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Musical Shows, 1876-1920

Operettas were popular vehicles for amateurs from 1876.

A few musical shows have been noted already, but this chapter is given to some which for one reason or another seem to be worthy of special collection.

The earliest of all was Laila, a children's operetta which held the Opera House stage on February 25 and 26, 1876, with direction from outside. But the little girls all lived in Concord. Ella Stevens was the Laila, and Amelia Gordon the Fairy Queen. There was a fairy dance by Amy and Mabel Chase, Eva Eastman, and Maud Dixon. Maud Dixon and Jennie Greeley did "Reuben and Rachel". Others in the cast included Renie and Hattie Emery, Mabel Dwight, Flora Doane, and Maude Noyes (W.O. H. 27).

Henri G. Blaisdell now enters the scene as a producer of operetta. A country boy from Dorchester, New Hampshire, who took up the fiddle and the bow, he became in 1871 head of the dance orchestra known as Blaisdell & Ingalls's Quadrille Band, with headquarters in remote East Canaan. About two years later they came to Concord. From barn-storming at dances, they soon developed into an orchestra, playing much at dances, but working more and more into concert work. In the spring of 1875, Mr. Ingalls retired, and henceforth it was Blaisdell's Orchestra, which eventually was to play as far afield as Richmond, Virginia. It would be impossible to exaggerate what Henri G. Blaisdell did for music in Concord--orchestral, band, choral, and operatic.

Blaisdell's first venture in operetta locally was the direction of J. Astor Broad's juvenile operetta, Red Riding Hood at the Opera House on May 15, 1883, for the benefit of the choir of St. Paul's

Church, of which he was the master. The cast was:

Little Red Riding Hodd,	Hattie Marsh
Mama,	Hattie Roberts
Grandma,	Fanny Smith
Rose,	Jessie Webster
Buttercup,	May Webster
Robin,	Freddie Colton
Wolf,	Harry Doyen
Woodman,	Arthur Shepard

This was rated as by far the best juvenile performance given here up to that time, and probably the best ever in the musical line (W. O. H. 109).

Just a fortnight earlier, at the Unitarian May Festival, also in the Opera House, Blaisdell had directed the only local performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial by Jury, which was a highlight in Concord's amateur theatricals. This was the first-rate singing cast:

Judge,	D. E. Howard
Plaintiff,	Mrs. Ella Gillette
Defendant,	A. A. Spaulding
Counsel,	W. P. Underhill
Usher,	Dr. Joseph Chase
Bridesmaids,	Misses, Amy Chase, Mabel Chase, Eva Eastman, Alice Webster, Carrie Comins, Annie Dietrich, Mrs. W. W. Stone, and Mrs. George Houghton (Haylton)
Jurors,	Messrs. Robinson, Clifford, Hall, Doyen, Comins, Steele, Sturtevant, Conn, Bean, Pitman, Foss, and Clough
Spectators,	Misses Kate Eastman, Lizzie Fletcher, Mattie Noyes, Kate Jones, Grace Drew (she was to become a professional actress), C. S. Comins, and George F. Underhill.

(W. O. H. 109)

A traveling producer put on at Phenix Hall, Saturday afternoon, September 26, 1903, ^(repeated last. 28) a musical for the benefit of a children's free bed at the hospital, a performance by and for children and their parents. The curtain-raiser was three scenes from Alice in Wonderland, with Richard Havenor as the Mad Hatter and the March Hare, Gardner Emmons as the Dormouse, Tom Colburn of Boston as Alice, James Killeen as Humpty Dumpty, Edward Haggerty as Tweedle

Dee, and Clarence Houser as Tweedle Dum.

The main piece, however, was The Pied Piper of Hamelin, with this cast:

Pied Piper,	George Kimball, Boston
Mayor of Hamelin,	George Wright
First Counsellor,	William Wendt
Court Jester,	John Berry
Cook,	Arthur Foster
Katherine,	Faye Dudley
Gretchen,	Anne Hollis
Paul,	Ruth McMurphy
Fiddle-de-dee,	Pauline Remick
First Village Child,	Rose White
Second Village Child,	Elinor Leighton
The Lone Rat,	Tommy Coburn, Boston

There were numberless children and youth as chorus. Marion Wadleigh was the principal dancer. Blaisdell's Orchestra and Mrs. Cora Fuller Straw furnished the instrumental music (Monitor, Sept. 28, 29, 1903).

A traveling producer put on Parada at the Opera House on March 1-5, 19⁰⁴~~05~~, for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. building fund. It was best remembered for the dancing of Marion Wadleigh as Jane from Maine (W. O. H. 395).

Prince Ramon, of similar vintage, was given at the Opera House in November, 1904, for the benefit of E. E. Sturtevant Post, Grand Army of the Republic, with Marion Wadleigh again starring (W. O. H. 400).

George E. Dunn, a local tenor, whose week-day vocation was in David E. Murphy's department store, became ambitious and wrote the lyrics and music for an operetta he called Tokiota. Under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, he staged it at Phenix Hall on January 21, 1913, starring himself. The cast:

Isabella Spain,	Miss May Callahan
Maud Artichoke,	Miss Jessica Danforth
Winkie Wisteria,	Miss Katherine McDonald
Jennie Wren,	Miss Mary O'Neill

Annie Rooney,	Miss Lena Galfetti
Mae. Glancy,	Edgar Royce
Capt. Jack Halyard,	John Crawford
Getyo,	Delly Callahan
Ito Orsi,	Arthur Chabot
Touchi Ubet,	George E. Dunn
	(Monitor, Jan. 22, 1913)

A fortnight later, the Girls' Friendly Club staged at the Auditorium Charles Vincent's The Japanese Girl. This was a wholly local production, as Dunn's had been, except for the authorship of the piece. The excellent cast:

O Hanu San,	Miss Editha Maxham
O Kitu San,	Miss Nellie Godwin
O Kayo San,	Miss Marion Hammond
Chaya,	Miss Florence Besse
Nora Twinn,	Miss Margaret Clough
Dora Twinn,	Miss Margaret Anderson
Minerva Knowall,	Miss Florence Little

Charles S. Conant conducted. Mrs. J. Shepard Norris (Marion Wadleigh) directed the dancing. Miss Esther Elliott was stage manager. The Quintfest Orchestra and Miss L. Adelle Bean, pianist, furnished the accompaniments. (Monitor, Feb. 5, 1913). Miss Maxham coached for this performance with Mrs. Locke. Later she was to be a professional actress.

Another locally written musical, The Fortunate Miss Fortune, held the boards of the Auditorium as the Concord Press Club show on January 15, 1915, with a chorus of 40 and these principals:

Jack Montrose,	Fred H. Colburn
August Montrose,	W. Arthur Conaty
Kenneth Stuart,	Frank Mahoney
Franz Van Domel,	Douglas Newbold
William Stanwood,	James W. Tucker
Hans Augendor,	James M. Greeley
Ignace Pintebeer,	Osmer Bacon
Rastus Cotton,	C. Harold Fournier
Dick Buttons,	Francis Ouellette
Philip Kimball,	Leslie Ellis
Cleo Montrose,	Miss Anne Jobin
S. Hepatica Asphalt,	Miss Corinne Liberty
Stella Fortune,	Miss Ruth Dunstane
	(Monitor, Jan. 16, 1915)

The Girls' Friendly Club was more ambitious with their next offering, Gilbert and Sullivan's Pinafore at the Auditorium on February 1 and 2, 1915, presenting this fine cast:

Sir Joseph,	Harold Cheney
Capt. Corcoran,	Ray E. Crowell
Ralph Rackstraw,	Evan R. Day
Dick Deadeye,	John Fifield
Bill Bobstay,	Douglas Newbold
Bob Beckett,	Chester W. Clark
Josephine,	Mrs. Emma G. Taylor
Hebe,	Miss Ruth Day
Little Buttercup,	Miss Florence Little

James Gilbert, one of the earliest American exponents of Gilbert and Sullivan, directed the action. Charles S. Conant conducted, and Blaisdell's Orchestra played (Monitor, Jan 29, Feb. 2, 1915).

