

# Marjorie Shanafelt Discusses Puppeteering Monday Evening

Making puppets is not an art which can be learned overnight, according to Miss Marjorie Shanafelt, well-known Lincoln puppeteer. "The work and the know-how must be assimilated bit by bit," Miss Shanafelt stated.

Miss Shanafelt, who will present the second show in the Summer Artist Series Wednesday evening, June 27, at 8 p.m. is a charter member of Puppeteers of America. She started her work with puppets 20 years ago.

"Puppets are an avocation, not a vocation," she stated, "because my principal work is here in Morrill Hall."

In her collection, Miss Shanafelt has 225 string puppets, marionettes, and many floor show puppets.

Her "story book puppets" are built on a 24 inch scale. These are the puppets she uses on a puppet stage with everything on the stage built in perfect proportion to the puppets in order to create an illusion.

The floor show puppets are made to be used with the operator in full view. These are the puppets which are used for entertainment in night clubs, dance halls, banquet programs and on the regular stage, according to Miss Shanafelt. Her floor show puppets will be demonstrated Wednesday evening.

Miss Shanafelt makes all of her own puppets. She dresses them, paints them and strings them. In addition to this, she makes all of her own stage settings.

"To be a good puppeteer you must make your own puppets, because the puppet must be made so it will do the things you want it to do. This involves many kinds of joints, many ways of

stringing, and many kinds of control sticks," Miss Shanafelt added.

Miss Shanafelt believes that in order to be a good puppeteer, you must have a gift for it. "Out of every 500 persons who think they can work puppets, there's just about one who has all the requirements for making a good puppeteer," she said.

A good puppeteer must have mechanical ability, appreciation of theatrical affect in costumes and setting, facile fingers for the daintiest of manipulation, and a very flexible voice for carrying three or four characters through a play, she stated.

Besides all of this, she added, a good puppeteer must be able to write his own script for his puppets.

Miss Shanafelt has written 23 plays for her puppets and is now making plans to have them published so other puppeteers may use them.

Miss Shanafelt recently returned to the University from her eight month leave of absence. She went to California where she entertained for private parties.

From there, she went to Denmark where she appeared in

many engagements, principally the National Scalla which she calls the "epitome of professional people." If you are allowed to appear in the National Scalla you never have to try out anywhere else in Europe, Miss Shanafelt said.

Her engagement at the National Scalla resulted in an invitation to remain in Copenhagen and become part of the famous Tivoli Gardens, "an entertainment park in which the finest entertainers in Denmark appear each season," according to the puppeteer.

Miss Shanafelt not only works with puppets, but lives with them too. Her home is made into a small theater. Her puppetorium, a room where her guests sit to be entertained, is where most of the puppets perform. "Wilfred the Clown passes candy and cigarettes to the guests, and often kisses them, much to the embarrassment of the men," Miss Shanafelt stated.

In this puppetorium, the only decoration is the puppets which have been made by famous persons from various parts of the world.

"My most famous puppet," Miss Shanafelt stated, "is a portrait puppet of Mark Twain which is four feet tall." This was the last famous puppet made in the studios of Tony Sarg.

Three-fourths of Miss Shanafelt's work is educational, she stated. She has never gone professional, she added, because she works in the interest of good puppetry. She tries to show good puppets to persons who have never seen good puppets.

"I consider good puppetry on the same level with an artist who paints a picture or a musician



Miss Marjorie Shanafelt and two of her puppets.

who plays a fine composition," she said. After her performance in the Union ballroom Wednesday evening, Miss Shanafelt will answer questions from the audience about making puppets or anything regarding puppeteering.

## Book Review Held Monday

"Boswell's London Journal" will be reviewed by Miss Mary Mielenz, Prof. of education, Monday, June 25 at 4 p.m. in Love Library's staff room.

