

PART THREE

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 25, 1925.

"Be Yourself" As Lecture Subject

Gilbert Seldes Spoke on Sincerity, Not on Art as Announced.

By "GABBY." WHEN Gilbert Seldes, dramatic critic, spoke for the Omaha Drama League this week, he seemed to be making a plea for the jazz arts, including music, comic strips, slapstick comedy and all the rest. But that is not all that he did. He pointed out merit in these arts, but never once did he claim for them superiority over the fine arts as we know them.

He was entertaining and remarkably non-antagonizing. But Gabby would counsel her readers not to be deceived by headlines into believing that Seldes proved that the "unfine" arts are better than the fine arts.

Honest musical delight in "Georgia Blues" is a better thing than affected appreciation of the "Sextet From Lucia." But that doesn't make the former a better piece of music. The argument, in fact, has nothing to do with music; it's the difference between sincerity and pretense, between the false and the true, and the true wins.

Seldes' talk, with art merely for the demonstrations, was an appeal throughout for sincerity and tolerance. His lecture might have been called "Character Building,"—then none of us would have gone and he wouldn't have made front pages in the papers. It was more challenging and inviting for him to seem to be taking a stand for the jazz arts, though when it came down to the talk itself, he gave no discriminating discussion on art. His lecture might have been dubbed, "Be Yourself" or "Live and Let Live."

Comic Strip a Satire on Life. A comic strip may be good draughtsmanship. But what of it? It ought to be well done. Indeed, anything that lives must have some merit of execution. Now the strip is all right in its place. When well done, the strips are clever little affairs on life. But their chief function has to do with humor, not art. And not Seldes himself undertook to compare them favorably with the masterpieces.

Seldes begged a tolerance of our popular forms of art, in the hope and belief that the honest expression of any man's soul may result in original, creative, and essentially sound, art. That is all right if not carried too far. A man might commit murder gracefully, but though there was art for the moment, the spirit upon which the art of the world lives would not have been fed.

Sham and Pretense Deplored. Sham, pretense, imitation, dogmatism, closed-mindedness—these are the things Seldes deplored. And Gabby agreed, they are bad. And it is true we do find these qualities more often in evidence with the fine arts than the unfine. That is because the fine arts are established. But the fine arts are not to blame in themselves, for being capitalized by superficial folk who would appear "high-toned." Seldes is more to be condemned for what he didn't say than for what he did.

He did show that sincerity in the unfine arts is a better thing than insincerity in the fine arts. He did not show that sincerity in the best forms of art as we know them, is, after all, the best goal.

THE last-minute party held the boards last week. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shirley gave one on Thursday evening, telephoning their invitations at 5 o'clock.

Friday evening the Lester Klopps entertained 12 guests at dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Summers. Afterwards they sent for a larger group, who gathered at their home at 9, ostensibly for bridge.

Just after they arrived music was heard in the basement and up the stairs came Arthur Randall, followed one by one by his orchestra, who had been in hiding there waiting for the party.

The Klopps' balconied studio living room furnished a picturesque setting for the dancing which continued until midnight.

MOST unique were the favors given the guests at a fashionable luncheon last week, in honor of a group of traveling cosmopolites spending the day here. The hostess, who is almost as familiar with Paris as with Omaha, had brought them back with her on her last trip.

The favors were ribbon garters, on which the usual trimming of bows and knots of flowers were replaced with tiny French dolls' heads, complete to their elaborately coiffured wigs and real eyelashes. The dolls were perfect character studies and ran the gamut of hair styles, from blonde to brunette, with here and there a gray wig, and even one of spun glass.

Disabled Veterans' Auxiliary Gives Benefit Dance

The women's auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War will give a benefit dance, at the Rome hotel Saturday evening, January 31.

Mrs. Beulah Quigley, a disabled nurse of the war and a member of the auxiliary will sing several selections between dances. Mrs. Quigley was a popular entertainer while in service and is well known locally. She is retained on the local U. S. veterans' bureau staff as a nurse. Mrs. Quigley will be accompanied by Mrs. Blanche Skow, an accomplished pianist, who is also a member of the U. S. veterans' bureau staff.

Mrs. Hoyt Hostess. Mrs. Rosa M. Hoyt entertained 20 guests at luncheon Thursday at her home.

Society



Mrs. Otto Schmitt

At one of the most impressive ceremonies of the season, the marriage of Miss Stella Murphy, daughter of Andrew Murphy, to Otto G. Schmitt of Chicago, was solemnized Wednesday night at St. Cecilia's cathedral. The bride was in a gown of white satin, fashioned on straight lines and embroidered in rhinestones and pearls. The neckline was a deep oval and the frock was sleeveless. The wedding veil fell over a court train of white satin, three yards in length. It was held by a coronet of rhinestones and pearls. The Mr. and Mrs. Schmitt are on an eastern honeymoon. They will reside in Chicago.

