

Former Y theater chairman to be honored for excellence

By JAMES K. ERICSON
Universe Staff Writer

A former chairman of the Department of Speech, now called the Department of Theater and Film, will have a room named after him in the theater he helped plan.

On Friday, March 24, B-201 of the Harris Fine Arts Center will become the Harold I. Hansen Rehearsal Hall in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the building.

"We're very pleased that after his decades of service and dedication to the department to have the principal theater rehearsal hall named after him," said Eric Fielding, chairman of the Department of Theater and Film.

"It's especially fitting how this will be done as part of the 30-year anniversary celebration of the Harris Fine Arts Center, given his influential role in the planning and realization of

that building," Fielding said.

Hansen, who was hired in April of 1952 as chairman of the Department of Speech, served in the theater department until his retirement in 1980. During his years at BYU, Hansen received various awards, including the BYU Karl G. Maeser Distinguished Teaching Award and the Theta Alpha Phi National Theater Award in 1975.

Fielding, who was both a student and colleague of Hansen's, said Hansen was a wonderful and accessible human being.

"He was an excellent teacher, both in the classroom and in the theater," Fielding said. "He had a wonderful influence on me."

Before coming to BYU, Hansen worked as general producer of the Hill Cumorah Pageant for 40 years. Hansen first directed the pageant while serving in the Eastern States

Mission in 1937. Under Hansen's direction, the pageant increased in size and popularity.

"It (the Hill Cumorah Pageant) went from a little skit that the missionaries put on to a world renowned outdoor production," said Charles Henson, former BYU theater professor. "He really brought that up from the level of a ward choir to that of the Tabernacle Choir."

Hansen worked from a philosophy that went back to Brigham Young, Hansen said.

"He felt the theatre could be an aid to the pulpit," Henson said. "He didn't want theatre that would offend, only that which was uplifting and positive."

While at BYU, Hansen concentrated on appointing faculty members who specialized in theatre. While chairman of the Department of Speech, Hansen hired 38 faculty members, including



HAROLD I. HANSEN

Lael Woodbury, Charles Metten and Charles Whitman.

The American Educational Theatre Association and the United States Department of Defense invited Hansen to provide shows for servicemen in the Pacific-Orient and Europe in 1956. Over the next 18 years, Hansen took seven tours to major military installations.

Hansen passed away in 1992. His wife and four daughters will attend the room naming ceremony.

Tabernacle Choir member fills 20-year mission

By TONYA HARRIS
Universe Staff Writer

Cecelia Fielding, news editor for BYU public communications, is serving a 20-year mission that has taken her to Australia, Europe, Israel, several states in the United States and even to Delta.

Eight years ago Fielding received a mission call as second alto in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The calling can last up to 20 years or until the member is 60 years old.

Fielding said the choir is a great missionary tool because although some people have fears or concerns about the Church, they love the choir.

"The choir is constantly getting letters from people who have been touched by the music and the mis-

sion," she said.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir travels the world to spread the gospel through music.

Fielding said her first trip with the group was to Delta for the opening of the ITT Power Plant. Since then she has sung at the White House and at Disney World in Florida. One of her favorite trips was when the choir went to Israel two years ago.

Singing with the choir is not all travel and fun; it is also very demanding.

"It takes an incredible amount of time," said Eric Fielding, Cecelia's husband. "We have to juggle our busy

schedules to spend as much time together as possible."

"Sometimes we drive up together, then I go to a play or movie while she rehearses, just so we can spend time together," he said.

Fielding said she was naive about the time commitment.

"It's like a part-time job," she said.

Fielding's family enjoys watching her perform with the choir.

"Going to the concerts or watching the broadcasts to see her perform is something special," her husband said.

"We are very proud of her activity and commitment."

Outside of singing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Fielding works full-time at BYU public communications.

"Cecelia is really a comfortable person to work for," said Angie Hansen, a senior from Farmington majoring in public relations, who works in public communications. "She helped me not only become a better writer, but feel good about improving."

Hansen told of a time when Fielding and a student employee had a contest with squeeze cheese to see who could make the most creative design on their cracker.

"You can't do that with every boss," she said.

When Fielding is not singing, working or making cheese designs, she enjoys walking, reading and spending time with her family.

Emeritus professor, famous for inventions, brought spirit of creativity to BYU science

H. Tracy Hall found inspiration to invent in Edison, Ford

By BETSY STEVENSON
Universe Staff Writer

BYU emeritus professor Howard Tracy Hall's life has been character-

Personality Profile

ized by his love of science and learning.

Hall was director of research in science and creative endeavors at BYU for 13 years.

Before coming to BYU, Hall worked for General Electric. While there, he invented a machine that generated enough pressure to turn graphite into diamonds.

This became an industry, Hall said, because in many instances these diamonds were superior to natural ones.

Hall left G.E., and in the fall of 1955 he became a director of research at BYU.

He brought with him his pressure machines, and BYU became the center of high pressure research, receiving worldwide recognition.

After working at BYU, Hall and two other professors started a diamond-making facility in Provo.

Now, there are at least four spin-offs of the company in the area, Hall said.

He was born in Ogden in 1920, and spent his early years growing up on a farm in Marriott.

These were the Depression years, Hall said, and it was unbelievable how poor people were.

"We had school in a four-room schoolhouse," Hall said. "Second, third and fourth grades were all in the same room with the same teacher."

Hall said he liked this arrangement, because while the teacher was teaching the higher grades, younger students could listen and learn.

One of Hall's accomplishments during his elementary years was when, as a fourth grader, he received the highest score in his school system on a progressively difficult comprehensive exam for first through 12th-graders.

Twice a month, Hall's parents would pull a red wagon five miles along the South Pacific Railroad to go into town and do their shopping.

Hall would go with him so he could go to the library.

"My brother and I would go to the library while our parents shopped. I was always interested in science books," Hall said. "Even though some were above my head, I tried to understand them."

Hall said he gained two heroes from reading in the library — Henry Ford and Thomas Edison.

"If you were eager, you could get your own education," Hall said.

Hall was able to save money as a young man and managed to pay his way to attended college and receive a Ph.D. in physics and chemistry.

Hall said he had other inventions beside his diamond press, but his patents have all expired.

Personality Profile

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—H. Tracy Hall
Emeritus BYU professor

"Inventors are not in a good position," Hall said. "They only have a patent for 17 years, whereas those writing music, poetry and fiction have theirs for a lifetime plus 50 years."

Hall said he stays busy by running a tree farm in Payson, where he raises evergreens and other landscaping trees.

Hall still has an office at BYU, located in the Eyring Science Center. He said he goes there occasionally to think, study and do a little research.



Photo courtesy Banyan

INQUISITIVE MIND: Professor H. Tracy Hall, in this 1976 Banyan photo, was known for his diamond press invention.

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