

FORT JACKSON SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Sponsors

A. C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL'S

Production of

O K L A H O M A !



National Thespian Society

Troupe 387

Music by

Richard Rogers

Book and Lyrics by

Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd

Fort Jackson Entertainment Center

March 18-22, 1969

D I R E C T I O N S T A F F

Director

Mr. E. S. Gatlin

Producer

Mrs. Barbara M. Frazier

Orchestra Conductor

Mr. Mitch Santiago

Choreographer

Miss Alison Young

Costume Designer

Mrs. H. W. Pusser

Set Designer

Mr. E. S. Gatlin

Program Coordinator

Mrs. Katherine Cliatt

Choral Director

Mrs. Valree Evans

This musical is based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs. The rights to perform this play have been secured through the office of Howard E. Reinheimer, New York, New York.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Committee Supervisor

Mrs. Barbara M. Frazier

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Martha Wortham

Stage Manager

Rickey Isbell

Rehearsal Accompanists

Mary Ann Kesecker
Richard Smith

Backdrop Designer

Melinda Rutledge

Promptor

Jack McCrary

Lighting Supervisor

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Ruthie Cathcart

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Advisor

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Secretary Eleanor Thompson

Treasurer Mike Varborough

from the director . . .

The next time you read or hear about teen-age "trouble makers," take a moment to remember that they are the minority, the "few per-cent." The overwhelming majority of today's teen-agers reflect their home training and intelligence by building-up, not tearing down. Their standards and codes of ethics may differ slightly from their elders, but no more so than their times. They generally are good stock and are made of stern stuff.

Of such stuff are made the students who have worked on OKLAHOMA! Starting last summer, some of them began working on sets, designs, and equipment for use in the show. Christmas vacation, nights, and weekends have been given by these and others in order to create something. The student chairmen have displayed outstanding organizing abilities and the follow-through necessary for a job well-done, and team effort has been evidenced throughout. Many weeks of hard rehearsing have gone into making this a show worthy of all the work behind the scenes by those the audience never sees. These students behind the scenes as well as those on stage and in the pit have given their best so that you might enjoy this evening. We hope that you will agree that their effort has been worth it.

What are teen-agers? Young adults with the weaknesses, but primarily the strengths of their elders.

e.s.g.

CAST

Curly Robert Weston
 Laurey Debbie Daniel
 Ali Mike Varborough
 Will Don Johnson
 Ado Annie Margie McCrory
 Aunt Eller Bette Jamison
 Jud Jake McKinney
 Carnes Jeff Stone
 Faye Rosanne McDowell
 Cord Tim Kerlin
 Ike Robert Johnson
 Gertie Gloria Van de Water
 Slim Rich Carey
 Wade Richard Weston

MEN'S CHORUS

Jeff Bellinger
 Rich Carey
 Wayne Catoe
 Steve Chase
 Norman Goldberg
 Rickey Isbell
 Robert Johnson
 Tim Kerlin
 Randy Monroe

Tommy Poole
 Charles Reynolds
 John Riddle
 Ken Shoemake
 W. G. Trevathan
 David Tucker
 Richard Weston
 Robert Whitehouse
 Wally Whitworth

WOMEN'S CHORUS

Jan Bird
 Shannon Boyd
 Marnie Brown
 Donna Drake
 Margie Fritz
 Robyn Graves
 Janet Jacobs
 Laurel Moxon
 Alice Noland
 Kathy Price

Sylvia Sharpe
 Helena Stern
 Teena Toth
 Gloria Van de Water
 Candy Watson
 Georgia Wessel
 Lou Weston
 Martha Wortham
 Dorie Zuk

DANCING CHORUS

Jeff Bellinger
 Jan Bird
 Wayne Catoe
 Donna Drake
 Don Johnson
 Robert Johnson
 Tim Kerlin

Sylvia Sharpe
 Helena Stern
 Teena Toth
 W. G. Trevathan
 Georgia Wessel
 Richard Weston
 Robert Weston

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES
AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Scene 1: Laurey's Farmhouse

"O What a Beautiful Morning". Curly
"Surry With the Fringe on Top". Curly
"Kansas City". Will, Aunt Eller,
Men's Chorus
"I Cain't Say No". Ado Annie
"Many a New Day". Laurey,
Women's Chorus
"It's A Scandal! It's A Outrage!". Ali,
Men's Chorus
"People Will Say We're In Love". . . Curly, Laurey

Scene 2: Smokehouse

"Pore Jud is Daid". Curly, Jud
"Lonely Room". Jud

Scene 3: A Grove on Laurey's Farm

"Out of My Dreams". Laurey, Women's Chorus
"Dream Ballet". Dancing Chorus

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES
AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT II

Scene 1: Ike Skidmore's Barnyard

"The Farmer and the Cowman". Carnes,
Full Chorus
"All Er Nothin'". Will, Ado Annie

Scene 2: Back of Ike Skidmore's Ranch House

Reprise "People Will
Say We're In Love". Curly, Laurey

Scene 3: Laurey's Farmhouse

"Oklahoma". Curly, Full Chorus

Special Guest Performance. . . . Miss Alison Young

COMMITTEES

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Marnie Brown
Alice Noland

Charles Reynolds
David Tucker
Robert Whitehouse

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Jimmy Britt
Marnie Brown
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Shelli Cherney
Linda Coates
Debbie Daniel
Stuart Hendrix
Don Johnson
Tim Kerlin
Richard Lane

Robert Johnson
Margie McCrory
Gerald Mims
Ellen Morrow
Alice Noland
Charles Reynolds
John Riddle
Jeff Stone
Robert Weston
Robert Whitehouse
Mike Yarborough
Dorie Zuk

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Brenda Dawson
Debbie Dunn
Bruce Ehrlich
Cindy Fins

Kathy Fulmer
Janet Jacobs
Laura Lou Rummans
Beckie Shealy
Ellen Sollod
Glen Wright
Debbie West
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Costumes Fashioned by:

Alice McCrory, Chairman

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Dobbie Crawford
Sandy Dallas
Donna DeWitt
Lois Dannelly
Winnie Dannelly
Edie Fowler
Debbie Garrett
Penni Gottlieb
Dollie Griffith
Susan Gunter
Laurie Harper
Susan Howard
Susan Jordan*

*Sally Kreps
Georgia Lipscomb
Missy Maxwell
Helen Morgan
Beth Morris
Betty Nelson
Button Padgett
Jody Palmer
Lee Pulliam
Evelyn Rueben
Debbie Roukos
Liz Schwartz
Cindy Walker
Becky Watkins*

