

# Guild

(Continued from 1-D)

ARDREY is always in command of his play.

The play operates on two levels, one of the lives and passions of the ghost characters, and, the other, the realization that they are controlled by the state of mind of Charleston.

This complexity, plus constant readjustments of Charleston to a romantic fallacy and then reality, keep the play from being the kind of single-minded propaganda so many of the "stiff upper lip" plays of the 1940's were. ("Lillian Hellman's "Watch on the Rhine," for instance, is aged.)

Arday's form within a form makes the play experimental and the reality of it inconstant and timeless. Its meaning is not fixed to the time of Hitler and Mussolini.

AT FIRST, in Charleston, the '40ers represent a time of hope and optimism. He constructs charming but stereotyped characters to share his lighthouse with him.

He has, coming to seek their fortunes, the braggart, impoverished Irishman Briggs and his pregnant wife, the German scientist Dr. Stefan Kurtz, the Doctor's wife Anne Marie and their lovely young daughter Melanie.

Charleston amuses himself by constructing an irritating suffragette who upbraids everyone and pokes at the world with her umbrella.

The captain of the ship, Joshua, is Charleston's special favorite and he finds he must early tell the Scotsman that he is a firm of a modern imagination. But, to Charleston's surprise, the firm has been created as such a true character, as a person of such honesty and strength that he objects to the silly, stereotyped characters Charleston has created and insists upon a truthful presentation of life in 1840.

AND, OF COURSE, the problems these characters face in their time are insolvable for them. They become larger than life and will not leave when the harassed Charleston orders them out of his mind.

From despair with the present to a romantic conception of the past, to a realization of the reality of the past must come (for Charleston), an adjustment to some reality of the present.

The use of the shades of the past prevents the play from becoming sermonizing. The drama and vitality of the ghosts is stronger than the life of the spectator and creator, Charleston. His problems are seen in tableau and not in inner monologues.

THE PLAY is vital and the presentation at St. Dunstan's Playhouse is an earnest one.

The minor characters do vigorous jobs. Jerry McMechan as Dr. Stefan Kurtz is one of the few who can control his accent consistently and not become so absorbed with it that it gets in the way of creating a man. His job is crisp and, as his part enlarges in Act III, impassioned.

Paul Averill as Briggs shows a range, from unpleasant braggart to the frightened, pathetic, overburdened Irishman, who, in desperation, prays for the death of his wife in childbirth. His portrayal is probably the most moving in the play.

Mary Ellen Briggs is tenderly sweet as the daughter Melanie but her accent is various or not at all.

THERE IS a regality to Uta Letta's performance as the doctor's wife. She is womanly and fills the stage with her presence.

Fred Bahr in the larger role of Captain Joshua confuses stiffness with dignity, and his insistence on military bearing renders him occasionally lifeless, but his voice is rich and true.

Mary Jane Remington plays a stereotyped role of a suffragette

## GIL JORDAN SAYS Conventions—for a Barrage Of Buddies and Knowledge

Let's face it, business seems totally unable to survive these days without an occasional conventional convention. These are the affairs where people, bound by the ties of a common occupational interest gather to discuss ways and means of increasing business, acquiring a better public image and, incidentally steal each other's secrets.

Make no mistake about it. Conventions are big business. You can't hold one in just any old cow town because you must have the proper facilities.

In addition to feeding and bedding down several hundred people, a hotel must make arrangements for setting up registration desks, loud speaker facilities, proper lecterns for the speakers, places for flip charts, adequate lighting, pitchers of ice water, facilities for the 9:30 a.m. coffee break and the "hospitality hour" preceding the luncheon.

REGARDLESS of whether the convention is sponsored by furniture manufacturers, hardware merchants, insurance men or photographers they have much in common. One large hall is used for the keynote speaker, smaller halls are used for panel discussions and still smaller rooms are needed for workshop discussions.

As the guests mingle noisily in the hotel lobby during registration the place takes on the appearance of Old Home Week. Even though the men may be perfect strangers there's more hilarity going on than you'd find at an American Legion clam bake and more back slapping than you'd find at a political convention.

AND THANKS to the foresight of the guy who dreamed up the idea of identification badges, everybody is immediately on a first name basis. But the badges go beyond merely giving the wearer's name.

"The Ugly Duckling" by A. A. Milne; Sunday, "The Summons of Sarcie" by Madeline Kesie.

Festival '63

Marian High School will present FESTIVAL '63 in the school gym on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. Each evening there will be a different program consisting of interpretative reading of poetry and prose plus a one-act play.

