

Cast Of 'Oklahoma' Demonstrates Foresight, Work Accomplishment

By LAURA OLSON
Staff Writer, News-Review

A beloved page of American history, uncompleted by nuclear science or Marilyn Monroe, was re-created Thursday night at the Oregon premiere of "Oklahoma."

In a performance highlighted by youthful verve and skillful adult direction, Douglas High School students rocked the very rafters of their school and, very likely, carved a niche in the heart of each member of a capacity audience. Singers, dancers and actors demonstrated what foresight and work can accomplish on a stage not too much bigger than a dime.

"Oklahoma" was garnished with a live and happy orchestra, attractive staging and scenery, a "gen-u-i-ne" surr... with the fringe on top and a cast complete with mid-western accent.

The production unfolds in a series of scenes, telling generally the story of the Oklahoma territory around 1900, when cowboys and farmers weren't the best of friends. Within the plot are interwoven several romantic episodes, with paramount attention devoted to the story of farmerette Laurey (Micki Eason) and cowboy Curley (Jim Miller).

Laurey and Curley are menaced by villainous hired hand Jud (Jerry Carter) who wants a woman of his own, Laurey, to replace a long and psychopathic interest in "girlie" pictures. Real love and right triumph eventually, but not before the sinister Jud has skulked, threatened and finally fallen on the very "frogsticker" he planned to use on Curley.

Fine comedy reliefs embellish "Oklahoma." An early day traveling man, Persian peddler Ali Hakim (Ron Coulter) outfoxes himself and lands a wife; flirtatious Ado Annie (Caro Dowdy) is charmed by cowboy Wil Parker (Louis Vance); and loveable but caustic Aunt Eller (Shirley Shepherd) keeps the plot in hand while niece Laurey suffers.

Throughout "Oklahoma," evidence of intensive rehearsal showed through the lines, actions and songs by the principles and chorus members. The youthful cast appeared to love the play and its enthusiasm poured over audience members who often indicated approval with applause.

"Oklahoma" opened nearly 33 years ago in New York City. The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical comedy was presented by the Theater Guild. It was the longest playing musical ever to show on Broadway — 2,248 performances.

Since then, it has been taken to many other countries and throughout the U.S.A.

Last evening's first Oregon production leaves a high mark for other state groups to shoot at — amateur or professional.

The student cast appeared at ease on stage. Members missed less than a handful of cues and, to the delight of the audience, their diction in speech and song was near perfect. Dance interpretations appeared well executed and planned.

The show was not without a flaw or two. Handicapped by the postage stamp stage, scenery changes were slow, stretching the wait for the audience at times. First night lighting was occasionally confused and even an extended cafeteria stage could not take the place of a real auditorium facilities.

Such items, however, did not mar audience enthusiasm which was high at the close of the show shortly after 11:30 p.m.

The "Oklahoma" total cast numbered around 80. Directors were: Irene McLaughlin, music; Laura Grubbs, drama; Helen McGuire, dances; and Jim Everly, orchestra. Accompanists were Mona Hull and Ellis Vance.

The show will be presented Friday and Saturday evenings, starting at 8 p.m. and March 1, 2 and 3. Principal David Potter said permission for a sixth performance March 3 was received Thursday afternoon. Tickets went on sale Friday at Harmony House and at Douglas High. Some general admission tickets may be purchased at the school the evening of each show. There is double casting in some lead roles.



OREGON PREMIERE of "Oklahoma" was viewed by more than 300 persons Thursday evening at Douglas High School. (Top) Farmers and cowboys attend box social to help finance new school in Oklahoma territory. Laurey (Micki Eason, second from left) disappears as Gertie (Jeannine Coulter) vamps Curley (Jim Miller, second from right). (Bottom) Audience relaxes between a scenery change. Musical comedy was presented in school cafeteria. (Paul Jenkins).

County Awards Fuel Contracts

The Douglas County Court contracts to meet the county's petroleum products requirements for the coming year. The contracts extend through February 1957.

