

## The North Shore Theater Guild

**By David Owen**  
(Northwestern University School of Speech)

To tell of the virtues of an organization with which one is connected may sound blatant but as my connection is so recent, I may almost be considered as an outsider.

Firstly let us look at the "Little Theater" movement in this country to orient our own status. Aside from a few startlingly progressive and outstanding groups, one hears very little that is specific aside from the fact that here is a "movement." The reason is evident and hardly needs reiteration. Most of the "Movement" is really static. There are literally thousands of amateur groups producing throughout the country but very few of them amount to anything more than a mushroom growth flowering and dying with one production, perhaps revived again for another and then slowly passing out of the picture. The few that we hear about and know about are those that have been built solidly on a more lasting basis than the simple desire to "put on a play." These organizations have been sponsored with vision and purpose and have usually attained their goals. Such organizations need only naming: The Washington Square players of New York, Hart House of Toronto, The Neighborhood Playhouse of New York, the group at Montecito, Cal., Pasadena Community Players. These are a few scattered examples of the accomplishment of purpose.

### Unique Organization

And to get back to our own hearthstone. Here we have an organization that is unique. The only thing approaching it is an itinerant group travelling through New England in the summer, called the Jitney Players. But they have no established clientele as is our condition. We are unique in that we "bring the theater to your door," regularly on schedule and with a preconception of purpose and duty. There is nothing like it in the "Little Theater movement." We supply some of the dramatic fare for approximately four thousand people; and satisfactorily, too, in that we are now in our seventh consecutive season, a record that our patrons are prone to lose track of.

The purpose of bringing the theater to the doors of the patrons is accomplished; the greater purpose of stabilizing this institution for posterity is only now beginning. This stabilization can only come through the membership. The strength and purpose of any organization lies in the whole-hearted support of its members and well wishers and will go only as far toward its goal as the well wishes of its members will allow.

### Non-Profit Enterprise

Year by year the North Shore Theater guild has grown larger and larger. With its enlargement have come more finished productions, better productions, more up-to-the-minute plays. All of which entails tremendous expense. The Guild, as it is known, is a non-profit organization and all that its membership endows it with is returned in the plays.

Today the Guild stands at the apex of its original goal. Nothing more can be done except perhaps a polishing to the productions unless the support becomes greater. We are faced with a production schedule that keeps the present staff busy from the first of October to the middle of May. Each play is given eight times, six villages and towns are visited from Lake Forest on the north to Evanston on the south. Truly an enormous undertaking, for an amateur organization. More productions or expansion of the present productions would re-

quire greater support from the populace of the towns as the work would have to be split up. The casts cannot carry any additional burden.

### Need Polishing Process

Therefore, the polishing process is really the thing we need at present and that requires additional support. The Guild cannot stand still nor can it depend on the support it received last year or the year before. It needs the help of any individual that is interested in the drama. It needs whole-hearted support from its progenitors and its later members. It needs support from the newcomers and those who have never helped before so that the truly remarkable spirit which is carrying on a truly great work in the amateur field of worth-while drama will not slowly fade away.

The Guild is big. Its productions have been and will be big. Ahead of us this season we have some very entertaining and worthwhile dramatic novelties. The season is still young and help is still valuable.

(Reprinted from Woman's club Bulletin, Woman's Club of Wilmette, December, 1927)

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LECTURE

A free public lecture on Christian Science is to be given in the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Wilmette, Tuesday evening, January 24, at 8 P.M. W. Stuart Booth of Denver, Colo., will give the lecture.

Mallinckrodt High school alumnae held a meeting last Sunday at the Maria Immaculata convent. Susan Mick of the class of '27 was unanimously elected to succeed Florence Faber as president.

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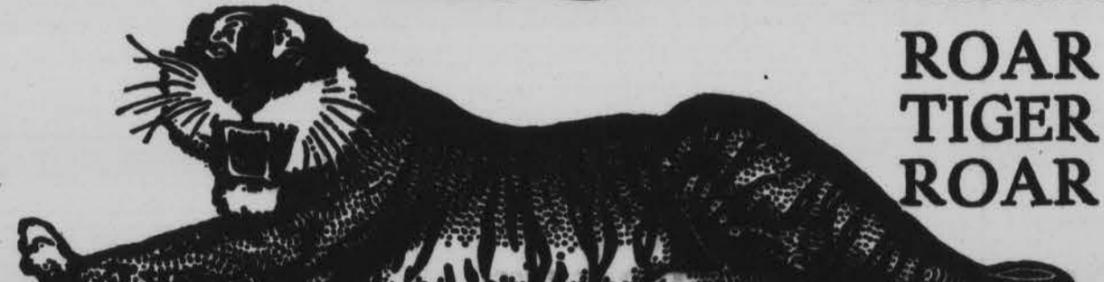
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