

PLAYHOUSE 59
PROPHECY OF THE CLASS OF 1959

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Tonight's the big night. From all over the U.S., people are flocking to the premier of the fabulous "Playhouse '59, a production of the Taft High School class of June 1959. It is only ten years later, but the success achieved by this class in that short time has made necessary the almost complete revision of "Who's Who in America".

To get the story behind the story let's go to one of our roving reporters,

"Here I am in front of *Aerie Playhouse* designed by Morton Drake, Glen Richert, and Chuck Lunaburg, in a departure from their customary bathtub designing assignments. The outside of this unusually shaped theater was painted by Suzy Knudsen and Tom Hookanson in the im-pressionistic style with a lipstick brush. Both of the windows were washed sparkling clean by Nancy Carlson and Rich Cervenka of the C & C Window Washing and Drying Company.

I am now standing under the Marquee. This original and dazzling array of lights was designed by Charlene Watzke and assembled by Bill Stevens and James Zubert. Their work has attracted much comment from the artistic spectators in the crowd tonight, for the Marquee is composed of millions of tiny fireflies caught by Steve Kruto.

There was quite a draft sprung up. It seems that Eagles have re-turned, so we'll move into the lobby for the show is about to begin. After several episodes of tripling over feet and spilling pop-corn, we make our way to our seats just as a hush spreads over the audience and orchestra director Joe Bartel, stops to the podium. He raises his baton, gives the downbeat and the entire orchestra, consisting of Richard Burhop, Dave Baetz, and Fred Allegretti on the drums, Jim Szott and Al Sears with their rock and roll guitars and the triangle jazz soloist, Jackie Behl, begin their medley of popular songs from 1984.

Then, amid a tremendous fan fare, Jerry Ciffone, M.C, for the night, steps onto the stage. After a few corny jokes he introduces the first act. The lights dim, the curtain rises, and onto the stage steps the star of the first act, Yvonne Klincik, singing excerpts of "Barber of Seville" with the entire company of the Metropolitan Opera sing-ing her background music.

The first scone takes place in the local health bar where the complete cast is gathered around Deanne Dramis, proprietress.

In the background, we see the dancing group known as the 4 M & M's. They are, Leanne Mattick, Carolyn Merrill, Joyce Michals, and Phyllis Mindak. They are doing a clover dance step to "The Milk Barrel Polka. Susie Gardner, the singing waitress, comes downstage and seems to be trying to drown out the star. She's succeeding.

The scene is abruptly ended with the backdrop suddenly falling forward into the midst of the cast. The scene on the stage suddenly turns into utter chaos. The stage crew rushes forward with James Rix in the lead. Under his direction, Frank Cibulka, Jim Haubner and Bill Struck, laboriously endeavor to upright the backdrop. Simultaneously the cry for a medic goes up. MEDIC!

Fighting their way to the stage are doctors, Kelsey Peterson, Ken Monahan and Ted Rolander and nurses, Karen Madsen, Louise Thompson, Carole Mommsen, Carole Ford and Terry Makinen.

Also adding to the general confusion are many of the noted psychologists, psychiatrists, veterinarians, and several other well known quacks. These include Gail Kaitis, Larry Reed, June Berg, Kathy Ely, Tom Konefes, and Norene McGlade,

Since no one seems to be accomplishing anything, the ushers, under the direction of Dave Gattorna and Neil Vetter clear the stage. The audience returns to their seats and after a slight pause, the curtain rises for the next scene.

Carolyn Warden and Barbara Gornell, former Las Vegas show girls, have teamed up to present one of the most death defying acts ever seen on any stage. They will attempt to dive from a 180 foot plat-form into a pool of water. "Ladies and Gentlemen - - - there they go!

Oh no! Someone forgot to put water in the tank. Wait a minute! Is it birds? Is it planes? No! It's Bonnie Schmidt, JoAnne Wolfe, Bonnie Rehtorls and the mighty James Hansen to the rescue (of the tank, that is.) The impact would certainly have dented the bottom of the expensive tank.

The curtain quickly falls and the spotlight is switched to the producer, Carl Peterson, as he rushes onto the stage. He says, ---- "Ladies and Gentlemen: .

