

DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT IT'S FUN TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF — YOU'LL SEE WHY IN ST. DUNSTAN'S MUSICAL SATIRE!

The Bloomingham Bugle

(ADVERTISEMENT)

YOU'LL SEE YOURSELF, YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, WHERE THEY GO, WHAT THEY DO, WHAT THEY SAY, AND THE WAY THEY SAY IT IN BLOOMINGHAM.

ST. DUNSTAN'S TO GIVE MUSICAL COMEDY

Action Pivots Around Newspaper Coverage Of Local Activities

It's a dead certainty that as the plot of "The Bloomingham Eccentrics" develops, so will the interest of the audience, for they'll be seeing and hearing things distressingly familiar to them all. When the publisher of the local paper, the Bloomingham Bugle, sells to a new arrival in town, things begin to happen. Immediately upon taking over, the new publisher establishes policies—without which the paper has been able to do very well for the past 40 years.

The whole approach of the new publisher, an old curmudgeon, is to take a very dim view of the activities of the community and to report them in the most critical way possible.

The effect on the town is startling; everyone is disturbed and determined to get rid of the menace. Some very fancy footwork and shenanigans by the brains of the local police department eventually solve the problem. (When you see the show you'll find out how, because we are not going to tell you here).

The opening song is sung by Sy Thingstad and the chorus. It extolls the virtues of suburban living with the ringing phrase "Suburbia, Suburbia, We Love Suburbia" and deals with some of the features that make Bloomingham the wonderful world it is. Three girls who write for the local newspaper (Nancy Scott, Betty Booth and Winnie Coffin) sing "We Love the Social Scene" giving their views on the social goings-on.

After the new editor takes over, with his caustic ways, he decides on a new "get tough" policy of dealing with the news—no matter whose toes get stepped on. The song "Chivalry is for the Birds"

Musical Comedy Real Team Effort

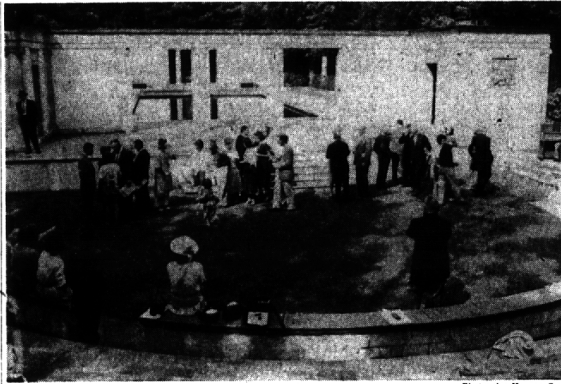
Many months ago, after it was decided that the Birmingham area needed its own original musical comedy, a whole team of St. Dunstan's went to work, under the direction of Dean Coffin. There followed nights of burning the midnight oil by members... working out the story line, writing the songs and sketches, getting the music arranged. All of this was preliminary to putting the show in rehearsal. The songs and sketches were written by Walker Graham, Bob Garrison, Jerry McMechan, John and Dean Warner, Steve Manhard, Dean Coffin, Bill Everson, Sid Oldberg, Dick O'Reilly and Mrs. Janet Martin. A tremendous contribution in original music and arrangements was made by Harry Safford, well-known WJR musical personality.

Ad Men Called To Save Beloved Bloomingham

The Birmingham area boasts a high concentration of advertising men—and in the lore of the "fabulous ad game" it is often said that advertising can solve many problems. When the prestige of "Bloomingham" is damaged by the local paper, the leading local agency is called in to put on "The Big Pitch" with all the necessary "gimmicks" to build the prestige of dear old Bloomingham. In this skit, you'll see what ad men you know. You may even recognize yourself, but we won't use your name. One of the most unusual features of this advertising presentation is an actual slide film. To our knowledge, this will be the first slide film presentation has been part of a local play. As they say on dear old Bloomingham, "It will be a real laugh riot! (One thing more you won't want to miss... get your tickets early!)"

