

SPECIAL EDITION, 9 OCTOBER 1905

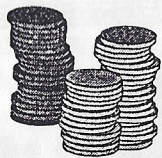
PONTEVEDRO FACES BANKRUPTCY

Our beloved Duke, through the ministry of the Interior, has announced a financial crisis for the Fatherland. The death of the wealthy, renowned banker, Glavari, earlier this year, meant that his widow, Madame Anna Glavari, has inherited his personal fortune of Twenty million Crowns.

This beautiful and wealthy widow has recently left for the Glavari villa in Paris. The Ministry has announced that strict instructions have been sent to our embassy in Paris to ensure that she does not become romantically entangled with a foreigner. If she marries anyone but a Pontevedrian, financially our small yet proud nation would fall into catastrophic bankruptcy.

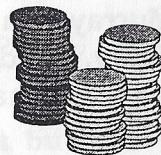
This is a patriotic call to all red-blooded single Pontevedrian men

Who will volunteer to save the nation ?



The Fatherland needs YOU

To marry the MERRY WIDOW !



Madame Anna Glavari

Franz Lehar

Our Woes in Waltztime



Franz Lehar did most of his composing in the peace and quiet of his country retreat at Bad Ischl, Austria.

Franz Lehar, Hungarian born composer, has written an operetta concerning our quest to keep the Glavari millions within the realm of Pontevedro.

Franz was born, the son of a Bandmaster in the imperial Austrian army in Komaron, Hungary on April 30th 1870. His parents encouraged him to study music and by the age of 12 he had won a scholarship to the Prague Music Academy where he studied for 6 years. Dvorak, the eminent Czech composer, told him to "hang up your fiddle, and concentrate on composing music", as also did Brahms. After a year as first violinist in a small German theatre, he followed his father into the Austrian army as Bandmaster at the age of 20, the youngest ever appointed.

The pull of the theatre eventually won out and the success of Lehar's realistic opera "Kukuscha", followed by two operettas, "Viennese Women" and "The Tinker", sealed the direction of his composing career.

We are certain "The Merry Widow" on which he worked with fine librettists Victor Leon and Leo Stein, will prove his most brilliant and sparkling success. His wonderful melodies in waltz time so entrancing, as well as polkas, mazurkas and marching songs, reflect his Slavic and Austrian background, leavened with the sparkle of a heady French champagne.

Madame Zelda Sees All:

Madame Zelda predicts a big future for Franz Lehar. He will go on to write many more operettas and though none will be as famous as 'The Merry Widow' he will long be remembered as the composer who returned viennese operetta to centre stage. I see an operetta named "Land of Smiles" in the future and a tenor called Richard Tauber. Be on the lookout for an operetta about the Count of Luxembourg.



The Grisettes from Maxim's proudly display more than 'an inch of stocking' for their high kicks in the can-can.

On the Grapevine
by Elly de Groot

OPEN HOUSE IN PARIS

Madame Glavari will host a soiree in her villa in Paris for her Pontevedrian friends.

Guests will include Baron Zeta and his lovely wife Valenciennne, as well as an entourage of gentlemen admirers all eager to win the hand of the wealthy widow. Will Count Danilo Danilovitch be present?

One thing is certain, those wonderful Grisettes, Lo Lo, Clo Clo, Do Do, Jou Jou, Frou Frou, Margot and perhaps one or two others, will be sure to make this an entertaining evening.

Amongst the more well known guests will be the cream of Pontevedrian society including Terri Quinn, Paul Fegan, Bryan Phillips, Rowena Plant, Joan Riley, Wayne Castle, Jan Nixon, Murray Black, Graham Stenton, Ros Foley, Gordon Hunter, David Bancroft, Michael Haan, Vic Arthur and Matthew Nutley.



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MAXIM'S

"You'll find me at Maxim's" has become the catchphrase for at least one expatriate Pontevedrian. Count Danilo Danilovitch has been frequently seen with one or other of the fabulous Grisettes. The Management invites you to join us for an evening of fun at Maxim's
32 Rue de Bois, Paris

Savoyards Present "The Merry Widow"

Savoyards, a musical comedy society in Wynnum, (Australia??), will perform the work by Franz Lehar "The Merry Widow" throughout the month of October.

This production is Directed by Ada Groenhart, a director with a long list of credits to her name, particularly in the field of operetta.

She has been superbly supported by musical director, Jan Ashworth, and choreographer Sue Harvey, both well known for their outstanding work in past productions with Savoyards as well as other professional and community groups.

