

# Marlene plays comic role in Globe's musical 'Mame' the HERALD

## Entertainment

By LOIS FRASER  
Herald Special  
Rehearsals for Globe Production's presentation of Mame are well under way, with only two months 'til show-time.

The Johnston household is particularly busy, since both Gord and Marlene are heavily involved in the show. Since theatre is so demanding in both time and energy, the best way to see your spouse is to do a show together.

Marlene is playing the comic role of "Gooch", the nanny who embarrasses everyone when she gets in the family way. Marlene is excited about the role since, in addition to her warm and funny character, she has two solos to sing.

Marlene received her musical training privately in Scotland, where she had several roles in musicals and pantomimes such as Dick Wittington, Puss 'n Boots, Red Riding Hood, Bless the Bride, Gypsy Baron and Lilac Domino.

Music has been a way of life for Marlene, whose mother and sister also sing. When the group Marlene belonged to in Scotland did "The Sound of Music", her sister played Maria and her mother played Mother Superior.

In Globe's last three shows, Marlene has lent her beautiful soprano voice to the ladies chorus. Marlene's voice was a major factor in obtaining the coveted role of "Gooch" in Mame.

Gord Johnston is busy working behind the scenes as Master Carpenter for Mame. The set was designed by Blake Heathcote of Toronto, whose professional services were made available through

a Theatre Ontario grant. Gord must then take his drawings and turn them into reality.

It's a bit of a busman's holiday for Gord, who has his own carpentry business and has been a professional carpenter all his life.

It must be difficult for Gord to get used to the idea of building something to last a month, instead of a lifetime. So much of stage carpentry is illusion - if you could see what it looks like from the back you'd die!

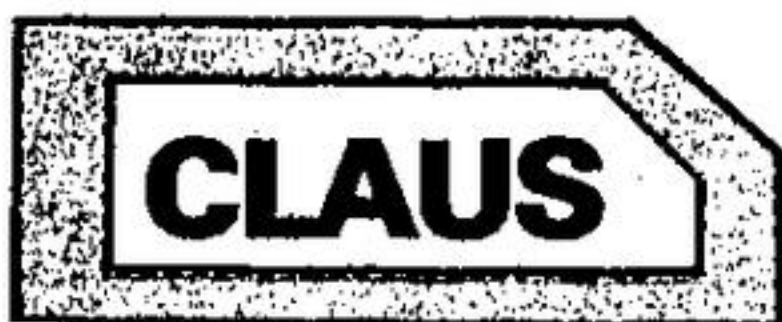
Working on a musical set is challenging, since the set must be easily moved to accommodate the many scene changes in a musical. Set construction began on Nov. 24, and Gord's crew consisted of Alan Murray, who is also a carpenter by trade, Don Baldwin and Harry Haylock.

If there are any hobby builders looking for some fun (no experience necessary), please give Gord a call at 877-1184.

Gord and Marlene originally hail from Aberdeen, Scotland and have been in Canada for 19 years, 12 of those in Georgetown. They have three children aged 15, 8 and 7, who keep them

busy when they're not working on Mame. Tickets are available now for Mame's ten performances Jan. 31 to Feb. 16, by calling 877-4323.

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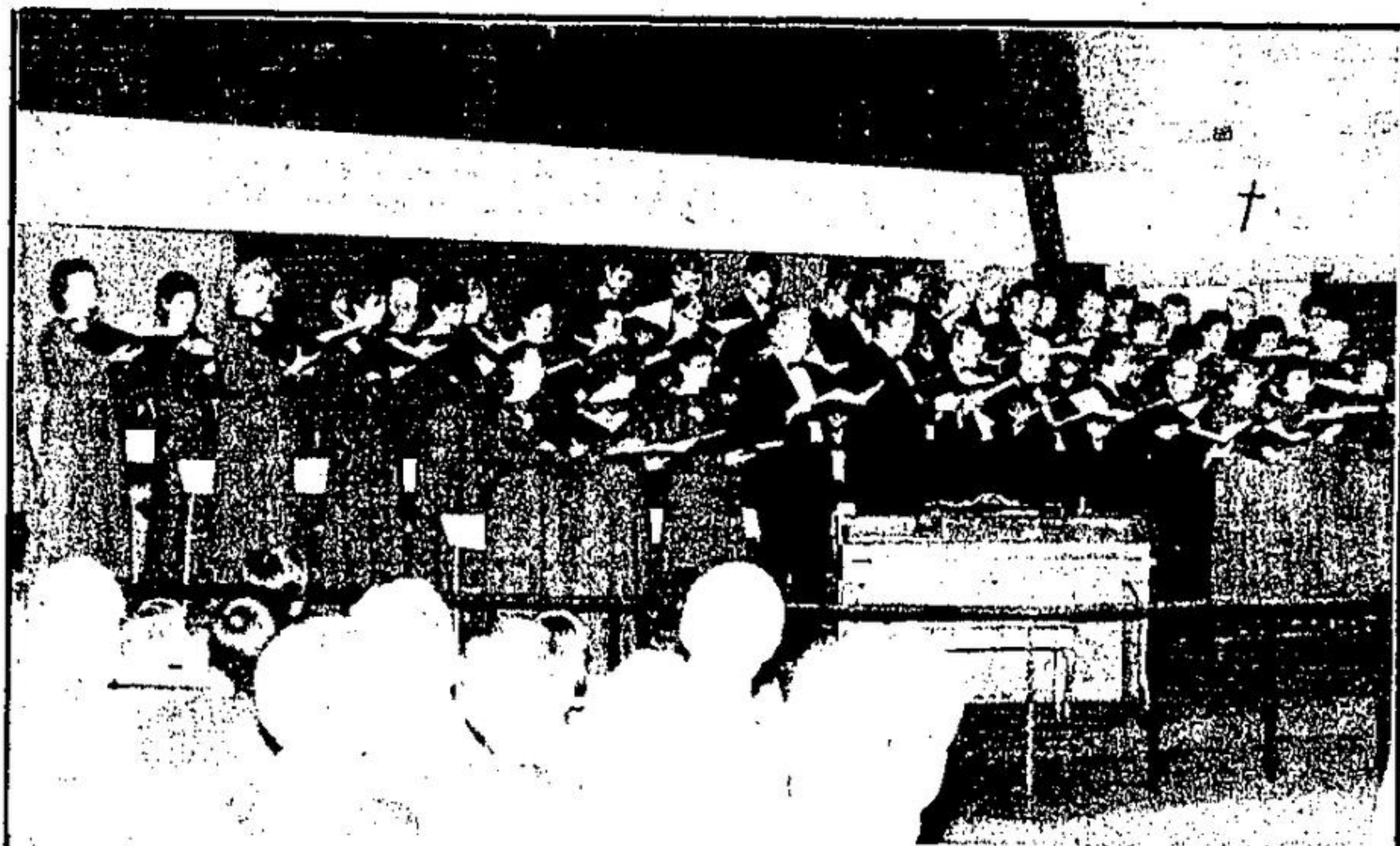