The Shell Oil Co. was winner at 20.31 cents per gallon for all truck and trailer deliveries of regular gasoline to Roseburg.

Standard Oil Co. was awarded a contract to make all tank wagon deliveries of regular gasoline. The price ranges from 21.02 cents to 21.52, depending on the delivery point.

Shell will furnish dark diesel at 12.91 cents and Signal Oil Co. will furnish white diesel at 14.55. Shell also was awarded a contract to supply motor oil, series 1 and 2, other oil and grease, thinner and solvent.

Roseburg Fuel Oil Co. was the winning bidder to supply fuel oil at \$3.87 per barrel.

YOUTH IMPROVING

Jerry Lavender, who was burned in an explosion Wednesday, was reported "coming along fine" at Douglas Community Hospital today. The 17-year-old Roseburg High School student was burned on the face, arms and body when a can of flammable fluid exploded while he was working in a locksmith shop in the J. C. Sporting Goods store.

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SPECIAL AUCTION SALE

Sunday, February 26th
1 P.M. and 7 P.M.
ROSEBURG AUCTION MARKET

LARGE LOT of new and freight damaged goods for this sale. Some slightly damaged tents, sleeping bags and gas stoves.

All kinds of small appliances
Blankets, wool and dacron comforters
1 large lot of hand and power tools
Dishes and cookware
Miscellaneous galore

This will be a sale for everyone.
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AUCTION IS WELL-HEATED. COME EARLY AND INSPECT THE MERCHANDISE

Sales 1 P.M. and 7 P.M.
Sunday Feb. 26th

ROSEBURG AUCTION
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Top Communist Plans To Surrender Monday

NEW YORK — A letter purporting to be from Gilbert Green, a top Communist who has been a fugitive for five years, said Friday he will surrender Monday.

The letter did not reveal Green's whereabouts. It was received by the Associated Press Friday and was postmarked at 10:30 o'clock Thursday night in New York City. It was signed "Gil Green."

Other news services also received copies of the letter.

Green, Illinois chairman of the party, was one of the 11 Communist leaders convicted in the memorable nine-month trial in 1949 on charges of conspiracy to teach and advocate violent overthrow of the government.

School Directory Now Off Press

The 1955-56 Douglas County school directory has returned from the printers and is being distributed by county school Supt. Kenneth P. Barnburg.

The bright yellow book measures 6 by 3 1/2 inches. It is a valuable reference source.

Listed on its pages are the names of 768 teachers and administrators, an increase of nearly 40 over the 1954-55 total, according to Supt. Barnburg.

Information to be found within its covers includes statistics concerning individual school districts in the county, such as valuation and mileage levies, and the names and addresses of school officials, clerks, board members and teachers.

Publication of the book was delayed by pressures of work in the county school office and at the printers, Barnburg added.

Police Training School Scheduled

A seven-week police training school will be held in Roseburg, among other Oregon cities, in March, Police Chief Stan Olson said today.

The school is co-sponsored by the Oregon Assn. of City Police Officers and the Oregon State Sheriff's Assn., in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Oregon State Police, League of Oregon Cities and Bureau of Municipal Research and Service.

The classes are:

March 6 — Public relations with an FBI instructor.

March 9 — Interrogation, confessions and signed statements, Bureau of Portland Police.

March 13 — Function of the State Parole and Probation Board, Hal Randall, Salem, director.

March 16 — Basic fingerprinting, instructor to be announced.

March 20 — Uniform report writing, Oregon State Police.

March 23 — Traffic accidents, Eugene police.

March 27 — Burglary investigation and suppression, Bureau of Portland Police.

Missing Planes Found; All Safe

MIAMI, Fla. — The Coast Guard said Friday six light planes which disappeared Thursday after taking off from Cuba for Jamaica had been found at Niquero, Cuba, and the 16 missionaries aboard were all safe.

"We don't know whether they had trouble or just decided to land there for the night," said a Coast Guard spokesman.

Nine planes carrying the missionaries on a goodwill tour of the Caribbean islands took off Thursday from Camaguey, Cuba, bound for Kingston, Jamaica. Only three of the planes reached Kingston.

