

Ashland Folk Get Ready for Annual Shakespeare Festival

Ashland, Ore., July 7—This small Siskiyou mountain town entertained 20,000 visitors during its traditional Fourth of July celebration and is now preparing for the main event of the summer—the annual Oregon Shakespearean Festival.

Folks who helped build floats and boarded up rodeo corals are now repairing the outdoor Elizabethan stage and erecting signs of welcome to theater-goers expected here for the ninth annual drama program.

Ashland is the only community in the country which boasts an operating civic Elizabethan theater organization. While student actors from no less than 10 different states are rehearsing for the August 2 opening, the technical details of the program are being directed by a large corps of volunteer Ashland workers.

Marshall Woodell, dean of men at Southern Oregon college, is treasurer of the festival association and keeps close tab of expenditures for costumes and properties. The manager of one of the town's largest sawmills, John Cotton, is chairman of the building committee which this year is concentrating on construction of cement terraces for the audience seating area.

Attorney Harry Skerry, secretary of the association, is contacting celebrities for opening night festivities and answering hundreds of inquiries from playgoers. Properties and stage equipment is in charge of a committee headed by Otto Wilda, professor of art at Southern Oregon.

Ashland residents are justly proud of their Elizabethan theater, for it is the only authentic replica of the famous Globe stage of Shakespeare's day in

gram in five evenings, or at the most, six. "Romeo and Juliet" will open the program, followed by the second of the historical sequence, "Richard II." A troupe of youngsters will assist in the presentation of the fanciful "Midsummer Night's Dream," and a revival of the successful showing of "Othello" will be seen. The program will be completed with "The Taming of the Shrew" which delighted audiences at the San Francisco World Fair in 1939.

Mrs. Cooper Hostess

Independence — Mrs. Erna Cooper opened her home for the regular meeting of the Past Noble Grands club of the Rebekah lodge No. 56, Leta Wunder, vice president, presided during the business meeting and the remainder of the evening was spent informally. Mrs. Cooper, assisted by Mrs. Etta Welch, served refreshments to the 14 members at the close of the evening.

Playful Act Ends In Death

Burley, Ida., July 7 (AP)—What was intended to be a joke resulted in the death here last night of a man and woman who have been only tentatively identified.

Police and volunteer searchers were patrolling Snake river near here today for the bodies of the man and woman who drowned last night after the woman plunged into the river and her companion made a

futile effort to save her.

A witness said the man playfully seized the woman by her ankles and held her head down over the side of Overland bridge, threatening to drop her. His hands slipped.

The woman was tentatively identified as Mrs. Jean Dean, Dallas, Tex., and the man as identified as Jack O'Brien Hara from a prescription and initials in his clothing. Papers left in a late model yellow convertible parked nearby served to identify the woman.

Gilbert Jennings, 13, Vryburn, Ida., was fishing nearby and witnessed the deaths. He

said the man and woman had been throwing objects in the river from the highway bridge. During a tussle, the man grabbed the woman by her ankles and held her over the side of the bridge, young Jennings related. He said the man playfully threatened to drop her, then his hands slipped and the woman plunged into the river.

Pausing only to kick off his shoes, the man made an attempt to save the woman, Jennings said. Both disappeared in the choppy water below the bridge.

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Special Elizabethan pageantry is being planned during the August 2 to 24 festival season in beautiful 100-acre Lithia park. Ceremonies will be held in the new \$25,000 Butler Memorial band shell with the color of period costumes accented by a backdrop of evergreens and snow-capped Mount Ashland.

Five plays will be produced in repertoire this season so that visitors may see the entire program.

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