

A Stew of Entertainment

By JOAN M. SMITH

"Mulligan Stew" may be an Irish casserole, but in this instance it's the name of a local professional musical group that renders a John Denver, Kris Kristofferson, Bob Dylan type entertainment.

Steve Miller (acoustic guitar), Ralph Zwald (guitar and banjo), Carol Mulligan (vocalist), Jude Thines (guitar), and Dan Kuhn (guitar) make up the group, and as Miller said, "We are a stew!"

What makes them so? Well as Miller explained, "We're an imbalance of sizes, education and employment backgrounds." He also noted they all prefer different dress attire when performing. . . . ties . . . no ties . . .

Nativity School Plans Centennial

Brockport — A century of Catholic education in Brockport will be celebrated during the coming school year as the School of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary marks its 100th anniversary.

The centennial year will open with a pageant in November and culminate in a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on May 16, 1976. A parish dinner is planned. A centennial committee chaired by Miss Mary Bertha Pallace has been meeting for several months.

Former pupils are urged to lend the committee any memorabilia they may have of their days of Nativity, such as report cards, programs, pictures, etc. Some of the class pictures obtained by the committee have been reproduced in the parish bulletin.

Nativity is one of the oldest parochial schools in the diocese.

dress slacks . . . jeans . . . turtleneck shirts.

He acknowledged Carol as the backbone of the group. "She does 80 per cent of the vocal work. We support her instrumentally, and occasionally join in."

The "Mulligan Stew" idea developed from the informal sing-alongs these musicians participated in after folk Mass rehearsals. All five members belong to the folk group of Our Lady of Mercy parish in Greece. Eighteen months ago it was decided they sounded so well together they would try the professional route.

Their first musical engagement was for the Holy Childhood School parents' Christmas party. Their musical expertise was so appreciated they left with two job offers. Miller enthusiastically observed, "We were walking six feet off the ground."

Since then, "Mulligan Stew" has performed at festivals, parties, graduations, wedding services, and has had a two-season engagement at Ricci's pizza restaurant on Dewey Avenue.

Their original repertoire of songs numbered 13, but now consists of 110 melodies which include handclapping, foot-stomping, renditions of "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise," and "Darling Nellie Gray."

Their latest accomplishment is a record, "Singing Along with Our Friends," music written and arranged by Thines.

Highlight of their career, however, was the first "Mulligan Stew" benefit concert at Arcadia High School on June 28. All proceeds were directed to the mental and physically disabled children of the Leo Barnarbi Board of Cooperative Educational



Photo by Bruce Genet

"Mulligan Stew" in concert at Lincoln First Plaza Concourse, Tuesday, July 8. From left forefront: Ralph Zwald, banjo; Jude Thines, electric guitar; Dan Kuhn, acoustic guitar; Steve Miller, acoustic guitar; Carol Mulligan, vocalist.

School in Spencerport. The band members have performed at many of this school's functions and have found them the most rewarding of their experiences.

Their entertainment schedule can be hectic since they play on the average of five times a month, and during the Christmas season perform at least twice a week.

The secret of "Mulligan Stew" popularity is twofold: "Our charisma sells us," Miller declared and added, "everyone who watches us knows we're having a good time."

It is this delightful enthusiasm which is projected by every member that captivates their fans.

THANKS

Odessa — Parishioners of St. Benedict's Parish recently extended their gratitude for the response given to their fund raiser held in Watkins Glen.

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"Texas Wheelers" will be given another chance. Too bad. It could have evolved into something worthwhile.

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" is another pilot which is not on the Fall schedule but may be warming up for January debut. It is a series based on the 1967 movie produced and directed by Stanley Kramer in which a white rich girl and a very successful black man fall in love and convince their respective parents that getting married is right for them.

In this series, a sequel, the girl Joanna is played by Leslie Charleson and the man John is Bill Overton now a pediatrician. They are married and in the opener have invited both sets of parents to dinner. The parents all behave but the couple find themselves in the middle of a tiff with jealousy over one of Joanna's old boyfriends at the bottom of it.

The actors did their best but the storyline kept slipping to the ludicrous level. Some attention to plotting and dialogue could rescue this one.

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" I caught while on vacation. With no scorecard to identify the actors, all I can tell you is that every other face seemed familiar thanks to the actors' exposure in commercials and soap operas. The young man who starred in the Bobby Morse role had all of Morse's gestures and grimaces down pat. The pilot was slickly done, the acting very good, the direction taut. It could go somewhere if given a chance.

UNDER THE STARS

I Pagliacci and Cavalleria Rusticana, traditionally presented as a double feature, will be this weekend's Opera Under the Stars production. Curtain time at Highland Park Bowl is 8:45 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday, July 17 and 19. Rain dates are July 18 and 20.

AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

Hot summer nights and television don't mix but when the mosquitoes drive you back inside you'll probably find that someone has turned on the set.

If so perhaps you saw some of the following:

"Texas Wheelers" was new last September, but it's the first time that Rochester area audiences are getting a look at this summer replacement. It's another product of Mary Tyler Moore Enterprises and it spins its humor in the same fashion that the other shows from the same production company use. That is, it begins with a situation that has an instantly recognizable truth and expands ever so carefully upon that truth stretching it to the far reaches of credibility but never beyond.

Gary Busey is the young star of this series playing the 24-year-old head of the Wheeler family while Jack Elam co-stars as the irresponsible if lovable father.

In the first episode "Truckie" (Busey) thrashes his father for abandoning the family; tricks a younger brother into staying in school and helps bury a pet duck belonging to his little sister. In the second he falls in love with a mod librarian who leaves him for an airline.

There is warmth, gentle humor, and feeling to this series. Am not sure what the networks' schedules are for the coming season but it is doubtful that

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