"When in doubt," ask Miss Wallace. It has come to this. For Miss Mary Irene Wallace, head of the department of public speaking and dramatics at Technical High school, has so established herself as arbiter in good manners through the class in that subject she conducts at the Y. W. C. A. The class out-ranked all others in enrollment last term and about 60 young women have registered for the new semester just opening.

Miss Wallace is deeply interested in the Community Players and is a member of the program committee. She is to speak on dramatic activities Thursday afternoon for the Omaha College club at their anniversary tea to be held in the parlors of the First Methodist church.

Mrs. Hale R. Bixby is president of Rockford College club, whose members are planning one of the most attractive subscription dancing parties of the season as a benefit for their college endowment fund. The party will be held at Hotel Fontenelle and Randall's orchestra will play. Several dinner parties will precede the dance. Assisting Mrs. Bixby are Mesdames J. H. Beaton, Robert Daugherty, Gladstone Derby, F. E. Rankin and Misses Gladys Goodman, Marguerite Havens and Eloise Thomas.

A bride newcomer is Mrs. E. C. Gruenig, who has resided here since last August. She was formerly Miss Mildred Nissen of Lincoln. As a student at the University of Nebraska, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and since coming to Omaha has been active in organizing an alumnae chapter here.

Fortnightly Musical Meet. The Fortnightly Musical club will hold its regular meeting at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. George Johnston, 5119 Cass street.

Junior Musical Meet. Mrs. Rodney Biles will be hostess at her home, 2506 Lincoln boulevard, on Saturday, February 7, to the Junior Musical club.

Supper Party Tonight. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaines will entertain at supper this evening at their home.

Mrs. Willis Hostess. Mrs. Caroline Willis will entertain her bridge club on Friday afternoon.



Mrs. E. C. Gruenig

For the Callias Guests. Miss Elizabeth Graham will entertain at luncheon and bridge on Saturday at the Fontenelle on Miss Helen Bennett of Walkerville, Ont., Canada, who with her cousin, Miss Phyllis Thorburn of the same place is the guest of Dr. Jennie Callias.

Miss Bennett is 20 years old and received the athletic prize of Essex county, Ontario, last year.

During the last week Dr. Callias gave theater parties at the Brandeis and the Orpheum for her guests, Mrs. A. H. Fetters also honored them at luncheon.

Tri Delta Alumnae. Mrs. R. A. Van Orsdel will be hostess to Delta Delta alumnae at her home next Saturday with Mrs. G. E. Nye and Mrs. W. C. Lambert assisting hostesses.

The Frasers Entertain. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Fraser will give dinner on Saturday evening.



Miss Mary Irene Wallace



Mrs. Hale Bixby

Mrs. F. P. Kirkendall to Visit Mrs. Baum. Mrs. J. E. Baum leaves Monday for Chicago where she will remain a week, before going to her home in Philadelphia. En route there Mrs. F. P. Kirkendall, who is visiting her son, Bourdette, in Sewickley, Pa., will join her, and will be her guest in the east.

Miss Bayne to Leave. Miss Margaret Eastman will give a bridge on Tuesday afternoon for Miss Evelyn Bayne of New York, guest of Mrs. Floyd Smith, Jr.

Miss Bayne will leave Thursday following a luncheon given by Miss Frederica Nash, where she will share honors with Mrs. Stewart Summers.

Visiting the Offcuts. Mrs. Casper Yost Offutt has her aunt, Miss Anna Longmaid of New York, as her guest. Miss Longmaid is en route to California and will resume her travels Tuesday.

Elliott-Downs Wedding Party

Queen Emma, Bridesmaid.

Miss Elizabeth Elliott, bride-elect of Phillip Downs, has set the date for their wedding for Saturday evening, February 21. The ceremony will be performed in Trinity cathedral by Dean Stephen McGinley and will be a pre-tenet event of outstanding interest.

Miss Cornelia Baum, who is at present visiting in Pennsylvania, will be the maid of honor, and Mrs. Roland Gaupel of St. Louis, sister of the bride, will be maid of honor.

Mrs. Louise Elliott, who is herself a bride of the fall; Mrs. Laird Miller of Marlon, O., a former visitor here, and Misses Emma Hoagland, queen of Ak-Sar-Ben; Josephine Schurman, Virginia Barker and Frances Paton will be bridesmaids.

Robert Downs will be best man for his brother, and the ushers will include Messrs. Wallace Shephard, Louing Elliott, Foye Porter, Ralph Campbell, Robert Edwards and Guy Beckett of Des Moines.

College Club Anniversary Tea Party

On Thursday afternoon, January 29, in the parlors of the First Methodist church, the Omaha College club will have an 18th anniversary tea.

