

# Top plays, actors adjudicated at Wellington Jrs. drama festival

The adjudicator of the 1972 Wellington County Junior Farmers' drama festival had to come up with some difficult decisions at last Thursday evening's play wind-ups.

"Every year," said Verne Shaw of Guelph, "the plays are improving and moving into a higher calibre of production". He commended the directors for actor manipulation in family scenes and group gatherings is becoming comparable to professional standards.

**Admires set**  
Stressing the importance of costume blending, with furniture

setting of the same era, he said that he was especially pleased with the way all the plays of Wednesday's and Thursday's performances had been arranged setwise. Mr. Shaw gave special applause however, to the Eramosa Junior Farmer director, Mrs. Edith McLean of Havesunfun park in Fergus, for a magnificent stage setting. "Beautiful" said the adjudicator, referring to the elegance of a swank dining room scene with colorful poppies vased decoratively and background dinner music giving the air of posh dining propriety.

In judging the plays, two of which had been shown at the

Arthur District High School the previous evening, Mr. Shaw took time to vocally consider the abilities of a young Fergus High School student who wrote himself, the play "The Insufferable Saga" which was presented by the Belwood Junior Farmers.

"This boy deserves a great deal of credit" said the adjudicator and, requesting the young writer's name from the audience, voices called back "Ross Stinson". Mr. Shaw felt that everyone should keep a sharp eye on playwright Stinson as he could go a long way.

**Receive acclaim**  
As each play was discussed

various actors and actresses were given acclaim as the adjudicator saw them. "Crawling Arnold" the story of a man who suffered with sibling regressions when his parents produced a baby brother 35 years after his own birth was given mention.

Gord Atkinson "Arnold" of the Lower Wellington Junior Farmer's group was well taken in his dialogue presentations of philosophy as he crawled about the stage looking for a coloring book which was conveniently elusive whenever Arnold did not want to face up to a question. "Good positioning of family" were the comments of the adjudicator as he went on to the next play.

**Eramosa gem**

"Fool's Paradise", the gem of the Eramosa Junior Farmers was highly praised for its skillfully accomplished atmosphere. The story was based on the humorous situation created when "Albert" - Bruce Miller of R.R. 5, Bellwood brought with him a scruffy brown paper bag and set it on the dining table of a high class eating establishment.

Hilarity ensued as the wife Ethel, enacted eloquently by Yvonne Noble of Rockwood, discovered that the bag contained, not the valuable silver spoons to be returned to a sister-in-law, but the week's garbage which husband Albert had picked up inadvertently. The mood gravitated as Albert tried to leave the rubbish container which was getting clammy by the minute in the men's washroom only to have it brought back to him by the head waiter to whom he had earlier inferred that it was a parcel of great value.

The assist casting of the play was excellent and adjudicator Shaw gave mention to the three background couples who gradually filled up the restaurant scene, ordering their dinners, consuming each course with elegance, while conversing convincingly.

**Won award**

Although Ethel was excellent in her part as the middleclass young housewife, out for her first outing in three months, she received only special mention. Albert, however, was, in the adjudicator's words, "great" and it was later announced that he had won the award as the best actor. This was a double feature for Bruce Miller as he simply retained the cup which he had won for his last year's performance.

The Best Actress award was given to Marlon Small who played the part of Lulu in the Mount Forest Junior Farmer's version of "The Sisters McIntosh". Liz Wilson of Fergus won the Best Supporting Actress award with her portrayal of the mother "Marjorie Hooft" in the Fergus Junior Farmer's group interpretation of "A Young Man's Fancy".

**Best play**

Topping off the evening's judgements was the adjudicator's decision that Eramosa's "Fool's Paradise", directed by Mrs. Edith McLean was the best all around play. Mrs. McLean has, on several occasions, displayed her abilities in her directing achievements and Thursday's presentation was her second consecutive win while working with the local group.

Mr. Shaw had said: "It's been a marvellous festival and the decisions on who should win very difficult to come by". Those present in the audience however, were well satisfied that his conclusions were properly accorded and the plays "Crawling Arnold" and "Fool's Paradise" will be presented at the Marden Public School auditorium by the Guelph Township Horticultural Society next Monday evening at 8 p.m.

