

Heavy Scenery Is Temporary Show-Stopper



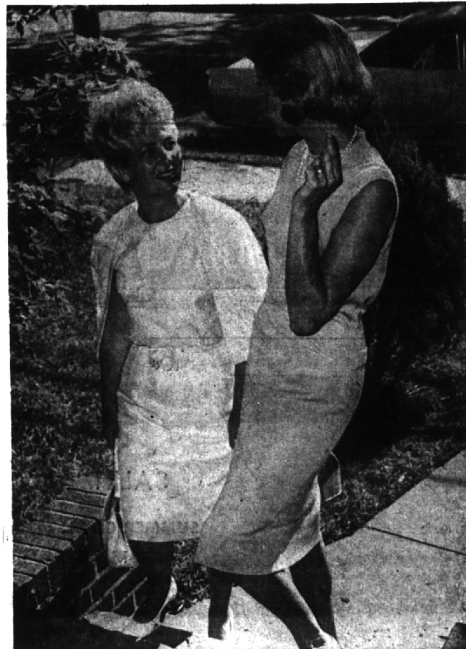
MALE LEAD DENNIS O'KEEFE (FROM LEFT), CONNIE SCOTT, JACK DeLON AND MISS MARTIN



STAR OF THE SHOW MISS MARY MARTIN



BRIAN CHAPIN (LEFT), ETHEL SHUTTA AND DIRECTOR VINCENT DONEHUE



LOCAL VOLUNTEERS MRS. CLAYTON GORDON (LEFT) AND MRS. JOHN DeLOREAN



COMMITTEE WOMEN MRS. EDWIN W. DEER (LEFT) AND MRS. WILLIAM BREECH

That show business is as unpredictable as Michigan weather was pointed up this week with the announcement of a change of date—from Sept. 5 to Sept. 7—for the opening of Mary Martin's new musical, "Jennie," at the Fisher Theater. Momentarily, the news caused consternation among localities sponsoring a special preview performance to benefit the Oakland

County Republican Party. But under the chairmanship of Mrs. Semon Knudsen and Mrs. Richard Van Dusen, the committee rallied and currently tickets for "A Salute to Romney" are being reprinted for immediate mailing. Meantime, The Eccentric received its own sneak preview of rehearsal scenes shot in New York.

Suburban Scene

by MARY ELLEN MEAD

Share Spotlight

Baseball games are called because of rain, a wet track can postpone the Indianapolis 500 and, in this day of jet propulsion, airplane traffic can slow departure time to a halt.

But we'll bet that in all her star studded career, show-stopper Mary Martin has never shared her talent with a bunch of scenery!

Such is the case, however, with her new musical, "Jennie," originally scheduled to premiere at the Fisher Sept. 5 but now opening two days later on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Reason? Since the show has gone into rehearsal, its producers believe it will have the heaviest amount of scenery of any traveling production in the history of the theatre. It'll take two full days to hang.

Ready, Set!

So, Birmingham-Bloomfield, re-circle those fall calendars, because the "Romney Salute", a benefit being sponsored by local women for the Oakland County Republican Party, has been pushed ahead by exactly 48 hours, thus enabling scenery and mechanics to be well adapted to a first exposure in new headquarters. Some of the heavier pieces include a waterfall, a huge construction crane, a portion of a railroad and the ledge of a building.

The energetic Miss Martin, in her role as "queen of the early melodramas," will successively plunge over, climb up, be tied to (in front of a speeding train) and hang precariously from!

Florence (Mrs. Semon) Knudsen and Barbara (Mrs. Richard) Van Dusen, co-chairmen of the benefit, announced this week that nearly half the tickets (over 1,000) have already been ordered. They'd already been printed for the original date—are now being reprinted and will be in the mail shortly.

Repeat Performance

It's time again for the Circumnavigators summer safari, and as inevitable as the party itself is the locale thereof: The spacious grounds surrounding the home of the John D. Richardson, Jr. on N. Glengarry Road, Birmingham.

Members will convene Sunday afternoon, Aug. 4, for cocktails served around the swimming pool, dancing to Gypsy music, hearing their fortunes told by a Gypsy crystal gazer and watching a diving exhibition.