FILM ACTRESS SUES

LOS ANGELES — Film actress Pier Angeli, 23, seeks \$208,000 damages from Western Air Lines for injuries she says she suffered on a flight to Palm Springs, Calif., last year.

The suit also named stewardess Patricia Duke. The actress, wife of singer Vic Damone, claims she was seriously injured in a fall in the airliner's rest room because she was not warned of rough weather.

Miss Angeli, pregnant at the time, suffered a fractured pelvis and facial lacerations. Her baby was born healthy last August.

Death Ends Shadowy Career Of Jack Dragna

LOS ANGELES — Death has ended the shadowy career of Jack Dragna, 65, who never was convicted of a felony but who was described by a State Crime Commission as California's Al Capone and an associate of the Mafia.

The underworld character was currently appealing a deportation order to his native Italy.

A maid found the body yesterday in a Sunset Strip motel bed. Police said he apparently died sometime Wednesday night of a heart attack.

Television Emmies Nominations Listed In Academy Vote

HOLLYWOOD — Comedian Phil Silvers, director Alfred Hitchcock, "Peter Pan" and "Davy Crockett" were all front runners today for "Emmies," television's highest awards.

Don Defore, president of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, announced the nominations. Results of the voting by the 2,000 academy members will be announced March 17 over NBC-TV.

Nominations included:

Best master of ceremonies — Hitchcock, Perry Como, Alastair Cooke, John Daly and Dave Garraway.

Best single program — "Davy Crockett and the River Pirates," "Peter Pan," "Caine Mutiny Court Martial," "The Sleeping Beauty," "No Time for Sergeants," "Peter Pan Meets Rusty Williams," "Danny Thomas Show" and "The American West."

Best actor in a series — Silvers, Bob Cummings, Jackie Gleason, Danny Thomas and Robert Young.

Best comedians — Silvers, Jack Benny, Sid Caesar, Art Carney and George Gobel.

Best actress in series — Gracie Allen, Eve Arden, Lucille Ball, Jean Hagen and Ann Sothern.

Best comedienne — Grace Allen, Eve Arden, Lucille Ball, Nanette Fabray and Ann Sothern.

Best supporting division — Ann Davis, Miss Fabray, Miss Hagen, Audrey Meadows and Thelma Ritter.

Supporting actors — Ed Begley, Art Carney, William Frawley, Carl Reiner and Cyril Ritchard.

Best audience participation show — "The \$64,000 Question, I've Got a Secret, People Are Funny, What's My Line and You Bet Your Life."

Best actress single performance — Julie Harris, Mary Martin, Eva Marie Saint, Jessica Tandy and Loretta Young.

Best actor single performance — Ralph Bellamy, Jose Ferrer, Lloyd Nolan, Everett Sloane and Barry Sullivan.

Baker, Reiersen To Attend Meet About Mosquitoes

Two Douglas County men will attend a mosquito control short course in Corvallis next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Senior Sanitarian T. Claude Baker and Sanitarian L. D. Reiersen will be among 12 to 14 persons learning more about mosquito control. The school is for all persons engaged in such work. It includes identification, up-to-date methods and material and information on control.

The school is sponsored by Oregon State College, the State Board of Health, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and U. S. Public Health Service.

Special speakers at the three-day meet will include Gaines W. Eddy, C. M. Gault and Robert A. Hoffman, entomologists with the agriculture department; John D. Latton, assistant entomologist, OSC; Louis J. Ogden, U. S. Public Health Service sanitarian, Logan, Utah; Dr. Paul O. Ritcher, head of the department of entomology, OSC; and Leon C. Terriere, associate professor, insect toxicologist, OSC.

Prison Sentence Meted For Beating Of Child

LOS ANGELES — For beating a baby boy so severely he may never recover from brain damage, Roy Burch, 31, must spend 1 to 10 years in prison.

Burch pleaded guilty to felonious assault on the 22-month-old child, Daniel Cox, who suffered facial burns, burns on his body, blacked eyes and head injuries.

