

Dance, Fire Laws To Be Amended

"Considering the time was spent on this, we might just as well pass an ordinance prohibiting dances," Birmingham City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham joked Monday night.

Amending the ordinance that regulates public dances and dance schools has proved something of a headache to commissioners in recent weeks.

Monday night, they authorized the city manager, fire marshal and legal counsel to work out amendments to both the dance law and the fire code.

Purpose of the amendments will be to assure safety precautions for dances, inspections by the fire department and sound morals and standards of promoters. Charitable organizations will be required to obtain permits but will be exempt from fees.

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LAUDS WILL-O-WAY PLAYERS

Vincent Price Criticizes Over-Critical Art Critics

By JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer

Vincent Price placed a verbal kiss on the forehead of nearly every performer at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre Saturday. At the same time he took a wordy punch at over-critical critics of every art.

His own criticism of the dramatic directors of Will-O-Way's Director Celia Merrill Turner fit the "don't-undercriticize-if-it's-constructive" theory.

He made his criticism so constructive that he practically built dressing rooms with stars on the doors.

The 64' star of stage, television and movies was obviously having a hall in his new role as a critic. So was the audience. So were the 17 actors and actresses, ages 3 to 65.

Especially those who were basking in the cheering glow of a great actor's praise.

PRICES' COMMISSION from Will-O-Way was to act as the "master" and criticize professional workshops.

"The master class" concept was initiated two years ago at Will-O-Way by Mrs. Turner.

"I feel the students need somebody to mirror for them what they are doing. And they need contact with the great masters," said Mrs. Turner in introducing the evening workshop at the little theatre on Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills.

"Master" Price sat at a back row table in the center aisle. When the lights went down before each scene, he slipped a large pair of black-rimmed glasses over his distinguished nose, leaned back and puffed on a chain of cigars.

AS EACH SCENE ended, the performers slipped through the curtain and sat on the stage's edge. The tweed-jacketed Master climbed the stairs to center stage. He sat at the top, feet resting on the step below.

His lanky legs doubled up and his long arms and expressive hands through graceful gestures to emphasize his points. A stick-figure drawing of him would have looked like a Chinese cryptogram.

When the Hamakahi scene from "The Diary of Anne Frank" ended, the Master's solemn comment was, "I have no criticism as this, you don't criticize," he said. "You praise."

"I felt that in many ways this had a simplicity the movie did not have. When you see a group of people play together in this way,



A "devilish" Vincent Price portrays Satan himself in Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre's "Don Juan in Hell," in which he co-starred briefly with Miss Cathy Campbell, of 421 Madison, Birmingham. A fourth grade Pembroke school teacher, Miss Campbell is the 1962 holder of the Alexandra Rogers scholarship to enable deserving Will-O-Way apprentices to continue their dramatic studies.

who are not going to see the play or the painting anyway."

"They don't care what they say as long as they can get off of a witty crack," said Price.

Critic Price continued tossing bouquets through the evening, as he had done at the afternoon performances. He emphasized the good and tactfully suggested how the not-so-good could be improved.

He wove personal anecdotes into his comments. They never failed to get a laugh.

TO AN ACTRESS whose lip movements were too pronounced, he described his early experience with a similar difficulty.

"I went to a great teacher who made me stand before a mirror and practice talking with a match between my upper lip and my teeth."

At the last he became a devil of a critic. Mrs. Turner asked him to read the lines of an apprentice who missed the workshop after winning a role in a Detroit production.

Price was cast as the devil in Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell." Even holding the script and reading the part, Price portrayed the mischievous, happy devil like the pro he is.

When the final curtain closed on the scene, the Master opened the part in his curtain and shouting "There will be no criticism of THIA!"

"THE CRITICS have become ultra-critic. In many cases they are in New York. They are writing for national publications' readers

their critic gave some of the blame for what is wrong in American theatre to its critics.

"Critics have become so good as critics that they no longer have anything to do with the theatre," he said. "The same thing is true in art and other fields."

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SALES AND RENTALS
Adventure Series Features Traveler
Clifford J. Kamen, California world traveler, will present the color adventure film "Mediterranean Adventure — Tangier to Istanbul" for the Birmingham Branch of George Pierrot's World Adventure Series at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Community House in Birmingham.

Tests have proven that steel with nine per cent nickel can be used effectively in tanks carrying highly volatile gases such as liquid methane, at temperatures as low as -320 degrees F.

The University of Michigan is the first institution of higher learning in America to use closed circuit programs.

LOOK at the Bargains for
BB
BIRMINGHAM BONUS DAYS
FEB. 22, 23, 24

Commissioners Take No Stand On Fluoridation

Birmingham city commissioners declined to take a stand Monday night on fluoridation of the local water supply.

They agreed that "if and when the subject is considered by the supplier (Detroit), they would again discuss it."

Commissioners felt that since Birmingham buys water from Detroit any such treatment of it would have to be decided upon first by Detroit.

Their determination came following a request from the Oakland County Dental Society that a resolution be passed favoring fluoridation.

THE SOCIETY is surveying governments of communities receiving water from Detroit to learn how they feel about the subject.

Said Melvin A. Noonan, society president: "Members of the Oakland County Dental Society endorse fluoridation, as does the Michigan State Dental Society, Michigan Department of Health, American Dental Association and other dependable health agencies. It is the most effective, least expensive and safest method for control of dental caries (tooth decay)."

Dems Club To Vote on Constitution

Birmingham Democrats will have an opportunity to vote on the product of its own "Con-Con" Tuesday when the Birmingham Democratic Club meets at 8 p.m. at the Birmingham Community House.

The proposed constitution was presented and read to members at last month's meeting by committee chairman, Mrs. William B. Essory, 747 Maple, Birmingham. Others on the committee include James L. McGuire, 1846 S. Bates, Birmingham, and James G. Allen, 1108 W.

Maple, Birmingham. "We're going to settle several important constitutional questions at this meeting," said club chairman, Mrs. John McVay, 1678 Yosemite, "and we hope we'll have a big turn-out."

"HOW SHALL officers be elected? Who shall serve on the executive board? How much dues shall be paid? These are a few of the issues to be resolved," she said.

The group also will hear a report on the progress of the current state Democratic party membership drive. Mrs. McVay is county membership drive co-chairman.

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