Decorations will follow a Bohemian theme, with striped bunting and pillars adorned with grapes and leaves placed at intervals across the lawn. A special large tent will be erected in case of rain, otherwise everyone will enjoy buffet dinner under the stars.

Globe Trotters, All

Following that last spoonful of dessert, Raymond Dinsmore of New York, guest of international president of the Circumnavigators Club George Pierrot, will show an hour-long new picture entitled "Viking Odyssey".

Fred L. Shaw and J. Leslie Berry are co-chairmen of the party, assisted by Mrs. John W. Kinsey, Charles Helin, Pierce E. Wright (reservations chairman), Edwin O. George, the Richardsons and Mark C. Stevens.

Other members from this area include Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Ahrens, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey E. Bumgardner, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Currie, the Carson E. Daltons, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. DeVlieg, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Grindley, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Gullley, Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Hill, the William A. Kents and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Kinsey.

Still others are Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McDougall, the J. Donald McKays and Mr. and Mrs. James T. Robertson.

The party will be a "first" for new members Dr. and Mrs. Jerrold A. Frost of Cranbrook Road, the J. Thomas Smiths of Martell Drive and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Spicer of Cathedral Drive.

Parties Honor Sandra White Preceding August Nuptial Vows

Sandra White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay E. White, Jr. of Southfield Road, Birmingham, continues to be honored at numerous pre-nuptial parties preceding her marriage, Aug. 17, to Lawrence W. Lovell, son of the Wheeler Glass Lovells of Apple Lane, Bloomfield Hills.

The couple will repeat their vows at a 4:30 o'clock ceremony in Christ Church Cranbrook.

Jean Dodds will entertain for the bride-elect Saturday at a luncheon and swimming party at the Country Club of Detroit, and on Aug. 3, Mr. and Mrs. David Smith and Dr. and Mrs. Norman Ailston of Birmingham will be hosts at cocktails and a dinner party.

A SIMILAR AFFAIR will be given

Aug. 15 by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Irwin, brother-in-law and sister of the bridegroom-elect, and Mr. and Mrs. Lovell will be hosts at the rehearsal dinner Aug. 16 at Kingsley Inn.

Looking back, Mrs. Robert Dunskey of Huntingford Woods gave a luncheon and party shower for Sandra June 9, and a luncheon and personal shower was given June 20 at the Women's City Club, Detroit, by Mrs. Noble D. Travis and daughter Ann.

Village Woman's Club in Bloomfield was the scene of a luncheon and shower given July 17 by Mrs. John Hauser, and on July 20 Mrs. William Decker was hostess at a luncheon and shower in her home in Detroit.

Mrs. Norman Daniel entertained July 13 at a luncheon and shower in her home in Bloomfield Hills.

Beverly Hills Pair to Live In Puerto Rico for Year

It is "buenos dias" and "hasta el que viene" as John and Kathleen Madonna, of Bedford Road, Beverly Hills, return from their summer home at Hiawatha Sportsman's Club, Engadine, and jet off Sunday for San Juan Puerto Rico, where they will live for the next year.

Mr. Madonna, who teaches Spanish at Detroit's Mumford High School, was interviewed and selected by a representative of the Puerto Rican Department of Education for their Teacher Exchange Program. He will teach English while his island exchange, Efrain Alviria-Benitez, will travel here to take over Mr. Madonna's Spanish classes.

A ONE-WEEK orientation program on the university campus is first on the agenda and a university guest house is where the Madonnas will live during that time. The local supervisory personnel have advised them that after that,

there'll be a house completely furnished and with beautiful gardens awaiting them in suburban Carolina, some five miles east of the capitol.

Mrs. Madonna has been a real estate broker in the Birmingham area for a number of years. Her husband has been active in Little League and Babe Ruth baseball and hopes to do something in this vein in the Commonwealth. He also hopes that this venture will give him an opportunity to complete work on his doctorate in Romance Languages at the University of Puerto Rico.

The Madonnas have a married daughter, Mrs. Ned Graham, who is a Guidance Counselor in Kalamazoo, and a son, Jay who is a pre-med student at Michigan State. They are planning a "La Navidad" get together on the island.