ORCHESTRA

Piano

Mary Ann Kesecker
Richard Smith

French Horn

Dickie Carpenter

Flutes

Alicia Brown
Peggy Henson
Mellany Porterfield
Susan Threatt

Trumpets

Doug Ballentine
Alvin Gainey
Foster Osborne
Bill Smith
Chris Tye
Glenn Zaepfel

Oboe

Cathy Sprouse

Trombones

Steve Coatney
Ludwald Taylor

Bassoon

Greg Stidom

Guitar and Banjo

Bobby Carpenter

Clarinets

Scott Cleland
Philip Dreher
Annette Goldstein
Robert Laub

Bass

Carl Rogers

Percussion

J. B. Nelson
Larry Quattlebaum

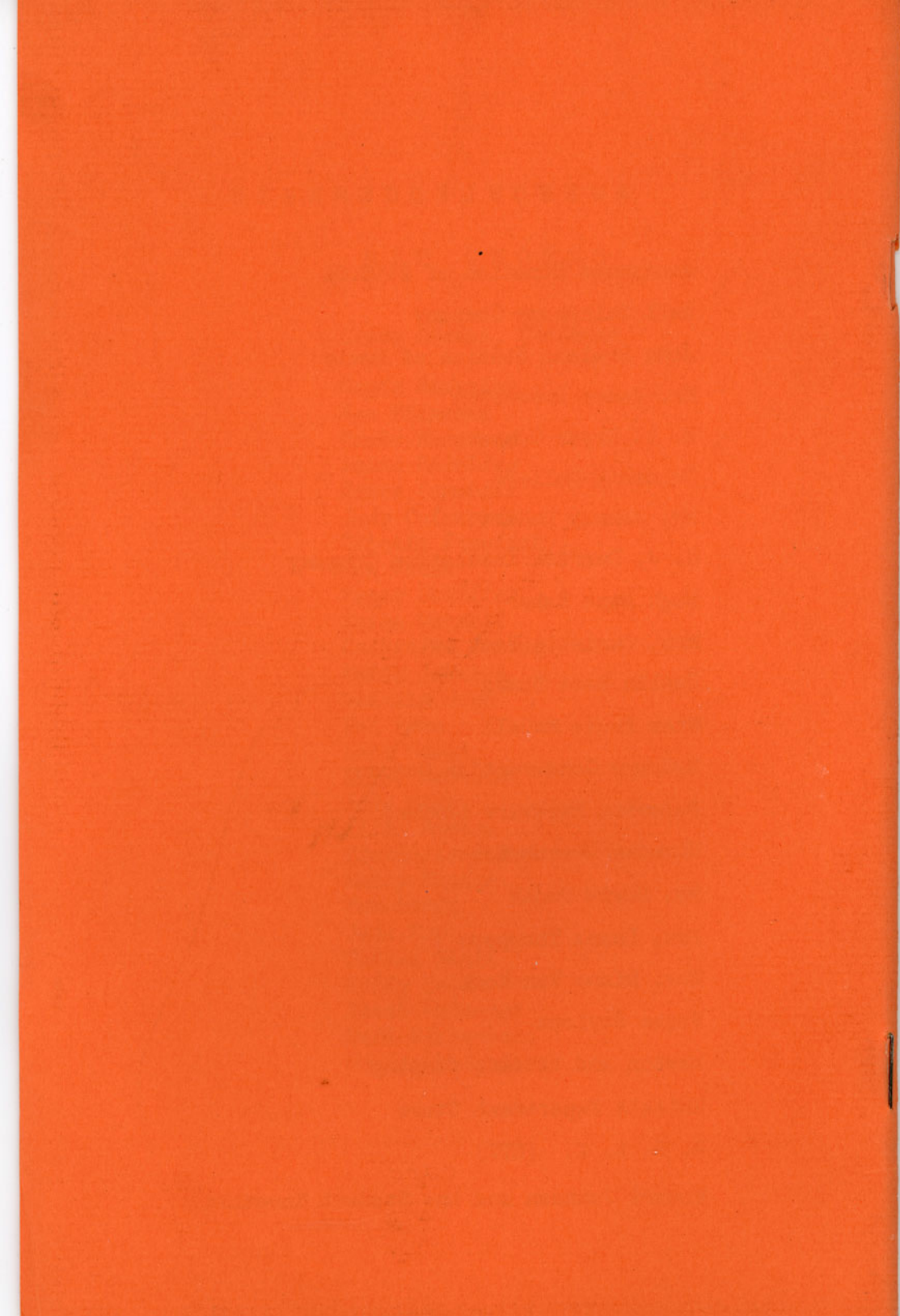
PIT CHORUS

Linda Coates, Chairman

Gayle Anderson
Ann Blencowe
Paula Brafford
Laura Brinkley
Renee Campbell
Judy Culpepper
Roberta Fraylick
Ann Frink
Peggy Gottlieb
Susan Harrell
Catherine Jervey
Betsy Johnson
Melissa Joye
Pat Kohn
Leck Mason
Carol McGrath
Joan Mims
Ellen Morrow
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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White's Department Store
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Robert Johnson and the Student Ensemble



The Winged Press



Vol. IX, No. 4

A. C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL, COLUMBIA, S. C.

November 22, 1968

LaCarter, Taylor Represent FBLA

Sharon LaCarter, a lovely blue-eyed blond Falcon, was chosen as Miss FBLA at the November 6 meeting of FBLA. To be eligible for this title, a girl must be a business student, have at least a B average in business courses, and be well groomed with a pleasing personal appearance. The faculty advisors looked through the records of the senior girls in FBLA and presented those who were particularly outstanding to the club at large.

Sharon was in the top 1/6 of her class at the end of her junior year. She will have had two years of typing, two years of shorthand, and one year of bookkeeping when she graduates in June. Sharon is tentatively planning to be a legal or medical secretary.

The next step in competition will be in Graniteville on November 20 when she enters the District 2 contest. This competition will consist of a personal interview by a committee of advisors and entering a folder containing a letter of application, data sheet and other work samples.

Mr. FBLA for this school year is Jeff Taylor. Jeff is a senior interested in majoring in business administration or data processing in college. To be eligible for

this honor, a boy must be a senior business student planning a business career, with at least a B average in his business courses. The person selected must also show businesslike appearance and manner. Jeff was unanimously selected to represent the club.

Jeff has been an active member of FBLA since his sophomore year. This year, he holds one of the most important and responsible offices, that of program chairman.

After school, Jeff works at the Richland County Library which affords him valuable work experience. He has also been a willing worker with the student directories and pennants, which are money-making projects of the club.

