

Mrs Creech  
Plays  
Church Copy  
BY  
LULU BROWNE OTIS NE R

## Early Maple Grove Players

In the early years of the Maple Grove community the neighbors realized there was a need to earn money to help their causes. About 1909 or 1910 they either joined or formed an organization known by the imposing name of "The Maple Grove Civic Betterment Association."

In the next couple of years a small group known as "The Maple Grove Dramatic Club" put on two plays "Facing the Music" and "Captain Racket" to earn money for the Civic organization.

The young men and women worked hard on the plays and gave such a good performance that they took the play out of town as far as Lancaster, Ohio. The success was due in large part to the direction of Mrs. Cecil Meyers known to everyone as "Cat" Meyers.

"Cat" was the kind of woman who would never be called "Hitty" or "Kay". She had a deep booming voice and was a liberated woman long before her time. The Meyers lived in a square frame house on the east side of High St. just opposite what is now Aldrich Rd. They owned a huge farm extending from East Cooke Lane on the south to a line running east from Henderson Rd. and High St. The West.

boundary was High St. and the east was the railroad track. This was sold in about nineteen thirty and became the Indian Springs Golf Course.

If anyone of you has ever enjoyed Play House on the Green north of Washington and heard of Sally Sexton, the wonderful director, you have seen the counterpart of Lot Myers. She was a wonderful, capable director and seemed to rule with an iron hand. It was often said that she rode her frisky horse over the fields & hills of the farm like a man.

The theater for the Dramatic Club play, was a big old barn on the Hess property. This was on the west side of the road between what is now Deland and West Cooke. One newspaper notice said four hundred people attended the play. Can you imagine the work that must have been for so many people? There were programs, advertising, ticket sales, rehearsals, staging, costumes, and four hundred seats. Four hundred chairs or benches! What a scramble that must have been. I'll bet many a household had missing chairs on the day of the play.

As if all this weren't enough, a few courageous people gave parties for the cast. Alice and Carlie Hess gave a party before one play. It was held on the lawn of the Hess home which was just south of the barn. This received good press notices but think of the work! How could they do all that work?

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They didn't have separate committees for each function a few people did it all. Even the children did their share.

It was a problem to know what to do when scenes and costumes were changed. Some one had the bright idea of having me sing between acts. Now they wanted to keep me out there long enough to give them time back stage. Since our whole family loved to sing they thought this was the ideal answer. They suggested I sing two songs, "Set me all your sweet heart" and "Put your arms around me Honey". Three verses for each song would be just right.

Now their next problem was to persuade me. I was three and one half years old at the time and not so sure about the whole idea. I remember Uncle Al Cooke helped me make the decision. He offered me a whole dollar.

A dollar seemed mighty big to a three year old in those days. I guess I did fairly well until the very end. I realized I had left out one verse of one of the songs. I am sure I didn't even make my bow but went running off stage crying and screaming "Will I get my dollar?" I did get my dollar. I was the only paid worker in the production. So much for my introduction into show business and my nobleness of motive.

The other players who were NOT paid but worked very hard had a good time.

to be seen but they also wiped out the debts of the Maple Grove Civic Betterment Association and bought a piano. This piano was probably used for years by the community for school, civic functions and the church.

I remember Lou and Al Coote also entertained the association in honor of the Dramatic Club. There were electric lights and jack lanterns strung all over the yard. This was a big event in the little Maple Grove community and was given recognition by the press. Aunt Lou's place looked like fairy land. She really knew how to give a party.

There were many funny things that happened with the players. The show was so good they decided to take it out of town to Lancaster. This was different from acting at home and it produced more tension. So much tension kept many of them from eating and enjoying the dinner before the show. My Dad wasn't one of them. He had a wonderful time eating all the goodies the others left.

No wonder they were tense and Dad wasn't. If he forgot his lines, which sometimes happened, he could easily ad lib for a few minutes. He was never at a loss for words. This was fine for him but hard for the others who found it confusing to wait for the proper cue to get back in the play.

As a whole the plays were a success.