I have a special news bulletin. Watching our show tonight by a special closed circuit T. V. are Bill Rice, and his co-pilot, Gerald Szesko, who are the first men to leave the solar system.

Just think, they're up there now, whirling 'round and 'round in space ----- We hope!"

The M.C. steps onto the stage and announces the first inter-mission. He signals to one of his co-workers, Kent Meyer, a report-er, who is out in the vestibule. He is now ready for his first in-ter-view. We see that Kent cornered an unsuspecting spectator. We learn that he is one of the first multi-millionaire golf champions; none other than Tom Foote.

The interview is cut short by the M. C. who wants to switch to one of the other reporters, Chuck Freeze, who has a lady in the balcony. We learn that she is, Judy Young, the first and last woman driver at the Indianapolis Speedway. She drove at 300 M.P.H.

Suddenly another reporter, Rolfe Kolconay, on the main floor, interrupts to say he has a man who just completed a race where he traveled 300 ½ M.P.H. His name is Melvin Kielas, a champion auto racer. Well, look who's strolling in ---- Kurt Marquart and Paul Walker, each with three sets of twins. I might say they are a good advertisement for their diaper service.

We now see Joe Votava ushering in Sue Harvey, Janet Ingram, and Judy Thornton, women of the Lonely Heart Seekers. Bill Tubbs, the reporter, at the other end of the vestibule, says that he has just talked to a group of lovely ladies who have gathered here for a teacher's convention. Namely, they are Janet Jacobsen, teacher of French, Marilyn Moldenhauer, teacher of German, Janet Wordell, teacher of Russian, and Judy Hultman, teacher of slang.

They are accompanied by Joan Tiedje, teacher of foods and auto mechanics, Carol Frenzel, sewing and basketball teacher, Helene Sahwenpel, teacher of skiing, Joanne Comao, math and engineering teacher, Barb Lynn, teacher of singing waiters, Janice Stiller, drama and tap dancing teacher, Ruth Haasis, typing and counting teacher, Barb Boddy, Civics and Janitor's teacher, and Cathy Crisanti, a teacher's teacher.

Their shy attempts to attract the attention of the members of the party from the Engineer's Convention do not go unnoticed, several engineers, including Ray Peterson, Arden Byers, Ken Visconti, Richard Walker, George Antkowiak. Dan Anderson. Tom Behnke and James Parker have decided to change the seating arrangement of the theater. As the engineers try to pick up their chairs in order to carry them to a more profitable vantage point, they are quietly restrained by the night sticks of the ushers, Augie Alonzo. Bill Beyer, and Barry Bleeker, A deafening Gong! From a huge gong in the lobby announces that the show is about to continue. The audience rushes for their seats. When all is quiet the M, C. again appears. He peers out into the audience and notices Ken Erikson, accompanied by his secretary, Marcia Nolting, who have just returned from Timbuktu.

By the way, Ken has finally accomplished his experiment in Mau Mau country. He tells us that the stewardess who was with him on the unusual plane designed by Allan Blume was Diane Gareffa. She is one girl that everyone is looking for. Also on the trip was rising young movie star, Paul Cirricione, who also has a business called "World Wide Photography."

Now back to the show. The orchestra drifts into the lilt-ing strains of that beautiful song --"Trees", as the chorus line, dressed as trees, goes into its routine. We notice especially the exceptional dancing of Sandy Leal and Rita Glaubich, two chorus line cuties just returned from a tour of Paris.

After the dance number by the "Trees" the stars of the act, Nancy Milkulski. Vivian Page and Merle Wevang, the three chipmunks, come on stage to sing a medley of songs from their latest album, "Looking at the World through Rose Colored Acorn Shells". The girls do an astonishing job, too. After the wonderful singing, we look in our programs and see that the next act is a Western. Oh Goody!

As the curtain rises in the west we see "Soggy Valley", formerly called "Dry Gulch", but due to circumstances the name had to be changed. Coming down the lonely road is Steve"maverick"Thompson, and Don"Wyatt"Jaeger, who are on their way to the trials of Robert Drinan, who was accused of stealing chemicals from the Macadome Chemical Company. Chief Justice, Sue Willers, is presiding over the case.

