

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

May-June 1989 Newsletter

• **Next Meeting:** June 12th, 1989, the second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood, 477-0858. We skipped our usual May meeting, since so many of us were concentrating on *Pinafore*. So come now and hear the final accounting, and help us start work on the next production: *The Gondoliers* in November, at the Live Oak Theatre! There are important decisions to make. We are getting an early start and hope to make this show the best yet! Please bring munchies.



THE GONDOLIERS

• **Last Meeting:** Four members, faithful and true, met for a short supper meeting on Monday, April 3rd at Mother's Cafe, 4215 Duval. They were Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Bob Kusnetz and Bob Mellin. Member Ray Howard dropped in briefly to see how things were going.

• In view of the small attendance no earth-shaking decisions were considered. President Bob K. reported that the show was sailing vigorously toward opening night. He also told us about some tentative conversations with Don Toner, of Live Oak Theatre. Don had a time slot vacant toward the end of November, and was interested in working with us on a production then. Bob suggested that we do *The Gondoliers*, to celebrate its opening one hundred years ago, in November 1889. Live Oak Theatre seats 172 and can expand to seat 200. Bob planned to project ticket sales and prices, and discuss finances with Don soon. Michael suggested that we get our publicity organized well ahead.

• Bob also reported a delightful weekend spent in Virginia with Jim and Dorothy Kellogg. The weather was cold and windy, but the Kelloggs were as warm and inviting as ever. The meeting was adjourned to allow three of those present to get over to the Hyde Park Theatre for the rehearsal of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

• **Notes About The Show:** The figures aren't analyzed yet, but we drew good crowds, and enthusiastic responses. Money has come rolling in, from new Members, Patrons, and Lord High Patrons. An equal number have asked to be put on the mailing list, and some have even volunteered to work. As predicted, the last weekend turned into a nightmare of overcrowding ... if only we could have roped in some of those eager patrons for an earlier performance! The Galas went off well ... special thanks to the hard work of Pearl Amster, who organized the food. Our members responded to Pearl's call with a variety of delicious eatables, which Pearl and Enid served up in style as soon as the stage was cleared. Of special note was a wonderfully decorated cake, creation of Diana Sethre. Old friends and new enjoyed the festive occasions.

• We did a radio show at KUT-FM on Tuesday, May 2nd. About half the cast were there to sing almost an hour's worth of excerpts from *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Len accompanying. John Aielli was the host, and Jacki supplied backup material. This wonderful piece of publicity was arranged by Bob Mellin.



For he is an Englishman! H.M.S. Pinafore

• The final performance was followed by the traditional Strike Party at the Gillmans. Good food and good fun were enjoyed by all, and a foolhardy few even went swimming. The festivities included the Quasi-Annual Bob and Judy Awards, and finished off with some surprise performances: Len singing *The Elements* (by Tom Lehrer and Sir Arthur Sullivan), and playing Schubert with Adrienne Inglis, a fabulous flutist.

• **Thanks** go to many for hard work during the run of *Pinafore*, including: Enid, always ready to pitch in, whatever the need ... sewing, props, food ... her good deeds would make a long list; Bob Mellin, who was there for every performance, showing people to their seats, calming the standbys, helping out with a hundred details, and who arranged for the radio show (q.v.); Len Gillman for typing over 2200 names and addresses into his computer for mailing labels, and for composing and supplying flyers; Reba for managing the bulk mailing; Pam Sabrin, always cheery no matter what, for running the house while Ken Johnson took his first vacation in three years, for lining up ushers and other helpers, for working on the special mailing of 200 flyers to the Hyde Park Theatre mailing list; and Bob Kusnetz for doing everything a President should do and then some. But a very special award should go to our Director, Jacki Chapman. She was working for us day and night, rain or shine, at the theater and all over town, arranging things, solving problems, cleaning up bits of business or music, and always cheerily encouraging us on.

• **News Flash!!** Congratulations to member Rosemary Russell-Vines, for winning the **Sallie Beth Moore Award**, given by the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children to a preschool teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the lives of young children. Rosie has been teaching and enthralling three- and four-year-old children for years at Saint George's Episcopal Preschool. This is a part of her life perhaps not known to those who have enjoyed her British accent and pert acting in many of our past productions.

• **Warm Thanks** to members and donors who chose to renew their commitment at this time:

Member: Col. & Mrs. George S. McQueen

Patrons: Judy Forbes; Larry Shepley; and Kent Smith

Lord High Patrons: Richard Boner & Susan Pryor
Dr. Cynthia Jean Lee
William & Esther McCormick
Eileen Sullivan

• **Thanks to New Members and Donors:**

Members: Eda & Ed Ballinger
Dr. Robert Bernstein
Audley & Kathy Blackburn
Raymond L. Cook
Mary E. Furse
William Garner, Jr.
David Hutchinson
Frances Lockhart
Tim & Susan Lovett
Will W. Miller
John T. O'Neill
Mrs. Maria Putter
Shirley Rombaugh
Mr. & Mrs. M.A. Saad
Anne Collins Smith

Patrons: Wynyard & Edgar Ellis
Mark Graber & Julia Frank
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Greenhaw
Susie & Dan Jacobson
Brian & Patti Seeley

Lord High Patrons: Austen H. Furse
Russell Gregory

• **Special Thanks** for Very Generous Donations from one old friend and two new donors:

Dr. & Mrs. Blair Protzman
W.H. (Deacon) Crain
Tymlabs

• **Members and Friends ... Dramatic Roundup:**
Diana Sethre has a good role in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* at Zachary Scott Theatre through Sunday, June 11th. Call 476-0541.

Anything Goes is playing at Live Oak Theatre through Saturday June 17th. Call 472-5143. Anna Mormon and Scotty Roberts have leading roles, and Daniel Moncivais is in the chorus. All three sang with us last spring in *Scenes and Trial By Jury*.

Ken Johnson's current show is *Who's Happy Now?* at Hyde Park Theatre playing Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through July 15th. Call 452-6688.

Come to the Meeting on June 12th!!!!

Reba Gillman, Secretary