1910

1910 - 1911

# "Facing the Music"

— Given by —

## Maple Grove Dramatic Club

JUNE 5th and 6th

BENEFIT LADIES' AID SOCIETY

### CAST OF CHARACTERS.

The Rev. John Smith.....	Cecil Myers
John Smith .....	Earl Brown
Dick Desmond (John Smith's guest).....	J. L. Armstrong
Col. Duncan Smith (John Smith's uncle).....	Harry Webster
Sargent Duffell .....	Glenn Coon
Mable (Rev. John Smith's wife).....	Clara Cooke
Nora (John Smith's wife) .....	Lucy Webster
Miss Fothering (an actress) .....	Mrs. Earl Brown
Mrs. Pouting (The Housekeeper).....	Mrs. Harry Webster

Act I—Breakfast Room in John Smith's flat at Kensington. 10 A. M.

Act II—Same as Act I. 10 minutes later.

Act III—Same as Act I. 20 minutes later.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Cooke entertained the members of the Maple Grove Civic Betterment association Thursday evening at their residence on North High street, honoring the members of the Maple Grove Dramatic club for the active part they had taken in wiping out the debt of the association by presenting two plays, "Facing the Music" and "Captain Racket." Strands of electric lights and Oriental lanterns were festooned from the boughs of trees with pretty effect. The assisting hostesses were the Misses Lucy Webster, Clara Cook and Ethel Rawnsley. Solos were rendered by Miss Lucille Somerside, of Delaware, and Mrs. Legg, of Webster Park.

The second garden party and entertainment of Maple Grove Civic Betterment association was held July 15 on the lawn surrounding the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Hess. Refreshments were served in the garden, after which the guests were entertained at the Maple Grove theater by the Maple Grove Dramatic club, the members of which presented a three-act comedy, "Captain Racket," which was full of wholesome fun and a mirth producer from start to finish. A special mention was made of the capable manner in which each of the parts was presented by the members of the company. A sufficient sum was realized from this entertainment to pay for the piano which was purchased by this association. Four hundred were present.

The play was directed by Mrs. Siegel Myers, to whose experience the finished production of the play was due. The cast of characters was: Captain Robert Racket, Mr. Earl Browne; Obadiah Dawson, Mr. Mayhew Shields; Timothy Tolman, Mr. Richard Aldrich; Mr. Dalroy, Mr. Glenn Coon; Hobson, Mr. Glenn Coon; Clarice, the captain's wife, Miss Clara Cook; Mrs. Tolman, Miss Lucy Webster, and Katy, Miss Ethel Rawnsley.

## MAPLE GROVE DRAMATIC CLUB PRESENTS

### CAPTAIN RACKET

#### CAST

CAPTAIN RACKET

EARL BROWNE

THE CAPTAIN'S WIFE  
CLARICE

CLARA COOKE

OBADIA DAWSON

MAYHEW SHIELDS

TIMOTHY TOLMAN

RICHARD ALDRICH

MRS TOLMAN

LUCY WEBSTER

MR DALROY

GLENN COON

HOBSON

GLENN COON

KATYY

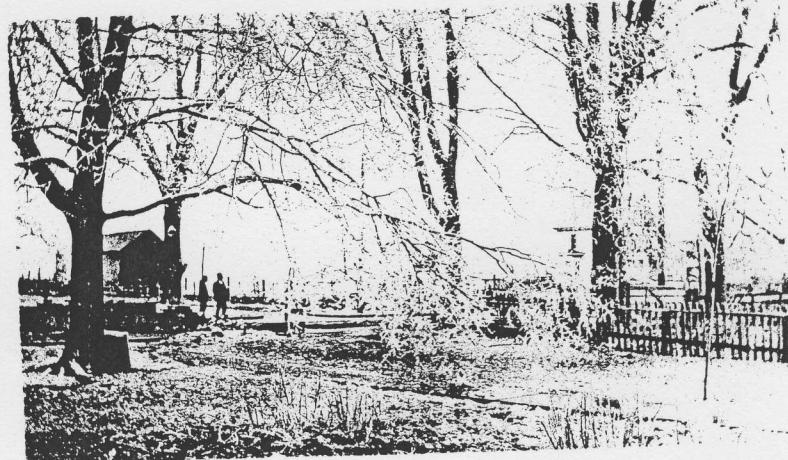
ETHEL RAWNSLEY

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MAPLE GROVE CIVIC  
BETTERMENT ASS.

A.C.  
Cooke residence  
post-play-party?

2. R. Hess  
Charles R. Hess  
lawn  
w/ play

1910 1



THE HESS BARN  
OR  
THE MAPLE GROVE THEATER.

