

## Theatre group sets performance

The Gilroy Community Theatre began its second season last weekend with the opening of "Ten Little Indians," a three-act murder mystery by Agatha Christie, at the Gavilan College Theatre.

Cast members for the production, directed by Donna Avina, are: Margene Bloom, Craig Merriman, Joe Brown, Bruce Barker, Ray Probert, Walden Sampson, Marilyn Fahey, Al Bloom, Ron Puppo, Nance Barker and Jack Grigg.

Four more performances are slated, Jan. 22, 23, 29 and 30.

Tickets are available at Gilroy Parks and Recreation Department, Dick Bruhn's, Gilroy Stationary, from cast members and at the box office. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

# Donna Avina to direct play

Directing her second play for the Gilroy Community Theatre will be Donna Avina who is steering a cast of 11 persons through Agatha Christie's murder mystery, "Ten Little Indians."

Mrs. Avina, who wrote and directed "The Importance of Being Honest," an old time melodrama presented during Bonanza Days, is a graduate of Gilroy High School and majored in drama at San Jose State College.

Her acting credits include "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Macbeth," "Stage Door," and

"Come Blow Your Horn." She has also participated in many behind stage activities, such as costume, makeup, set designing, properties and publicity.

"Ten Little Indians" will be staged Jan. 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. in the Gavilan College Theatre.

Mrs. Avina has scheduled a technical crew meeting tonight at her home at 7 p.m.

Persons interested in behind the scenes theatre work are invited to call Mrs. Avina at 842-6073 for details of the meeting.

# 'Ten Little Indians' mystery or comedy?

By JON DOHERTY

The Gilroy Community Theater production of "Ten Little Indians," a MYSTERY PLAY in three acts, by Agatha Christie, was interesting, very interesting . . . however, it's indeed a shame that it wasn't intended to be a MYSTERY COMEDY, at least for the benefit of the Gilroy Theater group!

From the opening scene the aura of comedy prevailed. Consequently much of the excitement, which normally comes from mystery, smoldered for a while.

The first act was a drag, the second act improved, and by the time the third act arrived the entire audience was spellbound by Christie's power of mystery (including the actors!).

The technical part of the play and the building of rapport among the characters was expertly handled by Donna Avina, the plays director. The only criticism one could possibly have of Avina would be for not stamping out the play for comedy that a few of her actors generated.

The acting, incidentally, was superb and it's indeed a shame that it wasn't channeled (forced, if need be!) into building mystery instead of laughs.

Ray Probert (Mr. Rogers) plays the role of the pasty face house-parlourman with complete confidence.

Nance Barker (Mrs. Rogers) does an exceptionally good job. She is very realistic in her role.

Jack Grigg (Narcott) is completely comfortable in rubber boots.

Margene Bloom (Vera Claythorne) does a fine job as the female lead.

Craig Merriman (Philip Lombard) is very convincing as the male lead.

Ron Puppo (Anthony Marston) plays the part of a rich, spoiled, not very intelligent young man very well.

Al Bloom (William Blore) does an interesting and very fine job with his role; one can't really cry when he dies . . . one just sort of chuckles.

Bruce Barker (General MacKenzie) plays his role with complete believability.

Marilyn Fahey (Miss Emily Brent) portrays the part of a tall, thin spinster, with a disagreeable, suspicious face. She does an excellent job and one would think that she was at least 75 years old (not bad for a gal that's . . . 24 or 25?).

Joe Brown (Sir Lawrence Wargrave). It's still difficult to believe that Brown has never acted before (prior to Guys and Dolls).

Walden Sampson (Dr. Armstrong) does a very fine job and helps to build the mystery.

All in all the play is well worth the price of admission and will certainly entertain anyone who has a soft spot in his heart for mystery . . . and comedy too!

Final performances will be this coming weekend, Friday and Saturday nights (29th & 30th) starting at 8 p.m.