

GI Dance Star Tutors V-12 Artists For Follies Debut

By A/S ART MILLER

When the sailors and marines of the V-12 unit at Penn State startle the campus soon with their unique June Weekend—a combination of follies, formal dance and dress parade—they will have the benefit of first-hand instruction.

The would-be ballet artists and tap dancers that will help make this the first G. I. production of its kind in the East will get expert tutelage from Seaman Bob Houser, a veteran of several years on the professional dance scene.

Seaman Houser, an aerial gunner aboard a PB-Y patrol craft off the coast of South America and southern United States until detailed to Penn State in the V-12 unit, has seen a good deal of the country in touring with dance groups.

Maybe it was family tradition that started Houser on his dancing career. His father played for many years with Fred Waring's orchestra and his mother has demonstrated dance routines in the four corners of the world. And his sister Gretchen is now with the Ziegfeld Follies.

Anyway, young Houser began absorbing instructions from Ted Shawn, renowned dance leader, while still in Altoona high school at the tender age of 16.

From there it was one playbill after another for the sailor with the talented feet.

In 1937, after graduating from high school, he joined Shawn's group with the Philadelphia Ballet Company and toured the U. S. from coast to coast and then down into South America, introducing Shawn's new idea of male Spartan dancing, a combination of the intricate patterns of the ballet and the more masculine designs of the gymnast.

An intended trip to Europe was cut off by the war.

The eight-man group did impressions of the American Indian,

Kalinga, Bartoc, Zulu, Ponca and Maori tribe of the Philippines in an attempt to bring to the stage the jungle rhythm and movement of the enchanting tribal dances of primitive tribes.

With the Chicago Civic Opera Company the following winter season, Houser did a variety of character dance roles.

A year later, he hit the high spot of his young dancing career when he was selected to dance in Kathryn Littlefield's American Jubilee chorus at the New York World's Fair.

Doing four performances a day with five or six on weekends and holidays for a 22 weeks' run with the Jubilee, the hit musical-comedy production of the fair, was a tough routine but good experience, according to Houser.

He helped introduce "The Tennessee Fish Fry," a dance and song routine that caught on all over the country.

"Yes, that was real work," he says, recalling the fair production, "but it was a pleasure to work under such a talented and versatile coach as Kathryn Littlefield. She is now setting all the ice shows that find their way to New York City and doing a fine job of it."

IWA Aims At \$50 Goal For Dance

In order to raise \$50, the sum of the scholarship open to all independent women, IWA is sponsoring the semi-formal Blossom Time Ball, to be held in White Hall, May 13.

With the Navy-Marine band supplying the music, Aljce Drumm, chairman of the scholarship fund, is hoping for a large student turnout. All persons working with the dance are donating their services and the entire proceeds will be turned over to the fund.

Dorothy Funkhauser is publicity chairman, and invitations will be under the supervision of Jacqueline Falloon. Admission will be \$1.20. Elaine Freed, chairman of the dance, requests that all applications for the scholarship be made before May 18.

Bible Fellowship Meets

"Daniel's Prophecy of Modern Times" will be the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Penn State Bible Fellowship in room 405 Old Main at 2:15 p.m. Sunday. The public is invited.

Penn Stater Joins Army, Navy, Marines

James S. McKelvy, Penn State alumnus, claims one of the most unusual distinctions in this war. Already he has served Uncle Sam in the Army, Navy and Marines.

Honorably discharged by the Marines because of a physical disability, McKelvy applied for a commission in the Navy. While awaiting a reply he was drafted into the Army.

While hacking on potatoes in the traditional K. P. style at Fort Bragg, he received a telegram informing him that he had been commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve. The Army released him, he accepted the commission, and is now on duty with the Fleet Air Force as a communications officer.

Hostess Training Opens For GSO Coed Applicants

Applications for admittance to the new Girls Service Organization training course must be made at the Service Center before tomorrow, according to an announcement by Bernice Mack, chairman of the new program. Those whose applications are accepted will be notified by mail.

The first meeting of the new class of trainees will be held in 10 Sparks from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday. Two subsequent meetings are scheduled for May 17 and May 24. When the three-week training period is completed, girls qualified to become hostesses will be admitted as members to the State College United Service Organization.

Keep Off the Grass

George W. Ebert, superintendent of grounds and buildings, requests that students do not walk on the plots of ground near the campus where grass seed has just been planted.

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Journalism Prof Performs Magic As Profitable Hobby

Turning a few neat phrases may be the bread and butter of most journalists, but journal prof Doctor Mahuran has his own particular method of augmenting the family income. As a member of the Magicians' Society, Doc Mahuran boasts many magical performances, and has used the returns it usually brings to buy bigger and better rabbits and more silk hats.

Up in the remote regions of 405 Old Main recently Dr. Stuart Mahuran invited his student audience to move closer to the stage. "Watch me scrape the paint off this," Doc Mahuran said, as he pulled a mammoth red handkerchief out of his breast pocket and ran it through his hands. With all the assurance of college sophomores, Doc Mahuran's journalism class moved closer, tongue in cheek. One second only, and then with a flourish that would have made Houdini sit up and take notice, Mahuran flaunted the handkerchief which had just turned green. The audience looked puzzled.

"Want to know how it works?" Mahuran chuckled. "Watch." "Abacadabraopensesame." A twist of the hand and the hanky was no more. Apparently the class was of

one mind. They just gave up and relaxed.

"Now you see it, now you don't." The pitcher of milk that Doctor Mahuran was pouring into a paper cone had strangely enough become confetti, which the playful prestidigitator was now throwing at the audience. Then he displayed a white pearl handled knife which he pulled out of his knee a second later, with a new green handle.

Doctor Mahuran explained that he can pull an elephant out of his sleeve and by deep concentration can usually persuade it to float, but the furniture that the janitor had forgotten to remove would make the feat impossible that night.

Instead he covered the book, "America Goes to War," with a white silk scarf, and covered the scarf with two glasses. The book was then turned on its side, on its stomach, and its back, but the glasses stuck. "I usually do the trick with a woman as the subject," Doctor Mahuran volunteered, "but right now I'm finding it difficult to support just one."

Checks are popular in spring clothing for women. Mother will wear 'em—father will write 'em.

Gray Encourages Postwar Latin-American Trade For U. S. Businessmen

Picturing South America as a major industrial power in the postwar world, Dr. William H. Gray, assistant professor of Latin-American history at the College, today encouraged United States businessmen to revamp their Latin-American sales policy in order to avert loss of this market to foreign competitors.

"In the past," Dr. Gray said, "the United States has sold its excess goods to South America without too much effort, but after the war the story will be different. Already," he added, "the industrial giants of Europe and Asia are looking longingly at this market, and seeking ways to cultivate Latin-American trade."

The only workable Good Neighbor policy, in the opinion of Dr. Gray, is one which is mutually beneficial. It may be necessary in the immediate postwar years, he said, for the United States to purchase more than it sells to Latin-American countries.

But after Latin-American purchasing power is established, he predicts that these countries will favor North American markets—"provided we play fair with them, cease exploitation, and keep out of their local political affairs."

Coed Exchange Dinner

Members of Junior Service Board are planning to hold an exchange dinner with Hamilton Standard Propeller women Thursday evening, May 11.

Six Junior Service Board members will be hostesses to six Hamilton girls at the dining room in Atherton Hall, while six other Junior Service Board members are being entertained in the Old Main Sandwich Shop by six Hamilton girls.

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