LOU AND AL COOKE ENTERTAINED THE PLAYERS AT THEIR HOME



AL AND LOU COOKE HOME



THE COOKE HESS BARN

SERVED AS MAPLE GROVE THEATER

1910

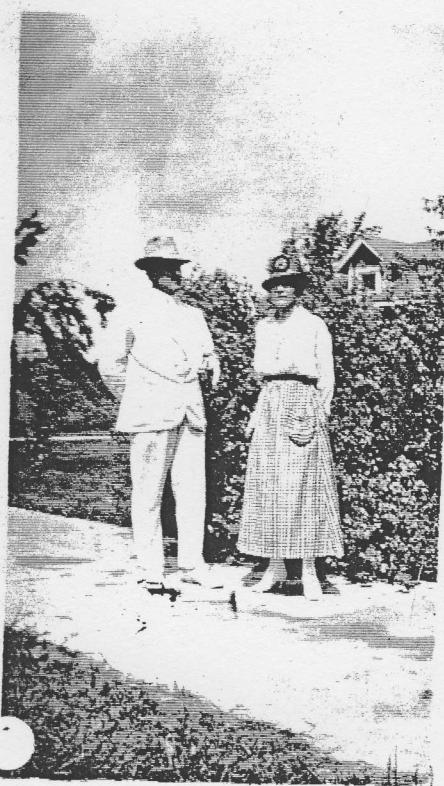
MARPLE GROVE DRAMATIC CLUB PLAYERS



CLARA COOKE



EARL BROWNE



EARL AND PEARLE BROWNE



ETHEL RAWNSLEY LUCY WEBSTER  
SYLVIA INFISTER PEARL BRAUNNE

MAPLE GROVE DRAMATIC CLUB PLAYERS

1910



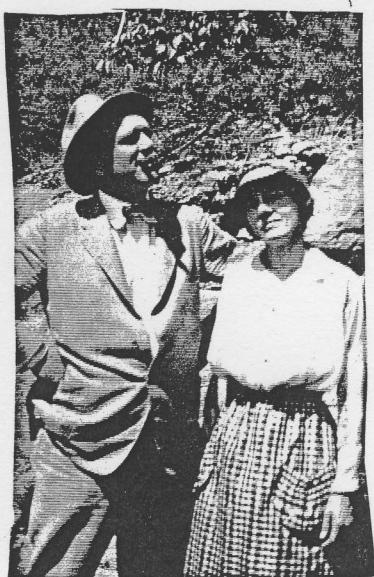
LULU BROWNE



CLARA COOKE  
(BOWERS)



LEW ARMSTRONG



EARL AND PEARL BROWNE



LUCY WEBSTER



DICK ALDRICH

Much needed money was earned, strong friendships were formed and everyone was happy. They were serving a good cause and having fun.

Katherine Cooke, her sister Dorothy and I missed few rehearsals. The Cooke girls went with their sister, Clara and I with my parents, Earl and Pearl Browne. In the beginning we were respectively about the ages six, eight and nine years. This was pure magic for us and we learned every line in the play. For a few years after the club performances we children played show business. We would stop around our imaginary stage jumping in and out of various characters. It kept three people busy doing nine characters but we didn't mind of course we took more curtain calls than the best Broadway actress. Uncle Al Cooke's garage was often our stage. As I remember it our imaginary audience was always enthusiastic and we never tired giving our play.

Is it any wonder that many years later, about 1924, when Maple Grove was thinking of giving a play that the three of us were very willing participants. Our little play "The Twelve Old Maids" was not as big a production as the early plays but we two took our show out of the neighborhood. To be sure we didn't go as far as Sault Ste.

1925

# THE TWELVE OLD MAIDS

## PROGRAMME 1925

PRESENTED BY  
**FRIENDLY HELPERS CLASS**

8 O'CLOCK THURSDAY EVENING - JUNE 4, 1925  
MAPLE GROVE M.E. CHURCH

--- 0 ---

An den Fruhing ----- Grieg  
(To Spring)

Vecchu Minuetto ----- Sgambati  
Dorothy Cook

Monologue ----- Robert Seal

The Smile of Spring----- words by P. E. Fletcher  
music by George Ellerton

The Slave Song ----- Teresa DelRiego  
Mildred Eklundh  
Kathleen Sale - Accompanist

**PLAY**                   **TWELVE OLD MAIDS**           **W. B. HARE**

**CAST:**

Mrs. Beamer, a schemer.