The Concord Opera Company

This company was the creation of Henri G. Blaisdell, who rehearsed them, coached, and directed. All of its performances were in the Opera House, except those out of town, and in all of them Blaisdell's Orchestra played and Miss Ada M. Aspinwall accompanied.

Their first offering, on May 15, 1888, was Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance, with the original costumes of the D'Oyly Carte Company and this splendid cast:

Richard,	George B. Wright
Samuel,	George B. Howe
Frederick,	Charles S. Conant
Maj. Gen. Stanley,	Louis J. Rundlett
Mabel,	Mrs. Ella Gillette
Kate,	Miss Amy Chase
Edith,	Miss Cora Mellen
Isabel,	Miss Harriet Roberts
Ruth,	Mrs. Grace G. Harris

There was a chorus of 35. The opera was repeated at Laconia on May 16 (W. O. H. 166, 199).

The next year the company gave Bocaccio with an even better cast:

Bocaccio,	Arthur F. Shepard
Leonetto,	S. L. Bartlett

Piatro,
Lotteringhi,
Lambertuccio,
Sealza,
Checco,
Lo Cascio,
Fraletti,
Fiametta,
Peronella,
Isabella,
Beatrice,

Charles S. Conant
W. P. Underhill
Hinman C. Bailey
B. O. Wetmore, Boston
George B. Wright
George B. Wright
Ernest Chaussey
Christine Brown, Boston
Miss Rose Jenkins
Miss Eva Eastman
Miss Potter
(W. O. H. 207).

The third and last year of the company, Fantine was presented for the first time in Concord on January 28, 1890, followed by a performance at Laconia on February 17, and another appearance at the Opera House on February 18 for the benefit of the children's free bed fund at the hospital. The cast:

Francois Bernier,	Ernest Chaussey
Marquis de Pontcornet,	W. P. Underhill
Chevalier de Lansac,	A. F. Shepard
Kirschwasser,	George B. Wright
Nicolet,	Henry H. MacFarlane
Jasmin,	George H. Colby
Grantinet,	Clarence B. Randlett
Courtain,	Harry B. Colby
Fantine,	Katherine White Prescott
Countess de la Savonniere,	Rose F. Jenkins
Militaz,	May Martin
Manon,	Eva Eastman
Juliet,	Mabelle A. Richards
Servant,	Channing Hammond
Soldier,	William J. Elson
Workman,	Harrison H. Dwight

It is believed that Mr. MacFarlane, ~~and Mrs. Prescott~~, perhaps Mr. Elson, were imported for the occasion. Having only a piano score, Mr. Blaisdell orchestrated the opera for his sixteen instrumentalists (W. O. H. 217, 218).

XI.

Transition Years,

It had been intended to end this record with the destruction of White's Opera House. But it became evident that it should be continued for seven years further in order to bring it to the organization of the Community Players, which for the last twenty-five years have carried the torch for amateur dramatics.

There had been no really organized effort in this line since Mrs. Belle Marshall Locke's long activities ceased. Yet the volume and variety of amateur efforts up to 1920 had been striking. Somehow the spark had been kept alive by groups that now and then, like the Girls' Friendly Club and the Woman's College Club, put on performances with the primary idea of raising money, not of fostering theatricals for their own sake, or by the Grange Dramatic Club or sporadic church groups principally for the entertainment of their own members. But as feeders for something more significant, they held promise that was soon to come to fruition.

Yet the years 1920 to 1927 were to be largely dominated by musical shows given to raise money for this or that cause, with only an occasional attempt to put on something more serious dramatically, though for the same purpose of raising money. Curiously, it was only the church groups and the High School that put on plays just for the fun of it. Nevertheless this transitional period had its value, for it was developing those who were to organize the Community Players, some of whom have already been met in these pages, with others yet to appear.

When the White's Opera House burned, it had already been booked by the Women's Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. for two performances on December 6 and 7, 1920, for the benefit of the boys' department.

The use of the Auditorium was promptly permitted by David J. Adams, the former general factotum at the Opera House, but for some time an exhibitor of motion pictures at the Auditorium.

The bill was a musical comedy, Katcha-Koo, put on by the John B. Rogers Producing Company. Concord had formerly been blessed with people who could produce and direct musicals with complete success. But the great days of Henri G. Blaisdell were gone forever, and Herbert W. Rainie, the most competent of those who followed him, had not yet come into his own. So matters of the sort had fallen into the hands of foreigners. With them had come larger expense and higher prices. The seats for Katcha-Koo ran from 50cents to \$1, a far cry from those of the days of the Y. P. U. The cast ran thus:

Katcha-Koo, a fakir,	Orman Vandemark
Solejah, widow of a wizard,	Miss Helen L. Remick
Urbanah,	Miss Josephine Mannion
Dick Horton,	Gene LaTier
Harry Bradstone,	Eric Sandquist
Maharajah of Hanga,	Andy Nicoll
Boodypah,	James Erickson
La Belle Elysee,	Miss Lottie Tittimore
Patsy Kildare,	Miss Ruby Moore
Brazillitata,	Miss Stella Carlson
Chin-Chin-Foo,	Mrs. Margaret Crabbe
Mrs. Chattie Gaddin,	Florence T. Blaisdell
Dolly, her daughter,	Mrs. Florence McLeod
Prudence, another daughter,	Mrs. Aurora Deary
Fan Bearers,	Arthur Hadley, Merton Messer
Device Bearer,	Russell Sawyer

As usual in such shows, there were scores in the chorus, spectacles, and dances. Carlyle W. Blaisdell, son of Henri G., superior as a violinist, but less competent as a director, led the orchestra, while his wife made a hit in the leading female comedy part. Vandemark was to be the mainstay among the men in such shows during this period (Monitor, Dec. 3, 7, 1920).

The High School came to life for two nights. On February 28, 1921, before the Chandler Shorthand class, and on March 2, at the Girls' Club meeting in the school hall, they presented, under the direction of

Alyce Drury, a play the name of which was not given, although the cast was;

Mrs. Marlow,	Ruth Chappel
Sibyl Marlow,	Katherine Wall
Ann Loring,	Elizabeth Haynes
Kitty Fern,	Helen Corrigan
Opal Neff,	Margaret Lovejoy
Mrs. Sally Tatlock,	Alyce Drury
Polly Tatlock,	Gertrude Hodge

(Monitor, Mar. 4, 1921)

The John B. Rogers Producing Company returned to the Auditorium on ~~March 29~~ and April ^{Hand} 5, 1921, with another musical farce, Oh, Oh, Cindy, for the American Legion Post No. 21. The cast:

Cinderella Van Allstyne,	Miss Alice Pray
Blanche Blondina,	Mrs. Rose White Gregory
Lily White,	Mrs. Carlyle W. Blaisdell
Le Crier,	Miss Helena Madisen
Big Four,	Misses Frieda Pierce, Ruth Virgin, Helena Madisen, Eleanor McLaren
Terence O'Hooligan,	Fred H. Colburn
Ferdinand Gotrox,	Chris O'Malley
Robinson Crusoe,	Leigh S. Hall
Friday,	George Meisel
Saturday,	Arthur Lyford
Stephen Craig,	W. D. McPherson
Three Bears,	Albert Blake, Christy Mullavey, Monty Herbert

Numberless show and chorus girls, cannibals, etc. Carl Blaisdell conducted the orchestra. Crowded houses (Monitor, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 1921)

At the South Church Chapel, on April 12, 1921, Opportunity Circle of the King's Daughters put on The Country School. Slight as was the piece, it marked something, for Miss Helen M. Bean directed the play and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Beulah Bean, made her debut; at least no prior appearance has been noted. The Beans took the parts of mere school-children, leaving the name-parts to Josie George, Della Chesley, and Gertrude Saltmarsh (Monitor, Apr. 13, 1921).

