Western Summer Theatre '63

President: Russell H. Miller
Producing Director: Russell H. Miller

Business Manager: Patti Peete Gillespie
Secretary: Jean Topmiller Gosnell
Public Relations Representative: Bette Miller

Randall Capps, Allen Miller, Herschel N. Walsh
Planning Board

Historian: Glinda Oliver
More than 2,000 items made by or used by the Shakers who founded South Union are displayed at the museum at Auburn. These are a few pieces of the sturdy, functional furniture made by the sect after their Western Kentucky colony was started in 1807.

REVISITING THE SHAKERS

BECAUSE Mrs. Curry Hall's hobby outgrew the storage space she had allotted to it in her home, today Auburn, a southwestern Kentucky town of 1,000 population, has two truly outstanding attractions.

1. A museum containing more than 2,000 items made by or used by Shakers, the distinctive celestic religious order which long before the Civil War had two prosperous colonies in Kentucky, one near Auburn.

2. A just-ended annual Shaker festival which features tours of buildings still standing at South Union, one of the two Kentucky colonies, and a locally done dramatic pageant that is the equal of any of the professional summer shows that have sprung up in the state of late.

Mrs. Hall's hobby, which, like Topsy, just kind of "grewed" until an upstairs bedroom was far too small to house it, fits into the museum-festival picture this way:

As a child in Auburn, she knew the last survivors of the gentle, hard-working, communal-type sect, and she often went on picnics and outings to the South Union colony, only 3 miles from her home. Later she married and, once the South Union colony disbanded after 115 years in 1932, she and her husband settled in 1939 on what had been the Shaker "sugar maple farm" on the edge of Auburn. Almost without realizing it, Mrs. Hall began to collect items that were associated with the South Union colony—clothing, furniture, manuscripts, tableware, farm tools and the like. Soon the room in which she displayed the pieces was stuffed like a Christmas stocking.

Then, six years ago the Auburn Christian Church moved into a new building, leaving vacant their small, frame structure that stood on the edge of what had been the Shaker sugar maple farm. Since it was so near their home, Hall bought the building as a place to store seed and strip tobacco.

But before he could say "burley tobacco," Mrs. Hall had taken over the building for her ever-growing array of Shaker items.

In short order, Miss Julia Neal, a lifelong friend who teaches English at Florence, Ala., State College and is the
Center House is largest and oldest of the original South Union Shaker buildings. Built in 1824, it is used as a Catholic seminary. People were among those touring the building during recent Shaker Festival.

Museum and pageant put on at Auburn show how one colony in Western Kentucky lived

author of two books pertaining to the South Union colony, and other local people had added or loaned their own Shaker pieces to the collection, and the entire display was opened to the public.

Thus a museum devoted to the handicrafts of one religious order had been started in a building erected by still another religious order.

Interest in the museum led to the Shaker Festival, which was held for the first time over a three-day weekend last year and attracted 5,000 persons. The festival pageant, called "Shakertown Revisited," was produced and directed by Dr. Russell H. Miller of Western Kentucky State College, and based largely on material supplied by Miss Neal from her 1947 book "By Their Fruits" and her just-released newest Shaker work, "The Journal of Eldress Nancy." The latter book (Parthenon Press, Nashville, $5, 280 pages) is a graphic diary kept during the Civil War years at South Union by Nancy E. Moore, then eldress of the colony.

This year the festival was expanded to five days and the pageant improved upon. Near-full houses at the Auburn High School gym saw the show in which local people effectively played every one of the 60 parts.

Included in the pageant this year was a series of songs and dances, many of which appear in still another new book "The Gift to be Simple" (By Edward A. Andrews, Dover Publications, $1.50, 167 pages), a collection of songs, dances and rituals of the American Shakers—or, according to their official name, the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing.

The pageant told the story of the South Union settlement from the time in 1805 when three elders from the Shaker colony at New Lebanon, N. Y., appeared on the Kentucky frontier at one of the big revival meetings which then were sweeping the Kentucky frontier.

The story depicted their early struggle in Kentucky, their eventual success in farming and other business ventures, the tense Civil War period when they were pillaged by both sides, the Reconstruction era and the dissolution of the colony 41 years ago.

The South Union settlement was made by members of the same sect

Museum items, including cocoon, point up the once-successful silk industry.