Takes Summer Boarders ----- Esther Fellows

Liza Pearl, the hired girl

(not so slow) ----- Lulu Pearl Browne

Madam Zikeller-a fortune teller

(after the coin)----- Dorothy Ohaver

Miss Lizzie Lidy-awfully tidy - - - Eunice Roudebush

Selina Zook-an A l Cook - - - Ethel Fellows

Matilda Finn-who's rather thin - - - Mary Pinney

Jemina Routt-a little stout - - - ?

Ethel Mc Wade-a poetical maid - - - Ruth Steilberger

Mary Ann Fites-who wants her rights- Esther Bradley

Mandy Menter-from Pun Kin Center- - Mila Griswold

Miss Kate O'Foss-who loves to boss - Amanda Fuller

Lovetta McCann-who wants a man - - - Dorothy Cook

Cerinth Fling-does nothing but sing-Evelyn Kocher

Lucindy Toots-who elocutes - - - Katherine Cook

Eliza Neff-just slightly deaf - - - Ethel McLeod

The Mystic Orann-a mannikin - - - Leatha Coon

1925



KATHERINE COOKE  
(BARBEE)

DOROTHY COOKE  
(HAMBLETON)

LU BROWNE  
(OHSNER)



LU BROWNE  
(OHSNER)



DOROTHY COOKE  
(HAMBLETON)



DOROTHY COOKE (HAMBLETON) KATHERINE COOKE  
THREE OF THE TWELVE OLD MAIDS" BARBEE



DOROTHY COOKE  
(HAMBLETON)

LU BROWNE  
(GENEVA)

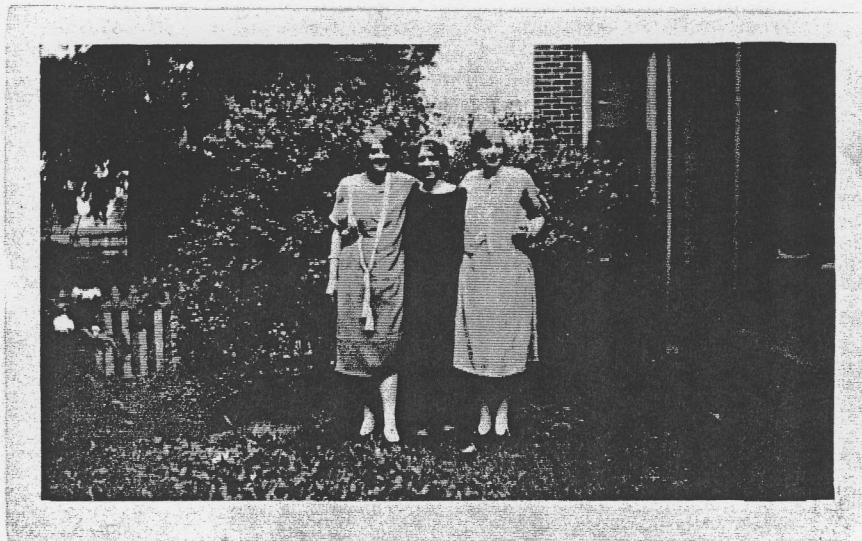
KATHERINE COOKE  
(BARBEE)

1425

## THE TWELVE OLD MAIDS



LULU BROWNE (OHSNER) AT THE END OF THE PLAY  
"THE TWELVE OLD MAIDS"



THREE OF THE PLAYERS AS THEMSELVES

DOROTHY COOKE (HAMBLETON)

LULU BROWNE (OHSNER)

KATHERINE COOKE (GARRETT)

we did play the Linnworth School and the Neil Ave Methodist Church. Besides the three of us you could find in the cast of characters two sisters of Blanch Gabriel, Esther and Ethel Fellows and the Evelyn Kocher who worked in the old program, is an aunt of one our own choir member Jane Wood. What do you think Evelyn did in the play? She sang! Family habits are passed on to the next generation.

The fifties found the Women's Society earning money for the Maple Grove Building program. We worked on three major projects Crocheted Books, Calendar Towels and doll clothes. Sometimes we found ourselves working on two projects at the same time. There was much overlapping of our effort. We found ourselves very busy and everyone seemed to get involved. We did much of our own promotion and publicity and both the men and children of the church got involved. The Doll Style Show was born.

We wrote and staged a play surrounding the dolls + their clothes.

As many as forty or fifty children, ages three to thirteen, were participating. The children, dressed as the dolls and, carrying the small counterpart, they paraded through the story.