The Pleasant Street Baptist Dorcian Class gave Scenes in a Union Depot at their Chapel on November 29, 1921, with a cast of over thirty (Monitor, Dec. 2, 1921).

On December 1, 1921, the Auditorium was the scene of three one-act plays put on by the Women's College Club. Their work has been noted heretofore, as having a large share in the later formation of the Community Players. A note has been found that they had given All-of-a-Sudden Peggy before this, but the newspaper account of it has not been found. The triple bill now given was

- (1) Winifred Hawkbridge's The Florist Shop
 Maud, Mrs. Winifred Webster Timm
 Sloosky, Fred H. Colburn
 Henry, Francis B. Foley
 Mr. Jackson, Harold Cheney
 Miss Wells, Margaret I. Marston
- (2) Hubert Osborne's Mary's Lamb
 Man, Roy W. Peaslee
 Woman, Mrs. Marion Roby Ingersoll
 A Waiter, Charles E. Moors
 Bus Boy, Dudley W. Orr
 Flower Girl, Barbara Everett
 Minnie, Jane Matthews
 Paul, Edward Putnam
 Mr. Pratt, an old man, Harry R. Cressy
 (The venerable Gen. J. N. Patterson sat blithely
 in the cabaret scene)
- (3) George F. Abbott's The Walk-Cut
 Mary Dale, Louise Hardy Foster
 Fred Dale, Jonathan E. Ingersoll
 Chauffeur, G. Arthur Foster
 Rose, Mrs. Ruth Garland Rainie
 (Monitor, Dec. 2, 1921)

Another Rogers production held the boards at the Auditorium on December 19 and 20, 1921, for the American Legion--a musical comedy, All Aboard. The cast:

Billy Brady,	Orman Vandemark
Dorothy Brady,	Mrs. Aurora Deary
Beatrice Sloane,	Miss Margaret Lovejoy
Mrs. Sloane,	Mrs. Gertrude Keniston
Capt. Kidd,	Dick Jackman
Jenny,	Miss Helena Madisen
Alexander C. Phome,	Chas. H. Fournier
Bull Warks,	Art Lyford
Barney Kehl,	Chris Mullavey

Large chorus; many show girls.

(Monitor, Dec. 20, 1921)

"Surely a Good Show" was the headline given to The Divorce Case, performed at the Unitarian Chapel, with recruits from other churches, on April 12, 1922, with this cast:

Ruth Johnson, plaintiff-defendant,	John B. Seamans
John Johnson, defendant-plaintiff,	Frank W. Brown
Grafter Skinem, counsel,	Orrin W. Head
A. O. Fleecem, counsel,	Ernest L. Putnam
Ruthless Soakem, judge,	Olin H. Chase
F. R. Cutpurse,	Frank P. Quimby
Miss Juris Prudence,	Ira Leon Evans
Prof. Fullbean,	Harry Leighton
Dr. Amputate,	George Chase
Grabem Holdem, sheriff,	William S. Kane
Dolly Jellytop,	Hubert E. Sargent
F. F. Rutherford,	Joseph S. Otis
R. S. Johnson,	Allen M. Freeman

(Monitor, Apr. 13, 1922)

At the Memorial Parish House, on May 15, 1922, the Knights of Sir Galahad gave A Wife by Proxy, directed by Harry R. Cressy, for whom it was counted as "another triumph". The cast:

Montgomery Ray,	George C. Kimball
Tod Hunter,	Frank S. Merrill
Otis Hammerhead,	Richard Lyford
Officer McCormack,	Maurice Quinn
Eucy Hunter,	Freda Pearce
Dorothy May,	Esther Holmgren
Pansy Hopscotch,	Mrs. Henry Short
Marie Ribeau,	Beatrice Toof
Kloompy,	Mrs. Ellsworth Runnells
Students in Dancing Academy,	Richard & Enid Dutton

The Jolly Melody Men played (Monitor, May 16, 1922)

Another American Legion show was put on at the Auditorium at \$1.10, 83 cents and 55 cents (tax added to the old rates) on October 16 and 17, 1922. It was a musical comedy, Kathleen, with a cast of 150, including these principals:

Lem Underduck,	Ernest L. Cross
Teckley Bramble,	Guy Emery
Arabella Wilkins,	Mrs. Grace Cote
Jimmy Stanton,	Orman Vandemark
Flossie Neverset,	Eleanor McLaren
Kathleen,	Iva E. Jones
Hans Swindler,	Christy E. Mullavey
Ned Rollingstone,	Paul Bailey
Higgins,	Murray E. Rowe

(Monitor, Oct. 17, 1922)

The Women's College Club returned to the Auditorium on November 21, 1922, with Booth Tarkington's Clarence.

Mrs. Martyn,	Mrs. Bernice Cummings
Mr. Wheeler,	Charles F. Dodge
Mrs. Wheeler,	Miss Charlotte Sawyer
Bobby Wheeler,	Frank Merrill
Cora Wheeler,	Miss Emily W. Matthews
Violet Pinney,	Miss Miriam Batchelder
Clarence,	Charles E. Moors
Della,	Louise H. Foster
Rosie,	Mrs. Ruth G. Rainie
Dinwiddie,	Fred I. Blackwood
Hubert Stem,	Walter M. Powers

The orchestra was led by Ernest I. Heath (Monitor, Nov. 22, 1922)

At the Memorial Parish House, January 30, 1923, the Federated Women's Missionary Societies of the city gave a pageant, Lighted to Lighten, under the direction of Mrs. Charles G. Remick. The cast:

Present Hour,	Mrs. Willoughby Colby
India,	Mrs. Herbert W. (Ruth G.) Rainie
New Freedom,	Miss Margaret Durgin
Nationalism,	Miss Elizabeth Sargeant
The Other Hours,	Mrs. Robbins W. Barstow
	Mrs. Walter Timm
	Mrs. Benjamin Ayers
	Miss Elizabeth Shurtleff
	Miss Evelyn Haines
	Miss Pauline Remick
Hindu Man,	Ray E. Crowell
Zenana Women,	Miss Doris Brown
	Miss Doris White
	Miss Pauline Remick Elizabeth Stearns
Children,	Avis Farquhar
	Bernice Farquhar
	Helen Farquhar
	Ruth Chesley
Widows,	Louise Magenau
	Elizabeth Roberts
	Avis Farquhar
	Helen Farquhar
Peasants	Miss Hazel Marshall
	Miss Hazel Fifield
	Miss Alice Shepard
	Miss May Cochrane
	Miss Isadore Taylor
Temple Girls,	Mrs. Arthur W. Stevens
	Miss Marion Shepard
	Miss Helen Remick

(continued on next page)

Pilgrims,	Mrs. H. Starr Ballou
	Mrs. Paul Dodge
	Miss Mabel White
	Miss Phyllis Carter
	Miss Ethel Crowley
	Miss Mary Horne
Outcasts,	Mrs. Paul E. Alden
	Mrs. Wendell Collins
	Miss Daisy Kilmister
Doctor,	Mrs. Lawrence Crosby
Red Cross Nurse,	Miss Charlotte Sawyer
Teacher,	Mrs. Wendell Piper
England,	Mrs. H. H. Amsden
America,	Miss Ruth Holmgren
Indian Mother,	Mrs. Guy Cutter

The musical director was Herbert W. Rainie, and Miss Marjorie Sturm was pianist. There was a quartette composed of Miss Alice Rainie, Miss Lila Nelson, William B. McInnis and Mr. Rainie. The performance was for the benefit of the Near East Relief Fund. It was repeated by request on March 13, 1923, at the same place. The cast was the same except that Miss Louise Kimball replaced Mrs. Timm, who was ill, and Miss Florence Berninger replaced Miss Helen Remick, who had gone to Boston (Monitor, Jan. 30, Mar. 10, 14, 1923).

Once again the South Church people, at a sociable, put on a play, Six Kleptomaniacs, on February 7, 1923, featuring the Beans.