South Union Shakers are said to have been first group to market garden seeds.
that founded Pleasant Hill, the other Kentucky colony near Harrodsburg. The cardinal precept of the church was "put your hands to work and give your hearts to God." Since they believed the second coming of Christ was imminent, they did not hold with marriage. Historically, they kept going only by adding converts and adopting orphans.

The Shakers, sometimes called "Shaking Quakers," came to America in 1774 from England, the third of the Utopian movements to reach this country. (The other two were the Rappites and the Owenites of New Harmony, written up in this Magazine last week.) Significantly, Shakerism is the only one of the Utopian movements still in existence. Two colonies in the East, with a total of 24 elderly women, remain.

"Shakers outlived the others," said Miss Neal, one of the leading experts on the sect, "because they held it was religious to do well economically. They were idealists who also were practical; men and women who worked hard and lived simply but who also had a sense of humor." Consequently, at one time there were 17 different colonies with some 6,000 members in America. Aside from their basic beliefs, the two Kentucky colonies were completely independent of each other. The Pleasant Hill colony was organized in 1865, the year the elders of what would become the South Union group came to Kentucky and bought land along Gasper River and Clear Creek, a tributary, in Logan County.

The first building at South Union was erected in 1810. In time, some 6,000 acres of fertile land were acquired and more than 30 buildings were erected. The buildings—all or part of only seven stand today—including residential houses in which men and women used separate stairways and doors, a grist mill, tannery, flour mill, silkworm house, school, meeting house, tavern for "worthy" guests, loomhouse and meal shop.

In some respects, the South Unioners were even more industrious than the better-known society at Pleasant Hill. They established a profitable trade in packaging and selling seeds up and down the Cumberland, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. They were one of the few groups ever to produce silk successfully in this country. Long rows of mulberry trees were planted west of the main core of buildings and the silkworms were kept in a stone house nearby on Clear Creek. They also became noted for their woolen cloth, furniture, fine-bred live-stock and preserves.

The 1838-49 period was the golden era of the South Union Shakers, as it was for other socialistic ventures in America. The colony reached a membership of 340 then. During the Civil War, when the colonists were distrusted by Confederates because they long before had freed their slaves, and by the Federals because they were pacifists who refused to take up arms, the Shakers were caught between the warring sides and suffered badly.

The colony went down progressively after the war as the leadership grew older and newcomers did not join the society. The South Union venture folded in 1852, just 12 years after the Pleasant Hill colony disbanded. The land and buildings were sold for $229,000 to O.S. Bond, the money was divided among the 10 surviving members and the experiment ended.

Seven South Union buildings still Shaker songs and dances were part of the festival pageant at Anburn. Dances were done with performers holding their hands extended before them and number "Simple Gifts," which appears in a new collection of Shaker songs, "Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free. "Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be."

stand, there on 50 acres of land which
now belongs to the Priory of St. Maur's.
Benedictine, Catholic seminary. The
other buildings are located on adjacent
lands.
There is much about Shakers which
sounds far-fetched in today's world.
After all, the buildings are no longer
standing. There were, for example, the
many things they were forbidden
to do. For example, together
men and women could not eat, drink,
sleep, work, or play. They had to
kneel with their heads down in
prayer. They were not allowed
to grow tobacco or carry any
arms. Although they believed in
the end of the world, they made
plans for it as if it was going
to take a thousand years and if
they were going to die tomorrow.

"Many people talk to me about the
Shakers, and ask me if they weren't
peculiar people," said Miss Neel,
whose first name is Janet. "They
were, I guess that, by modern
standards, they were peculiar
people, indeed."

Opening scene in the festival pageant showed Mother
Ann Lee, founder of American Shakers, being hailed
at New Lebanon, N.Y., because of her beliefs. Role of
Ann Lee was done by Murriel Hawkes.
The Auburn Shaker Festival

Presents

"Shakertown Revisited"

A Symphonic Drama of the South Union Colony of "Believers"

Written and Directed by Russell H. Miller
Music Arranged and Directed by Ruth Morriss
Choreography by Valleria Moody

With Cast Including—

Hank Brosche  Shirley Lanham  Lillian Nolan
J. Granville Clark  Coleman Richardson  Tommy Higginson
Patti Peete Gillespie  Jerry Irving  Martha Lee Atkinson
Bette Miller  Drucilla Jones  Rita Davis
Herschel Walsh  Harold Hanks  Sam Hall
Claudia Jordan  Carroll Browning  Susan Pearson
Prather Price  Don Price  Rebecca Pierce
Ann Downing  Kenneth Robertson  Glenda Oliver
Kenneth Robbins  Murriel Hawkes  Thomas Hayes
Allen Miller  Norman Lewis  David Hall
O. R. Wren  Charles Oliver  Bob Fields
Ann Hornback  Frank L. Atkinson  Robert Chyle
Jane Robbins  Bennie Vickous  Louise Wren
Janet Moore  Louise Craig  Austin Phillips
Jimmy Coleman  Eddie Matthews  Tom Carr
John Hendricks  Martha Porter  Barry Perkins

Presented Nightly, July 9 - 13
8 p.m., CST.

