

# Amateurs to Present "Everyman" for the Visiting Nurses



LLOYD INGRAHAM AS "EVERYMAN"



MARGARET McPHERSON "FIVE WITS"



GROUP OF THE CAST



GERTRUDE WHITE "KINDRED"

### Amateurs to Present an Old Morality Play

### "Ben Hur" Written Under Stately Beech Tree

### One Night Stands in Musical Comedy

**E**VERYMAN, the old English morality play, is to be given at the Lyric theater Thursday evening by a company of Omaha players in benefit of the Visiting Nurses association. The announcement was made in the three columns which make the date, March 23, one which is marked prominently in the date book of many Omahans. First of these is the fact that the old play is to be given by a company of Omaha people. Knowledge, Good Deeds, Five Wits, Discretion, Strength, Beauty, Riches, Kindred and other virtues which attend and minister to "Everyman" will all be presented by Omaha people. How they will look is shown in the picture above. But in addition to this usual question in the amateur performance, there is the opportunity to see how these moderns of the moderns, these people of the new land, will speak the words which have been written centuries ago. Lacked the flavor of antiquity and were instead reminiscent to people of old England. These in the cast have given faithful attention to the play and, indeed, some have become so imbued with the sentiment of their roles that they are practicing in every-day life the rehearsal of the treatment, and adopting the manner of speech.

Mr. Lloyd Ingraham, who is to be "Everyman," is stage manager of the performance and has drilled the company. The others in the cast are: Mrs. Walter Turner, Misses Joe Higgins, Louise Lord, Gertrude White, Mary Wallace, Louise McPherson, Lola DelleCock, Margaret McPherson, Regina Connell, Bess Mahoney and Messrs. W. A. Schell, John Ryan, W. S. McPherson, S. S. Hamilton and Doane Powell.

**A** STALTY beech tree grows at Millsville in Crawfordville, Ind., to which pilgrimages are made at every season of the year. For it was under the cool shade made by its branches that General Lew Wallace put the finishing touches to his immortal "Ben-Hur."

General Wallace is authority for the statement of fact, his work having been given in view of the conspiracy as to where the great story of Judas and Judas's king was written. Much discussion had arisen on the subject, many persons holding to the belief the book had its origin in New England, where the wide reaches of plain and desert, the brilliant coloring of rock and sand, the barren glow of the sky and the tropical vegetation—palms and sandalwood brush and scrubby grass—fit so admirably into the descriptions of Palestine.

It is true the inspiration for much of the other incidents of "Ben-Hur" with the stamp of fidelity was absorbed in the southwest, but the work of writing was done at the Wallace home in Crawfordville. General Wallace loved the open air and lived out of doors as much as possible. He loved the beech tree. Who does not that knows this most lovely of forest monarchs?

To facilitate his work he had a platform built under his favorite tree and there he sat and penned the book which has made his name one of the most splendid in the annals of American literature. The tree is just outside the window of General Wallace's study and even in inclement weather he could look out at it as he wrote. According to the author, about one-seventh of his great work was written under the sky of New Mexico, and the other portion of the work was done at home.

Love of "Ben-Hur" whenever in the vicinity of Crawfordville makes a pilgrimage to the quiet little town to see the spot hallowed by the fact it was the home of General Wallace. So great is the traffic that two trolley lines of the interurban type run from Indianapolis to Crawfordville, and both are patronized largely by visitors. In the little town everywhere one can see reminders of the Wallace household and "Ben-Hur." Indeed, one of the trolley lines is called the "Ben-Hur" route, and its cars are emblazoned with a picture of General Wallace's home flanking the great tree.

More than 1,000,000 copies of the book have been sold and reviewed by something like 1,000,000 persons, while over 1,000,000 people have seen the drama made with General Wallace's sanction from the romance.

**L**UC HALL tells some interesting stories of the ups and downs of a musical comedy company playing one-night stands in the west. One relates to the vicissitudes undergone by the musical director who was carried with one of the companies Mr. Hall was attached to for some time. This director—landlord by name—had a call for rehearsal at 1:30 in a town in Nevada. At the appointed time he was in the theater and had the music all distributed when he noticed a lone trombone player. Director Langford called and waited with visions of a surprise on his face. At 2:30 he questioned the trombone player upon the non-appearance of his associates. The man with the trombone volunteered the information that his musical conference were at a lodge hall practicing dance music for a ball to be given that evening, with the further information that he had been ignored. The show went on that evening with the musical director at the piano and the company's drummer.

