

Plaza Suite success for Milton Players

Milton Players' production of Plaza Suite at the Manor auditorium on the weekend drew good crowds and an outstanding response from the audiences.

The three-part play, three stories by Neil Simon set in New York's Plaza Hotel, produced just the right amount of titters, guffaws and belly-laughs as the cast of local amateur performers went through their lines with few mis-cues.

The Players had a few obstacles to overcome in presenting the play at the Manor — it originally was slated for the Drury

auditorium but asbestos problems at the school forced the move, at the last minute. The lighting was difficult, the stage was smaller, sets didn't fit at the Manor and the house was definitely smaller in size. But the show went on, and was a success.

Director Vienna Baker and stage manager Penelope Carlos whipped the crew into shape. The actors ranged from rank amateurs (none of the men in the play had ever performed in a major role before) to experienced troopers. An outstanding performance was turned in by

newcomer Larry Welch, a local Presbyterian Church minister, who was a believably frustrated father of the bashful bride in the hilarious third act — his first role in any play.

Doug Pilkington and Avril Winchester starred in the first act, a tragic yet comic treatise on a middle-aged couple about to break up a marriage. Minor roles went to Judy MacDonald as his secretary and girlfriend, Philip Gray as the bellhop and Bill Fennell the hotel waiter.

Jim Steeves and Elizabeth Bone carried ad-

two, about a reunion between high school sweethearts (14 years later) when he is a suave Hollywood movie producer, she an unhappy wife and mother. Bill Fennell made another brief appearance as the waiter.

The third act was a laugh riot as mother Gloria Munro and father Larry Welch attempted to persuade their daughter Kim Smith to come out of the bathroom and get married. Phil Gray was the groom.

The play was enjoyed by close to 400, with a sell-out Saturday night. A dress rehearsal was held Wednesday for Manor residents.

The Players' first annual general meeting is being held tomorrow (Thursday) night at 8 p.m. in Milton Library. Final nominations will be accepted for the new executive to be elected. All members and those interested in theatre are asked to renew their memberships this week.

Last week's play will also be reviewed at the meeting and future projects discussed. One good news note: The Players have been offered a "home".

Several future projects are in the wind, including workshops, some charity shows, performances for local service clubs and maybe even a Christmas production.



The big come-on. Jim Steeves, as the dashing Hollywood movie producer, met with resistance when he tried to cuddle up to his high school sweetheart Elizabeth Bone in Milton Players' Plaza Suite.

Story and photos by Roy Downs



How dare you!. Avril Winchester gets in a few licks at her straying husband (Doug Pilkington) in the first act of Plaza Suite, presented by Milton Players at the Manor auditorium last week.



Old sidesaddle museum display

In Halton Museum, among the beautiful artifacts in the Victorian Room sits a crumbly old sidesaddle. Visitors' first reaction might be wonderment at it not being in the Carriage House with the horse display. However the history of this saddle is too exciting not to be featured, says Curator Eria Brittain.

When the commandant at Ft. Niagara heard of the plight of five women and 31 children in New York State, he sent a few soldiers of Butler's Rangers and Mohawk Indians to bring them to safety during the War of Independence, in 1777. The husbands, soldiers of Butler's Rangers, had been captured and im-

prisoned, homes burned or confiscated, and no provisions left for this group of people.

This saddle carried Mrs. Philip Buck up the Susquehanna Valley to Ft. Niagara and on to Montreal, where she soon gave birth to her seventh child, a boy who later was the father of Halton's famed Dr. Anson Buck. With her were the families of Bowmans, Youngs, Nelles, and Secords. Mrs. Secord was to become the mother-in-law of Laura Secord, who warned the British of the impending invasion of the Americans in the war of 1812.

Halton Museum is open weekdays 8.30 to 4.30, and commencing May 4 on Sundays from 1 to 5.30 p.m.

Entertainment

She's watching. Secretary Judy MacDonald goes over some "business" forms with her boss (and lover) Doug Pilkington in The Milton Players' Plaza Suite three-act play which ran three nights at the Manor auditorium last week.