Auburn High School Gymnasium Arena

School Children (12 and under) ...................................... 50¢
Adults ................................................................. $1.00

See Other Festival Attractions Throughout the Week
Like Seeing Old Friend

Shakertown Revisited

The first performance of the "Shakertown" as a "salute to the South" was held at the United States Custom House in New York City by the Shakertown Association. The performance featured a collection of historical and cultural performances from the former state of Kentucky, including music, dance, and theater. The audience was captivated by the authenticity of the performance, which brought to life the history and culture of the region. The Shakertown Association aims to promote the region's rich history and cultural heritage through such events, offering a unique perspective on the past and fostering a sense of community and connection. Throughout the evening, attendees were treated to a variety of performances that highlighted the unique character of Kentucky. The event was a resounding success, with many expressing their admiration for the commitment to preserving and sharing this important part of American history.
'Gentle Folk' Live Again in 'Shakertown Revisited'
Shaker Pageant Continues Tonight And Saturday

Hank Brosche appears as John Rankin in the pageant play, "Shakertown Revisited." Rankin leaves his house and lands as the original property for the founding of South Union colony in 1827. Later he became one of the most respected of the elders of the South Union Society of the Believers. As such he merges as the central figure in the story of "Shakertown Revisited."

Performances will continue at 8 p.m. today and tomorrow in the Auburn High School gymnasium area. "Shakertown Revisited" is the first of the regional symphonic dramas to take the center-swinging form. General admission or reserved seats are available at the door from 7 until 8 p.m.
Dr. Russell Miller  
English Department  
Western Kentucky State College  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Miller:

In no way could I qualify as a drama critic, however, I am very sensitive to Shaker history as I have lived all my life adjacent to Pleasant Hill (Shakertown) in Mercer County and remember the sad occasion when the Shakers closed the final chapter of their venture.

You, I think will be the first to agree they were a most misunderstood people, for the world at large seems to remember them only for their celibacy.

When I heard of your play, I naturally wondered how one could hold the attention of the audience without sacrificing authenticity, for as we all know the public of today demands entertainment regardless.

By your genius, you have reached the highest form of the art by weaving into the fabric of entertainment a simple, but colorful pattern. This is by far the most outstanding presentation of its kind in existence and its flawless interpretation by local folks is truly remarkable. The amazing thing is that you have not deviated one particle from the recorded progress and eventual failure of the Shakers communal effort to establish an earthly Utopia.

The narration and music were superb, the acting even better and may I again congratulate you on building a living monument to these devout people who really "gave their hands to work and their hearts to God."

Sincerely,

George M. Chinn  
Director
July 25, 1963

Dear "Shaker" Colleague:

It was my pleasure to have you as a member of the company of "Shakertown Revisited" '63. Everyone of you should feel justly proud of his part in the success of that venture. As the one responsible for the writing and production, I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to each one who contributed to make this project a worthwhile community event.

In the process of putting together a show of this kind, involving many people working in different capacities, there is not always the time nor place to commend each of you for the fine job and cooperation that is going into the cementing of the whole project. In all my actions as director, in all decisions regarding persons or policy, the whole job must come first and take precedence over individual considerations. This is a law of the theatre, and I could not justify my operations as your director if I can not achieve this objective attitude. So, I take this means of conveying to each of you my sincere appreciation for all the time and effort that you put into "Shakertown Revisited," for I could not have done the job without you.

I am attaching to this letter a copy of a letter of appreciation which I received after the pageant was over. It comes from a man of position and discrimination who knows whereof he speaks. I wanted to share with you his praise. The fine tone of this letter should help to erase from your memory the lack of valid judgment evidenced in some of the newspaper articles written by individuals who have not earned the right to be critics.

I hope that we can continue to make the pageant an annual event of local and regional significance.

Best wishes, always.

