

# VLT's Silver Anniversary

In the days when the Little Theatre movement was sweeping intellectual centers of the nation, Eugene folk decided to start one. Someone remarked that this would be "a VERY Little Theatre" and so a name was born. The Eugene VLT now is 25 years old, and is celebrating its silver anniversary by a special presentation, "Alcestis," by Theodore Martin. The author will be present for the closing performances. On this page are scenes from other plays over the years, which probably will stir many memories.



VERY LITTLE THEATRE of today, in its very own building at 2350 Hilgard St., where it opened in November, 1950. Pictured below is the "Pillbox," a former drugstore, now the annex to Hogan's Grocery on 13th, near Ferry St. It served for seven years, until the removal to the Fairgrounds theater.



GERDA BROWN (Mrs. Eyer Brown) one of the founders of VLT, reached a pinnacle as "Elizabeth," in Elizabeth, the Queen, when played in 1951.



SOON AFTER the VLT moved to the new theater in the Fairgrounds, where Uncle Tom's Cabin was presented in January, 1936, there was a party, and the above picture was taken. Identifications are as follows: 1, Bob Carmichael; 2, Virgil Parker Jr.; 3, Edgar "Buck" Buchanan; 4, Spence Holland; 5, E. R. "Ness" Knollin; 6, Robert Knox; 7, Kenneth Shumaker; 8, Floyd Keeney; 9, Eyer Brown; 10, Mrs. Virgil (Gretchen) Parker; 11, Mrs. Henry Fanny Korn; 12, Mrs. Blair (Dorothy) Alderman; 13, Hugh Rosson; 14, George Giustina; 15, Mrs. Clara Fitch; 16, Mrs. Kenneth (Florence) Shumaker; 17, Mrs. Robert Fay Knox; 18, Mrs. Edgar (Mildred) Buchanan; 19, Mrs. Eyer (Gerda) Brown; 20, Mary Shore Mischler; 21, Mrs. E. R. Knollin; 22, Mrs. Doris Wulzen; 23, Mrs. W. M. (Genevieve) Tugman; 24, W. M. "Bill" Tugman; 25, Mrs. Hugh Rosson; 26, Edgar Wulzen; 27, Kenneth Moore; 28, Mrs. George (Mazie) Giustina; 29, Mrs. C. A. (Hallie) Huntington; 30, Blair Alderman; 31, Mrs. Kenneth (Mildred) Moore; 32, Henry Korn; 33, C. A. "Sky" Huntington; 34, Mrs. Spence Holland; 35, no name, number skipped; 36, Mrs. Eric (Sally) Allen; 37, Mrs. Floyd (Elsie) Keeney; 38, Miss Elizabeth McMahon. Several of those pictured no longer are living.



MARY KRENK (Mrs. Marvin Krenk), who has proved her worth as a serious actress, here is shown as a can-can dancer in the olio of one of the plays.



CLARA FITCH, oldest active member of VLT, long will be remembered for her two renditions of the part of "Marm" in Sally Allen's play, What the Gulls Knew. She played it when the play was premiered in 1934, to mark the fifth anniversary, and when it was repeated in 1950.



WAY OUT THERE, a play of the Oregon Country by Alice Henson Ernst, was produced by VLT in honor of the state's centennial in 1946. Archie Holman, as "Highpockets Smith," was Marjory Ramey, one of the transplanted "Mercer girls."



WHITEOAKS OF JALNA, in spring of 1941, offered this family group at right: (Front row, Dale Frederick as "Wakefield"; Florence Shumaker as "Meg"; Clara Fitch as "Aunt Augusta"; Adrian Martin as "Uncle Ernest"; and Sally Allen as the 101-year-old "Gran Whiteoak"; back row, Ethan Newman as "Uncle Nicholas"; Fred Cuthbert as the family head, "Renny"; Elso Cuthbert (Mrs. Fred) as "Pheasant"; Dick Igl as "Piers", and Gene Edwards as "Finch".

THE FATHER (left) played in The Pillbox in 1935, presented Ernest Knollin, right, in the title role, with Elizabeth Scruggs, center, as the wife, and Sally Allen (left) as the dating nurse. The set by Lance Hart was a memorable feature.

