

# "There's No Business Like Show Business"

by J. P. McEvoy

New York, N. Y.—Lee Shubert was in a remnant mood the other night when we dined with him at the Ritz on our way to see "Desire Under a Street Lamp" - or whatever you call it. Since he had pulled a couple of seats out of the air for us on 30 minutes notice I assumed he had a piece of the show - a safe assumption since it would be hard to find a show or a legitimate theatre in the country that he hasn't got a finger in or his arm up to the elbow.

He was talking about the fabulous money that has been made in show business during the last few years - how the songs made half a million dollars out of a \$5,000 investment and then turned around, invested another \$500 in another show, and made a quarter of a million more. The word goes around fast and everybody began to ask, "How long has this been going on?"

Well, it's been going on quite a while. There's no business like show business in making it - or losing it in a hurry. I mentioned John Golden the other day in this column. He is a bit of a showman, but he admits more than a million on "Seventh Heaven" and much more on "Lighthouse". In those good old days you could go down the rabbit hole with your lettuce and John with the Golden Touch did just that.

Today? Lee Shubert speaking: "The

other day Brock Pemberton said to me, 'Did you hear how much I sold my play "Harvey" for the movies for? A million smackers.' I said, 'That's fine, but that doesn't make you a millionaire, does it?' and he said, 'Why not?' - so I did a little figuring for him. 'Out of your million the author gets 60% or \$600,000. But your backer gets 50% for putting up the money, which leaves you \$200,000. And since you are in the 85% bracket in taxes, you pay \$170,000 income tax, leaving you a net of \$30,000 - not bad for pulling an invisible rabbit out of a hat, but not a million.'

There was a dark moment when you could have bought a chunk of "Oklahoma!" for a song and I don't mean "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." How one lucky individual became a part owner of this fabulous gold mine is one of the cutest stories in show business and here's how Lee Shubert repeats it: The Theatre Guild was in its last legs financially when it produced "Oklahoma!" and tried it out of town. The show "needed work" which meant it needed money to bring it into town, and the Guild didn't have any. All the sharpshooters in the business had come to see the opening and none of them wanted to gamble.

Sam Behrman, the playwright who was appealed to by Guild Director Theresa Helburn. "We need \$20,000," she said. "We'll give you ten per cent of the show," Sam said, "Nothing doing. I'm a playwright, not a producer." Miss Helburn said, "We need the money to fix the show, Sam, and you've done all right with the Guild in the past. It took some persuading, but Behrman finally said, 'All right, I'll help you out. I don't want any part of show business except collect my royalties.'" So he gave his check for \$20,000, but to return the Guild insisted that he take 10% interest.

"Oklahoma!" moved the following week to the last try-out date before coming to New York. The critics were ecstatic. The house was a sell-out every night - and the Guild never needed another cent from that time on. In fact, they never even cashed Behrman's check, but the Guild stuck to its bargain and the playwright who didn't want any part of owning a show has ten per cent interest in the Comstock Lode of the musical show business. How much will he collect for his generous gesture? Maybe half a million dollars before that fabulous Surrey with the Fringe on Top falls to pieces like the One Hoss Shay.

Now you might ask why veteran producers - knowing the show business inside out and upside down - wouldn't know the minute they looked at "Oklahoma!" that it would be a smash hit in New York. I used to think that way too, and remember saying so to Ziegfeld one morning when I came into his room and found him laughing his head off over the reviews of a rival musical that had opened the night before.

"I've just made \$50,000," he said. "But the show is a flop," I said. "The reviews say it won't last till Saturday." "I know," said Ziggy. "I wanted to buy into it and they wouldn't sell, so I made 50,000."

"But you're a smart showman. Couldn't you tell by just reading the script that it was a turkey?"

