

'BLAYDS,' BEST GUILD EFFORT

"Illusion of Reality Persisted Throughout"—Critic

BY CRITIC

It was a most convincing presentation from first to last. The illusion of reality persisted throughout, making it difficult to imagine how it could have been better done. Judging from the rapt attention of the audience and the bursts of spontaneous applause at the close of the three acts, everybody followed the action closely, with intimate interest. Doubtless many believed that "The Truth About Blayds" was the best of the current annual series.

It is easy to speak of this play in terms of the artist, for, from the rise of the curtain upon a setting of rose, brown and gold, to the final curtain with Royce and Isobel before the red glow of the fire, it was one series of beautiful, changing, living pictures, so artistic and powerful that they will not soon be forgotten.

That these pictures should burn in the memory is no accident. They were painted by a skillful hand. The work of Mr. Alexander Dean, as director, is based on psychology of the audience, psychology of the players, and upon the literary and emotional values of the play itself. Pivotal points were emphasized with a master hand. Who can forget the curtain call after Act 1, each character still in character and making, once again, the climactic picture of the act?

In every phase of dramatic art which contributes to a perfect production—tempo, stage business, characterizations, pictures, Mr. Dean's touch was apparent. The North Shore Theatre Guild is to be congratulated upon obtaining his services for this play which was a most difficult one to produce. It is to be hoped we may see more of his work.

The character of Oliver Blayds, the famous old poet of 90 years, was remarkably well played by Mr. L. L. Buchanan. I hardly think that if they had not read the program, Mr. Buchanan's closest friends would have recognized him, so well did he take the part of the tremulous, thin-voiced Blayds in the wheel-chair.

Mrs. Laird Bell, in the part of the unimaginative, not to say stupid, married daughter of the poet, was so faithful in her role that we felt a tolerant, but still a little irritated sympathy with her misunderstandings.

Her husband, the old poet's son-in-law, was presented by Mr. Samuel Otis, who, with his side-burns, his assumption of effectiveness, and his worldly mindedness, created a genuine type. The children acted by Mrs. George Dunham and Mr. Francis Butler were thoroughly modern, she with her cigarette and he with his sophomoric shrewdness.

The critic, played by Mr. J. Williams Macy, was very ingratiating and a delightful middle-aged Romeo. The lady whom he finally won, Blayds' devoted daughter and nurse, was really Mrs. R. E. Knight Jr. She made us feel the sadness of devotion of eighteen years to a man who was, most likely an impostor. Those who have seen the play will understand the meaning of "most likely."

Either the enunciation of the players or the accents of the Jane Kuppenheimer Memorial hall at the Skokie school was at fault, or perhaps, it was the hard hearing of the present writer; but, the fact remains that many words and phrases were not distinctly heard.

This closing performance of the season whetted our appetite for next year's plays.

Fifty-five different persons have appeared in the principal parts of the eight plays already given, and over sixty additional persons in lesser parts. Much new material will appear next year.

Announcement of the program for 1923-24 will be made early in the Fall, when, it is hoped, present memberships may be renewed, and many new ones added.

If you are willing to give service of any kind to the Theatre Guild, or know of others who can do so, whether in acting, helping with scenery, stage, clerical work or make-up, kindly give names to Mr. Percy B. Eckhart, Kenilworth, President of the North Shore Theatre Guild.

OF INTEREST only to our ADVERTISERS

Physical size inspires awe. Jumbo, good for little except quantity, was certainly fine for that. A big man attracts the attention, even of Chicago newsboys. A stirring blast on the bugle inspires all with new courage. The moral is, use a full-page ad if you want to compel attention!

Full Page Roll of Honor

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The North Shore Thor Shop of Winnetka has been appointed the authorized Factory Branch of the Hurlley Machine company, manufacturers of the Thor Electrical appliances, now enjoying unusual prosperity. Mr. Bennett states that he has placed more than 150 new Thor appliances since the first of the year.

The Skokie Motor company, Elm street, Winnetka, is displaying a beautiful model of the Lincoln car in its display rooms. The company handles the Ford and Lincoln cars.

Monday, June 11, will be official Opening Day at the new Public Service com-

pany store at Wilmette and Central avenues, Wilmette. There will be a special gift for housewives who visit the store during the first three days of business.