Sincerely,

Russell H. Miller
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, July 17, 18, 19

Agatha Christie's Newest Mystery Thriller

"THE UNEXPECTED GUEST"

Characters In Order Of Appearance

Richard Warwick ........................................
Laura Warwick ...........................................Patti Peete Gillespie
Michael Starkwedder ...................................Charles Oliver
Miss Bennett .............................................Mary S. Oaken
Jan Warwick .............................................Allen Miller
Mrs. Warwick .............................................Muriel Hawkes
Helen Angell ............................................Ann Daniel
Sgt. Cadwallader ........................................John T. Hendricks
Inspector Thomas .......................................Herschel N. Walsh
Julian Farrar ............................................Tom Higason
Constable Jones .........................................Bob Fields

Scenes

The story unfolds in Richard Warwick's study in November

Act I
11:30 P.M. in the Study
10 Minute Intermission

Act II
Morning in the Study
10 Minute Intermission

Act III
Afternoon the same day.
"The Uninvited Guest" Opens Wednesday Night

By PATSY GRAY

Western Summer Theatre '70 opens the summer season Wednesday with Agatha Christie's new mystery thriller, "The Unexpected Guest." This British contemporary drama, under the direction of Dr. Russell H. Miller, combines all the elements of good theatre — humor, suspense, and action. Miller has selected an outstanding cast, including Patti Peete Gillespie, Muriel Hawks, Mary Ray Oaken, Ann Daniel, Charles Oliver, Herschel Walsh, John Hendricks, Allen Miller, Tommy Higginson, and Bob Fields. "The Unexpected Guest" has aspects of high drama which will appeal to any type of theatre-goer. The victim in this mystery is a big game hunter renowned for his ability as a crack shot. A mysterious stranger gives misleading clues that are sifted and sorted by members of Scotland Yard. The intricate ideas involved in the plot are concluded by an ending which will leave the audience both surprised and intrigued.

Agatha Christie is internationally famous for her spine-bending stories. Almost any bookcase includes at least one or two of her most famous novels, but few people realize that her authorship is as easily adapted to good theatre as a quiet evening by the reading lamp. All who have been enthralled by the unpredictable mind of Agatha Christie will welcome the opportunity of "The Unexpected Guest." The play will be presented at Snell Hall Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the drama group or at the auditorium before performances.

Mrs. Gillespie, Oliver Play Leads In Mystery

Patti Peete Gillespie and Charles Oliver will play leading roles in the first Western Summer Theatre production, "The Unexpected Guest," which is to open at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at Snell Hall Auditorium.

The mystery thriller by Agatha Christie is set in foggy England, Michael Stal'kwedder, a stranger who is seeking a phone because of an intrigue, played by Charles Oliver, comes to the Warwick home and finds Laura Warwick, played by Patti Peete Gillespie, in the room with her murdered husband Richard who had been a crack shot.

The police are called in, and Herschel Walsh, as Inspector Thomas, and John Hendricks, as Sgt. Cadwallader, question the members of the family and the household. Muriel Hawks plays the role of the murdered man's mother and Allen Miller is cast as the retarded half-brother.

Servants of the house include Mary Ray Oaken as Miss Bennett who efficiently manages the Warwick household and Ann Dannel as Helen Angell who had been Richard Warwick's nurse. Tommy Higginson plays a neighbor policeman who is the other man in Laura's life.

In addition to playing leads in "The Unexpected Guest," both Mrs. Gillespie and Oliver, along with other Western Summer Theatre members, are playing in "Student Revue" at the Auburn Shaker Festival.
Christie Play Offers
"Mysterious Evening"

By JEAN T. GOSNELL

Western Summer Theatre opened its season last night at Snell Hall with a bang—the recipient being one Richard Warwick, and from there the chase was on. This newest Agatha Christie play, "The Unexpected Guest," held the audience in its spell as the would-be murderers were set before them one by one.

Was it Laura Warwick, stunningly played by Pati Peete Gillespie, or Miss Bennett, convincingly acted by Mary S. Oaken? Perhaps it was Jan Warwick, the gentle half-brother presented by Allen Miller. Muriel Hawkes, holding your attention as the mother, convinces you that it must be she. Charles Oliver as Michael Starkwedder who accidentally stumbles in from the fog skillfully directs your eye to himself, and just when you are sure you have the murderer cornered, along come Julian Farrar and Helen Angell, charmingly played by Tom Higginson and Ann Daniels, who are suspicious in their own ways.