Friday, the play will be a cutting from "The Madwoman of Chaillet" by Jean Giraudoux; Sat-

### IF YOU DON'T

have anything to do you might:—  
(f) Bring in or send your TOOLS—SPREADER—SPRAYING EQUIPMENT FOR SHARPENING OR REPURBISHING (FREE PICK-UP AND DELIVERY)

(e) HOUSE PLANTS with aphids will look better and be better if washed with a soapy solution. (Don't use a detergent).

Other bugs may be controlled with  
A FLOWER BOMB or a MALATHION spray.  
(d) Ruinous RABBITS must be repelled if small trees and shrubs are to be saved.

Spray with TAT-GO  
Wrap with TREE WRAP  
Fence with HARDWARE CLOTH

The bunnies are ravenously hungry now!  
(c) DON'T LET THE BIRDS GET AWAY FROM YOU NOW! The time is nigh when they will perform their "near magic" in cleaning insect eggs, over-wintering insects and larvae from your trees. Stop feeding them and they will move immediately to the yard of a more generous provider.

(b) FERRY MORSE—NORTHROP KING—MANDEVILLE & KING PACKAGED SEEDS NOW AVAILABLE.

Following are few NEW SUGGESTIONS:  
BRAVO DIANTHUS—S' vivid scarlet  
ORNAMENTAL BASIL—12" dark (pal (herb)  
CHERRY SUNDAY ZINNIA (imagine!)  
CORAL SATIN PETUNIA  
PEPPERMINT PINKS  
THUMBELINA ZINNIA

BROWNIE SCOUT MARGOLD and  
BOUQUET OF BLUE: Six enchanting varieties; approximately 50 seeds of each; easy to grow, long stemmed annuals, many shades.

ANCHUSA "BLUEBIRD"  
ASTERCREGO "DARK BLUE"  
BACHELOR BUTTON "BLUEBOY"  
CHINESE FORGET ME NOT "FIRMAMENT"  
LARKSPUR "IMPERIAL BLUE"  
SALVIA "BLUE BEDDER"

(a) WEATHER PROGNOSTICATION:  
Feb. 9 to 12—Threatening, cooler (Check this and see if it was correct or not).  
FEB. 13 to 16—STORMY, BLIZZARDS, COLDWAVE.  
GET READY FOR IT! We happen to have a good supply of:—

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February 14, 1963 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 7-D about his job. Of course, the old expense account takes quite a beating, but you have to spend money to make money.

And where's next year's coming from? New Orleans, you say? We can hardly wait. There's no better place under the sun to learn the secrets of the hardware business than in good old New Orleans, La.

Remember, dial MI 4-1100 to reach Eccentric readers through efficient and economical classified.

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### YOUR FAMILY HEALTH STORY!



Drying effects of unhumidified heated air are dangerous to health.

Nose and throat breathing passages are naturally moist—helping trap airborne bacteria, dust and small impurities floating in the air we breathe.

But when respiratory passages are "dried out" faster than the body can replace the moisture, this protection is lost.

The medical consensus of opinion is that low humidity increases susceptibility to colds and respiratory infections. It also results in the obvious discomfort of the parched tissues themselves.

Dry skin, brittle hair and "winter itch" are other associated conditions possible. Dermatologists have discovered that parched heated air has a constant drying effect on sensitive facial tissues. Air that lacks the proper amount of humidity can add years to your looks by creating dry leathery skin. Humidification puts the moisture back where it belongs... in the air all around you—gently guards delicate skin from hot air.

Almost needless to add, as health and comfort suffer, pep and energy are affected—the "psychological tone" goes down. Proper humidity in the home helps assure good health.

For More Information Call  
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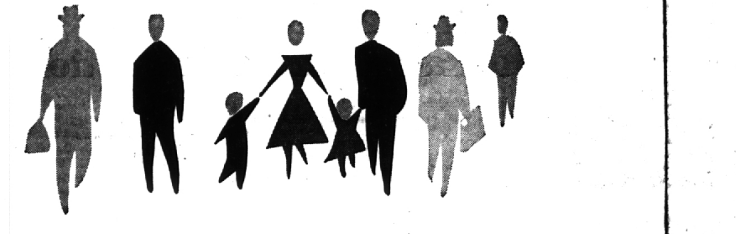
Feel like you're living in a DESERT?

Proper humidity assures a far more comfortable and healthier home.

Air that contains the proper humidity is healthier, cleaner air—and resists germ-spread and eliminates the nose and throat dryness so common to winter in the average home.

For some honest—enlightening facts on how easy it is to gain proper humidity... call

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IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

**BB**

BIRMINGHAM BONUS DAYS

FEB. 28, MARCH 1 AND 2