The winning plays will again be presented when they try-out for the zone finals in the Erin High School on the date of March 3.



JIM REID OF Hillsburgh and Carol Thomson of R.R. Rockwood, dine luxuriously with the two lead players in the cast of the Eramosa Junior Farmer's Production, "Fools Paradise", Yvonne Noble of McKenzie Street, Rockwood, and Bruce Miller of R.R. 5, Belwood. The play, presented last Thursday evening, was judged the best play in the Wellington County Junior Farmers' Association drama festival and Bruce Miller retained his last year's award for Best All Round Actor.—(Photo by Lorraine)



EV. BARDEN POURS tea for Donna Clifford and Dorothy Chadder as Florence Lunn and Fran Gilbertson look on at the annual Valentine Tea and Bake Sale held last Wednesday afternoon at the Eden Mills community centre.—(Photo by Lorraine)



FOUR LITTLE TEENY tykes sitting in a row and twins Kevin and Kerri Gilbertson, along with sister Sharon of Eden Mills and Steven Chadder of R.R.2, Guelph, enjoy the events at the last Wednesday's Guide and Brownie tea.—(Photo by Lorraine)

**Comin's and goin's**

(Continued from Page B4)  
Friday night and Saturday will see them in the Provincial-wide Ontario competitions which will be held at the Physical Education building at the University of Guelph. It'll be a first for the Guelph host, and young wrestling aspirants will come in from Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Sturgeon Falls to the more local areas of Georgetown and Acton to participate. There will be those who watch from their television range but why don't you try the University, actual vision is much more fun. Nice going, Brian and John, all of Eramosa will be rooting for you both.

Remember, folks, the World Day of Prayer is slated for Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. with the Rockwood United Church hosting for the community. The theme "All Joy be Yours" should open new avenues of thinking and, at the same service, the Centennial School Choir under the direction of Mrs. Roberta Hoy will participate.

## Valentine tea Auxiliary holds

Village hospitality - that's what it was last Wednesday at the Eden Mills Community Centre when the Ladies' auxiliary of the Guides and Brownies held their annual Valentine Tea.

A continual flow of ladies from the district met, mused, and then tea-ed and, as they sat at the tables, chatted with friends and acquaintances. It was fun time which only small town village life can provide. Everyone knew everyone else and if they didn't when they arrived they certainly did by the time they left. Exciting marshmallow cake creations, chewy coconut fig bars, brownies, butter tarts, and every kind of delectable goodie decked the bake table under the charge of Ruth Millson and Donna Clifford.

**Act as hostesses**  
Delicious hand-rolled fancy sandwiches, miniature double deckers, celery sticks and crunchy pickles were served at the tea tables with Florence Lunn, Dot Chadder, Fran Gilbertson and Giselle Beapure acting as friendly hostesses. Downstairs in the kitchen Angie Ramsey kept the coffee perking and the t ups ready for use. Ev Bar was the

treasurer for the Wednesday affair and its purpose was for gathering enough shekles to support the Guide and Brownie Camps for the local Eden Mills youngsters.

## 25 crashes in past week

Twenty-five motor vehicle accidents occurred in the North Hilton area patrolled by the Milton OPP during the last week, police report. Eight of these involved personal injury, although no one was seriously injured, police say.

## Young people conduct service

Twenty-five Eramosa and Rockwood young people made an impact on the congregation of the Rockwood United Church last Sunday evening when they conducted an entire service of song and lessons except for the sermon which was rendered by Rev. Ralph Williams.

Accordians, guitars, a flute, set of traps, violins, and the organ, comprised the mixed musical orchestra which played out the today songs reflecting the joys and expressions of today's Christian youth.

**First venture**  
Although the combination of the Stone and Rockwood United Church Young People's Association have attempted a similar service conducted at a prior Sunday evening at Stone United, this was their first venture at the Rockwood church

and it was tremendously well received.

Under the leadership of two Eramosa couples, the young people's group enjoy many features of fun and fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie of R.R. 1 Rockwood and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Duffield of R.R. 3 are the adult counsellors as well as Mrs. Millie Smith who, in her capacity as organist and music supervisor, plays her roll and assists in the Sunday services.

