

Rip Van Winkle Musical Opens

A vocal music coach at the Nankin Mills Junior High School in Westland will be singing the romantic lead in the original musical comedy based on the Rip Van Winkle legend.

The musical, "O, Rip!", will have Wesley Dalton in the lead for the production to be given by the Detroit Resident Artist Theatre through Jan. 7 at Mercy College McAuley Auditorium, Detroit. Opening

night was yesterday, Tuesday. Dalton, in addition to his work at the Nankin Mills Junior High, performed in recent years with the Dearborn City Opera Workshop, New York City Opera, and recordings of "Desert Song," "The Student Prince," and "Merry Widow" for Columbia Masterworks.

He has made three cross-country tours and appeared

with leading light opera companies. At present, he is also assistant choir director for the Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church.

The Rip Van Winkle musical will have a curtain time of 9 p.m. with 3 p.m. matinees tomorrow, Thursday, and Saturday, Jan. 7. The New Year's Eve curtain Saturday night will be 7 p.m.

Co-authors of the musical book are Pat McElroy, Detroit actor and radio personality, and Kenneth Chomont, actor and teacher of oral interpretation of literature at the University of Michigan.

The pair first conceived of the idea of the musical based

on the successful stage play while performing lead roles in a revival production during Christmas at the Henry Ford Museum in Greenfield Village, Dearborn.

They felt that a musical adaptation of the legend would also have universal appeal. During the past few months, they cut and rewrote parts of the script and composed lyrics and music for more than 22 songs, in addition to incidental music and the overture.

Tickets for the musical may be obtained at all Hudson stores, Encounter Bookstore, 13114 Warren, Dearborn, or by calling LU 3-3222.

Ski Expert Sets Lecture At Ford Auditorium

The American Youth Hostels will present Hans Gmoser, for the fourth time in the Ski Lecture Series at the Ford Auditorium, Friday, Jan. 6, at 8:30 p.m.

Gmoser will narrate his new film, "High Road to Skiing." This film will include breathtaking scenes of skiing and mountain climbing in the rugged and remote areas of Canada and Alaska.

An Austrian by birth, Gmoser moved to Banff, Canada, area in 1951 and quickly established a reputation as a guide and ski mountaineer. He has been making ski movies since

1956 and has thrilled thousands of skiers with his daring feats on skis.

For ticket information call the American Youth Hostel office at 273-8560.

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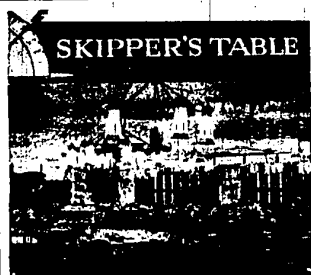
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