Two of Scotland Yard's finest, Inspector Thomas and Sgt. Castwallker, aid the viewer with their bits of unravelling. These parts are well handled by Marvelous N. Walsh and John T. Hendricks. A nice, deep-voiced Constable Jones done by Bob Fields works with them.

The music, the setting, the atmosphere are all geared to give the viewer an exciting, definitely mysterious evening. Dr. Russell H. Miller has again produced and directed the play so the playgoer receives the best in "off Broadway" entertainment.

Bette Miller and Maurice Unboy will play roles in "The Grass Harp," a Truman Capote fantasy dealing with a group of lonely eccentrics in a small southern town. "The Grass Harp" will be presented July 20-26 at Snell Hall at 8 p.m.

MARY RAY OAKEN

Western Drama To Open Tomorrow Night

Opening tomorrow and continuing through Friday at Snell Hall auditorium will be "The Unexpected Guest," an Agatha Christie mystery produced by Western Summer Theatre '63.

Mary Ray, Oaken, Madisonville, will play the role of Mrs. Bennett, trusted mainstay of the Warwick household, charged with the care of Jan Warwick, a mentally handicapped boy. Mrs. Oaken has appeared locally in "Night Must Fall," "Bus Stop," and "The Bishop of Bern."

General admission tickets are $1 for adults and 50 cents for children under 12.

Director for the production is Dr. Russell H. Miller.
PROGRAM NOTES

PATTI PEETE GILLESPIE—Our talented Patti is a busy girl these days. Having just finished the role of Eldress Nancy in Shaker Town Revisited (a repeat performance), she changes pace with the role of Laura Warwick in The Unexpected Guest. Patti has turned in outstanding performances in Nine, Private Lives, Bus Stop, and The Solid Gold Cadillac.

CHARLES OLIVER teaches English and Drama at Allen County High School and comes to us this summer to play Michael Starkwedder. Although this is his first experience with Western's Summer Theatre, Charles has had roles in Blithe Spirit, Our Town, Anastasia, Henry IV, The Glass Menagerie, and a number of other plays at Troy State College, Troy, Alabama. He has also worked extensively with various little theatre groups throughout the South.

The name of MURIEL HAWKES is almost synonymous with drama here in Bowling Green and in Auburn, where Muriel has just repeated her fine performance in Shaker Town Revisited as Mother Ann Lee. She has worked with Community Players since its beginning and has participated in Summer Theatre for three years.

The role of Helen Angell is played by ANN DANIEL, who attends Agnes Scott College. Ann's experience there includes roles in The House of Bernard Alba and The Gardener's Dog. Ann also was in the junior play at her high school and a television play in Manila, Philippine Islands.

Hailing from Rumsey, Kentucky, is ALLEN MILLER, who plays the role of Jan Warwick in The Unexpected Guest. Allen's background includes performances in Missouri Legend, Dark of the Moon, and All My Sons. Allen is a full-time student at Western.

TOMMY HIGGASON was introduced to dramatics at Western in WinterSet, and has since played roles in Missouri Legend, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and All My Sons. He comes to us from Bowling Green, Kentucky, to play the role of Julian Farrar.

Although JOHN HENDRICKS feels he is type cast as a "pillar of the law," having played the role of a policeman in Carousel and now Sgt. Cadwallader in The Unexpected Guest, we notice he did a fine job as Andrew Jackson in this year's Shaker Town Revisited.

HERSCHEL WALSH made his stage debut last summer in Private Lives. He also worked with The House of Bernard Alba and Shaker Town Revisited. Since then he has added to his experience roles in A Midsummer Night's Dream and again this year, Shaker Town Revisited. Herschel, who is from Madisonville, plays Inspector Thomas.

BOB FIELDS from Edmonton, Kentucky, is serving in dual capacities on The Unexpected Guest. Not only does he play the role of the Constable, but he is also our capable Stage Manager. Bob did technical work on A Midsummer Night's Dream and won the 1963 Topper Award for sound effects.

Space does not permit the listing of the many credits of DR. RUSSELL N. MILLER. One of his most recent productions was Shaker Town Revisited, which he wrote and directed. It is not until one has worked under Dr. Miller that one can fully appreciate his dedication and contribution to the performing arts.

