

'Birmingham Eccentrics' Highlight Festival Drama

By JULIE CANDLER
Staff Writer

Birmingham and Bloomfield will be ribbed, kidded and spoofed by St. Dunstan's guild in a musical comedy satire during the Birmingham art festival.

Members of the Bloomfield Hills amateur theatrical group will sing and dance through "The Birmingham Eccentrics", which depicts the Birmingham-Bloomfield area's suburban life.

The special performance in conjunction with the Arts Festival is slated for 9 p.m. Thursday, June 11, in Cranbrook's Greek outdoor theatre on Lone Pine road.

IN THE EVENT of rain, tickets will be validated for other performances June 12 and 13, or for a special "rain-check" show Sunday, June 14.

Altogether the ambitious production, written and directed by Bloomfield Hills resident Dean Coffin, will be presented six times. It opens Thursday, June 4, with performances Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, as well as the following Thursday through Saturday.

COFFIN'S scenario is based on an idea of Walker Graham's. It tells the story of the crisis which hits the community's life when a new owner takes over the local paper. He begins reporting what actually happens, such as the fact that the PTA meeting actually was dreadful. And even worse about local social life.

One skit depicts wives in curlers and robes dropping their husbands at the "Grand Drunk" commuter train.

ANOTHER SKIT on suburban real estate features a song about a "Little Grey Home on Piety Hill."

A song entitled "A Credit to the Town" plays up the Birmingham-Bloomfield area's poor reputation credit-wise.

The singer laments his unpaid bills from such familiar names as Jake's, Mills, Wilson's, Miner's and Sfr's.

ROBERT BATES and Mrs. Janet Martin are musical directors. Several of the songs, all 15 of them written by St. Dunstan's members, are by Harry Safford, musical director of WJR.

John Crim plays the newspaper editor, while John S. Coppin and Walter Selover are the owners, old and new.

The Greek theatre's benches seat over 500, and cushions will be available.

Antique Cars Parade Before Melton Concert

A parade of antique cars through the streets of Birmingham is being planned to honor Metropolitan tenor James Melton. Besides being an internationally known singer, Melton is probably the most famous collector of antique cars in America.

Plans were revealed by the president of the Gas and Brass chapter of the Veteran Motor Car Club, Richard Teague, 4740 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. Teague, a personal friend of Melton's said that owners of antique cars in the Birmingham area are looking forward with great interest to Mr. Melton's arrival.

The cars will rendezvous in front of Birmingham High School, Cranbrook and Lincoln Roads in Birmingham at 7:00 Tuesday, June 9 and will tour through Birmingham ending up back at the high school at 8:00 in time for the James Melton Concert which is the headline event of The Birmingham Arts Festival.



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