

Backstage With Sylvia

by Sylvia S. Cutler
The Pennsylvania Ballet Company is going to dance in Champaign, Urgan, Ill., Dec. 2-3; Normal, Ill., Dec. 4-5; Rochester, N.Y., Dec. 7; and will do "Nutcracker" in Brooklyn Dec. 27 to Jan. 5. The Pennsylvania Ballet has been named the official resident company of the Brooklyn Academy of Music; they did performances at the academy in November and will perform there again in March. A 14-performance series begins Dec. 27 at the Academy of Music. For tickets or other information write Pennsylvania Ballet, 2333 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., 19130, or phone 215-232-1500.

The Wilkes-Barre Ballet Company is also rehearsing "Nutcracker" for the Christmas season. It's scheduled at the Wilkes College Center for the Performing Arts Dec. 28, 29, and 30. Please phone the Ballet Company regarding tickets, and be sure to see this performance. Jozia Mieszkowski is an unusual person indeed. Not only is she a good ballet teacher, she is one of the most vibrant and beautiful women around; she glows and scintillates, and her enthusiasm for

her work and her students absolutely comes across the footlights. If you don't know ballet, for heaven's sake, get acquainted! It's exciting. Some other doings are the forthcoming production of "Under the Yum Yum Tree" directed by Dorothy Salsburg, for the newly reorganized Drama Guild. Performances are Dec. 25, Dec. 26, and Dec. 27. Enthusiastic groups of people are busy reorganizing the Guild and since I've had a lot of experience with Dorothy's work and know what a meticulous craftsman she is, I'm looking forward to seeing a smooth and funny performance.

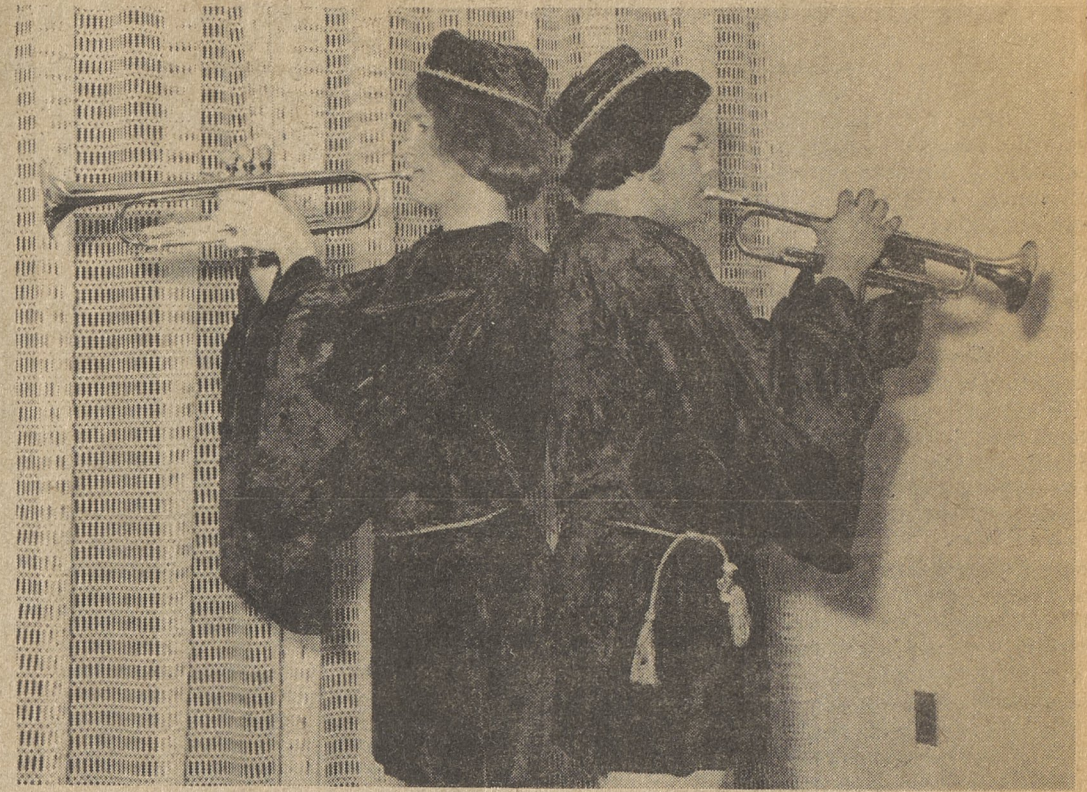
Al Groh, director of theatre at Wilkes College, advises they are doing a contemporary play, "Company of Wayward Saints," in February; the music department and theatre department are getting together to do a musical called "Canterbury Tales" in April. Their shows are worth seeing.

