

## SUBSTITUTES RESCUE "LION AND THE MOUSE"

**Absence of Regulars Because of  
Illness Fails to Impair Fine  
Community Drama**

By Critic

"The Lion and the Mouse"—a very remarkable triumph! Professionals have an understudy, but amateurs cannot attain that luxury. Therefore, when the leading part of "Shirley" became vacant at 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, the fate of the play scheduled for that evening hung in the balance. The faith and resourcefulness of Mrs. Ray Feagans, the director, and the amazing ability of Mrs. James Deming, who took the part, and, with book in hand so read the lines that they seemed her own words, saved the day. Other changes had to be made and announced from the platform. Mrs. Deetle was played by Mrs. Feagans, Miss Frances Ellison being ill. The expressman was taken at the last moment by Edward Martin.

Many well-known favorites appeared in the course of the first act. Mrs. John Marshall never let us forget that her father was John Nesbit, the banker. Mrs. John Ritchie was a huge success as Eudoxia, who, having engaged for a family of two, objected to work for four, and who "wasn't told anything about baggage." Mrs. William Ayer McKinney was very convincing as the wife of the persecuted John Rossmore. Ralph Varney was a good specimen of "blue blood," exemplified in the Hon. Fitzroy Bagley, while Mrs. Joseph R. Graff took her first considerable part as Mrs. John Ryder.

### New Players Sparkle

New and welcome people were D. B. Middleton, who appeared as the Rev. Pontifex Deetle; Frank Bailey, as Judge Rossmore; James Deming as ex-judge Stott; Harold K. Weld as Jockins (one of the best butlers ever secured by the amateur group); and John Jameson, who played Senator Roberts. Mr. Jameson is a fine addition to the growing group of talented amateur actors. So also is Miss Myrtle Ness, who made a charming Kate Roberts.

Carl Johnson played the difficult part of Jefferson Ryder very well, growing steadily better as the play progressed.

Of course the last three acts rested mainly in the hands of Burton Atwood, who, as John Burkett Ryder, "The Octopus," did a fine piece of work. Those who remembered Mr. Atwood in "The Jacobin" can congratulate him on his ability to do a different type equally well.

Mrs. Sherman Goble assisted Mrs. Feagans in the directing, while Mrs. Karnopp acted as prompter.

### "Back Stage" Does Well

Mrs. William T. Wersted, Mrs. Louis Sherman, Mrs. Roger Ballard,

Mrs. Carleton W. Washburne and Mrs. Charles F. Simpson were in their usual places behind the scenes, making the settings, costume and make-up very effective.

Mrs. Alfred Freeman and Mrs. Ralph Jaeger assembled countless lovely properties to good effect (and have them all to return).

David Lasier, as stage manager, had an able crew: Harrison McClung, Dick Stoddard, William L. March, and Donald Morrison. Dr. Davies Lazear managed the lighting, and Miss Mary Scrimgeour attended to the sale of tickets.

A capacity audience enjoyed not only this strong play, but listened gladly to Mr. Davies' preliminary talk on National Drama Week, and the part the Little Theatre Movement is taking in the development of good plays, and the co-operation this movement is developing between actors and audience. "The Lion and the Mouse" was given by the Community Players on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Community House.

## Country Day Gives Help to Shakespeare Memorial

"The Tragedy of King Richard the Second," by William Shakespeare, was presented recently by the members of the Ninth grade English class of the North Shore Country Day school, in the school auditorium, February 3, the performance being given for the benefit of the Shakespeare Memorial theater fund.

Because the play was a class project, everyone of the forty members of the class had a part in the performance, the actors exchanging their costumes and their roles between each scene.

Six of the original nineteen scenes were chosen for the production, those in which Richard's character is most sharply delineated.

The settings for the six scenes and the costumes were designed and made by the Ninth grade in their art class.

