

# Amateur Theater Makes Bid as National Hobby



Jacks of all trades, members of amateur theater groups build their own scenery and paint flats for settings.

By LOYD BRADY  
AP Newsfeature

CHICAGO—The amateur theater has crept up almost to the status of a national hobby.

In virtually any community of 5,000 or more you can find an active amateur drama club which will stage anywhere from one to 15 productions annually—usually over weekends. The actors are all amateurs, people with full-time jobs on the side, but who find in dramatics their fun and a few other things.

It is a hobby, but there aren't any sure-fire estimates as to its extent. A few educated guessers—and the guessers freely admit they're guessing—indicate the statistical picture.

Christopher Sergel, vice-president of the Dramatic Publishing Co., of Chicago—second of 35 companies supplying plays to the amateur market—provides this clue:

"We send out 400,000 catalogs to our complete mailing list. That includes approximately 30,000 schools and another 20,000 or so churches, labor unions, professional little theatres, and so on."

The bulk of the others go to drama clubs. Barret Clark of Dramatic Play Service, estimates annual productions at more than 500,000. Some people put it as high as 1,000,000. And they are increasing. Sergel, whose company is more than 60 years old, says his business has shown an increase every year—including the depression.

This widespread movement of live drama gains increasing importance when compared with what has happened to the professional stage. The American National Theater and Academy (ANTA) in New York reports the Broadway stage is less than half its pre-depression size—approximately 30 active theaters instead of 75. Equity, the actor's union, reports 90 per cent unemployment among its members. Only about 30 major cities across the nation get the traditional road show these days.

But in the place of the stock companies have sprung the amateur community theatres. Their productions range from the more advanced forms of drama, such as Jean Paul Sartre, to the purely ham types of thing such as "Aunt Samantha Rules the Roost."

Largely however, the active amateur group does warmed-over Broadway. "Life with Father" is among the more popular plays. "The Male Animal" of the mid-30s is still being played.

Take the Chicago area for example. There the amateur theater is in direct competition with the professional stage, which had 36 shows in the Loop last season. Yet more than 100 active groups can be counted in the Chicago

area. They produced an estimated 300 shows last season.

Three of these groups in the suburbs are fairly typical. They are the Theater of Western Springs, 27 years old, the Naperville Drama club, and the Elmhurst playing in the summer.

Their prices, stemming from low costs inherent in amateur operations, are in the range where they are competitive with movies. Naperville, for example, sold a four-show season for \$2—50 cents a show. Western Springs wells only on season basis, \$10 for four shows for two people. Elmhurst gets \$1 per admission on season ticket basis.

Their communities respond to this process. Western Springs attracts 5,000 persons in a season. Elmhurst's total audience is similar. Naperville, younger in point of concentrated activity, draws a total of 1,800—a substantial gain from its starting point.

There were about 6,800 ice plants in the U.S. in 1949, only four in 1869.

U.S. Army and Navy bases used 2,000,000 tons of ice in World War II.

Kentucky, in 1926 was the first state to adopt an official bird, says the National Geographic Society.



Teaching stage love, director in center tells how.

## New Publication Gives Advice on Egg Handling

Although the quality of an egg cannot be improved after it is laid, fresh flavor and high quality can be retained by proper and careful handling of eggs on the farm, three State College extension poultry specialists declare in a new folder published this week.

The publication, entitled "Conserving Egg Quality" and issued as Extension Folder No. 80, was prepared by Thomas B. Morris, C. E. Parrish, and W. G. Andrews. Copies may be obtained free from the local county agent or by writing the Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh.

"Eggs are a perishable product and are also very delicate—easy to break and quick to spoil, unless properly handled," the authors declare. "Eggs of good interior quality with clean shells, packed in attractive cartons, should help to increase consumption and increase the returns by bringing a premium to the producer."

Morris, Parrish, and Andrews give suggestions for retaining egg quality on the farm, in market channels, and in the home. They emphasize that the most desirable temperature for an egg holding room is between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit, with relative humidity about 75 per cent.

## Government Gives \$42 Per Month To War I Widows

Widows of veterans of world war I whose income is \$1,000 a year or less are entitled to a pension of \$42 a month from the federal government, J. M. Caldwell, director of the N. C. Veterans commission, pointed out today.

Those with children under certain ages are entitled to extra compensation provided their income is not over \$2,500 per year.

Service by the veteran must have been between April 6, 1917, and Nov. 11, 1918, and discharge or release from active duty must have been under other than dishonorable conditions after 90 days or more of military service.

For the purposes of a pension a widow must have been married to a world war I veteran before December 14, 1944 or 10 or more years to the person who served, and must not have remarried.

