

"Our Town" Presented In Auditorium For Dedication Program

"Our Town" is much like the other towns around the country. It is neither too large nor too small, but just a comfortable size. It's really not the town itself, but the people in it which make the town so interesting, and yet so familiar to visitors from other towns. Such was the general content of the opening lines of the play "Our Town" which was given in the Junior College Auditorium on March 29 by the Town and Gown players of Baton Rouge.

This play typified the beginning of a new era in the writing and production of plays. The stage was entirely devoid of the usual scenery and was furnished with only a few props, the success of the production depending entirely on the acting ability of the various actors. From this standpoint it can be said that "Our Town" was highly successful. For the actors were not only well-versed in knowledge of the elements of stagecraft, but also had attained supreme heights in the practice and exercising of that knowledge.

In particular, G. W. Gray, the stage manager whose informal role as a narrator held the play together in a single piece, was a comfort to the audience and set the peaceful and easy mood which prevailed the entire performance. Ray H. Odom and Claude L. Shaver, who played the heads of neighboring families, ably portrayed the type of men who lived in "Our Town," showing with humor and good quiet sense the family life of a small town doctor and a small town newspaper editor. They were well-supported by the entire cast. Miss Dorothy Kelly as Emily Webb and Emma K. Chase as Mrs. Gibbs were outstanding in their performances.

Three Lake Charles Junior College students also took part in the show as townspeople. They were Orville Emmett, Monnie Watson, and Martha Caldwell. The college choral club took part in the play as the choir of the village church.

Prior to parting of the curtain on "Our Town," the L.S.U. symphony orchestra, augmented by members of the Lake Charles Little Theater symphony orchestra, under the baton of Francis Bulber, music school instructor played a half hour's program which included Von Suppe's "Light Cavalry Overture"; Robyn's "Panquita"; Braham's Hungarian Dance No. 5; Tchaikowsky's "Song Without Words," and Rossini's "Barber of Seville Overture."