

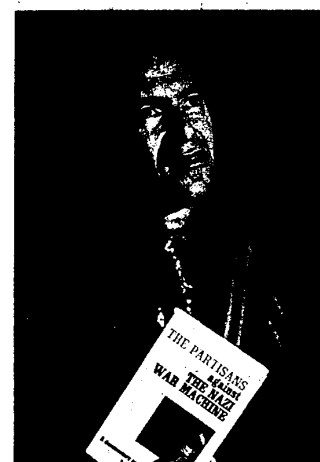
# S'field Author Warns Against Neo-Nazism

By BETTY MASSON  
It's hard to get Hyman Sherkman to talk about his wartime experiences. But it's easy to read about them, because Sherkman has just written a documentary novel of World War II on the Eastern front. He has written it, not so much out of a desire to see his name in print, as out of a deep conviction that "Nazism has done irreparable harm to humanity. This history should never be forgotten or else it may repeat itself."

The book is titled "The Partisans Against the Nazi War Machine," and is published by Jonathan David Publishers, Middle Village, N.Y.

SHENKMAN'S EXPERIENCES are those of many Jewish people, caught up in the Nazi hatred. He was fortunate enough to escape, but many members of his family did not. He eventually came to America, settled in Southfield and began the United Drapery Mills in Livonia, which he has operated for 17 years.

His book came as a result of reading the works of Simon Wiesenthal. What stuck in his memory was the statement, "I'm among those who believe in an after-life. There will come a time when we will be asked by the victims, 'What did you do after we left you in Germany?' Some will say,



HYMAN SHENKMAN, Southfield author, is shown with his first book, "The Partisans Against the Nazi War Machine." (Observer photo by Bob Wooding)

"Well, I went to America and made a good living. I would like to add 'I was thinking of you too.'"

Sherkman's book, written in longhand during his work in the subject, but not enough. As long as Nazism still pollutes the air, people should be reminded that this is a dangerous political cancer. He believes that "neo-Nazism, which is Hitler under different names, is evident in this country."

"There are organizations right here in Livonia which are very close to the fascist ideology of Hitler."

THUS SHENKMAN'S book is an effort to show the dangers of neo-Nazism. In moving flashbacks, he illustrates how Jews were made fun of and persecuted in Lithuania before the war. And he shows how unimportant differences become when

people are faced with a common danger and a mutual struggle for survival. His story revolves around the experiences of two brothers: David, who was interned in a concentration camp, he is forced to undergo all its horrors, including the ultimate one of escaping only by pretending to be dead amid a heap of dead bodies. He joins the partisans, the guerrillas on the Eastern front, and ekes out of a dangerous existence until the Russian Army is able to turn back the Germans.

Sherkman's book is not a profound one, in terms of characterizations or motivations, but it is informative and readable. And it is thought-provoking. It does remind us of those troubled times and could well be revealing to those to whom World War II is only another page in long-age history.

# Plymouth Show Goes On Dec. 10

The Plymouth Players felt it's never too late. So after a year and a half of inactivity, they're planning to bring stage shows back to Plymouth with the Broadway hit "Never Too Late."

It will be staged Friday and Saturday night, Dec. 10 and 11, in Plymouth Central High School.

LARRY COOK and Helen Fortney have been chosen to play the lead roles of Harry and Edith Lambert, an older couple who discover they're about to become parents again.

Tom Butki will be seen as father's favorite target, his son-in-law, Charlie. The pair lives with Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, and the son-in-law works in Lambert's lumber yard, where he's considered as useful as a termite.

Judy Pavia plays the 24-year-old daughter who tries to free herself from the kitchen chores she inherits from her pregnant mother by duplicating that condition. Mother is going all-out on visits to the beauty parlor and exercises in check-writing.

OTHERS in the cast will be Richard Brown as Mayor Crane, their next-door neighbor; Clemmie Cyburt as a friend with lots of advice for the expectant mother; Dick Panko, Robert Hruska and Edward Wojtan.

Andy Hruska is the director, and Effie Kuiseil is the producer. Sets are being designed by June Bremner.

# Gazehound Unit Plans Match

The Michigan Gazehound Association is sponsoring a fun match Nov. 21, at the Livonia Mall, Middle Belt and Seven Mile. This is for all dogs who hunt by sight, Afghans, basenjis, borzoi, Irish wolfhounds, salukis, Scottish deerhounds, greyhounds and whippets.

ENTRIES WILL be taken from 12 noon and judging will begin at 1:30 p.m. The order of the red boot will be awarded to best adult in the match, and the order of the white bootie will be given to the best puppy.



ALTHOUGH FINDING ostrich feathers may be a bit of a problem, the work of art Richard Latimore is holding will become "Nellie the Ostrich" by Dec. 4. The future puppet will be the host at a Christmas theater party being given for area children that day and Dec. 11 by the Masque Players of Schoolcraft College. Latimore, a speech and drama major, is getting some help from his father, Richard W. Latimore.

# Schoolcraft Students Ready Shows For Kids

The Masque Players of Schoolcraft College are venturing into the realm of theatre for children with an "Ostrich's Christmas Party," to be held at the college Dec. 4 and 11.

The party will feature two motion pictures, including one made by the players and involving most of them as well as their dogs, cats, turtles and mice.