Psychasthenia —You've Got It

Don't make it worse! Just suppose you don't make your plans right now, and you should miss this great show. You will be out of the social swim, and your psychasthenia (i.e. anxiety neurosis) will reach a new high level. Don't tell us you don't have anxiety neurosis, everyone in Bloomingham does. How could you face your psychiatrist's Smith out your psyche. Be there. (Those of you who have already marked your calendars can skip your next trip to the headshrinkers).



Photos by Harvey Crose

"The Bloomingham Eccentrics" in Rehearsal at Greek Theatre

Dean Coffin, director of St. Dunstan's musical comedy "The Bloomingham Eccentrics" is shown above at one of the early rehearsals in the Greek Theatre.

The theatre, just behind St. Dunstan's Playhouse on Lone Pine Road, is an ideal setting for a musical show. There is a large main stage, and below that a "grass level" which makes possible the use of two separate levels for the action of the play. The combination of a large main stage and a second level provides a scope that would not be possible indoors. Also, there is a special charm and excitement about an outdoor theatre setting under the stars.

The semi-circular seating arrangement around the stage will comfortably accommodate 600 people.

The theatre is a replica of the ones which were popular in ancient Greece, and is one of the few in the country available for use by a non-professional theatre group. It is traditional for one play to be presented by St. Dunstan's in the Greek theatre each season. (If you have never seen outdoor theatre you owe it to yourself to circle your calendar for June 4, 5, 6 or 11, 12 or 13 for the thrill of the marvelous outdoor setting (not to mention the entertaining play).

Original Show Deals With Fun and Foibles Of Life In Suburbia

St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook will present six performances of an original musical show entitled "The Bloomingham Eccentrics" over two Thursday, Friday and Saturday week-ends—June 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12 and 13. Performances will be held in the Greek Theatre, and outdoor amphitheatre adjacent to the playhouse on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

The show, a full-scale musical, deals with life in suburbia in general, and with life in the Bloomfield-Birmingham area in particular. The story, music and lyrics were created by members of St. Dunstan's, with 45 members in the cast.

To Be Directed By Dean Coffin

Dean Coffin, a St. Dunstan's of long standing, with considerable experience in acting and show direction, returned to Birmingham after three years in Cleveland at the just time.

He had just rejoined St. Dunstan's when the original musical was only a rough idea in the minds of the playwrights and a casting committee. Dean not only is directing but also wrote the scenario and some of the songs. Dean has been connected with the stage, radio and commercial film business for more than 20 years and is now vice-president in charge of the Great Lakes Division of Wilding, Inc., a commercial film firm. In little theatre for many years, his most interesting experience in amateur theatre was the time he directed "The Women of the Birmingham Village Players"—with a cast of 44 women—and then directed the same play for the Detroit players with a cast of 44 men.



They Dislike Abstract Painting

Three patronesses of the arts, played by Winnie Coffin, Joyce Klarr and Marion Crocker, are disturbed because such a thing as abstract art even exists. Here, in "The Bloomingham Eccentrics," they voice their opinion in plaintive song "Why can't we have people, flowers and grass; the thing that is dearer than life to me, is a picture painted with things I can see."



The Life of the Daily Commuter

Research Man (Jim Schneider) and Conductor (Bill Everson) talk to the "Grand Drunk" commuters, Dick Page (back to camera), John Crim, Steve Manhard and Don Hutton.

Local Alumnae Group Will Sponsor Benefit

Part of the proceeds of the opening performance of "The Bloomingham Eccentrics" on June 4 will go to the Girls' Ranch at Camp Oakland. The Kappa Alpha Sorority sponsored a performance of "The Potting Shed" with the proceeds going to the Birmingham Child Guidance Center.

Art Association Will Participate

The Bloomfield Art Association is conducting its second annual Birmingham Arts Festival, and in connection with it has offered for sale tickets to five special events during the period June 6 through 14th. One of these five events is St. Dunstan's show "The Bloomingham Eccentrics". Subscribers to the art association events will receive tickets to the Thursday evening, June 11 performance of the show. So, you can advance the cultural life of the community and enjoy the show, and be twice blessed.

