

**'Quiet weekend' lively success**

By MOLLIE STEWART MARKHAM — If the crowds who showed up for the Markham Little Theatre production of "Quiet Weekend" which recently played to full houses in the Markham District High School auditorium were expecting crass amateur acting and half-baked backdrops — they were disappointed.

With capable actors and keen detail given to the authenticity of the props and settings, the comedy's success surprised even members of the troupe.

"Realistic settings are just as important as good actors," said Roy Reeves, director of the show.

Speaking in a cultured British voice, the English actor-turned-director went on to explain his emphasis on proper stage settings.

"Much of the success of theatrical productions depends on a mood being set. By insisting on lifelike backdrops I believe we got that mood in the play," he said.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTOR**

Reeves is no dilettante when it comes to theatre. While in England he worked as a professional actor with show biz figures of the stature of Yul Brynner. His experience with repertory companies has provided him with a qualified knowledge of what is required by amateur groups who wish to aspire to greater things.

In private life — "when one has family responsibilities certain ambitions must become secondary" — Reeves is unit manager with the CBC. Here again his work with schedules, production and budgets stand him good stead.

"Quiet Weekend", a play written by E. McCracken, is the third effort of the Markham Little Theatre. Previously the company had staged "Gaslight" which also was received enthusiastically.

"We had the largest cast in Weekend with thirteen characterizations," said Lawrence Moulé, one of the members. "I think it was our best effort too," he said.

**HILARITY**

The play with a main plot involving an elderly couple, Mildred and Arthur Royd (played by Bunty Webb and Don Kelly) who reside at their summer cottage and invite family guests and visitors from the city, has some hilarious moments when a bristling righteous neighbor Adrian Barzford (Bill Birch), much against his principles, is induced to go salmon poaching. It turns out he enjoys himself hugely.

"Although Little Theatre was organized one year ago we are delighted

**Maple syrup time**

By BERTHA PATTENDEN VANDORF — The sap's running and it's maple syrup time at the vanNostrand farm. Paul and David spent their Easter vacation helping with the boil-down.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Avizius were honored at a farewell gathering held in the Vandorf Community Hall. Fifty friends and neighbours attended and presented them with a silver cream and sugar set with tray. Mr. and Mrs. Avizius have sold their service station and are moving from the community.

Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Slater have returned from a holiday in Florida.

Several of the boys from the Vandorf area are members of the Studio 9 team in the Aurora-Bantam hockey league. They are David van Nostrand, Larry Preston, Gordon Botham, Bruce Warden and Danna Thomas.

The auction sale on the farm of Mr. Albert Scott was very successful. The auctioneer was Mr. Frank Bennett. The Scott centennial farm has been sold.

Those attending the Aurora Women's Progressive Conservative Association luncheon and fashion show from this area were Mrs. Betty van Nostrand, Mrs. Jean van Nostrand, Mrs. Leslie Hagell, Mrs. Rita Alcorn, Mrs. Sheila Merkley and Kathie and Mrs. Bertha Pattenden and John.



**Cuts 60th anniversary cake**

The Vandorf Women's Institute marked its 60th anniversary March 20 with a special program in the Vandorf Hall. Present to cut the birthday cake was Mrs. Mary Willis, 82, now of Toronto, a past president of the organization. —Staff Photo

with the reception given us by the public and press," said Mrs. Mary Hinton, stage manager. "We are hoping to get a charter," she said.

Mary, who also doubles as treasurer, said the company's main problem at this time is lack of funds. The group was given a

grant by the Markham Recreation Committee but increasing costs for rehearsal facilities, settings and other incidentals posed a number one problem.

"After our expenses are taken care of anything left over from the proceeds of Weekend will go into our

next production," she said.

Other members of the troupe who were included in the play are Ernie Nicklin, Mary Blagdan, Jaclie Ecclestone, Eleanor Malcolm, Lillian Stevanen, Dale Lyons, Helen Knight, David Twigge, Lillian Birch and Valerie Crowe.

**A 'golden day' for Gormley district couple**

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith

GORMLEY — Mar. 23 was indeed a "golden day" for Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith, Gormley, R.R. 1. The well known and highly respected couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are lifelong residents of Whitchurch. Mrs. Smith, the former Anna Louise Monkman, was born on the family farm at conc. 2, owned by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Jones Monkman. For a period of more than 35 years, she served as the organist at Mt. Pisgah United Church.

Mr. Smith's father purchased their farm property on conc. 3, back in 1847. They sold it in 1963 but retained sufficient acreage to erect their present home.

Fifty years ago, the little country church was the centre of community activity. The couple became acquainted while attending Sunday school at Mt. Pisgah. They were later married at her home. Rev. Scott conducted the ceremony.

Mr. Smith was an active

member of the board of Lloyd Public School for 26 years. He was the secretary-treasurer for 20 years. He also found time to serve as secretary-treasurer of the church.

The couple is extremely proud of their two daughters, Margaret Jean (Mrs. Aubrey Barker) Toronto and Frances Doreen (Mrs. Lloyd Harvey) of Gormley. They have seven grandchildren.

Relatives and friends attended from a distance, Saturday, including Montreal, Port Arthur, Bracebridge and Stayner.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith received dozens of cards and messages of congratulations including telegrams from Prime Minister Lester Pearson, Premier John Robarts, Senator Wallace McCutcheon, William Hodgson, M.P. York North, and Reeve Stewart Burnett of the Township of Whitchurch.

A beautiful bouquet of yellow and gold chrysanthemums graced the centre of the dining room table, surrounding a lovely anniversary cake. The top tier was from the original of fifty years ago. Pouring tea were: Mrs. Janet Bunn, Mrs. Lorne Evans, Mrs. Ernest Smith, Mrs. C. Connor, Mrs. William Grant and Miss Arvilla Forrester. Assisting were: Jill Charles, Vicki Corbet, and their five granddaughters Karen and Susan Barker and Brenda, Barbara and Bonnie Harvey.

The Tribune extends its congratulations with the wish that this fine Whitchurch Township couple should enjoy many more years of health and happiness together.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith, Gormley, R.R. 1, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 23 and welcomed more than 150 neighbors, friends and relatives to their home. —Staff Photo

**Lay corner stone**

By VERA LEACH ASHBURN—Rev. L. H. Fowler, D.D. of Toronto will be the guest speaker at the 11.30 a.m. service in the Centennial Centre Sunday, March 31, and will officiate at the laying of the memorial corner stone for Burn's Church at 3 p.m.

The monthly meeting of the Ladies Bible Class was held at the home of Mrs. Frank Lynde. Miss Pearl Taylor of Stouffville showed pictures of her trip to the Holy Land.

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