

Collegiate Actors Give Year's Second Production



THE PLAY: Bill Romaine to Callie Smith—"Sweetheart, sweetheart, you are the best of them all."

"And So To Bed" Marks 28th Year of Gala Troubadour History

By Jock Morrison

Tomorrow night the Troubadours, headed by Russ Thomes and Peggy Boykin, will close their somewhat shakely curtain on twenty-eight years of entertainment.

During the 'roaring twenties,' the Troubs were the sensation of the campus with their musical shows and vaudeville acts, but gradually these musicals, eventually to be taken over by the Varsity Show, went the way of Prohibition, and a more serious form of dramatics was offered in the show-place of Lexington — the Lyric theater.

If '13 was considered by many to be an unlucky number, the Troubadours could count themselves among the unsuspecting few in 1930 as they began their thirteenth year with a great hit in their production of "Journey's End."

More hits followed as they went along undaunted through the depression, and when 1935 rolled around the Troubadours were sponsoring a faculty production of "Tomorrow Appears" in which

E. S. Mattingly, their first president and more recently of financial fame, was cast.

Down through the years since they began in 1918, the Troubs had used the New and Lyric theaters for their Lexington performances. But in 1935 after much pleading and gnashing of teeth, they were given two thousand dollars and the bricks salvaged from the Tucker Hall fire to remodel their "Workshop" next to the Sigma Nu house; a building which had housed, among other things, a shoe factory and a dance hall, and which to this day is used for all the Troubadour plays.

To open their new home, the Troubs put on a lavish spectacle with "The Merchant of Venice" in December of 1935, and followed it with "Lady Windermere's Fan" early in 1936. Then as Dr. Gaines turned down a tempting offer for the presidency of "a large southern university" to remain at W. and L., the Troubadours completely regained their early glory with the spring play, "Design For Living."

In the last decade, the Troubs



THE PLAY: "I mean to do the proper thing. Oh, oh, marry me now; Oh, oh, marry me now."

have presented such outstanding successes as "Ah Wilderness" in 1936, "The Petrified Forest" in 1937, followed by "Dover Road," "Criminal At Large," "Squaring the Circle," "Margin For Error," "Of Mice and Men," and the especially popular "The Play's the Thing," produced in 1939.

With the coming of the war and the Army's specialized training school, the Troubadours suspended activities in 1943 after they had presented "Arsenic and Old

Lace," to take up last fall where they had left off, with a revival of "The Petrified Forest."

During the thirties, the Troubs had gradually collected a huge store of props and scenery which could be easily adapted to fill the requirements of almost every play they presented. But this stock pile was almost exhausted by the Army and when the actors returned, they found next to nothing in usable condition, from the stage to the sets.

Barter Group To Give "Arms And The Man"

Under the sponsorship of the Buena Vista Lions Club, The Barter Theatre of Virginia once again will give residents of Rockbridge County the opportunity of seeing George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" when they present it in the Buena Vista High School auditorium on Monday evening, March 24, at 8 p.m.

Directed by Owen Phillips, "Arms and the Man" is the story of a professional soldier in comparison with a temporary, war-time fighter; and though the play was written before the turn of the century, time has only made it more amusing and ironically true.

Designed by John E. Friend, the elaborate sets and costumes were executed under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Henry Martin.

NOTICE

Anyone interested in leaving small children in the proposed church nursery during Sunday morning services, phone Miss Margaret Davis, Lexington 211. Age limit two and one half to five years.

Veteran Torubadours estimated that it would require from two to three years to build up their former reserve, but from the looks of things down at the old shoe factory in Red Square this week, they are off to a flying start.

Troubs Go Through Restoration Farce; Audience Enjoys Comedy

By Bernard Kaplan

On the program, "And So To Bed," the Troubadour offering at the Little Theater this week, was described as a "pseudo-restoration" comedy. It turned out that pseudo-restoration is something reminiscent of "Getting Gertie's Garter" with knee breeches, decollete, and antiquated oaths added to the standard bedroom. It was quite an experience, and the audience had a fine time from first to last (and from first to last was well over three hours.)

