

Mammy Yokum rules with iron fist

Homework not over in searching for good tuition plan

By LOIS FRASER
Herald Special

Mammy Yokum, Pappy Yokum and Marrying Sam are three of "Li'l Abner's" best remembered characters in Al Capp's cartoon series. They are also colorful members of the cast of Georgetown Globe Productions' musical Li'l Abner which opens Jan. 30 at the John Elliott Theatre.

Mammy Yokum is played by Vera McDonald, a role she is thoroughly enjoying. Mammy is a super part for a character actress since she is rough, bossy and does more than her share of mischief making. She rules the Yokum household and, indeed, most of Dogpatch with a firm hand. "When I prefers, you concurs" she tells poor Pappy when he tries to express an opinion.

Vera was a founding member of Georgetown Little Theatre and has appeared in numerous plays in Georgetown over the past 25 years. This is her first experience with Globe, although Vera has done three musicals in Brampton, Viva Mexico, My Fair Lady and South Pacific.

Vera finds Globe is a happy friendly group. "There are no prima donnas here," she says, "just a nice group of people enjoying themselves." She cannot wait to get in costume which she feels will help her feel her character more. Vera thinks she might be considered a little larger than Mammy was in the comic strip but the cast point out she is playing the part to the hilt. Vera has just returned to Georgetown from Switzerland, where she played with the Geneva Theatre Company. Georgetown audiences will be pleased to see her familiar face when Li'l Abner opens next week.

Pappy Yokum, played by Gord McLeod, is a tough little fellow and Gord is perfect for the role. He was a former professional clown with Barnum and Bailey Circus and he has the small but wiry physique we all come to think of as typical of Li'l Abner's dear little Pappy. Gord got his start in performing when he did shows across Canada at various airforce bases where his father was employed. He has spent the last 30 years doing musical theatre productions, many with the Kodak Players, where Gord works.

It was through Kodak that Gord met Ralph Ursel of Globe, who encouraged him to come from Brampton to join the cast of Li'l Abner. Gord



Not everyone is a friendly person in Dogpatch. There are some snarly characters such as an insipid husband (Rick Armstrong) and Romeo Scragg (right), played by Bruce Leonard. (Herald photo)

is glad he did, since he told us that Globe is the friendliest group of people he has ever worked with. Gord says he enjoys playing Pappy, but the part is secondary to the overall enjoyment of being part of the cast.

Marrying Sam is played by Joe Delguidice, an experienced member of Globe. A versatile actor, Joe played the villain (Jud Fry) in Oklahoma, the romantic lead in *New Girl in Town* and is now the comic, round-bellied, preacher Marrying Sam. Joe was part of the committee that chose Li'l Abner and he knows first hand what a hilarious story this is.

Joe played Marrying Sam in Brampton five years ago and won a coveted Thea award as best actor for his efforts.



VERA MACDONALD GORD McLEOD

The business beat



Owner Anthony Freckleton (left) is seen here with the manager of his Jamco Clearance Centre, Leon Lee in front of the store in Moore Park Plaza. The store offers clearance prices on a variety of clothes and household items.

Jamco means super prices
If you've driven by the Moore Park Plaza and wondered what the word Jamco means, well here is the answer: Owner Anthony Freckleton will tell you about his store that has a "wide range of quality products at super prices."
"When we say something is new arriving daily, we mean it," he says.
The full name of his store is called Jamco Clearance Centre. The store offers clearance prices on ladies and children's wear. Some items available

Retire in Rockwood
Senior citizens and war veterans who do not wish the responsibility of living at home will be pleased to know there is a place that offers all the comforts of home without the worries. Rockwood Heights Lodge is a retirement residence set in the middle of Rockwood, on 117 Guelph Street. It is operated by four employees, and Janet Booth, a registered nurse aid with 22 years of experience with geriatric nursing.
The emphasis is on hygiene and catering to the needs of the residents. Special diets, and a homely atmosphere are important aspects of Rockwood Lodge.
The professional staff of registered nurses aids are on duty at all times, to administer any medication needed.
Plans are ready to build a new lodge, which will be located on the same site. The new Rockwood is planning to have more modern conveniences with the needs of the senior citizen in mind.

Gloria's gourmet
By HEATHER VAN HORNE
Herald Special
Gloria's Gourmet Catering, solely owned and operator by Gloria Chappell, is an aspiring food and speciality business located in Norval.
"Food is not made, but created," is the motto that makes this establishment unique. Excellence is strived for, and Gloria takes pride in her personal style and the attention she gives to small details.
Fancy cakes, desserts and hot d'oeuvres are made to specify, and menus are changed seasonally to keep with the occasion. All dishes are prepared in Gloria's home, where she uses various ideas and combinations to create the perfect dish for the customer.

Steeles widening

Steeles Avenue from Ninth Line to Trafalgar Road is due for widening and reconstruction and the region is in the process of making an application to expropriate the necessary lands for this work.
Approval of this expropriation is expected Wednesday when the application comes up before regional councillors. Lands on both sides of Steeles are being expropriated from 30 property owners.
So far, 32 of those property owners have signed purchase agreements with Halton. The deadline for acquiring the rest is this spring.
"Negotiations will continue during and following the commencement of the expropriation and every effort will be made to achieve negotiated settlements prior to possession by expropriation," a report from the region's chief administrative officer states.

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Watch out for the antics of these three characters when you see Globe's presentation of this hilarious musical. Tickets are available at 877-4323 for the performances on January 30, 31, February 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Parents should do their homework before joining a Registered Educational Savings Plan to pay their children's college tuition.
There are many benefits to the plans which allow families to accrue tax-free interest on deposits to be used for post-secondary education, says John Leybourne of the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC).
"But there are also some drawbacks and parents should understand exactly how the programs work before they sign up," he says.
Only a few companies operate Registered Educational Savings Plans (RESPs) in Ontario. The plans are approved and regulated by the OSC. Under these plans - also known as scholarship funds - parents deposit a certain amount of money over a period of years and get it back when their child enrolls in college.
Although payouts may vary with different plans, the deposit money is usually made available to pay for the first year of study. Interest that has accrued over the duration of the plan pays tuition during the next three years.
One cause of complaints to the OSC involves early withdrawal of deposits.
Contributors may cancel their plans at any time and get back the money they've deposited over the years, minus the cost of certain administrative fees. However, they won't get a penny of the interest that has accumulated.
"Interest is only paid out as tuition if, in fact, the child attends college or university," Leybourne explains. "When a child decides not to get a post-secondary education or drops out without completing the program, the parents can't get the interest money out of the fund. So, along with the tax benefits and the incentives to save for the future, there is a gamble involved in investing in one of these plans."
Although deposits to RESPs are not tax deductible, the interest they earn is tax free until turned over to the child for tuition. It is then taxed at the student's income rate.
Contributions may be made weekly, monthly, annually or in lump sums.
Companies operating the funds set their own age limits for registration. At least one firm insists plans be started before the children are 10 years old. If a child is too old to be registered with a particular fund, shop around, Leybourne suggests.
Contributions to each plan are pooled and rerouted into low risk investments that generally bring in higher returns than depositors could get through regular savings accounts.
Before signing up, parents should check past rates of return for each company. The information must be in the fund's prospectus - a report on how the plan is operated, giving detailed financial statements and lists of fees charged to depositors.
"You should pay careful attention to the section in the prospectus discussing fees," says Leybourne, director of enforcement for the OSC. "Most of the complaints we get involve misunderstandings about enrolment fees."
-From the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations



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