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O.S.P. Correspondent

## Behind the wall

Julius D. Snowden #38013  
Poetry Editor

"It Should Happen To A Dog," directed by Winnie Comb, supervised by Walter Shaw, sponsored by Gary McInnis, located at O.S.P. on the night of September 9, 1978.

The cast of characters were: Marshall Taylor — Narrator; Eddie Dirickson — Jonah; Archie Henderson — Man; Harold Edward — Sailor and Angel; James Gray — Sailor and King; Kelly Marshall, Prop Director; Tom Harding, Prop Assistant.

This rare and exciting drama was only part of a production named, "Pop Concert and Drama."

The O.S.P. Choir, directed by Mariam Helseth and with Dan Rasmussem, presented the following selections: Getting to Know You — Choir; God Is Rejoicing — Choir; Tonight, Tonight — Choir; How Great Thou Art — Choir; They Call The Wind, Maria — Choir; Try To Remember — Choir; and Sunrise, Sunset — Choir. Solo renditions included: Stouthearted Men — Ray Helseth and Choir; Love Story — Robert Reeve; Exodus — Meyer Weinberg; Master The Tempest is Racing — Bobby Grubb; You'll Never Walk Alone — Meyer Weinberg; I Shall Never Pass This Way Again — Dan Winniford; I'll Walk With God — Edward Bradshaw; No Man is an Island — Gary Graul; Through It All — Robert Reeve, Julius Snowden and Choir; I Believe — Meyer Weinberg; Impossible Dream — Deone Washington; Somewhere — Deone Washington; Ebb Tide — George Nulph; and Battle Hymn — Jay Middleton, Julius

Snowden, Deone Washington and Choir. Arrangements were by Raymond Helseth.

Names like Winnie, Dan, Raymond and Mariam may only be everyday folks to you, like a next door neighbor or a person down the street, but to 35 men who reside at 2605 State Street, their names have become a golden treasure, sprinkled with a ray of sunlight.

Through sheer dedication, months of planning and rehearsals, Winnie Combs, a merchant; Sam Rasmussem, a student; Raymond and Mariam Helseth, minister and wife; who worked to bring together a cast and choir of men any theatrical lover would reward with a standing ovation.

For many of the inmates, it was their first experience at memorizing a script or harmonizing a song, but with a sense of pure pride and talent the inmates were able to create an evening for those sitting in the audience.

But all is not splendor and joy. When asking permission to give a repeat performance to another audience of guests from the general public, the request was denied.

There are those who feel it may not be in their best interest to question prison officials. Sometimes it is wiser for one to remember, and for one to never forget, that this is a penitentiary. They are the prisoners, social outcasts, but its sad that such a beautiful event and such work should end as a "once upon a time."

"It Shouldn't Happen To A Dog."



Marshall Taylor and Harold Edwards were among the stars of O.S.P. production of "It Couldn't Happen To A Dog."

## Girl Scout program provides activities for handicapped girls



Michelle Wahl, nine, entering her third year in the Portland Area Campfire this fall, was held in a swing by her mother, Kim.

Kanani "Kim" Wahl, a Portland homemaker, felt tears in her eyes as she watched her nine-year-old daughter advance from Campfire Bluebirds to Campfire Adventurers earlier this year.

She was attending a Portland Campfire Grand Council Fire with parents of other Bluebirds who also had met their advancement requirements.

But unlike many of the other proud parents, Mrs. Wahl was recalling her daughter's extra special achievement.

Her daughter, Michelle, has been handicapped since birth by cerebral palsy. She is spastic and cannot talk. Her arms work slowly, and she cannot walk. She uses a wheelchair and is learning to use a walker.

Michelle is representing United Way of the Columbia-Willamette in its 1978 fund raising campaign, which has a goal of \$10,458,559. The campaign began September 5th and ends November 14th.

The Wahls believe access to public and commercial buildings need to be improved, so they are involved in the Oregon Architectural Barriers Council.

"We are really concerned about her rights under the law," Mrs. Wahl said, referring to a new federal law that requires public agencies, including schools, to provide equal opportunities to the handicapped.

At home Michelle is required to do certain chores, such as sorting the family wash and silverware, and watching her younger brother,

Brian, one, and sisters, Jennifer, six, and Katie, two.

Michelle's kind of kid you have to keep pushing," Mrs. Wahl said. "She would just as soon sit back and smile at you.

"But I expect the same things out of Michelle as other kids," her mother continued. "She does everything they do."

Michelle, who's had corrective surgery four times, goes to the beach with the family and enjoys camping.

"She goes 'gaga' over cute boys and goes fishing with us," Mrs. Wahl said. "When she catches a fish, watch out! Her screaming can be heard for miles."

Raising a handicapped child has been a challenge for the Wahls, but it is one Mrs. Wahl says has been good for her and her husband.

"We've tried harder and we've enjoyed it," she said. "We've decided that we are our own best friends, and our thing is doing things together as a family.

"If my husband had not been the kind of guy who'd accept this and do things for Michelle," Mrs. Wahl added, "we wouldn't have made it."

Michelle recently completed two years in a special Bluebirds group composed of twelve physically handicapped girls. Five of them, including Michelle, advanced to Adventurers.

"I had tears in my eyes because the girls were so excited that they could do what the other girls were doing," said Mrs. Wahl, founder and leader of the handicapped girls group.

The girls, against the advice of others but with the aid of wheelchairs and canes, had joined a ceremonial procession down the center of the auditorium.

"They're regular little girls who talk to boys," Mrs. Wahl said. "I keep telling mothers of the handicapped boys that they should start a Cub Scout group."

In her seventh year at Portland School District's Holladay Center for the Physically Handicapped, Michelle is learning to write and do arithmetic on an electric typewriter.

She wears a special brace on her hand that enables her to type one letter or number at a time, using a prong on the brace. The typewriter was given her by the University of Oregon Health Science Center.

Although Mrs. Wahl and her husband, Greg, appreciate the special training Michelle is receiving, they hope she eventually will be able to attend a "regular" school.

"We can't expect a kid to go out into the world if she's been sheltered all her life," Mrs. Wahl said.

Attendance at a regular school would help the other students un-

derstand the problems of the handicapped, Mrs. Wahl added.

"Children don't mean to be cruel, but they don't know about handicaps. They will stand and stare and be afraid to ask questions."

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