

Junior Play, 'Green Valley,' Proves Top Entertainment

Probably one of the largest audiences ever to see a school play in Heppner turned out for Heppner High school's junior class production, "Green Valley," a three-act fantasy-comedy staged in the high school multipurpose room Friday and Saturday nights.

The quality of the production matched the size of the crowd. The elaborate and painstaking sets, worth the price of admission alone, were equalled by the performances of the 18 students who had parts in the play.

Under the skillful direction of Mrs. Janet Groves, none of the miscues so common to high school plays were noticeable in this one.

Even those who had long and difficult parts, such as Tim Driscoll as the cunning and sly Tobias J. Everheer, a big land operator, and David Clark as Eldon Berry, owner of Green Valley, carried them off to as near perfection as amateur young dramatists could.

The "house was packed" Friday night, and almost all seats were taken again Saturday night as the audience showed its appreciation for the good work of the high school drama department. Principal Gordon Pratt said that more than 500 persons came in all.

It was a very difficult play for a high school cast to stage, since it involved some tricky props—the huge sunflowers, mammoth carrots, potatoes and strawberries, as well as big "rocks" that had to stand the weight of those walking over them. Some giant string beans had to grow on the "fertile soil" of Green Valley before the eyes of the audience, and they did—without a hitch. It would be difficult to estimate how many hours the production crew spent to build these props, but it must have been sizeable, and they deserve a good slice of the credit for its success.

Attention to detail was apparent. Real soil covered the stage, and when Eldon Berry and Lonesome Berry (Mark Brown) became involved in a tussle on stage, they stirred up real dust.

The action, which called upon the characters of the present to mingle with some who returned from the past as the fantasy part of the play, was difficult but it was carried out effectively. It was a play where all the characters performed admirably and it would be a hard job to pick a "best actor" and a "best actress."

Besides those mentioned, the cast included Shirley Erwin as Prim Stokes, Gene Heliker as Tinker Smith, Maureen Doherty as Martha Mears, and Brenda Young as Eva Friese, all the "live ones." From the past were Steve Warren as Grampaw Berry, Judy Jones as Granny Berry, David Van Scholack as Calhoun Berry, Ray Jones as Jeb Berry, Ken Morgan as Ransom Berry, and Sheridan Wyman as Prudence Berry.

Displaced settlers in the play were Dick Flaiz as Rufe Thomas, Janis Baker as Sarah, Mickey Massey as Hip Cooley, Joan Stockard as Mamie, and Mike Pierce as Shade Stokes.

Action concerned Everheer's malevolent attempts to oust Eldon Berry from fertile Green Valley. The ancestors of the Berry family came out of the past to intervene. Old Everheer's dam caused a migration of the displaced settlers, and all the while a romantic thread was woven through the play with Prim Stokes and Eldon Berry's love being threatened by the complications. In the end, the villain Everheer was put in his place, Berry retained Green Valley, together with his girl; the displaced persons returned to their homes; and the elder Berries went back to their spirit world.

Anita Groves was in charge of sound effects of the play, a substantial job in this one, and David Hands had charge of lighting. Tom Rawlins was in charge of production. They were assisted by all the boys of the play cast.

Margaret Green was manager of art production (and what a beautiful job on the sets!). She was assisted by Susan Drake and Erna Winchester. On the properties committee were Cynthia Smith, Lee Ann Grissom and Rogenia Wilson. On make-up were Karla Luciani, Ginger Majeske, Teresa Monahan and Theresa Munkers. Working on costumes were Gayle Batty, Jean Healy, Trisha Farley and Barbara Gribble. In charge of advertising were Diane Schaffitz, Ginger Majeske and Teresa Monahan.

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And they're right. They should be given more credit. But where do you stop on a fine play like this?

Annual Scout Drive for Funds Supports Council

The annual financial drive for continued support of the Blue Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America, was begun this week by members of the Heppner Troop No. 600 and executive leaders in this district. The plan was outlined by scouting leaders Monday night in the Heppner High school cafeteria. Serving as chairman of the community drive is Paul Warren.

Residents will be contacted personally during the next two weeks for financial support of the council's program.

It is through public contributions that the Blue Mountain Council can carry on its program of providing camping facilities, office services, training of leaders, professional staff, maintenance of individual service and advancement records, organization and re-registration of units, advanced training of Scouts and Explorers.

"The Blue Mountain Council appreciates your participation in this project. The number of boys served is in direct proportion to the amount of money available. You are the key to the success of the Scouting program." This is a message to the public as a part of the sustaining membership enrollment plan.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Patients admitted to Pioneer Memorial hospital for medical care during the past week, then dismissed, include the following: Georgia Lynch, Heppner; Eileen Padberg, Lexington; and Jesse Warfield, Ione, deceased.

