

1950 Quiet Weekend, by Esther McCracken

March 29th, 30th and April 1st 1950



Personally, I consider this year's play - Esther McCracken's "Quiet Weekend" - is the most entertaining produced at HGS during the last seven years at least, even including last year's "Pygmalion". Not one part was miscast, but I think that Miss Horsefield - an astonishing transformation to the leggy gum-chewing schoolgirl, Mr. Allan (Upper 6th historians appreciate his unintentionally amusing "That, young woman, is a very sweeping statement") and Miss Harris deserve special mention. Mr. Haynes as Denys undoubtedly caused much fluttering of feminine hearts - other than Miranda's. The play was excellently produced by **Mr. Johnson**, who is already firmly established as a producer, at least as far as School Dramatics is concerned, and he may justly be proud of himself and everyone else who made the play the success it was.

Gladys Alderman, U6A. Holgate.



Mr. Johnson

∴ CAST ∴

(In order of appearance).

SAM PECKER	...	W. FARRAR
MARY JARROW	...	K. WIMPENNY
SALLY SPENDER	...	D. HORSEFIELD
MILDRED ROYD	...	M. BURN
ARTHUR ROYD	...	R. W. HAMILTON
BELLA HITCHENS	...	M. JACKSON
MARCIA BRENT	...	B. J. WOODWARD
MIRANDA BUTE	...	C. COPLEY
DENYS ROYD	...	R. A. HAYNES
ADRIAN BARASFORD	...	K. ALLAN
JIM BRENT	...	W. J. LEONARD
ELLA SPENDER	...	N. F. HARRIS
ROWENA MARRIOTT	...	J. R. WHITWORTH

SCENE.

The Living Room of the Royds' Cottage in Thropleton.

ACT I.

A Friday afternoon in September.

ACT II.

Scene 1. Saturday Afternoon.

Scene 2. Six Hours later.

ACT III.

Sunday Afternoon.

MUSIC.

Introduction.

Til Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks. R. Strauss.

Ist Interval.

Hymn to the Sun Rimski Korsakov

Hindu Song "

2nd Interval.

Chinese Dance Tchaikovsky.

Dance of the Flutes "

Dance of the Flowers "

Producer	...	...	J. L. JOHNSON
Stage Manager	...	...	R. FOY
Assistant Stage Manager	...	...	C. H. OWEN
Business Manager	...	...	L. N. COLLETTE
Properties	...	...	K. WARD
			J. A. SWINBANK
			S. CLOSE
Scenery	...	...	J. D. COMBS
Make Up	...	...	W. J. LEONARD
Lighting	...	...	R. GORTON
Stage Staff	...	...	J. BREEDON
			C. STEPHENSON

1951 Without the Prince



A little before the end of the Easter Term, the staff encouraged and advised by Mr. Leonard, the producer (photo left), performed "Without the Prince" by Philip King. The performance was preceded by certain unfortunate occurrences. Firstly, Mr. Burnett, who was to take the part of Robert, was taken ill and had to be understudied by Mr. Young. On the actual day of the first performance, Mr. Young had to be rushed home ill, and no one who knew the part was left. Mr. Leonard, with a producer's acquaintance with the part to help him, immediately set to work to memorise the lines, and managed to give one of the best performances which we have had from him in a Staff play. Miss Harris, too, caused anxiety by developing a temperature on the day of the Wednesday show, but she managed to carry on, and, as usual, played her part beautifully. But why has this very able actress to be confined to the same type of part, year after year? We should like to see her given the opportunity to show her ability in different character studies. The entire action of the play takes place in the living room at Hill Top Farm, the home of the Weatherheads, in the village of Upper Netherwick.

Act I 8-30 p.m. some time in April.

Act II 10-0 a.m. the next morning.