Men women and children were never busier. All costumes had to be made

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in duplicate, child size and doll size. To make matters worse the whole purpose was to sell doll clothes. That meant two costumes for doll and child plus dozens of each costumes for sale. Again like our early church members we were wearing many hats sewing, knitting, crocheting, rehearsing and advertising.

For now we will just concentrate on the doll style show. The children proved to be little troopers. Everyone loved them and they took their dolls to numerous and even schools to parade their forty costumes. They had fun and they sold doll clothes but can you begin to imagine what it was like to keep forty or fifty children quiet back stage? For that matter it was a full time task keeping forty dolls immaculate and presentable.

But our main purpose here is to talk about people and passing on family traditions such as having fun, working and serving the community and church. We can look at the cast of our little live dolls and you will see names to remind you of early and present church members. To-day you can see a list of new church member starting traditions to be cherished and remembered years to come.

Look at the little live dolls of forty years ago. Do you recognize any of the names

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PLAY FOR DOLL & DOLL CLOTHES PROMOTION & SALES

JUNE 7, 1955  
LIVE DOLLS

Scene I - Bedtime in little girls room.  
Scene II - Dreamland at Midnight.  
Scene III - Early Morning - Little girls bedroom.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mother ----- Doris Tozer  
Sally ----- Janet Metcalf  
Ron ----- John Taylor

In Dreamland:

Fairy ----- Doris Tozer  
Davy Crockett's----- Dick Kilburn, George Taylor, Ron Ohsner, and  
Tom Hambleton  
Football Players----- Larry Swenson, Loring Richardson.  
Santa Claus ----- Bob Beelman  
Live Dolls ----- (As listed on Style Show Sheet)\*\*\*

Music - Dorothy Hambleton

Usher --- Robert Griffith

The following Songs to be sung with the Audience:

BALLAD OF DAVY CROCKETT

1. Born on a mountain top in Tenn.  
Greenest state in the Land of the Free,  
Raised in the woods so he knew ev'ry tree,  
Kilt him a b'ar when he was only three  
Davy, Davy Crockett, King of the wild  
frontier!
2. Fought single-handed thru, the Injun War,  
Till the Creek's was whipped an' peace was  
in store,  
An' while he was handlin' this risky chore,  
Made hisself a legend forever more.  
Davy--- Davy Crockett, King of the Wild  
Frontier!.
3. He went off to Congress an' served a spell,  
Fixin' up the Gover'ment an' laws as well,  
Took over Washin'ton so we heered tell  
An' patched up the crack in the Liberty Bell  
Davy -- Davy Crockett, Seein' his duty clear.

4. When he come home his politickin'  
done,  
The western march had just begun,  
So he packed his gear an' his  
trusty gun,  
An' let out grinnin' to follow  
the sun.  
Davy, Davy Crockett, Leadin' the  
pioneer!
5. His land is biggest an' his land  
is best,  
From grassy plains to the mount-  
ain crest,  
He's ahead of us all a meetin'  
the test,  
Followin' his legend into the  
West  
Davy, Davy Crockett, King of the  
Wild Frontier!

FIGHT TEAM FIGHT

Fight the team across the field  
Show them Ohio's here  
Set the earth reverberating with a mighty cheer,  
Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Hit them hard and see how they fall  
Never let that team get the ball  
Hail, Hail, the gangs all here  
And we'll win that old conference now.

JINGLE BELLS

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,  
Jingle all the way,  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one horse open sleigh

DOLL STYLE SHOW (MARY DOLL)\*

Mrs. J.W. Dickhaut, Commentator -- AM 8-9518  
 Mrs. John Turner, Commentator--Worthington, Ohio

