

Weather Cools Off Demand For Seats At All But Big City Musicals

By JACK GAVER
UPI Drama Editor

NEW YORK (UPI) — With all due respect to the handful of dramatic hits available, the only Broadway shows for which summer visitors will have any real difficulty in securing tickets are musicals.

And there are only two such—"The Music Man" and "My Fair

Lady." The latter is still playing to standees after two years and four months. "The Music Man," of course, is only eight months old.

For anything else, including such dramatic blockbusters as "Two for the Seesaw," "Look Homeward, Angel" and "Sunrise at Campobello," it will not be necessary to write your congressman, although you still may not be able to get the

best locations on short notice. The traditional fact is that when the hot weather closes in, those who still insist on going to the theater would rather see something in the musical line than a dramatic show.

Whether the reason is the availability of stars or theaters—Broadway being notably short on the latter—there is a growing ten-

dency for American producers to announce productions of plays in Britain prior to their New York appearances.

One of these is the comedy called "Brouhaha" by George Tabori, who previously has had two Broadway productions, "Flight Into Egypt" and "The Emperor's Clothes." They commanded a certain amount of critical respect but did not catch on.

"Brouhaha" was slated for a British tour starting July 30, to be followed by a London engagement prior to showing over here—producers Robert L. Joseph and Lester Osterman hope. Jules Munshin, one of the most American of comedians, has one of the leading roles.

Sean O'Casey should be pleased. The famous Irish playwright is said to hold his 10-year-old "Cock-a-doodle Dandy" in as high regard as he does any of his plays. It will finally get a New York presentation, albeit off Broadway.

However, this production will be supervised by Paul Shyre. He's the young actor-producer who was instrumental in rescuing O'Casey's "Purple Dust" a couple of seasons

back after decades of New York neglect, and giving it a substantial off-Broadway run.

It is just possible that O'Casey, who, for all his long world-wide fame, has barely made a living out of the theater, may reap a bonanza this coming season. This could come, not from "Cock-a-doodle Dandy"—after all, royalties from an off-Broadway run, even a long one, don't add up to big money—but from "Juno," the Marc Blitzstein musical version of his most famous work, "Juno and the Paycock."

Broadway musicals, if and when they strike the critical and public fancy, are gold mines. And this one will have the advantage of employing two of the stage's most popular stars, Shirley Booth and Melvyn Douglas.

St. Bernards On Way Out

AOSTA, Italy (UPI) — Walkie-talkies, helicopters and tunnels under the Alps are thinning the ranks of those lovable canine heroes with brandy kegs, the St. Bernards.

For hundreds of years, these big shaggy-haired dogs have plodded through the deep snows on the St. Bernard passes to save the lives of lost travelers.

But only nine dogs remain at the Hospice of St. Bernard. Ever since the end of the last war their numbers have dwindled and the amount of work has diminished to no more than several calls a year.

New and efficient mountain rescue methods have outdated the St. Bernard. Radio squads and helicopter patrols over the terrible passes are much quicker and surer means of rescue than the courageous shaggy dogs.



BULL WEIGHT JUDGING was one of the features of the Oregon Hereford Association tour held in Klamath County recently. Three of the winners are shown here admiring their trophies. From left to right are John Northam, Eugene, third place; Clay Nichols, Lebanon, first place, and Klamath County's Ray Peterson, second place.

Women Man The Village Firehouse

REMINDEVILLE, Ohio (UPI) — While the men are away, the women of Reminderville (pop. 201) don't keep the home fires burning. They put them out. This is one of the few towns in America which has women on its volunteer fire department. About 15 women, aged 25 to 50, were recruited to "man" the firehouse while the men of the village are away at work. The girls take regular training from Chief Willy Delgado. When the town's 20 men volunteers are on duty, the girls take over phones, sound alarms, and handle crowds at fires.

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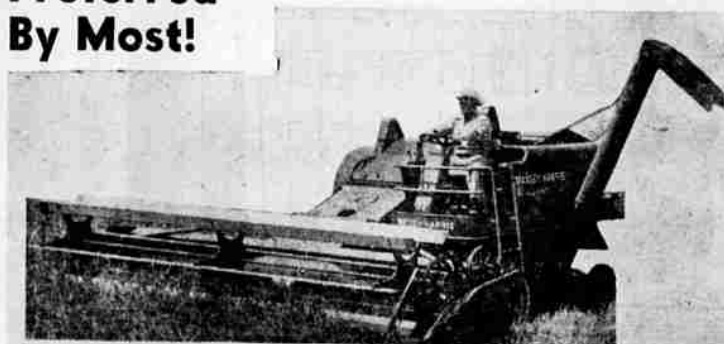
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