Jeff also will be competing in the District 2 meeting in Graniteville on November 20.

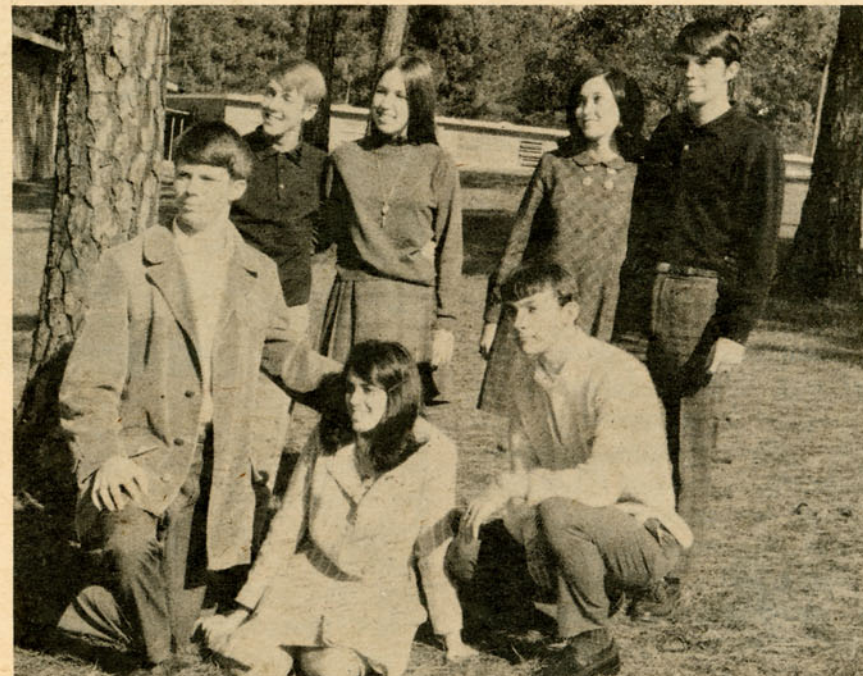
The titles Mr. and Miss FBLA are the highest individual honors which can be given any member of FBLA because to win either of these titles, an entrant must stand out as the person most likely to succeed in the business world.

Senator Earl Morris of Pickens was selected as the first honorary member of the A. C. Flora Chapter of The Future Business Leaders of America. He was

presented a copy of the resolution making him an honorary member by Gail Quick, chairman of the resolutions committee. The club was honored to have Senator Morris as its guest speaker at the annual FBLA banquet honoring new members and first semester officers. He spoke on the theme, **Challenge to Youth Today**. His remarks were especially appropriate for FBLA since he is a businessman and spoke from the viewpoint of a businessman.

Approximately 50 members and guests attended the banquet held at Swain's Steak House on October 29. Presiding over the banquet was Deb Eich, first semester president. Special guests included: Senator Morris, Dr. and Mrs. Varn, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, and Laura Smeltzer, past-president of FBLA.

First semester executive committee includes: Deb Eich, President; Kat Reeder, Vice-President; Bonnie Huggins, Secretary; Gail Quick, Treasurer; Susan Shelton and Jeff Taylor, Program Co-Chairmen; Tom Byford, Reporter; Gail Register, District 2 Treasurer; and Charlie Brown, State President. The club has the largest membership in several years with a total of 67 members.



The leading characters in Oklahoma! are: Top Row: Don Johnson, Margie McCrory, Debbie Daniel, Robert Weston. Bottom Row: Jake McKinney, Bette Jamison, and Mike Yarborough.

OKLAHOMA!—O.K.

On November 6 and 10, tryouts were held for parts in this year's musical production, OKLAHOMA! After reading, singing, and dancing, the following people were selected for main parts: Robert Weston as Curley; Debbie Daniels, Laurey; Margie McCrory, Ado Annie; Don Johnson, Will Parker; Jake McKinney, Jud; Mike Yarborough, Ali Hakim; Bette Jamison, Aunt Eller; Randy Monroe, Andrew Carnes; Shellie Goodman, Gerti; Robert Johnson, Ske Skidmore; and Jeff Stone as Cord Elam.

The following people were selected for the stage chorus: Wayne Cator, Jeff Bellinger, Richard Weston, Steve Chase, Michael Anderson, W. G. Irevathan, John Riddle, Laurel Moxon, Rosanne McDowell, Lou Weston, Kathleen Johnson, Candy Watson, Gloria Van De Water, Kathy Price, Jane Jacobs, Georgia Wessel, Robyn Grave, Shannon Boyd, Richard Edwards, Tim Kerlin, Rick Carey, Norman Goldberg, Ken Shoemaker, Wally Whitworth, Phillip Smith, Jan Bird, Sylvia

Sharpe, Leena Loth, and Helena Stern.

Mr. Gatlin, the director, commented that "there was a fantastic amount of talent at the tryouts this year which made the selections for parts extremely difficult. We had enough talent to cast several musicals. However, OKLAHOMA! has certain requirements for its main characters which narrowed the field of selections somewhat.

"The parts were assigned according to ability in singing, reading, and dancing as well as characteristics and mannerisms that fit a specific part; and keeping with the established policy, upperclassmen were given preference when we had a choice for a part.

"The outstanding talent in the stage chorus assignments should make this our best show yet from a musical point-of-view. The pit chorus is also vitally important to this show, and we are pleased to have such good voices to help there. The selections for this group, however, will not be announced until later."

SCASC Delegates Visit New Orleans

The Southern Association of Student Councils held its convention on October 28 through November 2 in Houma, Louisiana. Flora's four delegates were Sis Kibler, Debbie Carson, Susan Woodward, and Mrs. Barbara Frasier, advisor.

The delegates arrived on Wednesday around 5:00 p.m. and were admitted to their homes where they stayed for the duration of their trip. That night there was a mixer for all the convention delegates which featured a psychedelic band.