Those admitted, and still receiving medical care include the following: Edna Breslin, Heppner; Jessie Batty, Heppner; Hazel Lamorie, Lexington; Charles Conlee, Fossil; Marie Wall, Kinzua; Alice Anderson, Heppner, and Robert Klinger, Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston, Heppner, became parents of a fourth child on Friday, December 4. A daughter, Jennifer Kae, was born, weighing 7 lbs., 4 oz. She joins two brothers and one sister at home.

Dr. Hummel Report On File in Library

The 103-page report of Dr. Errett Hummel on the Morrow county school system is on file in the Heppner library and copies are available for loaning to the public, Principal Gordon Pratt states.

The survey has been attracting keen interest from the public, and a crowd of 150 was on hand at the last PTA meeting to hear Dr. Hummel discuss the report after it had been presented to the county school board earlier.

Mr. and Mrs. David Creswick and 8-month-old daughter, Wendy, arrived Saturday evening from Salt Lake City, where Mr. Creswick had been taking specialized training in electronic communication. They visited Mrs. Creswick's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schmidt, and are now in Portland interviewing for employment and visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Creswick.

Service Friday For J. Warfield, County Pioneer

Robert Jesse Warfield, a member of one of Morrow county's oldest pioneer families, died Monday evening, December 7, at Pioneer Memorial hospital at the age of 74. He had been in failing health for some time.

Born in Ione January 22, 1890, he was the son of pioneer parents, Sam and Sarah Warfield. He had lived as a resident and rancher near Ione all of his life. On December 29, 1918, he was united in marriage to Hilma Amanda Carlson in Portland, Oregon. He was a baptized member of the Valby Lutheran church.

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 11, at 2 p.m., at Valby Lutheran church, with the Rev. Kenneth Robinson officiating. Interment will follow at High View cemetery near Ione. The family prefers that memorials be given to the Valby general memorial fund.

Surviving him are his wife, Amanda; an adopted daughter, Mrs. Laura Lorenzen of Bremerton, Wn.; three grandsons; one sister, Mrs. Lovely Fisk of Kennewick, Wn.; one brother, Chester Warfield in Canada, and several nephews in Washington and Oregon.

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In a tour of Capitol Hill, Robbie and Kerrie Whitaker of Cincinnati, Ohio, are introduced by their Congressman, Carl W. Rich, to Speaker of the House John McCormack in the latter's office. The charming brother and sister, now serving their second term as national poster children of Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, were in Washington to meet with Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, MDAA's Honorary Chairman.

MORROW COUNTY SCHOOLS SCHEDULE

December 15
Morrow County School Board meeting—Courtroom at 7:30.
A. C. Houghton Library open—adults welcome—7:30 to 9:00.
Boy Scouts—7:00 to 9:00 at A. C. Houghton.
Cub Scouts—3:15 to 4:30 at A. C. Houghton.

December 16
Ione High vs. Heppner High at Heppner, 8:00 p.m.
Preliminary game—Freshmen Bluebirds at A. C. Houghton—2:30 to 4:00.

December 17
A. C. Houghton vs. Umatilla at Irigton—2:00.
Grange at A. C. Houghton.
Community 4-H Meeting at A. C. Houghton—7:30.

December 18
Basketball game sponsored by Ione Lions club at Ione.
Heppner High vs. Enterprise at Enterprise.

December 19
Athena vs. Riverside at Athena.
Heppner Elementary vs. Pilot Rock at Pilot Rock—1:30.
Ione Elementary vs. Stanfield at Ione—1:30.
Extension Class—Math 410—Heppner Elementary, 7:30.

December 19
DeSales vs. Heppner High at Heppner—8:00 p.m.
Riverside vs. Stanfield at Stanfield.
Heppner High Christmas dance, Extension Class—Math 410—9:00 p.m.—Heppner Elementary.

Wranglers Slate Christmas Party

Annual Christmas party and potluck dinner of the Heppner Wranglers will be Sunday, December 13, at 6 p.m. in the fair pavilion. It is announced. Members are invited to bring guests. A program and regular meeting will be held during the evening.

Martha Peck Wins League Decal Prize

Martha Peck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Peck of Lexington, has been judged winner of the Oregon Wheat League's contest for a design for a decal to advertise and promote the league. Walt Jacobs, chairman of the league's public relations committee, said.

