

Mountaineers' Troupe to Give Play in Forest

HAS LEAD IN ANNUAL PLAY

Annual play of The Mountaineers, entitled "Under Richard's Banner," will be presented in the sylvan theatre at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon and will be repeated Sunday, June 14, at the same hour. The theatre will be open to the public at 1 o'clock.

The play has been written for the Mountaineer troupe by one of its own members, Harriet King Walker, an accomplished character actress and author of a 1932 production, "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves." "Under Richard's Banner" is a Crusader's play depicting the siege of Acre. It will be presented by a large cast, directed by Mrs. Robert F. Sandall.

Title for Song

"When It's Rhododendron Time on Puget Sound" would make a good title for a popular song, but "When It's Play Time in the Forest Theatre" has been music to the ears of all Mountaineers for many years and to an increasing number of non-Mountaineers as the years pass and new plays are produced.

The Mountaineer Club, organized in 1906 to explore the mountains, forests, water courses of the Northwest, and to preserve its natural beauty, acquired many years ago a tract of forest land situated in the heart of the rhododendron country, between Bremerton and Hood Canal, and erected its Kitsap Cabin, an overnight lodge for many happy trips and good times for the membership. Only enough clearing was done to protect the lodge against fire and windfall hazards.

Forest Play Presented

Out of the good times, impromptu stunts and skits before their big fireplace, came a desire to have an outdoor theatre, and in 1923 this idea first took definite form when a small group of Mountaineers presented part of "Robin Hood" to a small audience down in the deep forest below the cabin.

With its background of blooming rhododendron and dogwoods, tall fire and cedars forming the procenium arch, Robin Hood came to life in such a delightful manner that the group was urged "to do it again."

Their dream became a reality when three years later the Mountaineer's Forest Theatre was dedicated by the late Dr. Edmond S. Meany, beloved president of the club. A natural amphitheatre was found in the deep woods just below the cabin, a stage was cleared and the grassy hillside became an audience section, seating 1,000 people, flanked on either side by two giant Douglas firs to mark the boundary of the natural bowl. Beyond these, native shrubs — rhododendron, salal, blue and red huckleberry, salmon berry and Oregon grape vie with each other and the dogwoods to form natural scenic effects for the audience.



Mrs. Ronald Todd (Ola Tweedy), who will be seen as Lady Alice in the play, "Under Richard's Banner," to be presented next Sunday and the following Sunday by the Mountaineer Players in their forest theatre near Bremerton.—(Laurence Byington.)



Mountaineers Continue Show

"Under Richard's Banner" the medieval costume play which brought over 600 to the Forest Theater of The Mountaineer Players, last Sunday will be presented again next Sunday, June 21, in the beautiful outdoor setting a few miles from Bremerton. Owing to the spring rains, the play could not open on June 7 as was previously announced.

The Mountaineers are proud to present their fourteenth annual spring play. For the second consecutive year, the annual spring play has been written for them by one of their own members, Harriet Walker. Mrs. Robert F. Sandall is director. The public is invited.

Ferns for Footlights

Maidenhair and lady ferns, bracken and deer ferns form the footlight curve separating the stage from the audience. Wings of cedar bark, atop which grow licorice ferns, make all the setting used in the productions and screen the backstage activities.

A woodsy trail, soft with long accumulation of pine and fir needles, runs just alongside the theatre and crosses the stage center back.

Down this trail have come Reynard, the red fox, Alice, Ali Baba and Saladin, his donkey, the Robber and the Forty Thieves, the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Green Dragons and singing bands of pilgrims.

Birds in the tall trees overhead join in the choruses of the actors below, and squirrels and chipmunks run from tree to tree and scamper across stage—much to the delight of the children in the audience—while the plays are in progress. Just below the trail a brook can be heard in a quiet moment when the audience is waiting breathlessly for something to happen. For anything delightful might happen in such a setting—just as Mr. Mole did last year in "Toad of Toad Hall," when he pushed up the ferns and moss, and came peeping right up out of the ground with the cry, "What a day! What a day!"