"Listen," said Ziggy, "if I could read a bit by reading the script, do you know what I'd do? I'd get myself a little office, no bigger than this bedroom, and I'd spend one hour a day reading scripts. And I'd take 10% for picking sure hits and let the other guys produce them, and I wouldn't

## News From SCHUMACHER

By Mrs. James Stirrat

The Women's Association of Trinity United Church held their meeting Wednesday evening in the Church hall. The President Mrs. James MacKenzie was in the chair, Mrs. E. Nelson conducted the worship service. Mrs. Alex Stirling read the minutes of the last meeting, the treasurers report was given by Mrs. McCarthy, and Mrs. Stan Kitchen gave a report on the Welfare Committee. A short business session was held and plans were made for the annual "May Fair" which will be held in the church hall, Wednesday afternoon May 29th. The meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction. A social period was enjoyed and a dainty lunch was served by Mrs. Jack Matthew and Mrs. A. Byron, hostesses for the evening. Mrs. J. Stirrat poured tea.

The Mother's Bowling League was brought to a close for the season Tuesday evening when the members enjoyed a banquet in the Curling Club Lounge at the McIntyre Arena. A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed. After dinner the prizes were presented as follows. The team captained by Mrs. Bob Keller won first place. Personnel of the team were, Captain Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Jack Hannigan, Mrs. Hazel McMullen, Mrs. Helen Hazelwood, Mrs. Bahm and Mrs. Freddie Monk.

Second place team was captained by Mrs. Peter Hunter with Mrs. Daisy Baker, Mrs. Jean Mair, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Sandy Fulton and Mrs. John O'Leary.

The consolation event was won by the team captained by Mrs. Rose Johnson with Mrs. James Scullion, Mrs. Bill Cooke, Mrs. Mary Shaw, Mrs. Steve Karaban and Mrs. Agnes Ellis. There are six teams in the League, the three remaining teams were awarded consolation gifts.

The high average was won by Daisy Baker with a 195 point average. The High Double was won by Marion Dunn with a 357 score. The High Single award was won by Sall Scullion with a 314 score.

After the presentation of prizes a social evening was enjoyed. Cards were played and a sing song with Mildred Mirkovitch at the piano.

do anything else for one year and then I'd cut - with millions." How right he was. He couldn't - and died broke.

## The "Y" Week

So-Ed To Hear Panel Discussion

A special panel discussion has been arranged by the So-Ed Committee for the meeting to be held (tonight) Thursday May 13th. This program is a panel discussion upon the subject "Personal Ethics To-day" which will be led by Mr. P. T. Moxley of Timmins, who is the President of the Board of Directors of the Porcupine Community Y. M. C. A. The other two speakers on the panel are Rev. Fr. Martindale of Schumacher and Rev. R. J. Scott of South Porcupine. After the panel discussion, So-Ed will enjoy the usual program of activity and recreational groups and the balance of the evening will be given over to a special Leap Year party.

Timmins Y's Men See Boxers

The weekly meeting of the Timmins Y's Men's Club was treated to two boxing matches put on by some of the year's proteges of Elm Sturgeon. The first match was put on by John McKay and K'd Holmes with McKay getting the decision. The second match was put on by Flash Chartrand and Reni Tremblay with the decision going to Flash. All of the boys received awards for their splendid show. Bruce Ross, chairman of the Y's Men's Bingo Committee, outlined the plans and progress for the Monster Bingo which is being held by the Y's Men at the McIntyre Arena on May 23rd. The club was well satisfied with the report. Program chairman B. B. Hobson, reported that the May 31st meeting would take the form of a ladies night at which there would be an induction of new members and it is expected that the guest speaker will be His Worship, Mayor Karl Eyre.

Kirby N-Y Hold Party

The members of the Kirby N-Y Club were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Harris, 121 Elm St. South for an evening of games, dancing, entertainment and refreshments. The host of the evening was Stewart Harris, one of the club members. All of the club members present had a most enjoyable evening. Among those present were Bob Van Russell, Maria Gagnon, Jim Arnot, Denise Gagne, Stan McDivitt, Bruce Armstrong, Helen Hubert, Clarence Watson, Bob Armstrong, Connie Brazeau, Guy Canie, Jeanine Smith, Stewart Harris.

