

'SLEEPING BEAUTY' AT FOREST THEATRE ENTRANCING

With Virginia Boren

Enjoying the Mountaineers' Play

Out of the land of "Ordinary Things" into the precious realm of "Once Upon a Time," I went yesterday. Forgetting the world and its worries—the first of the month with its open-faced letters, the tangle of international affairs, the muddle of national affairs, the leaky pipe in the basement, and the Hollandaise sauce that will curdle—I slipped into that glorious state of make-believe, where day dreams trickled through my hands like shining quicksilver, and my spirit soared on a sunbeam!

Across the sunlit waters to Bremerton, out a fine pavement toward Seabeck, down a rhododendron-lined trail, to the Mountaineers' Forest Theatre, I went yesterday to attend the first showing of the Mountaineers' 1938 dramatic production, "Sleeping Beauty." This is the sixteenth annual play presented by the Mountaineers in their Forest Theatre, which was built in 1923.

I have never seen so much sheer beauty in one spot. There is a natural amphitheatre, with a stage at the foot of this sylvan stadium. In lieu of footlights, there are rows of feathery ferns. For a backdrop there are the fresh green woods, with a stream rippling through them. Great shining rhododendron bushes, loaded with pink blossoms, put a blush of color on the green. The theatre wings are made of bark, topped off with real moss.

Birds Sing, Too

The voices of the singers rose to mingle with the full-throated songs of the birds. Organ music floated to the sky's vaulted blue dome. A wind, soft as a baby's breath, sighed through the trees. And some 1,200 persons, all spellbound with the magnificent beauty and the magic peace of the place, sat in the theatre or sprawled on the moss back of the amphitheatre yesterday, and saw that beloved old play, "Sleeping Beauty."

Somehow for me it was one of my childish dreams come true: I had never quite given up looking for fairies in the forests and when the nine fairies floated onto the theatre stage, I was assured that the land of make-believe is so real that it should have a postoffice and a train stop. Presented in a smooth, perfected manner by the Mountaineer Players, "Sleeping Beauty" thrills the young and enchants the old. If you didn't see it yesterday then be sure to go over next Sunday (be there by 2 o'clock) and see "Sleeping Beauty" . . . honest, it will take ten years off your life and give you back a lot of dreams you thought you'd lost forever.

Task Well Done

It's so difficult to select people and players for special mention, for every Mountaineer did something to add to the success and atmosphere of the show . . . even to the mountaineer who let loose that beautiful yodel as he wandered up the trail after stage and amphitheatre were deserted! To Mr. Tom Herbert, the director, goes much praise for his adroit directing of the play . . . the perfection of detail, the spirit of the play, the smoothness of the performance all were in the hands of Mr. Herbert. His was a task well done.

The costumes and settings, executed by Mr. William C. Darling, merited the highest praise . . . and received it. The set showed

and the Seven Dwarfs," last year's Mountaineer dramatic production.

In the cast of "Sleeping Beauty" were:

Ola Todd, the Queen of Loreland; Glenn Dexter, the King of Loreland; Burbank Rideout, Bumps, the butler; Harriett K. Walker, Nanny, the nurse.

Alice Cleverley, the violet fairy; Dorothy Deming, the indigo fairy; Elizabeth Byington, the yellow fairy; Sarah A. Gorham, the red fairy; Neva Lovell, the green fairy; Doreen Williston, the blue fairy; Theodosia Tarry, the orange fairy; Mary Margaret Pugh, the black fairy; Helen Taylor, the sunlight fairy; Norbert J. Schaal, the voice of the priest; Vilas Donnelly, Iva L. Christensen, Carlyn Daughters and Norma Mickelson, flower girls; Phyllis Clark, Princess Beauty; Billee Johnson, Dorothy Lund, Stanley Newell and Margaret Tarry, peasant children.

William C. Darling, Prince Rupert; Norbert J. Schaal, King Tuffy of Tuffington; Boyd Bucey, the chief cook; Wilma Stoehr, cook splatter; Betty Bates, cook batter; Clyde Myhre, the caretaker of the palace; Ronald Todd, Prince Delmar; Gilley Hale, accordionist; Karen Weld Rudy and Helen Lauridsen, organists; Phoebe Smith, Lucile Martin, Jean Cook, Claire McGuire, Ralph Miller, Carl Lindgren, Roy Rudy and James C. Martin, members of the chorus.