Bridgette de Flanagan,	Miss Helen Bean
Crocus Washington Jones,	Miss Eleanor Thompson
Mme. Joliette,	Miss Edna Bean
Carrie Brown,	Mrs. Beulah Bean
Claudia Snell,	Mrs. Annie McInnis
Mrs. Thaddeus Lynch,	Mrs. Myra Perry
Jennie,	Miss Evelyn Fulford
Clare Reynolds,	Miss Florence Fulford
Inez White,	Miss Margaret A. Spencer
	(<u>Monitor</u> , Feb. 8, 1923)

That same night the Young People's Union put on The Time of his Life at the Universalist Church.

Mrs. Bob Gray,	Samuel Cummings
Mrs. Bob Gray,	Isabel Nicoll
Tom Carter,	Willis Sawyer
(continued next page)	

Peter Wycombe,	Gwen Jones
Mrs. Peter Wycombe,	Alberta Cate
Dorothy Landon,	Marjorie Matheson
Mr. James Landon,	Rev. Harold H. Niles
Uncle Tom,	Stanley Little
Officer Hagan,	Roger Tyler

Mrs. F. H. Matheson and Charles E. Moors directed the performance
(Monitor, Feb. 8, 1923)

This was an unusually busy season. On February 13, the Dramatic Club of St. Paul's School gave Sir Charles Hawtrey's The Private Secretary at the Memorial Parish House, for the benefit of the Millville Community House. The cast:

Mr. Marsland,	O. A. Pendar
Harry Marsland,	R. S. Rush
Mr. Cattermole,	J. F. Bradley
Douglas Cattermole,	N. S. Ludington
Rev. Robt. Spalding the secretary,	J. W. Thornton
Sydney Gibson,	M. B. Wells
John,	S. A. Derby
Knox,	H. S. James, Jr.
Edith Marsland,	H. R. McLane, Jr.
Eva Webster,	G. T. Elliman
Miss Ahlford,	A. R. Rosengarten, Jr.
Mrs. Stead,	C..L. Bell

The school orchestra played (Monitor, Feb. 14, 1923).

After a lapse of over a decade, the Dramatic Club of Capital Grange was heard again at the Universalist Church sociable, February 15, 1923, in A Poor Married Man.

Prof. John B. Wise,	Frank A. Shaw
Dr. Matthew Graham,	John T. Prowse
Billy Blake,	Maurice Ford
Jupiter Jackson,	Charles R. Carey
Mrs. Iona Ford,	Mrs. Bessie W. Shaw
Zoie,	Mrs. Frank Mills
June Graham,	Mrs. Clarence Anderson
Rosalind Wilson,	Mrs. Lawrence Crosby

(Monitor, Feb. 16, 1923)

The Curtis Memorial Church entered recorded dramatics on February 20, 1923, when the Church Choral Club presented The District Attorney with a large cast:

William Seabury,	Alvin R. Hussey
Herbert Brownell,	Waldo H. Quimby
Richard Seabury,	Nahum Wight
Bob Kendrick,	Robert D. Bailey
Billie Reynolds,	Arthur Holmgren
P. Homer Sullivan,	William F. Taylor
John J. Crosby, D. A.,	Harry Anderson
Jimmie,	Morris Clough
Howard Calvert,	Frank Palmer
Sam,	Alfred Rowell
Aunt Hattie,	Catherine Cross
Dorothy Seabury,	Miss Lena B. Wight
Beverly Calvert,	Ruth E. Taylor
Peggy Marshall,	Almeda G. Clough
Pollie Whitney,	Frieda Davis
Margaret,	Daisy Kilmister

There was music by the Curtis Memorial Orchestra, and between the acts a song by Miss Kilmister and a bell solo by Mr. Benson (Monitor, Feb. 21, 1923).

The Girls' Friendly Club sponsored the musical romance, Springtime, at the Auditorium on April 16 and 17, 1923, with a cast most of whom had become well known.

Mrs. Elkins,	Mrs. Willoughby Colby
Joyce,	Florence B. King
Desiree,	Stella Carlson
Sue,	Marie Smart
Thankful Standish,	Corinne A. Liberty
James Brewster,	Harold Cheney
Primrose Standish,	Helena Madisen
Jack Wainwright,	Arthur Cole
George,	Robert O'Brien
Phil,	Arthur Stickney
Parsons,	Paul Bailey
Bobby Brewster,	Frank Merrill
Mrs. Bobby Brewster,	Florence T. Blaisdell

There was a chorus, also dancers and supes (Monitor, Apr. 16, 17, 1923)

After this the Friendly Club girls seem to have tired, or else the performers had, for the next year, instead of giving a live show, they benefited from selling tickets for a featured moving picture. Other organizations were to move in the same direction.

For the first recorded time the Baker Memorial Church entered amateur dramatics, when Wetonhi Camp Fire and Phi Alpha Pi Fraternity put on The Deacon's Second Wife, directed by Merton G. Knapp, with

Osmond Strong making what seems to have been his first appearance.

Deacon Fitz,	Merton C. Knapp
Malvina Fitz,	Alice Haskell
Milton G. W. Fitz,	Charles Davie
Nancy Melissa Fitz,	Eleanor Hoyt
Mrs. Brown,	Wilhelmina Wheeler
Kate Rollins,	Grace Haskell
John Bullock,	Ruel Cblby
Mrs. Bullock,	Genevieve Kelley
Dorothy Bullock,	Dorotha Wheeler
Hartley Bullock,	Osmond Strong
Ernest Rench,	Thomas Metro
Philip Gamboge,	Irving Welch

(Monitor, May 23, 1923)

The Legion show of 1923 took a new form, of a minstrel and variety character. It did include a burlesque tragedy, but as to its name, author, and cast we find nothing (Monitor, Oct. 30, 1923).

H. M. S. Pinafore was revived for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. at the Auditorium on November 19 and 20, 1923, with an exceptionally good cast:

Sir Joseph Porter,	Harold Cheney
Capt. Corcoran,	Ray E. Crowell
Ralph Rackstraw,	L. E. Ryder, Manchester
Dick Deadeye,	Melvin R. Crowell
Boatswain's Mate,	Arthur Holmgren
Carpenter's Mate,	Ralph Wilson
Josephine,	Ruth G. Rainie
Hebe,	Mrs. Florence S. Edwards
Little Buttercup,	Mrs. Florence Little Palmer
Midshipmite,	Kenison Hill

There was a chorus of 50, the Concord Orchestral Club, and Miss Marjorie Rowell as pianist. Charles S. Conant conducted, and Mrs. Charles G. Remick was stage manager (Monitor, Nov. 15, 20, 1923).

The Dorcian Class gave another performance at the Pleasant Street Baptist Chapel on December 13, 1923, presenting a musical piece called The Minister's ^{Wife's New} ~~New~~ ~~Wife's~~ Bonnet. The cast, as far as given, was

Minister's Wife,	Mrs. Willis Linscott
Milliner,	Mrs. Florence McLeod
Country Sport,	George N. Woodward
Agatha Squalls,	Mrs. Roland G. Hartwell
Cayenne Pepper,	Mrs. Blanche Caldwell

Dephe Hardahear, Miss Elizabeth Young
Prof. Highvoice, Rev. Everett A. Rockwell

Miss Grace C. Brown was the pianist (Monitor, Dec. 14, 1923).

