

Festival's Romance Play Well Received

William Shakespeare's "Pericles, Prince of Tyre" was among the first romance plays he wrote. It was popular with audiences during the Elizabethan period, but there have been few times since then that it has seen similar popularity.

Perhaps this is due to Shakespeare's use of formal devices which gave the play a fairyland quality in order to render it plausible. For indeed it does border on the supernatural in places, and it abounds in sensational situations and surprises.

But whatever the cause of its unpopularity following the Elizabethan period, it has, since the turn of the century, been staged with general success at various times.

Well Received

Robert B. Loper's production of "Pericles" at the Shakespearean Festival in Ashland Friday night was well received by almost a full house. Directing such a play does not in itself make the play success, however. Selecting good characters, particularly for the parts of Gower and Pericles, is necessary to carry the play forward in a smooth, entertaining fashion.

George Vafiadis, cast as Pericles, does a commendable job, not only as the young prince fleeing Antioch in the face of death but also as an elderly king mourning the loss of his wife and daughter.

Ed Brubaker as Gower has a part as important and about as long as that of Pericles. It is Gower who provides the narrative, and does it well in presenting background material during time lapses representing several years at a time.

Without good casting in those two parts, the play would not have received the audience response it did. But as in any play, supporting roles play a major part, and several such roles in Pericles enhanced the overall production.

Stand-Out Scenes

Because the play contains some supernaturalism, family partings and reunions, shipwrecks, and other events which are seldom seen in modern plays, there are several scenes which

stand out.

The first scene, in which Antiochus, King of Antioch, provides the reason for Pericles' flight from death, is marked by evil. George Vafiadis' presentation as Antiochus, and Marcia Thayer as his daughter, not only have evil in their voices, but also in their appearance, thanks to wardrobe artist Julia Sandoe and to excellent lighting effects.

Another memorable scene takes place in Ephesus after the coffin bearing Pericles' wife, Thaisa, is washed ashore. Michael O'Sullivan, who played Cardinal Wolsey in Henry VIII so effectively, has a natural-born part as Cerimon, a lord of Ephesus, and a magical physician. His voice and physical actions provide what Shakespeare probably had in mind in mystifying the character. It is Cerimon who, after Thaisa's coffin has been opened, brings her back to life.

Brothel Scene

Scenes in the brothel, to which Pericles' daughter, Marina, is taken after her capture by pirates, are staged with excellence. Marina's virtue dominates all forces of vice, and she reforms the bawdy house clientele, eventually forcing the house into bankruptcy.

Jean Cartwright portrays Marina as an innocent, virtuous lady exceptionally well. In fact, had she remained in the brothel much longer, she may even have reformed the Bawd, played by Muriel Eisenberg, who did as a good a rendition as the Bawd as she did Audrey in "As You Like It."

Jerry Turner as Pandar and William Sharp as Boult, his servant, provide a touch of comedy in the brothel scenes, and both characterizations seem to be well adopted to the parts.

Perhaps the two most important scenes are those in which Pericles is reunited with his daughter and wife. Pericles is most impressive when his daughter, whom Pericles believes is dead, attempts to have him speak after a three-month silence. It is a moving scene in which Vafiadis reaches his acting height in the play.

Final Scene

The final scene, in which Per-



A group of Portland professional women were honored at a luncheon given by Medford Altrusa club Thursday noon at Rogue Valley Country club. The group included (left to right) Mrs. Marguerite Spicker, radio-logical technician; Mrs. Freda Cowling, club editor of the Portland Oregonian; Miss Adeline Kendall, owner of Kendall Handicrafts shop; Miss Pearl Base, assistant vice-president

of the First National bank. Portland and Mrs. Ruth Kennedy, director of Arts and skills for the Red Cross in Portland. All but Mrs. Cowling are members of Portland Altrusa club. The women attended rehearsals and performances of the Shakespearean festival in Ashland during the week, as well as a number of social events. They returned to Portland by the coast route. (Knackstedt photo)

Bark Converted Into Good Soil Builder

Chicago — Scientists at the Army Research Foundation report they have developed a method of converting bark into an inexpensive and unusually effective soil-builder.