Act III 5-0 p.m. the same evening.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Mary Weatherhead	M. P. Austin
Robert Weatherhead	G. R. Burnett
Rev. Simon Peters	K. E. Revill
Ezra Weatherhead	K. Allan
P. C. James Hawkins	W. Farrar
Emma Weatherhead	B. M. Corfe
The Stranger	R. W. Hamilton
Wyndham Johns	A. W. Walker
Madeleine Lees	J. R. Whitworth
Mrs. Peters	N. F. Harris
Produced by	W. J. Leonard.

Behind the Scenes

Business Manager	G. C Senior
Stage Manager	C. Dodd
Assistant Stage Manage	A. D. Taylor
Properties	K. Ward, K. Wimpenny
Wardrobe Mistress	M. Saville
Scenic Artist	J. Combs
Make up	W. J. Leonard, K. Wimpenny
Prompter	M. Smith
Electrician	W. Farrar
Assistant Electricians, Stage Carpenters, etc.	- Manning G., Schofield P., May E F, Wilkinson R. G., Fisher R. E., Ardron, B., Bywaters, G.

Interval Music

Overture to William Tell	(Rossini)
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy	(Tchaikovsky)
Danse Macabre	(Saint-Saens)
Swan Lake Ballet Music	(Tchaikovsky)



We should especially like to congratulate those members of the staff who were acting on the stage for the first time; we think they did exceedingly well. The play was a great success and a definite improvement on some of the more recent Staff efforts.

Thelma Robinson, U6A.



"BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON"

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Mr. Puffet	J. D. Combs
Bunter	A. W. Walker
Mrs. Ruddle	S. Close
Harriet (Lady Peter Wimsey)	N. F. Harris
Lord Peter Wimsey	K. Allan
Miss Twitterton	M. P. Austin
Frank Crutchley	C. H. Owen
Rev. Simon Goodacre	R. W. Hamilton
Mr. MacBride	L. N. Collette
Constable Sellon	W. J. Leonard
Superintendent Kirk	W. Farrar
George	A. D. Taylor
Bill	G. O. Young

Produced by

B. J. OWEN and K. WIMPENNY



ICE CREAM will be on sale in the interval
 after Act II.

SCENE

The Living Room at "TALLBOYS"

ACT I.

9-30 a.m. on a Wednesday morning in October.

ACT II.

1-30 p.m. the same day.

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

ACT III.

Scene I—Thursday evening.

Scene II—Friday morning.



<i>Business Manager</i>	G. O. YOUNG
<i>Stage Manager</i>	T. MANNING
<i>Properties</i>	K. WARD
<i>Wardrobe Mistress</i>	M. METCALFE
<i>Scenic Artist</i>	J. D. COMBS
<i>Make-up</i>	W. J. LEONARD
<i>Prompter</i>	H. SMITH
<i>Stage Electrician</i>	W. FARRAR
<i>Assistant Electricians</i>	BIRCH, J., PARKER, D.
<i>Stage Hands</i>	WALKER, R., GASKELL, R., JONES, J., SWIFT, T.



Once again we come to the staff play which, this year, was called "Busman's Honeymoon". It proved a great success and as the actors warmed up to their parts, the performances improved tremendously. Mr. Allan gave a very outstanding performance as Lord Peter Wimsey and Miss Harris made a very attractive and charming Harriet, Peter Wimsey's wife. We congratulate Miss Harris on her new type of part which she portrayed with great success. Miss Austin gave a very fine performance as Miss Twitterton and Mr. Hamilton made a very typical country parson. Mr. Walker, Miss Close, Mr. Combs, Mr. Owen, Mr. Collette, Mr. Farrar, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Young and Mr. Taylor played their parts with great gusto and enthusiasm. **Miss Wimpenny (left) and Mrs. Owen** (photo's left)

can be proud of their production, especially when one considers that they had a difficult play to produce, a play in which conversation and not action was the dominant feature.



