

Playwright Bradford, Visiting City, Tells of Drama to Open in Fall

Author of "Ol' Man Adam and His Chillun" Is Collaborating With Jacques Wolfe on Musical Show, "John Henry."

By VIRGINIA MOORHEAD MANNON

Roark Bradford is in Indianapolis "to gab." It is taken by consent that he came this way because Indianapolis is the old home of his wife, formerly Mary Rose Himler, and that a few nights' conversation with Mr. and Mrs. John Mellett, their hosts, is well worth the trek from New Orleans.

"The author of 'Ol' Man Adam and His Chillun,' the book upon which the play, 'Green Pastures,' was based, Mrs. Bradford and their six-year-old son, Richard, 'have no particular plans except to go home.' They brought along their cook to make the thick Southern drink coffee. Mr. Bradford drinks every hour with condensed milk and quantities of sugar. He says, 'After the coffee, the taste of the effect of the coffee, such bitter-sweet about going to bed. The Bradford test of congeniality is the ability to stay up all night and talk. 'The stupid people drop off about 11 or 12 o'clock,' the author simply stated. 'The good ones stay up late.'

The photo about not going to bed is a carry-over from the days when Mr. Bradford worked on a New Orleans morning newspaper and knocked off work at 2 a.m. "It would have been as silly for me to go to bed then as for a man whose job is done at 5 p.m. to jump into bed when he gets home," he said.

He's just completed the libretto for "John Henry," which he explained, is what the Greeks call a drama with music. "I looked it up," he said, "and it's really a melodrama." When he wrote the original book, he did the libretto in "doggerel free verse" and aspired to write the music himself. This ambition led him to rent a room and take music lessons from a man who could not read music and had "really have to work to learn music." Four years ago Lawrence Tibbett suggested that Jacques Wolfe do the music and that's how he and his collaborator met. "John Henry" will probably be produced this fall in New York with an all-Negro cast. "We think we've found the man in New Orleans to sing the title role," he added.

Now Showing in Patagonia

"Green Pastures," the stage version of which played to its biggest business at Wednesday matinees at English's theater here, is still going strong as a matinee. The play is shown in Patagonia.

Up to now, Mr. Bradford has written only one play which has been produced. It started out as a skit poking fun at the French Quarter for the Group Theater in New Orleans. "One of the girls with a walk-on part wanted something bigger and what with one thing and another I finally found myself with a three-act play," he said. "The title, aptly conceived by Mrs. Bradford, was 'Lousy with Charm.'

As a shining example of the simplicity that goes hand in hand with genius he wrote a line in the play: "Does anyone want to buy a house in the French Quarter?" It was just a little scheme to draw attention to the fact that he wanted to sell his own house in the Lousy-with-Charm section of New Orleans. "Every time I turn my back the termites eat it up and it's probably eaten up now," he explained. As luck would have it he still owns the house, but the play was a great success. "We invited the right people," he said, "and there was no admission charge."

Uninformed people may think a good steady downpour is reason enough to call off a picnic, but Back Stage Club members who sampled the rainy day hospitality of Wallywood Saturday afternoon and evening know that one of the best parties of the season was a success in spite of the elements. The general dampness which might have caused some people to adjust their sunshades only added to the gaiety of the crowd who wandered from Mr. and Mrs. Wallace O. Lee's golf course, swimming pool, country house and stables to the rustic log cabin among the trees where the picnic supper and informal business meeting took place. The club, which is composed of active Civic Theater workers, chose Saturday to wind up its festivities for the year.

Heading the organization next season will be George Fotheringham, who was elected president at the business meeting. Mrs. Charles Martin is the new first vice president; Mrs. H. H. Archibald, secretary and treasurer. On the coordinating committee were Mrs. John Gordon Kingham, chairman; Mrs. Lawrence Shappert and Richard Hoover. Mr. Lee is to head the Civic Theater membership drive in the fall. The seven prizes which were to be given for outdoor contests at the "Blow Out" are to be the inspiration for similar events at a late summer membership drive meeting.

To Mr. Lee, retiring Civic Theater president, the club presented a plaque bearing a horse's head to be hung in the clubroom of the Wallywood stables. Passage was given to Mr. Hoover, theater publicity director, who is to become assistant director of the Pittsburgh Playhouse in the fall. J. Perry Meek, retiring vice president, made the presentations.

Mrs. Estelle Rauh Burpee will give a dinner at the Columbia Club this evening for Miss Janet Noyes and Frederick M. Ayres Jr., whose marriage is to take place Saturday, June 23. Out-of-town guests, who have come for Miss Noyes and Mr. Ayres' wedding will include Miss Millicent Raymond of Cleveland and Miss Virginia Bradway of Detroit, who are visiting Miss Noyes and William Townsend of Greenwich, Conn., who is visiting Mr. Ayres. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stafford are to entertain from 5 to 7 o'clock tomorrow at Woodstock Cut for Miss Noyes and Mr. Ayres.

Society Plans to Attend Outstanding Horse Shows

Indiana horse lovers are eagerly perusing a full and interesting calendar of horse show dates. Ten outstanding ones will attract spectators and entrants from Indianapolis.

The Arlington Horse Show will be held Wednesday through Saturday evening at the Robert H. Brown Stables, 46th St and Arlington Ave.

W. C. T. U. to Go To San Francisco

EVANSTON, Ill., June 13.—Leaders of the W. C. T. U. of the Indianapolis Christian Temperance Union will be in San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 4-19 for their 63rd annual meeting, the organization's general offices here announced today.

The group will complete plans for a million dollar nation-wide National Temperance Education Program to coincide with the worldwide observance of the birth of Frances Willard, American temperance leader.

A national teaching seminar on the alcohol problem will precede the convention with five sessions, Wednesday and Thursday conducted by Miss Bertha Rachel Palmer, national director of the Department of Alcohol Education.

Party Is Arranged For Harry Weaver

The fourth annual horse show of the Franklin Polo and Saddle Club is to be held the evening of June 25 and the afternoon of June 26 at the Johnson County Fair Grounds. This is the first year for a two-day show sponsored by the organization. Entries close Saturday and are to be mailed to Ray Adams or Miss Martha Wheeler, Franklin.

The Muncie Fair Horse Show will be July 31 and the Richmond Horse Show is July 24. The shows at Noblesville and Shelbyville have been set for Aug. 8 and 9 and Aug. 7 and 8 respectively.

Additional premiums, added classes and innovations will enhance the annual State Fair Night Horse Show, Sept. 4 to 9. This year the show will offer six Arabian classes and the Indiana Saddle Horse Association will sponsor the Arabian and Yearling Futurities in addition to the \$10,150 premiums. The annual Boys' and Girls' 4-H Filly Club special will be held Saturday afternoon, Sept. 3.

The South Bend show will be held Sept. 18 at the Red Fox Stables and Sept. 25 and 26 are the dates for the Ft. Wayne Horse Show at Covington Downs, Ft. Wayne. The date for the Indiana Saddle Horse Association's Roundup at Gregg Farms has not been set.

Lichtenauer Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Emil M. Lichtenauer announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary Anna, to Richard Louis Curtis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Curtis. The wedding is set for July 30 at 4:30 at the Zion Evangelical Church. The bride-to-be attended Butler University and is a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority. Mr. Curtis is also a Butler graduate and is a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Tri Delt's Arrange Country Club Dance



Miss Roberta Conreaux (right) was completing arrangements today for the Delta Delta Delta society dance which is to be held tonight at the Ulen

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