

Forst Inn in Tisch Mills. One of many of last year's leading Keith Shaw as Eddie Frank Burr as Father chronicles the lives of they move from 8th school.

Two students, Eddie gracefully explores what school — talk of on the head from play and classroom with stern looks from Sis-Ionica, each of whom such as the students dur-

the love story of Eddie so a gentle study of students ponder the at, heaven, hell, purgat-

Little Sandwich Theatre will present "Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" this

month at the Forst Inn in Tisch Mills. The show opens Monday.

6/6/96

Submitted photos

ory and limbo and debate the difference between knowledge and faith.

"The real message of religion is that you have to live in fear," Eddie says, quoting a friend's brother. Eddie is doubtful that eating meatloaf on Friday will damn him to eternal hell, and is uncertain when Becky explains such sacrifice serves mostly as "a way of reminding us we're Catholic."

The agonies of a first confession, Ash Wednesday and dealing with adolescence are all explored through the sharp musical comedy.

For Eddie, confession got off to a bad start when an accidental fib his first time out sends him spinning into a panic about his fate. But later, he turns to Father O'Reilly when plagued by "impure thoughts."

"All I ever think about is sex," moans Eddie, who confessed 70 impure thoughts in a week.

Father suggests hobbies, but Eddie's fairly certain he doesn't have much talent, at least not like his cousin the pianist.

"I'm sure you have a gift from God, too,"

Forst Inn helps theater troupe shine

By BRENDA ERICKSON
Herald Times Reporter
Staff Writer

TISCH MILLS — The thing about ideas borne at 3 a.m. after a half-case of beer is that they usually aren't good ones.

Lucky for Ron Kaminski, this theory doesn't always hold true.

Kaminski, founder of Little Sandwich Theatre, came up with the idea of casual dinner theater early one morning following a performance by Masquers.

He was certain it would work, despite a wealth of other arts organizations that were already firmly established along the lakeshore.

Little Sandwich Theatre's first production in August of 1982 was held at the Sting (now Special Occasions) in Manitowoc and featured two one-act plays — "Sociability" and "Ikke, Ikke, Nye, Nye, Nye."

That was 14 years ago, and Little Sandwich Theatre, which now produces six or seven shows a year, remains a theater success story.

The theater began its first season charging \$2 per ticket for the one-act plays. In only a few years, Little Sandwich Theatre was presenting more challenging shows including "Death-trap," "The Fantasticks" and "Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?,"

a show that this year will return for its fifth summer season.

A move to the W.R. Forst Hotel in Tisch Mills, a site Kaminski knew would be ideal as the troupe's new home, also helped Little Sandwich continue to flourish.

The turn-of-the-century hotel that once doubled as a dance hall easily echoes Kaminski's dream of what a theater experience can be.

Built in the late 1800s, the Forst Inn now features the chandeliers from the old Opera House in Manitowoc — "They were hidden in the basement of the Strand Theater," said Kaminski, who rescued the fixtures and used them to highlight the ornate antiques that were already part of the inn's decor.

Little Sandwich Theatre moved into the Forst Inn in October of 1990. The troupe's first show there, "I'm Not Rappaport," was presented in a setting that exuded intimacy — "Front row seats are 12 inches from the stage," Kaminski said — and has served both actors and audiences well.

According to longtime Little Sandwich veteran Frank Burr, there's little room for mistakes since actors are so close to their audience.

"With the audience right there, you have to be on all

the time," Burr said.

"They're right in your face. Anything that happens is right there."

But such close proximity also helps actors produce more free-spirited performances, playing off audience reactions to keep the laughs coming.

"That's part of the magic," Kaminski said. "There's a lot of interaction."

That magic is first sparked upon arrival to the Forst Inn, tucked away in the sleepy village of Tisch Mills, just north of Two Rivers. On the outside, the inn is rather nondescript, but inside, it's breathtaking.

"When people come, they can't believe their eyes," Kaminski said of the many antiques and other ornate features that lend character to the hall.

When audience members arrive, they're seated according to name plates at their table, where sandwiches are already waiting. Then the lights come down, the curtain goes up and the show begins.

"Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" opens Monday.

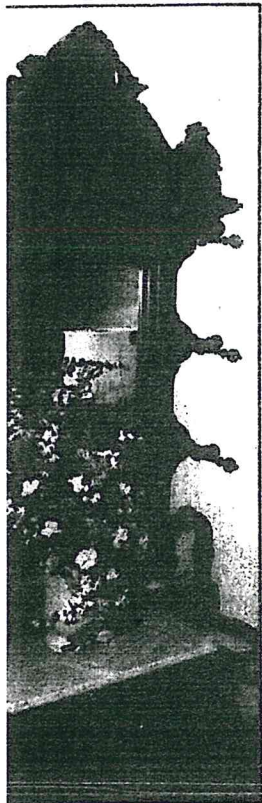
Upcoming shows include "Social Security" and "Tina and Tony's Wedding," an audience participation piece including wedding invitations for the ceremony, to be held at a church down the road.

considering the convent. "Catholic girls are like wiffle says. "They just don't go very It's a vivid exploration of the between the sexes, with girls sation and boys seeking someth entirely.

"Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" — also featuring Sheila H Becky, Vida Martin-Voysey as S Barb Krueger as Sister Lee an as Sister Monica — opens Mon Wednesdays through Saturdays 29.

Other cast members are Rob Bourgeois, Jason Krueger, Kelly Fries and Kate Shaw.

The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. For tickets or more information call 776-1999.



room at the Forst Inn features, such as this vanity



A collection of antiques create a warm and historic atmosphere at the Forst Inn in Tisch Mills.

Herald Times Reporter