

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
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FROM THE BOOKCASE:

Wouk's Novel Lacks Direction, Reviewer Says

"Youngblood Hawke" by Herman Wouk. Doubleday and Company, Inc. (Garden City, New York, 1962). Pp. 375. \$7.95.

Reviewed by ERNE MALLENDER

Due to the previous successes of Herman Wouk, "Youngblood Hawke" will undoubtedly have a record at the bookstalls. To what degree it deserves such a record has been a matter of editorial and/or "pragmatic" publications.

The majority of the editions have seen good most of their time, according to Wouk of being commercial and of writing a fictionalized biography of Thomas Wolfe.

AS FOR THE commercial aspect, there are very few authors who aren't seeking fame and fortune. If he is to write a novel which barely sells the fact that it is a biography of an actual person, there are many very sinful authors.

That the character of author Youngblood Hawke bears certain physical and philosophical resemblances to Thomas Wolfe is obvious from the beginning.

However, it can also be stated that Wolfe had many similarities to other people both real and fictional. In the final analysis, the only question is "is Youngblood Hawke" a good novel?

HAWKE ARRIVES in New York from Kentucky, following service in the Sealed Air during World War II. At home he left a dominating, money-seeking mother who had driven his quiet, studious father to death. He had visions of being cheated by each and every person whom he came in contact with. His sister was a dowdy, simple old maid—not bitter but pitiable.

In the early city life of a stereotyped character, he is drawn from the still Marxist, ex-communist to the socialist mistress, parade through the pages of an infant.

Sometimes they manage to be interesting, sometimes even a bit man, but not consistently so. The one thing they almost all manage to be is dishonest.

THE PLOT UPON which these characterizations are hung, or more accurately, into which they are

St. Dunstan's Does Honor to Wolfe's 'Angel'

Reviewed by JERRY HAYS

The St. Dunstan's Guild can be justly proud of their production of "Look Homeward Angel." It is excellent in all respects.

As directed by Jerry B. Mc-Mohan, the play had breadth. The group scenes flowed beautifully. Because of careful underlining during much of the play, the climaxes achieved grandeur.

Mc-Mohan's pacing of the play was notable; the production moved from beginning to end with sweep and scope.

The burden and stress of this play rests on four main characters: W. O. and Eliza Gant and their sons Ben and Eugene, played by Fred Pew, Poole Weston, Weston Meyer and Robert Bates, Jr., respectively.

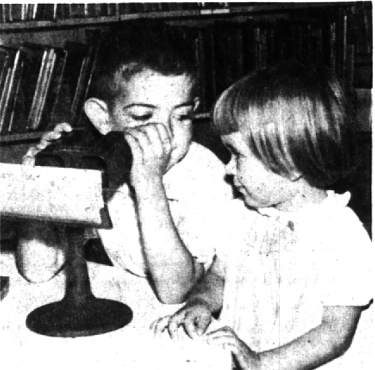
ALL FOUR WERE excellent and were matched by a uniform excellence throughout the cast. It is difficult to single out individual players for commendation. Each presented a gem of characterization and they worked beautifully together forming a strong acting unit.

Special mention must go to the costumes and set design—to the costumes for their zest and authenticity and to the set design. Robin Raymond and Sally Saunders for its imaginative three-level organization of space.

IT IS RARE to see a stage set so visually interesting and which also provides such an unobtrusive vehicle through which the action seems to flow naturally.

The play will be repeated this Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. I wholeheartedly recommend that you see it. I intend to see this production of "Look Homeward Angel" again myself.

In land and water area combined, Michigan is the largest state east of the Mississippi and ranks tenth in the nation. Its area includes 52,622 square miles of land and nearly 40,000 square miles of water surface—a total of 96,794 square miles.



MARK WARANOWICZ and his little sister Susan are all eyes as they give their attention to the stereoscope in the children's room at Baldwin Library. The two are the children of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Waranowicz of Quanton Road, Birmingham. The library's attractive facilities and varied programs are an inducement to youngsters to broaden their reading horizons.

Potpourri

by ROBIN BAHR

It is one thing to teach a child to read; it is another to teach a child to like to read.

I am continually impressed with all the Baldwin Library does in this respect.

One of its most successful programs, originated in 1937, has been the summer reading club for children in the 2nd-8th grades.

Between 175-200 children enroll each summer for a six-week reading course (adapted to a theme) and undertake to read a specific number of books in that time.

THIS YEAR'S club, July 18-27, is called "Century 21," the goal is 12 books.

The reading is divided into four sections: art, science, international and one just called "fun." Each child is expected to read three books of his own choice in each section and report to the librarian before going on to the next division.

At the end of the six weeks, the library gives a party for everyone.

WITH THIS PROGRAM, children have the chance to pick their own books. At the same time, they are directed into areas they most likely would have bypassed in independent reading.

They wind up not only having learned through reading, but discover that reading can be fun. Once reading becomes a habit, a child has a life-long source of pleasure and knowledge.

Another summer library program (which I remember loving as a child) is the story hour for children from kindergarten to fourth grade. No enrollment is required. Just drop in with children any Tuesday in July, from 2:30-3 p.m.

