

A HISTORY OF
COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF CONCORD, N. H., INC.

In the fall of 1927, "The Mollusc" a drama by H. H. Davis, was presented by a group of theatrically inclined persons in Concord and became the first of over 100 productions since enacted by the Community Players.

At present the third oldest active New England Community Theater, the Players have established the policy of open advertised tryouts held for both members and non-members. This policy has resulted in at least 400 different actors and hundreds more people working on off-stage phases of the productions.

Any listing of active players is impossible because so many people have contributed immeasurably to the status of the Players through the years. We have many members active in the New England Theater Conference, some having taken office in this organization. There are many families in the area who have been active two and even three generations, and in one case, seven members of one family appeared simultaneously in one musical production!

Original works have been presented by the group, among them the highly successful "Winner Take All", book and music written by Alison and Alvah Sulloway, which was produced nine times. One act plays by Harold Cheney have also been extremely well received. Recently, Broadway musicals have been performed with great success through the combined efforts of the Players and the Concord Music Club. Shows such as "Oklahoma" and "My Fair Lady" have played to full and enthusiastic houses.

In 1949 the Players incorporated and in 1964 the "Studio" at 4 Union Street was acquired. The 1964 presentation of "Inherit the Wind" received the Moss Hart Award which is given annually by the New England Theatre Conference for plays which "best typify the spirit of the free world." In competition for this honor were professional, community, college and secondary school theatres. With a plaque to remind us of this achievement, the Players look forward to the future with great enthusiasm.

Currently, plans are underway for another joint venture when the Music Club and The Players present the delightful satirical spoof, "Little Mary Sunshine". Thus, this November, once more the City Auditorium will see the Players "on the boards" where 38 years ago their first play was presented.

August 16, 1965

William G. Hodges, Jr.
President