

# COMIC WHO DUNNIT

(but no one did it)

## Move over Mrs. Markham

By SANDY CAMPBELL  
Herald Staff

It's a comic who-done-it where almost everyone tried to do it but no one got around to it. It is infidelity and the play is Move Over Mrs. Markham. And the opening night audience appreciated the British comedy, played by mainly expatriots of Britain and a few Canucks.

The performance had a broad appeal and that's why it was a success. It could have been sleazy or too stuffy but was neither; it walked the precarious line without stepping off. I'm certain that's how playwright Ron Cooney and John Chapman planned it to be performed.

Simply put, Move Over Mrs. Markham is a comedy of misunderstandings and innuendoes.

The misunderstandings are reminiscent of the best of I Love Lucy. And the innuendoes are as bawdy as those used by Kenneth Williams of "Carry On" fame.

The chief incongruity of the play, which is the major source of laughter, is the London flat, where all the planned hanky-panky is to take place. The flat is above a children's book publishing house. Don't worry, the play never wanders outside PG boundaries but only threatens to, like everyone in it.

Joanna Markham, played by Jill Evans, and Philip Markham, played by Derek Joyne, are the central couple. Mr. Markham is second in command of the publishing house. He and his wife's love life is portrayed as coming straight from one of the books published downstairs, until they are challenged by the infidelity of friends who want to borrow their apartment for a romantic rendezvous.

Mr. Markham's boss, Henry Lodge played by Ron Hill, and his boss' wife, Linda Lodge played by Jacky Willows, have made arrangements to see their dates at the same time at the Markham apartment. Neither the Lodges nor the Markhams realize that they have arranged a meeting of the Lodges and their dates.



Actor Derek Joyne is given a pinch by Neville Worsnop in the play Move Over Mrs. Markham. (Herald photo)

The performance falters a little here. Derek Joyne and Jill Evans do a good job in being disinterested and removed from their sexually revolutionary friends. So removed are they that one wonders if they ever consummated their own marriage. So why are they loaning their apartment?

Neither is aware that the other loaned the apartment. When the clues of a lecherous visitor are discovered, Mr. Markham suspects his wife of having an affair with the interior decorator, Alistair Spelow, played by Neville Worsnop. Meanwhile, Alistair Spelow is chasing the au pair girl, Sylvie, played by Suzanne Mucci.

Neville Worsnop does a good job of flipping from flamboyant artist to macho man, particularly when his masculinity is questioned. It's a believable and confusing portrayal that complements the play. Confusion triples when prudish Olivia Harriet Smythe visits the apartment already filled with

visitors. She is in search of a new publisher after firing her former one for publishing a pornographic book. "A dreadful book, I read it twice," she says.

Pat Joyne plays this author of children's books perfectly. Dressed like a bird watcher (a knitted tam, pullover, plaid skirt and friendly round-toed shoes) one gets the impression that Bow Wow, the main character of her best selling books, is her best friend. Her arrival in the midst of matrimonial anarchy creates another

series of chaotic consequences. It's a funny play and for a price just over the ticket of a movie it's very good value.

Because it's the Georgetown Little Theatre's 25th anniversary and they wanted the stars from the original play, first performed by the company 10 years ago, try to overlook one flaw in the casting. Just as it is hard to believe that today's Roger Moore, 007, can seduce beautiful women, it is hard to believe some of the hustlers in Move Over Mrs. Markham. Now, if they were ten years younger...

The play will be at the John Elliott Theatre Thursday through Saturday. Show time is 8 p.m.

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By PAT WOODS  
Herald Correspondent