The court recorder is Adrienne Stupka and the jury consists of Cindi Olson, owner of the boarding house, Dr. William Holtz, the best doctor in town (he is the only doctor in town), Peggy Sica, owner of the Silver Galosh, and Bruce Lohr, the town medicine man.

After the exciting trial is over and Robert is convicted, the whole courtroom audience steps over to the Silver Galosh, where Lorene Lansdon and Chris Oberheide are serving lemonade and cookies. All of a sudden, riding through the town, shooting people left and right comes Gerald Anderson, the terror of the West. After the smoke clears, we see that Gerald has succeeded in his plot to rescue Robert. Unfortunately, the livery man, Eugene Snow, has failed to shoe all the horses in town, so the sheriff, Weston Hinkell, is unable to give chase. But Justice will triumph,----- LATER! The curtain falls.

While we have a few minutes between acts we'll take a tour backstage, as we hear several of our old classmates are there. Going backstage we hear the ringing of phones, clatter of big feet and an incessant chatter. First, we come across Wilma LaRock, the switchboard operator, busily taking calls of congratulation. At the present she has on the wire, Jean Rupa, who was unable to attend because of her busy schedule as a nuclear physicist. Another reason for her absence is that her laboratory is located in Fairbanks Alaska.

Moving on we see, Karen Waltman, Sharon Brazale. and Sue Surma, warming up for their dance routine - "The Calypso Mambo Rock." Accompanying them on the tuba is JoAnne Schultz, famed tuba player with the first Poughkeepsie Symphony Band.

Ruth Bentz, the director of all dance routines, is attempting to change the number at the last minute, but isn't succeeding. Farther along we see Dorothy Cline. Joyce Winther, Carole Tata, and Nancy Majewski, in a bull session over who is the fastest stenographer. The girls all work for Kent Berthold, star reporter for the Mickey Mouse Times. Kent is so determined to get the whole story; he needs four stenographers to be able to record his 500 words per minute dictations.

Carolyn Trefny, head of the department of prompters, quietly tells us—"SHHHHHHHHHH! Can't you see that Karen Newberg and Jim Westney are on stage?"

We see that they are pantomiming the words to the instrumental version of "Tea for Two." They really would be doing a fine job, too, if Dennis Topolinski would quit bumping the phonograph with his broom backstage. The skipping of the record really shakes Karen and Jim.

Moving on we spot, Sherry Manda, swabbing the throats of all the show's guinea pigs to take back to her Laboratory of Technology in San Francisco.

Over in the dressing room we find Bonnie Anderson and her assistant, Ruth Volling, the beauticians, who are putting the finishing touches on Evelyn Ashby, who is playing the role of the sultry mis-tress in the eighth act. Bonnie is using the new magic formula make-up, designed to hide a blush. It is the supreme effort of Judy Henriksen, who has been at work on this formula since 1959. By the way, Bonnie and Ruth are receiving many compliments for their latest achievement. They did all of the hair styling and beauty work in the caveman display at the new museum.

Finishing the repairing touches on the scenery damaged in the Health Bar act, we find Madeleine Raymond, Rae Marie Hillier, and Barbara Knudson, three real "way out" artists from Greenwich Village. As you no doubt noticed, the scenery this evening is way, way, out.

As we round this stage set, we hear the cry "Where, oh where did that needle disappear to again?" Gloria Coco the seamstress seems to have lost her needle and Carol Ann Johnson and Gail Lombardo are again arguing over some designing revisions in the costumes.

Racing back and forth we find millionaire resort owners Ben Shor and Rod Kath, who are the chief backers of the program. They are accompanied by Bob Swider the famous playboy millionaire and Jeff Carson, who married the owner of the world's most lavish country club. Trying to calm them all down is Ron Neuman, the country club's tennis pro, who is also Jeff's body guard. They are all upset because the swimming pool for the next act has sprung a leak forcing the people in the first row to put on their rubbers, and the plumber, Robert Erickson, still hasn't arrived.

Moving on we see Rita Diven, Marilyn Gitzke, and Judy Halterman, busily making revisions in the script for the next act. For the next act??? Oh, well!

