

Quality Of Shaw Rather Strained

The Triangle Summer Theatre presents HEARTBREAK HOUSE, a Comedy by George Bernard Shaw. Directed by Richard Dozier. YWCA Auditorium, Durham. Performances August 2, 3, 4 and 8, 9, 10.

By W. H. SCARBOROUGH

When summer stock came to North Carolina, it didn't exactly scorch the grassroots. True enough, enthusiastic amateurs would throw themselves fearlessly into the breach, but their lines seemed too often to ricochet off empty bleachers and uncomprehending eardrums.

Summer stock, Tar Heel style, has been slow to acquire the glamor of an air-conditioned barn in Bucks County, where vacationing Broadway luminaries run through the first draft of next year's hit as directed by Burgess Meredith. It still has considerably more gloss to acquire before it is staple diet.

This is not to fault local summer theatre, or some of the very ambitious efforts now being made in Durham by the Triangle Summer Theatre. Its players have been pounding the boards all summer with ambition, if not always with inspiration and finesse. All told they have made a good beginning for legitimate hot-weather theatre in this area.

It is almost with regret that we have to point out a couple of holidays (stage jargon for imperfectly painted scenery) in their production of GBS's "Heartbreak House."

Those Shavian bugs acquainted with the piece will remember it as a normal blend of acid wit, depressing asides, heartlessly flailed Englishmen and overtones of the coming day of the absurd. Those who are not will perhaps gather enough from the Durham production to want to read the play.

There is admittedly nothing fair in judging all the parts of a play in terms of its final effect, however. But Shaw a la Triangle Theatre takes on the aspect of a stage adaptation of a P. G. Wodehouse novel, ersatz Englishmen and all. The Shaw acid cannot be strained through cheesecloth with any salutary effect on acid or fabric. Without intending to, this appears to be

what director Richard Dozier has accomplished.

Mr. Dozier had limitations that more fortunate directors only have nightmares about. Although the Durham Y.W.C.A.'s auditorium was cooled by a battery of five noisy air conditioners, it provided enough obstacles between audience and production to warrant inclusion on the U. S. Army's standard infiltration course.

Set design under the circumstances could have made up something but competent as it was, it did not begin to cope with the limitations of the stage. Mr. Dozier's blocking under such conditions would have had to approach divine inspiration. It did not. In a talk play such as this there has to be some clear relation between him who speaks and him spoken to, a line of tension drawn clear. This happened all too rarely.

Individual performances were a bit better in some cases than their circumstances permitted them to be, notably Roslyn Benedict of Chapel Hill. Her rendering of the redoubtable Mrs. Hushabye, proprietress of Heartbreak House, was the most consistently good performance of the evening. She alone seemed able to ignore the implied necessity of speaking with an English accent; as a consequence her allotment of Shavian epigrams came across succinctly. Peggy Jones of Durham as the ingenuous houseguest came through with the freshness one expects of the ingenue. But GBS had a way of transforming characters in midflight and Miss Jones didn't quite make the transition.

Male actors in the Triangle Area have yet to learn the art of dramatic dissembling. Where Shaw required no depth they gave it. Perhaps they can be forgiven, however, for the assumption that Shaw cared enough about his characters to make more than cardboard cutouts capable of delivering his dialogue.

If nothing else, the Triangle Summer Theatre has proved the feasibility of Shaw revivals—but it is preferable to attempt them through some means other than a bucket of cold water.

Art Of 'Slipping' Might Be Revived

The lost art of "slipping," or making cuttings of a favorite plant, can be revived through a system perfected by a Mentor, Ohio, horticulturist, according to Changing Times, the Kilinger Magazine.

An article in the current issue of the magazine reports that Lewis F. Lipp, horticulturist at the Holden Arboretum, has perfected a method of rooting cuttings that will work "even for the poor gawk who is all thumbs, not one of them green."

Basically, the method consists of planting the cuttings in a box, watering them, then putting a tentlike plastic covering over them to keep the moisture in. The cuttings may be left in a warm place all winter and by spring they will be rooted.

Equipment includes a greenhouse flat—a shallow wooden box measuring 12 x 18 inches or 16 x 22 inches, 4 inches deep—filled with a mixture of 75 per cent German peat moss and 25 per cent granular Styrofoam and covered with cheesecloth supported by three heavy wire hoops, bent to resemble the hoops on a covered wagon. A sheet of polyethylene plastic is used to wrap the entire flat to check the loss of moisture.

