

Festival Plays Are Discussed at Rotary

The series of four plays by William Shakespeare, now featured on the Elizabethan stage in Ashland, were discussed before the Medford Rotary club here Tuesday by Dr. Robert Loper, executive head of the speech and drama de-

partment of Stanford university. Dr. Loper, who has participated in Ashland Festival presentations for the past six seasons and is now directing "Romeo and Juliet," spoke at a luncheon meeting at the Rogue Valley Country club. "Romeo and Juliet," he said, might be considered a haphazard kind of play, yet it has caught the simple qualities of power and love. Its portrayal of ordinary emotions has endeared it to centuries.

"Love's Labour's Lost," on the other hand, according to Dr. Loper, is one of the Bard's first plays with an obscure plot that satirizes the people of the English court in his day. The manner in which it probes human folly has great appeal to the ordinary man and becomes a plea for being natural.

"The Merry Wives of Windsor" is a farce on marriage with the delightful rascal, Falstaff, endearing himself to Shakespeare admirers. Although based upon a standard plot it has wonderful sentimental qualities with universal appeal, Dr. Loper pointed out.

"Henry V," the final play in the Ashland Festival series, tells a story of the patriotic fervor of a human young leader and his soldiers as they courageously face the enemy while fighting for a common cause.

IMPORTANT PAY

Topeka, Kan. — Pay checks to state legislators will be stamped "important" when mailed in the future. A state spokesman said 13 checks to lawmakers had to be replaced recently because they were lost. One legislator said he apparently discarded his along with unopened official mail that meant "absolutely nothing."

Dr. Roper is a graduate of the University of Colorado and received his Ph. D. at Birmingham, England. Recently he was a guest director at Vancouver's International Arts Festival, and also was director at the Actor's Workshop in San Francisco. He was introduced by William Moffatt.

Mother Seeks Death; Children Fed Worm Pellets

Seattle — The wife of a former missionary fed her five children worm pellets and aspirin because she wanted to kill herself and didn't want the youngsters to suffer.

"I'd rather see their souls saved," she told Detective Al Fawcett. "This is a spiritual matter."

The woman, Mrs. Helen Marie Larson, 32, said she told the children they were taking vitamins when she gave them numerous aspirin and worm medicine in soft drinks. She also took aspirin and pellets herself.

The children range in age from 11 to 3. She and the children were found by her husband, Howard, 38, a window washer and a former missionary in Japan, when he returned home from work.

All were taken to King County Hospital where two of the youngsters, aged 11 and 8, were in serious condition. The others were reported in satisfactory condition.

Last January, Mrs. Larson attempted suicide by swallowing a liquid deodorizer and aspirin, according to police records. She committed herself to Western State Hospital for the mentally ill shortly after that episode and she spent three months there.

Larson told Fawcett he and his wife spent 10 years in Japan doing missionary work but were compelled to return to this country when Mrs. Larson suffered a nervous breakdown.

Police estimated Mrs. Larson and the children consumed about 150 aspirin among them.

They'll Do It Every Time



'Floating Armories' Stationed At Strategic Spots in Far East

Washington — The United States now has three "floating armories" stationed in the Far East, loaded with all kinds of equipment from tanks to battle rations and ready to move quickly to Asian crisis points.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara revealed to Congress that the "floating depot" plan had gone into operation with "several ships converted for this purpose on station in the Far East."

The "pre-positioning" of combat stocks overseas is a tactic of the McNamara regime for insuring that Army forces can react swiftly wherever Red threats develop. With the bulk of their equipment already deployed, troops can be rushed by jet airlift from the United States in a matter of hours.

Subic Bay Anchorage United Press International reported Feb. 18 that the U.S. Navy big Subic Bay base in the Philippines had been chosen as anchorage for three modified victory ships that would serve as floating Army depots. The ships then named were the U.S. Navy ship

Phoenix, USNS Provo and USNS Cheyenne. Referring to "several" ships in testimony to a House armed service subcommittee studying military airlifts, McNamara said:

"These ships are temperate and humidity controlled and will be able to move quickly to any part of the Far East in a matter of just a few days. The troops can be airlifted to join them well within the time the ships require to get to their destinations."

Exercises Discussed It was learned that the Pentagon is discussing plans for trans-Pacific training exercises in which large numbers of troops would be flown in jet transports to join up with the "pre-positioned" combat stocks in a test of the floating depot scheme.

A force as large as a division—about 15,000 men—might be moved, but no decision has been made. Any such exercise likely would come later than the division-sized jet airlift now being planned to Europe, possibly this year. In the European case, a division flown from the United

States over a three or four-day period would link up with heavy equipment that has been "pre-positioned" on the continent since the Berlin crisis build-up in late 1961.

Stockpile in Europe There is a 150,000-ton stockpile in Europe, enough for two divisions rushed in to reinforce units already there.

The floating depots in the Far East carry material for several battalions, a much smaller supply adjusted to Asian combat conditions. It is estimated that stocking material in the Orient can save 45 to 60 days in loading and transit time.

McNamara regards the technique as a compromise between keeping large forces deployed at potential trouble spots and holding those forces in a central reserve at home.

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Ghost Town Near Gold Hill Plans Opening Saturday

William's Ghost town, located on Sardine creek three miles from Highway 234 near Gold Hill, will be opened to the public Saturday, Aug. 3, William and June Dovich, operators of the new resort have announced. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., weekdays and Sundays.

The Dovichs, who moved to the valley about a year ago from Chicago, Ill., operated similar businesses in that area.

No admission will be charged for uses of the numerous facilities at the ghost town. Complete picnic facilities are furnished. An ocelot, monkeys and other animals may be seen in the zoo section, they reported. Domestic animals also are included.

The public also is invited to tour the ghost town buildings without charge. The "town" is made up of numerous "businesses," including a blacksmith shop, gambling establishment, barber shop, trappers' den, seamstress shop, and livery stable. A "jail" also is featured.

May Use Swings

Children are free to use swings and other facilities and a small beach for wading is provided on Sardine creek. Horseshoes and other games are included for grownups.

The Dovichs will operate a "general store" where all types of "pioneer" merchandise will be on sale. They also have concessions for pony rides, rides in buckboards drawn by teams of ponies and train rides.

A chuck wagon restaurant will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to serve those who wish to dine there. During the remainder of the week the restaurant will be available for special parties on a reservation basis. Arrangements for groups may be made by calling the resort, 855-1118.

The Dovichs live at route 1, box 115, Lampman rd., Gold Hill.

10,000 TO ONE

Bourg de Peage, France — Surgeons grafted a boy's hand to his wrist Monday in an operation given only one chance in 10,000 of succeeding. The boy lost both hands in a tractor mower accident Sunday.

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