

# Granbury opera house opening doors again

A drama production company, which boasts a backbone of 19 Tarleton State University student-actors, will open the doors of the 90-year old Granbury Opera House June 19 for the first time since 1911.

The students and the season's productions will be directed by Mary Jane Mingus, director of drama at Tarleton State University. They are serving an internship by their participation which nets them 12 hours of college drama credit and a wealth of experience.

Currently, the Tarleton players can be found ankle deep in sawdust or dizzily perched in the rafters of the 1886 opera house as they ready for the first of four shows this summer. The June 19 grand opening will be a musical melodrama entitled "Gold in the Hills."

Mrs. Mingus' group is wiring lights, making costumes, painting sets and even selling advertising to culminate a community effort that resurrected the beautiful old opera house from a roofless shell.

Local businessmen and artisans gutted the building and built it from the ground up. Irreplaceable window frames were done by hand in a local cabinet shop and donations and equipment came from every sector. One of the ramrods of the restoration, Joe Nutt said that "I can't stress enough how this was the result of everyone's work. I've never seen people unite and pull together like this."

The townspeople got the opera house up but they still needed a

production company. This is where Mrs. Mingus, the Granbury Opera Company, and Tarleton State University joined to offer a program of acting experience and college credit while acting in a professional summer stock company.

"Of course acting is just a portion of the kids' experience," said Mingus. "By the end of the summer they will have done everything from stage directing to lighting."

"For the students this is a chance to expose themselves in the profes-

sional theater in a company run like the professional theater," she explained. "And, of course, doing four shows back to back will test their abilities and make them work."

"They will be totally saturated by the 12 hours of courses and the shows so the group will soon find out if the craft is for them," Mingus chuckled.

"This increased interest from Granbury and our arrangement for the summer stock is really going to put us in the big time," Mingus said

of the drama department with pride. "Granbury has given us an open door to draw students."

Mingus is not in it alone though. JoAnn Miller, a native of Arp, is directing the restoration of the opera house. She is a night club entertainer and began her career as a singer with Tommy Dorsey's Band. Last year she appeared in Dallas dinner theater productions.

The students from Tarleton are surrounded by even more of the past than they bargained for. They

are housed for the summer in the "Mill House" which even predates the opera house. This piece of Texas is also being restored while it serves as a dormitory for the actors.

The rest of the summer schedule for the TSU players includes: July 10-27, a farce comedy with music, "Charlie's Aunt," July 31-August 17, a 1776 comedy, "Pursuit of Happiness," and August 21-September 7, a hit musical comedy, "Once Upon a Mattress."

## Rehearsals begin for dinner theater

Rehearsals started Tuesday for the Aggie Players' dinner theater production of "What The Butler Saw."

A six-member cast and crews under Director Bob Wenck have three weeks to prepare the play.

It will be presented June 26-27 and July 1-2 in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom by the MSC Summer Directorate. Tickets will go on sale soon at the Rudder Center box office. The duets will be \$6 per student; \$8, non-student.

Cast Monday in "What the Butler Saw" were Craig McIntosh of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Dana Herrell, Midland; Cheri Lindquist, College Station; Frank Staggs, Laredo; Alan Shinkman, Scranton, Pa.; and Steve Kiser, Midland.

They will portray, respectively, Dr. Prentice, Geraldine Barclay, Mrs. Prentice, Nicholas Beckett, Dr. Rance and Sergeant Match.

The Joe Orton play deals with the antics of a psychiatrist.

Kathi Cowgill will serve as assistant director and stage manager for the production, first of two planned this summer at Texas A&M University.

"What The Butler Saw" is the first cooperative undertaking of the Aggie Players and MSC. "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" is billed for the second production.

Previously a regular semester activity, the Aggie Players is the TAMU student company that operates in conjunction with the Theater Arts Section of the English Department. Wenck is in charge of the section.

## Prairie View researchers helping NASA

Researchers at Prairie View A&M are helping NASA fine-tune its satellite images of wheat growing below. From such adjustments, NASA satellites circling the globe some day may be able to tell who's growing crops, where they are and how they are doing.

A first-year crop of wheat has been planted, bordered by bare soil to isolate readings and eliminate interference.

"Since wheat is a basic human and animal food crop, it would be expedient to study it in terms of its growth and morphological characteristics periodically throughout the life cycle, under both optimum and stress conditions," note the researchers.

Aside from that valuable information, the team will also be feeding information to NASA computers so that a satellite that is making three trips a day over the wheat can adjust its images to a number of variables. A myriad of factors face the infrared sensors on the fly-by. A canopy of wheat gives off different temperatures according to its growth, age, water and soil conditions, the relative humidity, wind velocity and time of day.

This is the first crop under the project, although the planners hope for three sequential plantings under both moisture-stress and adequate water conditions.

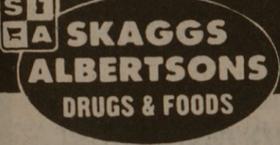
With such information, satellites may be adjusted in the future to look down on the earth and record where the world's wheat crop is growing, who is growing it and how the crop is faring.

## Library contest offers cash for collectors

Cash prizes of 100 dollars will be presented to the winners of the third annual student book collector's contest at TAMU.

Sponsored by The Friends of the TAMU Library, the contest will begin at the start of the fall semester. Entries will be judged on the basis of 25 selections from each individual's collection. An annotated bibliography and short descriptive statement about the collection are necessary to enter.

Contest guidelines also state that entries should represent a specific theme.



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