

DIAL 6-3111

The Sunday Spotlight

U.W. Seeds Sprout in Texas

By WILLIAM L. DOUDNA
(State Journal Theater Editor)

Seeds of modern dance sown in Madison by Margaret H'Doubler will sprout again this week at Austin, Tex., where Shirley Dodge will be in charge of the third annual University of Texas dance concert.

Miss Dodge, director and choreographer of the concert, is the daughter of Mrs. T. E. Dodge, 2214 Eton Ridge. At Texas, she conducts one of the few dance curricula offered in U. S. universities. It began in 1945 as a course in the drama department, but reached full stature last year when the university offered a major in dance.

Thus the school followed the lead of the University of Wisconsin, first in the country to grant a degree in dance education. The Wisconsin course was a direct result of student and faculty interest in Orchesis, the dance group which was founded here in 1918.



she also taught dancing in the city's high school. On the night before her class was to give its recital, Germany invaded Norway, and Sweden evacuated its young people from the cities to rural areas.

Upon the advice of the U. S. state department, she prepared to leave Sweden. An American tour service arranged a trip for Miss Dodge and 21 other Americans across Europe to Genoa, Italy, where she boarded the liner Roma for a voyage which took her to New York. She reached Madison on May 17, 1940.

One of radio's advantages over the theater—in some cases—is the absence of audiences whose laughter or applause often drowns out pertinent lines. This is not to say that audiences shouldn't laugh or applaud loudly in the theater; rather, it is to point up an absence of showmanship from some broadcasts.

Too often, a good piece of humor is ruined by studio audience laughter. And occasionally a gag is spoiled by the opposite—the studio crowd's failure to laugh at the right point. This is true as often in plays as in variety shows, unless the actor is thoroughly schooled in the sort of timing which makes a successful comedian.

You hear little disturbing audience reaction on musical programs. In fact, some NBC shows ban applause except at the end of the concert's last number. It sometimes appears that this final burst is extended beyond its normal time to obscure the fact that the producer has timed his program poorly, and must fill the time with something, even if it's only hand-clapping.

Similar criticism—that studio audiences spoil lines or situations—has been given television. Of this, I can speak familiarly. But I can hope that, by the time television is a common entertainment commodity here, the industry will have grown up.

Her class was the last to receive diplomas at the Wigman school before the outbreak of World War II.

From Germany, Miss Dodge went to Gothenburg, Sweden, where she and a Swedish dancer conducted a school of modern dance and where

Certain animals are known more widely by people on farms than by city folk. Woodchucks are among such animals.

In Canada, woodchucks range from Nova Scotia clear up to the and so on. When blackberries or United States, the animals are found in Montana to Maine, to say that this animal sometimes goes into gardens and helps itself to peas or beans. It also likes grain.

A woodchuck makes its home in a hole. This may be an opening in the midst of rocks, or a hollow log but usually it is a hole in the ground.

By the middle of summer, a woodchuck is likely to be more than a foot long, and to have a tunnel may be only 8 or 10 feet long, or it may have a length of weight of 2 or 3 pounds. It keeps on growing for almost two years, 40 or 50 feet. There is a living room and they may be 2 feet long inside the tunnel, and this is reached by a branch which slopes upward. The animal seems to be counting 8 or 10 pounds.

Another name for the woodchuck is "ground hog." An amusing story is told about the animal coming out of its hole on the second of February (Ground Hog's Day) to look around. If the day is bright according to the story, the woodchuck goes back into its hole and sleeps for six weeks longer.

Some pioneers on this continent used to believe that story to be true.

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