Also, we see Diane Dykeman, a critic from the Kansas City Holiday, roaming around backstage. She seems to be trying to get autographs instead of reviewing the show. -- Well| Just behind the curtain we find Rich Andersen sweeping the stage. Upon being asked whether or not he is the caretaker he answers, "No, this is just a hobby." Actually Rich is a trapeze artist who knocks down bowling pins for automatic spotters.

As we leave this man who thinks for himself, we come across Don Eberl, who is bowling in one of the wings. It seems he must continue his practice at all times to better his 310 average.

Continuing on our backstage tour we bump into Marianne Phole, who is the private nurse to all child prodigies in the show. Right now she is chasing the former Diane Amend's triplets. Seeing that one of the big acts is about to begin, we return to our seats.

The curtain rises on a lavish tropical scene surrounded by an especially built swimming pool designed by Bob Bukowski. Dancing out on the stage are Eileen Kearns, Mary Molitoris, Dominic Scimeca, Arnie Werling, Karen Lange and Dale Rolfsen, interpreting "The Quiet Village". Accompanying them on his specially built pipe organ is Dennis Fruhauf.

At the end of the dance number the spotlight turns on the world renowned "Aqua-Ducks", who have just returned from a tour of the Sahara Desert. The group is composed of Denise Kussy, Sharon Olson, Judy Nelson, Sandy Fulton and Sharon Kelgard. They do a marvelous water ballet, but the scene is slightly disrupted by the appearance of an underwater frogman. As he surfaces, we notice it's none other than Pete Saiger. The girls will not continue their act, so the next scene is prepared. The curtain rises, and now as we look across the stage we see a dazzling display of color and lights, and we see, hear, and smell the typical circus scene. After Lester Torrey rounds up the unruly elephants, the show begins. The lights are focused on a girl who has accomplished her one and only desire to be the tallest girl in the world. Her name is Delores Killian.

In case anyone is inter-ested, she accomplished this by eating Jim Newberg's "Growing Pills".

In the middle arena Abner Cunningham, wearing his tight tights, is seen flittering around like a butterfly with his companion, Diane Goldstein.

The two midgets that keep getting In the way aren't really midgets. They are a variety of small people called "children". They are the two-headed, talented twins, whose mother Is the former Karen Knuth. They are also the star students of Caryl and Caryn Glasti, the twin, twin tutors.

Felicia Zamorski now enters with her zebras and begins her famous trained zebra act. Flee also owns a 30 acre quarter horse ranch in the heart of downtown Detroit.

As a finale for the circus act comes the circus band led by Ann Fear, twirling her baton. Included in the band are Annette Boos, Joyce Muehleman and Judy Harris, playing their new musical saws.

We see it's time again for another. We switch' back to Tom Eckdhal, another roving reporter, who is interviewing two young

Girls --- Sally Gundell and Pat Santell, who conduct "Old Maid Tours" of New Orleans. They say that business is really booming. Some of their recent customers have been Nancy Nelson, Dorothy Goberville, and Judy Stevens. While they were there they visited the new "Kaplan Memorial" dedicated by the former Taft students who have visited New Orleans with him.

Standing just beyond them we see the former Beverly Borgue, who has her little girl with her. We notice that the child is wearing an original frock from the "Helms Shop", owned and operated by Joyce Helms.

We see Leah Herbst working in the vestibule checking Don Meeker's engineer's cap. Don is the President of Lionel Trains. We also notice Alan Bachmann, Al owns the company that printed the very original programs. His girls Thursday and Friday are none other than Marcia Chesters and Marilyn Weninger.

At the other end of the room we see the noted Italian Chef who is noted for his famous mushroom and anchovy pizza. He made this pizza with the assistance of Mary Ann Musillani for this gala occasion. The chef is known as Nick Pelletiere.

You see Judy Hallinan by the only opened window gasping for fresh air because of the large group of people surrounding her. Judy holds the world's longest record for not cracking a smile, even though one of the world's wittiest girls, known as Dale Brettman has attempted to break this record.