The year 1924 opened with The Runaways, a musical given at the Auditorium by the Memorial Hospital Associates on January 28 and 29:

E. T. Pettijohn,	Claire Peaslee
Sylvia,	Miss Alice Pray
Peppy,	Miss Pauline Remick
Dicky Dickson,	Walter Powers
Malachi J. Grump,	Harold Fournier
Mrs. Grump,	Miss Helena Madisen
Hal Foster,	William McPherson
Franklin Jenkins,	Lester Richwagen
Prof. Otis,	Earl Newton
George,	Arthur Stickney
Constable Koppem,	Fred Colburn
Sally Summers,	Miss Eleanor McLaren
Ora Orient,	Miss Arline Tardiff
Charlie Chaplins,	Barbara Pearson, Frances witham

(Monitor, Jan. 29, 1924)

For a second time the Dramatic Club of St. Paul's School came into town and appeared at the Auditorium for the benefit of the Millville Community House. The play was Brandon Thomas's still famous farce, Charley's Aunt, directed by Gilbert Hawtrey, cousin of the distinguished Sir Charles. The cast, given only in part:

Donna Lucia, the real aunt,	M. B. Wells
Kitty Verdun,	A. C. Brown
Amy Spettigue,	H. McLane
Ella Delahay,	H. Shaw
Lord Fancourt Babberly, false aunt,	G. W. Gillespie

Again the school orchestra played under the direction of Fred A. Straw (Monitor, Feb. 15, 1924).

At the Baker Memorial Chapel, on February 20, 1924, the Standard Bearers presented Love and Tea, a play of Revolutionary times, under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Garland Rainie. The cast included:

Lavinia Boltwood,	Grace Haskell
Betty,	Iva Kelso
Mrs. Cowles,	Pearl Tabor

(cont. next page)

Mrs. Adams,	Ruth Kibby
Mrs. Jones,	Wilhelmina Wheeler
Mandy,	Alice Haskell
Judge Ingram,	Will H. Bradley
William Dickinson,	Osmond Strong

There was an orchestra led by Herbert W. Rainie (Monitor, Feb. 19, 1924).

Troop 5 of the Girl Scouts, coached by Miss Elizabeth Lyons, gave A Box of Monkeys at the Memorial Parish House on February 28, 1924, with this cast:

Edward Ralston,	Helen Cheney
Chauncey Oglethorpe,	Rose Haskell
Mrs. Andeggo-Jones,	Marion Allen
Sierra Bengaline,	Barbara Callahan
Lady Guinevere Llandpoore,	Beatrice Smith
	(<u>Monitor</u> , March 1, 1924).

The Baker Memorial Chapel was again the scene of dramatics on April 30, 1924, when the Wetonhi Camp Fire Girls played Belle Marshall Locke's Breezy Point.

Elinor Pearl,	Dorothea Wheeler
Mrs. Hardscratch,	Irma Stott
Mehitable Doolittle,	Pearl Tabor
Old Clem,	Alice Haskell

Others in the cast, whose roles are not recorded, were Genevieve Kelley, Elinor Hoyt, Sarah Chase, Doris Davis, Wilhelmina Wheeler, Ruth Colby, Grace Melvin, Marjorie Taylor, and Dorothy Parker (Monitor, May 1, 1924).

While the High School students were frequently active, the reports of their offerings appear only now and then, and sometimes with disappointing vagueness, as when the Monitor reported on May 10, 1924, that at the exercises of Parents' Night on the evening before, in the Senior High Hall, The Exchange, a one-act play in two scenes, had been performed by Earl Knowlton, Paul Mudgett, Arthur Woods, Helen Cheney, Paul Blaisdell, and James Tucker.

More detail was reported when the Concord High School Lyceum put on a mock trial May 20, 1924, with this cast:

Judge,	Lester Richwagen
Clerk,	Ruth Lord
Sheriff,	Jeremiah Pitts
Deputy,	Paul Mudgett
Prosecuting Attorney,	John Parker
Defendant,	Helen Cheney
Counsel for Defense,	Arthur Woods
	Osmond Strong
Medical Referee,	Horton Nolbroök
	(<u>Monitor</u> , May 16, 1924)

The Women's College Club, which in this period was doing more for worth-while dramatics than any other organization, presented at the Auditorium, November 20, 1924, Philip Barry's You and I.

Veronica Duane,	Elizabeth Rogers
Roderick White,	Lester Richwagen
Nancy White,	N. Elizabeth Lyons
Maitland White,	Charles E. Moors*
Etta,	Margaret L. Osgood
G. T. Warren,	Philip H. Pike
Geoffrey Nichols,	Clifton Wilcox

As usual, the net proceeds, this time \$474.60, went to the Club's student aid fund (Monitor, Nov. 17, 21, Dec. 12, 1924).

At the Senior High School Hall, on December 16, 1924, the Chandler Commercial Club put on a one-act play, The Minister's Wife. No more is recorded than that those taking part were Louise Stuart, Katherine Haynes, Edith Gordon, Germaine Shannon, Hazel Marshall, Mabel Downes, and Rita Spaulding (Monitor, Dec. 17, 1924).

For the benefit of the City Y. M. C. A., Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance was given at the Auditorium on January 26 and 27, 1925, at \$1 admission, with no reserved seats. As was the case with Pinafore the year before, Charles S. Conant was the musical director, the Concord Orchestral Club of 10 played, and Miss Marjorie Rowell was pianist. But the stage director was Mrs. William H. Dunlap. There was a large chorus, with these principals:

Richard,	Ray E. Crowell
Samuel,	Arthur Holmgren
Frederic,	Dean Hanscom, Boston
	(cont. next page)

Maj. Gen. Stanley,	Harold Cheney
Edward,	Harry Weathers
Mabel,	Mrs. Ruth G. Rainie
Kate,	Nathalie Hurd
Edith,	Mrs. Ruth Sanborn
Isabel,	Marie Smart
Ruth,	Mrs. Sara Simpson

Costumes were from the Hayden Costume Company. It is striking that the advertising managers of the show had to assure the public that this was "not a picture". That is what the cinema had accomplished in a generation! (Monitor, Jan. 17, 20, 21, 27, 1925).

On January 30, 1925, at Phenix Hall, Rumford Lodge No. 46 of the I. O. O. F. presented The King of the Phillipines in three acts:

John Graham,	Frank Bartlett
Stanley Graham,	Irving Welch
Dick Jordan,	Charles Carey
Parson Meekham,	Frank Shaw
Tody Lane,	Albert Temple
Marie Graham,	Clara Wason
Carrie Gilman,	Jennie Carey
Priscilla Williams,	Marjorie Taylor
Jerusha Graham,	Bessie Shaw

Stevenson and Danforth's Odd Fellows' Orchestra played (Monitor, Jan. 31, 1925).

Once again the Dramatic Club of St. Paul's School appeared at the Auditorium on February 24, 1925, this time in Sheridan's The Rivals. The cast:

Lucy,	S. Saltus
Lydia Languish,	C. Leonard
Mrs. Malaprop,	J. W. Pepper
Sir Anthony Absolute,	R. W. Canfield
Fag,	H. C. Groome
Capt. Jack Absolute,	J. A. Swords
Faulkland,	A. T. Gray
Bob Acres,	G. T. Emmet, Jr.
Sir Lucius O'Trigger,	W. W. Neff

The performance, under the direction of Mr. G. Hawtrey, was highly praised. The school orchestra of 18 played under the direction of Fred A. Straw (Monitor, Feb. 24, 1925).

Early in the school year, the Concord High School Dramatic Club was organized under the direction of Ruel Tucker, newly come to teach at the school. The President was Arthur Woods; Treasurer, Helen Cheney; Secretary, Frances Morton; Property Manager, Paul Blaisdell; Council, the above and Beatrice Smith, Osmond Strong, and Robert Kelleher. The Club soon had over 70 members and The Fair of Sixes was put into rehearsal (Monitor, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Dec. 16, 1924). What came of it has escaped notice.

The High School Lyceum fell back on the usual mock trial, but modernized into a trial of MacDuff v. Company, involving an automobile accident, sure sign of modernity.