<u>Doll</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
1. Choir Girl	Beverly Jones	AM3-2765
2. Farmerette	Lynn Hawley *Beverly Jones	AM3-9004 AM3-2765
3. Sunbonnet	Shari Roberts *Beverly Dorsey	AM3-8651 AM2-9569
4. Sunsuit	Wendy Roberts	AM3-8651
5. Blue Jay	Cathy Nordstrom *Ann Liesenhoff	AM2-7301 AM2-3092
6. Brown Elf	Sheryl Janson	AM3-9230
7. Cap & Gown	Cathy J. Gillmore	AM2-7490
8. Raincoat	Susan Jones	AM3-2765
9. Cloth Coat	Grace Nofsinger ✓	AM8-5809
10. Robe & Nightie	Lucy Pilcher	AM2-0456
11. Pajamas	Sally Ohsner	AM2-4181
12. Hawaiian	Beverly Dorsey	AM2-9569
13. Ballet	Patty Kelly	AM3-0918
14. Nurse	Carolyn Douglas *Nancy Taylor	AM2-0352 AM8-5820
15. Bandana Sport	Connie Leslie	AM2-2546
16. Pilgrim	Marjorie A. Hange	AM2-1903
17. Cowgirl	Susan Webber	AM8-9624
18. Clown	Lynn Barger	AM2-9396
19. Tennis	Sandra Lucas *Roberta J. Gabriel	AM8-3017 AM3-6223
20. Majorette	Diane Willennar	AM2-8342
21. Golfer	Carol Murdock	AM3-9423
22. Beach Suit	Jennifer Goderdam *Beverly Jones *Ann Liesenhoff	AM3-6618 AM3-2765 AM2-3092
23. Roller Skater	Betsy Brandfass	AM2-2672
24. Ice Skater	Brenda Burrows	AM3-2441

\*Substitute

25.	Ski Suit	Bonnie Beardshaw	AM8-1864
26.	Jumper	Jeanette Barger	AM2-9396
27.	Red Pinafore	Nancy Perkins	AM8-3282
28.	Green Pinafore	Sue Nofsinger	AM8-5809
29.	Party Dress (Cotton)	Nancy Taylor *Marsha Conrad	AM8-5820 AM8-8222
30.	Party Dress (Silk)	Cheryl Prutsman	AM2-5036
31.	Easter Dress		
32.	Dolly Madison	Pamela Fellow	AM3-1523
33.	Formal	Jean Medley	AM3-2862
34.	Bride	Ellen Barbee	AM3-5971

\*Substitute

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Santa Claus	Robert Beelman	AM3-6618
Mrs. Santa Claus		

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Pianist	Mrs. Wallace Hambleton *Mrs. Richard Brodt	AM2-8505 AM3-1979
Producer	Mrs. C.S. Ohsner Mrs. J.S. Foreman	AM2-4181 AM2-3718



4th

Back Row Left to Right

1. Roberta Gabriel
2. Ruth Rompel
3. Betsy Brandfass
4. Diane Willmar
5. Sally Fischer
6. Lucy Pilcher
7. Ellen Barbee
8. Carol Mendenhall
9. Jean Medley

3rd Row

1. Maria Roberts
2. Nancy Taylor
3. Marilyn Siley
4. Hoffmeyer ? <sup>see</sup>
5. Beverly Dorsey
6. Christine Campbell
7. Nancy Ely
8. Pat Kelley
9. Debbie Breck

2nd Row

1. Lynn Fornauger
2. Hoffmeyer
3. Jan Banger
4. ? Kellogg
5. Mailese Burrows
6. ? Fornauger
7. Judy Williams
8. Jackie Harper
9. <sup>McDonald</sup> ?
10. Lynn Banger
11. Betsy Oats
12. Connie Reesh

First Row

1. Connie Cow
2. Elaine Clark
3. Ellen Clark
4. Leslie Linn
5. ?
6. Marjorie H.
7. Wendy R.
8. ? Jose
9. Karen Gi
10. Jessie D.
11. Susan Ba
12. Joan Cle





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Please see  
B.D.I.

Masters of Ceremonies: John Hoppers and Barrett Tenney

Inner Coordinators: Wayne and Cheryl Williams

Jean Bell and Karen Innis

Decorations: Molly Ohsner and Ann Elder

Tickets: Tom and Connie Kelch

Box Office: Dick and Dorothy Barton

Video: Dave Elder

Lighting: Elizabeth Young

Sound: Alan Notestine and Stan Mason

Director: Michelle Notestine

Special thanks to Greg White for his willingness  
to accompany many of the acts in tonight's program

Company Number adapted from Irving Berlin's  
"There's No Business Like Show Business"  
arr: Michelle Notestine

The Education Work Area would like to thank the  
Maple Grove Family for your support of tonight's  
program