Serving on Committees

Mountaineers serving on the various play committees were:

Miss Pugh, general chairman, and her assistants, Helen Taylor, Rutherford B. Hayes, Arthur Winder and James C. Martin; William H. Jones, Helen Taylor, scenic assistants; Mabel Heath and Lois Davis, properties; Lucile Martin, singing and music; Hermie Lyons, prompting; Karen Weld Rudy, Harriett K. Walker and Miss Pugh, make-up; Roy Rudy, smoke effects; Laurence D. Byington, theatre; Theodosia Tarry, publicity chairman, and assistants V. Marion Jensen, Jean Hudson, Agnes Dickert and Elsie Ring; Margery Thayer, chairman of tickets, and assistants Mary Anderson, Lloyd Anderson, Agnes Frem, Charles Gillehand, Russella Hardeman, Janice Lee, Fairmen Lee, Bob Sutermeister, Russell Nickerson and Irene Nickerson.

Elizabeth Gorham, transportation; Marjorie Taylor, painting; Arthur Winder, Kitsap Cabin; Daphne Cunningham, Edith Floyd, Audra Haggerty, Wanda Kelly, Jane Stuart, ushers; Rutherford B. Hayes, Larry Heath, box office; Elenor Gawne, Marjorie Taylor, Grayce Wilson, Margaret Wunderling and Herman Wunderling, concessions; Herbert V. Strandberg, Albert Keast and Vincent Mills-paugh, motion pictures; O. Phillip Dickert, photography; Harriett K. Walker, "movie" script.

Hosts and hostesses for yesterday's play were:

Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Farwell—Mr. Farwell is president of the Mountaineers; Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Carney, Mr. and Mrs. T. Davis Castor, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Hazard, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jensen, Mr. L. A. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mooers, and Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Wright.

Organ Music Praised

Things I won't forget about "Sleeping Beauty":

The lovely organ music the

WITH
**VIRGINIA
BOREN**

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of the Mountaineers themselves; the perfection of the dances—those Mountaineers danced as if they really loved it—I hear they're pretty clever at square dances; the difference between the ride over on the ferry with every one so chatty and the ride home with every one quiet and dreamy . . . the end of a perfect day.

Seen here and there at the play were:

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald H. Bucey, whose son was in the cast—he was the chief cook; Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Whitacre of Tacoma; Mr. and Mrs. Middleton Chism and daughter and Mrs. Chim's mother, Mrs. William Gould; Mrs. Theo B. Bell and Miss Jerry Snyder attending the play together; Miss Dorothy Elliott of Camp Willapa, Mrs. W. Lee Hinman of the Helen Bush School faculty, Miss Ida Rose Kratsch, Miss Ruth Fitz Simons, in the same party.

Mr. and Mrs. Willbur Johnston, Jr., with a party of friends; the Misses Evelyn Craig, Jean Thompson, and Marybeth Barkley in the same party; Mrs. Frank Mariner and Mr. and Mrs. Dana Isom, over from Bainbridge Island for the play; Mrs. Barbara Williston, whose attractive daughter, Doreen, was in the cast—she was the blue fairy.

Drama Teacher Present

Miss Laura J. Whitmire, teacher of drama, who coached last year's Mountaineer play "Snow White"; Miss Martha Sackett of the Cornish School faculty; Mr. and Mrs. Harry I. Worth—Mrs. Worth is a well-known composer; Mr. and Mrs. William C. Harrison, and daughter, Elizabeth, enjoying the play immensely.

Mrs. Aneita Tidball and her son, Bennie; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meyers and family; Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Agatz, Miss Bernice Agatz, and Mrs. George Tilden, motoring over from Olympia for the play; Marjorie Metcalf Sayers, who gives such outstanding dramatic recitals; Mr. and Mrs. George W. Draham and Miss Shumah Quigley, among other Olympians noted.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Leroy Eicher and daughters, Helen and Mary, enjoying the play; Miss Johanna Rosenhaupt, well-known pianist; Colonel and Mrs. M. D. Mills and their two daughters, enthusiastically applauding; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Gandy, watching the play from the hillside just above the theatre; Mr. Ome Daiber, well-known mountaineer; Mrs. J. H. Miner, very attractive in a pretty yellow dirndl; the Misses Lois Boeing, Elsie Van Nuys, Winifred Mullaney, Mary Oakley, June Oakley and Enole Oakley in the same party; Miss Ava Cochrane, with a party of friends; Mrs. Harvey J. Woods, liking the play.

tower, the palace gate and the little chapel. The costumes were exquisite. The dances, which also added greatly to the play, were directed by Mrs. Frances Spalding.