Dr. O. H. Bersch, Wilmette optometrist, has returned from Atlanta, Ga., where he attended the International convention of Kiwanis clubs. He reports a wonderful time and the biggest and best Kiwanis convention ever held. More than 6,000 Kiwanians were registered.

Bert Blow, excavator extraordinary, is making the dirt fly on the new municipal playgrounds on 17 street, Wilmette. It won't be long now, Bert says, when the kids will be on their playgrounds.

PUBLIC SERVICE STORE OPENS DOORS JUNE 11

Monday, June 11, has been announced as official "Opening Day" at the new Public Service store and office in the Rockhold building, Wilmette and Central avenues, Wilmette.

A handsome gift catalog will be presented to every housewife visiting the new store during the first three days after opening, as a feature of the official opening.

"The rapid growth of Wilmette and adjacent territory has made necessary the establishment of this store and office," officials of the Public Service company of Northern Illinois announced this week. "Our estimate of the present population of Wilmette is 10,214, more than double the 1910 census return of 4,943. An even greater growth is predicted during the next ten years."

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Christ Church Choir In Concert for Camp Fund

The choir of Christ Episcopal church was heard in an interesting secular concert Thursday evening of this week at the Jane Kuppenheimer Memorial hall, given for the benefit of the Choir Encampment fund.

The concert was presented under the personal direction of Ellis E. Chase, choirmaster and organist of Christ church.

By virtue of these concerts each year funds are derived to defray the cost of sending the choir to a vacation camp later in the summer.

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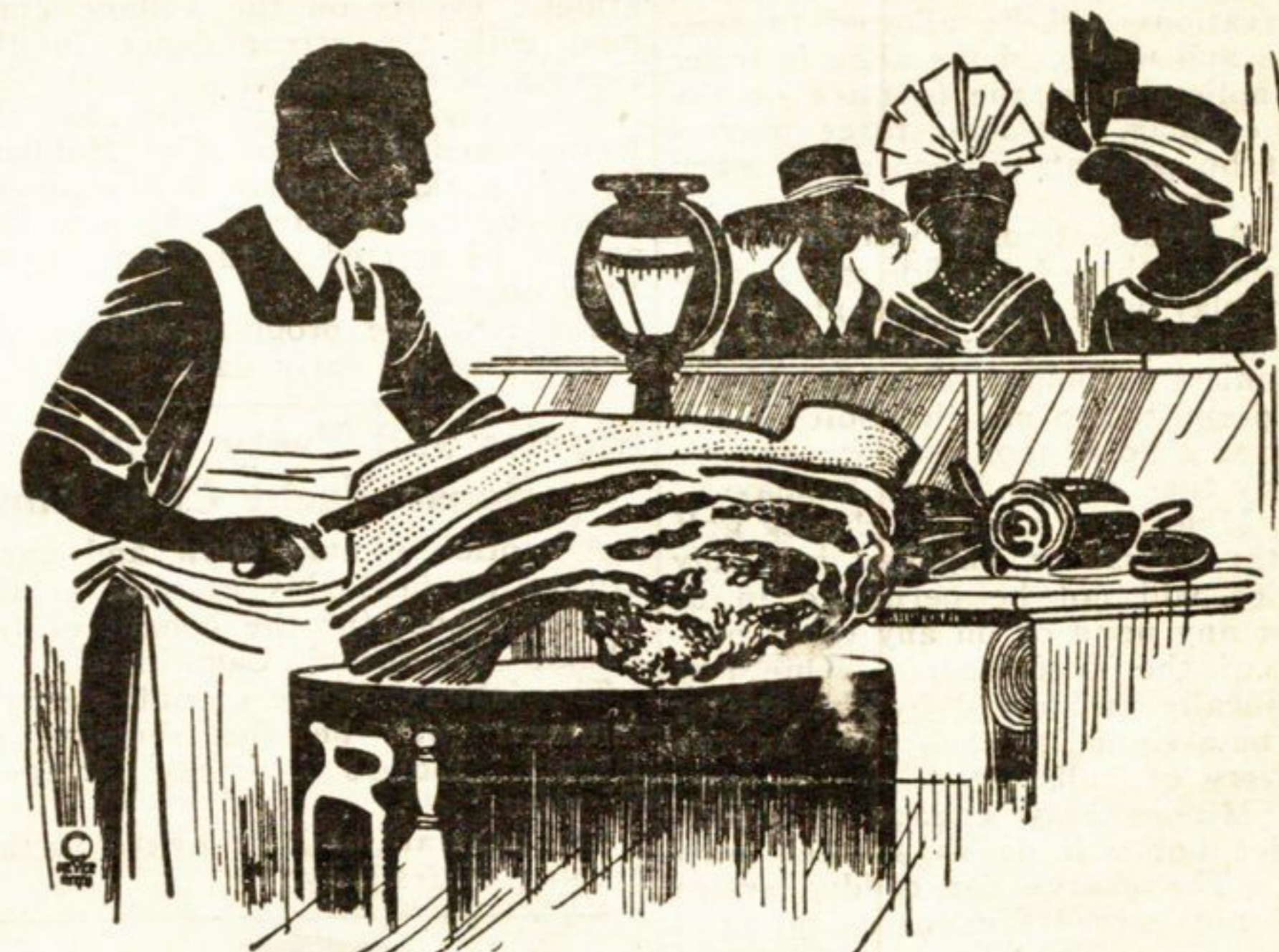
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A Tender Cut!