The child's mother Mrs. Florence Cox, 18, was sentenced to six months in the county jail on a charge of endangering the life and health of a child. Police said Burch was living with Mrs. Cox when they were arrested Nov. 13.

The boy's father Bill L. Cox, 23, Norwalk, Calif., was granted an annulment of the marriage and placed in full custody of the child last Feb. 6.



SWEETHEART WINNERS in the recent contest at the First Christian Church were, left to right, Carol Fray, junior sweetheart; Connie Bridgess, sweetheart of the Bible school; and Janet Eaton, little sweetheart. (Photo Lab).

W. K. Peery Will Speak Sunday To Historical Group

W. K. Peery of Milo, well-known Douglas County historian and frequent contributor to The News-Review, will be the featured speaker at a Sunday meeting of the County Historical Society.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 1:30 in the county courtroom of the Douglas County Courthouse east wing.

Peery's report will concern the "times and passing of the Umpqua."

Another feature of the meeting will be an exhibit of primitive artifacts to be displayed by Earl Henbest. He has an extensive supply discovered in many searches of the old Indian trails.

Society President Mrs. V. J. Micelli issued a call for additional members to attend the meeting. She said more members are needed to add strength to the development of "our museum center."

(The society is making an attempt to secure the city library property for a museum center.)

Mrs. Micelli has also requested that the society be looking for pictures from the county made before 1880, particularly a picture of the old S. O. Van Helton House, once situated on the corner of Douglas and Main in Roseburg. These are needed for the county collection, Mrs. Micelli says.

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J. M. Brockway Named As Riddle City Councilman

The Riddle City Council this week completed a heavy agenda of business according to correspondent Erma Best.

It appointed J. M. Brockway, operator of a welding and repair service, to the Riddle City Council. He will fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Donald Witter. The city executed a joint-use agreement with the Riddle Rural Fire District at the adjourned regular meeting.

The council reported an agreement between the State Highway Dept. and the city has been executed providing for improvement of South Main Street from Fourth Street to the steel bridge over Cow Creek. Estimated cost will be \$20,000. The State Highway Dept. has allocated \$15,000 to the city for the improvement.

The council established a city planning commission. The ordinance prescribed powers and duties and repealed all other ordinances in conflict with it. Members of the commission are: R. E. Paetz, E. E. Coleman, Robert Travis, Roy Rannels and Milton C. Hoff.

The council heard a report from City Treasurer E. E. Hart that the city has a cash balance of \$53,851.70 in all funds.

It was reported that Robert Newton, Riddle city recorder, attended the school for city recorders at the University of Oregon in Eugene Feb. 20 and 21.

Reflective Tape Donated For Bikes Of Newspaperboys

Newspaper delivery boys representing three newspapers in Roseburg Saturday will have a chance to protect their bicycles and themselves from possible accident.

A. Fuller Johnson, News-Review circulation manager, said an anonymous donor has given two rolls of reflective tape so it can be attached to the bikes of the newspaper boys.

The tape will be put on the bicycles of News-Review, Oregonian and Oregon Journal carriers Saturday until 2 p.m. There are about 90 boys delivering the three newspapers in Roseburg.

Johnson pointed out that most of the boys are either up before daylight or out after dark to deliver newspapers during winter months.

Red tape will be attached to the back fenders of the bikes and white tape to the front fenders.

The tape will be available to the boys at the circulation department of The News-Review on Oak Avenue.

Remodeling Vs. New Construction For Post Office

A survey will be made in Roseburg to determine which would be most feasible, remodeling of the present post office or construction of a new one.

This was reported at a meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Postmaster Clyde Carstens gave a report on the lack of facilities and services available because of the crowded condition of the present building. The committee then discussed ways and means to alleviate the condition.

Similar conditions of other public buildings on the agenda also means of alleviating these conditions were discussed, and methods of rectifying them will be studied at future meetings, according to Chairman Chester Thompson.

GROUP TO MEET

The Women's Association of the Oakland Community Presbyterian Church will meet at the parish house in Oakland at 2 p.m. today.

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