The publication, a Book-of-the-Month Club selection in January of this year, marks a milestone in the history of English literature. The author of the greatest biography in the English language, 'The Life of Samuel Johnson,' kept a private and often indiscreet journal. It was not published in his lifetime and after his death his family suppressed it so well that it remained hidden for almost two centuries. Why it was suppressed will be apparent to delighted readers of this generation. For here is perhaps the frankest document of self-revelation ever written by a young man," according to the Book-of-the-Month Club news.

"Boswell's London Journal" has been edited by Frederick A. Pottle and prefaced by Christopher Morley.

Miss Mielenz, besides being a professor in Teachers college, is also a supervisor of English in Teachers college high school. Her interests are campus wide, as she serves as sponsor of such campus organizations as Builders, Student Council, and Mortar Board. She was masked as an honorary member of Nebraska's chapter of Mortar Board at Ivy Day ceremonies in May. Miss Mielenz appeared on the 1950 summer sessions program, reviewing Tharp's "The Peabody Sisters of Salem."

## Union Presents Western Film

"Destry Rides Again," a film starring Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart, will be shown in the Student Union air-conditioned ballroom, Sunday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The story of "Destry Rides Again" involves a quiet, lanky sheriff (James Stewart) who tries in vain to reform a corrupt town without the use of his "shootin' iron." The memorable Marlene Dietrich sings "Little Joe the Wrangler" and "See What the Boys in the Back Room Will Have" in this thrilling spectacle of the old West.

Subsequent films will be:  
July 1 "Quartet"  
July 8 "My Little Chickadee"  
July 15 "David Harum"  
July 22 "Captain January"

## Thorp Receives Honorary Degree

James Thorp, a leading authority on soil in the United States and lecturer in geography at the University has received an honorary doctor of science degree from Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.

Mr. Thorp is principal soil correlator for the Great Plains states in the Division of Soil Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## Michele Morgan, Raimu In Movie

A French film, "The Heart of Paris," with English subtitles starring Michele Morgan and the French star Raimu will be shown in Union Parlors ABC, Friday, June 22, at a 3:00 p.m. matinee and a 7:30 p.m., evening showing.

According to Don Anderson, co-chairman of the Displaced Students committee, this film is a delightful French comedy drama with a finely sensitive portrayal of a Parisian family in its everyday life.

Admission for this film will help to create educational opportunities for six more Displaced Students who will arrive on our Campus from Europe next fall.

Admission is sixty cents with tickets on sale at the door.

## 'U.S. Support Greatest Hope For U.N.'

One of the greatest hopes for the United Nations is that the United States has supported it to such a great extent, Mr. Paul Taylor, officer in charge of the General Assembly Affairs office of the United Nations Political and Security Affairs, Department of State, said at a press conference Monday.

Mr. Taylor feels that "all phases of the United Nations have had as much success as could be expected under the present world conditions. If we ever get rid of the threat of war," he added, "the economic and social aspects of the U.N. will dominate. Until that time, the political aspect will continue to be the main topic of interest."

The United States in the United Nations is working toward a long range plan, he stated, because the people of the U. S. like those of other countries like to feel as if they are gaining benefits.

Beyond war, he said, we will consider welfare first. In order to avoid war, he added, we must have honest instead of phony existences. By phony, the official said, "I mean subversion, which some of the nations in the world have turned to."

"The U.N. constantly works for the stabilization and security of the independence of free countries," Mr. Taylor stated. When this is done the U.N. will be able to enter upon a fruitful measure of collaboration with other countries.

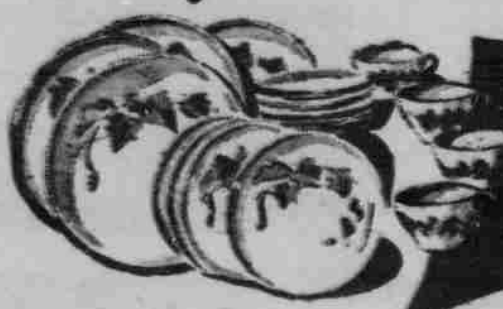
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