



Plymouth Guild In 3rd Try To Get 'Arsenic' Under Belt

By GLENNA MERRILL

"Once we get arsenic under our belts, we've got the season licked."

The speaker was not considering mass murder. It was Harry French, president of the Plymouth Theatre Guild.

French was referring to the Guild's third attempt to stage "Arsenic and Old Lace." The play was originally scheduled late last spring, but the serious lack of male performers ("Arsenic" calls for 13) stopped production until early fall.

"We were all set to go in the first part of October when we were told that the additendum would not be available on the dates we had planned to use it," said French.

Barring any last minute skullduggery—save for that in the play itself—the curtain will finally be raised Nov. 15-16. The cast will include several well-rehearsed members who answered that first casting call three or four months ago.

THE PLYMOUTH Theatre Guild is the size of a large family, with about 30 active members, and some distant "cousins" at its fringes. In the

founding father—and mother—department, the Guild boasts several charter members who have been active for more than 20 years.

"We have a handful of old faithfuls and occasionally people who are new to the area become interested," said French. "But every three years, our number seems to dwindle."

This is one of those years. New people join the Guild full of "vim and vinegar," according to French, and leave when they find that they aren't cast in a lead role.

"For every actor on stage, we need two people off stage," said the Guild president.

FRENCH has been a Guild member for 12 years and its president for four. He has recently been asked why the group is doing "Arsenic"—a play that many consider high school fare or worse; a "clunker."

"Most of the original Broadway plays today are dirty, suggestive and in many cases absolutely lurid," said French. "We looked at the climate of Plymouth and decided to go back to the classics that are good, clean fun."

For a while last year, it began to look as if the Guild had a good chance of "doing their own thing," but as their luck would have it plans for a series of musical melodramas had to be scrapped when the old P&A theater burned.

"FEW PEOPLE realize it," said French, "but the Guild is a community service." It is part of the adult education program and participates in the Plymouth Fall Festival.

The Guild makes no money on its productions. "We stay above water with cotton candy in the fall," explained French, referring to the cotton candy wagon used during the Festival to net the Guild enough money to stage its productions each year.

In keeping with its community service role, the Guild makes the wagon available to PTA's and similar groups that are looking for a means of fund raising.

Whether he is talking about candy or discussing the headaches that have come with "Arsenic," French, who plays a policeman in the Guild's comedy-opener, manages to give the



THIS HUSBAND, AND HIS WIFE will be seen in the Plymouth Theatre Guild production of "Arsenic and Old Lace." Jackie and Bill Amersy will play Abby and Teddy Brewster when the play opens Thursday, Nov. 14 in the Plymouth High School auditorium.

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AUTUMN'S brisk days are perfect for hiking, and one of the most colorful spots around is the Nature Center in Kensington Metro Park, just a half-hour from this area on I-96.

The lake is a sanctuary for geese, which stay there nearly all year.

Hiking trails in the Nature Center, on the west side of the park, run from a half-mile to 2½ miles. Trees, bushes and points of scientific interest are labeled clearly enough for any youngster to understand. These shots were taken by a Livonia Stevenson High School photography class last week. We think they captured the spirit of a sanctuary of nature that's only a short hop from one of the busiest metropolitan areas in the world.

Cville For HHH

Clarencville High School students gave 99 per cent of their votes and the election to Hubert Humphrey in mock presidential balloting last week.

They gave Democrat Humphrey 173 votes, Republican Richard Nixon 159, and 81 to George Wallace, the American Independent Party candidate. Nixon got 55 per cent of the 441 total vote and Wallace 18 per cent.

There were 22 write-in votes for Eugene McCarthy and 12 scattered votes.

Baton Champ Performs

Marta Scharrenberg, winner of 50 trophies and 60 medals for baton twirling, will be the featured attraction when the Clarencville - Northville football game.

A fifth-grader at Botsford Elementary School in the Clarencville school district, Marta is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Scharrenberg, 1978 Weyfar, Livonia.

Earlier this year she won the 1968 World Championship strutting little at competition in Abingdon, Va. sponsored by the World Twirling Association.

Marv Stempien has had more of his bills pass than any other Legislator in a single term . . .

he is endorsed as the man the Livonia Education Association "prefers" and rates well qualified. . .

the Civic Searchlight says that Marv Stempien is preferred and well qualified . . .

The Livonia Observer has endorsed Marv Stempien as the man who deserves another two years in Lansing . . .

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OBSERVER AMUSEMENTS

Farmington Artists Set Exhibit Dates

The Farmington Artists Club has set the dates for its annual fall exhibit.

Art works will be displayed from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15; from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16; and from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, in the Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River at Farmington Rd., Farmington.