Dorothy Barton

Jean Bell

Claire Corley

Ann Elder

Karen Innis

Connie Kelch

Marion Mason

Beth Morgan

Alan Notestine

Michelle Notestine

Molly Ohsner

Kay Pierce

Evangeline Vickers

Cheryl Williams

Wayne Williams

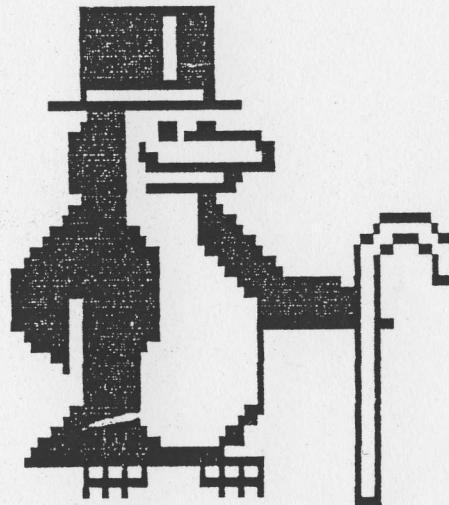
Nannette Weimer

Lorene Yingling

Elizabeth Young

Tom Young

# WE'VE NO BUSINESS IN SHOW BUSINESS



1492  
**MAPLE GROVE  
DINNER THEATER**

**JANUARY 19, 1992**

*"Side By Side"*

Mark Bussard, Matt Bussard, Brandon Morgan

*"Bosom Buddies"*

Patty Chandler, Bev Pettit

*"How Much Is That Doggy"*

Stephanie and Lauren Elder

*"Doing A Bang-Up Job"*

Stage Class Repertoire Theater Group

*"I Like Ice Cream"*

Kate Morgan

*"The Alaskan Yoyo"*

Dorothy Nyland

*"Playing the Licorice Sticks"*

Kyla Kelch, Milt "Grandpa" Campbell

*"16 Tons"*

Jack Spain

*"Operator"*

Doug and Beth Morgan  
Alan and Michelle Notestine

*"The Big Jump"*

Kids Club

*"I Am the Starlight"*

*"Macavity: The Mystery Cat"*  
Carol Notestine and company

*"Lida Rose"*

The Maple Leaves  
Greg White, Jack and Martha Jane Spain,  
David Young, Doug Morgan

