

A Benefit Performance Is 'Act I' for B'ham Youth Players

By EVELINE OEN
Arts Editor

The late summer doldrums are setting in. Summer sessions are letting out; friends are out of town on vacations; the question "What's there to do?" becomes battered around more than tennis balls. For at least one energetic group, however, time does not hang heavy. They have an interest—and a project! No, they didn't buy out opening night at a theater as a benefit, but they are staging one of their own: a children's play, which they are performing, with proceeds going to Pontiac State Hospital.

THE GROUP is known as the Birmingham Youth Players. It "premiered" its show for patients of the hospital Friday night; performances were repeated for the public (and funds) yesterday at 2 p.m. and will be again today at 7:30 p.m. in the Walnut Lake School Theater.

The play the group is doing is "Patty and the Tallest Leprechaun." It's somewhat Irish and supposedly for young people.

THE BIRMINGHAM Youth Players, as a club, was born one cold, drizzly March day mid five hastily eaten lunches in the Groves High School cafeteria, according to Elaine Horigian, 15, one of the "charter members."

"Ideas and experiences were hurriedly and briefly discussed around the crowded lunch table, with each person telling about his own dramatic experiences and talents. No one was really intent upon the idea of a club or organization of any type," recalled Elaine, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Horigian, 3007 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Township.

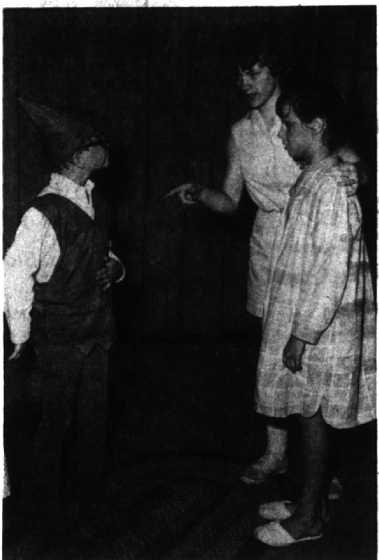
"IT BECAME APPARENT" as more discussion took place on the same subject that a keen interest had been aroused about the theater, and although at that point summer seemed an eternity away, the interested few began to speculate and plan," Elaine noted.

The other "interested few" in the group were Pam Potteiger, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Potteiger, 5734 Eastman, Birmingham; Judy Johnson, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe F. Johnson, 18640 Autumn Lane, Southfield; Bob Butler, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Butler, 2980 Walnut Lake Road, Birmingham; and Linda Martin, 15, daughter of Mrs. Warner Stowell, 2614 Comfort Drive, Birmingham.

THINGS REMAINED in a nebulous state for a while until one of them came across "a helpful article" in a teen-age girl's magazine.

"The article was about a small dramatics group started by young people—much the same as one we desired. It mentioned a play, the first one ever given by the group.

"After finding the author of this play and phoning, permission was obtained to give the play, and because proceeds would go to Pontiac State Hospital, no royalty was charged. A few days following the call the script arrived," related Elaine.



"Now you stand over there, like so," Tom Shaw (left) is instructed, "while you stay here," Barb Harrison (right) is told by director Kathy Martin.



Dark skills of witchcraft are aired by three "weird sisters" (from left) Jo Anne Martin, Janis Holmes and Sandy Crumb.



Hoping they haven't bedeviled her carefully painted tree is stage manager Elaine Horigian.

THE PROBLEM of "where to have the play" was solved by a cooperative Board of Education. The Players wanted a place "centrally" located for the group and well populated with children.

Only then did the energetic group get around to acquiring a sponsor (a friend of one of the members), Mrs. Carl B. Morstens of Madison Heights.

THE FIVE organizers decided that they would not act in the production, and each took on a special backstage role—Elaine, stage manager; Judy, costume manager; Linda, di-

rector; Bob, technical manager; and Pam, publicity chairman. "On stage" help was solicited, rehearsals went into effect, and there it was, opening night.

YOUNG ACTORS taking part include Sue Moakes, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Moakes, 5635 Putnam; Candy Crumb, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Crumb, 4890 Ballantrae; Barb Harrison, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornell Harrison, 7189 Lindenmere; Jo Ann Martin, 11, daughter of Mrs. Warner Stowell, 2614 Comfort Drive; Janis Holmes, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes, 6890 Meadowlake

Road—all of Birmingham—and Tom Shaw, 8, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw, 253 Marblehead, Bloomfield Hills.

"**MOST REWARDING** . . . was the hospital night performance when the opening of the curtain signified not only success, but better yet, after all the help the Birmingham Youth Players had received, the satisfaction of really helping someone else," said Elaine.

"Everyone's eager response encouraged the group to go on," she noted while recounting the Players' history. Well, then, "encore!"

Cranbrook Kids Make Good Fun of New Play

Reviewed by
BARBARA GIBSON

Youthful charm and exuberance bubbled forth last Tuesday night at Cranbrook's beautiful outdoor Greek Theatre and turned what might have become a dull evening into an enjoyable one.

"Collective," a musical comedy by Carl Wonnberger, was the Cranbrook Summer Theatre's offering which was blessed by all this youthful challenge.

The play itself, which was not blessed by particularly good music, had the plot of an early Betty Grable movie, and afforded the young actors an opportunity to display their talents to advantage.