The plot is pretty familiar stuff by this time and is extremely slight farce at that, even though in this play it's a king, that old dog Charles II, who is hiding out between the sheets. Samuel Pepys, the story goes, had a promiscuous eye. His wife, a first class shrew if there ever was one, follows the trail right in the lady's bedroom (there's that word again.) Complications follow one another in machine gun fashion, including the aforementioned Charles, Mr. and Mrs. Pepys rant, cry, and, at eleven-twenty, make-up. That's the whole thing. It might almost have been Dagwood and Blondie — only with gestures.

The first act was slow until DeWitt Beckner appeared as a fop who was willing to speak French at the drop of a goblet of port. Beckner came very near to stealing the show at that point and had the principals on their toes for the rest of the evening.

As Samuel Pepys, the rather shop worn hero of the farce, Russ Thomes got progressively better at leering, drooling, and general seduction as the evening went on. Except for a period in the second act when Pepys finds it necessary to hide from his wife at the bottom of a well-performed hope chest in the other woman's boudoir, Thomes was hardly ever off the stage. There is no doubt that he carried the evening to many

she can display the finesse and artistry she has shown us before.

As Charles II, Bill Romaine appeared all too briefly in the second act. He actually makes you believe that he is capable of all the things that Charles is famous for, which, those who know Bill will agree, is quite an accomplishment. He underplayed properly and came out with his surefire lines with casual timing, not always an easy thing to do. At one point when a defense of the ream lecture which is suddenly thrown at him by Pepys in the middle of the boudoir high jinks, he looked visibly embarrassed. You couldn't really blame him, either.

In some of the lesser roles, Howard Steele with an infectious giggle, Dave Douglas as an octogenarian on his last leg, Sally Clayton, Delaney Way, and Jack Martin added to the general fun. Incidental chamber music and Mrs. Smith's two songs were written by John Taylor and were very delightful indeed. The sets, the lighting, and the make-up, all under the general supervision of producer Jack Lanich, were up to the excellent standards by Troubadours' first play this year.

It is a pity that all of the effort, talent, and ingenuity that were evident on the Little Theater stage could not have gone into a play that had more potentiality than the one given.

It would be misleading, however, to suggest that the play was not enjoyed to the hilt, for it most certainly was.

And so to press.

Troubs Plan Special Showing Of 'So To Bed'

Saturday Production Depends on Demand; Lanich Praises Cast

If the demand is sufficient, a special Saturday night showing of the current Troubadour play, "And So To Bed," will be scheduled, producer Jack Lanich announced today.

Lanich reported that advance ticket sales have completely filled the house for tonight although it is possible that cancellations will provide some seats. He added that those desiring tickets for the final showing tonight be at the box office at 7:45 to await cancellations.

Nothing has been done with relation to a third production, the producer reported. "We will," he added, "make our decision as soon as we are able to evaluate our financial condition." Lanich praised the entire cast and staff of the show, saying that their untiring efforts and cooperation are solely responsible for the play's success.

Business Manager Fred Loeffler lauded the work of Ken Wacker and his ticket sales staff. He also agreed with Lanich that the cast and staff had done a fine job. Loeffler said that Stage Manager Charlie Robertson and his crew had built the best Troubadour stage set that he has ever seen. A majority of those who have viewed the play were in agreement with him on this point, the business manager said further.

A special feature of this play, original music by John Taylor, received praises from Jack Lanich. The orchestra gave a special touch to the production, Lanich said. The producer also commented on the excellent lighting work done by Paul Murphy.

Lanich stated that the work of the stage crew, Bob Williams, Ben Riddle and John French was also an important factor in the success of the production. He added that the Troubadours were grateful for the cooperation shown them by the student body.



Russ Thomes in the last act—"Confess it all; I can bear it!"

high points that were not always self-evident in the play itself.

Among the ladies (as Richard Brinsley Sheridan might say) Callie Smith played Mrs. Knight, the king's mistress for whom Pepys is on the make. It is a role which didn't tax her dramatic capabilities too highly, leaving her standing around the stage for a good part of the time with nothing to say or do. In two songs, however, (pseudo-restoration too, we presume) she displayed a very fine coloratura voice which was well received by her audience.

