

# Dramatics

*"All the world's a stage  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances  
And each man in his time plays many parts."*

—SHAKESPEARE

Out of the Red River Valley have come many young men and women eager to "strut and fret their hour upon the stage." Some have possessed great talents, others have been less fortunate; yet all have played their part in the dramatic history of the Northwest School.

Dramatic activities were first introduced as a feature of the campus life as early as 1912 under the auspices of the literary societies. Occasional productions were given by special groups in subsequent years. From 1918 on, however, dramatics steadily rose to a place of prominence among the extra-curricular activities on the campus.

Among some of the outstanding dramatic productions of the past years at the Northwest School were: "The Show Off," "Three Live Ghosts," "She Stoops to Conquer," "Camille in Roaring Camp," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Captain Applejack," and "Smilin' Through."

A large number of students are given opportunities each year to participate in dramatics. Much enthusiasm is aroused through dramatization of literature, and presentation of various student programs and plays for special school events. A series of one-act plays are prepared for various occasions throughout the school year, including Parents' Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the Winter Shows. The Senior Class play presented in the spring is the major production of the year.

During the past year one hundred young people have been afforded the opportunity of either performing in plays or in some way assisting with the scenery, costuming, or staging of the productions.

The season opened with a youthful one-act comedy, "Station YYYYY," by Booth Tarkington, which was enjoyed by a capacity audience of parents and students as one of the Annual Parents' Day features. Members of the cast were Noel Hanson, Ruth Lerud, Alfred Olson,

Alta Torkelson, Chester Ingebretson, Laura Hanson, Virginia Bede, Leland Hanson, and Harold Sanden.

All the charm of a mellow plantation night and the spontaneity of minstrel music and clever dialogue were blended in an amusing entertainment, "The Lazy Moon Minstrels," produced at Thanksgiving time. The large cast included Harold Sanden as "Mammy" Washington, Earl Lindberg as "Pappy" and Werner Weindorf, Bernadette Jeffrey, William Lindberg, Harold Nabben, Noel Hanson, Clifford Sauer, Chester Ingebretson, Virginia Bede, Grace Olson, Janet Krogstad, Cora Dalager, Burnett Bergeson, Olive Steen, Laura Hanson, and Philip Hegberg.

A spirit of deep religious reverence, enhanced by effective costumes and lighting, pervaded the Christmas choral play, "Gloria," by Katherine Kester, presented before the holiday season. It proved to be the most impressive performance of the year. Morris Maruska and Raymond Higgin merited special recognition for performances of leading roles. Other members of the cast were Patricia Durbahn, Harold Nabben, Roland Wentzel, Axel Rynning, Leland Hanson, Carlos Grove, Erling Carlson, Belva Holm, James Weckwerth, Melvin Pearson, Alta Torkelson, Betty McVeety, and Donald Gandrud.

Maintaining the usual high standard of dramatics at the Northwest School this year, the Senior class presented "Seventeen," a four-act comedy by Booth Tarkington to enthusiastic audiences on February 24 and 25. Outstanding performances were accredited to Alfred Olson, in the leading role, to Ruth Lerud as Mrs. Baxter, Mavis Glass as Jane, and Phyllis Henre as Lola Pratt. Appropriate scenery, costuming, and music added much to the effectiveness of the production.

The quality of performances in past years at the Northwest School and the fine training afforded the students in dramatics has stimulated greater interest and broadened the appreciation for the best in literature and life. Through association with great drama and its interpretation in terms of truth and beauty, the youth of the Red River Valley have better learned to play their roles in the great drama of life.

—DOROTHY M. SMITH



"Station Y Y Y Y"