At another western town the musical director noted the absence of the bass player at rehearsal. He asked whether the town orchestra had a bass, whereupon he was informed that if it wanted the bass player would be on hand instantly, but if J. Flavin did not appear the bass player would not be on hand until 5 p. m., as he was the driver of the town sprinkling car.

Here is a true story of a stolen sleeping car near Helena, Mont. The company with which Mr. Hall was traveling had forty-four members and had a sleeper from the coast right through. The weather at the time varied from 20 to 30 below zero. The manager of another company worked a clever ruse by investigating the railroad yard officials into the belief that the sleeper in question was being used by his company and he got away with it. Mr. Hall's company traveled and slept in an ordinary coach for five days and nights before matters were righted. On several days they arrived at destinations along about 7:30 or 8 p. m., unpacked and dozed and came to a stop, grabbed a bite to eat and were off again.

All of which, Mr. Hall says, goes to show that after all truth is stranger than fiction.



MISS LOUISE McPHERSON AS "KNOWLEDGE"



DOANE POWELL "CONFESSION"



REGINA CONNELL-"ANGELS" - BESS MAHONEY



**A**gain interest is aroused by the announcement that this play is given in benefit of the Visiting Nurses association, one of the most popular, because it is one of the most useful of the city's charitable organizations. The object of the association is to benefit and assist those otherwise unable to secure skilled assistance in time of illness, to promote cleanliness and to give the nursing and suffering from any disease and to teach and soothe the welfare of the sick. The proceeds from the play go to further this important work.

Miss Louise McPherson, president of the association, is general manager of the entertainment. The trustees are assisting in the planning and will act as promoters of the evening of the performance.

The play for itself and for its own value commands attention. As the most famous of the old morality plays it has long been part of the study of everyone who treats the poetic paths of "English Literature." Its value as a "morality" moreover, has survived the centuries and it has become a custom in some of the English sea cities to produce the play each year during the Lenten season. But even wider than this it has been shown to have a value in the wide world where it has successfully competed with the most modern of the "musical" reviews. Indeed, the English player, who has been so largely responsible for the success of many of the poetic plays given at New York's New theater, first came to this country with the Ben-Green "Everyman" company. Edith Wynne Matlow as "Everyman" taught Americans a new appreciation for the musical possibilities of English words.

The Ben-Green players gave the "old play," which was a decidedly "new play" to many of their audiences in many of the cities of this country. But the Omaha players will give Omaha its first chance to witness a public presentation of the play.

**WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.**

The Carnegie commission has awarded \$200 for educational purposes to Miss Apha Brunson of Martinsburg, Pa., who rescued "Wife from Drowning" in Harquet, Ind. She declared that she was just scared to death, but that did not prevent her from being brave.

San Francisco clubwomen have organized a society for the prevention of blindness. This subject has been interesting women in all parts of the country, and an active campaign may be expected another year by those who have the good of the community at heart and would teach that much blindness is due to careless ignorance.

When Queen Mary is seated on her throne in Westminster Abbey at the coming coronation in London, Queen Alexandra will also have a throne upon which she will be seated. This is very unusual, but it is said that the people could not bear that their beloved queen should not have an honored place at the coronation. Queen Mary will sit on the right of the king and the mother on the left.

The New York Times says that there are in Paris fifteen women lawyers qualified to plead. The dean, Jeanne Chauvin, is now a doctor in law. She does not plead cases but teaches law and has written a treatise on the law concerning children, which is used as a textbook at the subject. She lectures on law at five girls' schools in Paris. There are two Russian lawyers in the group, Mrs. Kuznetsov, who does not practice, and Helena Marzoukoff, who presents cases in the civil courts. The corrections in the city courts. She comes of a learned family. Most of the remaining women lawyers are beginners who were once in the ranks of the law, but whose names of good looks. Miss Marzoukoff is the best deal of the women's press who plead cases. She is reckoned very skillful. Mrs. Maria Voronoff often preside cases.

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