Peggy Boykin, who scored a personal triumph in the first Troubadour production, "The Petrified Forest," as Mrs. Pepys in the latest effort is forced to take something of a back seat to the cavortings of the men. Mrs. Boykin is not a back seat actress. It strikes us that she likes, first of all, to be able to feel that she can live her part. This time her role is not a characterization but a caricature. There is nothing to live and so Mrs. Boykin takes sustenance from much screaming and foot stumping where dignified venom would have been much better suited to the portrayal. It is simply not her part, and we are looking forward to a play in which

It's OUR BIRTHDAY

We're One Year Old And We're Mighty Proud!

WE'RE STILL A GROWING BABY

THE CORNER GRILL is sort of a step-grandchild of W. and L., and we're taking our place in the tradition of the school! Students have learned that we cater to their every demand. If your first class is at 11 o'clock, you can still have breakfast with us. Enliven those short breaks between classes by dashing to THE CORNER GRILL for refreshments. And there's no better place to spend the evenings—before and after the show or game, between those long study sessions, or after the fraternity meeting. And we're open after dances.

We're always ready to serve you.

ALL BABIES HAVE TROUBLES

When THE CORNER GRILL opened its doors to the students of W. and L. on March 22 of last year, shortages kept us from meeting your demands for soft drinks, food, beer, and other items. And just when supplies became more plentiful, we had to go and have a fire; But now that we're growing older and have our troubles behind us, we're ready to start into our second year with a brand new face and with beaucoup merchandise. Despite the troubles of the past, THE CORNER GRILL is ready once again to offer you delicious hamburgers for only 15c, not to mention our tasty, well-rounded breakfast of eggs, toast, jelly, and the best coffee in town for an amazingly low 35c.

Only One Year Old--- And Already a Tradition

The Corner Grill

A W. and L. Tradition

Reporter-at-Large

By Charley McDowell

End of an Era Department, Judicial Division

From the fairly reliable reports coming in, it would appear that we have reached the end of an era—an era of intrepid and convivial fire fighting by the local firemen and the W. and L. students. We can now report, sad to say, that certain students have been hailed into the law courts and fined for doing what has always been a traditional duty of a W. and L. man—attending a fire.

The Lexington firemen have decided to battle all ensuing flames in private. No longer do they desire the cheering throng behind them and the scholarly hand on the nozzle. In this unprecedented decision to take the fires away from the students the town has cast the shadow of the second rate over all its future conflagrations. (What would the famous Kappa Alpha Fire of Dubious Origin have been without the gallant band of students who stole the hose and sprayed the firemen so hilariously?) Gone are the days of the drama-packed fires—head lie the dark days of spiritless battles and insurance correspondence.

To get right at the facts, one Epley of the student body heard the siren some time last week and without hesitating took off after the fire trucks. There were other things he would rather have done, but somehow he felt he should go. Hot on the engines' trail in a remote part of town, he was stopped by a native who was clearly marked "fire marshal." Epley was given a court summons and told to go away from the area of the fire at once. His crime, as recorded for posterity on the summons—"falling truck." Later, in court, this charge was changed to "following truck" and Epley was relieved of about two dollars and a half. An era ended right in his face.

Further Judicial Notes

We have heard about three agreeable fellows who were pulled into court Monday for gambling in a filling station. A policeman testified that he had caught the men playing poker on the counter. One of the culprits, not at all upset, said, "Your Honor, we were playing for fun. We wasn't gambling none at all." At this the policeman produced about a dollar and a half in change which he had found on the counter. "Oh that," said the culprit, "we was only using that for chips." This caused a fog of legal confusion to settle over the scene which hasn't cleared yet for all we know.