Don't pass up the chance to see some fine work. It's all around us. Don't fall for the cliché that "small town" or "amateur" work isn't worth your time. It's most definitely worth mine!

Annual Madrigal Brings Christmas to Area



Bruce Phair of Wilkes and Cynthia Hoffman of College Misericordia dine in the Elizabethan tradition during the Christmas madrigal. Both of the students sang with the madrigal singers.



Dallas Senior High students Keyin Bonowitz and Keith Sassaman, above, served as the trumpeters for the madrigal. Each fanfare introduced a part of the program or a course at dinner.

Dallas Ladies Auxiliary Plans Winter Activities

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Dallas Fire and Ambulance, Inc. has announced activities for the holiday season and the coming year.

Mrs. Willard Newberry, Christmas candle chairman, announced that candles are being distributed. The project is certainly catching on in the community. Anyone who has not been contacted and is interested in participating in the project, please call Mrs. Willard Newberry. Claude Street residents can contact Mrs. Edwin Roth.

An arts and crafts meeting will be held Jan. 18 at the home of Dorothy Pope. Jannette Grieves and Elizabeth Layaou are cochairmen of the craft projects. Anyone interested in participating in the craft night is welcome at any meeting.

A card party-fashion show

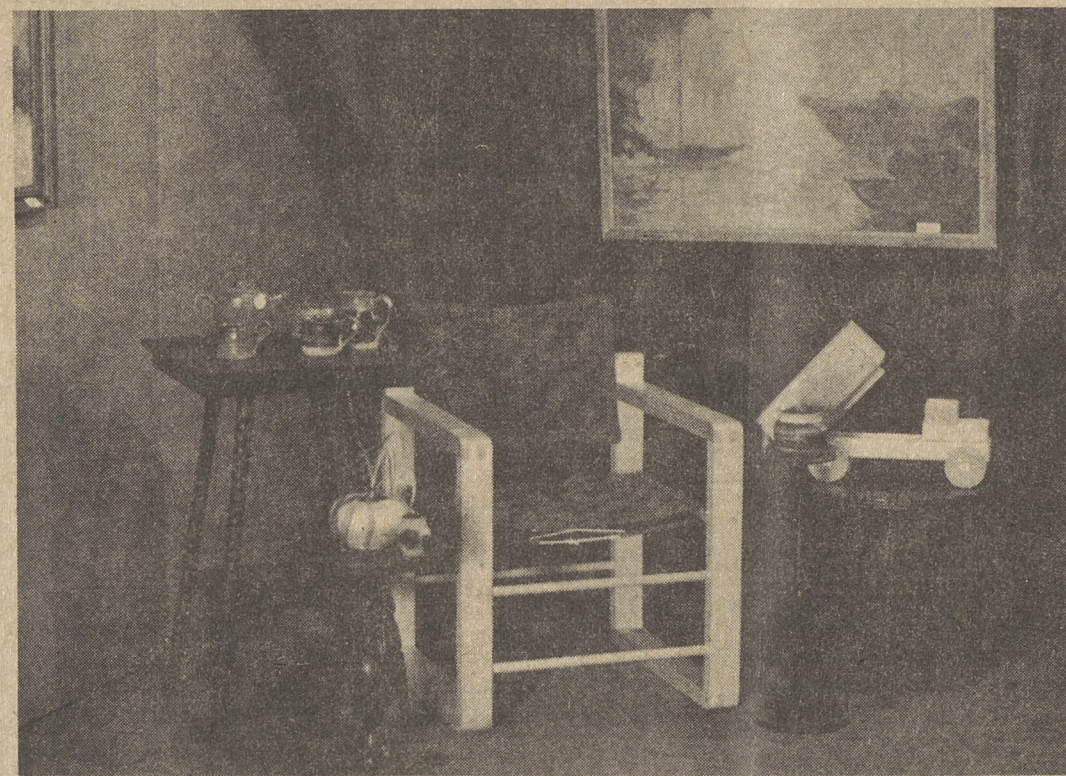
will be held in the spring. Details will be announced at a later date. Dorothy McFadden is in charge of the fashions and Joanne Voitek will handle the card party.

