

## THE LITTLE THEATER

Usually, one of the biggest problems any Little Theater organization has is the problem of finances. Even in the larger cities Little Theaters are able to survive only because there are citizens willing to serve as patrons and make substantial donations for the purpose of keeping the theater going.

The Little Theater in Sylvania is one of the newest organizations in the Community and it has never had a financial problem.

We feel this is due mainly to the noble purpose for which the theater exists. Founded early in 1951, its principal purpose is to help civic clubs and organizations make money for worthy projects.

How the theater operates without a financial problem is simple. When a civic club wants to make money for any worthwhile project, members of the theater will give their time and talent to producing a show. The sponsoring organization assumes the cost and collects the profits.

To call the Little Theater in Sylvania an organization may be stretching a point a little. Actually, there is no formal organization. No meetings are held unless a play is being produced. Then the members of the cast meet for rehearsals. Director of the theater is J. H. Reddick, clerk of courts in Screven County and a former school teacher who has had much experience directing amateur dramatic productions. He also has proven himself a capable actor as well as a director. He played the leading role in "Abie's Irish Rose," produced during September.



The theater came into being early this year when the Business and Professional Women's Club wanted to make some money to be used for marking the streets in Sylvania. Members of the club asked Mr. Reddick to direct a show for them and called on people in the community who enjoy doing such things to take roles in the show. "The Night of January 16th" was selected.

In no other activity which has taken place in Sylvania this year has a spirit of community cooperation been better exemplified. Virgually every organization in the community was represented in the play. Twenty-one people had parts in the play. In this group were members of the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, and the Woman's Club.

The play was presented for two performances and the Business and Professional Women's Club made a total of \$425 from the venture. This money is being used to buy concrete posts to mark the streets of Sylvania.

While the play was in rehearsal, members of the cast decided to offer their services to other organizations wanting to make money for projects which would benefit the entire community.

Next organization to take advantage of this offer was the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Needing funds to use in its work with the Boy Scout Troop, the Jaycee organization asked the group to produce "Abie's Irish Rose" for them.

Two performances of the play were sponsored by the Jaycees and they netted \$350 for use in their work with the Boy Scouts.

The Negro citizens of the community expressed a desire to see the play and the cast agreed to present it in one of the Negro churches. The proceeds from this performance, which amounted to \$69.85,

were given to the Screven County Training School, the high school for Negro students.

The Parent-Teacher Association from near-by Newington asked the cast to present the play for them. The money from this performance, \$135, will be used by the Newington P.T.A. to help complete the gymnasium under construction at the Newington High School.

In the Jackson Community, the 4-H Club is attempting to improve its meeting room and the cast did a performance in the Jackson Elementary School auditorium. The 4-H Club made approximately \$100 from this performance.

In the Little Theater the spirit of community cooperation which prevails in Sylvania is well exemplified. The actors do their job for the love of acting and for the personal satisfaction of knowing they have helped a good cause -- or to be more accurate, many good causes.

And Sylvania has a Little Theater without financial headaches.