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The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

August 1985 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Will be held Monday, September 9th, at 7:30 pm, at Enid Hallock's; 4001 Cherrywood. For directions call Enid at 477-0858; or Reba at 327-2277.

This will be Welcome Back to everyone, and Good Bye to Jim Kellogg -- see news below. We've been discussing plans, goals and projects for the coming year and now we need to get down to work on the good ideas we've developed. (One project is the proposed production of *The Sorcerer*, at Hyde Park Showplace, probably sometime in March.) Please come and contribute. We will sing our favorites from G & S, and enjoy sociability and refreshments. Bring your music and your munchies!

IMPORTANT: 1) It's time to pay your dues for 1985-86 -- Still a bargain at \$5.00, additional contributions most welcome!

2) We need to line up volunteer accompanists, for meetings and other activities. Any volunteers? (Call Bob or Reba.)

Last Meeting: Ten members, and a guest, gathered at Enid Hallock's on May 6th. Bob Kusnetz presided. Reba apologized for several omissions from the Newsletter. 1) Jennifer Arndt gave a voice recital in Bates Hall at U.T. on May 2nd. (Several Society members attended and enjoyed it thoroughly.) 2. Dorothy Allen appeared as *Josephine in Pinafore*, in Washington, D.C. (Jim Kellogg went to see the performance and reported that Dorothy was great.... of course. Dorothy is also singing in the Alexandria Chorale.) 3. I did not know about the showing of the Mobil Oil version of *Ruddigore* on TV in April, and so did not remind the members.

Updates on last month's news: Bob Kusnetz's father has recovered and is back at work. Bob, himself, managed to break his toe, but he's now off the cane he was hobbling around on. Naomi Hirsch is out of her neck brace, but still recovering from the car accident that injured her. Naomi is planning to spend the summer in Aspen, again, and needs to sublet her apartment. (Naomi brought her photo album of her G & S performances in London for us to look at.)

Bob filled us in on some more details about his March meeting with Frances Seidensticker from Zachary Scott Theatre Center, and Jim Williams and two others from the Parks and Recreation Department. The resulting check from ZSTC has been used to pay some bills and part of Bob's contract. In discussion of the situation, Bob pointed out that if we had refused to sign the contract with ZSTC there would have been no money from the Austin Arts Commission. If we had not put up money to pay the directors' contracts, as we did, there would have been no show. Bob has received legal advice that we should have presented our version of the contract to ZSTC for their signature, but that might have ended in the same deadlock.

Next we discussed a new schedule and format for our meetings. The motion was made to have four general membership meetings a year, with monthly business meetings in between, open to all interested. Each general membership meeting will be coordinated by one or more volunteers who will plan the program for that meeting. Each general membership meeting will include a short report on Society business, followed by a program which may include singing, presentation of scenes, talks about Gilbert and Sullivan, etc. The program will be followed by community singing. This was passed unanimously. It was suggested that these general meetings be held in September, December, February and May. Volunteers to coordinate each meeting are needed. Rosemary Russell-Vines offered to run the February meeting.

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In miscellaneous other business 1) Bob asked if anyone was interested in the positions of Vice President for Production and Vice President for Publicity. He reminded us of the importance of these offices; one activity coming up is the Austin Circle of Theatres (ACOT) investigation and listing of performance and rehearsal space in Austin. 2) He also confirmed that the production of *The Sorcerer* at Hyde Park Showplace has been postponed to a tentative date in March. 3) Reba reported that Liz Opal, unable to be at the meeting, has pursued her investigation into the possibility of our getting paid for performing G & S excerpts in public schools. She discovered that we need to approach the schools through their Departments of Music, but that the money actually would come from parent groups, such as the PTA, and not from the schools' budgets. She will follow this up in the fall. 4) Reba reported that our member, Sidney Brammer, will have an original play produced by the U.T. Drama Department Summer Theatre Series, June 20-22 and 26-29. Only three plays will be produced, out of 200 submitted. Quite an honor!

Finally, Bob passed around a letter from Jim Williams at PARD, inviting us to send a representative to a meeting of the Austin Arts Commission. This is an opportunity for the small arts organizations to present their needs, concerns and viewpoints, and is part of the process for formulating a new, comprehensive Arts Plan for the city of Austin. Bob intended to go, and invited someone else to go with him.

The meeting adjourned for food and sociability, followed by group singing. We were pleased to have a new volunteer accompanist for this event: Larry Lake, Petroleum Engineer at U.T. He was recommended by Martha McDonald, who has played the clarinet in several of our recent productions.

Ruddigore: Bob K. invited cast and crew to a party at his house on August 3rd. Seventeen members of the production, including wives and friends, enjoyed viewing the video tape of our production of *Ruddigore*, made at the last performance (January 27, 1985).

B. Ida Payne Awards: The Austin Circle of Theatres will be announcing the winners of these "Bippies" at a Celebration on Monday, September 23rd -- time and place not yet known. This year 122 productions were reviewed by the Nominating Committee; members of ACOT will vote on the resulting nominations. The G&S Society is represented by the nomination of Michelle Ney for her costume designs for *Ruddigore*.

News of Members: We are sad to have to say good bye to three of our members:

Mike and Sharon Beehler are moving to Montana, where Mike will teach at the University of Montana.

Cathy Brock married Robert Thieme on May 9th, and is moving to West Virginia, where Robert will be the director of the opera department at West Virginia University.

Jim Kellogg has taken a job in Washington, D.C., starting in October.

Diana Sethre, and her husband, Tom, won a trip to the Bahamas from The Creative Circle, for which Diana runs a business here in Austin.

Steve Swanson played several roles in *The Dining Room* at Zach Scott, in May.

Welcome to a new member: Dale Lipsett
P.O. Box 1030
Eldorado, Texas 76936

Reba
Reba Gillman, Secretary

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