

'Seven Brides' set for Sullivan

SULLIVAN — *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* — opening with a 2 p.m. preview matinee Wednesday, July 13, at The Little Theatre-On The Square in Sullivan — is based on the 1954 MGM hit movie which starred Jane Powell and Howard Keel.

The 15 performances of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* will include 8 p.m. curtain times on Wednesday through Saturday July 13-16 and Tuesday through Saturday July 19-23; 2 p.m. matinees on Wednesdays and Sundays during each week; and 4 p.m. matinees on Saturdays closing with the 2 p.m. matinee July 24.

Tickets for major productions and for Children's Theatre shows are currently available. Additional information regarding the price of tickets and performance schedules may be obtained by calling (217) 728-7375 during office hours or by

writing The Little Theatre-On The Square, P. O. Box H, Sullivan IL 61951-0288. Artistic director Seth Reines said, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* is set in the Pacific Northwest in the 1850s and features "the same homespun charm as *Oklahoma* with a lot more energy."

Reines, who directed *Sugar Babies*, is also directing this production, which will feature several of the performers from the first two musicals of the 31st season.

Charles Bell, who stopped the show as the Pharaoh in *Joseph*, will play the Keel role — the eldest Pontipee brother. A newcomer to the Little Theatre stage, Shannon McHugh of Chicago, will portray the waitress whom Bell takes as his bride.

Others returning in featured roles will be Heidi Dittmar as one of the wives, Richard Ruth as one of the brothers and Jeff Coopwood

as the preacher.

Reines has reconceptualized *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* to fit the size of the stage and the company. The musical was originally written for a cast of 18 men. He also notes "the dances will resemble those in last year's production of 'Whore House.'"

They have changed the script to begin with the weddings, utilizing flashbacks to portray the saga of the seven mountain men who kidnap a bunch of willing women and spend a snowbound winter with them.

Much of the "energy" in this family show will be displayed in the dances choreographed by Millie Garvey. Garvey displayed her choreographic versatility to local audiences in both *Sugar Babies* and *Joseph* earlier this season. This will be her final musical here this year.