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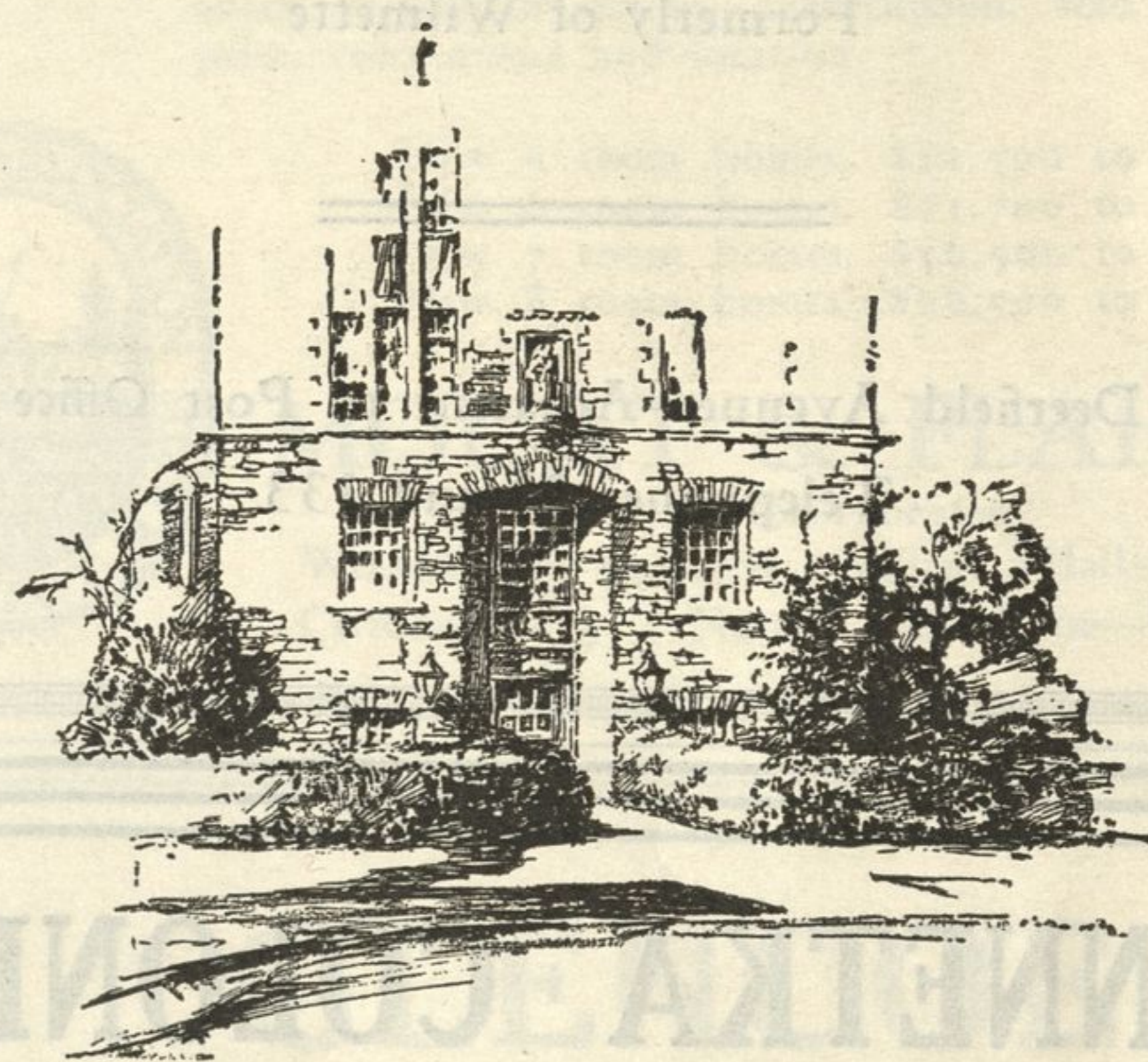
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