

25 Years Of Drama Observed By Little Theatre At KUHS

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stand that it is the creative process that keeps men living.

"One of the faults of the present civilization," says Mrs. Blomquist, "is that creativity is being taken away by push-button housekeeping and mechanization. Creativity is an inborn characteristic of mankind. When creativity is taken away, illness results."

The progress story of the Little Theatre is interesting.

Roberta Blomquist came to Klamath Falls in 1932 when there was no drama department in KUHS. It was five years before the Little Theatre became a reality.

In 1933 Paul T. Jackson, high school superintendent, permitted any student who was interested to register for the drama classes. Eighty boys and girls were eager for the course, far more than anyone anticipated.

There was no place except the main auditorium of the high school for that size class. Roberta Blomquist divided the students into play casts to meet the emergency. She adjusted and taught drama, and continued to think about a Little Theatre.

She taught history and English and remembered her successes when she coached plays at the University of Idaho at Pocatello, and Whitman College, and bided her time.

Lloyd Emery, then high school principal, was interested in the idea for a separate theater. The school board was receptive, but there was no money budgeted and no spot to convert to that

use except a shop that had been used for repairing school buses. Undaunted, Roberta Blomquist, by that time "Blommie" to her students of the drama, went to work and with the help of Lloyd Emery and others, turned the "pretty dirty" room into a theater. There was no cost involved except to replace some doors.

She gave student shows during noon hours, taught makeup, the basic techniques necessary for proper phonation and articulation, stage techniques including pantomime, stage setting and lighting, and memory development, color, business and advertising, puppetry, and as her classes increased, she taught silk screening, textile design, jewelry fabrication, costume design and manufacture, all of consequence to the students, to the continuing growth of the Little Theatre, and public interest in its productions.

The school board budgeted \$50,000 for the construction of a new theatre within the high school building. Seventy seats were installed at \$40 each. The curtains were brown velvet.

That was 25 years ago. There have been few changes since.

Roberta Blomquist began her annual Christmas presentation of plays for the public and students of the city and county schools. The seating capacity has been taxed. Five hundred seats would no more than care for the audiences. Last Christmas season 2,700 spectators saw "The Gift," in two weeks. It was repeated free of charge at matinee and evening performances.

In 1962 there were five daily drama classes for study of the

fundamentals of the theatre. Three periods of the eight period classroom day were devoted to rehearsals. More students desired to take the course than could be registered. The first 130 were the lucky ones.

Both boys and girls, with training in the Little Theatre, have gone on to professions and careers founded behind the footlights or in some other phase of theatre productions.

Waste copper wire, transformed into jewelry has interested students in working with metals and in becoming instructors in that field. Others have been influenced in art, sculpture, electrical work, designing, architecture, writing, from news media to book-length fiction.

The progress of the Little Theatre is a lesson in accomplishment by an educator dedicated to her chosen work.

Modern researchers indicate that some knowledge of the drama may have come from Egypt to Athens going back to 3,200 BC and possibly earlier. Physical evidence of at least three passion plays exists in Egyptology.

The drama seems to have originated in religious tribal dances. The first crude dramas, whether Egyptian or Greek, told stories and legends of some God, as Bacchus, god of wine and fertility.

Through the centuries, from country to country, the drama has portrayed the advancement of mankind. Each era has contributed, leaving significant records of change.

The Little Theatre at Klamath Union High School is playing its part in tradition.



SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY — Gail Carnini, left, and Paul Guest in "Taming of the Shrew."



COME NOW — Amy Kerr, left, as Katherine, Glynn Michael, Petruchid, Paul Guest, Cremio and Nancy Ruth as Bianca played parts in "Taming of the Shrew."



A SCENE FROM "BRINGING UP FATHER"— Wayne Carothers is shocked by action of Barbara Snyder.



ANOTHER SCENE — Macbeth has been one of the most popular of the Shakespearean plays produced by students of the Little Theatre. Here Loyd Eastman plays the doctor to Lady Macbeth, right, while a nurse, Winifred Greene, standing, looks concerned. Gail Brotherhood played Lady Macbeth.



ALL EYES — Make-up class in Klamath Union High School Drama Department learn make-up for appearance in stage and television appearances and for photography. Member of the high school faculty shows art of aging features of young performers.



GENEROSITY — Local residents have shared valuable old items of clothing and furniture with the Little Theatre. Among the many who have contributed are Mrs. R. R. McCartney, Mrs. Charles Moore and Mrs. Bert (Heleen) Thomas.

FOOD EXPORTS UP

CHICAGO (UPI) — The United States in 1962 exported more than \$3.3 billion worth of food products, 20 per cent more than the previous all-time high in 1947, the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc. said.

