

Former Rockettes Dance For Different Purposes Now

UPI Women's Editor
Pelham Manor, N.Y.—UPI—
The room in which the three former Rockettes now dance is a far step from the giant stage of Radio City Music hall.

Once they were part of that famous precision line which entertained millions. Now, their audience is smaller, their dancing for a different purpose.

The three are pioneers in the Rockette Alumnae associa-

tion's vounteer project of dancing classes for retarded children.

Once a week, Mrs. Harry Mayer of New Rochelle, Mrs. Leon Bleyer of Mt. Vernon, and Mrs. Thomas MacDonald of Dobbs Ferry, load bags of lollipops into their cars and drive to a two-story frame house converted to a private school in this wealthy Westchester County community.

Here, they teach basic rhythm and dance steps to children from kindergarten through high school are who are ineligible for public school because their intelligence quotient in tests showed below 50, which the public schools require for admission.

How Project Grew
The project grew from a Rockette alumnae reunion in New York in 1955, when the group decided to support some worthy cause. Jeanne Phillips Walsh of Sikeanceles, N.Y., suggested an agency which few of the Rockettes at the time had heard of, the National Association for Retarded Children.

Now association members, some 200, help raise funds for the agency and have spread the dance project to schools in Maspeth, N.Y., Arlington, Mass., San Antonio, Los Angeles and Miami. And the three who hold classes here plan a similar program in Greenwich, Conn., soon.

I recently sat in on the Pelham classes, one of about 45 minutes for the older children, 10 to 15; the other, about 30 minutes, for the five to nine group. Several of the older children are repeaters from last year. But all the younger ones have attended only four sessions so far this year.

All Pitch In
Mrs. Mayer acts as head teacher while the other two assist the least skilled children.

She led the older group through limbering exercises, "makes them relax sooner," she said; through a waltz where some danced with the Rockettes and others chose other partners; a square dance, some simple tap steps, a lesson in the cha-cha, and finally through a conga line.

"The cha-cha's my favorite," said a 10-year-old girl. Mrs. Mayer said that most of the children preferred the active square dance to all the steps; the waltz is a cinch.

The lessons for the younger children are less complicated, mostly limbering up and square dance, but Mrs. Mayer said by the end of the school term she expected most of them to know the waltz and fox trot.

Mrs. Amelia H. Simpson, a pioneer in teaching the backward and director of the school since its founding eight years ago by the New Rochelle League for Retarded Children, said the dance classes fit beau-



New York—Metropolitan Opera has a new star—Swedish soprano Birgit Nilsson triumphed in the difficult Wagner opera "Tristan and Isolde" in New York Friday. Birgit is shown here in a 1958 photo costumed in her role in "Turandot" at La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy. —(UPI Telephoto)

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Sams Valley Sets Christmas Play

Sams Valley—Students of Sams Valley school of district 6C will present a Christmas play and choral numbers at the annual program scheduled Monday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium, Russell Carr, principal has announced. Parents have been invited.

The program will revolve around a play, "Let's Take It To Mars," with youngsters of the first through eighth grades taking part.

Participating in the play will be Stanley Shope, John McDonough, Bruno Meyer, Dave Adolphson, Charlotte Bone, Mike King, Mary Brockrose, Larry Bureson, Vickie Sanderson, Sharon Harrison, and Anita Shope.

Mrs. William Brewster is general chairman of the program arrangements and music. Other members of the faculty assisting include Mrs. Mildred Mack, Mrs. Susan Ambrose, Niles Smith and Carr.

Prior to the Christmas program, the Sams Valley Parent Teacher association will meet in the school cafeteria. The unit is sponsoring Santa Claus' appearance following the program.

Christmas parties will be held in classrooms starting at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, Carr said. School will be dismissed at 2 p.m. for the holiday vacation.

To make even hamburger patties, press raw meat into an empty, opened-ended milk carton and slice through the carton to the desired size.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 13

Group to Rebuild Fire-Razed Plant

Sweet Home—UPI—Floyd W. Van Horn, vice president of Oregon Plywood Corp., has announced the purchase of the controlling stock interest in the mill and plans to rebuild the plant razed by fire last June.

Van Horn said he and a group of persons had signed contracts with Robert E. and Mary W. Hofheins, holders of more than 98 per cent of the stock.

He said the transaction involved about one million dollars.

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Hart Named Head Of Heart Fund Here

Floyd H. Hart Jr., Medford, was named 1960 Heart Fund chairman for Jackson county, according to the Oregon Heart association.

In accepting the chairmanship, Hart said that heart and blood vessel diseases are the nation's number one health enemy, taking more lives each year than all other causes of death combined.

He said the heart fund is the nation's best defense against these diseases since it supports research, education and community service programs of the American Heart association.

The drive for funds will get under way in Jackson county Feb. 1 and continue to Feb. 28. Local volunteers will collect funds by making door-to-door visits.

Glamor has been added to long underwear. Nylon taffeta covers the outside of new zip-front under shirts and trousers. Inside is a filling of Dacron, and a cotton knit interlining goes next to the body. The underwear is absorbent and warm and designed for outdoor sports or suburban-country living.

Fitfully into the school's overall purpose, to teach the children self-help and social adjustment.

"We want them to be able to go places with their families," she said. "We were so proud of one little girl who learned the waltz here. When the family took her to Europe on a vacation, she danced all the way to Italy on the boat."

Valley Residents To Attend Meeting

Four southern Oregon residents will participate in the 42nd annual convention of the Oregon Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Dec. 27 to 29 in Portland.

Lee Ragsdale, past president of the association and physical education director of Medford public schools, will preside at the second general session Monday, Dec. 28, and will be a panelist at a Tuesday morning discussion of "Adaptive Physical Education Programs."

Alex Peterson of Southern Oregon college will be recorder for the panel on which Ragsdale will appear. Dan Buckley, of Southern Oregon college, will be recorder at a testing session Monday afternoon, and Beverly Bennett, also of SOC, will be recorder at the elementary physical education section Tuesday afternoon.

Featured speakers at the convention will be Dr. Arthur Esslinger, dean of the school of health, physical education, University of Oregon, and president of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, department of the National Education association; Dr. Kenneth Erickson, principal of Franklin High school, Portland, and president of the Oregon Association of Secondary Administrators; and Dr. John H. Waterman, director of the mental health section of the Oregon state board of health.

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