

'Oliver Button' delights young tap dance critics

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Considering that most youngsters between the ages of two years and eight have a rather brief attention span, the National Tap Dance Company's "Oliver Button" is a Sissy" was literally captivat-

by Tomle De Paola, about a young fellow whose idea of having fun isolates him from his peers.

Oliver prefers more "refined" pastimes, like dancing, and he doesn't think twice about joining the girls on his block to skip rope, much to the consternation of his family and classmates who consider him a bit of a "sissy". The National Tap Dance Company's production is really dance-mime; the characters in Oliver are animated figures, colorfully dressed and their personalities are readily visible in action and costuming.

Hermione Gingold's doleful narration on tape is really the

only speaking part in the production, set against a musical arrangement organized by Marek Norman.

Joined by three other members of the company, Oliver dreams of show biz. He whisks himself off to Hollywood and Broadway, acting like Groucho Marx and Charlie Chaplin, dancing like Fred Astaire. But, when he returns to real life, he is a flop at baseball and other sports and the target of the particularly painful ridicule youngsters can inflict.

Once his folks realize that Oliver has different needs than the rest of his friends, they enroll him in Miss Leah's

dance school, where not surprisingly, he excels. When he laces on those tap shoes, he's a little clumsy at first but ultimately, he's a natural.

The climax comes when he gets to dance before the entire town in a talent show - he has become Miss Leah's prize student. It's a chance to show up all his doubters and prove that, while he can't pitch a ball or score a few baskets, he can still stand eye to eye with any of his peers.

Despite his gusto, timing, sense of rhythm or whatever else it takes to make a good tap dancer, Oliver doesn't win and his world comes crashing down in a shower of splintered

dreams. He can't face his friends, nor can he bear the thought of going back to school.

When he gets to the schoolyard the next day, his former antagonists appear to be in a more conciliatory mood. Oliver finds that they have indeed changed. Where they once wrote "Oliver Button is a sissy" on a school wall, they have edited the message to read, "Oliver Button is a star!" and the 45-minute production comes to a joyfully climactic close in the true "lived happily ever after" style.

Like their adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's

"The Steadfast Tin Soldier", the National Tap Dance Company has an enormously powerful hit with "Oliver".

Concise, exploring with movement and color and projected with characters that kids can automatically recognize as stereo-

types without pointing any fingers, "Oliver" is good, old-fashioned, make believe fun.

More of this is promised as the UWC continues its "Super Sundays" series next year.

Kids' Xmas party Dec. 17

Comrades in Georgetown Hospital are Roy Wiggins, Albert Presswood, Fred Weaver, Sam Gibby, Stan McHugh, Bill Moore and Doris Frawley. Ed Shortbill is in Toronto General and Hazel Robinson is in Georgetown Hospital.

Car club winners were: Don Grein, Elizabeth Walms, Joe Roy, Bruce McCartney, Mike Harley and George Johnson. Norm Eyres will be entertaining in the Lounge Saturday. The general meeting Thursday starts at 8 p.m. This will be the last general meeting until the new year.

Tickets are on sale for the New Year's Eve dance at \$25 per couple and the limit is three tickets per member.

The children's Christmas party will commence at 7 p.m. Dec. 17. All new members must have their children's name on the list on the notice board by the end of this week.

Don't forget Pub Nite this Friday. There will be dancing, singing and local talent galore.

Branch 120 In House Trophy contests will start Saturday with Crib. Euchre will be played Dec. 5 and Shuffleboard Dec. 12.

Hazel Dumper wishes to thank Jessie Hayes and her crew and everyone who helped by donations and time to make the Auxiliary bazaar a huge success.

The early bird rush is now on but time is running out, so get your dues in as soon as possible.

Ashgrove
Think about our disabled citizens

By Mrs. JOHN BELLBODDY
Herald Correspondent
877-3183

The Disability and Safety meeting of the W.I. was held Nov. 17 at the lovely new home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McClure, with 25 members and two visitors present.

The President, Mrs. G. Treviranus, opened with the ode and collect. Roll call was answered by naming one thing that has been done or should be done for the disabled.