Molly Dodsworth, U6A Price

"Busman's Honeymoon", a comedy thriller by Dorothy L. Sayers and M. St. Clare Byrne was well presented on Wednesday, when the Staff of Hemsworth Grammar School opened a three nights run at the School Hall. Each player displayed evidence of a genuine understanding of his or her part, and the nuances of intrigue and drama, and the humour always held the interest of the large audience. Central characters of the play were Lord and Lady Peter Wimsey, a couple whose honeymoon was marred by a killing. Mr. K. Allan excelled as Lord Wimsey, Miss. N. F. Harris gave a delightful portrayal of his young and attractive wife. Miss. M. P. Austin was convincing as the fussy and somewhat whimsical Miss. Twitterton, a middle aged spinster, who had not given up the idea of marriage. As Bunter, the gentleman's gentleman (20 years with Lord Peter and never a harsh word), Mr. A. W. Walker was formidable, and the part of Mr. McBride - a Jew keen to recover his money - was capably handled by Mr. L. N. Collette. Mr. R. W. Hamilton was well cast as the Rev. Simon Goodacre, the benign old vicar, while Mr. C. H. Owen did well in the part of Frank Crutchley, the aggressive gardener and Miss. S. Close did ably impersonate the gossiping hot-tempered Miss. Ruggle. Messrs. W. J. Leonard and W. Farrar competently handled the parts of Sellon and Supt. Kirk. Most of the comedy was supplied by Mr. J. D. Combs, who made the most of the role of Mr. Puffet, the village handyman called in to sweep the chimneys. The brief but well carried-off appearances of Mr. A. D. Taylor and Mr. G. O. Young as George and Bill the broker's men, added to the humour. The production was a credit to the joint producers, C. J. Owen and K. Wimpenny. The play was repeated last night (Thursday) and the third performance will be given tomorrow night.

The article comes from Geoff Govier. Thank you.

1953 "When We Are Married" by J.B. Priestley.

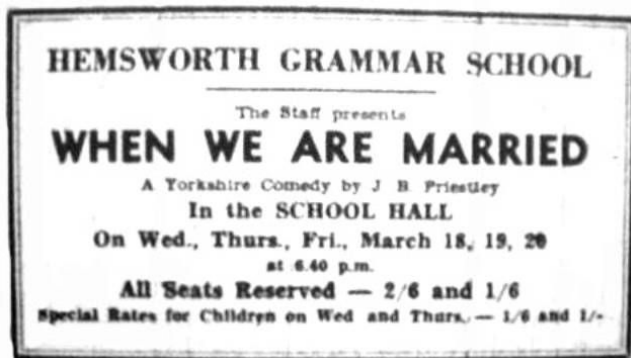
March 18th, 19th and 20th, 1953

"When We Are Married" Preview



"When we are married," which is to be presented next week by Hemsworth Grammar School Staff, is a Yorkshire comedy by J.B. Priestley. The setting is some 45 years ago on the town of Cleckleywyke, presumably in the Cleckheaton – Heckmondwike district, and many of the characters have to speak in Yorkshire dialect. The play, which is being produced by **Mr. W.J. Leonard** (photo left), starts with the silver wedding celebrations of three couples, all of whom were married at the same time in the same chapel - the pompous, over-bearing Councillor Albert Parker, the hale-fellow-well-met Alderman Joseph Helliwell, the hen-pecked Mr. Herbert Soppitt, and their respective wives. These parts are being portrayed by Messrs. W. Farrar, K. Allan and R.W. Hamilton, Misses N.F. Harris, P. Kilner and P. Austin. Early in the play the three couples learn, for the first time, that a technical hitch had occurred at their wedding and their varying reactions to this catastrophe form the main theme of the play. Further complications are introduced by a mysterious Lottie Grady (played by Miss S. Close). Mr. A.W. Walker is cast as Henry Ormonroyd, a drunken photographer combining comedy and pathos in a very difficult character portrayal. Another character which is difficult to interpret is that of Mrs. Northrop by Miss K. Wimpenny. Miss D. Elliott will appear as the pert servant, Ruby Birtle, Mr. J.D. Combs as Gerald Forbes, Miss J. R. Whitworth as Nancy Holmes, Mr. A.D. Taylor as Fred Dyson, a young reporter and Mr. E.G. Lock as the Rev. Clement Mercer.