Slips 3 to 6 inches long can be cut in August or September from new wood that has matured, and prepared as follows: Strip the lower leaves so that only three

or four remain near the top; slit the lower end of each stem for two inches by drawing a sharp knife down the side to expose the thin, soft, slippery layer (cambium) that lies just under the bark. Dip the stems in hormone powder, then insert them in the flat at an angle, pushing them down until the leaves are near the surface. Firm the peat moss mixture around the cuttings, water thoroughly, cover the hoops with a thickness of wet cheesecloth and wrap the flat with the polyethylene sheet, tucking it under all around.

During the winter keep the flat where the temperature is over 65°. If put in a sunny window, it should be partially shaded. By spring, according to Changing Times, "the cuttings should have a thick bundle of roots and you should have a reputation as a person with a new green thumb."

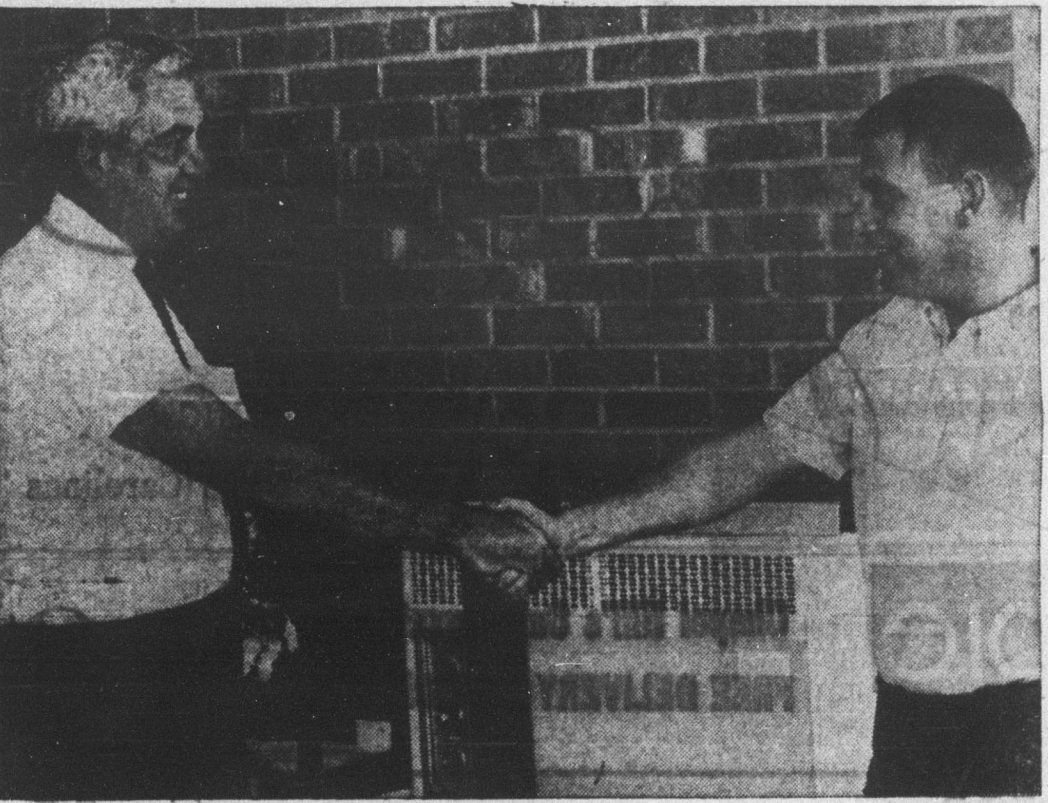
WINS DOCTORATE

Charles Wright of Chapel Hill is among over 800 students who will receive degrees tonight at the State University of Iowa's summer commencement exercises. Mr. Wright will receive a Ph. D. in English.



PRACTICE — From left, Martha Sommerfield, Roger Miles, Mrs. Roy E. Sommerfield and S. W. Welborn use Earl Trotter for practice in making splints. Mr. Welborn is chairman of Red Cross first aid instruction, and is conducting a class in first aid at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Red Cross head-

quarters. Mobile first aid units have also been made of three local private cars, and the Chapel Hill Police Department will soon equip its patrol cars with first aid kits. With the help of the Chapel Hill Fire Department, Mr. Welborn hopes to have a mobile emergency aid unit in operation here soon.



THE WINNER — Bill Watts, right, won the air conditioner offered as a door prize at Harriss-Connors Chevrolet's recent open house at the firm's new head-

quarters on the Chapel Hill-Durham Boulevard. Bob Harriss presents the prize to Mr. Watts. Several hundred people attended the open house.



