The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society October 1988 Newsletter

Next Meeting: October 10th, 1988, <u>Back to the second Monday of the month</u>, at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Please come, bring munchies, and help us plan for our Spring production. Also, if you haven't paid your dues yet IT'S TIME!

Special Request ~ Third Call: Todd Walker, a young G & S enthusiast, would like to come to our meetings but has no transportation. Is there anyone who might be able to give him a lift? Todd lives in South Austin, near William Cannon Drive and Manchaca Road. His address: 1617 Chippeway Lane; Phone: 445-0660. If you can help, please give him a call.

Attention !!! Thank you to all the members who have paid their dues already. Their names appear on the next page.

Last Meeting: Nine members and one guest met at Enid's house on Sunday, September 18th. Members were Pearl Amster, Reba Gillman, Sheila and Doug Glenn, Enid Hallock, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Janita Robbins, and Katharine Shields. Sheila and Doug brought their three-and-a-half week-old son, Topher, whom everyone enjoyed. He's really starting early on his Gilbert and Sullivan.

Corrections to the minutes, as published in the Newsletter: Topher was 21 1/2 inches long, not a mere 21 inches; the quartet performing for the Austin Women's Club luncheon on Thursday, September 29th, was to consist of Enid Hallock, Allen Lawshae, Joe Haggard, and Carla Hammock (instead of Marilyn Pierce McQueen, who had to drop out). Bob Kusnetz reported that 1) The program ad for Touche Ross had still not been paid for. 2) The amount spent for champagne for the Gala had now been recorded in the budget. 3) Jess Walters had been reimbursed for the money he put out to move the second piano.

Bob brought us up to date on our production efforts. Finding a theater has been the big hold up. We have finally reached a point in negotiating with Austin Community College (ACC) in which they are eager to have us use their space at the Rio Grande Campus. They perceive a benefit to their students in having our group perform there. However, by the time this possibility opened up, it was too late for us to plan a November production of **The Yeomen of the Guard**. We are definitely interested in future openings at the Rio Grande campus. Two complications to bear in mind are: 1) There is no wheel chair access to the theater which is on the second floor. 2) Zachary Scott Theatre continues to use the space for rehearsals, so we would have to work out a schedule with them.

Bob stated that he thought our goal should be to produce two shows in 1989: a smaller production in the spring, possibly **Pinafore**, and a large production in the fall, perhaps **The Gondoliers**. The members approved this, and it was noted that we should proceed immediately to line up two theater spaces for these productions. Allen will follow up on the status of the <u>Dougherty Arts Center</u>. It is not yet known when their space may be repaired and ready to use, following the August fire. If there is no hope for spring use, Allen will pursue possibilities for the fall.

Bob will be talking to Bill Girard about using a small orchestra for Gondoliers, in December 1989. Bill has shown interest in using members of the Austin Civic Orchestra in this way. If that worked out we would need a theater that could accommodate an orchestra. Bob will talk further to Don Toner about using Live Oak Theatre. Jacki Chapman has promised to find out about empty spots in the schedule at the Westlake High School Arts Center. The ACC theater on the Rio Grande campus is also a possibility.

Enid mentioned that the Patter Song Competition we had discussed last March could fit in very well between the proposed spring and fall productions in 1989. That might be something we could put on successfully in the summer. It could become an annual event, and a good focus for publicity.

Bob showed us his volume of <u>The Bab Ballads</u>, by W.S. Gilbert, which he had just received in paperback. He had ordered ten copies from the Harvard University Press. He will donate one copy to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society for our library, will keep one copy, and will sell the rest at cost, (which he hadn't figured out, yet.) Thank you. Bob! Allen reminded Bob that he had once expressed interest in putting on a dramatic reading of <u>The Bab Ballads</u>. Allen suggested trying to interest a group at UT in cooperating with us in such a reading.

Reba reported on her attendance at the Annual General Membership meeting of the Austin Circle of Theatres (ACOT) on September 11th. She also reminded members to pay their dues to the G & S Society. Pearl Amster invited us to perform at her Soiree on Sunday, January 29th, which we agreed to do. We then adjourned for good food and good company. Thank you again, Enid, for your welcoming hospitality!

News of Members and Friends: <u>President Bob</u> apologized for failing to be a real good representative of the Society at the Oatmeal Fest in Bertram, Texas. He did his best in the cow chip kick, but only tied for last place.

Bob also reported that <u>Dorothy and Jim Kellogg</u> are urging him to attend a performance of a wonderful new show entitled Sullivan and Gilbert at the Kennedy Center in Washington. He hopes to get there.

Enid and Reba had a good time at the ACOT 14th Annual B.Iden Payne Awards ceremonies on September 19th. It was a delightful evening even though members Judy Thweatt and Frank Delvy, and friends Barbara Irvine and Noel Alford did not win the awards they were nominated for.

Barbara Irvine is back from her summer job at Wolf Trap, in Virginia. She had a great time, and expects to go back next summer.

Anna Mormon has a full-time job as Box Office Manager at Live Oak Theatre. Congratulations.

We are sad to learn that Ben Meritt is in very poor health, and can not go out.

Dues: Thank you! for being all paid up for 1988-89. Thank you!

Lord High Patrons: Len and Reba Gillman

Ben and Lucy Shoe Meritt

Patrons: Richard and Dorene Cohen

Janita Robbins Kent Smith Katharine Shields

Members:

PRINCESS IDA

Pearl Amster

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Eckols

Doug Glenn Sheila Glenn Enid Hallock Allen Lawshae Larry Shepley

Reba Gillman, Secretary

y'all come to the meeting! Reba