Judge for the exhibit will be Michael Church, assistant director for cultural activities, University of Michigan and lecturer in the U-M College of Architecture and Design.

Bills working for U-M, Church had been the extension service supervisor of statewide projects in art, music, theater and creative writing. His studies at the Wickup Art School, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Wayne State University and U-M.

He has also studied with

Ralston Crawford and Nicholas Marciano, of New York City, served on the staff of the Interlochen National Music Camp and on the Humanities Committee of the National University Extension Association.

At present, the art authority is a member of the Detroit Arts Council, chairman of the Ann Arbor Civic Arts Commission, consultant for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and was recently appointed by Gov. Romney to the Michigan State Council of the Arts.

Church will judge exhibit entries for first, second and third place ribbons in two categories, oil and watercolor or mixed media. A best of show award will also be presented.

The club has scheduled a pre-exhibit tea for Nov. 14 for members and their families. Church will present the awards at this time.

Comedian Opens At 24-Karat

Comedian Max Q. Cooper, a tremendously funny and talented performer, will be featured at the 24 Karat Club for two weeks beginning Monday, Nov. 4.

An evening with Cooper is an evening with many artists, because Max is an impressionist. His impressions range from Frankie Laine, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, President Johnson, Senator Everett Dirksen, Bing Crosby, Jack Benny, Tony Bennett, Dean Martin and others.

Not only does Cooper imitate voices but he catches mannerisms and builds humor on familiar occasions and peculiarities of his victims, or heroes, as the case may be.

Cooper says he lives by Sen. Dirksen's philosophy: "Always keep my words sweet and tender because someday I may have to eat them."

Sharing the bill with Cooper are the Holly Sisters, internationally-known dance team; Harry Harris, 76-year-old original partner of Jimmy Durante singing songs of the gay 50's, and the Lemie Schick Quart providing music for the acts and for dancing.

Glick To Show His Works

America House-Michigan, 555 E. Maple, Birmingham, will present a one-man show by Farmington potter, John Glick, Nov. 2 - 30.

Glick has exhibited in national ceramic shows and is represented in collections throughout the country. He studied at Wayne State University and Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Constantly experimenting and exploring within his craft, the potter has created thousands of utilitarian and decorative examples of his art. In 1963, the award of a Tiffany grant enabled him to build a kiln and establish his Farmington studio.

Singletons Plan Dinner Session

A dinner meeting of the Dearborn - Livonia Singletons has been scheduled for Friday, Nov. 8, in Dan's Italian Class, 18000 W. McNichols, Detroit.

The 7:30 p.m. dinner will be preceded by a social hour beginning at 6:30 p.m.

College Players Go 'Girl Crazy'

"Girl Crazy," the 1930 Gershwin musical which made stars of Ethel Merman, Ginger Rogers and Ruth Gordon, will be the opening production of the Masque Players at Scholcraft College on the evenings of Nov. 6-9.

The event will be staged in the new little theater in the recently opened Liberal Arts classroom building.

Starring in the Merman role will be Sharon Sale, a sophomore from Livonia, and the Rogers role will be handled by Noel Little, a Detroit actress who has appeared in many roles for the Masque Players.

James Wright of Garden City and Michael Snow of Westland will provide the romantic interest. The old style comedy will be provided by Patrick Jones of Northville, David Campbell of Birmingham and Jan McCowan of Berkley.

The tuneful Gershwin score has provided a healthy supply of American classics with such songs as "Fve Got Rhythm," "Embraceable You," "Strike Up The Band," and "Bidin' My Time."

Tickets may be purchased daily from 9 to 5 in the Waterman Campus Center and in the evening from 8 to 9. Telephone reservations will be accepted and held until 24 hours before performance.

The second production scheduled is "The Tempest" by Shakespeare, and it will be staged in early February.

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Art Camp Format Enlarged

The Group Services Division of the Jewish Community Center has enlarged its summer Camp of the Arts program for the summer of 1969 to include 7th through 12th graders. The program will be open for center members and non-members. George Gelberman will continue as the director.

Camp of the Arts was initiated last summer and was enthusiastically received. Each four-week session concluded with the Fine Arts Festival displaying the works of the children who participated.

A significant part of the camp program is the "Jam Session" during which guest artists perform or discuss the role of the artist in today's society.

Camp dates for 1969 are Period I -- June 30 to July 25; Period II -- July 29 to Aug. 22.

Home transportation will again be available and will include pickups in Farmington, Detroit, Oak Park, Southfield, and Huntington Woods and any other areas where it is needed.

For further information, call the Group Services Division, DI 1-4200, extension 261.

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