

There isn't anything, the sea can do! Mourning the death of her last son Gloria Munroe, Penny Saddington and Oonagh Johnston in "Riders To The Sea."



Oh Here we go Again! Penelope Carlos obviously has her mind elsewhere as Tom Brown reads the menu aloud in "Between Mouthfuls."

Great end to a great season

A review, by Richard N. Forster
It was indeed an evening of entertainment as "The Milton Players" closed their theatrical season with three one-act plays last week.

A drama, "Riders To The Sea" written by John M. Synge opened the evening. Penny Saddington as Cathleen prepares bread as the story unfolds on the disappearance of Michael, her brother, a fisherman in the North Sea off the coast of Ireland.

Maurya, mother of the missing youth, enters mourning her son, hoping he will return but convinced the sea once again has taken a son into its icy depths.

As the old woman, Maurya is powerfully portrayed by Gloria Munroe. The character is steeped in superstition as the widow reveals the plight of her family as one by one the sea has taken its toll.

Her life has been a constant battle for survival with the sea as a family with a fishing heritage. Peter Bell as her youngest son Bartley, a cocksure young man fearing nothing, sets out to find his missing older brother.

A bundle of recovered clothing, a clue to the fate of the unseen Michael is kept secret from Bartley and his mother by Onagh Johnston as the young Nora.

The old woman's refusal to bless Bartley's journey on the evil seas brings a brief confrontation as Cathleen forces the grieving widow to hide her anger and bless dear Bartley.

Slowed by her age, the woman tried to catch up with the young lad but is unable to deliver her belated blessing. Overcome by a vision, she sees Michael and Bartley riding together and is rendered speechless.

Upon revelation of her vision to the girls it begins to become reality as mourners Deirdre Bergin,

Olive Bergin, Elizabeth Bone and Penelope Carlos with pallbearers Jim Carlos and Tom Brown bring the body of Bartley home for the last time.

"There isn't anything more the sea can do to me," cries the old woman as the play ends.

The drama was gripping from the first minutes of the production as clues to Michael's death and the demon-sea haunted the tale. The spartan set focussed attention on the actors as their accents and costumes carried off setting the time, place and era.

The director carefully watched details with one minor exception. As the play opens Cathleen is preparing bread for the family. She uses a pot holder to remove the lid from a pot on the fire. Using her bare hands, she then removes the contents from the hot pot. A minor point in an otherwise excellent portrayal.

"Between Mouthfuls", an English comedy by Alan Ayckbourn takes place in a restaurant as the waiter played by Phillip Grey prepares for the evening guests.

Tom Brown as Mr. Pearce takes no time in recognizing the professional shortcomings of his waiter.

Mrs. Pearce, played by Penelope Carlos, arrives late and quickly shows she is not in the mood for a pleasant night on the town. As the character of Mrs. Pearce develops, it becomes obvious there is no trust in her husband as she taunts him with abuse. She at best is overbearing, demanding and ready to kill.

The first clue as to the outcome of this one act play is handed to us on a platter as Jan Kishita as Polly and Peter Bell as Martin Chalmers, her husband, enter the restaurant. Within seconds the troubled Polly wishes to leave, once seeing the Pearces.

The waiter plays an important part in this comedy as his actions

serve to meld the two stories into one, making the obvious conclusion more evident—Polly and Ed Pearce's affair.

The dialogue leading to the revelation is carefully paced following the movements of the waiter. While bitter confrontations at each table carry on, the duties of the server add to the comedic atmosphere. At times the action borders on slapstick as the food is served while there is a gnashing of teeth on the part of Mrs. Pearce.

Imagine a line like "Who is the little tramp" while deciding on runner beans?

True to Ayckbourn's tradition in comedy writing, the obvious story is turned around. We see Chalmers' reaction to his wife's confirmation of the three week affair but the concern is shifted from the act to the future of Chalmers' job. "I'll probably have to resign" was the only concern he had for his wife's actions.

Water dumped in the lap of Ed Pearce was carried off with great determination by Mrs. Pearce as the play wound down.

The production was hilarious. Penelope Carlos was outstanding as she negged and bullied her husband. She left no question in anyone's mind as to why her husband (Mr. Pearce) fooled around.

The best was saved for last.

