

HISTORY CORNER

The Last Clock, based on the work of James Thurber with original music by Ann Diers, was our first children's play. Directed by Alan Lenhart, it was performed at Peck Place School Auditorium. On Friday, as soon as gym classes were over, the OP crew came in and assembled two platforms on the gym floor and put up flats on the stage—that night was dress rehearsal –our only time in the actual playing space.

Oh, My Stars, was the musical for children written for the Bicentennial Celebration. That also was performed in the Peck Place Gymnasium. Same scenario as before—platforms on the gym floor –flats on stage. The costumes and wigs came from Bustles and Breeches and, on the night of dress rehearsal all of the period colonial powdered men's wigs erupted, becoming more and more disarrayed as the night wore on, wisps and strands falling in their faces, trailing down their backs, or standing straight up. Next day we bought every white hairnet we could find and plenty of hairspray. (Do they even make hairnets anymore?) We have a DVD made from the original tape of that rehearsal—it is a sight to see. That show played to sellout crowds for three performances –we actually had to turn people away.

Bracko, the Prince Frog, another children's play, was performed in the Mary L. Tracy Auditorium. An elaborate thrust stage was built with special effects of water and fog. Unfortunately, on our last performance, the pond began to leak and the crew frantically mopped up. We had to repair some of the finish on the gym floor, which made a small dent in our profits. We still have the Frog costume!

Share some of your memories with us. It's fun to reminisce!