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A horizontal decorative line composed of numerous small, dark gray diamond-shaped symbols arranged closely together.

• Message from your President •

- **In addition there will be a little business:** Our Treasurer Diana McAlpin has resigned because of the pressure of many other commitments. **Bill Hatcher** has offered to take on the duties, but we must formally elect him to the post. The Executive Committee hereby nominates **Bill Hatcher** for Treasurer. This is notice of a special election for the post of Treasurer to be held at our regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 1995 at 7:30 pm.

The B. Iden Payne Awards will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel Main Ballroom on Sunday September 17. Social hour with cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6 pm. Awards ceremony will begin promptly at 7 pm. A party with the dance band **The Lucky Strikes** will follow from 10 to 12 pm. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call The Box Office, 499-TIXS, or stop by their booth at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road.



And on August 26th I was a guest of the UpStagers Company at their production of *The Will Rogers Follies* that played in the 750-seat Paul Poag Theater in Del Rio. That's right folks, Del Rio, and I enjoyed this production more than the one I saw on Broadway with Keith Carradine. The many costumes for the cast of 45 were designed and built by volunteer labor, as was the whole production. Technically it was virtually flawless. The staging and performances were excellent. But what made this production outstanding was the obvious enthusiasm and spirit of the cast, crew, and leadership supplied by people like Producer-Director Fred Brockwell, and Cricket Gwynne. This is something that money cannot buy. I saw strong elements of that spirit in Houston and Bastrop as well.

We of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin must try to rediscover the magic that makes community theater one of the most rewarding forms of entertainment for both the participants and the audience.

***** Robert Mellin *****

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Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772
Brenda Tharp • New Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 1 - 5 pm; Wed & Fri 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Newman Hall, Room 221, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

• Last Musicale of the Season •
Monday, June 5, 1995

35 people gathered to close out a good season at Pearl Amster's. The remarkable fact was that the presence of our hostess was felt but not seen except by those who went to Pearl's bedroom to greet her. Pearl was propped up in bed, recovering from extensive and serious surgery for an aneurism, undergone only ten days earlier. Our Pearl held court, weak and in pain, but spirited as ever.

Members present were Frank Delvy, Wally & Ruth Ellinger, Jeff Fischer, LaDelle Fuller, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Leonard & Frances Johnson, Janette Jones, Matt Kaplan and Alexa Maurer, Allen Lawshae, new member Patty Leonard and her guests Missy Johnson and Rick Rowell, Diana McAlpin, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Kay Novak, Bee Polomé, Dan Smith, Virginia Storey, Charles Thomas, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson; and Most Important Susan Finnigan, substituting for Bob Wall (many thanks for a good job!). Other guests were Bob Shannon, performers Scott Ferrell and his wife Aimee Hurst, and former member Jamie [Todd] Walker.

The evening got off to a good start with Janette Jones and Frank Delvy singing "Things are seldom what they seem" from *Pinafore*. Scott Ferrell then sang a group of songs from "Blue Mountain Ballads" by Paul Bowles, with Aimee Hurst at the piano. Next Jess gave us a magnificent performance of "The Song of the Flea" by Moussorgsky; Aimee Hurst was his well rehearsed accompanist. Jess throws himself into the part so completely that by the time the song was over we were all squirming around fending off flea bites.

Leonard Johnson graciously consented to follow this side-splitter with Ferrando's lovely aria "Un' aura amorosa" from Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*, accompanied by Aimee Hurst. Returning to Gilbert & Sullivan, and the part of Dr. Daly, which Leonard played for our 1989 production of *The Sorcerer*, he sang "Time was when love and I were well acquainted", followed by "Engaged to so-and-so", with Susan Finnigan playing fine Gilbert & Sullivan at the piano. From *Ruddigore* Janette sang "Cheerily carols the lark", and she and Frank sang the duet "I once was a very abandoned person". Frank said: "This is for Pearl" and launched into the Nightmare Song from *Iolanthe*.

In a brief musical lull, President Robert greeted us all on behalf of our hostess Pearl, to whom we wish a very full and speedy recovery from her surgery. He waved a post card received from Julia Lawshae, our first Scholarship recipient, who is studying hard in New York City.

Julia reported "I absolutely love school", and said that except for a 6-week break she would continue to study through the summer in order to finish the 4 semester course at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy with the fall term.

Robert also reported that a special meeting of the Executive Committee held just before this gathering had been devoted to plans for a "probable happening", a three-day Gilbert & Sullivan Convention/Seminar (not yet properly named) to be held in conjunction with the annual Fund Raiser in December 1995. He asked if anyone in the audience had access to the Internet -- we'll be using the SavoyNet to publicize our December Event. Jamie Walker, Jeff Fischer, and Matt Kaplan, all admitted to Internet savoir faire.

Scott Ferrell returned to his 1994 role as "Rafe" in *Pinafore*, singing "The Nightingale sighed for the moon's bright ray" with enthusiastic men's chorus support from the audience, followed by "A maiden fair to see". Susan Finnigan continued to provide top-notch accompaniments. We all sang "Hail Poetry" from *Pirates*, with an introduction by Matt. And then with "Now to the banquet we press" from *Sorcerer*, we were ready to adjourn to the dining room for refreshments. Jess announced that he had just found an advertisement in Opera Magazine for a double CD, from Covent Garden performances, with among other things Jess singing Verdi's *Don Carlo*, and John Barbirolli conducting. At \$32 this is the best find of the year.

An unusual finale to the evening was the impromptu Trash Brigade, organized to get Pearl's trash cans out to the curb for pickup the next morning. It isn't every day you get Jess Walters and Leonard Johnson to do the Trash honors.



We're still interested in your Gilbert and Sullivan story.

How did you learn to love these shows? Was your mother in the chorus of *Iolanthe* when you were a kid? Did you play the Captain in *H.M.S. Pinafore* when you were in 6th grade? Call Reba at 327-2277 with your story.

Gilbert & Sullivan Convention

The weekend of December 1-3

Featuring

Trial By Jury

by the

Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company

from

Dallas

And our

One time only Holiday Season All Star

Gilbert & Sullivan Revue

and

Champagne Buffet

And More! Stay tuned for more information.

Save the weekend of December 1-3, 1995



If you like Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to support our efforts ...

... you can do so by becoming a member of our society for a mere ten dollars.

Members receive a monthly newsletter with information about G&S, our activities and our members.

Our monthly informal G&S musicales are open to the public at no charge.

- Your tax-deductible contribution in any of the other categories are welcome and will help us mount our yearly productions and pay our monthly expenses •

☐ Savoyard \$1,000

☐ Grand Duke \$100 - \$249

☐ Member \$10

☐ Pooh-Bah \$500 - \$999

☐ Lord High Patron \$50 - \$99

☐ I prefer to keep my identity anonymous

☐ Major General \$250 - \$499

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Make checks payable to Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin and mail with this form to:

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