"A Marriage Proposal" by Anton Chekov brought the house down. Jim Steeves as Lomov, a meek, mild-mannered man (a tall Don Knotts) calls upon Chubokov (Neville Johnston) to ask the hand of his daughter in marriage.

Natalia, played by Judy Luit, is unaware of Lomov's intentions and proceeds to challenge him in what appears to be an age-old family fight over property rights to a small worthless parcel of land bordering a swamp.

Insults are traded and Lomov is asked to leave before he can pop the question. Natalia finds out the purpose of the visit and summons the Russian back, apologizing to her future husband.

With just three characters, this play was the highlight of the evening. The set was simplistic to allow plenty of room for the visual comedy of the pacing, yelling, screaming, ranting and raving. To carry off this play, great energy and talent

was required by the players.

On one word, "excellent".

This was the first time the Milton Players have used arena theatre to stage their offerings. It was indeed successful, intimate and comfortable. Make-up for the new staging was a little heavy for the intimacy of the performances. The audience was no further than 50 feet from the players.

All in all, the play is the thing and indeed, they were all enjoyable.

New Zealand slides shown seniors

Milton Senior Citizens Club 88 held a pot luck luncheon April 8 at the Legion Hall, with a good attendance.

President George Hasselfeldt opened the meeting. Mrs. Mae Crawford was at the piano. The birthday song was sung for several members.

Henry Stanley, Agricultural Representative

for Halton, showed slides on the trip he and his wife took last October to New Zealand. Over 25 countries were represented on the sheep and beef study tour.

The club choir will travel to St. Catharines April 15 to sing for the seniors' club there. On

June 28 the choir will visit the museum at Kelso for a family day. Mohawk Raceway is having a senior citizens night on May 26, with free admission (except for bus fare).

New members Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Freaks were

welcomed. There are more seniors in town and all are welcome to join. Meetings are held at the Legion Hall, Charles St., the second Wednesday of the month for a pot luck luncheon at 12.30, and the third and fourth Wednesdays for socials — cards, bingo and carpet bowling.