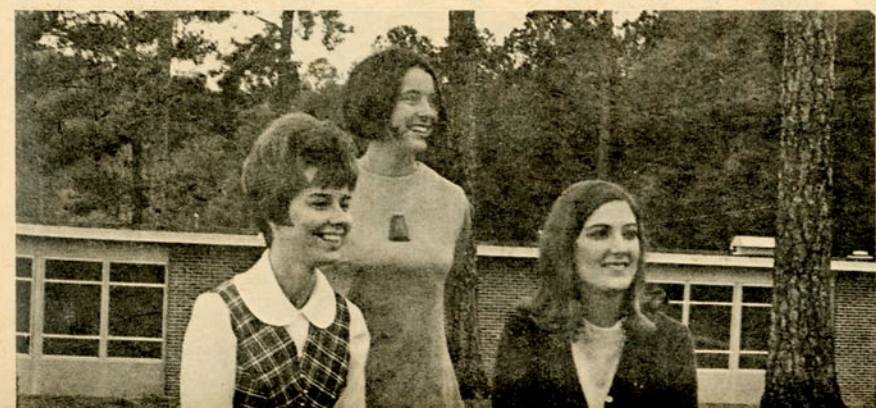
Thursday started off with an assembly which featured the presentation of the flag, of the different states. Afterwards they split into discussion groups and experienced what was called a swop-shop. This was an exchanging of school ideas between the delegates. Thursday night was spent at a banquet.

Friday was begun by a General Session which was highlighted by several speakers. Following was the campaign session in which Greenville, Mississippi won. The S. C. delegation cast the deciding votes. It was also decided in the voting that the site of next year's convention will be Savannah, Georgia. The

Female Falcons To Be Judged

Flora's Miss Falcon contest will take on a new look this year. The chosen girl will compete not only in beauty as before but also in poise and personality. Each girl will also have a private interview with the judges so that their personalities can be seen other than on

Tickets are on sale. The girls competing for the coveted title are: Seniors, Debbie Carson, Bonnie de Montmollin, Deb Eich, Carter Heyward, Bette Jamison, Sharon LaCarter, Betty Joyce Nash, Debbi Rhoades, Sheila Sellars, Sylvia Sharpe, Lynn Thomas, Bonnie Tindall; Juniors,



'Oklahoma' Cast Works To Top '67-68 Flora Record

By WALLY WHITWORTH
A. C. Flora High School

A precedent was set in 1967 when A. C. Flora presented its first musical "Guys and Dolls." It could be classified none other than a total success. 1968 brought about the smash hit "Bye Bye Birdie." Both of these were planned and directed by the same person, Mr. E. S. Gatlin.

This year, Mr. Gatlin is working on what many say will be his biggest Flora success to date, "Oklahoma!" Two years ago Mr. Gatlin initiated the precedent—that being a series of high school musicals which have been rated as "excellent,"

"superb."

"Bye Bye Birdie" was one of the most professional amateur productions I have ever seen. I have never attended a production performed mby youth people that was as well directed and professional as 'Guys and Dolls.'" These are just two of the many such comments that the musicals of previous years received.

No one seems to know just how director Gatlin rates the way he does. Does he have a magic wand or a secret potion? Well, if he does nobody has seen them, but nearly everyone who has ever been associated with him while working on the

set of one of his three musicals, attributes his success to his ability to work with young people, his love of music, and his excellent acting ability. All of this plus his character, personality, and his ever-present wit.

Almost complete cooperation from every cast member characterizes a Gatlin rehearsal. Not that he rules with an iron hand and a stern frown. It's not unusual to see him cracking a joke with cast members or just cutting up. Mr. Gatlin places himself in the position in which youth can identify themselves with him. He's a lot of fun, but when Gatlin speaks, his word is immediately law and each per-

son does exactly what he is told.

Each cast member of "Oklahoma" has an abundance of respect and admiration for their director. They feel that if he is putting forth so much of his time, talent and effort to make "Oklahoma" a show of superb quality, they should try doubly hard in working in the same direction.

Since December, Mr. Gatlin has been working with his leads in "Oklahoma". Through his interrupting during run-throughs, and his famous "notes" at the end of each rehearsal, he points out both weak and strong parts. He compliments and criticizes.

The cast of "Oklahoma" is now past the roughest part of their rehearsing schedule. Blocking and memorizing of lines and songs has been completed for some time. Presently, run-throughs of Act I and later Act II are being done. Director Gatlin is pulling together the ends in hope of making this his best show. Good Luck "Mr. G." We know you and the "Oklahoma" cast will come out on top in March.

That Time Of The Year... Seniors Think Of College

By DONNA SHULER
Airport High School

This time of the year high school seniors turn their minds toward college and what it will bring. Many think of the course they will take and of the people they will meet. Also, involved in this is the thought of being rushed into a fraternity or sorority.

"I don't think there is a blanket statement or answer to the problem of college freshmen plunging into fraternities and sororities." Commented Susan Chinault, AHS senior "Aquila" staffer.

Susan continued, "There are advantages and disadvantages. I think that these depend on the person concerned and what's right for him. If one joined either of these he would have a group to be a part of which offers security."

"They will always be in on activities. Perhaps the greatest disadvantage is getting too involved: neglecting more important things and coming to rely too much on the group and

their opinions not on one's own ideals. So the only answer is, if it's right for the person, let him do it." concluded Susan.

"I believe that when a student graduates from high school and enters his freshman year at the college of his choice, he should make sure that he is able to take on the responsibility of academic work before he decides to join a fraternity," expressed Larry Bonnette, senior Eagle.

He continued, "I agree with Susan in that it all depends on the individual as to whether he or she can do their college work and to take on extra activities by joining a fraternity or sorority. I feel that there are advantages and disadvantages about joining a fraternity, but I can't really say at this time what they are because I have never belonged to a fraternity."

When questioned, AHS senior, Mike Cockrell had this to say: "I personally don't think that freshmen in College ought to join in fraternities. Their first year is hard enough just trying to adjust to college life. I think

the fraternities ought to wait until your sophomore year after you have had time to settle down."

Agreeing with Mike is senior "Eyrie" staff member, Betty Reynolds. Betty said, "Many of students who attend college in their freshmen year haven't really settled down. They plunge headlong into the activities and usually fail in their studies."

"On the other hand, if student can handle responsibility, the fraternity and sorority could be fun. I personally would wait until my sophomore year to join a sorority. Most freshmen join these for security," concluded Betty.

"I think for the majority of beginning college students it would be unadvisable to rush into a fraternity or sorority. The main advantage of this would be the social activity which would also be the disadvantage that would cause one to fail out." These are the feelings of AHS senior, Johnny Turner.

Like Cars? Get Advice At Seminar

URBANA, Ill. — High school pupils with an urge toward automobile design will get first-hand advice from faculty experts and specialists in the field at an Automotive Styling School June 8-14 at Atterton House, University of Illinois conference center.

The school — intended for boys and girls who will be high school junior or seniors in September — will be conducted by the U. of I. Division of University Extension and the Industrial design Option of the U. of I. Department of Art at Urbana-Champaign.