Defendant,	Eleanor Duncan
Her husband,	Kenneth S. Lane
Plaintiffs,	Beatrice Kennedy, Robert Foster
Boy,	Paul Mudgett
Insurance agent,	Louise Wilde
Nurse,	Lillian Trombly
Doctor,	Marion Whalen
Auto instructor,	Lester Ballard
Sleuths,	Harold Ramsay, Amos Mansur
Clerk of Court,	Kenison Hill
Child,	Leonard Bushey
Bailiff,	Lawrence Tucker
Counsel for deft.,	Leonard Hill
Counsel for ptff.,	Jonathan Parker
Judge,	Ruel Tucker

(Monitor, Apr. 28, 1925)

The Junior Girls' Club of the High School gave a "dramatization" of Romeo and Juliet, whatever that meant, at the school hall on October 1, 1925. Those taking part were Clara Prowse, Clara Dearborn, Doris Cross, Florence Berninger, Louise Wilde and Lillian Trombly (Monitor, Oct. 2, 1925).

The Dramatic Club of the school reorganized on October 7, 1925, with Paul Mudgett as President, Evelyn Foster as Vice President, Muriel Cressy as Secretary, and ~~Ruel Tucker~~ Helen Daggett as Treasurer. Ruel Tucker was again the leader. The plans were for monthly meetings, with a one-act play at assembly every two weeks, and three

larger productions during the school year. Twenty-six members enrolled (Monitor, Oct. 8, 1925). Only one play, soon to be noted, is found reported.

The Friendly Club put on another musical comedy at the Auditorium on October 12 and 13, 1925, at 50 cents to \$1.50. The piece was Bimbo, with this cast;

Lord Algernon,	Dr. Paul J. Dodge
Jack Damon,	Wesley Andrews
Princess Lillikoza,	Mrs. Hazel M. Stiles
Sylvia Vandever,	Marjorie Matheson
Aunt Portia,	Helena M. Madisen
Georgianna Tibbs,	Nellie Blake
Gen. Cadenza,	Harry D. Weathers
Agnes McNally,	Budgie Dodge
Hiram Budd,	Orman C. Vandemark
	(<u>Monitor</u> , Oct. 13, 1925)

The first one-act play this season by the Dramatic Club of the High School was The Assessor, given on November 12. The players were Louise Curran, Harriet Dakin, Sherburne Tilton, Rodney Strom, and Amos Mansur (Monitor, Nov. 13, 1925).

The Fitch Pine Tree Club gave their second annual play (the first has not been otherwise noted) at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Pleasant Street on December 11, 1925. The bill was The Arrival of Kitty. Parts were taken by Arthur Bombard, Woodbury Howard, Harry O. Barnes (later to be prominent in the Community Players), Helena Casey, Helen Nadeau, Agnes Halpin, Ralph Stearns, and Mrs. Arthur Bombard (Monitor, Dec. 12, 1925).

The Young People's Guild of the First Methodist Church gave All a Mistake in three acts at the chapel on February 24, 1926. They were more successful than the High School and the Fitch Club in getting their full cast into the paper. It ran thus:

Capt. Obadiah Skinner,	Rev. Edwin T. Cooke
Lt. George Richmond,	A. Wesley Andrews
Richard Hamilton,	William Inman
Ferdinand Lighthhead,	Paul C. Claggett
(Cont. next page)	

Nellie Richmond,	Hazel Fifield
Nellie Huntington,	Edith Ericson
Cornelia Skinner,	Iva Hall
Nellie McIntyre,	Ethel Messer
(<u>Monitor</u> , Feb. 24, 1926)	

For the second semester of the current school year, the Dramatic Club of the High School reorganized with Harry Barrett as President, Morris Burroughs as Vice President, Muriel Cressy as Secretary, and Helen Daggett as Treasurer. They planned to give a play on Parents' Night in May (Monitor, Mar. 4, 1926).

The Rumford Ladies of the I. O. C. F. put on Mr. Bob at Odd Fellows Hall on March 31, 1926, with a cast that included well-known faces:

Mr. Brown,	Frank Shaw
Rebecca Luke,	Mrs. Frank Shaw
Patty,	Mrs. Harry Reid
Her sultor,	Albert Temple
Katherine Rogers,	Mrs. Wason
Marion Bryant,	Miss Irene Lord
Philip Royson,	Morris Ford
(<u>Monitor</u> , Apr. 1, 1926)	

The High School Dramatic Club seems never to have lived up wholly to ~~its~~ plans (and the reporting was nearly always defective). Having promised a three-act play for Parents' Night, they ~~finally~~ ^{first} ~~came through~~ ~~compromised~~ on the evening of May 14, 1926, with Caroline Draper Gilpatric's one-act Forty Miles an Hour. No cast of characters appears, but merely a list of the players: Doris Fuller, Dorothy Hadley, Rodney Strom, and Patrick Noonan (Monitor, May 15, 1926).

The senior play offered at the High School Hall on May 28, 1926, was Edith Ellis's three-act The Judsons Entertain. There was a full house at 50 cents a person. The cast:

Phyllis Stotenboucher,	Sare Brunel
Hilda K. Judson,	Grace White
Christ@phene,	Catherine Sullivan
Mildred Judson,	Winifred Chase
Mrs. Babbidge,	Helen Hilliard
Bettina Blandish,	Nathalie Christman
Wallace Judson,	Richard Butterfield
Tucker Whipple,	Harlan Goodwin
(cont. next page)	

Charles Fallon,
Fallon, Sr.,
William Tamp,

Leon Brown
Harry Barrett
Fred Knox

Ruel Tucker coached the players. The stage managers were Paul St. Pierre and Harry Barrett. The High School Orchestra played under the direction of H. Maitland Barnes (Monitor, May 27, 29, 1926).

The Young People's Union of the South Congregational Church produced at the South Chapel on June 3, 1926, Higbee of Harvard:

Watson W. Higbee,	Harold Howe
Sen. Withrow,	Alfred Hartford
Loren Higbee,	Sherburne Tilton
Theodore Dalrymple,	Lester Bullard
Nancy Withrow,	Constance Dimick
Madge Cummings,	Marjorie Rowe
Mrs. Ballou,	Margaret Spencer
Higgins,	Harold Ramsey
Melvina Medigrew,	Marion Whalen
for	

The performance was/the benefit of a missionary in India (Monitor, June 4, 1926).

The High School concluded the season with an original piece written by Louise Wilde, a student, The Comic Musical Revue of 1926, put on by the Girls' Club with a large cast:

Queen,	Mary Galligan
Ladies in Waiting,	Margaret Abbott, Olive Scott
Prince Nemo,	Shirley Martin
Barney Google,	Mae Landon
Sunshine,	Dorothy Weathers
Smatter Pop,	Emily Foster
Mrs. Smatter Pop,	Shirley Hunt
Desperate Ambrose,	Eleanor Clark
Flip,	Nathalie Christman
Jiggs,	Louise Wilde
Maggie,	Agnes Smith
Boob McNutt,	Lillian Trombly
Pearl,	Marjorie Wheeler
Happy Hooligan,	Norma Dunstan
Alphonse,	Barbara Philbrick
Gaston,	Lenora Gilford
Kapp Kids,	Helen Hilliard, Kathleen Degnan
Captain K,	Annie Gee
Mrs. K,	Alice King
Imp,	Florence Berninger

The show was staged and directed by George Wilde, the author's father (Monitor, June 17, 1926).

The Dramatic Club of the High School reorganized on June 18, electing Rodney Strom as President, Muriel Cressy as Vice President, Evelyn Foster as Secretary, and Doris Fuller as Treasurer (Monitor, June 19, 1926).

The Women's College Club opened the season of 1926-1927 on November 18 with Lewis Beach's The Goose Hangs High. The cast:

Bernard Ingalls,	Dr. Harry O. Barnes
Eunice Ingalls,	Mrs. Helen Knox
Noel Derby,	J. Claire Peaslee
Leo Day,	Harold Cheney
Rhoda,	Miss Dorothy Kendall
Julia Murdoch,	Miss Charlotte Sawyer
Mrs. Bradley,	Miss Marion Dwinell
Hugh Ingalls,	J. Richard Jackman
Ronald Murdoch,	Ruel E. Tucker
Lois Ingalls,	Mrs. Carl B. Bare
Bradley Ingalls,	Arthur Holmgren
Dagmar Carroll,	Miss Marion Davis
Elliott Kimberly,	Seth G. Twitchell

Miss Stella Osgood, assisted by Miss Dorothy Kendall, directed, with Harold Cheney as stage manager. There was a packed house at \$1 a seat for the benefit of the Student Aid Fund, from which loans were made to students (Monitor, Nov. 15, 18, 19, 1926). This evening marked the appearance of Mrs. Bare, who was to make a large place for herself.