Old Sol Is Spotlight

Nature has exerted herself in many directions for this Forest Theatre; not only in providing a setting, but in providing high spotlights for dramatic moments. When the White Rabbit in "Alice in Wonderland" hopped onto the stage, Old Sol turned his "spot" on full force so that the audience literally gasped at the magic of it. Again, when the Muezzin's cry came from the tall tower in "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" the spotlight was turned on the Muezzin in an almost miraculous manner. Nature's magic, perhaps, but it leaves a mental picture to be enjoyed days after the play has passed.

So gradual has been the growth of the theatre and the charm of its productions that the general public is unaware that this Puget Sound country has an asset such as this. It has been felt that the

Mountaineer Players Will Present Spring Play Soon

The Mountaineer Players will present their annual spring play in the Forest Theater on Sundays June 7th and June 14th.

The play is of the Crusades "Under Richard's Banner," written by Miss Harriet King Walker, a Seattle girl who is a member of Mountaineers.

Under the very able direction of Mrs. Robt. Sandall, with colorful costumes designed by Frances Smith and executed by Wm. C. Darling, both Mountaineer Players, the play will add another delightful chapter to the memory book of Mountaineer Plays in their Forest Theater.

The Forest Theater is about six miles out of Bremerton, on the Seabeck road. It is located in the deep valley formed by Chico Creek in a splendid virgin forest of Douglas firs and cedars. A trail almost embowered in places by rhododendrons and dogwood leads from Kitsap Cabin down to the theater.

You are invited by The Players and The Kitsap Cabin Committee to come early and make a day of it. The trip from Seattle to Bremerton by ferry is one of the prettiest ferry trips on Puget Sound. Busses will take you directly from Bremerton to the Mountaineers' property, or you may drive your own car. The entrance to Kitsap Cabin and The Forest Theater is well marked and there is adequate parking space.

With Virginia Boren

At the Mountaineers' Play

Six hundred persons sat among the rhododendrons in the shade of lovely old fir trees yesterday afternoon, to see The Mountaineers present Harriet King Walker's "Under Richard's Banner," to hear the blithe French songs of the strolling shepherdess and the chorus of the crusaders' hymn, accompanied by bird twitter overhead and brook babble in the distance.

For this performance, like others by the players, was held in nature's own theatre, with guests, who came early to see the rhododendrons and to eat their picnic luncheons out of doors, sitting about on grassy knolls. The Mountaineers' own forest theatre is near Bremerton.

The bands of crusaders performed before the footlight curve of trillium foliage and maidenhair fern. A gray medieval castle reared itself in the background. The dark green of the trees formed a perfect counterpart for the kaleidoscope of colors in the romantic costumes. There was also a special thrill in the fact that the author is a member of The Mountaineers and was sitting right there watching the performance.

Lady Alice Is Picture in Purple

About the cast—Lady Alice of Amesbury, played by Ola Todd, was a picture in her gorgeous purple satin gown with matching purple headdress of trailing veils, while Lady Cecilia, with Karen Weld Rudy in the role, was a heroine in peach and blue.

There were the servants, Simon, played by Ronald Todd, and Peter by Rutherford Hayes, in somber garb, devoted to Lady Alice. Simon eventually won his reward when, after years of service and adherence to his belief in his own vision of the true saints and their great attack against the Turks, he was carried off in joyous procession with happy shouts of "St. George for England! On to Jerusalem!"

Something of the depth and breadth of the whole outdoors is felt in these Mountaineer productions. The audience thrilled to Old Ida's cries of "A Miracle! A miracle!" For miracles happened in those days, after one pledged adherence to the Holy Cross. In Old Ida, and later in Lady Margaret, Mountaineers and their friends recognized the clever characterizations of Harriet King Walker. (She is the author also of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," presented in the Forest Theatre in 1932.)