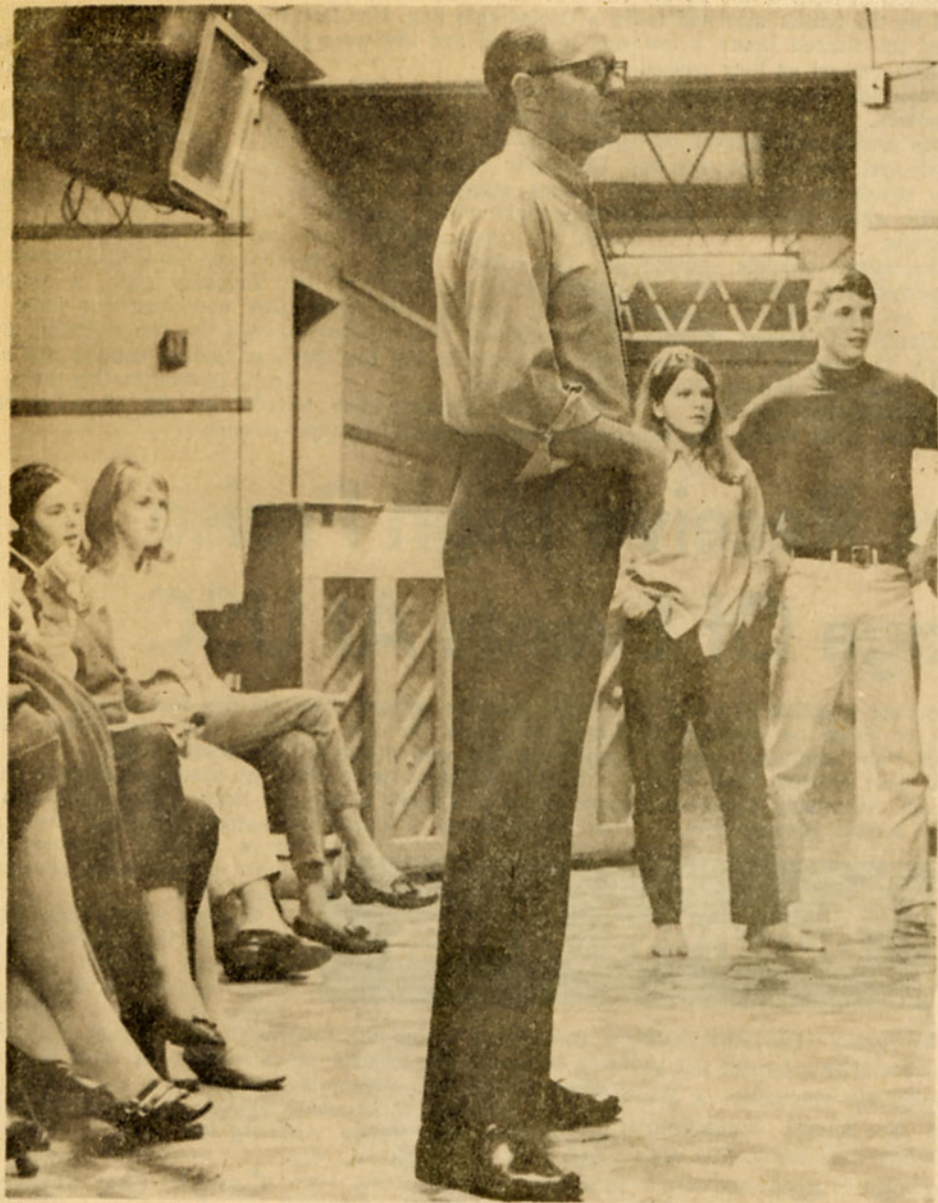
Experts from leading automobile manufacturers will make presentations.

The regular faculty will be headed by Prof. Edward J. Zagorski and Prof. William Baron of the Department of Art. Prof. Walter M. Johnson, director, Extension in Visual Arts, and Prof. Norman Johnson, director, Allerton House, both U. of I. Division of University Extension, will be coordinator and supervisor, respectively.

Orientation and training in automotive styling will be stressed. It will include automotive drawing and rendering techniques; three-dimensional

The State or The
Columbia Record,
Jan or Feb, 1969





Plays Are Hard Work

Mr. E. S. Gatlin (center), director of Flora's "Oklahoma!", looks on as lead players and the stage chorus rehearse one of the numbers from the show. (Photo by John Dieterman)

Presumed published with the preceding article,
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THE STAR-REPORTER

"Columbia's Newspaper"

Phone AL-6-0719

Columbia, S.C., Thursday, March 6, 1969

10¢ in R

A.C. Flora Students to Present "Oklahoma" March 18-22



Cast members of "Oklahoma", the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, which will be presented by students at A.C. Flora High School, rehearse for the performances which are scheduled for March 18-22 at the Fort Jackson Entertainment Center (Theater No. 4). Performances are scheduled each of the four evenings at 8 o'clock and ticket reservations may be made starting March 10 by calling 787-6016 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the cast include: Robert Weston, Don Johnson, Bette Jamison, Tim Kerlin, Richard Weston, Debbie Daniel, Margie McCrory, Shellie Goodman, Jeff Stone, Rich Carey, Mike Yarborough, Jake McKinney, Robert Johnson, Rosanna McDowell, Jan Bird, Sylvia Shapre, Teena Toth, Georgia Wessell, Donna Drake, Helena Stern, Robert Weston, W.G. Trevathan, Wayne Catoe, Jeff Bellinger, Laurel Moxon, Lou Weston, Candy Watson, Gloria Van De Water, Kathy Price, Janet Jacobs, Robyn Graves, Shannon Boyd, John Riddle, Steve Chase, Norman Goldberg, Ken Shoemake, Wally Whitworth, Randy Monroe, Tommy Poole, Martha Wortham, Dorie Zuk, Marnie Brown, Alice

Noland, Margie Fritz, Ricky Isbell, Charles Reynolds, David Tucker and Robert Whitehouse. Orchestra members include: Mitch Santiago, director; Mary Ann Kesecker, Richard Smith, Alicia Brown, Peggy Benson, Mellany Porterfield, Susan Threatt, Cathy Sprouse, Greg Stidom, Scott Cleland, Philip Dreher, Annette Goldstein, Robert Laub, Jeannette Showalter, Dickie Carpenter, Alvin Gainey, Foster Osborne, Bill Smith, Chrys Tye, Glenn Zaepfel, Doug Ballentine, Steve Coatner, Ludwald Taylor, Bobby Carpenter, Carl Rogers, J. B. Nelson, Larry Quattlebaum. Pit Chorus members include: Linda Coates, Gayle Anderson, Ann Blencowe, Paula Brafford, Laura Brinkley, Renee Campbell, Roberta Fraylick, Pat Kohn, Leck Mason, Carl McGrath, Ellen Morrow, Stephanie Oxley, Nancy Pierce, Pam Poole, Joan Ray, Judy Culpepper, Ann Frink, Peggy Gottlieb, Susan Harrel, Catherine Jervey, Betsy Johnson, Melissa Joye, Joan Mims, Debbie Shull, Holly Smith, Sara Tokunaga, Beth Wickenberg and Marion Wrightson. (Photo by Kent Studio)