The award, which carries a \$20 prize, was announced at the Wheat League meeting in La Grande last week. There were about 35 entries in the contest which was publicized and advertised throughout eastern Oregon.

Martha's design was in a circular shape with a stalk of wheat inside and carrying the words, "Oregon Wheat League." The winning entry was selected by judges after a series of eliminations. It now will be used as the basis for the league's promotion decal.

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Monday Council Meet Last For Three Members

Auditor Reports City Finances In 'Good Shape'

"Financially the City of Heppner is in good shape," Allan Langenwatter of Hermiston, auditor, told the council in his report on the audit at the Monday evening meeting of the council.

It was the last regular meeting for three councilmen whose terms expire at the end of the year. Two were present, Councilman Ed Gonty, who has served for 12 years, and Councilman John Pfeiffer. Councilman Earl Ayres, who was not a candidate for reelection this year, was absent.

New councilmen, elected in November, who will take office at the meeting on January 4 are Haskell Sharrard, Bill Collins and David McLeod. Carryover councilmen include Carl Spaulding, LeRoy Gardner and W. C. Rosewall. The latter was re-elected in November. Collins is a former mayor returning to municipal service and Sharrard and McLeod will be serving for their first time.

City Recorder Ted Smith also attended his last official meet-

ing, since he will retire at the end of the year. Mrs. Elaine George, elected as recorder, and Mrs. Ernest McCabe, who will succeed La Verne Van Marter as treasurer, were present at the December meeting.

Abrams Gives Report

Besides hearing the auditor's report, the council heard a report from Bob Abrams, city attorney, on a League of Oregon Cities meeting and on proposals for an ordinance to control transient peddling; it accepted the general election vote after a canvass; it approved a beer and wine license for Hamlin's, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamlin; it approved free parking in the city for four days at the request of Randall Peterson who appeared on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce; it heard a complaint from Floyd Hutchins who protested because his request for a building permit had been tabled; it eyed the city's liability insurance program at the request of the city attorney; it granted City Superintendent Vic Groshens permission to buy 500 yards of crushed rock from a contractor for the State of Oregon; and it approved a building permit applied for by Howard Keithley, \$1000, for construction of a warehouse and storage garage.

In making his audit report, Langenwatter said that excess funds of the city have been properly invested.

"You're in an enviable position in regard to budgeting," he said. "You operate without spending all you are entitled to." At the same time, he said, the city appears generally to receive a little more revenue than is anticipated.

Recorder Commended

The auditor complimented Recorder Smith, saying that his books and records were in "excellent shape." He added that Mrs. George has the "training and know-how" to continue this good work.

Langenwatter said that accounts receivable in the water department are in "good shape," adding that there are some delinquent accounts but not exceeding 15% past due. This, he said, is excellent for a municipality.

An area that needs improvement is that of setting up a ledger for fixed assets, such as trucks, vehicles and other equipment, he said.

The auditor cautioned that the city should "watch its state tax street fund," adding, "The state says if you don't spend the money, they will take it back, and they mean it. You're not using all yours." Langenwatter said that there is a broad interpretation of how this state money allocated to cities may be used, covering virtually anything that can be construed to have any connection with streets.

The auditor said that bonds carried by the city to cover its city employees are not sufficient, considering the amount of money handled.

He said that many cities are no longer covering their employees with these bonds, but said that if it is the policy to carry them, they should be sufficient to cover the amount of money handled.

Liability Considered

Attorney Abrams brought up the matter of the city's liability insurance. He said that the city should check with insurance agents to see what liability is covered. Abrams said that recent

interpretations may remove governmental immunity from legal suits. If this is done, the city can be sued and its insurance program should cover its possible liability.

At the League meeting, which he attended and which Mrs. George also attended, he heard some discussion on changes of the local budget law. Some cities are objecting to the increased cost of publishing their budgets, he said.

Warning Given

On the matter of building permits, Councilman Pfeiffer had a word of warning about the practice of issuing permits long after a construction job has been finished, something that has been done here in some cases.

"Sometime after we get a zoning ordinance here someone is liable to get hurt," he said.

Councilman Gonty, who presided at the session in the absence of Mayor Al Lamb, asked Supt. Groshens if bridges had been checked for adequate clearance and removal of debris with the heavy runoff season coming up.

Supt. Groshens replied, "The bridges are in as good a shape as they ever have been." At the same time he said it is hard to anticipate how much water will come to tax them. He said the Willow creek channel also appears clear.

Hutchins Appears

Hutchins, whose request for a building permit in August was tabled until he showed the council his plans for making sewer

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