The first performance will be given next Wednesday.



Review

The Staff Play this year was a Yorkshire farcical comedy by J. B. Priestley, entitled "When We Are Married." The action of the play takes place in the sitting room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckleywyke, a town in the West Riding, during a September evening in 1908. Exactly 25 years earlier, 3 young couples had been married at a local chapel and now they met to hold a small celebration party in honour of their Silver Wedding anniversary. During those 25 years one of the husbands had become an Alderman, another had become a Councillor and all were known in the district. But the party atmosphere did not last for very long; the couples discovered that they were not really married, for the priest

who had officiated at their weddings had not been authorised to perform the marriage ceremony. The Helliwell's housekeeper had been listening outside the door and had heard the story; she immediately left to go down to a local "pub" and, therefore, spread the unfortunate piece of news. As a result, a former lady friend of Alderman Helliwell arrived and put the house into further confusion. To complicate matters still more, the couples had arranged for a reporter and a photographer from a local newspaper to come to the house to write an article on the occasion and to take a few photographs. Complication followed complication, until it was discovered that the photographer, who had called at a local "pub" on his way up to the house, was in the same position as the 3 couples. However, he had found out that the marriages had been legalised by the presence of the registrar, and, that, in fact, the couples were married after all.

The play was a great success and a credit to all the members of the Staff and the School who were concerned. The acting, stage settings, decor, "props", make-up, costumes and lighting were all first-rate. As with other plays, the producer is the person to whom the chief credit and honour must go; his interpretation of the play was excellent and we must thank him for three very amusing and successful performances.



Jim Ainge, L6A.



WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

by

J.B.Priestley

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Ruby Birtle	...	...	D.E.Elliot
Gerald Forbes	...	...	J.D.Combs
Mrs. Northrop	...	...	K.Wimpenny
Nancy Holmes	...	...	J.R.Whitworth
Fred Dyson	...	...	A.D.Taylor
Henry Ormonroyd	...	...	A.W.Walker
Alderman Joseph Helliwell	...	...	K.Allan
Maria Helliwell	...	...	P.Kilner
Councillor Albert Parker	...	...	W.Farrar
Herbert Soppitt	...	...	R.W.Hamilton
Clara Soppitt	...	...	P.Austin
Annie Parker	...	...	N.F.Harris
Lottie Grady	...	...	S.Close
Rev. Clement Mercer	...	...	E.G.Lock

The action takes place in the sitting-room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckleywyke, a town in the West Riding

Act I. A September evening, 1908.

Act II. About half a hour later.

INTERVAL 15 minutes.

Act III. About a quarter of a hour later.

PRODUCTION

Producer	...	...	Mr.W.J.Leonard
Stage Manager	...	...	Mr.P.F.Collins
A.S.M.	...	...	Mr.A.D.Taylor
Stage Hands	...	Dyson, Exley, Liall, Pearson	
Decor	...	Miss J.E.Parkin, Ann Greetham	
Prompter	...	...	Miss M.Smith
Property Mistress	...	...	Miss K.Ward
Wardrobe Mistress	...	...	Miss J.E.Carter
Lighting	...	Mesars: W.Farrar, G.C.Senior	
Make-up	...	...	Mr.W.J.Leonard
Refreshments	...	Miss D.Horsfield, Pat Atkinson	
Business Manager	...	...	Mr.J.A.Swinbank

We thank Mr.T.Shelton of Hemsworth for Loan of Furniture

Geoff Govier has sent us these reviews from 1953. Thank you.