Two Who Play Music for Show

The musical accompaniment for the 16 songs in "The Bloomingham Eccentrics" will be provided by Janet Martin and Bob Bates. They will play piano set on both sides of the stage. Janet and Bob bring a considerable amount of musical talent to this show. Janet is a teacher, owner of a music company, soon to publish a series of four student books on the piano. She has appeared as a guest soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Bob Bates' musical credits need nothing more than the statement that he is head of the music department at Cranbrook School. Janet and Bob will be remembered by many for their duet of Grieg's piano concerto in an early St. Dunstan's musical, as well as for their fine piano work in "The Barker," another original musical of St. Dunstan's. You'll enjoy their wonderful playing in "The Bloomingham Eccentrics". It alone is worth the price of admission (Only \$1.50).



"Commuter Cuties" Goodbye

The girls shown above are not exclusive to Bloomingham. They represent suburban housewives who have just completed pushing hubby out the door to the train, and in hair curlers without make-up, comment on the day that lies ahead. They are Ruth Scribner, Betty Booth, Sally Lawlor and Sally Page.

THE CAST

With brief appropriate comments on the type of recognizable Bloomingham characters who will fill the stage in "The Bloomingham Eccentrics".

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| The new publisher of the "Bugle" (very irascible) | Walt Selover |
| The girl who runs classified adv. (sweet and lovely) | Robin Bahr |
| The editor (the dedicated type) | John Crim |
| The society editor (arbitrator of social stuff) | Winnie Coffin |
| A switchboard operator (with good connections) | Nancy Scott |
| Feature writer (a newsy type) | Betty Booth |
| The publisher who sold out (old and reliable) | John Coppin |
| Three patronesses of modern art (very confused) | Joyce Klarr, Marion Crocker, Winnie Coffin |
| Four commuters' wives (with early-morning blues) | Ruth Scribner, Sally Page, Joan Roberts, Sally Lawlor |
| The "Grand Drunk" conductor (the devoted type) | Bill Everson |
| The research man (the curious type) | Jim Schneider |
| The four commuting husbands (one-car family types) | Dick Page, Fran Loud, Steve Manhard, Don Hutton |
| The agency man's wife (with psychology) | Pat Dix |
| Agency account executive (very smooth) | Garv Bowden |
| Agency president (loaded with cliches) | Herbert Ruben |
| Bartender (you know what he does) | Jack Sanders |
| A waitress (friendly, nostalgic type) | Izzy Thompson |
| Three men at the credit bureau (curious fellows) | Dick Miner, Dave Raymond, Bill Everson |
| A stenographer (pretty, pretty) | Sally Lawlor |
| A suburban housewife (with neurosis) | Mary Pascoe |
| A police sergeant (solid, dependable) | Sy Thingstad |
| A police corporal (guardian of the peace) | Dick O'Reilly |
| A policeman (another guardian) | George Heideman |
| Real estate woman (the "Hard-sell" type) | Dottie Wright |
| Home owner (will sell at big profit) | Mary Marquis |
| Swimming pool salesman (sells fans in Alaska) | Walter Graham |
| Four citizens (upright and responsible types) | Katie Darragh, Marion Crocker, Barry Parsons, Sally Page |
| Birmingham Mayor (please, no politics) | Roger Marquis |
| Birmingham clerk | Dick Miner |
| Bloomfield Mayor (no politics, please) | Dave Raymond |
| Bloomfield Clerk | Warren Pease |
| Birmingham commissioners | Jack Sanders, Carlene Martin, Cliff Guest |
| Bloomfield commissioners | Marion Crocker, Jerry Neumann |
| Sanitarium man (strait jacket type) | Dick Page |

Don't Miss It! The Bloomingham Eccentrics • Admission: only \$1.50 adults, \$.90 juniors • Tickets at B'ham Grinnell's or at door • Greek Theatre • Lone Pine Road • Bloomfield Hills • June 4-5-6 and 11-12-13