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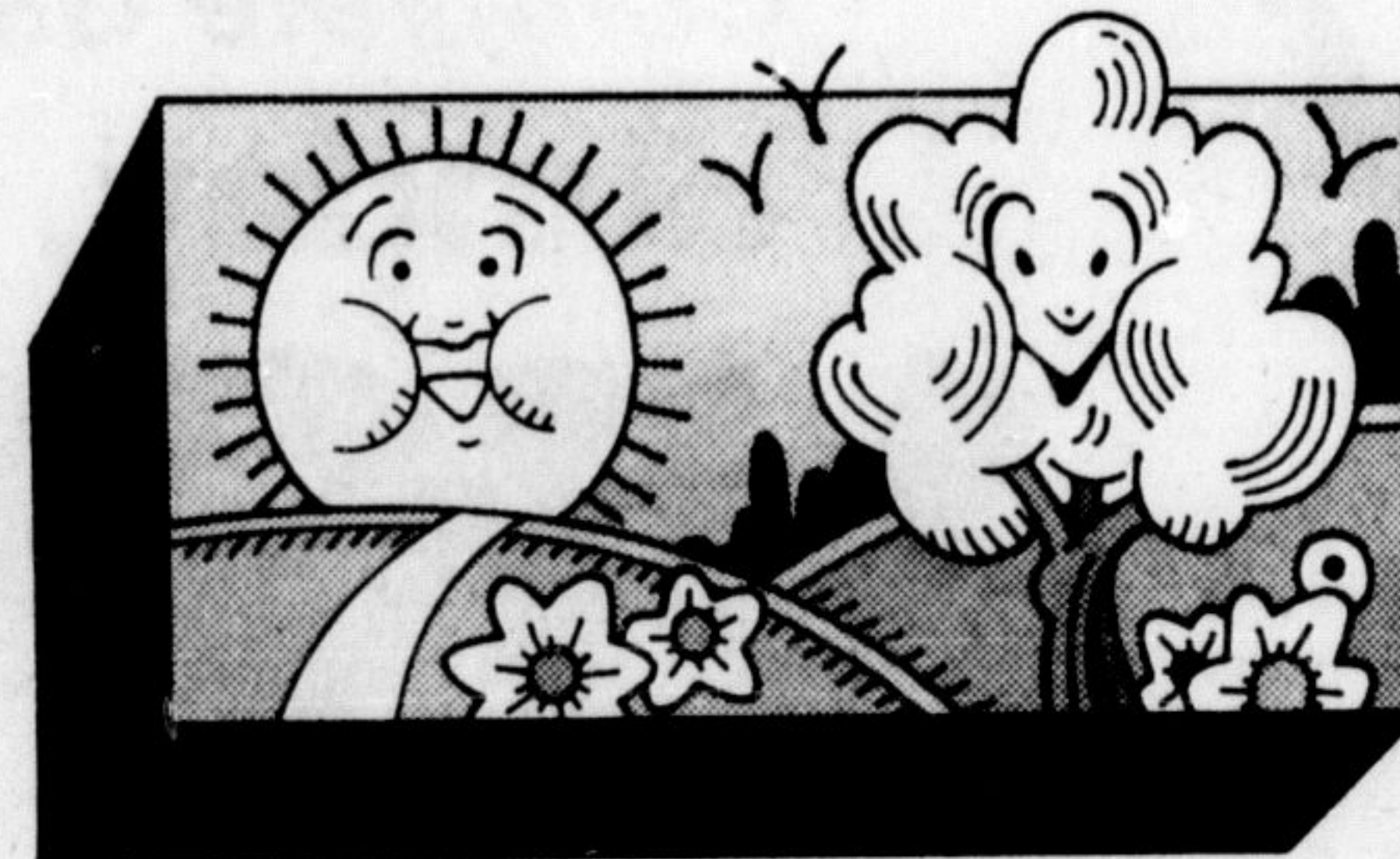
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