District service officers of the N. C. Veterans commission and county veterans service officers are ready to assist or advise veterans or their dependents on all pension or compensation benefits.

## News from HARLOWE

May 6—Mrs. Joe Sadler Morton and Mrs. Tommie Aldridge were in Beaufort Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Davis and Sue Ward left Wednesday morning for Washington, D. C., with the senior class from Beaufort high school.

Mrs. Mary Lou Mason, who has spent the winter in Potomac Heights, Maryland, with Mr. and Mrs. Graham, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mason.

Madames Clyde and Carlton Taylor, Miss Eleanor Taylor, Mrs. Alice Byrd, Madames George W. Ball, Raymond Ball, Roy Mason, Emma Oglesby, Harry Davis and

Will Conner attended the Core Creek-Harlowe democratic meeting Wednesday afternoon at Mrs. Ray Dickinson's at Core Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuch Williams, Mrs. Luke Turner, Mrs. A. N. Bell and her guest, Mrs. Nannie Small, Douglas and Gary Williams and Eddie Turner were in Beaufort Thursday morning.

Doctor Morey of Morehead City was here Thursday afternoon to see Mrs. A. P. Adams.

Ashby B. Morton and Philip Taylor were in New Bern Thursday morning.

Mrs. John Hardison and daughter, Cherrie Dawn, returned home Thursday after a visit here with Mr. and Mrs. Ivey Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Dye and daughters of Goldsboro are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Hardesty.

Mrs. Rufus Ward and son, Dalton, Mrs. Kuch Williams and son, Gary, Mrs. C. M. Harris and daughters, Susie and Linda, were in Beaufort Friday afternoon for the pre-school clinic.

Mrs. "Bob" Lawson and daughter, Carol Ann, were in Beaufort Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Adams and daughter, "Penny," of Cherry Point, were here Friday evening to see Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Adams.

Rev. J. M. Jolliff of Newport held services here Sunday morning. He and Mrs. Jolliff had dinner with Mrs. Lottie V. Adams and family.

Miss Ann Johnson of Raleigh and Belhaven spent the weekend with Mrs. Ashby B. Morton. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Whitley of Core Creek, Mrs. Ray Butler, Jack Butler and Mrs. Blivins of Cherry Point were here for church services Sunday morning.

Mrs. James L. Smith, jr., and son, Jimmie, Mrs. George Carraway and son, Charles, of Bachelor, passed through Friday returning home from the pre-school clinic at Beaufort.

Tommie Aldrich of LaGrange spent the weekend with Mrs. Aldrich at Mrs. Carl H. Morton's home.

Philip Taylor, Johnnie Olund and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taylor and son spent Sunday with relatives at Wilmington.

Mrs. James Small and children, Lester and Esther, were in Beaufort Friday for the pre-school clinic. Mrs. Vernon Lee Hancock accompanied them.

Mrs. Roy Taylor and daughter

of near Beaufort were here Wednesday to attend a shower for Mrs. Clayton Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuch Williams, Douglas and Gary Williams and Mrs. Vernon Lee Hancock were in Beaufort Saturday morning.

Mr. Luther Taylor was in New Bern Thursday to see Dr. Kafer. Mr. and Mrs. Alton Waters and Clifton Taylor of New Bern spent the weekend here with relatives.

T/Sgt. Otto Baur, Mrs. Baur and Cathy of Morehead City were here Sunday to see Sgt. and Mrs. C. M. Harris.

Misses Sallie Palmer Taylor and Nellie Ward entertained a group of friends Tuesday evening at Taylor's Community Hall in honor of their birthdays.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service met Thursday evening with Mrs. Ivey Taylor with 20 members present. Miss Eleanor Taylor was in charge of the worship service. The June meeting will meet with Mrs. George W. Ball. Mrs. Taylor, assisted by Mrs. A. N. Bell, and Mrs. Ray Futrell, served iced

lemonade, cookies and mints.

**Miscellaneous Shower**  
Mrs. Clayton Taylor, a recent bride, was honored Wednesday evening by Mrs. Carlyle Taylor and Mrs. Ray Futrell with a miscellaneous shower at Mrs. Futrell's home.

Mrs. John Hardesty had charge. The honoree received lovely and useful gifts from the guests. The hostesses served home-made cake, an iced drink, mints and nuts.

**Charles Dyess**  
Funeral services for Charles Dyess, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Dyess of Goldsboro were held Friday afternoon at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Hardesty. Rev. Louie Lewis of Morehead City officiated.

Charles and his sister had been visiting his grandparents for two weeks. He was taken sick Wednesday night and rushed to Morehead City hospital where he died Thursday.

Surviving are his parents and two sisters.

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