We see a small group congratulating Carole Albano, Carol Anderson, Jennifer Bowen, and Evelyn Zeitz, for establishing an Australian branch of the Women's Auxiliary of Secretaries and Businesswomen. Over there is Art Elmberger, the noted critic of the Prairie Schooner News. He has written such articles as "How Does Your Garden Grow" and "The Do's and Don'ts of Raising Anteaters".

Joseph Baireis is now found interviewing Nancy Chyles. Nancy tells us that she is the head dress designer for Sharon Carlier's Dress Company. Together, they have invented the new step-ladder look.

We hear from another roving reporter, Albin Knapp that he has found a girl in the vestibule. The girl seems to be dripping wet. We find that she is Betty Henning and she has just finished swimming the English Channel ---- backwards.

Looking into the opposite corner of the vestibule, we see a very large crowd. Fighting our way through the goggle-eyed wolves we find the reason. George Coughlin, a roving (eyed) reporter is interviewing four rising young starlets, Sally Weed, Sandy Jensen, Joanne Hamrin, and Corinne Vlcek. Wow!

Penni Eichin is found in the vestibule singing "Three Coins in the Tin Cup", as her able bodied assistant Rita Kolconay, passes the tin cup. We find that there is only one coin, however, because Dennis Lube has managed to extract the other two.

Albert Herda, another reporter, has Pat Ryndak by the hand. We find out that she, Mary Vlahos, and Barbara Walden, have started a new craze by wearing of green wigs with matching lipsticks.

At the other end of the vestibule we see James Wyse, together with Judy Woolf, Kathy Winters, and Linda Hafencher, reviewing the fun they had together in high school. But it is learned that they are Lab Technicians at the Polniaszek Firm. whose president is Robert Polniassek.

We hear a rumpus and find that Mary Ann Kammien, Betty Kuras, Sharon Pozdol, Judy Moll, and Laverne Myers, and usherettes, who are fighting to usher JoAnn Paldorf, the actress, who has just finished playing a role in "My Life as a Light Bulb." Because of the interview in the vestibule we missed the opening scenes of an exceptional ice-skating act by Lois Jacobs, Dorothy Engels, Marlene Sunagel, Geri Lesniak, Ann Bachert and Marlene Rizzi.

Bob LaPietra, who is the head dentist of the Washington Park Zoo, and his assistant, Aggie Schwamb, tell us that the finale of the act was really something. As the girls began to spin faster one of the girls lost her balance, and skidded across the ice, and flew in the audience. Luckily, Ron Barth, was prepared and caught her, Stewart James, Deputy Janitor in Chief of the U. S. Armed Forces, was so impressed with Ron's brave deed, he immediately presented him with a medal for bravery. Unfortunately Ron already has one, so Stewart agreed to exchange the medal for another.

To get the show going, the chorus is now seen on the stage. They are singing that old standby "Were You There?" We notice that a few of the members are a little mixed up. We hear Charles Burm in the soprano section singing "Theme Song from the Return of the Werewolf." Kathy Conrad, whose voice suddenly changed overnight, is found in the bass section singing "In the Cradle of the Deep," and Daniel Lackowski is singing "Summertime" from the picture "Stormy Weather."

Now, Bruce Elliott and Carl Linguist step forward for their comedy routine — a little number where they try to out talk Lois Kavale, the well known orator.

The M.C. steps up to announce the next act. "Our "Little Leagers" are here tonight to demonstrate their first and last breath taking exhibition called "One for All and All for Fun." The curtain rises to thundering applause.

The first man up to bat is Bob(Shorty)Petersen. Facing him on the pitcher's mound is "Cinnamon Bend" Jim Fischer. He hurls the ball to Bob, who takes a mighty swing and sends the ball rolling. Bob picks up the ball and dribbles it down to the first base. SAFE AT FIRST!

Next batter is Tom Edmunds who gently (with his finger tips) forces the ball over the head of Denny Cavan who is the star fullback.

Karl Fiedler, who is in the outfield, gracefully lifts his racket and smashes the ball to second base, where Bob Henninger tackles the runner. Next up to bat is Larry Marsh, who tripled to second base, forcing Greg Napier back to the end zone. That's four strikes and the side is retired.