NEVERMORE? — Large black birds have suffered a bad press ever since Edgar Allen Poe attributed all that Lost Lenore stuff to a raven a few years back. This crow appears bent on improving the breed's image. For about three weeks last month he paid regular morning visits to Melissa Jane Sumner, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Sumner of Pittsboro Road. Whether Melissa cast a spell on him, or whether he was someone's pet, the Sumners can't say. But the crow would take food from her hand and sit on her arm. Then he would fly off until the following day. The visits might have still been going on, but the Sumners took a vacation. When they returned the crow had disappeared without uttering one cryptic Nevermore.

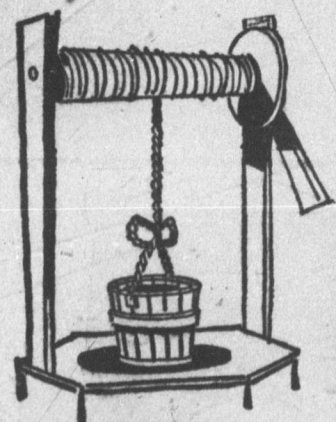
W. T. McGalliard Funeral Tomorrow

Funeral services will be held at 3 tomorrow afternoon for W. T. McGalliard of Chapel Hill, who died Sunday night in Memorial Hospital after a long illness. Mr. McGalliard was 86.

The services will be conducted at Walker's Funeral Home chapel by the Rev. R. L. Johnson. Interment will follow in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. N. S. Atherton of Charlotte and Miss Kathryn P. McGalliard of the home; three sons, John C. of Iowa City, Iowa, William T. Jr. of Tulsa, Okla., and Henry McGalliard of Raleigh.

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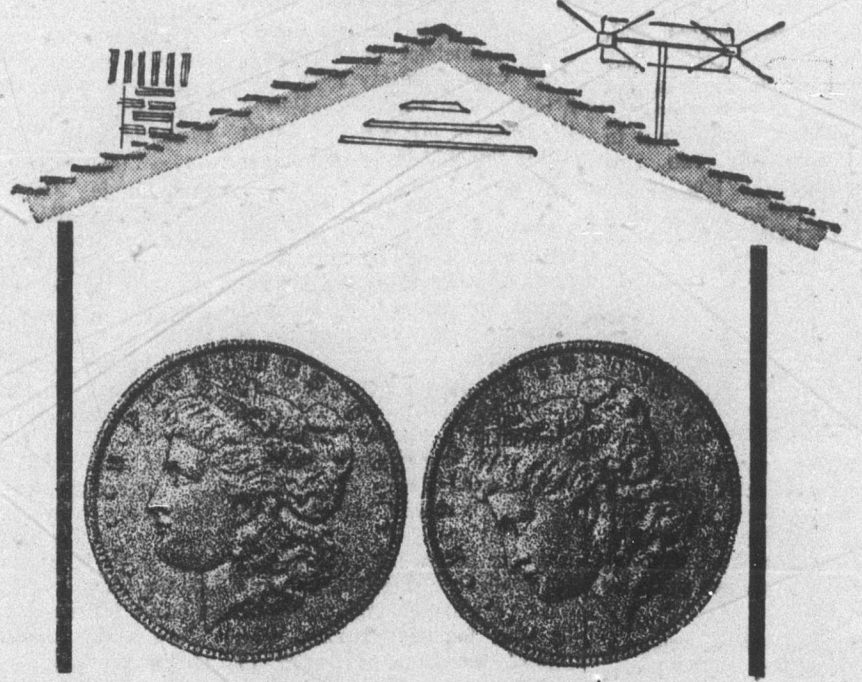


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an ELECTRIC WALL CLOCK which shows on a world map the correct TIME IN 70 KEY LOCATIONS OF THE WORLD. A remarkable instrument, priced at \$50.00.
- from THE FIRESIDE
a luxurious new TREEM COAT . . . fashioned all-weather RAINWEAR as found exclusively in Chapel Hill at THE FIRESIDE. Valued at \$32.95.
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WCHL RADIO has secretly designated a home somewhere in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area to be the WCHL HIDEAWAY HOUSE. The house is not hidden, but is a home in which a family resides. Only the WCHL CONTEST STAFF and ONE PERSON IN THE WCHL HIDEAWAY HOUSE know the location. To assist you in locating the Hideaway House, a new clue is issued every day until correct guess is made.

To win the \$462 prize, all you have to do is address and mail a postcard to the WCHL HIDEAWAY HOUSE. The postcard must contain the following question: "IS YOUR HOME THE WCHL HIDEAWAY HOUSE?"

And be sure to include your name and address so that we may contact you when you win.

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Everyone is eligible to win except employees and former employees of WCHL, and management and employees of the ten sponsoring firms.

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