Receive Silver Beaver Awards



13 Columbia Citadel Cadets On Dean's List

W.H. Hughes, Jr., Decorated for Vietnam Heroism

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The Winged Press

Vol. IX, No. 9

A. C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL, COLUMBIA, S. C.

March 14, 1969

OKLAHOMA OPENS



Mr. Gene Gatlin, director, supervises rehearsals. (Photo by Dieterman)



Robert Weston, "Curley" woos his gal with a song. (Photo by Dieterman)

Oklahoma!, Rogers' and Hammerstein's highly acclaimed musical comedy, will be presented by A. C. Flora on March 17-23 at the Fort Jackson Entertainment Center with performances at 8:00 p.m. It is presented under the auspices of the Fort Jackson Special Services Division. Ticket reservations may be made after March 10 by calling 787-6016.



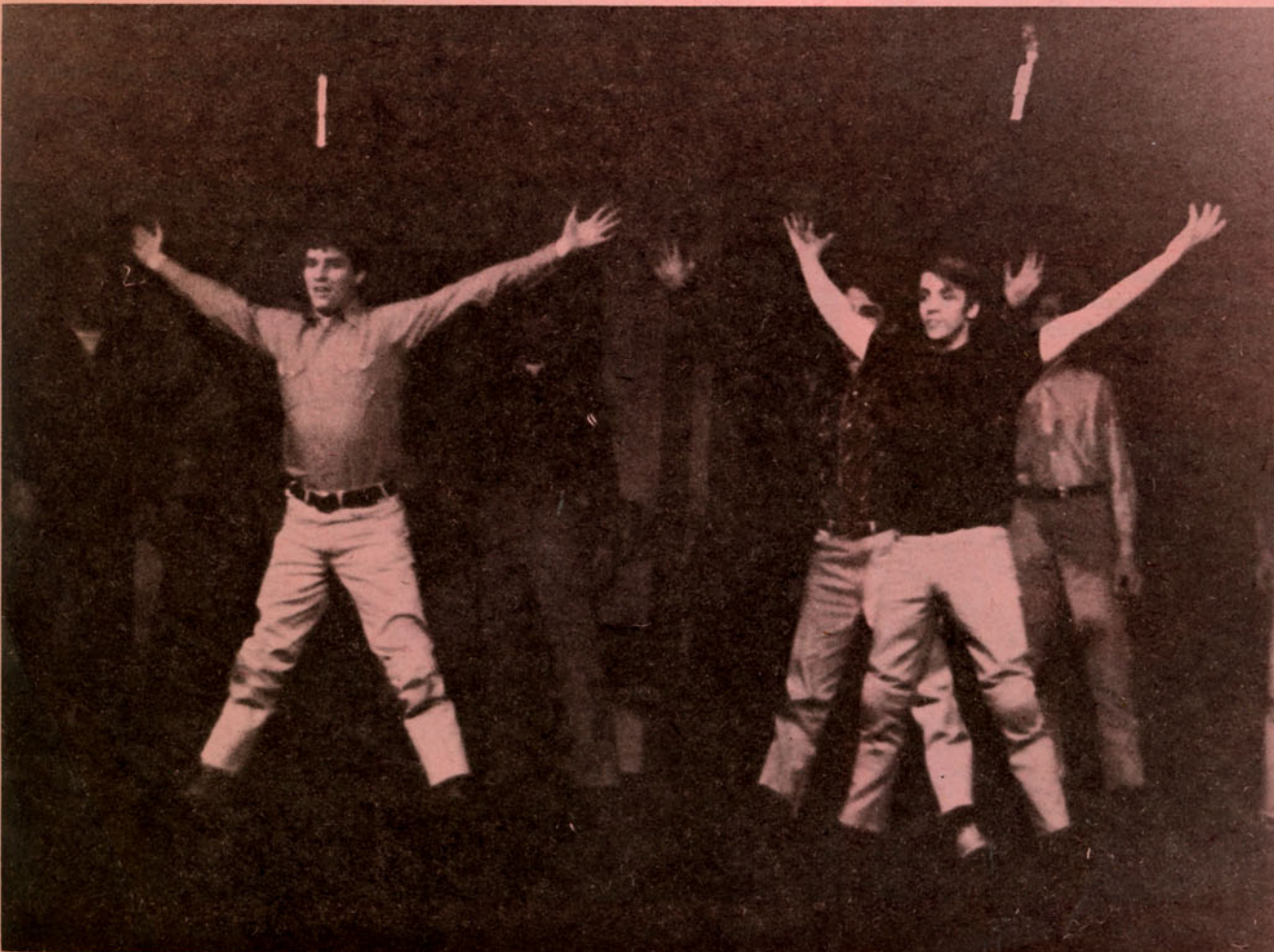
Mike Yarborough, "Allie" peddles his wares. (Photo by Huie)



Debbie Daniel, "Laurie," looks on as Margie McCrory "Ado Annie" adjusts a garter for Bette Jamison, "Aunt Eller." (Photo by Huie)