Miss Mary Margaret Pugh may have been the Black Fairy in yesterday's play but she certainly was the good fairy for the Mountaineer Players as she headed the important committee handling the production. Miss Pugh is not only a clever actress but a good executive. Last year she played the part of Snow White in "Snow White

...ing... to the mountaineers by Miss Gertrude Weinzirl—something about music in the open that is different from all other music; eating lunch "backstage" with the cast, almost mixing grease paint with potato salad, and having grand food and sitting on a log covered with moss; the rapt attention of the audience, even the small wiggling children didn't wiggle; the gorgeous masses of pink rhododendrons that looked like fluffy bits of a pink sunset; the cordiality

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Dances on Program

Several dances directed by Francis Spalding of the Spalding School of Music will have Carlyn Daughters and Norma Mickleson in solo parts, with Billee Taylor, Marjorie Tarry, Dorothy Lund and Stanley Newell as children dancing.

Music will be furnished by Carl Lindgren, Claire M. McGuire, Mrs. Chester Smith, Katheryn Graves, James Nelson, Jeanne Cook and Roy Rudy in the chorus, with Helen Lauridson as the organist and Belle Muir as the accordionist.

Mr. Tom Herbert, formerly an instructor of the University Drama Division, is directing the play.

On the various committees for the play are Mrs. James A. Martin, Mrs. Larry Heat, Mrs. O. Phillip Dickert, Mrs. Harry L. Jensen, Mrs. Karen Weld Rudy; the Misses Harriet Walker, Marjorie Taylor, Lois D. Davis, Theodosia Tarry, Jean Hudson, Elsie Ring, Margery Thayer, Elizabeth Gorham, Russella Hardeman, Agnes Frem; the Messrs. Arthur Winder, T. D. Everts, Amos Hand, O. Phillip Dickert, Lawrence Byington, W. W. Kilmer, Otto Voll, Larry Heath and Robert Sutermeister.

Busses Available

Many going over to the play plan to take an early ferry and picnic in the woods. Bremerton ferries leave Colman Dock at the foot of Marion Street, at 8:30, 10 and 11:10 o'clock, in the morning, and for those not taking their own cars busses will meet all these ferries and carry passengers directly to the Mountaineers' property. Returning from the theatre busses will take passengers to Bremerton in time to catch the 5:05 or 6:30 o'clock ferries. For those in no hurry to get home the 6:30 o'clock ferry will allow time to view the rhododendrons and trails surrounding the theatre. Special rates may be obtained for the ferries, by those purchasing tickets directly from Mountaineers with official badges the morning of the play.

Information about the play and reservations may be had by calling Miss Mary Margaret Pugh, Main 0286; Miss Helen Taylor, Kenwood 0945 or Mrs. James Martin, Kenwood 5722. In Tacoma, Mr. W. W. Kilmer, Main 4060, is in charge of reservations; in Everett, Mrs. Paul Odegard, White 1336, and in Bremerton, Mrs. Otto Voll, at Manette 1458.

Group From Shelton

From Shelton came a large group of theatre devotees, many of them members of the Shelton Theatre Guild. Among those from Shelton were:

Mr. and Mrs. Winston Scott and two attractive children, Karen and Bobby—Mrs. Scott is a former Miss Harley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Harley of Seattle; Mrs. Paul Schlosser, Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Kinsey and sons, Charles and John; Mrs. Russell Pickens, Mrs. Robert Brown and daughter, Sally; Dr. and Mrs. Emery W. Burley, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Crocker, Mrs. William A. McKenzie, Mrs. B. N. Collier and Mrs. Laura K. Plumb.

Among others noted here and there at the play were:

Miss Kristine Thomle, Miss Jeanette Perry, Miss Edith Page Bennett, Miss Effie Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dyer, the Misses Mary and Celia Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tarry, Mr. Chester F. Womer, Mrs. Frank B. Cooper, Mr. Dave Eshleman, Miss Betty Collingwood, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Guidetti, Mr. and Mrs. Al Oliger, Miss Esther Myhre, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Streams, Miss Mildred Granger, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Taylor, Mr. Earl Newell, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wheat, Miss Caroline Condon, Miss Bernice Moore, teacher and author, and her sister, Miss Lucile Carroll.