We would like to express our appreciation to the following:
SOUTHERN KENTUCKY FURNITURE COMPANY for furnishings and lamps
THE CLINIC PHARMACY for wheelchair
STATION K C T for sound and special effects
WESTERN Summer Theatre '63

Presents

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S NEW MYSTERY THRILLER

"THE UNEXPECTED GUEST"

July 17, 18 and 19

And

TRUMAN CAPOTE'S LYRICAL PHANTASY

"The Grass Harp"

July 24, 25 and 26

RUSSELL H. MILLER Producing Director

Snell Hall Auditorium 8:15 P. M., CST
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, July 24, 25, 26

Truman Capote's Lyrical Phantasy

"THE GRASS HARP"

The Characters In Order of Appearance

Catherine Creek ........................................ Maurice Utley
Collin Talbo ........................................ Larry Walsh
Dolly Talbo ........................................ Jean Tognieller Gosnell
Verena Talbo ........................................ Bette Miller
Dr. Morris Ritz ...................................... Tom Higgason
The Reverend ....................................... Bobby Guy Sampson
The Reverend's Wife ................................ Margaret Worden
Edna .................................................. Martha Lee Atkinson
Choir Mistress ....................................... Susan Pearson
The Barber ......................................... Allen Miller
The Baker's Wife ..................................... Rebecca Pierce
The Postmaster ....................................... Frank L. Atkinson
The Sheriff ......................................... Omer Gosnell
Judge Charlie Cool ................................. Charles Oliver
Maude Riordan ....................................... Ginny Burnette
Baby Love Dallas .................................... Phyllis Blakeman
Townpeople ......................................... Bennie Vickous
Jim Coleman, Sherrill Scanlon, Sue Daniel, Kaye McClellan, Nancy Sims, Nancy Depp, Brenda Harrod, Bob Fields, Martha Harrod, Herschel N. Walsh, Rita Davis, Martha Lee Atkinson, Sue Travis, Ann Hornback, Jerry Irving, Ray Smith.

Scenes

The play takes place in a small, southern town.

Act I
The Talbo House. A Sunday afternoon in late September.
10 Minute Intermission

Act II
The River Woods.
10 Minute Intermission

Act III
The Talbo Home. Evening.

Set Next Week
By Theater Group
Misses Bette Miller and Maurice Utley will portray conflicting personalities in Truman Capote's "The Grass Harp" to be presented next week in Snell Hall Auditorium by Western Summer Theatre 63. "The Grass Harp" is a story dealing with eccentric in a small southern town who try to escape harsh reality.

Tonight the final performance of Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest" will be presented at 8:15 in Snell Hall.
PHYLLIS BLAKEMAN
"The Grass Harp" Opens Tomorrow At Snell Hall
Phyllis Blakeman, a graduate student from Hodgenville, will portray Miss Baby Love Dallas, three times voted sweetest of the sweetnesses traveling for Sweetheart Cosmetics, in "The Grass Harp," Western Summer Theatre’s final show for the season.

"The Grass Harp" is a tender story of a group of eccentrics in a small Southern town who try to escape reality and its problems by going to the forest and living in a tree-house.

Dr. Russell H. Miller is the producing director for "The Grass Harp" which will be presented Wednesday through Friday nights, at 8:15 p.m. in Snell Hall Auditorium.

Tickets may be obtained from any member of Western Summer Theatre ’63 group or purchased at the door.

CHARLES OLIVER
Oliver Plays Part Of Judge In "The Grass Harp"
Charles Oliver will portray Judge Charlie Cool, a kindly, philosophical exe-judge who in his old age is unwanted by his family, in "The Grass Harp," which will be presented tonight, tomorrow and Friday night in Snell Hall Auditorium at 8:15 p.m.

"The Grass Harp," written by Truman Capote and under the direction of Dr. Russell H. Miller provides a poetic insight into the knowledge that difficult decisions are inevitable. Its abrupt attachments are delightfully logical and so also is the enchanting prospect of living in the tree house.

Tickets for the Western Summer Theatre production may be purchased from any member of the theatre group or at Snell Hall before performances.

JEAN T. GUSSELL
Mrs. Gosnell, Walsh To Star In Production
Jean Tommiller Gosnell, a Western graduate student of Aledo, Ore., formerly of Bowling Green, and Larry Walsh, a freshman from Madisonville, will star in the Western Summer Theatre production of "The Grass Harp" which will be presented Wednesday through Friday nights, at 8:15 p.m. in Snell Hall Auditorium.

Written by Truman Capote, "The Grass Harp" was generally acclaimed by critics, when it was first presented in New York in 1952, as one of the most lyrical and imaginative contributions to the American stage for some time.

