

BIRTHDAYS:

Best birthday wishes go to the following Spotlighters having birthdays in August: **Cathy Blackmore, Del Collins, Jim Collins, Gene Fitch, Bill Jensen, Priscilla Mayfield, Tom McCaslin, Johanna Meyer, Sandy Radford, Sam Walker & Jim Youell.**

This column lists birthdays of our Spotlight members, but I wanted to announce that July 22nd saw the dawning of **Scott Radford** as a teenager. Wow! 13 years old! Way to go, Snoopy!!

CAST NOTES

Recent months have seen the debuts of several new cast members. August will see the debuts of two new cast members and two debuting in new roles. Making their Drunkard debuts are **Bill Sheets** as Willie Hammond and **Tabitha Littlefield** as Little Mary. **Tabitha** is a ‘veteran’ on the Spotlight stage, having appeared in many of the Children’s Theatre shows. **Kris Osborn** will be adding Ann Slade to her roles played and **Mark Leach** will be debuting as Simon Slade. Welcome to the two “newbies” and two “returnees.”

Recently, we have been having several people writing us on our web-site and calling, asking about how to go about auditioning. We can only hope this trend continues, as we can use “new blood” in the show.

Recently, we have had a few former cast members attending the show or calling. Former Sample and Simon Slade, **C. J. Spanyard**, brought a group down celebrating his daughter’s birthday. We also had a party whose relative had played Sample back in the late 1950’s, probably 1958 or 1959. His name is **John Damron**. He is now in a nursing home. His family who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were going to visit him shortly afterward.

Had a phone call from former Sample Switchel and Harvey Green, **David Reeder**. He has been in town recently visiting his father who is in the hospital here. He mentioned that his daughter,

Amber Fine, had been learning a part in the play, but has had health problems and has been unable to continue. **David** lives in Siloam Springs and has directed several plays there. His health won’t let him travel too much or he would have come back down and gotten involved in the Drunkard again.

OLIO-VATIONS

July saw the debut of **Bill Sheets** into the Olio as a singer. He did a very nice job and will a great addition to the Olio. It is also very nice to see a new pianist into the fold, **Larry Mitchell**. He comes to us, thanks to our ragtime pianist, **Bill Rowland**. He is very talented and spent four years as pianist in the Air Force Band. He is also a pastor. Just to show you his versatility, he filled in one Saturday, armed with only the notes **Bill** had supplied him with. He had never seen the production prior. He did a very amazing job. He has now seen the show and taken notes of his own. He will “re-debut” on July 26th. Welcome to both of the new additions.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, July 13th and four new Board members were elected. Elected to three year terms were **Kris Osborn** and **Carol Snow**. One year terms went to **Donald Gilmore** and **John Barker**. Then the Officers were elected and the new slate of Officers are: **Larry Stockard**, President; **Richard Robertson**, Vice President; **Carol Snow**, Secretary and **Donald Gilmore**, Treasurer. **John Barker** will continue his duties as Cast Director; **Mark Roberts** will take over the Olio duties and **Kris Osborn**, the Down Front Director [Ed. Note: YAHOO!!!!] Sammy awards were announced and they went to: **Kris Osborn, Bill Rowland, Jere Uncapher** [What for?], **George Killion, Travis Gregg, Lee Studerus, Josh & Mindy Barker, Jim Collins, Jim Beattie, Kevin Radford, Milissa Burkart and Denise & David Hillin**.

The Spotlighter of the Year award went to a very deserving person, **Travis Gregg**. The Vice

President’s Award of a watch went to **Kevin Radford** and the President’s Award, also a watch, went to **Jere Uncapher**. Congratulations to all of the winners!

GET WELL SOON

A couple Spotlighters are recuperating from surgery recently. **Polly Nobles** has had surgery on her arm or hand and will be out of action for a little while. I hope someone will take up the slack writing all of those big checks at Interstate Electric. **Dale Montgomery** is still recovering from having his spleen removed. We hope they haven’t removed that mean streak for Harvey Green. Spotlight operator, **Jim Collins**, is recovering from a broken foot. He is in a cast and doing fine. Hopefully, he will be back at the theatre by the end of August. **Linda** says he really hates not being able to work the Spotlight, but going up and down the ladder presents a problem at this time.

Also, **Billie Sue Thompson**, recently lost her mom. Our best wishes to all involved.

DOWN FRONT NEWS

Kris Osborn has taken over the duties as Down Front Director and actually scheduled August. She has been looking at the down front duties and will be tweaking them a little. She will take her “tweaks” to the Board meeting for consideration. We hope you will all treat **Kris** as kindly as you can. Call her if you have a problem with the scheduling, as it will take her a little while to get used to the routine.