LOTS OF TUBING

NEW YORK (UPI) — It took nearly 10,000 tubes of nickel stainless steel to package the uranium oxide fuel of the first nuclear-powered merchant ship, the N.S. Savannah, according to International Nickel Co.



BEHIND THE SCENES — Stage crews responsible for preparing props, painting scenery, designing and making costumes, lighting and all other work that adds up to good production, rarely get rave notices. Everything used in the many plays given by drama students is produced by the students themselves under direction of Mrs. Blomquist. Costumes and props are kept in good repair to be used by later classes. Beverly Swanson is at top of ladder, ready to wield a paint brush on a wall.

Closet Hides More Storage Space

By MR. FIX
Written for
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

It has been said that no home has enough closet space. Even some homes with loads of closets seem to lack room to store everything the family accumulates.

Often it isn't lack of space, but inefficient arrangement that causes difficulties. Examine your own closets for waste space. Do you make use of doors? Is there space above a shelf for another shelf? What about the space below shirts and skirts that hang on rods?

Are there items in your closets that could be stored elsewhere? Does the main closet contain both summer and winter clothes regardless of the season?

Obvious First
Do the obvious things first. Store unseasonal items in seldom-used closets, or purchase dustproof garment bags that can be hung in an out-of-the-way corner of the basement or attic.

Room can be made for hanging extra items by installing coat

hooks on closet walls or on backs of doors. Between the door and the clothes there's waste space, sometimes as much as six inches. Why not find there's room below for another rod. Incidentally, a low clothes rod is ideal in a child's closet. In youngsters' closets, use space

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install shelves with raised edges so that items don't fall off? Rearrange hanging clothes. Overcoats and dresses may require the full depth from rod to floor. On the other hand, jackets and skirts may not. With all of the small items together you may

below short items for a toy chest. Build yourself a giant rollout toy bin—large box on casters—that fits below clothes and is flush with the front of the closet.

Remodeling Method
To get the most from your closets, you can resort to complete remodeling if you have the skill. This involves removing the door and enlarging the opening by removing the rest of the wall across the front of the closet.

Doing this exposes those corners you never can get into. With the opening the full width of the closet, you can install double doors, backing each of them with extra shelves. New molding will frame the opening and hide the scars.

Partition this space and install 4-inch drawer rails on the sides. This will permit you to slide in shelves or drawers wherever hanging clothes don't fill the space.

Pictures Enhance Decorative Scheme

CHICAGO (UPI)—The correct arrangement of picture groupings can point up a decorative scheme by focusing interest in one area of a room, highlighting a piece of furniture or achieving a balanced look.

In hanging single pictures or groups, the arrangement should be related to the available wall space, the lines of the furniture beneath it, and the rules of good balance, says the Picture and Frame Institute.

The institute suggested these tips for effective picture groupings:

—Mark off an area on the floor approximately the same size as the wall space where the grouping will hang. Then arrange the pictures on the floor before hanging them on the wall.

—For a large grouping, start with one important picture, and build your arrangement around it. The key picture may be in the middle, on the top, or on the bottom of the grouping.

—Arrange and rearrange your secondary pictures around the key picture until you get a pleasing overall effect. Don't spread them too far apart because a narrower space between pictures will tend

to give the feeling of one mass rather than of several separate pictures.

—Try to balance the entire grouping so that the eye flows smoothly from one picture to another. If your eye is continually drawn to one side of the grouping, rearrange the pictures to achieve better balance.

—After you have decided on a "floor" grouping, cut out a piece of paper large enough to hold the complete grouping. Lay the paper on the floor and draw the outlines of the pictures as you have arranged them on the paper. Mark the spot where the nail or hook will go. Tape the paper to the wall space, drive the hooks, then remove the paper and hang the pictures.

—Invisible means of hanging should be used where possible so as not to detract attention from the picture itself. Either nails, hook and nail combinations, or special picture hooks with adhesive backs may be used.

—Screw eyes for picture wire should be placed one quarter of the way down from the top of the picture.

City Avoids Regimentation

CLAREMONT, Calif. (UPI)—A senior-citizen community here has based its way of life and living on avoiding regimentation and has dispensed even with social directors.

Claremont Village Green draws people over 60 by its non-institutionalized living. Its official greeter, Dr. Roy Fonda, said he was attracted not only by its freedom but also because of "a stimulating cultural environment."

The community is in the midst of five college campuses.

Attractions of the project are a combination of closeness to the community while retaining privacy. In connection with the freedom they desire, residents rent on a month-to-month basis with a 30-day option.

Dr. Fonda, a retired Detroit dentist, feels this offers freedom to the residents they don't get with life-leases, buying-in plans and memberships.

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