

Artist Cor de Gavere's Unique Silhouette Production To Be Presented As League Benefit

By Laura Rawson

Cor de Gavere, Santa Cruz artist, who has achieved an eminent place in the world of art, both in this country and in Europe, and who has a fine feeling and capacity for art in its many forms, has added new laurels to her long list of accomplishments with a unique and beautiful production of the parable of the Prodigal Son.

The beauty, simplicity and tenderness of the Biblical story as depicted in words and music and Miss de Gavere's original pictures in silhouette form, will be shown at the Woman's club house on Friday evening, November 30, at 8:15, as a benefit of the Santa Cruz Art League, of which Miss de Gavere has been an officer and ardent member from the time she came to Santa Cruz from Holland in 1920.

She was inspired to begin this work of art from a treasured book which came into her possession following the death in 1925 of her beloved friend, Wilhelmina Van Tonningen who came to Santa Cruz with her from Hol-

land, and who shared her home in Seabright.

Miss de Gavere had been intrigued by the book for a number of years for it is a deluxe volume, printed on beautiful paper and enhanced by lovely lithographs. It depicts a performance of the parable as given in Paris in tableaux form December 3, 1894. Georges Fragerolle and Henri Riviere collaborated in its production and it was sung by Fragerole. The entire story and lyrics are in French and the printed piano score is an interesting part of the work.

Early this year Miss de Gavere translated the entire text and lyrics from French into English, which of itself was quite an accomplishment.

She then decided to reproduce the story in such a form that it could be shown on a stage and used as an entertainment feature for an art league benefit. She is a practical little lady, and has been anxious to have a much needed storage room for the art league's new building.

Last April she made the first of her 14 scenes which the entire production includes. She enlarged the original lithographs of the book, and with pen, pencil, brush, paint, paste and scissors and a large array of improvised implements, she mounted and cut out figures upon a large sheet.

Miss de Gavere is a perfectionist and the drawings, colors and every little detail had to be just right to satisfy her critical eye. It was a tedious and intricate task, for great delicacy was necessary in handling the miniature human figures and the many sheep and other animals shown in the pastoral scenes.

It was at this stage of the work that the artist contacted three prominent Santa Cruz musicians to ask if they would be willing to co-operate with her in giving an art league benefit in this manner.

Vera McKenna Clayton, pianist, organist and teacher; Melba McKenna, who possesses a beautiful soprano voice well suited to the vocal score, and Jack Masse, well known organist and fellow art league member, were enthusiastic over Miss de Gavere's project and offered their whole-hearted assistance.

They also engaged the co-operation of E. O. Richart, artist who is skilled in stage craft and lighting, and the assistance of Charles Fuson, art league member, as stage manager.

It has all meant a vast amount of work for the musicians, for the entire musical part of the production has had to be put into manuscript form.

Organist Masse has written his

They'll Tell Biblical Story Of Prodigal



Co-operating in the production of the Biblical story of the Prodigal Son November 30 in the Woman's Club house are, left to right, Miss Cor de Gavere, who

created the 14 scenes in silhouette; Miss Melba McKenna, who will sing the vocal score; Jack Masse, who has written an organ score to accompany piano and improvised background music for the production, and Mrs. Vera McKenna Clayton, who will be the pianist for the unique presentation.

organ score to accompany piano and also has improvised background music to enhance the production.

Translation of the French text into English also presented some difficulties, as the English version was not singable with the piano score. However, all of these difficulties have been ironed out, and rehearsals are going in fine shape, and all will be in readiness for the November 30 showing.

The public is assured of seeing something absolutely unique as the result of the group's artistry, for the 14 scenes are beautiful in their musical setting.

Mrs. Fred Morris has charge of tickets and finance; W. H. Huebner, program arrangement and printing, and Mrs. Laura Rawson, publicity.

\$13,783 Asked In Pedestrian, Auto Accident

A \$13,783.02 damage suit was filed in the superior court late last week by Katherine B. Farris, and her husband, M. H. Farris, against Hazel R. Saunders as the result of Mrs. Farris being struck by a car while crossing Third street in Watsonville December 2, 1950.

Mrs. Farris states she suffered cuts and bruises on her head, body, legs and arms.

State Head Of Nurses Addresses Twin Lakes Club

The guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Twin Lakes-Del Mar Service club was Mrs. Theta Cole, R.N.P.H.N., director of nurses of the department of public health.

Mrs. Cole justified the existence of such a department, supported as it is by local, state and federal funds, from many angles: Public protection, economy and the welfare of all.

Especially emphasized was the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases, contamination of water, foods, air and all other conditions detrimental to life.

The local department is run very economically, representing an expenditure of about \$1.60 per capita as against over \$2 in most