The fire company is sponsoring farmer dances scheduled the fourth Saturday of January through April at the Jackson Twp. Fire Hall. There will be no farmer dance for the month of December.

"Red" Jones will be the caller at the dance Jan. 25. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. Dancing is from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

The January farmer dance committee members are: Sandy and Lynn Sheehan, Blod and Don Shaffer, Ted Wright, Mary Saracino and Dorothy and Mike McFadden.

There will be no auxiliary meeting in December. The next meeting will be Jan. 18.



The chair above is one example of the handcrafted furniture made by the Back Mountain Crafts, Shickshinny. The crafts were exhibited at the Antiques and Art Barn, Dallas, last week.



Three wandering minstrels, above, entertained guests during dinner with traditional Christmas carols as "The Holly and the Ivy." Left to right, Clarice Burke, Susan Fewens, and Andrea Ignacki.

Dinner-Theatre Planned By Wyo. Sem. Players

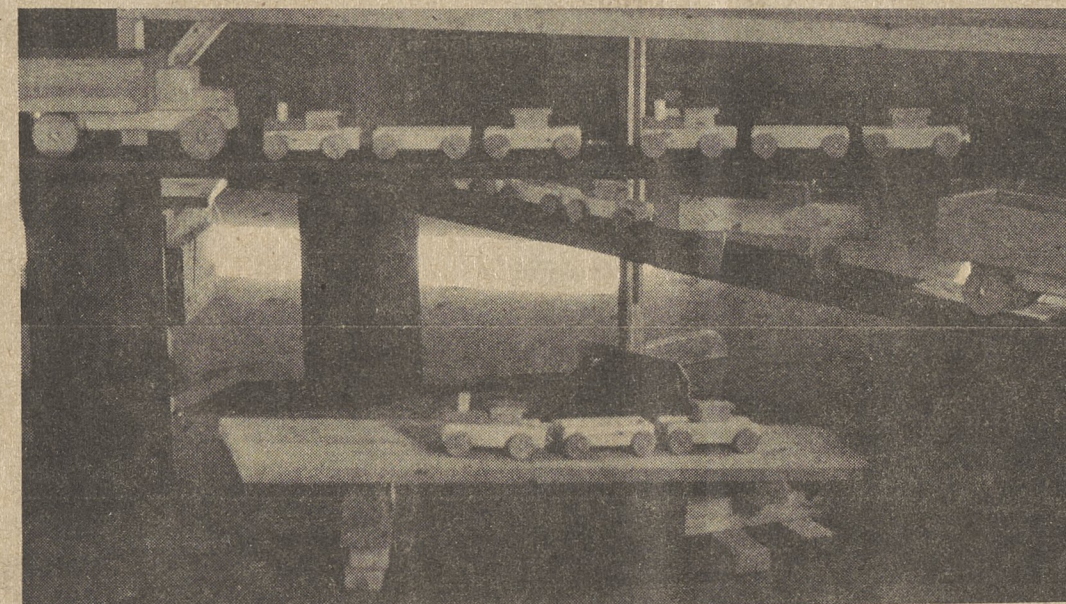
On the evenings of Dec. 13 and 14, at 7 p.m., a gourmet buffet, dinner entertainment and theater will be offered in Seminary's Fleck Hall diningroom, Sprague Avenue, Kingston. The Wyoming Seminary Players will provide the entertainment.

Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" (Acts II and III) and "Lovers and Other Strangers" (Act V) will be performed. A special Dec. 15 performance will be open to students, at 8 p.m. No dinner will be served at the student presentation.

On Friday and Sunday nights the leads in Act III of "Plaza

Suite" will be played by Betsy Henderson, Kingston, and David Nichols, Owego, N.Y., both seniors. For the Saturday night performance those parts will be played by Mrs. John Moore, New Goss Manor, Dallas, faculty advisor to the dinner-theater undertaking, and by Robert Klarsch, Seminary academic dean.

For further details and to make reservations, interested persons are asked to call 287-1126 or to write to: Dinner Theatre, c-o Mrs. John Moore, Wyoming Seminary, 18704.



These wooden toys are built entirely of wood, using wood joints reinforced by glue and brads; the wheels are secured by screws or dowels. They were exhibited last week at the Antiques and Art Barn, Dallas.

When the trumpet fanfare sounded the entrance of the madrigal singers in "Great Merrick Hall" last weekend, the Christmas season officially opened on the campus of College Misericordia. The occasion was the fifth annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner which has become a tradition in Wyoming Valley and the Back Mountain. This year the event was held three nights instead of two and the hall was filled to capacity each night. The feast was sumptuous and the atmosphere was truly that of 16th century England.

Photos
by
Chukinas

Sem. Students Distribute Baskets for Thanksgiving

Wyoming Seminary students and Charles Lull, faculty advisor, and Seminary dean of students, participated in a Thanksgiving basket program to distribute turkeys and other Thanksgiving fare to needy families in the area. The program, which acquires the food through the donations of individual Seminary students and school student organizations, is one of the projects of the Wyoming Seminary Student Government.

Volunteers that readied

Thanksgiving baskets for delivery include: Erica Tappa, Elnora, N.Y.; Andy Hogoboom, Shavertown; Terry Casey, Wilkes-Barre, Student Government president; Jack Hogoboom, Shavertown; and George Conyngham, Trucksville.

This group, along with Brad Garrity, Seminary student activities dean, divided the foodstuffs proportionately, according to the size of the needy family.

WV Welcome Wagon Holds Christmas Social

The annual Christmas social sponsored by the Welcome Wagon Club of Wyoming Valley was held recently at the Prince of Peace Church, Dallas.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Dale Minor of Dale and Tom's Arts and Crafts Shop, who gave a very interesting demonstration of different types of handicrafts such as decoupage, statues, etc. Following the demonstration, refreshments were served to members and guests, after which the "Abilities Auction"

was held, with Mrs. John Masley serving as auctioneer. Some of the items donated for bidding were homemade shawls, hats, slippers, pillows, jams, breads; also ceramics and Christmas decorations.

It was also noted at this meeting that there will be no December board meeting. The next regular meeting will be held Jan. 13. Anyone wishing more information on the club can obtain such by contacting Mrs. Donald Olsen, president.

Area Couples Exhibit Original Wooden Crafts

A Holiday Exhibit and Sale by two area couples was held at the Antiques and Art Barn in Dallas last week. The exhibitors, Cathy and Gary Gray and Nancy and Philip Jones, displayed many original handcrafted items which included furniture and toys. The couples operate as the Back Mountain Crafts and are located at RD 1, Shickshinny.

Wilkes College to Hold Tryouts for Production

Tryouts for the third Wilkes College production, "A Company of Wayward Saints," will be held Dec. 12, 13, and 16 at 7 p.m. in the theater chorus room of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

According to Jay E. Fields, director of the performance, nine roles are available to any Wilkes student who qualifies. Rehearsals for the play will begin in late January for presentation Feb. 21, 22 and 23.

Written by George Herman, the play won the McKnight Foundation Humanities Award,

centering around a group of commedia dell'arte players who wander by mistake into an allegory.

They are wayward saints far from home, and without any means of returning. A nobleman is at hand who may be their salvation if they will put on a good show for him. He wishes them to perform highlights of man's civilization, from the Garden of Eden, through Everyman.

Along the way they enact the assassination of Julius Ceasar and the homecoming of Odysseus.

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