

Shylock Presented As Egotistical Man By Festival Actor

Since William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" was first staged, there have been many interpretations of Shylock, the dominant character in the play.

Interpretations have ranged from the symbol of a race to that of a tragic figure, to that of a villain with whom the audience could sympathize.

He is an individual, as individual in his own right as Richard III, Hamlet, Macbeth and King Lear are in theirs. Shylock is a man who is looking out for Shylock, and as such is understandable and appealing.

An audience with recent history of persecution of the Jews still strong in mind, will not find the part of Shylock as comic as one today as perhaps was Shakespeare's intent. There are scenes in which Shylock provokes laughter, but for the most part the audience views him with seriousness.

Central Man
 Arthur L. Bowmer, producing director of the Festival, for the seventh time last night presented his interpretation of Shylock. Bowmer and Director James Sandoe attempted, and with a great deal of success, to show Shylock as an example of an egotistical man. But to make an interpretation too narrow, and carry it through, would be impossible since Shakespeare himself gave Shylock many facets.

YMCA Plans Family Camping at Lake

Nine days of family camping have been planned for Rogue valley families at the Young Men's Christian association's Diamond lake camp.

Families have been invited to participate for any number of the nine available days they might choose. Dates for camping will be Aug. 10 through Aug. 16 and Aug. 30 through Sept. 1.

Costs for the activities will be based on the cost of food and lodging. Families may cook their own food or have it cooked by the camp cook. Campers will furnish their own bedding or sleeping bags and families furnishing their own tents will have no lodging costs.

Registrations may be made at the YMCA, 522 West Sixth st., Medford or by telephoning SPing 2-6295.

Development Director Named

Portland—(UPI)—The Portland Development Commission Wednesday named John B. Kenward, an architectural engineer, to be executive director.

Kenward, former planning director at Santa Barbara, Calif., will head the new Commission's proposed urban renewal of an 83-acre tract south of the main downtown core area into a business and commercial showplace.

The Commission's first work session Wednesday also saw the appointment of Mrs. Joy O'Brien as relocation director. She is the wife of a Portland attorney and a former supervisor for the Chicago Land Clearance Commission. The Portland Commission will draw on both Federal and voter-approved tax funds to rehabilitate the 53-block area.

Traffic Fatalities Decrease in 1958

Chicago—(UPI)—Traffic fatalities in the United States showed a drop from the previous year's figures for the month of June, the National Safety Council reported today.

The six-month death total of 16,240 was 7 per cent below the 17,310 figure for the corresponding period last year and was the lowest six-month toll since 1954.

June brought a saving of 300 lives with a 19 per cent drop from 3,610 last year to 3,010 this year. June was the 18th of the past 19 months to show a decrease.

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Egotistical Shylock may be, but the audience cannot help feel he is a tragic figure; a wronged individual representing a wronged race. One cannot help but sympathize.

Bowmer's pronunciation, his presentation of the famous arguments as to the human equalities of a Jew, his actions and appearance, combine to create the complex personality of the moneylender.

Centered Around Shylock

It is around Shylock, and his dealings with the merchant, Antonio, that the play is centered. But without strong supporting roles, three sets of lovers, the melancholy merchant and his friends, the personality of Shylock could not be developed. Jerry Turner serves well the part of the merchant, Antonio.

Bassanio, the loyal friend for whom Antonio bonds himself, is portrayed by William Nye, who presents the part of Portia's suitor delightfully. Friends of Antonio and Bassanio, Solanio, Salarino, Gratiano and Lorenzo, are all youthful parts, and Rudolf E. Vest Jr., Charles A. Cook, George Riddle and Keith Fowler present them with the necessary youthful spontaneity.

Riddle, as Gratiano, does an exceedingly good portrayal of a nervous youth, often fingering his sash, especially toward the play's end when Gratiano and Bassanio find the rings given them by their brides.

In Second Season

Margaret Vafiadis, in her second season at the Festival, pleasantly portrays Portia. She has the maturity of a young woman who has been wooed by many a man—yet also has the young-in-heart feeling which captures the audience, and the man she desires.