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Members of the Georgetown Choral Society entertained at Holy Cross Church with their presentation of "A Festive of Carols" Friday. Audience participation was met with comments like "give yourself a hand" from the choir.

## Choral Society sparks flame of holiday Christmas spirit

By ROBIN BAKWELL  
Herald Staff

What better way to iron out a rusty voice in preparation for the Christmas season than with the inspiration of the Georgetown Choral Society.

Friday evening at Holy Cross Church, conductor and director Dale Wood led the 43 member society through over a dozen carols and invited those in attendance to sing along to such classics as Hark the Herald Angels

Sing, Silent Night, and Oh Come All Ye Faithful.

The 16 male members of the choir were clad in black and white with bow ties and were surrounded by the remaining women who were dressed in long, glowing red dresses.

Dale Wood began the presentation seated at an organ while choir voices rose from the rear of the church. A minute later the choir appeared and after walking around the

audience, formed a neat group at the front of the church.

A variety of Christmas selections were performed which included carols from England, France, Germany and Spain.

The Spanish selection, "Fum Fum Fum" was a lively, quick number with an unexpected ending which brought a loud, well deserved, round of applause.

The high, open, wooden ceiling in the church was perfect for the har-

monizing voices, which would periodically be accompanied by Dale Wood on the organ or piano. It was not unusual to catch Mr. Wood leading the choir with one hand and playing a melody with the other.

Anna Burke, Terry Hallett and Martin Veltman displayed their solo abilities during the presentation of "The March of the Three Kings".

Following the soloists was "The Birthday of Jesus" which was per-

formed by the choir for the first time and was arranged by Mr. Wood.

While the audience applauded the carols presentation, Mr. Wood shared the credit wholly with the choir by executing a sweeping wave of the hand (which was repeated numerous times).

With less fidgeting and coughing that sometimes accompanies such presentations, "A Festival of Carols" was a definite positive note to start the Christmas season.



The Palette and Pencil Club held an open house for interested patrons last Tuesday night. Here Shirley Brambley shows Marilyn Kowalski some of the finer points of her work.

## Town treasurer turns writer

Town Treasurer Ray King's name has been spread from coast to coast thanks to an Actor ratepayer who quoted Mr. King in a letter to Globe and Mail columnist Richard J. Needham.

"I never said anything profound. Just that you shouldn't spend what you don't have," Mr. King said. "It was a two-line thing (in the column). I was surprised anybody noticed."

Applause went around the table, and a modest Mr. King stood up.

"I can only say I thank my mother for writing

the letter," he joked.

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## Support message costs more

A decision on whether to put a "message of support" in the Minsmen Club's national publication - KIN Magazine - is to be made next week by councillors.

The cost has gone up from last year's \$65 to over \$100 and councillors initial reaction was to keep their money in their bank account.

However, Coun. Armstrong swayed them otherwise, noting Georgetown's Don Pearson is on the club's national vice president's committee and next year will be serving as national director.

"I see no reason to receive and file it (letter) if we've had ads before (with them)," Coun. Armstrong said.

He said there should be some recognition of Mr. Pearson's high position.

Feb. 20, 1985, the Minsmen will be celebrating the Association's 65th anniversary.

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BY Laraine  
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