IT SEEMS THAT Parker University, or good old P.U. as the students call it, has a football game in the offing with Humboldt U., the greatest threat to their supremacy on the gridiron.

Parker's star player flunks astronomy and cannot play unless he passes the make-up exam, and unless he plays, it is a foregone conclusion that Humboldt will win the game.

Sound familiar? Star player's girl friend gets brainy girl cousin to tutor star player in astronomy; team's big gun and tutoring coach fall in love BUT there are complications AND HOW!

Eventually, after much dancing, singing and drinking (the time is the bathtub gin era of the 20's), everybody ends up with the right boy or girl and all is well in the end. Natch!!

WITHOUT EXCEPTION, the youngsters in the cast did an excellent job, and there were some enchanting performances from the principals.

Johnny, the star of the football team and Carolina, with whom he falls in love, were engagingly played by Robert Chapel and Cynthia Gray. Both have voices of pleasing quality and sang well and danced well.

A One-Man Show

Beginning Friday, the Kenilworth Gallery, 165 Pierce, Birmingham, will feature a one-man show of oil paintings by French artist Andre Gisson. The show will remain through Aug. 31. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

Dan Janess, Jim Miller, and Barry Baker, were gratifying in their respective roles of "Hambone," "Dinnies" and "Coach Considine" mention must be made of Ann Douglass, Pat Harling, Deborah Dolski and Alice Columbus, who played the giddy snortery girls of "Eta Fi" in a delightfully dizzy manner.

BUT IT WAS Marie Exner as "Toots" and Jack Delcomyn as "Figger," the object of her affections, who ran away with the show and the audience too. Things were never dull when they were around, and the funniest moments of the play belonged to them.

"Toots'" crap-shooting scene was a masterpiece (it's hard to imagine anyone doing it better), and "Figger," whose only football injury was a splinter acquired while bench-warming, was fun every second he was on stage.

YES, THERE WAS a lot of talent and charm on display last Tuesday night, so a big "bravo" to all the gang—you were great and we loved you.

St. Dunstan's Committee Heads Picked

Committee chairmen for the coming season have been announced by Mrs. Orson C. Crocker, president of St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook.

They are Mrs. Roger Craton, costumes; Francis Loud, future planning; Jervis B. McMechan, "The Guildler"; Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Butler, house; William Holmes, lights; Mrs. William E. Saunders, make-up; Mrs. Weaslaw Wright, playreading and casting; Mrs. Martin Strandberg, properties; Mrs. Darrell Roberts and L. James Schneider, publicity; Mrs. John Albrecht, secretarial; Thomas Kelly, set design and construction; George Rose, stagehands; Mrs. Richard B. Darragh and Mrs. Laurens Hare, tickets; Mrs. Albert Remington, entertainment.

Last season's chairman and the new chairman will meet with St. Dunstan board members at Mrs. Crocker's home tonight. Plays and party plans will be discussed, followed by a cocktail party.



ROBERT BOGAN, JR., new executive director of the Community House, looks over some work by Mrs. Paul (Ginger) Schafer, who will teach classes in painting and art appreciation this fall, as she has for the past 17 years, as part of The Community House adult education program. Mrs. Schafer lives at 736 Southfield, Birmingham.

Fall Class Schedule Set at Community House

The Community House begins registration for its fall series of classes on Sept. 3.

Last year a record number of 1897 students took courses at The Community House.

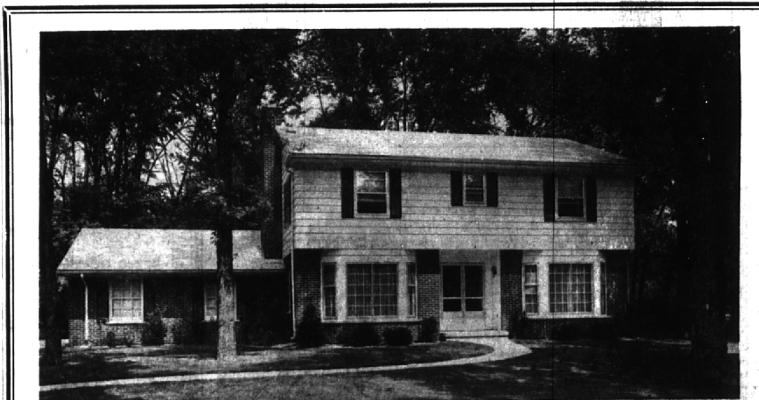
Included in this year's courses are art appreciation, ballet, bridge, creative pottery, dancing, painting, silversmithing, sewing, braille transcribing, Russian, Spanish and French and many others. Courses being offered for the first time are: crewel embroidery, modern jazz and duplicate bridge. In all, 27 different courses are being offered.

varied as the courses that are being offered.

They have taught, studied or exhibited their works in Michigan, Illinois, Maryland, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C., or overseas in such countries as Holland, Germany, Russia, France, Switzerland and Japan.

Three members of the faculty have been teaching at The Community House for over 15 years; four are natives of other countries, namely, Holland, Germany, Russia and Mexico; and five are joining the staff this fall as new instructors.

INSTRUCTORS for the fall series of classes at the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area include: Mrs. (See SCHEDULE, 4-D)



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