IT IS TO ME, endlessly fascinating to see how an artist goes about his work.

Last year people in this area were able to observe this through the tours of the artist's studios, sponsored by the Birmingham Arts Festival.

Happily enough, a tour is being featured again during this year's festival. Tour day is June 22 from 1-5 p.m. Artists will be demonstrating or explaining their work.

The seven artists opening their studios are architectural sculptors Malcolm Brown and Donald Ruby; sculptor and ceramist Betty Coo; weaver Patricia Marsh; painters (See POTPOURRI, 3-D)

S'field Church Guild Plans Theater Party With B'wana Don

B'wana Don, television personality, will appear Wednesday at a children's theater party, sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Guild, St. Bede's Church, Southfield.

Don Hunt, who portrays the part of B'wana Don, will take part in a stage show with his trained chimpanzee, Bungo Bailey at the Berkley Theater. Cartoons and a feature comedy will be shown also. Show time is 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are available from committee members Mrs. William Crick of Northgate Drive; Mrs. Peter Swallow of Lathrup and Mrs. Donald Cavanaugh of Cranbrook Village.

Piano Recital Here Stars Local Pupils

Nellie Pokorny presented her Birmingham and Dearborn pupils in a piano recital in her home recently. Among the group were Craig Jones, Greg DeMascio, Dawn and Elizabeth Forshaw and their brother, Charles; Greg Comey, Tobin Rote, Cindy Wacker, Laura Fretter and Mike Hillier.

Others included Laurielee Ferguson, Nancy Hassell, Ricky Watts, Jan Touran, David Lurie, Richard Jacobs, Nan and Ruth Styles, Sharon Stebbins, Anne, Bobby and Pat Tamsey, Roxane Hoeftle, Jimmy and Freddy Ebeling, Betty Schwab and Margaret VanOsenbruggen.



'Hall - - Mark'

Ferris Institute students, living at the school's Travis Hall, accept a crest presented by Robert A. Thom, Bloomfield Township artist and father of one of the residents of the dormitory. Students Howard Rockite (left) and Robert B. Thom admire the crest as the artist (right) explains that the three pyramids in the design represent the hills of Travis Hall while the scrolls stand for scholarship. Thom is the creator of "Great Moments in Medicine" and "Great Moments in Pharmacy," a series painted for Parkers-Davis Co.

Apprentice Theatre Plans 2 Open House Rehearsals

The Will-O-Way Touring Children's Theatre will give two open house rehearsals of "The King of the Golden River," June 23 and 24 at 785 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Each performance, at 2:30 p.m., will be open to the public.

Fourteen Birmingham residents are in the cast of the play which is being given to IPTA's and other groups wishing to raise funds for worthy causes.

Birmingham residents include Pam Bekolat, Amy Bunn, Amy and Karen Goldfarb, Pam Heck, Barbara Raskin, Patricia Rieder, Kathryn Roark, Janey Ross, Sue Savage, Paula Spiteri, Doug Wassel, Shannon Watts and Melvin Whittle.

THE KING of the Golden River" will be presented as a gift to the children of Detroit. It brings fertility back to the valley Art Institute on June 30 in two and for him the river turns into instances which will be free of gold.

Gluck, however, is kind to a thirsty child and the river changes its course and flows down into Treasure Valley. The valley again becomes fertile and for Gluck the river turns to gold.

Celia Merrill Turner, director of the Apprentice Theatre, has dramatized the story by using a minstrel who narrates the tale in song composed in a folk idiom. The set is dominated by a real copper kettle, an important part of the story.

WILL-O-WAY also has announced the opening of its registration for the summer term, which will begin June 25 and run through Aug. 13.

The seven-week summer term will offer a children's drama workshop between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for children ages 7 to 14.

Classes are held twice a week in play production, diction and speech, stagecraft and Shakespeare for children.

THE TEENAGE theatre workshop will hold classes between 1 and 5 p.m. twice a week. Teenagers will also have electives in make-up, lighting, scene-design and painting, and radio speech.

Adult beginning theatre courses will feature play production courses in improvisation and scene studies, teaching specific acting techniques.

Classes will be held Monday and Wednesday from 7 to 11 p.m.

THE PROFESSIONAL university workshop will produce full-length, contemporary drama and full-length, experimental "Off Broadway" plays.

This group is limited to experienced actors and will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The Mayor's Committee of Detroit has invited Will-O-Way to participate in this year's Freedom Festival.

THESE TWO DEMONS in the play, "The King of the Golden River," are set to put the hex on the Black Brothers, Hans and Schwartz, and turn them into stones. Amy Bunn (left), 1625 Pickering, Birmingham, matches the magic of Carol Vagstad, 6261 St. James Court, Birmingham. Both are members of the Will-O-Way Touring Children's Theatre.

On Show Committee

Francis Von Koss of Birmingham will be on the placing committee for the Detroit Rose Society's 31st annual rose show. The show will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Detroit Historical Museum, Woodward and Kirby.

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