

## THEATRE GUILD STARTS REHEARSALS ON PLAYS

**"The Dummy" and "The Old Homestead" Will Be Presented Early in 1929**

An unusual announcement from the officers of the North Shore Theatre Guild names the plays selected for the two coming productions, that of January and that of March. Under the direction of David Owen, the Guild is planning diligent work for the next several months, with these two of the four annual plays taking the center of the stage.

"The Dummy" is a four act comedy which will be presented in January. The play is the result of the collaboration of Harvey O'Higgins and Harriet Ford, and it has had much successful professional handling as well as amateur. "The Dummy" is the story of the adventures of a little girl who is kidnapped by a New York gang and held for ransom, and the plot centers around this twelve-year old girl and the fourteen-year old messenger boy of the Detective Agency, who furnish most of the thrills. To begin at the beginning, the girl is the only child of a mother and father who have separated, and her disappearance causes them no alarm at first because each thinks her to be in the custody of the other. The mother, however, has secured the services of the great detective, Babbling, and his trained operatives have located the leader of the kidnapers. Faced with the facts, the parents become frantic and demand action toward the release of their daughter. "The Dummy," a loquacious messenger boy who aspires to be a "great detective," feigns to be deaf and dumb and manages to be kidnapped by the same gang. They hide him in the same rooms with the little girl, and adventure follows adventure until at last the final curtain falls with the lost child restored and the messenger boy counting his reward.

### Unusual Drama

"The Dummy" is unusual among plays because the leading characters are both so decidedly juvenile. The Guild's technical department is faced with the necessity of constructing a three-set production, one of which is the interior of a cabin in the Eastern mountains, and scenery of more than usual interest is promised by Richard Woellhaf, technician.

In March will be presented the biggest of the year's productions, a revival of "The Old Homestead." "The Old Homestead" is a play which was played extensively all over America as long ago as 1890. It was written by Denman Thompson, written by him, for him and around him, and he alone played the leading character part, that of Old Josh Whitcomb. Story has it that Denman Thompson was cast in the role of Josh Whitcomb in some lesser and not so successful production of which the main attraction was Thompson and his work, and that when that play went to the discard, taking advantage of his personal success, Thompson wrote "The Old Homestead" and cast himself in the first presentation. At any rate, we know that the piece was immensely successful and that it was presented everywhere from the dramatic centers of the world to the smallest opera house in the rusticity which the play so completely describes.

### Age-Old Story

The story is age-old and never without popular appeal. It mingles the humorous and the pathetic in excellent fashion. Old Josh Whitcomb's boy has left the farm in Vermont and has gone to the big city of New York, and nary a word has been heard from him since he left. So Josh betakes himself to the big city in search of his heir,

## Change in Scout Leadership



Walter McPeek

North shore people interested in Boy Scout activities in this vicinity are soon to say farewell to one Scouting leader and welcome his successor. Which is to say that Walter McPeek, Scout executive for the North Shore Area council, Boy Scouts of America, is relinquishing his duties here January 1 to engage in Scouting leadership at Milwaukee. Mr. McPeek will be suc-



Myron O. Rybolt

ceeded by Myron O. Rybolt, for the past four years on the staff of the Kansas City, Mo., Scout council. Mr. Rybolt assumes his new responsibilities here January 10.

## Firemen's Benefit Ball to be Held January 26

The Winnetka Fire department has announced that its annual benefit ball will be held Saturday, January 26, at Community House. The proceeds received from the dance are used partly for the Firemen's Pension fund of the village, partly for the benefit of the Winnetka unit of the Illinois Firemen's association, and partly for the benefit of individual members of the Winnetka Fire department.

### GREETINGS FROM EUROPE

Christmas greetings have been received from Frederick E. Clerk, superintendent of New Trier High school, who, with his family, is in Europe this winter studying educational methods on the Continent.

and the rest is his adventures in this land of wickedness and bright lights.

Under North Shore Theatre Guild handling, "The Old Homestead" will be produced in the style of 1890, with authentic costuming and incidental music of the period. Old songs will be revived, songs not heard for many years, and it is certain the Guild audiences will contain many who will remember seeing the play and hearing the songs when the play was the biggest hit of the American stage. The cast of the play is large, and the Guild will take advantage of the opportunity so seldom afforded to develop some of the new talent which is so plentiful on the north shore.

### In Winnetka January 18-19

"The Dummy," in its itinerary along the north shore, will reach Winnetka Friday, January 18, and will also play Saturday, January 19. The place will be the Jane Kuppenheimer Memorial Hall at Skokie school. Mrs. Merritt Lum is the North Shore Theatre Guild chairman in Winnetka, and Mrs. James C. Murray holds the position in Kenilworth. Information about the Guild and its activities may be secured from either Chairman, or you are invited to call at the Studio of the Guild in Evanston, the Varsity Theatre Building, to see and hear about the Guild in the several phases of its work.