Five nights later, at the High School Hall, the Girls' Club of the school did a one-act play, This is so Sudden. The cast:

Gertrude,	Evelyn Foster
Florence,	Emma Levesque
Helen,	Dacie Thayer
Marjorie,	Lena Roy
Marie,	Doris Lindgren

(Monitor, Nov. 24, 1926)

Do Unto Others Circle of the King's Daughters staged Patty Makes Things Hum at James Hall of the Curtis Memorial Church on December 15, 1926.

(cast on next page)

Patty,	Miss Doris Morehouse
Mrs. Green,	Lucille Bailey
Capt, Braithwaite,	Alvin Hussey
Colored Maid,	Mabel Huckins
Capt. Little,	Waldo Quimby
Helen Braithwaite,	Frieda Davis

Other parts were taken by Ruth McCaig, Almeda Clough, George Wilcox, and ~~Margaret~~ ^{Maynard} McLean. The performance was repeated on the 16th (Monitor, Dec. 16, 1926).

Another John B. Rogers production was seen and heard at the Auditorium on January 31 and February 1, 1927, named That's That, under the auspices of the DeMolay boys and the Rainbow girls. There was a cast of 150, including these principals:

Kenneth Neilson,	Orman Vandemark
Eloise Reswick	Miss Margaret Lovejoy
Mrs. Southwell,	Miss Helen M. Bean
? Neilson,	Clarence C. Philbrick
Martin Morris,	Emile Dupuis
Nannette Nelson,	Miss Doris Fuller
Eddie Dewey,	Harry D. Weathers
Letty Brown,	Miss Marjorie Matheson
Mickey Sullivan,	Everett Lucia
Mamie Rimer,	Miss Nathalie Christman

(Monitor, Jan 27, 31, Feb. 1, 1927)

On February 14 and 15, 1927, the Knights of Columbus presented Hinkey Doodle Town at their "Community Hall" on Pleasant Street. Tickets were 75 cents. The cast:

Marjorie Brooks,	Miss Lucy Donovan
Dick Darrell,	Harold Cross
Constable,	John S. Corbett
His wife,	Miss Catherine Hughes
Tramps,	Francis Ouellette, Joseph Donahue
"Shylock",	Dr. James Gallagher
Widow,	Miss Louise Collins
Jimmie Cameron,	Thomas J. King
Loafers,	Michael Donovan, John Crawford

There were many others. George W. Wilde was the director, and Mrs. James Harrington his assistant (Monitor, Feb. 5, 1927)

The Community Hall was the scene of an interesting performance on February 21, 1927, when the choir of the Sacred Heart Church performed, in French, Bordesi'r operetta, Sister and Brother.

Sister,
Claudio,
Gina,
Carlotta,
Fiamma,
Caramia,

Miss Arline Tardif
Albert Jeannotte
Miss Lucille Duval
Miss Edwina Laflamme
Miss Bernadette Lebrun
Mrs. Elizabeth Nelson

There was a chorus, and specialties were performed (Monitor, Feb. 24, 1927)

The Fitch Pine Tree Club appeared at the Community Hall on
February 25, 1927, in A Pair of Sixes

Sally Parker,
Krome,
Jimmy,
Mr. Nettleton,
Boggs,
Vanderbolt,
Florence Cole,

Miss Helen Nadeau
Ralph L. Stearns
John Cheney
J. Claire Peaslee
Harry O. Barnes
Arthur Bombard
Miss Agnes R. Halpin

Ronald Moore, Mortimer Chandler, and Dorothy O'Brien also had
parts (Monitor, Feb. 26, 1927)

NOTE. Osmond Strong was now a student at the University
of New Hampshire and playing with Mask and Dagger (Monitor, ^{May 15, 1926,} _{Mar. 9,}
1927).

The Kiwanis Club momentarily crowded moving pictures from
the Auditorium, on April 19, 1927, with a purely local musical
comedy, Good Morning Glory, which was given at 75 cents and \$1 for the
benefit of underprivileged children. Book, lyrics, and music were
by Wells E. Tenney. The cast:

Dick Wilson,
Phil Brown,
Joe Bates,
Sam,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Hillsgrove,
Mrs. Hillsgrove,
Gloria,
Rose,
Agnes Royalston,
Jimmie Kerr,
Dave Emerson,
Betty Evans,
The Little Lady,

Orman Vandemark
William D. McPherson
Harry Barrett
Elmer Robinson
Leon Anderson
Ronald Bishop
Mrs. Edna H. Dupuis
Miss Evelyn Duval
Miss Nathalie Christman
Mrs. Ellen Larson
Elmer Robinson
Arthur Virgin
Miss Norma Dow
Mrs. J. C. McGilvray

The chorus was coached by Emile Dupuis (Monitor, Apr. 12, 20, 1927)

The Capitor Theater, recently erected by the Masonic orders, was the scene of Philip Barry's three-act comedy, The Youngest, on April 25, 1927, under the auspices of the Order of the Eastern Star, at \$1.10. The cast:

Charlotte Winslow,	Mrs. May L. Buntin
Oliver Winslow,	J. Claire Peaslee
Mark Winslow,	Arthur B. Holmgren
Augusta Martin,	Maude S. Fowler
Alan Martin,	Clarence O. Philbrick
Martha Winslow,	Edna C. Bean
Richard Winslow,	Frank S. Merrill
Nancy Blake,	Miss Ruth L. Holmgren
Katie,	Mrs. Marion Wadleigh Norris

The play was directed by Miss Helen M. Bean (Monitor, April 12, 26, 1927). Sadly, this was Miss Bean's final activity in amateur dramatics. Six weeks later she died (Monitor, June 8, 1927).

The Catholic Daughters of America, for entertainment at a meeting in Community Hall on May 16, 1927, gave a one-act play, Sardines. The cast:

Mattie Eaton,	Miss Katherine Hughes
Alfreda Doolittle,	Miss Lena Galfetti
Lizzie Pike,	Miss Mattie Hughes
Lucy Watkins,	Miss Gertrude Doherty

Mrs. James Harrington directed (Monitor, May 17, 1927).

The season ended May 27, 1927, with the presentation of the senior play at High School Hall. The bill was Jean Webster's Daddy Long Legs, with a large cast:

Gladiola,	Doris Tappan
Sadie Kate,	Gladys Foote
Loretta,	Doris Lindgren
Mamie,	Emily Jewell
Carrie,	Irene Hodgman
Freddie Perkins,	Thomas Sherman
Matron,	Dorothy Nash
Cyrus Wykoff,	Lawrence Tucker
Abner Parsons,	George Cate
Joshua Codman,	Dennis Jennings
Jarvis Pendelton,	Lester Bullard
Miss Pritchard,	Muriel Cressy
Judy,	Doris Fuller

(cont. next page)

Julia Pendelton,
Sally McBride,
Mrs. Pendleton,
James McBride,
Mrs. Semple,
Griggs,
Walters,

Marjorie Wright
Elizabeth Maynard
Evelyn Foster
Robert Blaisdell
Alice Nash
Duane Reynolds
George Cate

Ruel E. Tucker directed (Monitor, May 28, 1927)

We have here only to add so much of the next season as brings us to the Community Players in the fall of 1927.