Those two rough and ready men-at-arms, Martin and Lucas, portrayed by Roy Rudy and Burbank Rideout, respectively, amused with their comedy in the wine tent of

Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Gilleland, Miss Gertrude Streater, Mr. and Mrs. J. Adidson Smith, Miss Beth Fowler, Miss Helen Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shorrock.

Miss Charlotte Voigt, Miss Lillian Renn, Miss Ethel Hooper, Miss Ruby Rector, Mr. Fred Harley, Miss Margaret Cunningham, Miss Mildred Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Miller, Mr. Frank Gibson, Miss Maxine Fite, Miss Stella Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Davis, Mrs. John Hancock of Kirkland, Mr. David Runyon, Jr., Miss Gwendolyn Kellett, Miss Barbara Pollock, Miss Edith de Catur, Miss Pearl Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Troyer of Tacoma, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Wideman of Redmond, Mr. Norman Engle, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Stocks, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Holbrook, and Mr. and Mrs. John G. Pitzen, all of Bremerton; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Lemke of Houston, Texas.

Miss Edna Knight, Mr. James Kauffman, Miss Lillian Fowler, Mr. Norbert School, Mrs. E. C. Thompson, Miss Ann Berg, Miss Kathleen Hewitt, Miss Gertrude Streater, Miss Susan Keppel and Miss Gladys Wilson.

Others Seen In Audience

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cooley, Dr. and Mrs. James H. Berge, Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Lewis of Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Murphy of Shelton, Mrs. Laura Furry, Dr. Isabel E. Budilow, Miss Florence McKnight, Mr. C. E. Schurman, Miss Maxine Prince, Miss Lillian Arke, Mrs. Marjorie Mayer, Miss Virginia Browne, Mr. Charles Deming, Miss Emma Jack, Miss Clara Robson, Miss Marion Byer, Miss Virginia Brown, Miss Ida Anderson, Mrs. B. D. Conan of Seattle.

Miss Shirley Jacobson and Miss Eugenia Dodds of Tacoma, Mrs. Arthur L. Smith and Miss Nancy Smith of Fort Lewis, Mrs. W. H. von Horne and Miss Frances von Horne of Bremerton.

If you want to forget all your worries, your responsibilities, your workaday world, then travel next Sunday to The Mountaineers' Theatre, near Bremerton in Kitsap County. There, among the murmuring pines and hemlocks, not to forget the fluffy rhododendrons, the brook that sings in harmony with the birds, you'll be transported for a few hours to a place just this side of Paradise! And we don't mean Paradise Valley, either!

Play Next Week

Postponed last Sunday because

High Lights Form Memories

Other high lights of the play that will be delightful memories for years to come, were:

The romance between Lady Cecelia and Geoffrey (Lynn Peterson), that flourished near the battlefield of Acre, and the hush over the audience as the young esquire was given the sword and spurs of knighthood from the hands of Sir Eustace (Henry Streams), making him Sir Geoffrey, and how, his knighthood won, he asked for the hand of the fair Lady Cecelia; the sonorous voice of the Archbishop of Canterbury (Herman Wunderling), preaching to the simple peasants of the English countryside, moving them to the religious frenzy that carried them to Jerusalem and finally to victory, the triumph in the speech and step of Sir Hugh (Harold Harper) as he overcomes his fears and illness, with the love and encouragement of Lady Alice, his wife, and strides forth to battle; the gentleness in the voice of Lady Mathilde (Jane Stahmer), whose sole thought is to care for those in need.

No matter how many scenes of "Under Richard's Banner" remain in the memory of those who enjoyed the play, there will always be the picture in their minds of a delightful play, clever characterizations, and colorful costumes against a glorious setting of natural beauty. In addition, one could never forget the thrilling voice of Lady Alice crying: "I see it now, as it flutters in the wind. It is King Richard's banner!" and the stirring chorus of the song of the Crusades.