LEN STONE of Farmington was responsible for the photography and the organization of the program which involved many people, animals and locations.

The story is a modern, but modified version of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Major role in the film is played by Brian Dumick, a Livonia youngster. Cynthia Price of Farmington plays his sister, and Sharon Milligan of Plymouth and Robert Budesky of Detroit plays his parents. Verna Spayth is featured as the candy lady.

The other movie is entitled "Dragon's Breath," an animated puppet movie. Created to surprise and please as well as teach a small lesson on brotherhood. The story concerns a princess who is captured by a dragon and then saved by a child when the adults fail.

The films will be introduced by "Nellie the Ostrich," a puppet being created for the performance by Richard Latimore, a speech-theater major from Livonia.

"The Ostrich's Christmas Party" will be staged in the Liberal Arts Theatre at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Dec. 4 and 11.

TICKETS WILL be 50 cents each. They will be available at the door, but advanced tickets will be on sale in the college bookstore. Since the theater is small, only enough tickets will be sold for each performance to provide everyone with a seat.

The films are under the direction of Ralph Kelly, instructor in English and drama.

According to Kelly, "The Players have long wondered if there would be a need and interest in theater programs for children. This event is planned either as an end or a

# BAA Plans Art Sale

BIRMINGHAM  
Once again the Bloomfield Art Association will guild its galleries and studios into a golden setting for the second Christmas art fair, "Thirty Choices for Christmas."

Thirty booths by 30 prominent Michigan artists will be staffed by the artists themselves during the sale. The fair will be open to the public from 1 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 10, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, at the BAA, 1516 S. Cranbrook.

Featured artists include John Glick, pottery; Richard Ritter, glass; Susan and Russell Bolt, ceramics and prints; Harlan and Charlotte Quinn, jewelry; Robert Vignelli, photography; and Alexis Lahti, prints and drawings.

beginning. The players have put forth much creative thought with the belief that the children of the area should benefit from and enjoy such a program."

# Battersby To Give Concert At Madonna

Edmund Battersby, a young American pianist, will be presented at Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia, at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20.

The concert will take place in the college residence Hall. Admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. Tickets are on sale at the music department or may be purchased at the door.

Battersby was born in Detroit in 1949. He began his formal training at the age of nine with Marino Tanzi in

Trenton. He graduated last spring from the Juilliard School of Music, New York City, and made his American debut at Lincoln Center. He has presented solo performances throughout the U.S. under the sponsorship of the National Council on the Arts and the Lincoln Center Programs, Inc. He has also made appearances on European radio and television, and has been official pianist for the Eisenberg cello master classes in Casals, Portugal.

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# Word Games Are Delightful In 'Rosencrantz'

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Rosencrantz... JAMES CORRIGAN  
Guildenstern... HOWARD JENSEN  
The Player... JAMES S. NEWELL  
Alfred... JEFFREY O. RODMAN  
Hamlet... JAMES RAYAT  
Ophelia... DIANNE HILL  
Claudius... JOHN H. NAPIERAKA  
Gertrude... MARY BENSON  
Polonius... JON BENSON

In cooperation at Wayne State University's Hilberry Theater, Cas at Hazeck, Stage by Tom Stoppard. Directed by Richard Speer.

By TIM RICHARD

The final scene of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is full of death, by sword and by poison. But Hamlet's two silly friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, are so utterly unworthy that we never get to see them die. Their deaths are simply reported by another character.

Tom Stoppard has taken two characters who appear only briefly in Shakespeare's work and built an entire play around them. Indeed, James Corrigan (as dear Rosencrantz) - or is it Guildenstern? and Howard Jensen (as gentle Guildenstern) - or is it dear Rosencrantz? are on stage nearly the whole time.

Blocs of lines concerning them are lifted from Shakespeare's original, but seen through the eyes of these zany posers the action is out of focus. So confused are they that often they can't remember their own names.

IN PLAYWRIGHT Stoppard's hands, R & G become burlesque comedians, if one understands that to mean in the Laurel-Hardy, Abbott-Costello, Quilote-Panza, McCarthy-Bergers tradition. It is a form of humor dating back to ancient Egypt.

What makes them even more delightful is the way in which Stoppard has mastered scholastic word-and-logic games which the two collegians play for points, as in a tennis match. The verbal cross-fire demands one's fullest attention.

In the original, the Players perform a tragedy at Hamlet's direction, but in R & G they are a motley crew, more adept at porno than at art, more inclined theatrically to bugging Alfred than slaying him.

King Claudius and Queen Gertrude come off much as in the original; Hamlet here is more contemptuous than Freudian; Ophelia more stacked than sedate.

THE POINT seems to be that R & G are mentally dead long before Hamlet tricks the king of England into killing them. Their deaths are due not to deep motives and violence, but in Guildenstern's words, "Death is a failure to respond." Thus, they are so shallow that they don't get to die on stage even in a play devoted to them.

WSU's Hilberry Theater is departing somewhat from its theme this year. Instead of works by Moliere and Shakespeare, so far it has presented modern works with classical themes (the first being "A Man For All Seasons.")

It's an interesting twist. Audience response, again, was less than overwhelming; the factors of direction, acting, staging and costuming all seem excellent, but the quality that ignites is missing, and I can't put my finger on the fault.

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