



VOLUNTEERS — Comedienne Minnie Pearl (left) and Mrs. Ida Bennett of Westland chat during a recent volunteers' breakfast meeting for the American Cancer Society in Chicago. Also attending the meeting was Mrs. Betty Isaacson of Garden City.



By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Creativity is the byword of Shirley Hulet's life, and not the least of its expressions is with the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild.

Mrs. Ross Hulet, a Livonian for some 16 years, will go on stage next week in the Guild's production of Tennessee Williams' "Summer and Smoke" at Bentley High School.

Shirley describes her role as "one of the old biddies—the kind that's fun to play."

It's the part of Mrs. Bassett, the town gossip, and it is a new addition to a series of character parts she has been doing with the Livonia-Redford Guild almost since the days of its inception.

"I WASN'T around for the very first play," she said. "But since then I've had some connection with all but two—and during both of those I was in the hospital."

Shirley has acted in 11 or 12 Guild productions, and had some backstage responsibility, often costumes, in the others.

A talented seamstress, she has done a good deal of wardrobe work for Guild plays, and even for the current "Summer and Smoke" has been assisting with the costumes.

"I really don't sew much any more," Shirley said. "It's just too time consuming."

HUSBAND ROSS, a Ford Motor Co. engineer, is known in the backstage work sometimes in addition to encouraging his wife's participation.

"He's one of our standbys," Shirley said, "but he doesn't care much about the plays themselves."

"There was one time, when I was playing one of the most challenging roles I know in 'Come Back Little Sheba' and I caught him asleep in the front row."

But besides appreciating what he's done to help the Guild, I've always been grateful for his wanting me to be active. When the children were younger, I really felt the need of that sort of creative escape from the home."

Shirley said getting out seems far less important now that daughter Dee Lane is a Schoolcraft Community College student, son Marc is at Central Michigan University, and junior high Jon and 11-year-old Joanne are busy with school activities.

Women on the Go Her Creativity Is Guild's Gain



SHIRLEY HULET

"Now I'm out a lot more on taxi service," she added.

OTHER ACTIVITIES besides the Guild also occupy her time, now as in the past.

"I enjoy anything creative," Shirley says, "and among her favorites in creative art are sculpture and furniture refinishing."

Sculpture is a special process of transferring ink from paper to wood.

She and a friend developed the process three or four years before it appeared on the market in craft kits.

"I guess there must have been others working on it too," she said, "but the funny thing is that the same name has been used and we thought it was coined in my kitchen—from the words icon and decoupage."

SHE HAS SOLD her work in several local art shows, and now has it for sale in a Northville gift shop. "I suppose I should get out and peddle, but I'm not that kind of person," she added.

Another of Shirley's interests is fringing for interesting old odds and ends of furniture and decorative pieces.

"I'm a junkie, not an antiquer," she said. "But her junk," beautifully refinished, makes up most of the handsome pieces of furniture in her home, currently in the process of redecoration.

ONE OF HER most treasured possessions is a collection of costumes, some 100 years old, which originally were given by elderly friends to Shirley's cousin who taught home economics at Bentley High School. "Long before we moved here."

"I'm pretty selective about who uses those gowns," she said. "They're like pieces of art."

"But sometimes I would like to put on a show to display them."

Now in final rehearsals for "Summer and Smoke," which will play Thursday, Friday

and Saturday evenings. Shirley is concerned about the Livonia-Redford Guild's current serious financial straits.

"I'm Guild historian, which isn't a very good job for me because I'm not very good at dates," she said. "But I do know there always has been a problem about making our garage receipts meet our expenses and the situation is even worse now."

"I think a part of our problem is that we have no central city as such—there's so much distance. Newspaper advertising is the only way we have to spread the word of our productions. And word of mouth—people who have enjoyed being connected with the group or seeing our plays."

"There's a great deal of fine talent in the group—we took four awards at a drama festival a few years ago—but we can always use more members. "And for those not interested in active participation, community theater is a great way for youngsters, especially youth, to see live theater."

Tickets for "Summer and Smoke" are \$2 for Thursday and Friday nights and \$2.50 on Saturday, with special student rates of \$1 for Thursday and \$1.50 for Friday. Senior citizens, firemen and policemen may buy Thursday tickets for \$1.

Mary O'Connell, 421-1972, is taking reservations.

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The Rev. Raymond A. Fenner, minister of the Congregational Church of Birmingham, will conduct an eight-week seminar designed to explore the problems of women who live alone or must raise children without a father in the home.

The seminar, sponsored by the Oakland University Continuing Education Division, will meet Wednesday evenings in the Birmingham Congregational Church, Cranbrook Road and Woodward.

The first session is scheduled for Feb. 18 and the last session is April 8. Each individual session will be conducted by individuals who are experts in the particular field being discussed.

Cost of the seminar is \$35.

Daughter Born

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Thomas of Farmington announce the birth Jan. 15 of a daughter, Jennifer Robin, in Sinal Hospital.

Mrs. Thomas is the former Linda Wolstencroft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wolstencroft of Farmington. Mr. and Mrs. Philip Thomas of Farmington are the paternal grandparents.

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Flower arranger Mrs. E.O. Whittington is the guest speaker scheduled for the Feb. 10 meeting of the Rosedale Gardens Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association.

Topic of the speech will be "Pot-Pour-Ri."
The meeting will begin at 12 noon in the Rosedale Gardens Club House at 9611 Hubbard, Livonia. Dessert will be served, and members are requested to bring a lunch.

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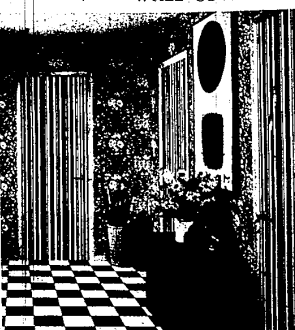
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