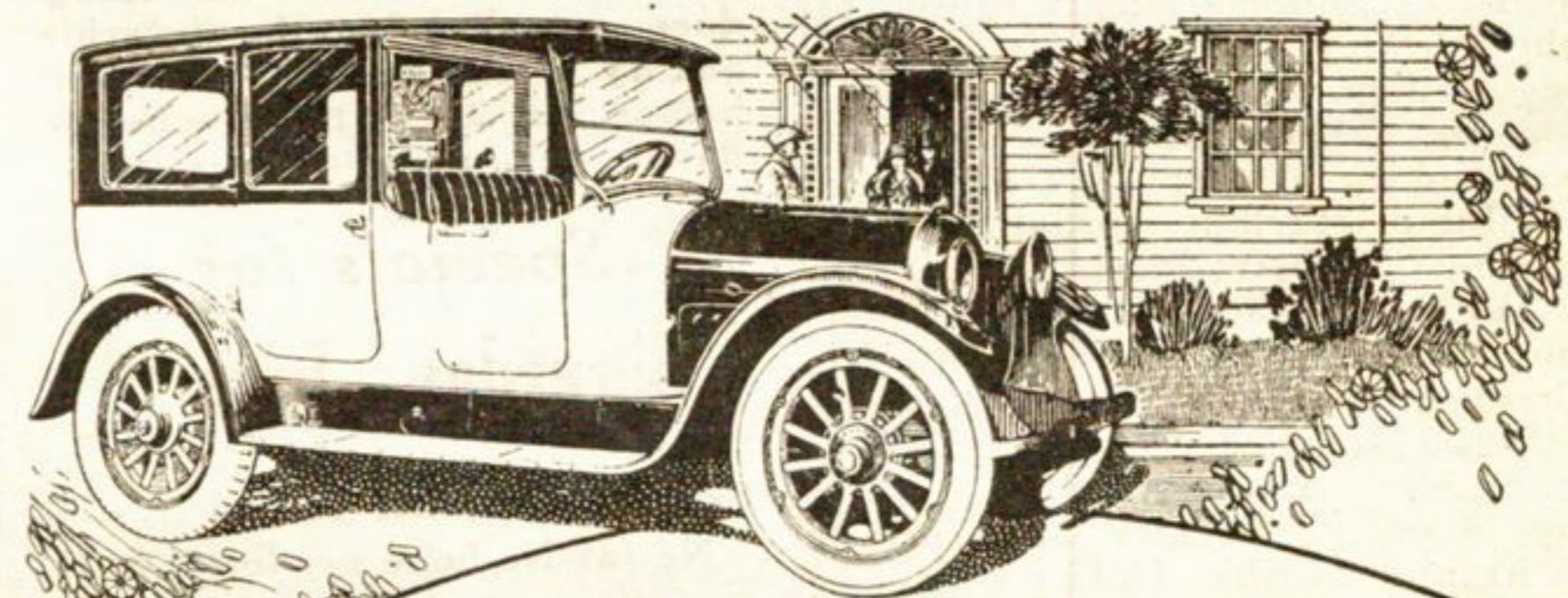
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