1. Hemsworth Grammar School staff made the most of the amusing situations in J. B. Priestley's "When We Are Married" which they have chosen as their current production. Fine acting, effective stage setting, costumes and make-up, combine to make "When We Are Married" a worthy successor to previous staff productions and a credit to producer W. J. Leonard. The six people whose equilibriums were somewhat upset by the thought that they had only been "living together" were admirably portrayed by W. Farrar, K. Allen, R. W. Hamilton, N. F. Harris, P. Kilner and P. Austin. In the remainder of a good cast were D. P. Elliott, K. Wimpenny, J. D. Combs, J. R. Whitworth, A. W. Walker, A. D. Taylor, S. Close and E. G. Lock.

2. When the plot of a play provides for three couples being told amid joint silver wedding celebrations that the minister who conducted the marriage ceremonies 25 years previously "was guilty of culpable negligence and not an authorised person", hilarious situations are bound to develop, especially if the author is J.B.Priestley.

That is just the case in Priestley's When We Are Married, a Yorkshire farcical comedy, and the staff of Hemsworth Grammar School, who opened a three-night run on Wednesday, made the most of those situations to keep a packed audience in a happy mood throughout the production. Acting ability, effective stage setting, and costumes and make-up, true to the time of the play - 1908, in the town of Cleckleywyke, presumably in the Cleckheaton-Heckmondwyke district - combine to make "When We Are Married" a worthy successor to previous staff productions and a credit to producer Mr. W.J. Leonard. Advance bookings indicated another "full house" for last night, and there has been a steady flow for tickets for tonight's performance.

The six people whose equilibriums were somewhat upset by the thought that they had only been "living together," were admirably portrayed. There was W. Farrar as the pompous, over-bearing Councillor Albert Parker, K. Allan as Alderman Joseph Helliwell, a hale-fellow-well-met character, and R.W. Hamilton as the hen-pecked Mr. Herbert Soppitt. Their respective wives were played by N.F.Harris, P. Kilner and P. Austin. Those characters, although the principals, did not overshadow the remainder of the cast. There was no one outstanding personality, all were good. Miss D.E. Elliott, in her first year as a teacher at the Grammar School, gave a fine character study of Ruby Birtle, a pert servant. K. Wimpenny gave an excellent interpretation of Mrs. Northrop, the daily help, and as Gerald Forbes and Nancy Holmes, respectively, J.D. Combs and Miss J.R. Whitworth were well cast as young lovers. A.W. Walker, appearing as Henry Ormonroyd, a drunken photographer, combined comedy and pathos to make the most of a difficult character portrayal. A.D. Taylor, S. Close and E.G. Lock completed the cast with good acting in the parts of Fred Dyson, a young reporter, Lottie Grady, and the Rev. Clement Mercer respectively.

Mr. P.F. Collins was stage manager, assisted by Mr. A.D. Taylor, and other "back-stagers" adding to the success of the play were: Dyson, Exley, Lyall and Pearson (stage hands), Miss J.E. Parkin and Ann Greetham (décor), Miss M. Smith (prompter), Miss K. Ward (property mistress), Miss J.E. Carter (wardrobe mistress), Messrs. W. Farrar and G.C. Senior (lighting), Mr. W. J. Leonard (make-up), Miss D. Horsfield and Pat Atkinson were in charge of refreshments, an interval attraction for the audience, and Mr. J.A. Swinbank was business manager.

1954 "An Ideal Husband"



The Staff this year presented "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde. Performances were held on March 31st, April 1st and 2nd. The play was admirably and fastidiously produced by **Mr. Walker** (photo left) and the costumes and settings were a tribute to long, arduous work by Miss Ward, Miss Metcalfe and Mr. Collins. Miss Yates, as this year's Business Manager, was kept very busy but she must feel that her efforts were duly rewarded when she succeeded in selling, for the first time, every ticket for all three performances.