Rumford Chapter, Order of DeMolay, sponsored at the Auditorium on October 17 and 18, 1927, a three-act musical comedy, Hello Everybody, another entirely local product, with book by Emile Dupuis and lyrics and music by Wells Tenney. Dupuis also directed the chorus, which performed some good dance routines. Tickets were 75 cents and \$1.10. The cast:

Frisco,
Mr. Bromwell,
Mrs. Bromwell,
Jack Bromwell,
Jane Hillman,
Barbara Hill,
Sally,
John,

Arthur Virgin
Clarence O. Philbrick
Mrs. Bernice Kenney
William D. McPherson
Eleanor Loveland
Doris Fuller
Norma Dow
Will Adams

J. Claire Peaslee also appeared (Monitor, Oct. 11, 18, 1927)

Not to be outdone, Concord Assembly, Order of Rainbow Girls, announced for January 16 and 17, 1928 (beyond the reporting scope of this work), a musical comedy, Spanish Moon (Monitor, Oct. 20, 1927).

The Dramatic Club of the High School reorganized on October 19, and decided to make their own scenery (Monitor, Oct. 21, 1927).

Loving Kindness Circle, King's Daughters, put on The Spinster's Return at James Hall of the Curtis Memorial Church twice, the second performance on November 9. It was repeated at East Concord on the 21st and at the Pleasant Street Baptist Chapel on the 22d. No cast has been found (Monitor, Nov. 10, 1927).

The Community Players

This newly organized group made its bow to the public at the Auditorium on November 15, 1927, with H. H. Davies's The Mollusc. The great November flood was then just subsiding, leaving ruin behind it, and the performance was given for the benefit of the Concord Red Cross. The tickets were, modestly, only 75 cents.

Staged by Ruel E. Tucker, and with an orchestra led by Ernest I. Heath, the play called for only a quartette of players:

Mr. Baxter,	Harry O. Barnes
Miss Roberts,	Miss Ruth L. Holmgren
Mrs. Baxter,	Mrs. Virginia Mc. Bare
Tom Kemp,	Harold Cheney

Oliver Jenkins, reviewing the performance, said: "Rarely has an amateur production in Concord attained such delightful finish; few professional, widely heralded presentations have surpassed it in the past season or two." (Monitor, Nov. 10, 16, 1927).

Old things had become new.

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SOUVENIR BROCHURE

25th

ANNIVERSARY

1927 - 1952

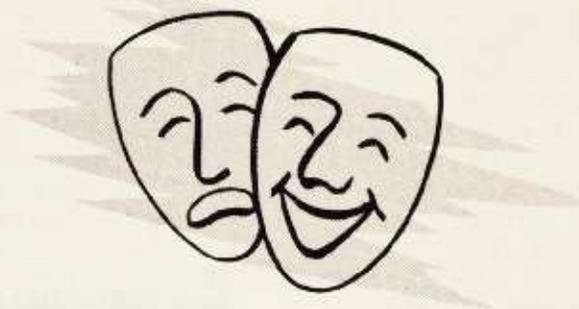


THE

Community Players

OF CONCORD NEW HAMPSHIRE

In commemoration of twenty-five years of existence as a civic and cultural group, and with the hope that it will serve as a useful record to those who are to carry on, this brochure is published by the COMMUNITY PLAYERS of Concord, New Hampshire.



1927 - 1952

T W E N T Y - F I F T H A N N I V E R S A R Y



To VEROQUA SHELDON LOVGREN, for many years the guiding spirit of the PLAYERS, their severest but most enthusiastic critic, and ever their friend and champion, this brochure is affectionately dedicated.

The Player's Story

"Do you remember rehearsals in the West street warehouse? Where we built our own fires with armful of wood we brought with us? Do you recall Mrs. Lovgren's 'way after midnight rehearsals, and especially the one she called in the icy Auditorium at 7 o'clock in the morning?"

Such reminiscences are fun for members of COMMUNITY PLAYERS and fun to hear about, too. Colorful as they are, they fail to convey history. At the close of a quarter of a century it seems in order to glance backward to review past accomplishments of this ambitious and hardworking group, gathering inspiration from past glories in order to plan fresh triumphs.

The purpose of COMMUNITY PLAYERS, according to its Constitution, is "to encourage the presentation of plays by amateurs, to secure unity of purpose and procedure in the giving of plays, to provide a systematic and diversified program of plays, to conserve and develop talent in acting, producing, costuming, scenic design, staging and music." How the COMMUNITY PLAYERS developed and went beyond this original purpose, what interpretation they are giving it at the present time, make up their story on their 25th anniversary.

Inspiration for the formation of a community theatre group originated actually in the production of "The Goose Hangs High" by the Woman's College club on November 18, 1926. So successful was this performance that here and there leaders in the city began to entertain the notion that Concord should and could have its own organized little theatre group. The idea simmered for a while, reaching a full head of steam early the next fall.

The first meeting of Concord's community theatre group was held September 15, 1927, at the home of Mrs. Carl B. Bare, wife of the minister of the South Congregational church at that time. Dr. Harry O. Barnes presided, and was elected its first president. Interest in the new venture running high, the group decided to give three performances each year, which has been average practice since that time.

A slate of officers was chosen, including Ruel E. Tucker, Concord high school submaster, as vice-president, Miss Pauline Remick as secretary, and Miss Lillian Yeaton as treasurer. Directors were to be J. Claire Peaslee, Mrs. Bare and Herbert W. Rainie.

Charter members of the PLAYERS, it will be interesting to note, were Dr. Barnes, Mrs. Bare, Harold Cheney, Arthur Holmgren, Frank Merrill, Mrs. Lawrence Piper, Mr. Peaslee, Mr. Rainie, Ruth Garland Rainie, Miss Remick, Mr. Tucker, Seth G. Twitchell, and Miss Marjorie Rowell, now Mrs. Julius Sturm.

THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS, having chosen their

name and purpose, immediately made plans for their first play, "The Mollusc," by Herbert Henry Davis. This was staged at the city Auditorium November 15 of that year, under the direction of Mr. Tucker. The PLAYERS had, it will be seen, only two months to prepare for this undertaking, yet it was a success, both financially and artistically. From it, the sum of \$125.00 was voted for the Vermont flood fund. It will be recalled that this flood in the fall of the year had resulted in much damage both to Vermont and New Hampshire.

During that first year the young PLAYERS found time and energy enough to give a one-act play as their share in "Village Vanities" under the auspices of Margaret Pillsbury Hospital Associates; to present a three-act play, "The First Year," for the benefit of the Woman's College Club; and to repeat "The Mollusc" for the entertainment of the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs.

The donation of a sum from the proceeds of the original performance of "The Mollusc" to the Vermont flood fund, set, incidentally, a precedent for a long series of benefit performances through the years. A listing of the purposes to which such funds have been given, and the organizations which have benefited, reads like a history of our times. Though presentation of such benefit performances was not the reason for the PLAYERS existence, such has been frequent. Nowadays, organizations bid for benefits at such a rate as to find PLAYERS often hard-pressed to make schedules to fit.

To note their "historical" flavor, some of these beneficiaries might be listed straightway. To note only major benefit shows, ignoring performances by small groups within the Players, the list of beneficiaries includes, to date, Vermont flood fund; Woman's College Club of New Hampshire; Memorial Hospital Association; the Nashua Fire Fund (1930); Bektash Temple Drum Corps; League of Women Voters; Concord Unemployment Relief (1932); New Hampshire District, Y. W. C. A. (for Mrs. John G. Winant); Business and Professional Women's Club; Pineholm, for the Friendly club; Friendly club; War Relief Fund, American Red Cross, (1940 and 1942, with a record-breaking \$640 and \$800 each in proceeds); Greek War Relief; Salvation Army War Fund; Concord Welfare society, Camp Huntley.

Also, United War Chest, Community Chest; New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra (Winner Take All," 1948); Kiwanis club; Flower Mission; Emblem club; Junior Service League; Lions club; and, in 1947, a free performance of "State of the Union," for the Freedom Train, American Heritage Foundation, with no admission charged.

In fact, the PLAYERS rarely have an opportunity to do a play for their own benefit. One of the excep-