Nagle Jackson adds comedy and brightens the play as the part of Launcelot Gobbo, the clown. He does a wonderful job in presenting dialogue, and seems natural in the part. The scene in which Launcelot Gobbo meets his father, Old Gobbo, played by Michael O'Sullivan, is a memorable one. O'Sullivan is convincing in his blindness.

Shirley Douglass, as Nerissa, Portia's gentlewoman, presents a fine performance of a maid attracted to Gratiano, and Ellen Kay is commendable in the part of Jessica, Shylock's daughter, who takes some of her father's wealth and flees to Lorenzo dressed as a boy.

Well Staged Scenes

The production contains many well staged scenes, among them the court scene in which Shylock is prevented from obtaining his bond; and the scenes in which the Prince of Morocco and the Prince of Arragon open small caskets for the hand of Portia.

Another impressive scene is one in which Lorenzo and Jessica are at Portia's estate waiting her return; and last night it was enhanced by a bright moon. The only thing to be desired would be more volume in Fowler's presentation of Lorenzo.

But by far the most impressive scenes were those in which Shylock appeared. His actions, voice, and costume dominated the stage.

The production of "The Merchant of Venice," one of Shakespeare's more popular plays at the Ashland theater, was indeed a fine one. Impressive characterizations of secondary roles were less noticeable only because of the dominance of Shylock. But without the over-all superior acting, even the part of Shylock could not have been so impressive.

"The Merchant" may prove to be the Festival's most popular play this season. And it well deserves its popularity.—E.H.A.



A RIDE IN THE COUNTRY—Specialist John Thomas, of Steubenville, Ohio, has a soft drink and a ride on a donkey in bivouac area near the airport at Beirut, Lebanon.



RECOVERING—Actress Suzy Parker, her left arm still in a sling, leaves hospital in New York, six weeks after the tragic accident at St. Augustine, Fla., in which she had both arms broken and her father was fatally injured.

Motorists Watch As Man Jumps

Sagamore, Mass.—(UPI)—Richard B. Bengtsson, 52, stared for a moment at the swirling waters 135 feet below the Sagamore Bridge, then vaulted the guard railing

and plunged downward. The heavy traffic on the bridge jolted to a halt. A woman tourist screamed, then fainted.

Centennial Attracts European Countries

Portland—(UPI)—Six European countries sent word Wednesday that they will participate in Oregon's exposition and trade fair.

James McDonald, consul for Great Britain, received word from the six countries. He said they would build and maintain a joint exhibit covering 6,000 square feet.

McDonald said he believed it was the first time the countries have combined in a single trade fair exhibit anywhere in the world.

The countries are Great Britain, West Germany, Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

While some rushed to her aid, several motorists put in an urgent call to police who arrived within minutes.

A Coast Guard crash boat sped up the Cape Cod Canal, which is spanned by a bridge, followed closely by a U. S. Corps of Engineers craft. They began to drag the waters.

Several minutes later, Bengtsson reappeared on a catwalk to which he had jumped and looked upward into a sea of worried faces.

Bengtsson, a bridge maintenance worker, explained to his audience and the police that a beam beneath the bridge was a nice private place to change into his work clothes.

Most clocks measure seconds which are defined at 1-86,400th part of a day.

Iraq Oil Fields Still Appear Normal 2 Weeks After Revolt

By DANIEL F. GILMORE
 United Press International
 Kirkuk, Iraq—(UPI)—This is where it all begins and this is where it all may end some day.

Here or near here is the fabulous Kirkuk oil belt. Here are a maze of coils, chimneys, tank farms generators and pumps—all incredibly quiet in their movement under the fierce summer heat.

And from here spider out the pipelines to the Mediterranean, across hundreds of miles of desert.

A little more than 750,000 gallons of oil an hour are now passing quietly through the 30-inch and two 16-inch arteries westward.

It goes at a pulsating 45 miles an hour, regenerated when impetus lags by isolated desert pumping stations with names such as K2, K3.

United Nationals
 Iraqis, Scotsmen, Britons,

Americans, French, Dutch and many other nationalities sweat to keep the oil moving. When not outside in the merciless sun they pore over charts, graphs, analyses in the blessed comfort of air-conditioned offices.