Hercules N-Y Promotes Show

The members of the Hercules N-Y Club have been busy for the past month preparing for the Variety Show and Dance which the club members are putting on at the Harmony Hall on Friday, May 14th. The boys in the club are being assisted by the girls of the Y's Wings and they have arranged a programme of music, dancing and skits which are highly entertaining. After the Variety Show, those present are invited to remain for the dance.

New Y Club Organize

During the past few months it has been difficult to keep up with the new Y. M. C. A. clubs which are wishing to organize. The latest groups have been the Sunset N-Y Club and the Sursum Corda N-Y Club.

and loving memory of those who have passed on by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Brough in memory of their friend Mr. James Stirrat, Railroad St., by Mrs. W. K. Wylie, Dundas, in memory of her mother and brother Mrs. J. E. Amos and captain Lynn K. Amos and by Miss Florence MacInnes in memory of her mother and father Mr. and Mrs. F. C. MacInnes.

Mrs. Joe Verbik, Pine St., entertained Sunday evening at a nicely arranged dinner party in honor of her daughter Mildred who was celebrating her birthday. The guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and after dinner a social period and sing song was enjoyed, attending the party were Anne Holjevac, Veronica Shantz, Nancy McNeil, Sheila Moran, Alice Scullion and the guest of honor Millie Verbik.

The many friends of Mrs. Ruscora, Second Ave., will be sorry to hear that she is ill in St. Mary's Hospital. All extend her their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Jack Tomlinson, student at Toronto University arrived to spend the summer vacation with his father Mr. Harvey Tomlinson, Fourth Ave.

The many friends of Mrs. Bill Willis, First Ave., are sorry to hear that she is on the sick list the result of a car accident near Ramore. All her friends extend her their best wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr. and Mrs. Willis and son Donald were on their way to Toronto to attend the Baptism of their Granddaughter Linda Anne Hein when the car struck a soft patch on the road near Ramore and overturned. Mrs. Willis suffered shoulder and rib injuries and after receiving medical treatment was brought home to Schumacher.

Mr. Alex Fulton, Professional Instructor at the Oshawa Skating Club arrived home to spend the summer with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Fulton, Second Ave.

Mrs. Sandy Fulton, Second Ave., has returned from a holiday with her son in Oshawa and points in the United States.

Miss Kathryn Lafontaine student at Queen's University, Kingston is spending the summer vacation visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Lafontaine, Coniaraum Property.

Mrs. T. Moore, First Ave., left Sunday on the Northland for Toronto where she will spend a holiday with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Ken Young.

The Ladies Guild of the Schumacher Anglican Mission held their meeting Tuesday evening in the Church hall. Miss E. Smith, Vice President was in the chair. Mrs. J. Collins read the minutes of the last meeting. A short business session was held and plans were made for the Tea and Bazaar which will be held on June 26th. The work meeting will be held Friday evening May 14th at the home of Mrs. J. Collins, Coniaraum Property. At the close of the meeting a delicious lunch was served. Mrs. L. Bassett and Mrs. Joe Moorish were hostesses.

Born - Saturday May 8th in St. Mary's Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack MacDonald, Second Ave., a son.

Mr. Roy Andrews is a patient in Toronto General Hospital. His many friends wish him speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gernecki left on Wednesday for Toronto after visiting old friends in South Porcupine. Mr. and Mrs. Gernecki are old timers of the Porcupine having recently left the north to reside in Toronto.

Mr. Coldwell continues to make inquiries about the National Film Board. Liberals and Pro-Cons should back him up. This institution, started as part of the temporarily successful attempt of Leftists to capture Government propaganda during the war, has some value, but is much too costly, and still inclined to Leftist ideas.

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