The heroine of the tale is Dolly, a prim old maid, to be portrayed by Mrs. Gosnell who keeps house for her waspish, bread-earning sister, Verena, who is to be assisted by Betty Miller, with the aid of a loyal but bitter-tongued housemaid, who will be played by Maurice Viley.

The chief interest of the spinster and the housemaid is in gathering herbs from a nearby forest with which to make a dropy cure according to formula that the gypsies gave Dolly when she was a child. They enjoy selling this to a few needy customers.

When Dolly learns that her tyrannical sister to whom she has given a life of devotion, is marrying to inherit her treasured formula and sell it to a slick patent medicine quack, she can bear the cruelties and ingratitude of life in that house no longer.

The timid little women can only think to take refuge in the tree-house she knows in the forest, and she is accompanied on this flight by the housemaid and a rebellious teen-age nephew, to be portrayed by Larry Walsh, who matronly lives with the two sisters.

The scandalized townfolk, however, will not tolerate the flight of these outcasts from "civilization," and roughly snatch them back, but not before the rapacious ones and the kind-hearted ones of this tale have ruefully learned to live together in better harmony.

Other members of the cast include Tom Higginson, Bobby Gay Sampson, Barbara Atkinson, Susan Pearson, Allen Miller, Rebecca Pears, Frank L. Atkinson, Omer Gosnell, Charles Oliver, Grady Barrow and Phyllis Blakeman.

The townspeople will be portrayed by Bonnie Vickers, Jim Coleman, Sherrill Scallop, Sue Daniel, Kaye McCollum, Nancy Sinse, Nancy Doss, Brenda and Martha Harrod, Bob Fields, Herrenchel, Bill Davis, Sue Towner, Ann Hornback, Jerry Irving, and Ray Smith.
Final Performance Of "The Grass Harp" Set Tonight

Tom Higgason, a senior English major from Edmonton, will portray Dr. Morris Ritz, a big-time swindling ladies' man, in tonight's performance of Truman Capote's "The Grass Harp," the final production of Western Summer Theatre 63.

Back-stage groups assisting in staging of the production include Phyllis Bishlmam and Omar Gosnell, stage manager; scenic design: Bob Fields, Nancy Sims, Ann Daniel, Bennie Vickous, Eunice Smith and John Hendricks; lighting and special effects: Marthuln Atkinson, Jean Gosnell, Lillian Nolan and Glinda Oliver; properties: Susan Pearson, script assistant: Shirley Bennie Vickous, Rebecca Pierce, Jim Coleman, Nancy Sims, Allen Miller, Nancy Depp and Ann Daniel; make-up committee; Curtain time for the final performance of the theatre group at Snell Hall is 8:15 p.m.

'The Grass Harp'

TRUMAN CAPOTE'S gentle fantasy "The Grass Harp" will be presented Wednesday through Friday by Western Summer Theatre 63. Curtain time is 8:15 each night at Snell Hall Auditorium, Western Kentucky State College, Bowling Green.

"The Grass Harp" is directed by Dr. Russell H. Miller, head of Western's drama department. Jean Topmiller Gossell and Charles Oliver have leading roles.

Drama Provides Fans "Exciting Experience"

By FRANCES DIXON

Western Summer Theatre 63, under the imaginative direction of Dr. Russell H. Miller gave Western's theatre fans an exciting experience last night with its performance of Truman Capote's "The Grass Harp" in Snell Hall Auditorium.

"The Grass Harp" depicts the story of the Talbo sisters in their struggle for recognition. Dolly, the sensitive sister, is courageously portrayed by Jean Topmiller Gossell. Bette Lou Miller contests the innocent nature of Dolly in the role of Verena, the strong business woman. Catherine Creek, the Negro housemaid who claims to be Indian, played by Maurice Utley, entertains the audience with her frank, uninhibited, earthy opinions. The other member of the Talbo household is Collin, the nephew of the two sisters, played by Larry Walsh.

The special magic of Capote's understanding of his people is shown in his creation of a tree house where the sound of wind through the grass becomes the song of a harp; when she learns that Verena is quietly conspiring to cheat her, Dolly Talbo flies to the tree house taking with her the strongwilled Negro maid and the rebellious Collin. They are joined there by Judge Cool (Charles Oliver) who is something of an outcast himself. The tree house is a retreat from reality, a place of security where lost souls can find expression.

