



BILL FLUHR 2008

Bill was the Music Man. He appeared in the very first production of The Village Players, and among the roles he filled was Harold Hill and from that time on, he was one of the people leading us forward to where we are today.

I met Bill during that first production and I remember him strutting down the aisle at Carpenter School in his white suit and straw hat leading us in the singing of “76 Trombones” with his wonderful ringing tenor voice. He and I next appeared in a musical revue which Bill directed and performed in, and he also worked on costumes for that show. Many people may not be aware of it, but among Bill’s many talents was sewing and he designed and produced costumes for many shows right up until *Pajama Game* when he made the aprons for the men to wear in the pajama factory. He also created the sets for many of our shows.

From the very beginning, Bill took roles in our shows, or worked on the set or the costumes, or sometimes did all three. But the role for which we probably remember him best is Curly in *Oklahoma!* I can see him now, sauntering into the auditorium at Kingswood singing “There’s a bright golden haze on the meadow.” He was a wonderful Curly and when someone forgot to put the rope in Judd’s house leaving Bill in the lurch when he was supposed to suggest that Judd use the rope, Bill didn’t miss a beat. He simply drawled, “Well, if you had a rope you could hang yourself.” I still smile when I think of that moment.

Through the years, Bill was always there. He had some part either on stage or off in almost every show The Village Players produced, both singing and non-singing. Some that you may remember are: Professor Van Helsing in *The Passion of Dracula*, Niceley-Niceley Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, Mr. Bumble in *Oliver!*, Watson in *Hound of the Baskervilles*, and Samuel in *Pirates of Penzance*. He also directed *The Apple Tree*.

At one time, long before we owned our theater, Bill had dreams of opening a theater himself. He never found the suitable venue, but he did buy theater seats from an old theater which had shut down. When we bought our theater, Bill and Christine very graciously donated those very seats to The Village Players. After a loving restoration, the seats with their beautiful wrought iron work, lovely polished wood arms, and charming lights now adorn our theater.

Always a supporter and always ready to help, he was a mainstay of the group and will be sorely missed, not only for his beautiful voice and hard work, but also for his wonderful good nature and ready wit. (See Page 2)

VILLAGE PLAYERS APPEARANCES

1978	Harold Hill	Yesteryears of Broadway
1979	Director/Cast	Two Smiles and a Song
1979	Judge Omar Gaffney	Harvey
1980	Dr. Wyatt	Witness For the Prosecution
1980	Jonathan Rockwood	January Thaw
1981	Inspector Rough	Angel Street
1981	Curly	Oklahoma!
1984	Lord Dudley	Play On!
1984	Professor Von Helsing	The Passion of Dracula
1985	Dick Christie	Play It Again, Sam
1986	Director/Captain Sanjar	The Apple Tree
1986	Sargeant Duffy	Sorry, Wrong Number
1990	Ed	The Still Alarm
1995	Nicely-Nicely Johnson	Guys and Dolls
1996	Chorus	Standing Room Only
1996	Mr. Bumble	Oliver
2002	Mayor Haggie	Wash Your Troubles Away
2003	Amos Quackenbush	No, No, A Million Times No
2003	Temperance Army Leader	The Drunkard
2003	Dr. Watson	Hound of the Baskervilles
2004	Samuel	Pirates of Penzance