CHILDREN’S THEATRE REPORT

Final preparations are being made on the 2008-2009 season. Right now, we are in rehearsal for our up-coming production of *Beauty and the Beast*. It is scheduled to run August 15 - 17 and 21 - 24. Directing the show are **John Barker** with assist from **Joshua Barker**. After this show, we will be doing a production of *The Princess And The Pea*, starring **Billie Sue Thompson, Whit Hanna, Annie**

Ellicott and Frank Gallagher. This is a self-contained show being put on in the Spring for the Tulsa Public Schools. The dates chosen to be presented at the Spotlight are Friday, September 12th at 7:30 PM and Sunday, September 14th at 2:00 PM. Don’t miss a chance to see this. It is being presented by special arrangement with the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa.

The 2008-2009 schedule will be found on the back of the Down Front Schedule.

RESTORATION BEGINS

As I am writing this, Olshan Foundations are working on the back men’s dressing room, putting some piers under the floor to keep it from pulling away from the building. There will be more restoration beginning in the near future as money becomes available. Keep your eyes on the newsletter to learn the latest.

Richard Robertson has been actively looking to find some storage building space to put our Children’s Theatre overflow in. He has had several leads, but not a lot to report on as of yet.

GREMLIN’S COLUMN

I would like to thank the Board for the special presentation awarded to me at the Annual Meeting. I received a jacket commemorating my 50 years at Spotlight. This goes well with the other jacket I received at the 50th Anniversary of *The Drunkard*. I treasure them both.

After the meeting, I was asked why I don’t take a break. I replied that I would be climbing the walls if I took a break. Sometimes, I think I was the model for that little pink bunny you see running around. You know, the Energizer bunny.

FROM THE PREZ...

Financially, we are looking better at this moment. Operating income for the past 12 months is up 12.5% over last year. Operating expense only

went up .5%. Operating Profit [before donations] is up 78.9% over last year. Children's Theatre income up 18.3%. Income from concessions, T-shirts, merchandise, etc up 52% over last year *20% of our operating income now comes from concessions and merchandise sales, compared to 14.7% last year.* Publicity and advertising expenditures declined by 23.9%, yet our audiences have been growing steadily. Donations for the past 12 months were down about \$5,400 from last year, but the Operating Profit [after sammie & donations still exceeded last year by 25%

We have given away a little over \$2,000 this year to Disabled American Veterans, Happy Hands and TCC, as compared to \$550 last year.

We have received a \$4,000 grant from the Flint Foundation in June for restoration. We have received an invitation from the Helmerich Foundation to submit a proposal for capital funds to renovate the exterior of the building.

Some highlight of 2007-2008:

-We are very fortunate to have hired Whit Hanna as the new director for **The Drunkard**.

-George Killion was supplied to us by AARP and has been our part-time janitor since November. He has been good help fro Jere and done a great job in keeping our six restrooms, the Green Room, the dressing rooms, kitchen, lobby and auditorium cleaner and brighter for our casts, volunteers and audiences.

-Kevin Radford continues to store and maintain our riding mower at his home and provide us with beautifully manicured grounds.

-Richard Robertson has continued to maintain colorful flowers in the pots in front of the theatre. They look so beautiful and add so much to the appearance of the building..

-We participated in the Price Tower's *Starr-Goff Tour of Homes* on June 1 and hosted a champagne reception for over 100 preservation-minded devotees to the work of Bruce Goff, Gene Starr and Frank Lloyd Wright. We rubbed elbows with some very kind and influential folks.

-Thanks to the persistence of Catherine Christie who was adamant about directing *Anne of Green Gables*.

The Children's Theatre had the first of two record-breaking productions of 2008.

-Thanks to the efforts of Josh & Mindy Barker, John Barker & Richard Robertson, *The Jungle Book* was the second SCT record breaker of the season, not only for attendance, but also for profitability. We also discovered the benefits of a crowd control director to help optimize the seating capacity of our little auditorium,. *We averaged 111 people per show for the 7 show run.* Crowd control will become a regular part of future SCT shows.

-After talking to dozens of Spotlighters about our purpose and our mission we've come up with..."**To entertain families and have fun enriching lives, on-stage and off, through theatre and the performing arts.**" Think about it..It's hard to sum up, but I think we're getting close.

Objectives for the coming year:

-We will continue to...

-**seek maximum utilization of resources** [space, time & talent], **reduce costs** and **provide** the highest level of family entertainment possible.

-**recruit** aggressively to build the cast of *The Drunkard* to a level of 6-8 deep in each part.

-**audition & showcase** Green Country's newest, finest talent for *The Olio*.

-**strive** to create a festive & entertaining environment for our patrons which begins when they arrive.

- **promote, advertise, build a presence on the internet, pursue grant money and promote the Spotlight Theatre Restoration Fund.**

These are things we would like to see done in the next year.