

Founder's 100th Birthday Marked in Arden Program

ARDEN, Dec. 27—(Special)—Arden tonight celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founder, Frank Stephens, with music, Shakespeare, and art—all subjects he helped to weave into the life of the community.

About 200 persons, representing four generations of Arden residents, took part in the gay dinner meeting and the evening entertainment at the Gild Hall.

A portrait of Frank Stephens as a sculptor, painted by Gayle Hoskins, was unveiled by Hamilton D. Ware, one of the trustees of Arden. Mr. Hoskins was warmly applauded.

Shakespeare came into a large part of the program. First Donald Holcomb gave readings from "Hamlet." Mr. Holcomb was introduced as Arden's third Hamlet. The first was Stephens himself, who used to appear in Arden's weekly summer Shakespeare productions in the town's outdoor theatre.

The cloth covering the portrait was a gold cloak that Mr. Stephens used to use in "Julius Caesar" productions.

Selected readings from "The Taming of the Shrew" were presented by Bunni Hurlong, William P. Frank, and Paul Thompson.

Two of the trustees were among the players who put on the village's favorite comic scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The trustees are Mr. Ware and Philip Cohen, who was also toastmaster for the festivities. Other players were Shaul Gladstone, Mr. Thompson, Frank Edmund Hurlong, and Lisa Hurlong.

The musical side of the program embraced solo and group singing and a quartet of recorders. Donald Mac Rostie sang "Under the Greenwood Tree" from "As You Like It." He also sang selections from "Peter Grubb of Grubb's Corner," a satiric operetta with words by Frank Stephens.

Folk singers of Arden, directed by Earl Broadbent and Earl Brooks, sang carols and other songs, and the audience joined in singing the Arden Song.

The recorder players provided dinner music and also presented a concert of Christmas and Chanukah music. The quartet consists of Sandra Hurlong, Ann Solway, Clarissa Harford, and Judy Morris.

Yule Log Is Feature

The festive program opened with the bringing in of a big Yule log as the folk singers filled the auditorium with "Deck The Hall." The log was put in the hall's big fireplace, where a fire was already blazing.

Mr. Frank was "master of the revels." There were brief speeches by I. B. Finkelstein, the village's third trustee, and Donald Stephens, son of the founder.

It was announced that the Craft Shop, formerly the center of Frank Stephen's craft work in the village, will be open next Sunday from 3 to 5 p. m. for an exhibition of the founder's work.

Wilmington (?) - 12/24/59

Letters to the Editor

HE FOUNDED ARDEN

Editor, *The Morning News*:

I would like to add my testimony to the genius and kindness of the late George Frank Stephens, whose centenary is soon to be celebrated in Arden.

He was born Dec. 23, 1859 and died in 1935.

He was before his time in public spirit and insight into conditions in the nation and the world. While many talented people lived and still live in Arden, Mr. Stephens was the founder and inspiration for all activities.

I was a resident of Arden for 15 years, 1912 to 1927, connected with the Arden Craft Shops.

The Shakespeare plays in the open air theatre and the Sunday concerts in the Gild Hall were the features of the summer seasons.

Mr. Stephens used to say that Shakespeare plays were not dusty volumes in a library, but the active life of a community.

He used to say that houses should fit into the landscape and not stand out of it. He liked the Lake Country in England.

One season there was a peace pageant, including a play, based on the history of the Quakers. At the close of the play, the late Mrs. Katherine Ross and her children dressed in white ran across the stage, as a symbol of peace.

The land system he inaugurated helped many a family to get a home. If details of the land system are desired, application to the Trustees of Arden should be made.

Mr. Stephens gave temporary jobs to "down-and-outers" or victims of alcoholism or opium, and got them on their feet.

He had the plans drawn for a stone church to be modeled after the church in Stoke Poges, England, but died before getting it built.

He was a vegetarian, neither drank nor smoked, rose at 6 o'clock every morning and retired at 10 o'clock every night, did not lock his house door, in case any one needed help at night.

He was opposed to war, and helped people of foreign nationalities. He spoke French and German, and was the author of a book of original poems.

With the help of Lucius Cole he organized an Arden Symphony Orchestra, and the Sunday concerts attracted many soloists.

He adhered to the original principles on which the United States is founded and made them matters of common knowledge, including the rights of the individual.

FLORENCE GARVIN

Pasadena, Calif., Dec. 15.