In tests with greenhouse plants and field crops, the new product was found more effective in promoting growth and improving the soil than either peat moss or a commercial soil conditioner, the ARF said.

Dr. Roland McCully, scientific adviser in the foundation's chemistry and chemical engineering department, said the bark soil-builder, used with fertilizer, turns clay and sand into rich, loamy soil in which plants grow at a surprising rate.

Contemporary Antennae Unsuitable for Rocket

East Lansing, Mich. — The first rocket to the moon will need antennae, but space ships won't be able to use the cumbersome devices we know as home radio and television receivers.

Two Michigan State University scientists currently are attempting to solve mathematical problems in hopes of stripping away part of the mystery still surrounding the operation of antennae.

Rockets and satellites couldn't use clumsy outside antennae such as those perched on top of roofs for television reception, say the scientists. They not only would slow down travel speed but would break off.

Sunday, August 25, 1937

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—ELEVEN

Historic Alaska Town Gets Lifting

Valdez, Alaska — This historic old gold-rush port is getting a face-lifting.

Seven civil works projects which will cost the federal government \$7,000,000 are scheduled for this fiscal year. The projects include flood control, breakwaters and a small-boat harbor.

Valdez had its beginnings in Revolutionary War days but didn't become famous until the gold rush. During the harsh winter of 1898, some 3000 poorly prepared, but eager prospectors attempted the "All-American" route from Valdez through the raw wilderness of the Copper River valley to the booming Klondike gold fields.

Hundreds of ill-equipped, ill-informed men died by the trail. In 1899, only a year after the rush began, the population of

Valdez cemetery outnumbered the population of the teeming tent city.

By 1910, a trail was blazed to link Valdez with Fairbanks. The trail grew into the Richardson Highway. Today an endless stream of highway transport trucks links the almost-tamed interior with Valdez.

Company Provides Insurance for Help

Chicago — A Morton Grove, Ill., manufacturing firm claims it is the nation's first major industry to give retired employees medical care insurance.

Bell and Gossett company said the coverage is in the form of single premium contracts, effective on the retirement dates of the employees. It insures both them and their wives for the rest of their lives, the company said.

The plan, worked out in co-operation with actuaries of the Continental Assurance company, provides hospital benefits for 31 days at \$14 a day, a \$210 maximum for miscellaneous hospital charges, and surgical benefits ranging from \$5 to \$300, the company said.

Here is a good topping for coffee cake. Arrange 2 to 3 medium apples, sliced, on the cake batter which has been spread in a baking pan. Brush the apples with 2 tablespoons of melted butter or margarine. Mix together ¼ cup of sugar and ½ teaspoon of cinnamon and sprinkle on apples. Bake according to recipe directions.

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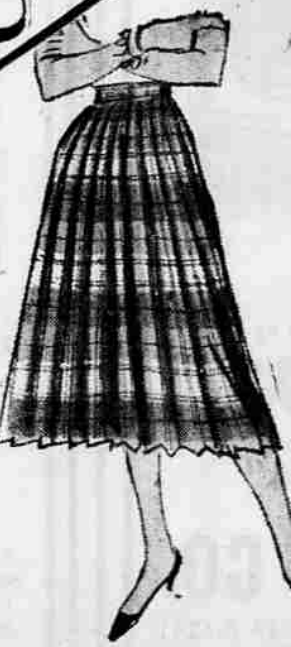
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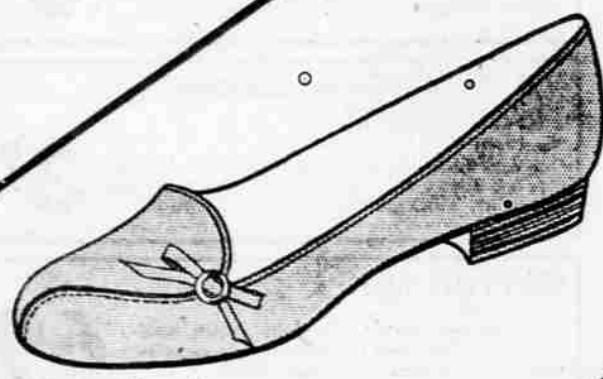
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