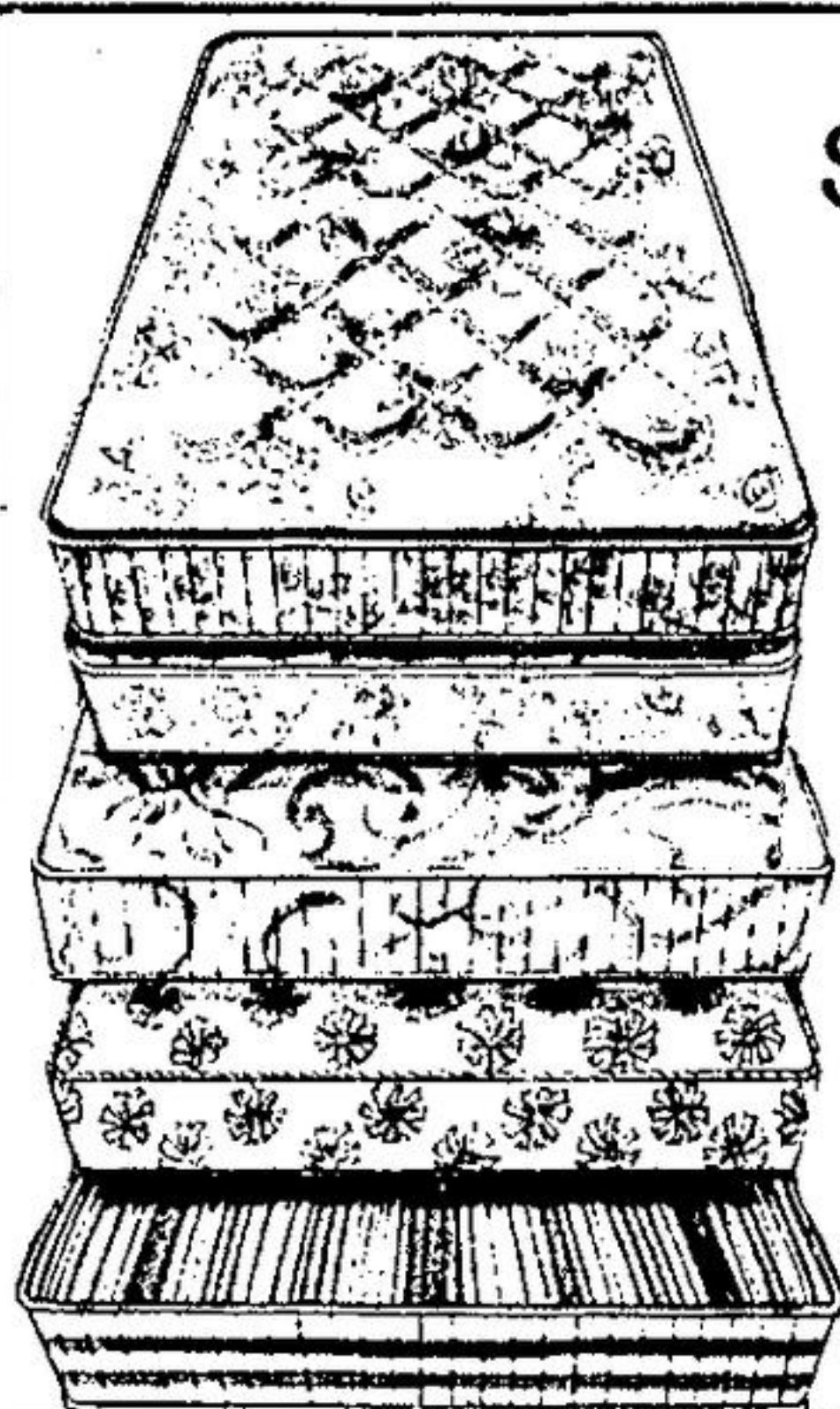
Mrs. John Bird reported on the Area Convention in Brussels in October. Mrs. Pat Stark and Elizabeth Wilson were presented with pretty corsages for leading the course "Food for all Seasons" and the summary day is Dec. 8 in Milton.

