

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

November 1987 Newsletter

Next Meeting: On the second Monday of the month, November 9th, at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Please bring munchies. Agenda will include discussion and voting on ideas and suggestions generated at the October meeting:

- 1) Dues. Raise them to \$10.00? \$15.00? Come and Vote. (*And Pay!!!*)
- 2) Restructuring the Society. What sort of outside Board do we need? How can we raise money? Do we expect dues to support our productions, or just to pay for the Newsletter and other routine functions? Should our membership be a glorified mailing list, or a group of working participants?
- 3) Continue work on production plans.

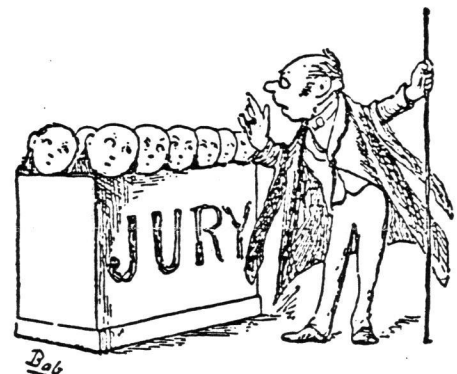
Last Meeting: Eight members, including three officers and Musical Director, Bill Girard, met at Enid's on October 19th, for discussion and planning. In miscellaneous preliminary remarks, President Bob Kusnetz explained the outcome of our communications with Mike Workman, and people reported on various possible theater spaces.

Enid told us that there is a performance hall in the Louise T. Peter Center, a new building at Concordia Lutheran College. Enid had already called and received some information about rental arrangements, and promised to go over and see the space. Bill Girard agreed to go with her. Bill talked about the performance hall at Westlake High School, which is now available for public use at much lower rates than those quoted originally. It would be available for a mid-to-late June rental; Bill suggested cooperating with the Austin Civic Orchestra in performances at that time. Bill is the conductor and musical director of that orchestra.

Bill mentioned the Round Top Festival as a possibility in the future. James Dick, who runs the festival, is very much interested in doing some Gilbert and Sullivan. Right now there is no stage, but there will be eventually. There is also a beautiful theater in Seguin, used by the Mid-Texas Symphony. We might be able to take a show produced in Austin on a modified tour to these places.

Possible shows: 1) Get Jess Walters to return as the Judge in *Trial By Jury*. We know he is interested, it's just a question of schedule. *Trial* is short; we could use excerpts from the *Gilbert and Sullivan Sampler* as the curtain raiser. Aim for the last weekend in February and the first weekend in March. 2) Plan to do *Pinafore* in June, at Westlake. 3) Work toward producing *Yeomen of the Guard* in October 1988, to celebrate its 100th anniversary, as proposed by Bob at our June meeting.

Bill volunteered to talk to Jess Walters about *Trial By Jury*; the Board of the Austin Civic Orchestra about a joint production with them; and Rick Bentley, who is the Artistic Director and Administrator of the Westlake High School performance program, about using their space.



Bob asked for a report on our performance on Sunday, October 11th, for the grand opening of the Austin Children's Museum. A hardy band of dedicated troupers (5 women and 4 men) carried off the show with spirit, despite adverse conditions. Bob Wall played the electric piano without a murmur of complaint, while I held down the music and turned the pages on a make-shift music-stand rack. The sound system took up too much room on stage, and so was moved to the floor, where there was no electrical outlet. The open tent held about 20 enthralled children, seated on the floor, but admitted all the noises of the lusty and

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well-attended celebration going on all around us. Allen Lawshae reported that he lost his voice for three days afterward. Many thanks to Enid and Allen who worked hard to make this show a success and to all the other performers. They all agree that they've had it with "street theater".

1) Discussion of dues. A straw vote resulted in 5 votes for raising the dues to \$10.00, and 3 votes for raising the dues to \$15.00. We agreed to put these suggestions to a vote at the general membership meeting in November.

2) Restructuring the Society. Bob described the Board of the old Hyde Park Showplace, with its emphasis on members who possessed one or two of the three W's: Work, Wealth and Wisdom. Bill said we needed a lot of people to do the work, and urged a big mailing to attract them. Katherine Shields pointed out that our organization revolves about the shows we put on. We need to be careful not to get the structure without the show. Now that we have Bill Girard as Musical Director we can, and must, plan production dates way ahead. Bill pointed out that the Austin Lyric Opera is a great financial success, and suggested that we follow some of their methods on a smaller scale. This raised the question of the social aspects of successful money raising. David Rigg said no one knows how to find us; we need to work on publicity. We had intended to get on the Kathy Cronkite show on radio station KLBJ-AM before the Sampler opened, but no one followed through on it. If we let her know, she will put us on her show.

News of Members: We were sorry to hear that Judy Scott broke her ankle, and couldn't play "Ruth" in the October 11th performance for the Austin Children's Museum opening.

Some performances by our members:

Jennifer Arndt as Mrs. Gobineau in The Medium, UT Opera Lab Theatre
Frank Delvy as The Singer in The Wobblies, at Capitol City Playhouse
Bill Girard, rehearsal pianist for Romeo and Juliet, the Austin Lyric Opera production at UT
Joe Haggard and David Rigg in the chorus for Romeo and Juliet; and is that
Ronald Wyllys, also in the chorus, our Patron, R.E. Wyllys?
Melissa Groves and Diana Sethre in Anatol by Different Stages, opening soon
Judy Thweatt in the chorus of Sound of Music, at Zachary Scott Theatre Center

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Jonestown, TX 78646
 1-267-3662

Other News: Goodbye to Linalice Carey, who has moved to Nevada. The Gilbert and Sullivan Society began in her Creek Theatre, and she has been our good friend ever since.

Hope to see you on November 9th!

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

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The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Time to pay dues now that we have decided what they are; give something extra if you can.

Member \$10.00

Patron \$25.00

Lord High Patron \$50.00

Make checks payable to **Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society**. Send to:

Keith Larson, Treasurer

Lot 21, UT MHP, Lake Austin Blv'd

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