

Catholic Hour

The Catholic Hour, heard each Sunday over WHAM in Rochester from 3 to 5:30 p. m., will feature a special presentation on the Sundays of May, when the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary will be dramatized.

Production schedule will run as follows: May 3—The Resurrection; May 10—The Descent of the Holy Ghost; May 17—The Assumption; May 24—The Coronation.

Theatrical Producer Gets Catholic Award

Philadelphia—(RNS)—The LaSalle College Alumni Association presented its national Signum Fidei (Sign of Faith) award to John H. Harris, Pittsburgh theatrical producer, at its annual alumni communion breakfast here.

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"God created us without our cooperation, but He will not justify us without it"—St. Augustine.

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Musical Show, 'Smilin', Set By St. Alphonsus Units

"Smilin", a musical production will be presented by the Columbian Squares and the Young Ladies Society of St. Alphonsus Church Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 27, 28 and 29 at 8:15 p. m. in the Emerson Auditorium of East High School, Auburn.

The Rev. Robert A. Meng, assistant pastor, is director of the production, assisted by Leo Kroker, orchestra leader, and Mrs. June Collins.

Representatives of the various adult societies of the parish are assisting with makeup and ushering.

The principals and chorus of the cast include: Joan Fulton,



PREPARING for the Camp Columbus Minstrel "Smilin" is Joan Fulton, who is in charge of the production of the musical show.

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CAST SET FOR MUSICAL

Meeting Walter Kerr, well-known drama critic of the New York Herald Tribune, would quickly dispel one's preconceived ideas that a theatre critic is a cross between a gargoyle and an ogre.

On the subject of amateur theatre, he said that unfortunately he was unable to attend any of the off-Broadway productions in New York, since it is the Herald Tribune policy to cover only professional plays.

REGARDING Catholic theatre, that particular theatre to be featured in our parish and school organizations, he repeated the stand that we have often taken in this column, that Catholic theatre must be "good" theatre. A so-called "harmless" play, a play about Catholics, a play by a Catholic or one replete with virtuous or Biblical quotations does not necessarily make a "good" play.

Very well, but where do we get these "good" plays that are still appropriate to the talents of director, cast and audience that make up our parish or school organization?

Mr. Kerr's halfhearted answer was not the first we have received as reply to this particular question. He and other theatre authorities admit that such plays are few and far between.

WE HAVE ONE solution, however. There have been good plays written and plays throughout the history of the theatre. Offences, there is some element in word or of the spirit of a so-called Broadway play that keeps it from presentation by your group.

If such an element exists—but it. A "good" play will withstand

St. Ambrose Youth Club Lists Musical Comedy

St. Ambrose Youth Club will present its fifth production, "Oh Susanna", on Sunday and Monday evenings, Apr. 26 and 27.

A musical comedy in two acts on the life of Stephen Foster, "Oh Susanna" is under the direction of William McCarthy.

Rev. Joseph M. Dalley, assistant pastor at St. Ambrose, is moderator of the Youth Club.

JERRY SEKRETET has been cast in the leading role of Stephen Foster, with Leona Johnston portraying Jeanie McDowell.

They are supported by Jean Marie Krupf, Cliff Moutau, Dan O'Mara, Larry Pulvino, Dan Roberts, Chuck Marang, Bob Moore, Joyce Fluski, Tom Cardile, Carol Stio, Mike Tomalino, Jim Montau, Harry Kob, Betty Jane Johnston.

Carol Mancke, Sue Gardner, Ellen Casey, Mary Gardner, Pat Gardner, Beverly Peters, Barbara Romanini and Bob Krupf.

ROBERT VOLPE, at the piano, will accompany the production. The chorus is made up of the



Freshmen boys and girls of the parish.

This year's Youth Club production is dedicated to the Rev. Roy Hagerly, present pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Ithaca, who founded the St. Ambrose organization.

Tickets may be purchased from any member of the cast or at the door. Curtain rises at 8:15 p. m.

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NEW AND NOW

Even Shakespeare, the indisputable genius and classic playwright, occasionally has to have his mouth washed out with soap. Catholic theatre is not for protein. It presupposes a certain amount of Shakespeare handling and reception.

SHAWNE "HAIRY JOAN" can be used as a Catholic play. It takes almost good direction, some pruning (which GEM reserves in his grave), but it can be done.

Shakespeare, the Greek plays, some of Claudel and Eliot, many of the moderns can certainly be done up in very appealing packages by any Catholic theatre group.

WE HAVE ONE solution, however. There have been good plays written and plays throughout the history of the theatre. Offences, there is some element in word or of the spirit of a so-called Broadway play that keeps it from presentation by your group.

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