The struggle for recognition between the sisters is resolved when each learns, through crisis, that there is a ground on which the materialist and the visionary can exist side by side in harmony. The genuine homey humor of a small town comes to life when the people of the town take sides in the quarrel between the sisters.

"The story is beautiful and tender in itself, but the technical effects and the scenic design of this production provide the audience with a rich experience in communication. "The Grass Harp" will be presented again tonight and tomorrow at 8:15 p.m. in Snell Hall Auditorium.
PROGAM NOTES

MAURICE UTLEY from Portland, Tennessee, plays Catherine Creek. She has worked with Western Players and Summer Theatre since 1953, and with the Little Theatre at Elizabethtown. She has directed high school drama activities at LaRue County High School where she teaches Junior English. Maurice will receive her Master’s Degree in August.

LARRY MAHIS, who portrays Collin Talbo, is a freshman from Madisonville, Ky., where he played basketball and was the recipient of the Academic-Athletics Award for 1963. This is his first appearance on the stage.

JEAN TOPMILLER GOSHELL stars as Dolly Talbo. Her stage experience “The Heiress” in Western Players, and “The Glass Menagerie” in Community Theatre. She has directed a studio production “The Critic Remembers.” She and her husband, OMAR, are both graduates of Western, and are now residing in Alsea, Oregon, where he is the principal of an elementary school, and Jean is teaching. OMAR has worked with scenic design for “The Petrified Forest,” “Mary Litt,” “The Far Off Hills”, the first production at Western of “All My Sons”, and with the Faculty Community Theatre in Beaverton, Oregon.

BETTE MILLER of Simpsonville, plans to enter Indiana University in September to work towards a Master in Theatre Arts Degree. Her former appearances at Western include “The Curious Savage”, “All My Sons”, “The Skin of Our Teeth”, “Missouri Legend”, and “The Male Animal”. Bette is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a National Honor Fraternity in Drama, and she has directed two studio productions. In the play this week, she plays the part of Verena Talbo.

TOM HEGASON, who portrays very convincingly the part of Dr. Morris Ritz, has been a member of the Guignol Theatre at the University of Kentucky where he was seen in “Our Town.” At Western, he has played in “Winterset,” “Missouri Legend”, “Midsummer Night’s Dream”, “All My Sons”, “Shakertown Revisited,” and “The Unexpected Guest.”

MARGARET WOODEN hails from Michigan and is a Sophomore. She has done outstanding lighting work on “Midsummer Night’s Dream”, and “The Unexpected Guest.” In “The Glass Harp”, she plays the part of the Reverend’s “busy” wife.

BOBBY GUY SAMPSON (the Reverend), is a Sophomore English major from Woodburn.

ALLEN MILLER, who plays the part of Amos, the barber, is remembered for his roles in “Dark of the Moon,” “Missouri Legend,” “Shakertown Revisited,” and “The Unexpected Guest.” He has also been valuable in the technical aspect of these productions.

REBECCA ANN FRIECE (The Baker’s Wife, Mrs. County), has worked on make-up for three productions and has danced in “Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and “Shakertown Revisited.”

FRAN ATKINSON is seen tonight as the Postmaster. Previous roles have been in “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” and “The Curious Savage.” Her daughter, MARGARET, has been indispensable as “our little prop girl.” She has also worked with “The House of Bernarda Alba,” “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” and “Shakertown Revisited.”

CHARLES OLIVER, originally from Franklin, is presently teaching English, Speech, and Drama at Allen County High. At Troy State College in Alabama, where he received his B.S. and M.S. Degrees, he appeared in major roles in thirteen plays, including “Ten Little Indians,” “Here We Come Gathering,” and “Hedda Gabler.” Various Little Theatre groups have seen him in “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” “Inherit the Wind,” “Auntie Mame,” “Harvey,” and “Sabrina Fair.” With Western Summer Theatre this year he has had leading roles in “Shakertown Revisited,” and “The Unexpected Guest.” Charles is also a member of Alpha Phi Omega.
CIRCLE PLAYERS present

COME BLOW YOUR HORN

by

Neil Simon

Directed by

Bonny Franke

Circle Theatre
4102 Hillsboro Road
Jul 25-Aug 3, 1963
8:30 p.m.

CIRCLE PLAYERS present

"COME BLOW YOUR HORN"

a sparkling comedy for your mid-summer entertainment

July 25 - August 3

Circle Theatre
4102 Hillsboro Road
Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Phone now to be assured of reservations: AL 6-6855
Admission: Mon - Thur 1.50
Fri, Sat 1.75