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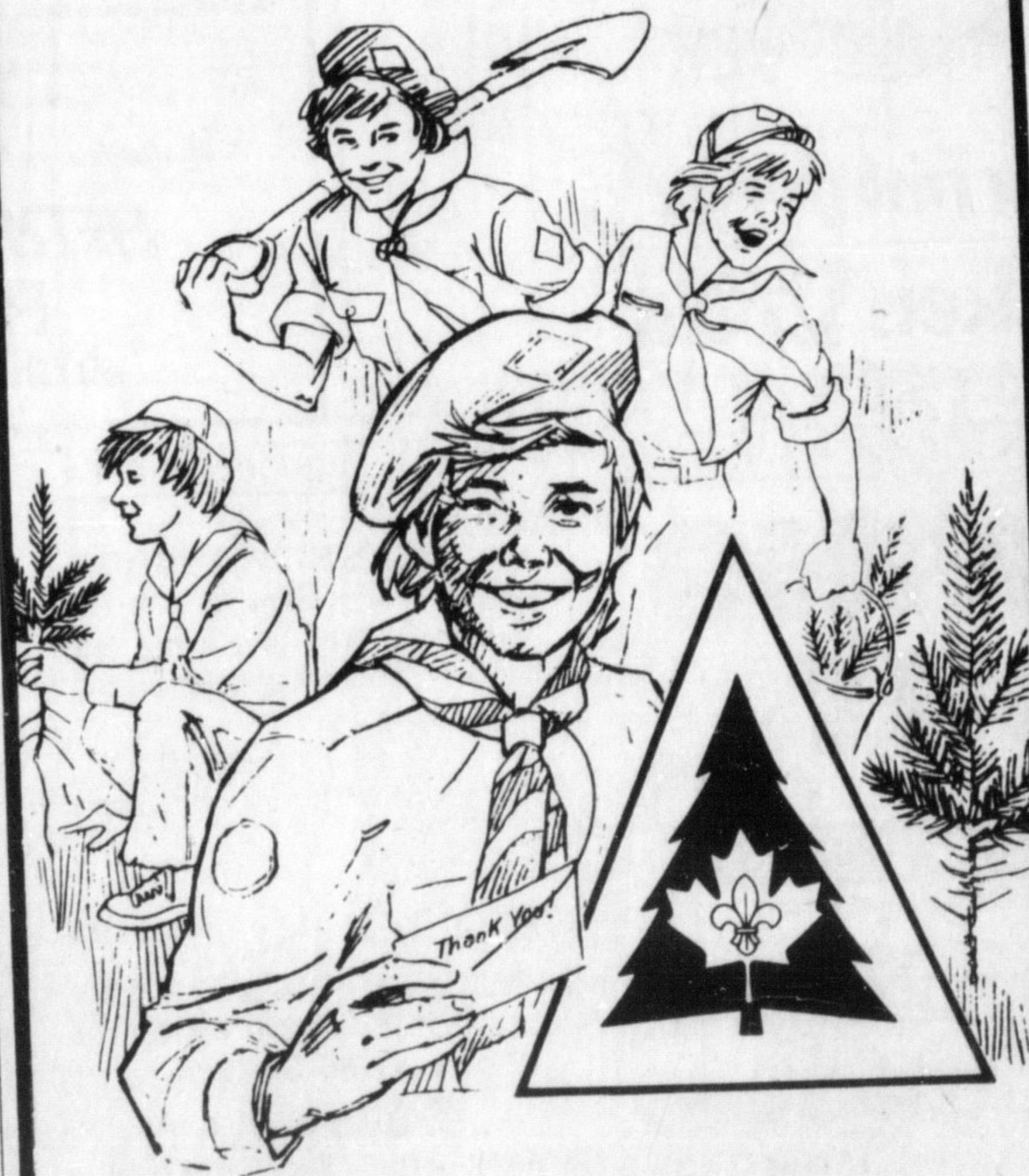
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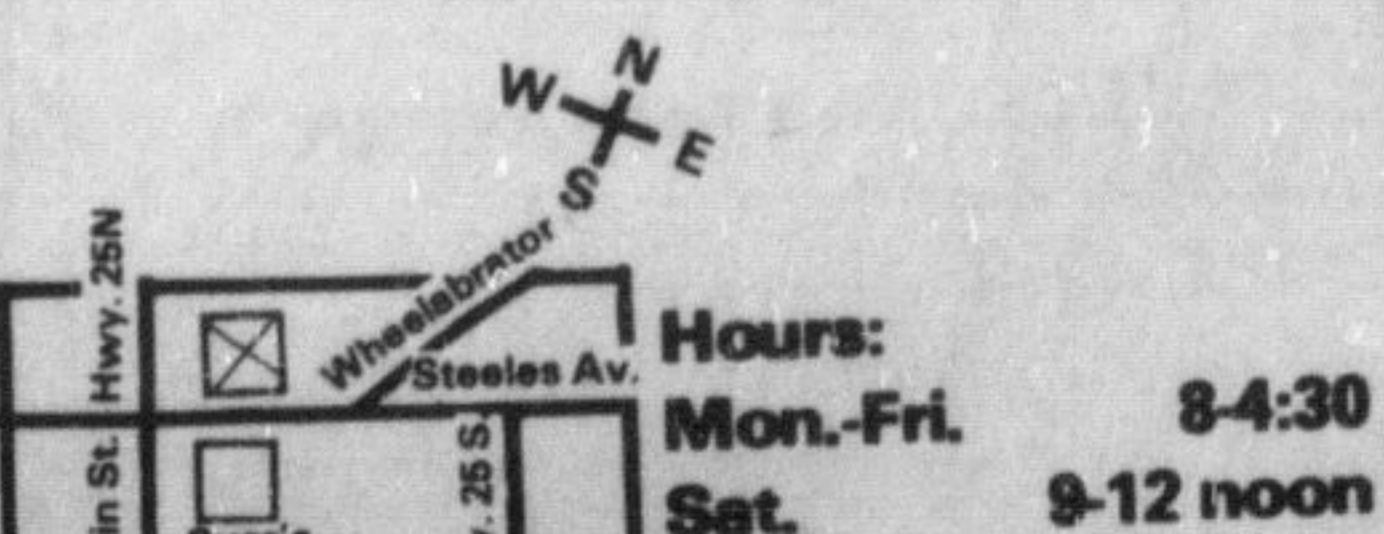
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