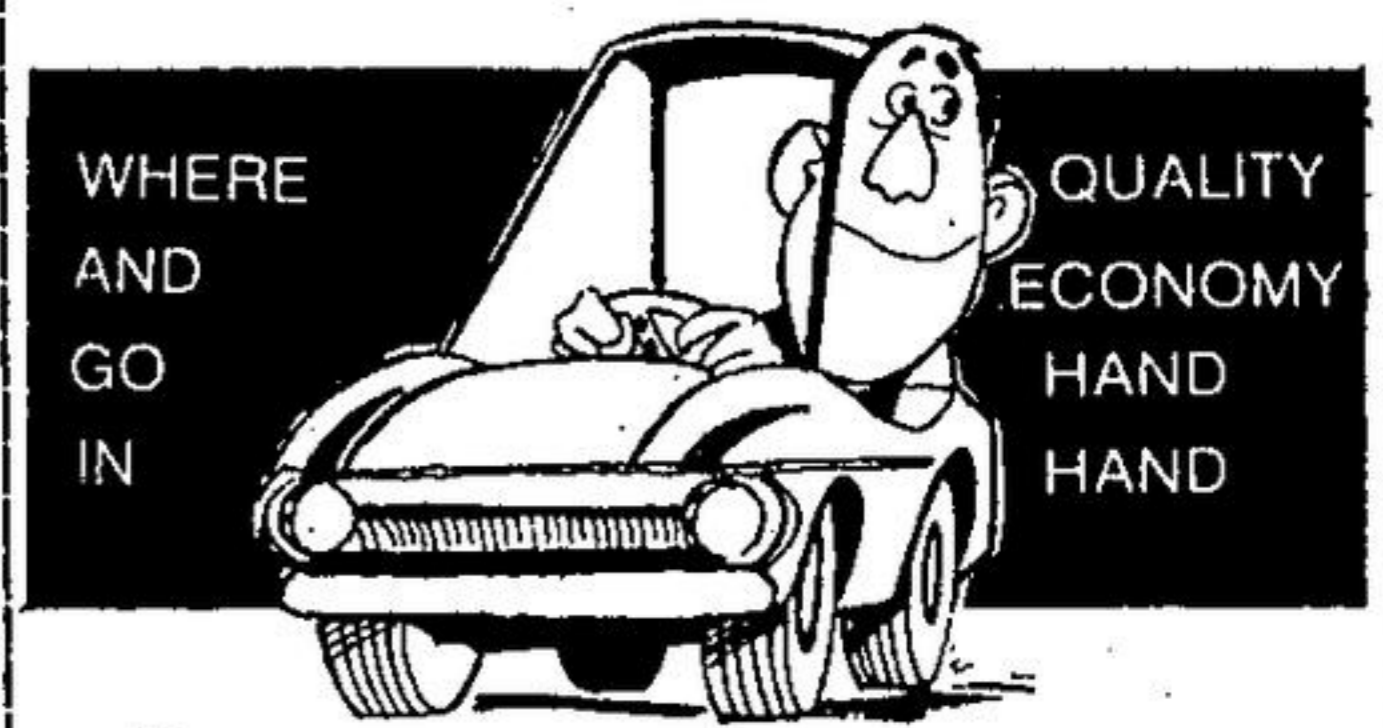
The only poll accessible for the handicapped at this year's advanced poll is the one on Georgetown's Main Street.

Nov. 2 is the day of the advanced poll for the upcoming municipal election. There are three polling stations: one at Trinity United Church in Acton and the other two at Georgetown's town offices on Trafalgar Road and Main Street.

You can vote at any one of these locations, however, the Main Street office is the only one accessible for those unable to cope with stairs.

The ActiVan will be available between 10 a.m. and noon for handicapped voters, and bookings will be accepted until 4 p.m. Nov. 1.

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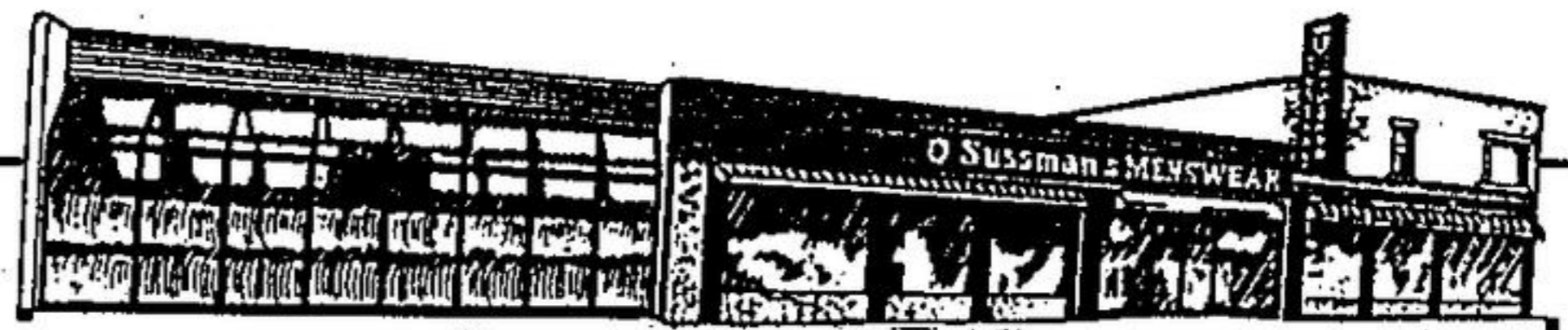
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