

8 School Street
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July 15, 2020

To the Laurel Historical Society,
Dear, dear friends,

I spent my first thirteen years in Laurel, living with my grandmother on Compton Avenue. I think now that it may have been just an ordinary town, but at the time, there was nowhere on earth that could compare to it for me.

I was born in Washington, the 5th generation of my family to do so, but always preferred the rural nature of Laurel – I had been brought there straight from the D. C. hospital and came to know every inch of it. Many years later, we drove through and I was appalled at how much had changed.

I looked online to see if I could find some old maps or photos of the town in the 40's, and couldn't find much, but as I had remembered, there was still some countryside between Laurel and the District then; it didn't all merge into one giant megapolis.

Is there any chance you'all might have some photos of Laurel in the 40's? We took none except in our own yard, which doesn't begin to show the pink-gold beauty of the sugar maples behind Dr. Gibbon's on Main Street, the charming old houses on Prince Georges Street, the honeysuckle tangles on barely settled Gorman Avenue, or the avenue of bright yellow Norway maples on Laurel Ave in the fall. (I would pay for your postage and copying fees).

I attended the Methodist Church on Main Street and afterwards, always got a donut at Mr. Steinbach's farther down that street, and I believe our Girl Scout troop met on Montgomery St behind Susan Welford's house (after which I used my Girl Scout nickel to buy an ice cream cone at Katherine's Ice Cream shop on the corner of 4th street.) I finished the 7th grade there before we moved nearer to Washington in the summer of 1951.

I have written because since moving nearer to my children and grandchildren in Maine I was forced to begin unpacking old, old boxes, and came across the program for the high school's production of *H. M. S. Pinafore* performed in 1950 while I was still in 6th grade.

I've seen a lot of theater productions since then, but was never as thrilled with any of them as I was that evening's performance and have followed G & S wherever I have found them – from London to, oddly, here in Maine. The Gilbert and Sullivan Society in Ellsworth puts on a different production every February, almost always in a blizzard, but I made it a point to drive over from upstate NY every year to see it. Of course, I “made” my five children see them all too over the years – with varying degrees of success. But this Laurel High School production started it all, as well as my love of live theater. I've never ever forgotten it

I thought perhaps you'all might like to have the original of this program (in case you don't, or know the players).

I don't believe there was an historical society there when I was, but am delighted to know that you have one now. (Is there any chance that anyone knows or remembers Olivia Scaggs or Laura Lee Bayles Hopkins? They were my best childhood friends. As, of course, were Mrs. Margaret Weagley, and Mrs. Albee, the librarian.)

With all good wishes,
Alice LeMerle Jones

"H. M. S. PINAFORE"

A GILBERT and SULLIVAN Comic Opera

Presented by

Laurel Jr. Sr. High School

Cast 1950

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.	First Lord of the Admiralty	Billy Poist
Capt. Corcoran	Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore	Angus Smith
Ralph Rackstraw	Able Seaman	Paul Lembrides
Dick Deadeye	Able Seaman	Jack Thompston
Bill Bobstay	Boatswain	Raymond McKitter
Bob Becket	Boatswain's Mate	Jack Murphy
Tom Tucker	Midshipmate	Jimmy Harrison
Josephine	The Captain's Daughter	Charles Barnham
Hebe	Sir Joseph's First Cousin	Frank Donaldson
Mrs. Cripps (Little Buttercup)	A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman	Carole Gladden
		Betsy Jones
		Doris Ashby
		Jeanne Brown
		Barbara Mercer
		Lorraine Cronan

First Lord's Sisters, his Cousins, his Amts, Sailors, &c.

SCENE--QUARTEEDECK OF H. M. S. PINAFORE, OFF PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND

ACT I -- NOON. ACT II *** NIGHT.

*** SYNOPSIS OF OPERETTA ***

PINAFORE, a gay satire on the British Navy, concerns the love of Josephine, the Captain's daughter, for Ralph, supposedly a lowly seaman. The romance fails to proceed smoothly, of course -- there is too much difference in their ranks. In fact, Josephine's father is ambitious to marry his daughter to Sir Joseph, the Admiral of the fleet. Sir Joseph admires the young and beautiful Josephine and declares "officially" that "love levels all ranks." Little Buttercup, the Bumboat woman, resolves the ensuing tangle and all ends happily, when she tells how Ralph and the Captain had been interchanged as babies and that Ralph is really of noble birth and the Captain is of lowly origin.

Chorus

Joanne Siehler	Barbara Lavine
Joan White	Theresa Clarke
Virginia Brown	Alice Otis
Joyce Duvall	Elaine Gude
Margaret McEvoy	Sylvia York
Eleanor McClinic	Jayne Wachter
Elaine Harmon	Nancy McClister
Barbara Stuart	Sallie Contraras
Marcie McDonald	Bob Locke
Henrietta Smith	Richard Travers
Betty Schnepf	Leroy Markle
Betty Salzman	Teddy Otis
Edith Shegogue	Jack Hartner
Betty Rice	Burton Lee McKittrick
Barbara Dorough	Teddy Bickart
Phyllis Kirkpatrick	Eldon Taylor
Shirley Swan	Stanley Hirsch
Edna Isner	Jon Norwood
Gloria Stephens	Lawrence Wooten
Jane Martin	Ben Scott
Norma Duffield	Tom Israel
Stephen Allen	

Dancers: Cynthia York, Nancy Dorsett, Nan Murphy, Ruth Dawson, Suzanne O'Conner, Joan Martin, Mary Ann Donaldson, Betty MacDonald

Accompanists: Betsy Jones, Jean Wooten

Dancing: Joan Sussman

Programs: Doris Ickes, Dee Asmussen

Committees

Music:	Mrs. Curtiss
Dramatics:	Mrs. Bowie
Dances:	Miss Marshall
Stage Scenery:	Painted by Mrs. Howland
Stage:	Mr. Skidmore, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Norris
Costumes:	Mrs. Rooney, Mrs. Lynch, Miss McAvoy, Miss Testerman, Miss Brinsfield
Make Up:	Miss McAvoy, Chairman
Properties:	Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Stanton
Publicity:	Mrs. Bright, Miss Testerman, Mr. Weagly, Miss Marshall, Mr. Futrell
Finance:	Miss Myerly
Ticket Distribution:	Mr. Pezzulli, Mr. Whalen
Reception:	Miss Boyd