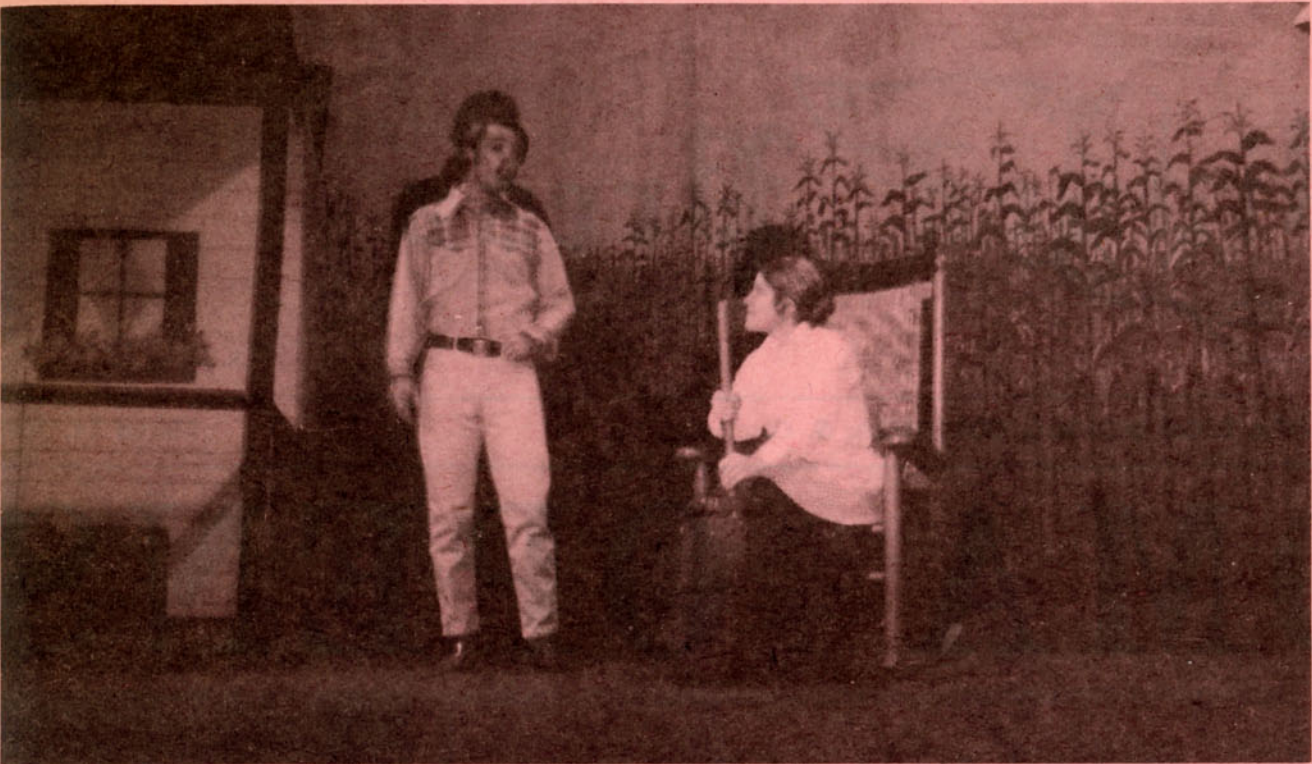
Allyson Young, choreographer, watches dancers. (Photo by Dieterman)



W. G. Travathan, Don Johnson "Will" and Wayne Catoe dance to "Kansas City." (Photo by Huie)



John Riddle and Jake McKinney, "Jud." (Photo by Dieterman)



Robert Weston, "Curley" serenades Bette Jamison, "Aunt Eller" on a "beautiful morning." (Photo by Huie)



Don Johnson, "Will" and Margie McCrory, "Ado Annie." (Photo by Huie)



A member of the make-up committee adjusts "Laurie's" costume. (Photo by Huie)



Mrs. Barbara Frazier, producer, supervises set construction with a member of the art committee. (Photo by Huie)



Margie McCrory, "Ado Annie," laments to Debbie Daniel, "Laurie," that she "cain't say no." (Photo by Huie)



Sylvia Sharpe, Richard Weston, and Lou Weston sing about the "waving wheat" of OKLAHOMA! (Photo by Huie)



Marnie Brown, Alice Noland, Janet Jacobs, and Kathy Price sing that "Many a New Day" will dawn before they cry. (Photo by Huie)



Mr. Gatlin directs the stage chorus from the orchestra pit. (Photo by Huie)



John Riddle; Robert Weston, "Curley"; and Charles Reynolds in the coming wedding between Curley and Laurie. (Photo by Huie)



JOHN RIDDLE



ROBERT WESTON



CHARLES REYNOLDS



JAKE MCKINNEY

All-Out Student Effort Sparkles In 'Oklahoma!'

By CHRISTIE Z. FANT
Women's Writer

"None of you boys can get a haircut . . . although a slight trim will be permitted . . . and I want all of you to grow sideburns," English instructor E. S. Gatlin told a group of A. C. Flora students last November.

"And you girls should also let your hair grow out, including any sort of dye."

With these instructions four months ago, the newly selected cast of "Oklahoma!"—which was to be Flora High School's third annual musical—started the long haul toward a March opening.

High standards had already been set by the school's two previous productions—"Guys and Dolls" in 1967 and "Bye Bye Birdie" in 1968—and there was to be no let down in this one.

Estimated by Director Gatlin as a \$3,000 production, "Oklahoma!" has been sparked by a tremendous amount of student interest, in the overall student body as well as among the more closely involved.

"This is the hardest working, most cooperative group yet," says Director Gatlin, particularly pleased with the talent that showed up for tryouts.

Joining Mr. Gatlin in praising the all-out student effort to make "Oklahoma!" a success is the show's producer, Mrs. Barbara Prazier. Another English faculty member, Mrs. Prazier's chief responsibility is coordination of the various student committees.

She points out that "we could have had all sorts of organization plans and they wouldn't have amounted to much unless we could expect the plans to be carried out. But we haven't had to ask twice . . . this needs to be done," we've said . . . and lo and behold, it's done!"

"Not just the stars" is she talking about either . . . the others have been equally enthusiastic, just worked themselves into the ground."

November auditions for singing, dancing and line-reading produced the final line-up . . . 14 leads, 14 dancers, a stage

chorus of 15, a backstage chorus of nine in the cast . . . a 7-member student production staff . . . 10 commuters . . . and an orchestra of 27 students under faculty conductor Mitch Santiago.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Hundreds of students volunteered to work behind scenes.

To a dozen or more of the school artists fell the designing and painting of two huge stage backdrops—canvases completely covering the room in which they worked.

One scene pictures an Oklahoma cornfield "as high as an elephant's eye"; the other features a meadow and trees.

Building all the sets (including farmhouse, fences and a well) have been interested boys "who knew what to do with a hammer and saw" . . . Youthful seamstresses, guided by home Ec teacher Mrs. E. W. Pusser, designed and sewed Western costumes, 1800 vintage

Other teen-agers have fretted busily about their publicity, make-up, properties and program assignments.

There'll be some special lighting effects and strategic microphone work under the supervision of seven boys. They've busily labored the electronics committee.

"Brilliant" is Mr. Gatlin's word for them, but this is an opinion, according to one of the "brains," not reflected in his report card (these, unfortunately, came out during final days of rehearsal).