Many Travelers Attend

And in the audience were not only people from Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton, Shelton, Olympia, Puyallup, Centralia and numerous other points in this state, but also from many of the states in the Union, including Oregon, Illinois, Massachusetts, California, Ohio, New York, Arizona and Utah—summer visitors marveling at the beauty of the theatre and the talent of the Mountaineer Players.

Versatile people, those mountaineers! Until yesterday I always thought of a mountaineer as a person who nibbled chocolate and had an ax and a pick and a coil of rope as his best friends, but now I know the art and versatility and friendliness of these people who love the great outdoors, particularly the mountains. Hats off to the 700 members of the Seattle Mountaineers, who can climb the highest mountain or swim the widest river, or put on the most perfect play. I'll vouch heartily for the play part of this statement!

Dedicated in 1926

The forest theatre was dedicated in 1926, a successor to an earlier theatre which the spring audiences quickly outgrew. A gentle slope provides seats, and the trees are thinned enough to allow the sun to shine through, thus giving natural "spotlights" upon the gauzy dresses of the fairies dancing in and out among the trees, providing the feeling of the old old fairy tales come to life. The footlights are a curve of maidenhair fern surrounding the lowest seat, and the illusion of a theatre is also carried out in the wings of rough bark at the exits and entrances.

This year another tale out of childhood, Frances Homer's delightful dramatization of "The Sleeping Beauty of Loreland," will be presented. It is an old tale with modern comedy and clever characterizations. It will be the sixteenth annual production in the Forest Theatre, June 5 and 12.

The Forest Theatre will lend itself beautifully to the play. The castle will be there with all the people asleep, with the Prince breaking through the hedge that has grown up during the hundred years of sleeping; the castle grounds where the fairy godmothers will come to present their gifts to the young baby, and the darkening of the sky when the Black Fairy arrives in all her anger, having been made so by neglect on the Queen Mother's part; the cathedral formed by the trees in which the guests are all seated when Little Beauty pricks her finger, all this will give a perfect illusion, making dreams of childhood come true.

Many To See Play

Mountaineers Will Present "The Sleep- ing Beauty"

With the weather promising as fine a day this Sunday as that which brought out an audience of 1,000 last Sunday for the Mountaineers' 16th annual spring play in their forest theater near Bremerton, many parties, large and smaller, are being formed for the trip. At 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, in the forest amphitheater the cast of nearly two score will enact the tale of Sleeping Beauty in those days of once-upon-a-time when bad fairies were as dangerous to continuity as static. The public is allowed to attend the plays, given each spring when the acres of rhododendron are at the height of their beauty.

There were many score Tacomans in the crowd which, last Sunday, filled the slope above the stage, rising in tiers of rustically fashioned benches, and applause was warm for the charming princess; her parents, the King and Queen of Loreland; Bumpy, the butler; Nanny, the nurse; Prince Delmar of the magic kiss, and Prince Rupert of the insufferable vanity; the tight rainbow aries; the wicked black spirit, and all the other characters who helped to unfold the old nursery tale. Among the charter members of the Tacoma Mountaineers who were at the play were Miss Crissie Cameron, A. H. Denman and Mrs. Horace J. Whitacre.

Willard Little, for a number of years president of the Tacoma group, attended, coming from Holly, on Hood Canal, where he spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Kennard and Mrs. Lothrop Crosby. Mrs. W. W. Seymour, whose husband, the late Mr. Seymour, was one of the most active and interested of the Mountaineers, and often their host was present, with Mr. and Mrs. John Goldsbury and Miss Beatrice Turrell and Miss Mave Olds. Dr. and Mrs. Whitacre, Judge and Mrs. O. G. Ellis, Mrs. Charles F. Engels and Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hosmer formed a group which visited Professor Fleet in his cabin in the grounds after the performance, while Mr. and Mrs. Leo Gallagher, the president and his wife, motored from Tacoma with Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Mentzer. A party of two score chartered the Gallant Lady and cruised to Chico, tramping in from the beach. Information as to routes or reservations for Sunday's play may be had from William Kilmer, Main 4060.