Now Gordy Lund steps up to the free throw line and throws the ball to Ken Neubert, who kicks it back to the pitcher. He makes a force play at home plate. "SAFE!" says Jim Cimfel, the umpire. A heated argument follows and Jim is finally asked to move from behind the pitcher's mound, where a glare from his orange pants is blinding the batters.

Next batter, Steve Svetlik, sends a two-handed hook shot deep into center field, where the right fielder, Rich Jurgens takes care-ful aim and shoots it down. Ken Yonan runs to retrieve it but hits a snag when he finds there are no holes in a ball. The game is indefinitely delayed because Nancy Bower is seated in center field reciting poetry and all of the players are seated around listening intently.

THE CURTAIN FALLS

The M.C. appears --- "And now ladies and gentlemen our grand finale." The entire cast of thousands steps on to the stage for a rousing chorus of "London Bridges." Amid the singing, color, lights blaring orchestra and the dozen brightly colored running fountains, the curtain falls. The applause shakes the entire theater for a half hour. What a smash!

Moving into the lobby with the rest of the crowd we see Ken Grossich and Audrey D'Almaine pushing their way through the mass. They are facing to their perspective newspapers to meet the dead-line for their reviews. Each one wants to be the first to get the real scoop.

The crowd slowly moves out into the street. All seem to be headed for the party head at Junelle Otremba's. Well, we'll go too.

At the door of Junelle's we are greeted by Sue Dziekonski, who leads us over to a small crowd surrounding Beverly Minison and Karen Dryer. They have just completed a movie entitled "White Wash Jungle", all about a young teacher in Greenwich Village.

Browsing through the milling crowd we catch a glimpse of Carol Lubinetz, the first professional party goer. Carol has been doing this for so long, that it has become bad luck not to invite her. By her appearance the party has a fairly good chance of being a success.

Over there is Angeline Paul, or by her professional name, "The Snooper". Nothing goes on in Hollywood or on Broadway that doesn't appear in Angles' column.

Coming in now, we see the former Donna Aylward, Ruth Albertz, Jackie Schmidt and Eleanor Bookie, who are all married to prominent stars.

Look who's here. Claire(Kadiddlephopper)Kudish with her millionaire husband. They have just returned from dinner at "Supper Dog".

Another group consisting mainly of Phil Knoll, Tony Sperandeo. Larry Payne, and David Ross are discussing the latest race at the local drag strip where Paul Korczyk was the first to run 180 M.P.H. in 12.2 seconds. Joyce Slown, also in the group, is giving advice about their cars. She is a personal advisor for men only.

Moving away, we find Joyce Syrwal and Barbara Semchuk, who just lately succeeded in beating Buddy Bomar in a bowling match. They combined their scores --- Of course!

Over there is that new movie sensation Zsa Zsa Bardot(Phyllis Sorrentino). Miss Bardot first came to the public's attention when she was photographed holding the sponsor's product. It was the little bitty can with the eight big tomatoes. Ever since, she's been a squashing success.

Tonight, we have the pleasure of seeing that big game hunter David Wood, and here he is all the way from the Dark Continent with the members that accompanied him on his famous expedition.

In the lead is his distinguished co-worker, registered nurse Sandra Stewart carrying a bottle of Homogenized Tse-Tse Fly serum. Sandra is the only nurse with a hot and cold running thermometer.

Behind her are James Fisher and Gordie Mueller, those eminent lawyers whose brilliant defense of the Mau-Mau's have made them the most sought after men on seven continents.

Following their footsteps come the famous modernistic artist Karen Goebel and the prominent musician, Maestro Les Zurawic. Karen and Les have recently signed a contract to produce a film on the trials and tribulations of an artist and composer in the heart of a cannibal's cook pot. Last we see Mary Ann Pecan. Mary has been working for Mr. Wood for a fabulous salary ever since she rescued him from his burning plane.

As we leave the party, tired but happy, we are almost run down by Eugene Brudnicki, one of the famed Holsum Bakers, leaving for work. This reminds us to chock the time and we see that Gene is almost on time. It's just 3 A. M.

Three a. m. and all is quiet --- except the whistle of Al Peterson, the lonely cop, directing all of the imaginary traffic at the deserted intersection.