Of particular interest has been the casting, with Dominique Fegan bearing an uncanny resemblance to Madame Glavari (see picture on front page).

Savoyards have spared no expense with a talented cast of singers, actors and dancers as well as a lively orchestra and a stage crew second to none.

Following this production Ada is taking a well earned rest, travelling home to Holland to catch up with her famous composer brother, and then on to the United States where she is hoping to catch a Broadway show or two.

For more exciting news about Savoyards' production, see Jan Ashworth's comments on page 4

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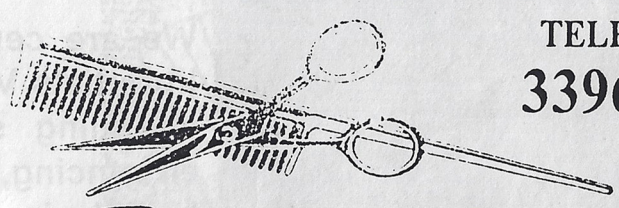
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SAVOYARDS CAST UNVEILED

by Valencienne Zeta

I confess I could not wait to see who would take on the principal roles in Savoyards' production of "The Merry Widow", so I took a peek at a rehearsal and must admit that all the characters had been faithfully reproduced (except moi) so here you are:

Anna Glavari	will be stunningly played by Dominique Fegan
Danilo	will be played by the handsome and talented Colin Briggs.
Baron Zeta	is portayed by Alec Raymond, an excellent likeness.
Valencienne Zeta	is played by Jo Toia, who is not a bit like me except in her ability to win the hearts of the best looking gentlemen.
Camille	is convincingly portrayed by Ray Morley (please remember this is a <u>fantasised</u> version of the facts)
Njegus	is brought amusingly to the stage by Gordon Milward
Kromov	the crusty, jealous attache is portrayed by Ray Shelley
Olga	his wife and target of his suspicions is played by Jane Milward

And then there are the guests we entertained here in Paris:

St Brioché	a Parisian suitor played by Neville McInerney
Cascade	yet another (and I fear likely) candidate played by John Rae
Two Junior Attaches	Bogdanovitch and Pritsch played convincingly by Derek Freeman and Chris Alaru

My good friends Sylvia and Praskovia (who I believe has hidden feelings for Danilo) are played respectively by Marion Grove and Tracey Rowland.

The magical Grisettes are perfectly portrayed by Sonya Bancroft (Lo Lo), Tracey McInerney (Do Do), Sue Matley (Jou Jou), Kellie Hancock (Clo Clo), Alice Nixon (Frou Frou) and Desney Toia and Simone Dewar alternating for the part of Margot. Desney has also acted as Assistant Choreographer.

The entire production is under the magical direction of Ada Groenhart but the magical Lehar music is brought to life by Musical Director Jan Ashworth and the dancing is fun and exciting, courtesy of our fabulous choreographer, Sue Harvey.

A COMMON SENSE APPROACH

BY BARON ZETA

Unlike my darling, slightly flighty, but oh so faithful wife, I prefer to concentrate on the facts. The story appears to have been factually based and I was delighted to meet the competent production crew of:

Stage Manager	Derek Freeman
Stage Crew	Tina Hood, Genevieve Stewart
Lighting	David Sowden, Alan Nutley, Peter Rabe, and Barry Henzell
Sets	Bryan Phillips
Wardrobe	Marilyn Freeman Ada Groenhart
Hair Design	Kay Nutley
Properties	Terri Quinn
Continuity	Tracey Rowland
Publicity	Betty Hill
Front of House	Betty Hill & Committee
Programmes	Doris Nutley & Friends
Photography	Liz & Terri Quinn
Refreshments	Reg Nutley Kaye Nutley & Friends

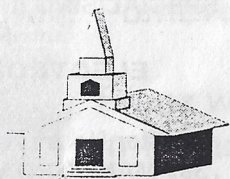
In the orchestra area I found a dedicated group of musicians:

Pianist/Conductor Jan Ashworth
Violins: Rachelle Mohr, Leanne Johnston, Shirley de Wit, Jon Hulett
Flute Barbara Sutton, Clarinet Kathy Shackleton, Trumpet Jonathan Hewitt, Trombone Fred McMurray and Percussion Rachel Merton.

In Memorium

Mr Geoff Arnell	Mr Allan Nuttall
Mr George Daniels	Mrs Marie Walsh
Mr Bill Whitter	Mr Jim Foley

We are particularly saddened to have to add to this list one of our Founding Members, Jim Foley, greatly missed by all



WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT ?