The only other case that came up Monday which interested us was the one involving a man who ate canned heat. (Until Monday we didn't know what canned heat was, but even in our ignorance we probably wouldn't have eaten any.) As a matter of information, canned heat is a gelatin-like substance which comes in a can; it burns slowly with a very hot flame. It is good to have around if you want to cook something in your car or your feet get cold on the train. The manufacturers warn that it shouldn't be eaten, no matter what. Well, this man had a lot of canned heat around that he had no use for, so he ate two cans of it. Since it is three-fourths alcohol, it made him quite drunk besides poisoning him thoroughly. Somebody pumped his stomach and the police brought him to court to straighten him out on the whole thing. What was ever done with the canned heat-eater we don't know. He did say, though, that it doesn't taste bad at all.

Mechanized Confections Dept. Chocolate BB's Division

We stopped by the State Theater the other morning to check casually into the chocolate BB

situation, and ended up by joining Mr. Daves in some serious research on the subject. The genial manager was as concerned as we were with the sensational rise of chocolate BB's to first place among the candies in the machine. Mr. Daves said that the BB's did not do too well the first day they appeared (three weeks ago) but that within a week they had slowly but surely out-distanced the faithful Ju-Jy Fruits. At the present time the BB's have about doubled the score on the old nemesis of silver fillings. In our discussion both of us pointed out that the BB's have the advantage of being new and different and that Ju-Jy Fruits cannot be counted out until the BB's stand the test of time.

Mr. Daves said also that Bob Gates' championing of BB's might have had a great deal to do with their success. This we don't doubt; however, we probably should remark that, no matter what he says, Gates is tiring of BB's. No longer does he have the craving for them that fired his enthusiasm. In fact, our informants tell us that Gates has developed a loathing for chocolate BB's. He knows that he must keep up the sham to protect his reputation, but sources very close to him feel that he secretly wishes he had never seen his first chocolate BB.

To get back to the BB itself, our research reveals that there are 109 BB's in the average box. Of these, about 98 go into a stomach, 10 end up on the floor, and one sticks to the bottom of the box. There are about 150 boxes of BB's sold each day. We have figured it out, and considering that each BB has a diameter of about one-fourth inch, all the BB's that have been sold in the last three weeks would reach 6,300 feet if laid end to end. That is considerably farther than from Steve's Diner to Mrs. Didawick's front gate, and as we have emphasized repeatedly, that's uphill all the way.

Canterbury Club Features Talks By Dr. Bethea

Group Holds Discussion On Religious Subjects Every Sunday on Campus

For students with religious interests, the Canterbury Club offers an outlet. Washington and Lee's chapter of the club participates in informal discussions every Sunday night from 7:30 to 8:30.

Tom Wright, president of the Washington and Lee chapter, which was reorganized last fall, explained that the Canterbury Club is a national group of Episcopal church-members who are interested in learning more about "religion in relation to present-day modes of life."

"Our meetings," said Wright, "consist mainly of round-table discussions of provocative religious subjects." The last one, held Sunday night, was a combined VMI-W&L meeting, which heard Dr. J. E. Bethea, rector of the Robert E. Lee Episcopal Church, emphasize the usefulness of morning prayer. The club is sponsoring a series of talks by Dr. Bethea, Wright noted.

Present plans, Wright declared, call for a forum on "Symbolism in the Episcopal Church," and he extended an invitation to all students, regardless of denomination. He also announced that Roper Shamhart is vice-president, and Ozzie Osborne is secretary.

Bicentennial Publicity Drive Hits New Peak

24,000 Pieces of W&L Literature Have Been Printed So Far by Lauck

Over 34,000 pieces of Bicentennial literature have been produced by the Journalism Laboratory Press under the supervision of C. Harold Lauck, one of the outstanding typographical experts of the nation, according to Allen T. Snyder, '41, Associate Director of the Bicentennial Program.

First of the Bicentennial releases was a preliminary announcement of the organization and aims of the drive entitled "Toward the Third Three Hundred." There were 15,000 copies of this pamphlet disseminated to alumni, parents of students, corporations, students, friends of the University, faculty and staff.

