

Looking Back

'Treading The Boards'
Was Dangerous Hobby

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR
Amateur stage presentations—comedies, musicals, dramas—were as popular in Catholic circles hereabouts around the time of the first world war as they are today. They had their unexpected happenings—known as malaprops or "bloopers"—even as today.

Several in this area recall some of those happenings with glee today. Walt Brannigan with Commerce Magazine on our floor is conversant with several of these episodes.

He recalls "Sin Thief" presented on the Lyceum stage by a Knights of Columbus cast. As the play progressed in the darkened theater, off stage, an accomplice played by the late Roy Miller was waiting to join the character trying to open the safe. The accomplice on entering the stage slipped and yelled in the dark—"Blankety, Blank I've broken my nose." It broke up the audience and later it was found out that the actor's nose was really broken.



A ROMAN MOTIF production was being presented by one of the Catholic groups one night with an "early Christmas" being presented. "Intent" on his role in the play, the actor called out as he stood on a simulated burning platform. "I feel the heat," the audience quickly took up the chant—"page Dr. Dumont Stone," then a well known chiropodist. The actor was the late Don Manning.

A story recalled by Nell Collins is of an episode in the production of "The Girl of the Golden West" by Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra in the old Corinthian Theater. Joseph Shalo, prominent piano purveyor of East Ave. was the "sheriff." The late Leonard "Punk" Rowe was an Indian in the cast. Rowe had been telling his girl-friend that he was going to an rehearsal when she hadn't seen him prior to the play. She came to the first performance to verify "Punk's" statements.

In the excitement of the action, the sheriff slid over the curb for the Indian's "Right Ugh!"—his only line in the play. Rowe was a long time regaining himself on the rehearsal. "SOLD OUT" written by the late William Carey, attorney, it was recalled packed old Lyceum Theater. A Gilbert and Sullivan opera was staged in the old National Theater with the late Angelo Newman, Dr. Henry Carey and others in the cast. "The Bid Man" opened Columbus Auditorium.

Emmet O'Neill (one "I") recalled this week the first play opening Nazareth Academy auditorium on Lake Ave., rehearsals which kept the actors to one a.m. one night. "Hermes," I think was the play.

"Foxy Quiller" ran a week in the old Temple Theater with the late Eugene Bopp in the title role. Directing the orchestra was Frank Skully whose piano playing is still in demand, and the late Hughie Barrett.

Standing out in the memories of old-timers when it comes to play reminiscing was Don Manning who at the time of his death was prole director at the State Agricultural and Industrial School in Industry, Don, who had had professional experience, acted as paint-renewer and direct. Success of Alhambra productions of initiation was due to Manning's ability.

HUBERT O'NEILL remembers "Sir Thomas More" being presented to open old Cathedral Hall with Harry Crowley—sons of the leading roles. We remember "Shore Acres" as an early play with Walter Maloney, Mrs. Thomas J. McCarrick who was Theresa Frank had the lead in the Girl of the Golden West and other plays.

Leo Hogan, Edward Sweeney, Barney Hayes and Roy Miller were and man in the old Irish minstrel. Hogan and Leo Miraton and others performed in the old Footlight Club directed by the new Rt. Rev. Monsignor George J. Schmitt when he was at St. Boniface.

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Initial meeting of the Rochester Alumni of Phi Kappa Theta was held July 10 at the St. Louis Recreation Center, Pittsford.

The new national fraternity is a result of the consolidation of Phi Kappa and Theta Kappa Phi. It is now the only men's Catholic social fraternity in the country.

Temporary officers elected were Jerome P. Lygaught, president; E. Donk Dochak, vice president, and Morris B. Culhane, secretary.

Committee chairmen are: John M. Walsh, Rushing Dochak, Extension; James J. DeMarle, Social; Daniel V. Ryan, Jr., Publicity; Culhane, Internal.

PURPOSE OF Phi Kappa Theta is "to bring college students into brotherly relationship; promote the spirit of good fellowship; encourage the attainment of high scholastic standing; and to offer to each and every member that training and environment appropriate to the University scholar and gentleman."



Construction In Avon
NEW CONVENT GOES UP in Avon in the shadow of St. Agnes Church tower. The new home for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the parish school will offer ample living quarters for seven nuns. Away from the heavy-traffic area, cost of the construction is estimated at \$70,000. Edward M. Lorscheider of Rochester is architect.



