

# Little Theater Children Give 'Springtime'

APR 6 1951

The little folk of the Children's Playhouse at the Little Theater of Jamestown delivered a really lyrical sample of the evasive Spring Thursday afternoon in a benefit performance of Mrs. Myrabelle Boyce Carlson's original operetta, "Springtime" before a large audience as a matinee in Falconer, under the direction of Mrs. Harvey M. Osgood. The production will be repeated this evening at 8 o'clock, at Falconer High School.

The performances are sponsored by the Falconer Student Council. "Save the Children" committee, proceeds to benefit the children of its adopted town in Greece. Miss Sandra Rich was general chairman of the school committee.

The opening scene was a beautiful flower decked setting in the palace of Fairyland, adapted from the play, "Mother Earth's New Dress" by Mildred Hark and Noel McQueen, whence an excellent counterpart of the small King in the person of James Bendo, a fine comedian, finally assumes his proper place in the realm, from his scintillating tinsel wand-waving queen, played by Eleanor Stanford, of imperious manners, until the King adopted much the Shakespearean technique of the "Taming of the Shrew". The special bone of contention was the desire of sweet Mother Earth, played by Martha Bloomstrand, for a new spring dress, to replace her dull brown winter garb.

The performance was buzzing with little fairies and ladies in waiting, in adorable costumes. Flowers bloomed everywhere in a veritable garden of gay colors, with the exceedingly effective stage setting executed by Melvin E. Berg, who was assisted in the artistic decoration by Mrs. Walter E. Freling, Jamestown elementary school art teacher. Mr. Berg was also stage manager, assisted by two students, Duane Larson and David Johnson.

The second act in three scenes brought the entourage of the King and Queen from Fairyland to earth to greet the musical Springtime, full of tunes which set an audience humming. Mother Earth, who sang a lovely solo, is transformed into spring garb, and shares the throne as the small posies dance and sing. The routines were cleverly devised by Stanley A. Davis. Karen Lee Danielson, as the girl in the

May garden in delicate pink and white, and Judy Sheldon, as Springtime in a pale blue hoop skirt gown were talented soloists. A feature was wee Mary Sweetin in a ballet dance in pink tarletans.

A bevy of small yellow daffodils, red tulips, blue forget-me-nots and Johnny jump-ups added sparkle.

One of the outstanding numbers was the, "Walking in the Rain" number by a group of boys in rain coats, and colorful girls with gay parasols, in contrast to the stately beauty achieved in the churchly "Jack in the Pulpit" Woodland Chapel scene with Charlene Anderson as soloist for the choir robed group. The names of the 40 participants were previously published.

Miss Marguerite Collins directed the choruses, assisting Mrs. Carlson in bringing the singing into excellent focus. Mrs. Blanche Larson Haglund was at the piano for the tuneful numbers given in delightful succession. Donald Eddy played several violin obbligatoes to the piano.

Not only has Mrs. Carlson written some haunting tunes for her operetta, but her original lyrics are also exceedingly clever and poetic. The operetta has won her a place on the coveted, "Songs for Sale" broadcast in New York, within the next few weeks.

Properties were in charge of Mrs. John T. Kerrin and Mrs. William McCulty, with make-up done by Mary Heller, Priscilla Burrows and Mrs. Kenneth McKenzie, and costuming in charge of Mrs. Richard Sheldon, Mrs. Robert McCallum, Mrs. Leslie Stanford, Mrs. Mildred Albinson, Mrs. Percy Armstrong, Mrs. Clifton Guild, Mrs. Fred A. Conterman.