## THUNDEROUS OVATION ACCORDED HOROWITZ

**Master Pianist of the Age Plays Before Host of Music Lovers at Gymnasium**

By Rutheda L. Pretzel

Vladimir Horowitz, startling Russian pianist, played to several thousand Chicago and north shore folk at the New Trier High school gymnasium Wednesday evening, December 26. He received rapt attention while he played, and deafening applause when he finished. Unusual intelligence, extraordinarily accurate fingers and the indescribable, intangible divine spark make him one of the greatest pianists of this age.

Against a background of sturdy pine trees and stripped bareness of the gymnasium wall, he seemed almost unreal. A black silhouette hunched over the white keyboard, part of the dynamic lines of the piano. A man of angles, electric force. Tall, pale, and remote with his high forehead, bleak nose, sharp chin and deep-set eyes. One does not have a sense of ease as he plays, but of perfection accomplished through conscious, complete control and intensive concentration. He has hardly any arm movement, and few mannerisms. When he wants power one merely sees his shoulders rise up as he draws a tremendous, unbelievable amount of it in a complete line from his toes through his body and out his finger tips. He is like a runner straining at the rope, ready for the race, every muscle alert. One is reminded of Wanda Landowska, for both have the same crisp, controlled finger action.

### Dining on Ambrosia

To hear a Scarlatti Sonata and Capriccio played by Horowitz is to dine on ambrosia. Absolutely clean playing, it was, amazingly flexible. The Chopin Ballade in G Minor was a different piece than that played by all other pianists, for Horowitz goes at it deliberately, making it grow and grow until one is breathless. It was even more exciting when he made a mistake and described an impatient, electric, circular gesture over the keyboard. The two Mazurkas and the three Etudes of Chopin were meticulously executed. He does the impossible with the pianissimo and always there are his pedal effects to add new beauty. He caught the spirit of the dance, purified it and made it marvelously graceful. The Minuet waltz was offered as an encore, and here again he approached it in a distinctly original way.

### Miniatures of Daintiness

Poulenc's Trois Movements Perpetuels were miniatures of daintiness, and there was a Dresden fragility in Debussy's Serenade a la Poupee. Sharper contours were reserved for Ravel's Jeux d'Eau. As for the two Liszt numbers, the Sonnette del Petrarco and the Valse Oubilee, one can only say that they were perfect. In them his hands looked unearthly, almost immortal. He concluded his program with variations on two themes of Bizet's Carmen. It was superbly played, and it was so full of fire and color, so boldly conceived, that it brought cheers and thunderous ovations. Horowitz is a comet. Whether he will still be blazing his way through the music firmament when he is as old as Paderewski remains to be seen. Needless to say, the eyes of critics and all music lovers are riveted upon him.

### CLOSE FOR HOLIDAY

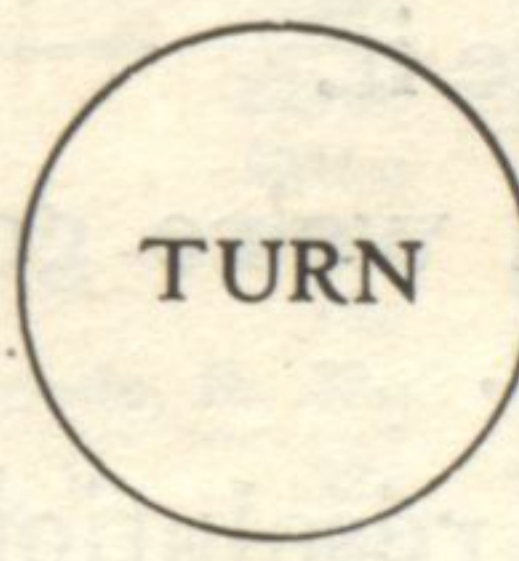
The Winnetka Public Library will close at 6 o'clock Monday evening, December 31, and will be closed on New Year's day.

## "The Christian Year," Subject of Sermon at Christ Church

"The Christian Year" will be the subject of the sermon to be given tomorrow morning by the Rev. E. Ashley Gerhard at the 11 o'clock services at Christ church.

There will be a Communion service in the chapel at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow morning and the Church school will meet as usual for its two sessions in the Parish House at 9:30 and 11 o'clock.

There is to be a celebration of the Holy Communion New Year's Day morning in the chapel at 9:30 o'clock, and a Communion service Thursday morning, January 3, at 9:30 o'clock in the chapel.



TURN

At the  
turn of the  
year—turn  
to the

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your turn to share  
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