Mrs. W. Allison introduced the President's daughter, Julia, who is working as a therapist with the disabled; she said the disabled have the right to respect for their human dignity and to economic and social security and to a decent way of living. She showed colored pictures on the wonderful ways and technical aids that is being done for the disabled. They want to be like other citizens and a lot has been done but there is lots more to do.

Mrs. Allison showed a film on Safety and the right and wrong ways to deal with fires in homes and apartments. The courtesies were given by Mrs. Robert Cunningham and after singing O Canada and the W.I. grace meeting closed with a social hour.

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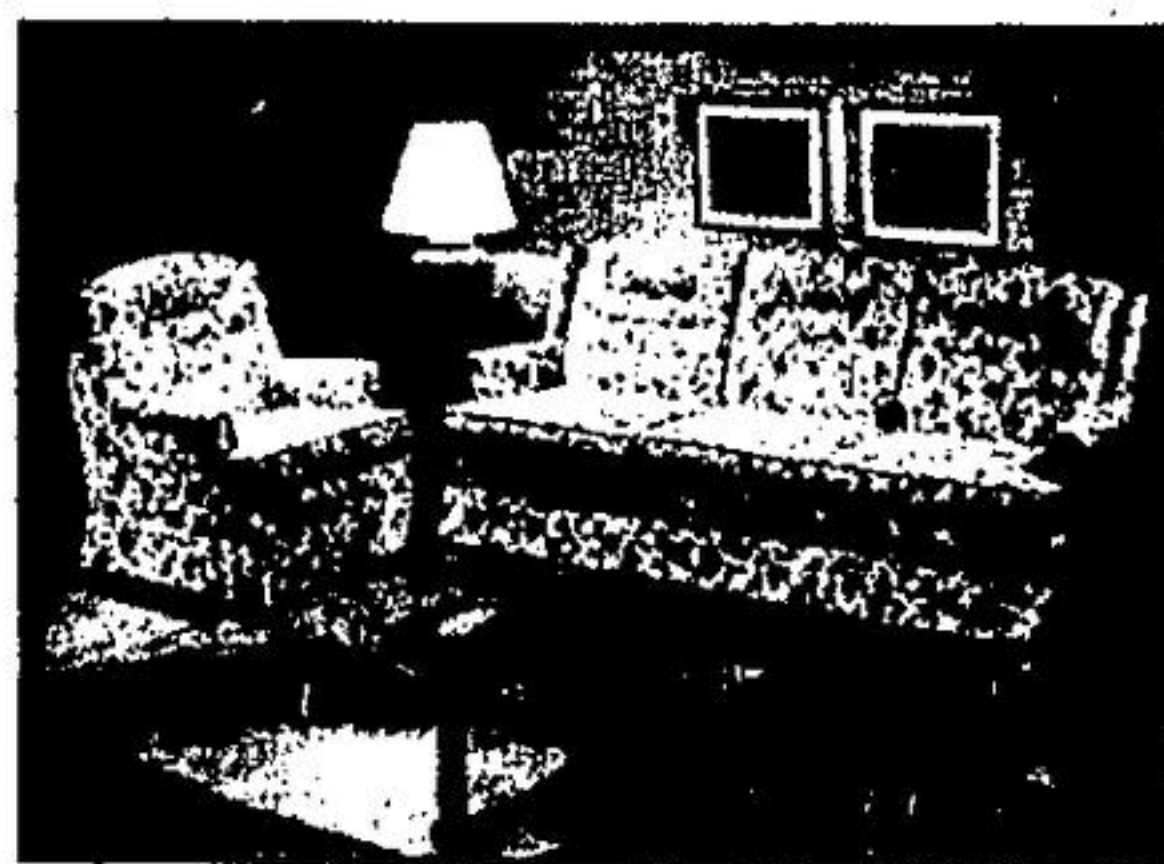
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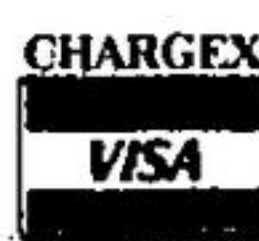
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