

Theater News



SHERRY

by EUPHEMIA WYATT

SHERRY — A titled British visitor in the 1930s, invited to dine with Elizabeth Arden, was hit as she was alighting from her car by another taxi, suffered a broken leg and was carried up to Miss Arden's apartment where she had to remain for two months.

Alexander Woolcott, dramatic critic and author, only spent one night with the George Kaufmans but they never forgot that night. In 1939, Kaufman and Hart combined the two incidents into their funniest play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

On the Coast, Woolcott played himself, here, but he was added to Yale University when Monty Woolley was persuaded to exchange academic laurels for the plaudits of Broadway.

The Kaufman-Hart face has now been converted into a musical by Lipton and Boswell with tumultuous book and lyrics. That it is not really as funny as it used to be is because burlesque humor doesn't wear as well as wit.

In the '30s, Sheridan White, was the national hero of radio and lecture hall—believe it or not, lectures were once immensely popular—and the Stanleys of Messalia, Ohio, were proud to have arranged the great man to be their overnight guest. Then he slipped on some ice on their doorstep—and you can guess the rest.

The play opens weeks later when Mr. Whiteside makes his first grandiloquent entry in a wheel chair from the Stanley library, his sick room.

The Stanleys, having been relegated to their bedrooms while Mr. Whiteside uses the rest of their house for his radio broadcasts, press interviews, etc.

He bribes their cook to install penguins from Admiral Byrd and an octopus from Beebe in a glass case of cockroaches and import a glamor girl from London to disrupt the romance between his brilliantly loyal secretary and a local journalist.

Actually Woolcott was a small, rotund man whose lethal weapon was his acidulous wit. Clive Revill-Fagan in "Olive and Marj" in "Marat-Sade" plays him as a big butly, manhandling his wheel chair so artfully that he and the chair seem one treacherous animal. The six-footer Mary Wickes was the original trained nurse completely cowed by her patient's tongue. The nurse is now Janet Fox, elderly and frail from the first caste but whose insective is fine when she quits Whiteside for a factory where missiles will be made to destroy the human race.

Elizabeth Arden is a gallant secretary, Dolores Gray a show stopper as the seductress. There is never a dull moment nor is there a quiet moment in "Sherry" (Cherrie) nor a vulgar moment. The pleasant decencies of prewar days still prevail.

FINIAN'S RAINBOW — A leprechaun must be a big business among the Irish fables because a crock of gold is his most important magic asset. When Finian of Glouc Morra steals Og Leprechaun's crock, Og follows across the Atlantic and catches up with Finian in Rainbow Valley. Misty who whose share croppers are having a hard time of it.

But in the course of this delightful fairy tale everything is straightened out but not till after we have enjoyed "If This Isn't Love"; "How are things in Glouc Morra?"; "Sort of Grandish"; including Carol Brice neatly leading a chorus in "Necessity."

Og is played by Len Gochman in the traditional green coat with turned up tails; Nancy Dussault is Sharon; Frank McHugh, Finian and Sandy Duncan dances with spirit and grace. That old reliable, Howard I. Smith is the Senator so well punished for his intolerances.

With its good cast, its freshness, its wit and songs, "Finian's Rainbow" is the tonic so often offered by Jean Dalrymple, City Centre revivals to a jaded public. Here is a full evening of happiness — rare enough these days.

Speaker



FATHER JOSEPH O. SCHEEL, S.J., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at John Carroll University will be speaker when area alumni meet on Saturday, April 29 in the Towne House Motor Inn at 8 p.m. Father Scheell will report on the expanding academic picture at John Carroll, pointing up the changing areas of emphasis and discuss the progress of the new science center now under construction.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files, April 23, 1942)
Father John S. Randall was appointed by Bishop Kearney as Designee of the Diocese in charge of "national, state and local defense activities."

"The word patriotism has not been heard with sufficient frequency in the United States during the past generation," Bishop Kearney said at a PTA Night in Ilwaco. The Bishop called for raising the love of country and instilling it in youth.

Chaplain William J. Gaynor at McCall Field, Florida accepted an imposing Monstrance from officers and enlisted men at the field.

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What's New

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Rochester Rosary Society show Monday, April 24 at 8 p.m. in school hall. Monetary by Rosa Russell. Gifts, refreshments. Donations \$1. Public invited.

HOLY FAMILY, Rochester Eucharistic League meet Monday, April 24 at 8 p.m. in the Pine Room. Guest speaker, Father William Spellley, S. America tour. Luncheon, 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Louise Shannon, hostess.

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD, Rochester Sacred Heart League meeting Wednesday, April 26 at 8:15 in school auditorium.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, Rochester Holy Name and Rosary societies spring dance Saturday, April 29 at 9 p.m. in school hall. Buffet lunch at night. Tickets, \$3 per couple from Holy Name men and women.

HOLY ROSARY, Rochester Rosary Guild baked food Sunday, April 23 after 7:30 and following Masses. Baked goods to be brought to school Saturday, April 22 from 8 p.m. or Sunday a.m. Lynn Danahy, chairman.

CHRIST THE KING, Ironquit Rosary Guild installed banquet Monday, May 15 6:30 p.m. at Coakman Inn.



MISS RITA

Ridge Rd. West. Fashions B. Forman Miss Rita of W.C. TV, narrator. Reservations, Robert DeClerck.

MOTHER OF SORROW, Rochester Rosary and Society installation banquets Tuesday, May 2 at 8:40 p.m. Welcome Ranch, 4722 Ridge West. Deadline on reservation April 28. Guest speaker, Fr. William Hogan. Tickets at 100 or from Mary Koval, Parks, Phyllis Kaufman, or Trabel.

ST. MICHAEL'S, Rochester Daughters of Mary Tuesday, April 25 in church at 7:30 for Rosary and Benediction followed by meeting in hall. Installation of officers. Concert by parish junior choir. Special invitation to mothers of sinners. Tickets on sale for May Communion breakfast. Co-chairmen Mrs. Kay Giles and Dorothy Marcher.

ST. CASIMIR, Elmira, W. Circle Ladies monthly meeting and birthday supper Thursday, April 27 at 6 p.m. in school hall. Mrs. Celia Kosloski, Helen Byer, chairmen.

ST. ANNE, Rochester, R. Society installation dinner Monday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. Logan's, Scottsville Rd. Guest speaker, Father Henry A. Well. Ticket chairman, James Crowley, 235-8869.

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