bill Merrill is taking his players out of Birmingham to show a large Detroit audience the sort of summer stock theater that the apple storage playhouse on E. Long Lake road, Park one week Merrill and crew will be presenting "Teahouse" at the Michigan State Fair.

"Teahouse" is a charming play in conception, and the Will-O-Way group has preserved its fragile charm.

THE SOCIAL CONTENT of the play is diluted to the point where it is merely a gentle spoof of materialistic American ways. This constitutes a feinting attack on some of our institutions where a couple of massive blows are needed, but such is the nature of comedy. And "Teahouse" is good comedy.

For the third play in a row, Danny Simpson has carried the responsibility of the major role. In this show he has conclusively proved his versatility with an ingratiating, unobtrusive portrayal of Sakini, the Okinawan, who is the philosophic spokesman for his people.

IN THE ROLE of Colonel Wainwright Purdy III, Philip Brandon had all the external equipment that part required, but he seemed unable to wrap his tongue around some important lines.

Secure in the belief that "Teahouse" will please audiences night after night for the next three weeks, Bill Merrill and his players can look to the climax of an impressive and highly entertaining summer season. I have found the Will-O-Way season just ending full of promise for even more delightful summers of good comedy to come.

And here a final acknowledgment and word of thanks to Martinielli's restaurant, which so kindly and cordially furnished me with a table in the back of the establishment with checkered tablecloth, candle in bottle and rare deaf to the clatter of an intrusive typewriter.

Park's No Dump, Worker Learns

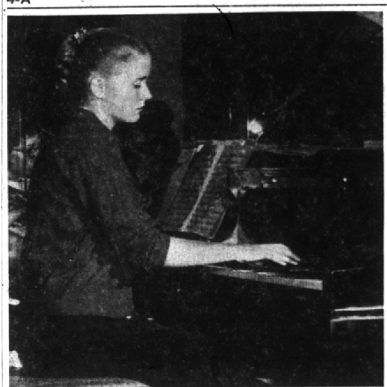
Birmingham's public parks and property are not to be used as dumps, a landscaping firm's employee learned Monday.

Richard G. Lowe, 35, of Detroit, was arrested by Birmingham police for violation of a city ordinance regulating dumping. Lowe was directing a work crew which was dumping bushels-full of grass clippings and debris in Linden park at Shirley and Brandon.

Arraigned immediately before Municipal court Judge John J. Gailli, Lowe was fined \$5 and \$5 costs, with sentence suspended on condition that the debris be cleared away within 24 hours.

City Forest and Parks department director Charles Gale said dumping was becoming more of a problem as the city built up, and that violations were punishable by a fine up to \$100.

He added that the ordinance would be strictly enforced.



Honored at Music Camp

Birmingham pianist Penny Ball received high recognition at the final honors assembly of the National Music Camp here last week. She was named alternate for one of the camp scholarships for the 1958 season, which are awarded on the basis of musicianship, campmanship and leadership. Earlier this month, Penny was a concerto auditions winner and performed the "Piano Concerto in C Major" by Ludwig van Beethoven with the university orchestra. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ball.

Blenman Resigns, Smith Is Named To Appeal Board

The resignation of Clarence W. Blenman from the Birmingham building code board of appeals was accepted by city commissioners Monday night.

At the same time the commission approved the appointment of architect Lina Smith to the board for a five-year term.

Blenman, of 1381 Birmingham, has served on the board since 1949. He will continue to serve on the zoning board of appeals, to which he was appointed at the same time.

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2 Break-Ins At Vacationers' Homes Reported

Two homes in southeast Birmingham were broken into while their owners vacationed this week. The incidents prompted police to urge vacationers to notify them when leaving.

Police learned at 9:40 p.m. Tuesday that the Harry G. Funk residence at 1546 Penitence had been ransacked. They said entry had been made by breaking a window facing the backyard, which was heavily screened by shrubbery.

They said nothing of value was believed taken. Patrolman Richard

Chambers made an immediate check of other homes in the neighborhood whose occupants had notified police they would be away.

BUT NEXT MORNING a neighbor discovered a break-in at the home of A. M. Colville, Jr., 1814 Banbury. Police said Colville had not notified them he would be away.

Investigation revealed an opened safe lying in the Colville living room. Det. Lt. Merin Holmquist said money had apparently been taken, but the amount could not be determined until Colville's expected return Monday.

The House had been entered some time since Friday.

Community House Opens Enrollment For Craft Classes

A class in puppetry for children is being added to the list of craft and hobby courses which will begin next month at Birmingham Community House.

Registration for the 18 ten-week courses offered opens Tuesday and continues for two weeks at the Community House office, where hours will be from 9 a.m. through the House's evening closing hour. Francesca Bodycombe will instruct children in the newly inaugurated Thursday afternoon sessions on marionettes and hand puppets.

ALSO INCLUDED IN the day-

time and evening classes are woman, and interior decorating. Also millinery, painting, photography, sculpture, sewing, silver, flower arrangement, garden- and painting and drawing for children.

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