Approximately 3,500 copies of a brochure entitled "Indestructible Asset" were sent out to parents of students, faculty, and parents of alumni who lost their lives during the war. This brochure described the Memorial Scholarship Plan for which one-third of the Bicentennial funds is destined.

1,000 copies of a booklet entitled "Two Great Investments in Faith" were distributed to alumni, corporations, friends of the University, faculty and staff.

Over 14,000 copies of "The Bicentennial News" were sent out to alumni, parents and students after the official opening of the campaign on January 19, 1947.

In addition to productions by the Journalism Laboratory some 13,000 desk calendars, were sent to alumni, parents of students, friends of the University, faculty and staff.

Persons making donations to the fund who are not connected with the University as alumni or as parents of students, are presented with large, full-color photographs of the buildings of the front campus. These photographs have also been sent to parents of students who lost their lives in the recent war.

Carrying the publicity program into the visual medium, a movie has been made of campus scenes and many aspects of University life. This movie, now in the process of receiving the finishing technical touches, was made by Charles T. Chapman, of Chicago.

Dr. Flournoy a Rhodes Scholar, Public Speaking Enthusiast

One of the most distinguished members of the Washington and Lee faculty is Rhodes Scholar Doctor Fitzgerald Flournoy.

Doctor Flournoy was born in Richmond, Virginia, but moved soon after birth to Eastern Shore, Virginia, where he spent most of his boyhood. His schooling took place at Cteriton High, near Cape Charles, but most of his time was devoted to hunting, swimming, and fishing, which remain his favorite pastimes even today. He also participated in intramural sports, and played third base for his high school baseball team.

Upon his graduation from high school in 1916, Doctor Flournoy joined the freshman ranks of Washington and Lee and began his study for an AB degree in English. He was a member of The Ring-tum Phi staff, The Southern Collegian, and The Calyx, but his interest lay largely in public speaking. It was in pursuit of this interest that he won distinction as a participant in both the Grahams-Lee and Washington debating societies, which served partly as models for the present Forensic Union.

During the first World War, Doctor Flournoy was active in the Student Army Training Corps, until he fell victim to the severe flu epidemic sweeping the country at that time. Upon his recovery, he was elected editor of The Southern Collegian, which he revised into a humorous college comic called The Mink. He graduated in June of 1921.

After working for the Richmond "News Leader" for the summer of 1921, Doctor Flournoy returned to W. and L. under the Mapelson Scholarship for a post graduate course in English. He received his Master of Arts degree in 1922, and upon being elected to receive the famous Rhodes Scholarship, set out for Oxford University in England.

While spending three years in Oxford, Doctor Flournoy was very well-known independent producer who has turned out film productions for Notre Dame, University of Kentucky, NorthWestern and many other educational institutions.

Other Bicentennial news has been published in the Alumni Bulletin, and in 15 news releases to newspapers, wire services and magazines.

Forensic Union Debates

A policy of American interference in Chinese internal affairs advocated by Richard Chiari was supported by members of the Forensic Union in their Monday night meeting in the Student Union.

Chiari summarized the problem as being basically a fight against communism while his opponent, James Taylor, argued that U. S. support of the current Chinese government would invite Russia to enter into the affairs of China.

A debate on the retention of allied forces of occupation in conquered territory is scheduled for Monday night with Herman Trammell and Dick Boggs speaking respectively for the affirmative and negative.

It was erroneously reported last week that Bill Wallis defeated Charlie Apperson in a debate on immigration. The Ring-tum Phi regrets the error and is glad to correct it.

Junior Women's Club

Presents THE BARTER PLAYERS in BLITHE SPIRIT

March 25, 8:00 p.m. at the High School Auditorium. Tickets \$1.20, tax incl. For Tickets Call Phones 399-699-2186

School Movie Ready Soon

Alumni Secretary Cy Young announced this week that the 25-minute sound movie in color of Washington and Lee will be ready for showing in a month to six weeks. The movie, which is being prepared by Charles Chapman of Evanston, Ill., includes shots of last year's finals and campus activities taken during the fall and winter of this year.



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100 Squibb's "B" Complex	3.39
250 Meads Yeast Tablets	.89

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