

# Little Theater Membership Drive Will Open Tonight

By MARY KINDLAND

Mrs. Harvey M. Osgood, whose deep involvement as mentor and director of theater groups here has spanned half a century, has been named honorary chairman of the 1969-70 Little Theater of Jamestown membership drive which gets under way tonight.

Mrs. Osgood lends her support to Mrs. Norman Merrill, drive chairman, in an effort to gain 3,300 memberships for the theater. The figure is 600 above the current enrollment.

Marshall B. Dahlin, well-known veteran worker and performer at LT and a past president, has been named administrative assistant for the drive.

A circus theme has been adopted for the campaign which officially opens tonight in the new headquarters at 18 E. 2nd St., site of the old Shea's Theater.

Ring masters for the four major divisions are Mrs. Donald Anderson, Mrs. Robert Bargar, H. Eugene Bakewell and Francis Minella. One-hundred and sixty volunteer workers will solicit memberships, canvassing current lists and making new contacts.

Drive leaders and workers are expected to be on hand tonight to secure information kits and instructions. Refreshments and live music will be provided following the business meeting.

Team captains for the campaign are Robert Alessi, Mrs. John Bacon, Mrs. Richard Cramer, Dr. Glen Ebersole, Carl Elofson, Jack Craumer, Robert Enserro, Donald Gaeta, Roger Gilbert, Edward Gronberg, John Hart, Mrs. James B. Holt, Francis Jenkins, Terry Jonehis, Mrs. William Lewis, Mrs. John Nord, Ted Olsen, Wallace Reed, L. Garfield Sager, Mrs. Richard Sciascia, Mrs. Wilson W. Shaw, Robert Tonder, John Tordoff, Andrew Travis, Theodore Vimmerstedt, Mrs. John Walker, Paul Weinbach and Mrs. H. A. White Jr.

Season tickets, Mrs. Merrill said, are good for admission to five plays presented during the season. "A Majority of One," has been selected to initiate the 1969-70 season, and tryouts are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. tonight



MRS. HARVEY M. OSGOOD

and Thursday at LT headquarters. The comedy by Leonard Spigelass will be followed by musicals, dramas and other comedies.

A drawing card for memberships this year, in addition to the new permanent headquarters, is the inclusion of a full time director, the first in seven years. Gil F. Brand, formerly of the Boston, Mass. area, began his duties here last month as head of the community theater.

A vital force in the area as head of the Children's Theater, division of Little Theater, for the past 30 years, Mrs. Osgood is applauded for her participation in many capacities of theater activities, including stage performances.

She is identified with the old Players Club which preceded the organization of LT in 1936 and is recognized for her

brilliant contributions to that group, Little Theater and the Children's Theater, all of which she helped establish.

Mrs. Osgood, the former Madelyn Jones, has played a prominent role in activities at First Presbyterian Church, Fortnightly, Mozart Club, United Fund and as a commentator at historical observances of many civic organizations, and has presented plays for these observances.

Mrs. Osgood is a past president of the N.Y.S. Community Theater Association and has served for some time on the state board. She has long been sought as a judge for theatrical productions on college campuses around the country, a practice now curbed, due to her state of health.

Mrs. Osgood, a graduate of Dana Hall at Wellesley College, Mass., has long been hailed here as a driving inspiration for the development of theater. It was fitting that a high point of the dedication of the new facility last spring, was a spontaneous standing ovation for Mrs. Osgood when she was introduced. The gracious lady of the theater could then only whisper "thank you" through tear-filled eyes.