

Goldmasquers Report High Lights Of New York Journey

by Ed Strickland
(moral support by
Marilyn Tolochko)

Now that the great adventure is over and we, Marilyn and Ed, that is, sit down to relate our story, we find difficulty in knowing just where to begin.

The sendoff that we received Thursday morning is something long to be remembered by cast and stage crew alike. It made us realize just what a big job we had to do for you who stayed behind. The feeling we had when we saw how the entire school was supporting us is rather hard to put into words.

Washington in Sight

At 7:10 someone sounded the alarm, "Washington on the starboard bow." Sure enough, in the haze of twilight, we could see the brightly lighted dome of our nation's capitol.

After dinner we were on our own for two and a half hours. That time was spent seeing the sights as suited our tastes. Some saw the Smithsonian Institute, the Capitol, Congressional Library, Art Gallery and some went to the theater to see Xavier Cugat.

Next morning we took in the Pentagon Building and an interview with Secretary and Mrs. Kenneth Royall. Shortly thereafter we were rolling on to Cortland.

Arrive in York

Mid-afternoon found us in York, Pa. We stopped there for lunch, and incidentally to paint a sign to decorate the side of our Trailways bus. The sign read, "Goldmasquers, Goldsboro, North Carolina: Cortland, New York or bust."

At 9:30 that night a tired but happy bunch of Goldmasquers pulled up in front of the Cortland Hotel in Cortland, N. Y. The hotel was like something out of the movies, the 1924 movies, that is.

The elevator was a picturesque affair, the kind that runs up and down in a wire cage and has a load limit of four people, including the operator.

Some Discomforts

No one paid much attention to the discomforts, however, for they were too sleepy. However, some of the girls declare that their sleep was interrupted during the wee hours of the morning by mice, rats, and cockroaches, not to mention a few drunks who had strayed from home and their ever-loving wives.

Saturday morning Polly Edgerton and Ashton Griffin bowled over the leaders of a panel discussion with their description of the Goldmasquers' dramatic art and radio departments. They used the model stage and studios that were made by Dick Griswold and Bill Hawley to illustrate their remarks. Cortland couldn't believe its eyes or ears.

That afternoon some of the cast, Donald Pike, Mary Olive Grady, Davis Byrd, and Marilyn Tolochko, were interviewed over the Cortland radio station. Again Goldsboro made an impression with their ease and familiarity of mike work.

Practice Play

A practice test that afternoon and the Goldmasquers were ready

for the big event. Never has any one group been bound together so closely for a common cause. There was a feeling of confidence and determination that is seldom found in such a group. But theirs was the realization of a five year dream and they made good.

Cortland was amazed at the cooperation of cast and stage crew in changing sets and taking them down when the performance was over. They were amazed, too, at the professionalism of the set design and execution.

Get 2 hours' sleep

Two hours sleep that night was the maximum, for we were off at 7:30 for that thriving little metropolis, New York City.

See New York

We spotted the New York skyline about 3:00 Sunday afternoon, and an hour later we were enjoying hot showers and baths in the luxurious accommodations of the Picadilly Hotel, located in the center of the theatrical district of N.Y.C.

New York is a great city! Where

else can one stand on a street corner and see so much of the comedy and tragedy of life, so much heartache, hunger, unhappiness, and at the same time, all the things that flow from the horn of plenty? Fur coats, slacks, diamonds, and platform shoes. Bakery windows beautifully decorated with delicious and appetizing breads and sweetmeats. Store windows filled with flashy clothes, while outside on the sidewalks of N.Y. the pauper and drunkard beg for handouts in ragged clothes and tattered coats. Those with unkempt and uncut hair walk by the side of those with peroxide blond and expensive hairdos. Has-been actresses and frustrated small town girls plead with you to buy an imitation flower for your girl. Po-

lice sirens and ambulances, honking taxi cabs and noisy double decker buses mingle with the jabbering of the crowds that push and shove along the sidewalks. Quiet rides through Central Park in an old fashion hansom cab where one can see the skyline of the greatest city in the world.

All these things are New York. Some we like, some are sickening—we saw them all, and we loved every minute of it!

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