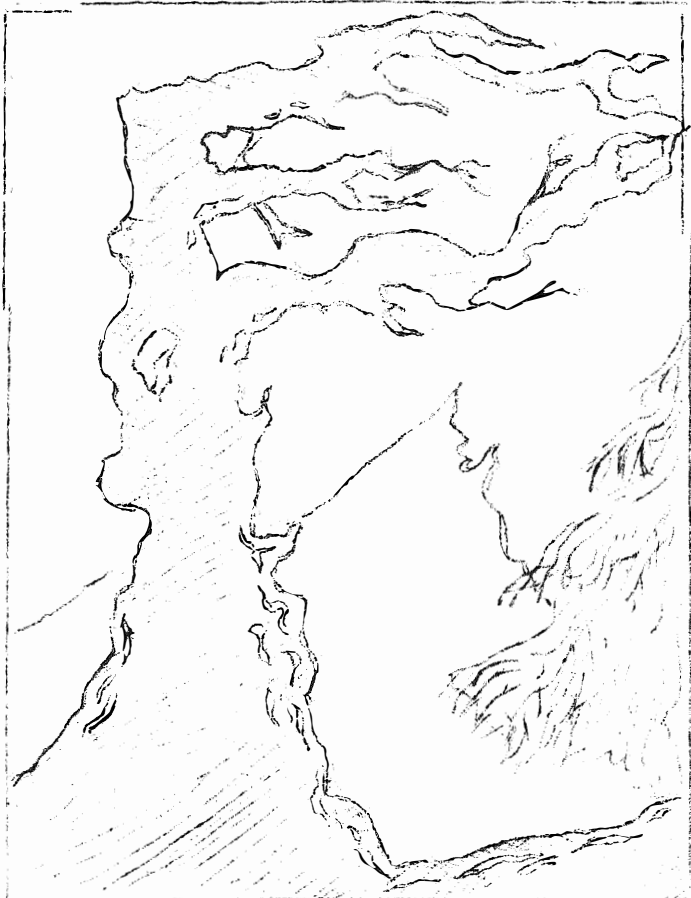


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DARK of the MOON

by Howard Richardson
and William Berney
Directed by
Miss Cheryl Merkins
December 4 & 6 8:15p.m.

"A witch boy from the mountain
came,
A-pinin' to be human"

Thus begins the ballad of Barbara Allen and the story of "Dark of the Moon," this year's RLC drama department production. The American folk drama will be presented by a cast of 22 students Thursday and Saturday, Dec. 4 & 6, under the direction of Miss Cheryl Merkins, speech teacher.

Tickets will be available free to RLC students prior to the performance and will be sold to the public at \$1.50. However, if RLC students prefer reserved seats, these may be purchased for \$.50. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. both nights.

Written by Howard Richardson and William Berney, the fantasy of witches and mountain people was first produced on Broadway in 1945.

A high eerie ridge in the Smoky Mountains is the opening scene of the drama. A witch boy, John, asks the Conjur Woman to change him to a human, because he has fallen in love with Barbara Allen, the "purtiest gal in the valley." The ancient Conjur Woman agrees, but only if John will marry Barbara and she in turn will remain true to him for a year. If Barbara is unfaithful to her husband during that time, John must become a witch again.

John and Barbara are married, but the Buck Creek residents are suspicious of the stranger. Their fears are confirmed when Barbara bears their child, a "witch baby" which is promptly killed by Barbara's midwives. Convinced that John is a witch, Barbara's mother drags her daughter to a religious revival on the last night before John's trial year is to end.

Driven into a frenzy of emotion by the Preacher Haggler, the townspeople are determined to rid the valley of the witch at any cost. Believing their desire to be also the "will of Gawd," they force Barbara to be untrue with the aid of her former suitor, Marvin Hudgens.

John's bargain with the Conjur Woman is thus broken, and the outcome is the inevitable tragedy.

"The play is tremendously exciting and powerful," says Miss Merkins. "Although you know from the beginning that John and Barbara's life together is doomed, you still are kept in terrible suspense as you await the tragic end."