Another Performance Next Sunday

Those who missed the first performance of "Under Richard's Banner" will have a second opportunity, when it is presented again Sunday afternoon, June 21, at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Robert F. Sandall directed the large cast, and the settings and costumes were designed by William C. Darling. The Mountaineer Players staged the production under the chairmanship of Charles S. Gilleland, Miss Claire McGuire acted as business manager, and Miss Elizabeth Gorham handled ticket sales.

Audiences who have applauded past Mountaineer performances as well as new enthusiasts flocked from far and near to enjoy the annual presentation in the Forest Theatre.

Among those glimpsed were:

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Thomas T. Craven of the Bremerton Navy Yard; Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Ernst and Miss Ruth Fitzsimmons from Olympia; Mr. L. A. Nelson and Miss Eva Nelson from Portland, Or.; Miss Dorothy Stafford from Vancouver, Wash.; Mr. Willard Little, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Gallagher, Mr. A. H. Denman, from Tacoma; Mrs. Bernadine and Miss May Win. i, and Mr. Bernard Winiecki of Shelton.

Prof. and Mrs. Lloyd Small from Bethlehem, Pa.; Miss Harriet Taylor from Madera, Calif.; Miss Celia Shelton, Miss Mary Shelton, Miss Gertrude Weinzirl, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McL. Myers, Miss Lulie Nettleton, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Hazard, Miss Cymbra Daniels, Miss Marjorie Gregg, Miss Ida Kratch, Miss Elizabeth Kirkwood, Mr. and Mrs. Fielding Lemmon, Miss Mary Oakley, Miss June Oakley, Dr. and Mrs. Minor Lile, Miss Madalene Ryder, Dr. and Mrs. M. N. Garhart, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Q. Gorton,

Mountaineers Will Present Open Air Play

Outdoor devotees will make their annual pilgrimage next Sunday or the Sunday after, to the Mountaineers' Forest Theatre, near Bremerton, to see the presentation of "Under Richard's Banner," which the Mountaineers have chosen as their play this year.

Most of the enthusiasts plan to make a full, adventurous day of it. They will take an early ferry across the Sound, and carry their own lunches and picnic at the Mountaineers' cabin, near the theatre. The rhododendron trail to the theatre, situated in a valley of virgin forest of Douglas firs and cedar, will open at 1:30 o'clock. Guests will wander down to the amphitheatre to find a place in the shade, from which to view the play, which begins at 2 o'clock.

The play has been written by one of the Mountaineers, Miss Harriet King Walker. It is a Crusader play which has caught the spirit of the time in a fine manner, and offers the players a wonderful chance for pageantry, colorful costumes, and splendid characterizations.

The cast of characters follow:
Old Ida, Harriet Walker; Maria, Mildred Matson; Joanna, a wine seller, Mabel Furry; Christina, Sally Gorham; Simon, an old servant, Ronald Todd; Peter, an old servant, Rutherford Hayes; Goefrey, a young esquire, son of Lady Alice, Lynn Peterson; Lady Alice of Amesbury, Ola Todd; Lady Matilda, Eustace's sister, Jane Stahmer; Lady Cecelia, Karen Weld Rudy; Lady Beatrice, Phyllis Clarke; Lady Elaine, Sally Coup; Lady Margaret, Harriet Walker; Edith, her waiting woman, Viola Gilleland; Blanche, Doris Hancock; Anna, Agnes Frem; Maria, Mildred Matson; Barbara, Sally Gorham; Gertrude, Hallie Howell; Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury, Herman Wunderling; William of Glenwood Farm, Walter Hertzman; Lucas, Roy Rudy; Martin, Burbank Rideout; Sir Dagobert, William Darling; Sir Eustace of Winchester, Henry Streams; Bertrand, a young esquire, Walter Hertzman; a Saracen, Sir Hugh of Amesbury, Harold Harper.