*"The Vatican Rag"*

David and Elizabeth Young

*"One"*

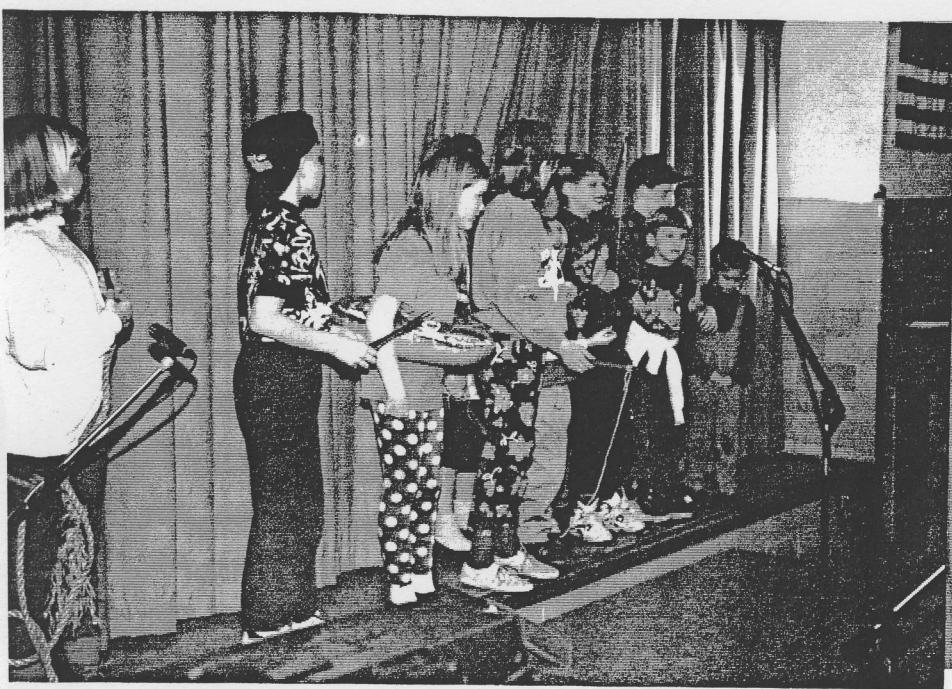
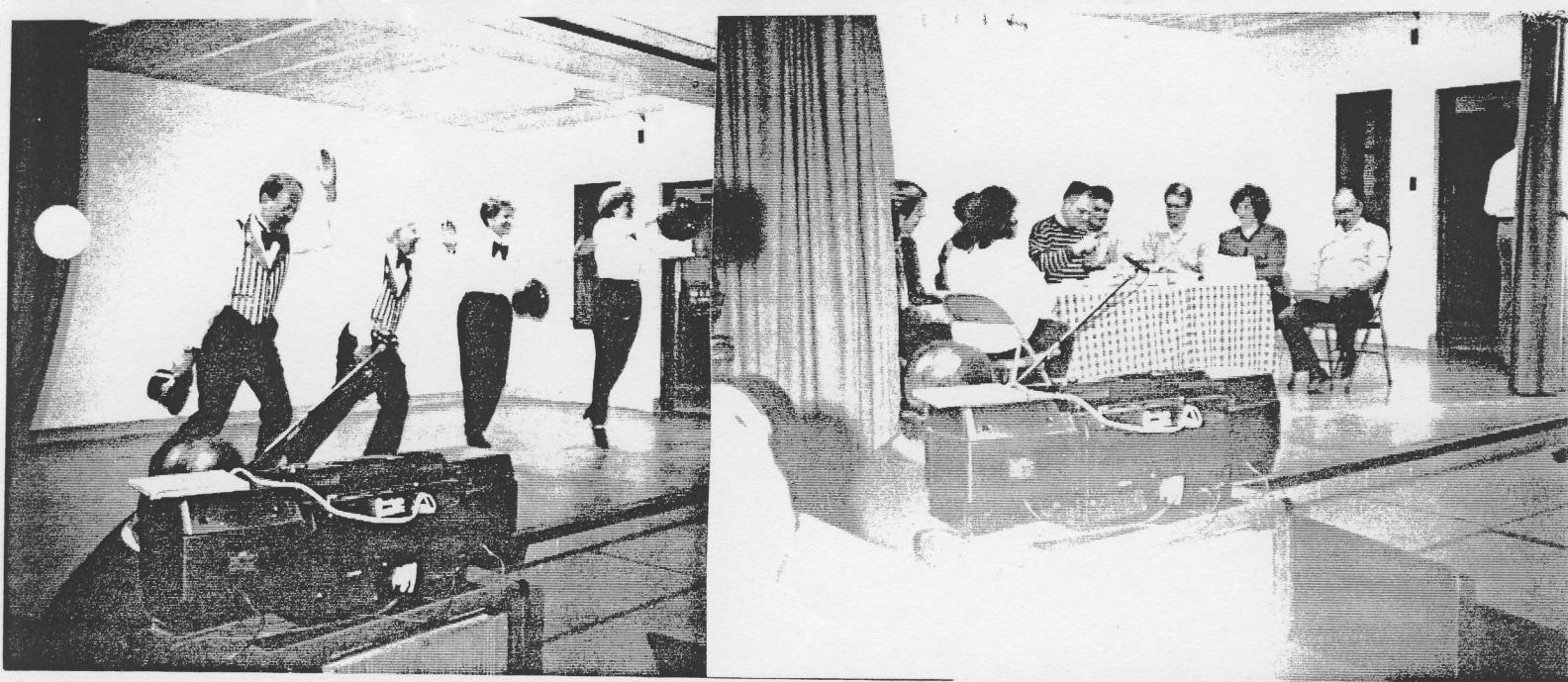
The Maple Grove Rockettes  
Lloyd Fisher, Molly Ohsner,  
John and Kay Hoppers

*"The Bumble Boogie"*

Greg White

*"We've No Business in Show Business"*

The Company



Vespers for the shut-ins at rest homes.  
 Wesley Glen was benifited from Carl's services.  
 Grant his brother is on the vestry of this church.

Naturally after all these years I know  
 about only a few of the people who had  
 some connection with the early families but  
 I feel from what I do know that they are  
 following the same line of hard work and  
 Christian service.

Mary Bowen, one of the Hess family is head nurse at  
 Riverside Hospital. An Armstrong  
 grand daughter, Jean Wilder, until her  
 death a few years ago, taught the  
 illiterate to read. Jean's cousin  
 Miriam Olson, was instrumental in getting  
 a ten acre avocado farm made into a  
 public park that could serve the people  
 and children of Whittier California.

In my own family I see Sally happy  
 in campus ministry and youth work and  
 Ron and Molly active in church work and  
 also having fun with plays. I feel this  
 is building a good foundation for the  
 future of the children in the family and  
 the church.

Sue Brauer Ochsner

Dec 9, 1992