Cast

Mrs. Marchmont

Lady Basildon

Vicomte de Nanjac

S. Brogden

N. F. Harris

K. Allan

Mr. Montford

Mabel Chiltern (sister and ward of Sir Robert Chiltern)

Lady Chiltern (wife of Sir Robert Chiltern)

Mason (Butler to Sir Robert Chiltern)

Lord Caversham (father of Lord Goring)

Lady Markby

Mrs. Cheveley

Sir Robert Chiltern

Lord Goring

Phipps (valet to Lord Goring)

Harold (servant to Lord Goring)

W. Farrar

D. E. Elliott

M. P. Austin

A. Stewart

R. W. Hamilton

K. Wimpenny

P. Kilner

R. S. Johnston

C. H. Owen

W. J. Leonard

A. D. Taylor

"How's my hair at the back? . . . Are my lips red enough? "Have I too much powder on ? . . . How's my eyebrows?" These were some of the remarks, heard coming from the dressing room; but they did not come from the ladies - they came from the men! It is a unique occasion when Mr. Stewart can be seen fussing around trying to "do" his hair whilst Mr. Owen is crowding him out, from the mirror. Grease-paint, powder, cotton-wool, and false hair were scattered around the Domestic Science room. Through the haze of powder and vaporous sweat, amazing transformations were taking place. In one corner, Mr. Leonard seemed to be taking sadistic delight in ageing members of the staff well before their time. In another corner, the Ladies' Chorus was giving gruesome "rendings" of popular songs whilst Miss Brogden was busy chopping pieces out of herself with scissors through sheer nervousness and then collecting a crowd round when the blood started to flow. Near the door, Miss Austin was staggering around making a last minute attempt to become word-perfect. At that moment Mr. Farrar charged in, exclaiming, "Lord! I've forgotten my eyebrows!" And then, catching sight of Mr. Hamilton in semi-make-up, suggested that if Mrs. Hamilton could see her husband now . . . ! Above all this was heard the plaintive cry in the wilderness..... "Has anyone seen my book?" Back comes the reply, "What do you want your book for?" "What the devil do you think I want it for; to re-write it?" During the process of make-up, only four mirrors were available and, consequently, confusion reigned. Tempers frayed and biting remarks exchanged.... "Come on, whiskers, hurry up, man. You've had this mirror since five o'clock. It doesn't matter how long you spend here, you'll never be any better for it" "Why don't you drown yourself, glamour clogs". The Ladies' Chorus, the sirens in the sea of confusion, retaliated swiftly when the men began hiding the greasepaints, by bursting into discord and torturing everyone within hearing distance. During the actual play two masters at least showed themselves to be quite competent in obstacle races; Mr. Johnston gave a first class impression of the famous "Flying Scotsman", thundering down to the Physics Laboratory for a quick change. Mr. Owen took all the fences in flying style when his quick change came. He has the knack of taking a right-angled bend on one leg and one hand. Throughout the play, many members of the cast had the urge to scratch but, unfortunately, could not because of the danger of damaging their make-up; some wanted to cough or sneeze; and at least two, on Friday night, wanted to be sick. The job of prompting is not altogether a dull job as Miss Smith found out on Thursday night. Her book slipped down between the white facing of the stage and the stage itself. The intrepid Miss Smith squeezed down after it and found that she was "up to the neck" in trouble. The stage was so high that only her head was showing above the boards. She called for help and it took Mr. Allan's muscles to lift Miss Smith out. One often wonders what the actors in the background talk about during a drawing-room scene. On Wednesday and Thursday nights they discussed the lighting arrangements, cursed unresponsive audiences, and cruelly discussed: "Who will be first to forget his lines?"

Finally, when you see the ladies gliding sylph-like across the stage, stop and think what difficulties they are with difficulty surmounting. The ladies in this were walking in dread of their dresses falling apart. The bodice was held to the skirt only by press-studs and these kept unfastening. Miss Austin dared not sit down too often because of this and it is wondered whether her clasping of her hands in the waist region was a gesture of emotion or just a safety precaution!



L-R: Betty Allen U6A, Joan Dyson U6S, Josephine Wilkinson L6S, Michael Nurney L6A (Editors of the School Magazine 1954)