Playing John is Bill Webb, and in the role of Barbara Allen is Sara Dykes. Other principal cast members are Mike Sanders as the Conjur Man, Shirilyn Farris as the Conjur Woman, Kipp Proefrock as Marvin Hudgens, Rita Hoyt and Mary Galbreath as the tempestuous witches, and Wilbur Franklin as Preacher Haggler.

Barbara's parents are played by Nathan McClintock and Jean Derges; her brother Floyd is portrayed by Mike Jones.

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Other Buck Creek residents are Mrs. Summey (Debbie Pullis); Edna Summey (Angie Garner); Uncle Smelicue (Dan Ripplinger); Hank Gudger (Steve Speake); Miss Metcalf (Linda Atchison); Mrs. Bergen (Becky Orrick); Hattie Hefner (Angee Moses); Mr. Bergen (Warren Kraft); Mr. Summey (Don MacKenzie); Mrs. Jenkins (Mary Jane Shupe); Greeny Gorman (Barb Garavalia).

Interwoven into the action of the play is singing in the form of ballad, hymns, and folk songs.

Termed a "show of magic appeal" by the New York Herald Tribune, "Dark of the Moon" has had an interesting history. During its Broadway run, so many cast members died that the actors believed the play was cursed. One actor died in the wings and another had to be carried offstage by other actors when he suffered a heart attack during the revival scene.

Several famous performers, including Paul Newman, Shelly Berman, and Betsy Palmer, have had roles in performances of "Dark of the Moon."

BY SARA DYKES

COLOR ME TURKEY

TURKEY--now there's a nice six letter word that usually conjurs up a mental picture of a plump, feathered creature with a red gobbler and lots of tasty white meat. Who could ask for an easier task than to define the word "turkey"?

Noah Webster, that's who! He probably could have filled his whole dictionary with the different meanings of that deceptively simple little word. Instead, he was content to humor the American people into accepting his fowl definition as the one which should be thought of whenever the word "turkey" is mentioned. Here are some other colloquial or slang meanings and expressions involving our favorite Thanksgiving bird.

Had the pilgrims invited a Royal Marine Light Infantryman or an Irishman to carve the turkey for them, either might have been rather suspicious since each sported the nickname "Turkey" in colonial America. A "turkey merchant," comparable to a chicken thief, was a dealer in contraband

CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE ROUND

"Christmas Concert in the Round" will be presented on Mon., Dec. 8 at the National Guard Armory by the Community Chorus and the Rend Lake Civic Symphony.

The Rend Lake Civic Symphony, directed by William Hazelbauer, will be first on the program with four well-known Christmas selections. Next, the Community Chorus under the direction of Charles Render, will sing four-to-five numbers followed by selections from "The Messiah" performed by the combined groups with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Render as soloists.

Free tickets will be made available to all RLC faculty members and their wives and to RLC students in the Administrative Building prior to the performance. Otherwise all tickets will be \$1.00.

silk, while, on the otherhand, someone who was called a "turkey buyer" was a banker or some other important citizen.

Oddly enough, to a butcher, "turkey" may mean any cheap cut of pork, bacon, fish, hash, or chicken. Of course turkey meat is not called turkey meat--it's "gobbler" or "gobblette" depending on the sex of the unfortunate fowl. Australians sometimes refer to ostriches as "turkeys."

A "turkey" to a waitress or a bell hop means a fifty cent tip. To others, "turkey" is money - that's easily earned.

A person who has had "one too many" might be "driving turkeys to market" (unable to walk a straight line), but a "turkey" is an arrogant gait. The "turkey trot", a ragtime dance popular quite a few years ago, is performed with feet spread apart and is characterized by repeated risings on the balls of the feet. Some of those "turkeys" must have been real swingers!

This Thanksgiving (or Turkey Day), enjoy your domesticated fowl...or your Royal Marine Light Infatryman...or your own bag (canvas, that is)...or whatever kind of turkey is served at your home!

BY MARY GALBREATH

THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD TO CANCEL THANKSGIVING VACATION HAS BEEN VETOED BY THE PRESSING TIMES.

VOTE DEC. 12 FOR
RLC CHRISTMAS QUEEN

Verna Auxier
Debbie Burns
Teresa Feather
Kathleen Kenney
Lynette Myles
Debbie Pullis

Editor's Note: HAPPY TURKEY to those poor unfortunates in P.E. 117!!!