Whether the play assignment has been getting the "feel" of a Western character (some of the cowpunchers are recognized around school by their bow-legged walks) . . . whether it's been typing stencils for tickets . . . whether it's been learning how to breathe for the chorus or leap for the choreography, the students involved have crammed "Oklahoma!" into every available minute.

EIGHT MONTHS

They even devoted their Christmas holidays to the cause, spending that entire two weeks, every day from 9 to 5,

at their hammering, sawing, singing, painting and practicing. Actually, the work on the play has stretched over an eight-month period, beginning last July and August with the construction by Flora boys of the basic wagons or stage platforms, and the designing by the faculty director of the scenery and backdrops.

September and October brought preparation for tryouts, and committee membership drives. With November came the response by hundreds of Flora students to the call for auditions. By the end of November, choices had been made and duties outlined.

End result of all this dedication will come this week with seven performances of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway hit.

Opening curtain will be at 8 p.m. Monday at the Ft. Jackson Entertainment Center (Theater 4). Performances will be held each night at 8 p.m. through Saturday, March 22.

Next Sunday afternoon there will be a matinee at 3 p.m. Reservations may be made by telephoning A. C. Flora High. Available remaining tickets may be obtained at the door.

To many people, "Oklahoma!" will provide not only a colorful evening of entertainment but a sample of how youthful energy can be channeled creatively . . . a good example of what's right with today's young world.

As "Oklahoma!" production journalist, Florate Wally Wentworth, puts it, "every day we read of students who are rioting, protesting, staging sit-ins. They are more interested in tearing down than building up. They perform acts of harm, rather than good, and they receive an overwhelming amount of publicity."

"This is not the case with the cast and crew of 'Oklahoma!' These students are dedicated to the cause of raising the standards of their school, their community and their own lives."

"These students are striving for a goal which is worthwhile . . . to such people as these should the publicity go."



ALISON YOUNG and Richard Weston are part of the exuberant troupe which brings "Oklahoma!" to Columbia this week. The celebrated Broadway musical opens at Fort Jackson Entertainment Center Monday at 8 p.m. There will be shows nightly, through Saturday, and a Sunday matinee. (Staff Photos by Ed Tilley)

ALTHOUGH 'everything's up to date in Kansas City,' Will (Don Johnson) prefers Oklahoma because Ado Annie's there. Playing the girl "who can't say no" is Margie McCrory.



"THIS ISN'T the easiest score in the world," says Chris Tye, left, to Glenn Zaepfel, Ludwald Taylor, second row, left, and Steve Coathney, right, with Carl Rogers at the bass fiddle are among 27 Flora students in the "Oklahoma!" orchestra which will play the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

This piece was fragile at the folds and couldn't be scanned due to risk of damage. Yellowing was much darker at the folds and has been alleviated here for readability.

Letters

Flora Musical Draws Praise

To the Editor:

The production of "Oklahoma" by A.C. Flora High School played to packed houses all last week at the Fort Jackson Theater. My wife and I saw it Sunday at the final showing and I want to say that it was perfectly marvelous. Everything, from the ushers, the ticket takers, and stage hands to the actors, the choruses, and the orchestra was anything but small-time. It equalled or surpassed many a big-time production. I am just sorry that, after the big spread in Sunday's State just before the show opened, I didn't see anything else in the paper about it.

RICHARD I. LANE JR.

5005 Wofford Avenue,
Columbia.

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'Oklahoma'

Delightful

To the Editor:

A. C. Flora High School's delightful performance of "Oklahoma" brought back memories of 1947, when I was in the audience on Broadway for the premiere of that musical. This amateur production measured up in many ways. It was fast-moving, well directed, with never a dull moment.

It took courage, hard work, stamina, ability, determination and talent to produce such an outstanding performance. The colorful costumes, the excellent soloists and choruses, talented dancers, the sets and the "leads" added up to an almost flawless evening of entertainment.

The well-trained orchestra under the splendid direction of Mitch Santiago literally stole my heart. They produced the lifting tunes to perfection.

In this modern world of well-publicized student unrest, it is to the many young students who gave unstintingly of their time, talents and efforts for many weeks that I offer my sincere congratulations.

MRS. S. ZIMMERMAN
Cornell Arms Apt.
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RICHARD RODGERS
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Gatlin

OKLAHOMA!

LIBRETTO

Gatlin

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

OKLAHOMA!

Music by
RICHARD RODGERS

Book and lyrics by
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN 2nd

Based on Lynn Rigg's
"GREEN GROW THE LILACS"

As Originally Produced by
The Theatre Guild

Price, \$2.00 per copy

Published by
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609 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

OKLAHOMA!

was first produced by The Theatre Guild on April 1st, 1943, at the St. James Theatre, New York City, and in London it was first produced at The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on April 30th, 1947.

CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

AUNT ELLER
CURLY
LAUREY
IKE SKIDMORE
FRED
SLIM
WILL PARKER
JUD FRY
ADO ANNIE CARNES
ALI HAKIM
GERTIE CUMMINGS
ELLEN
KATE
SYLVIE
ARMINA
AGGIE
ANDREW CARNES
CORD ELAM
JESS
CHALMERS
MIKE
JOE
SAM

SCENES

ACT I

Scene I. The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse
Scene II. The Smoke House
Scene III. A Grove on Laurey's Farm

ACT II

Scene I. The Skidmore Ranch
Scene II. Skidmore's Kitchen Porch
Scene III. The Back of Laurey's Farmhouse

Time: Just after the turn of the century.

Place: Indian Territory (Now Oklahoma)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Scene 1 - *Laurey's Farmhouse*

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top
Kansas City
I Cain't Say No
Many a New Day
It's a Scandal! It's a Outrage!
People Will Say We're in Love

Curly
Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller
Will, Aunt Eller, and the Boys
Ado Annie
Laurey and the Girls
Ali Hakim and the Boys and Girls
Curly and Laurey

Scene 2 - *Jud's ~~Shed~~ Smokehouse*

Pore Jud
Lonely Room

Curly and Jud
Jud

Scene 3 - *A Grove on Laurey's Farm*

Out of My Dreams

Dream Ballet

Laurey and the Girls

ACT II

Scene 1 - *The Skidmore ~~Ranch~~ Barnyard*

The Farmer and the Cowman
All er Nuthin'

Carnes, Aunt Eller, Curly, Will,
Ado Annie, Slim and Ensemble
Ado Annie, Will and Two Dancing Girls

Scene 2 - *Back of Skidmore's Ranch House*

Reprise: People Will Say We're in Love

Curly and Laurey

Scene 3

Oklahoma
Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'
Finale

Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller, Ike, Fred and Ensemble
Laurey, Curly and Ensemble
Entire Company