Mrs. Mathew Gay, chairman of the house committee, will have charge of the decorations. Mrs. James Bednar, president of the Omaha College club, will preside over the following program:

Words of Welcome—Mrs. Thomas Casady. Response—Mrs. Phillip Potter. Flower Life—Mrs. Ellen Dodge Scott, first president.

Our Purpose—Miss Isabelle McMullen. Vocal Duets—Mesdames J. E. Wallace and William Locke. Dramatic Activities—Miss Mary Irene Wallace.

Our College Women in Public Life—Mrs. Harvey Newbranch. The Settlement—Mrs. Florence Sunderland. Birthday cake.

The Future—Mrs. J. E. Wallace. Selections—Technical High orchestra. The receiving line will consist of the executive board and the past presidents of the club.

Mrs. James Dahlman, Mrs. Wayland Magee, Mrs. Dwight Porter, Mrs. Sarah Joslyn will pour at the tea. Assisting will be:

Misses—Josephine Platner, Carolina Cain, Anna Everette, 522 377, Henrietta Medlar, Jan Landale, Helen Calver.

Mesdames—Robert Gilmore, Paul Bradley, D. Box, Mary Alice Byrd, G. R. Vansickle, A. M. Colgrove, Harriet Walters, Harriet Westberry, Elsie Erickson, Ita Jones.

Gertrude Atherton Speaks Friday at Brandeis Theater

To start in with a career and then decide to give it up for matrimony is more satisfactory, according to Gertrude Atherton, famous novelist, author of "Black Oxen," than to begin with matrimony and then conclude that it interferes with essential ambitions.

Miss Atherton will speak in Omaha on Friday at 4 p. m., Brandeis theater, under auspices of the Omaha Drama League.

"Girls just leaving college and wishing to get out and do something in the world frequently write me," says Mrs. Atherton, "to ask me what they should do to reconcile their desire for a home and for a career and if they can have both.

Marriage Not Shuffled Off. I tell them that it is wise for them to find out how pressing their creative talents are going to be before thoughtlessly plunging into matrimony, which cannot be shuffled off like an old skin. When a woman has married, she has made a contract which she should keep, and it is criminal to neglect children.

"I find that many girls are very much afraid of losing all their charm and looks as they grow older, but this they will not win quicker by being engaged in a profession or business. It is the severely domestic woman who grows old before her time usually, because nature is good enough for her, and she gives no care to her complexion.

When people say that a woman of 30 looks 40, or a woman of 35 looks 25, this merely means that she looks the way nature intended before domestic cares, steam heat and general high pressure were invented. "What there may be for women in rejuvenation, we are just beginning to find out."

Mrs. Atherton is herself an example of a woman who, having married early, found that she must express herself by writing. She has had two children, and died very young; her daughter did not miss her personal care while she was writing her first novels because there were two grandmothers to give her loving training. "I was always rebellious as far as domesticity was concerned," Mrs. Atherton says, "though it was forced upon me in my early married life. Now, without criticism or antagonism, a woman may provide a well-trained housekeeper for her household and skilled nurses for her children, and so be freed of tasks that are not congenial to her, if she is successful in her chosen work. This is the only solution for the woman who wants a home and children and yet wants to give expression to artistic gifts."

For Emma Nash. Miss Dorothy Lord gave a four-course luncheon for Emma Nash, who leaves soon for Europe. It was followed by matinee at the Strand.

Lectures on Musical Drama to Begin Feb. 3.

Prof. Paul Grumann To Give Unusual Series Open to the Public by School Forum

The educational committee of the school forum will bring Prof. Paul H. Grumann of the University of Nebraska to Omaha for a course of lectures this semester on musical drama. This will consist of a series of interpretations of the great musical dramas. A colorful study will be made of Wagner, after which "Magic Flute," "Figaro," "William Tell" and kindred librettos will receive attention. The purpose of the course is to inform students of the cultural background of each opera. In this connection sufficient work in mythology and history will be included. Incidental attention will be devoted to the development of stagecraft.

This course is essentially a study of literature, but after each lecture Victrola selections of important parts of each opera will be played and discussed for those interested.

The first of these lectures will be given at 4:15, Tuesday, February 3, at Central High school. The series will consist of 13 lectures and the charge is \$5.

For further information call Miss Mildred Morris, Walnut 7094.

Trip to Holy Land. Miss Mayme Hutchinson entertained informally at the Brandeis on Saturday for Mrs. E. R. Perfect, who leaves soon for a trip to the Holy Land and a cruise of the Mediterranean.

Guests of Senator Howell. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Towle, who are spending several weeks in the east, are guests today of Senator and Mrs. R. Beecher Howell in Washington. They will visit New York before returning.

Friends of Music. Friends of Music will meet with Mrs. Sarah Joslyn for a musical on Wednesday morning, January 24.