Savoyards, ever on the lookout for something different, will bring the wonderfully funny musical "Me and My Girl" to the stage in 1999.

See our back page for more details, but remember we are always looking for new talent and new ideas, so check out our call for members details and give Jo a ring if you'd like to be involved.



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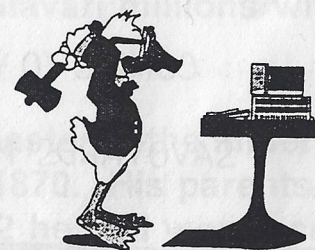
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Because of the interest the competition has already attracted, this year there are two opportunities to enjoy all this entertainment. On Saturday, November 7, the preliminary heats will be held at Wynnum Municipal Hall (In full costume and fully staged) followed by the grand final on Sunday November 15 at the lovely venue: Kedron Wavell Community Centre.

For bookings and further inquiries phone 38901997 or 33483390.

An Interview with Jan Ashworth

"The Merry Widow" marks Savoyards' first foray into the world of operetta for some years.

Franz Lehar has provided musical delights which have thrilled audiences since the operetta was first staged in 1905. With lilting waltzes, rousing choruses and romantic duets, the show recreates the glamour and intrigue of a bygone era - an era which you, the audience, can now become part of.

Talent and dedication are demanded in bringing an operetta such as this to the stage. It has been my pleasure to experience such talent and dedication in this cast and production crew.

May the pleasure also be yours as you enjoy what is arguably the most loved of all operettas - "The Merry Widow".

Life Members

Mrs Olwyn Foley
Mrs Margaret Gibbs
Mrs Thea Gray
Miss Cora! Readshaw
Mrs Ada Groenhart
Mrs Betty Hill

Mr and Mrs Allan Jeffries
Mr and Mrs Reg Nutley
Mr and Mrs Ed Scott
Mr and Mrs Arthur Hall
Mr and Mrs Jim Tomkins
Mr and Mrs Gil Wright

SAVOYARDS' COMMITTEE

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Book written by **STEPHEN CLAPHAM** Lyrics by **NOEL GAY**

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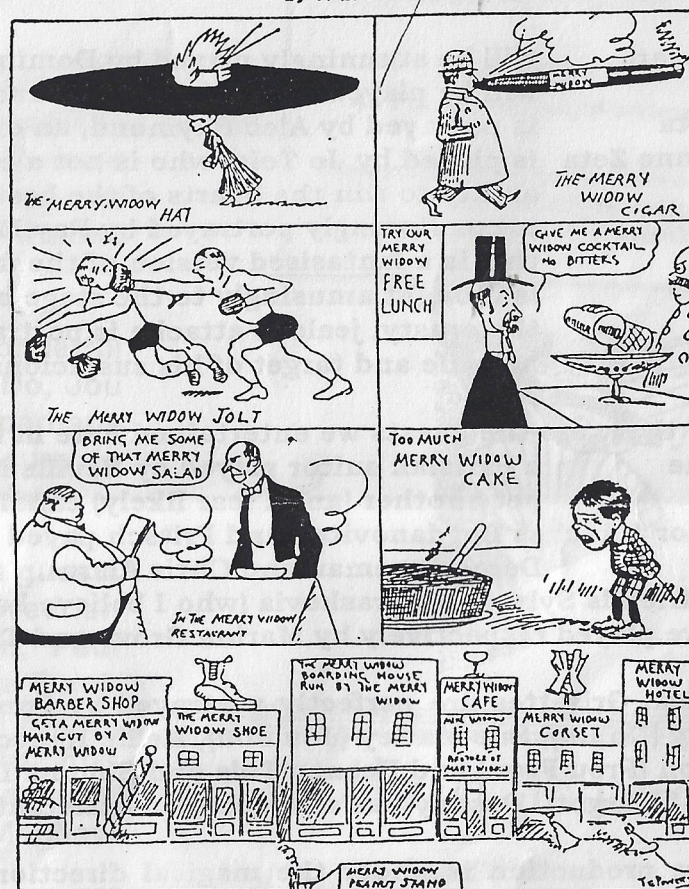
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DID YOU KNOW?

That when "The Merry Widow" opened in New York, 'widow fever' swept the country, prompting this cartoon in The Evening American:

WHEN THE TOWN GOES CRAZY

By T. E. Pablers Copyright, 1909, by American-Journal Edition



The Merry Widow in New York. Cartoon from The Evening American, 1909.

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