It is not bad working for the Iraq Petroleum company inside. It's pretty rough outside.

I drove up through the "outside" from Baghdad to see how the revolution affected this gold-mine of black oil. So far, not a bit.

If anything, the IPC is increasing its production. Nothing has been touched—and the army is making sure that nothing will be touched.

Supreme Automation

The big IPC plants lie just north of Kirkuk which is a sprawling oasis city of houses, none more than two or three stories.

The plants, sprawled over

many square miles, are as quiet as the desert itself. It is automation at its supreme. Only the occasional deep hum of a generator breaks the silence.

You climb up a big circular glass dome and see nothing but machinery and heat waves distorting straight things into corkscrews.

Yet down there are at least 1,000 persons working at any one time. And you never see oil.

Only the soft whine of a generator and the noticeable spinning of an axle indicate motion.

Everything looked normal, two weeks after the revolution.

Councillor's First Words Are His Last

London—(UPI)—Councillors attending the St. Pancras borough council meeting here cheered when member George Humberstone rose to address the gathering.

For the first time since he was elected six years ago George was going to say something.

"Thank you for your encouragement and sympathy during my recent illness," he said—and sat down.

Then the 80-year-old councillor slumped over his seat dead.

WILL VISIT BONN

Bonn, Germany—(UPI)—Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani, currently in Washington for talks with President Eisenhower, will visit Bonn Saturday, informed sources said today.

Mother Outdraws Son; Kills Him

Sunnyvale, Calif.—(UPI)—A 23-year-old airman was accidentally shot to death Wednesday night by his mother while they tried to "outdraw" each other with his .22 caliber pistols, police reported.

The dead man was identified as James R. Clayton, attached to the 22nd A & E Squadron at March Air Force Base. Sheriff's deputies said Clayton lived off base with his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Clayton, 45, at her home here.

Mrs. Clayton told deputies her son rarely kept the guns loaded and that they both "assumed" they were empty. She said she pulled the trigger twice and nothing happened. The third time the gun fired.

U.S. Steel Hour Program Called Bucket of Bilge

By WILLIAM EWALD
 United Press International
 New York—(UPI)—CBS-TV's "U. S. Steel Hour" scraped bottom Wednesday night with a sudy, soupy, droopy, drippy bucket of bilge, "Climate of Marriage."

I may have seen worse one-hour TV plays this season but offhand I can't come up with any competitors. "Climate of Marriage" was one of those things where a husband becomes involved with a girl

and the husband's wife decides to ... fight ... for ... her ... man.

Sad Row of Ducks

All the cliches waddled out like a sad little row of ducks. Among them: the scene in which the wife confronts the other woman, the scene in which the elderly parent gives advice, the scene in which the girl and the husband are surprised in their love nest by the girl's naive brother, the scene in which the husband's boss tries to straighten the whole rotten mess out for the good of the firm and for the good of good old Sam, the hubby.

Wife Real Horror

The wife, incidentally, won ... her ... fight. But I could not understand why. She was a real horror—selfish, waspish, loathsome, completely unpalatable.

James Daly and Betsy Palmer, two attractive people, labored long and hard in the cause. Leora Dana, as the wife suffered, suffered, suffered. I was with her all the way.

Cooler Weather Eases Logging Ban

Portland—(UPI)—Cooler temperatures have eased restrictions on logging in western Oregon and Washington. Eastern and Southern Oregon, however, are still restricted.

Restrictions were lifted in Raymond, Wash., and on a part-time basis in the Port Orchard, Shelton, Chehalis, Kelso, Vancouver and Elbe districts and in the Olympia National forest. The order extends through Thursday midnight and loggers are to be out of the areas by 1 p.m.

The logging shutdown was continued for another 24 hours in the Deming, Sedro Woolley, Sutan, North Bend and Enumclaw districts and in the Lewis river ranger district of Pinchot National forest.

Fire danger was considered moderate in Northwest Oregon but continued high elsewhere in the state.

NEWS OFFICIAL DIES

New York—(UPI)—Benjamin Frischwasser, 75, secretary of the board of directors of the Jewish Daily Forward, Yiddish-language newspaper, died Wednesday.

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