Plans for a repeat at the Stone United Church, working out at a church Family Night, and officiating at the complete Stone United Easter Service are all on the agenda for the willing group who are true disciples and examples of what youth working for Christianity can accomplish.

**Wellington \$414,000**

## Approve addition to Rockwood school

Last week the Wellington county board of education approved a \$414,000 scheme to upgrade elementary school facilities in the Erin-Eramosa area. However there was opposition from some trustees.

Recommendations to build additions to Erin public school, Ross R. MacKay public school at Hillsburgh and Rockwood centennial school passed by a

close three votes.

**Enrolment down**  
Trustees who were opposed thought the board shouldn't be building new classrooms at a time when elementary enrolments are declining.

Purpose of the building program is to upgrade school facilities in the eastern section. The board had earlier decided to proceed with a \$1 million addition to Erin district high school that

will be expanded to include grades 7 and 8. The decision will replace 20 standard or portable classrooms.

**Substandard rooms**  
Director of education Alfred Henwell said the building proposal is a compromise. He admitted forecasts call for declining school population for this area, but he wondered if this was a reason to keep the substandard accommodation in existence until the population levelled off in about eight years.

Erin public school will get a gymnasium with change rooms, one classroom and principal's office. Rockwood school will get a kindergarten room, science room, music and art room and possibly a lunchroom. Ross R. MacKay school will get a kindergarten, three classrooms and library.

**Schools closed**  
Trustee Hogarth pointed out the board had closed Eden Mills and Four Corners schools when they were in good condition and they could be opened again if need be.

Trustee Dr. Evans questioned the population figures and his tempers flared before the decision was made. Trustee Dor Mullan felt the board should be providing equal opportunity to all children and the Erin-Eramosa study fell within this area.

Many visitors from the eastern area attended the meeting of the board this week. Three close votes were taken.

## Mrs. Hoy's area choirs place high at festival

The Rockwood Centennial Elementary School Choir took a fourth place when the Ontario Kiwanis Music Festival was held at the Queen Elizabeth Building at the Toronto C.N.E. last Thursday, February 17 and Wellington County School choirs participated under the direction of Mrs. Roberta Hoy.

Adjudicator, Dr. Boyd Neel was strong in his praise for the marvellous ability shown at the music competitions and felt that Eramosa should be proud of the calibre of its instruction.

**Hillsburg top**

Hillsburg took top honors for Class 199 for Elementary school choirs in unison composed of grades 3, 4 and 5 students. Eramosa placed 3rd in that class but took a 1st in the unison division for grades 1, 2, and 3. Hillsburg School took another win when they placed 3rd for the 197B class for the two part competitions. Rockwood's Centennial school choir, 2 parts, placed 4th in class 197a and the Eramosa girls of all grades placed 2nd in the 2 part class 201. In the Choral Society competitions the Eramosa Choral group took 1 first 2 seconds and a third as they vied for placement against choirs from all parts of Ontario. Ospringe took second place in the same contest.

**Raise funds**

The Eramosa Choral Society composed of 80 Rockwood Centennial and Eramosa school students includes 45 past choir participants who are now in the Guelph High Schools. Practicing twice monthly in the Centennial and Eramosa School auditoriums co-ordinately, the groups are

presently working to raise funds for a trip to Montreal in May when they hope to compete in the Province of Quebec Music competitions. They are gradually increasing their funds by a series of extra-curriculum concerts and, at Christmas time presented a program at the John F. Ross Collegiate. Concerts out of town and a dance this Friday night for grades 7 to 13 students will be held at the Eramosa Public School auditorium from 8 to 11:45 all proceeds of which will be put into the kitty for the trip to Montreal.

**Proud of singers**  
Mrs. Hoy is proud of her Wellington County School choirs. With a background of Guelph, Toronto, and Brantford, she brought music teaching know-how to the Rockwood and Eramosa Schools with which she has been affiliated for 7 years. Three years ago Ospringe and Hillsburg came under her guidance and now, the elementary school at Erin is included in her teaching itineration. She is a teacher who knows how to produce the best, her pupils enjoy the double feature of musical experience with someone they respect and admire and all Wellington County benefits.

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