Sister Damian Rites Held In Canada
Funeral services for Sister Damian, formerly a teacher at St. Joseph School, Rochester were conducted Monday, August 3 at the Motherhouse of the Servants of Mary Immaculate in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada with Bishop Isidore Borecky officiating.
Sister Damian, 35, died unexpectedly in St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, August 3, 1959.
The body lay in state in St. Joseph's Ukrainian Church here on Sunday and Parastes services were held.
For the past month Sister Damian had been studying at Nazareth College summer school.
Born in Syracuse, she entered the order of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate at Ancaster, Sister taught at St. Joseph's from 1948 to 1948.
Sister Damian leaves her mother, Mrs. Magdalene Shunkaluk of Syracuse; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Walter, Mrs. Anna Ince and Mrs. Nancy Bralobrenski, all of Syracuse; six brothers, John of Flint, Mich., Michael of Melrose, Mass., and Stephen, Walter, Peter and Alex, all of Syracuse, and several nieces and nephews.

Educators Meet

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS in New York State gathered in Ogdensburg last week for a meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents. They received the report of the Testing Workshop, which has been held to prepare the June 1960 Elementary School Examinations. Some of the educators are shown above: (from left) Rev. John Stone, Superintendent, Ogdensburg Diocese; Rev. William M. Roche, Superintendent, Rochester Diocese; Rev. Patrick J. Shanahan, Rockville Center Diocese; Rev. Daniel Brent, Associate Superintendent, Rochester.

Tune In Your Dial

- ROCHESTER (106.1) - Ave Maria Hour, Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- WHAM (1180) - The Catholic Hour, Sundays, 10:30 p.m.; Mass from local churches, first Sunday of each month, 11 a.m.
- WRCC-TV (Channel 5) - The Christophers, Sundays, 10 a.m.
- WVET (1280) - Sacred Heart Program, Saturdays, 5:45-6 a.m., Sundays, 7:45-8 a.m.
- WHCC-TV (Channel 10) - Christophers, Fridays at 7, Fridays at 7:30 a.m.
- WSAY (1370) - Family Rosary for Peace, seven nights a week at 7 p.m.
- AUBURN
WMBO (1340) - Sacred Heart Program, Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m.; Family Rosary for Peace with priests from Auburn parishes, daily, 6:45 p.m.; Christophers, Sundays, 11:15 p.m.; Father Peyton's Family Theater, Wednesdays, 7:35 p.m.; Marian Theater, Sundays, 10 p.m.
- ELMIRA HEIGHTS
WEHH (1590) - The Hour of St. Francis, Sundays, 8 a.m.
- PENN YAN
WELR (1570) - Ave Maria Hour, Sundays, 8:30 a.m.; The Hour of St. Francis, Saturdays, 10:15 p.m.
- HORNELL
WLEA (1480) - Ave Maria Hour, Sundays, 8:35 a.m.
- WVWG (1320) - The Sacred Heart Program, Monday through Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8:15 a.m.; The Hour of St. Francis, Sundays, 8:15 a.m.; Sacred Heart Program, p.m.
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Vacation School Uses Boys Home Facilities

Sixteen boys and girls of the Dryden Catholic Mission made their first Holy Communion on Sunday, Aug. 2 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. This climaxed the two-week Religious Vacation School conducted by the parish.
The school was brought to an official close with a parish family picnic. Again, the facilities of the Junior Republic were put to use by the adults as well as the children.

THE FACILITIES of the George Junior Republic were offered for each day's sessions and the swimming pool was made available at the end of the instruction period. Transportation to and from the school was provided by 27 volunteer drivers.
On the afternoon of Aug. 2

James Palyun Nuptials Held
Corning - St. Patrick's rectory was the scene last Saturday morning for the wedding of Miss Joan Louise Empson of Genesee, Pa. and James Thomas Palyun of this city, with the ceremony being performed by the Rev. William Tobin, administrator of the parish.
The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Empson of Genesee and her husband is the son of Mrs. Mary Palyun of 319 Beach St. and the late John Palyun.
Miss Sylvia Empson, Corning, was maid of honor for her sister, Joseph Palyun of 41 Elm St., South Corning, was best man.

Guild House Slates Party
Board of Directors of St. Elizabeth Guild will conduct a Garden Party at the Guild House, 1475 East Ave., Thursday, August 13 at 1 p.m.
All members and friends of St. Elizabeth Guild are invited.

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