



Photo #13

COLLEGE PLAYERS

of Lock Haven State College presents...



The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail

MARCH 4, 5, & 6 8:00 P.M.

PRICE AUDITORIUM

\$2.50 (FREE W/ID)

Thoreau cast announced

This week College Players announced the cast for their fourth production of the season. The show is scheduled for the last weekend of this semester's first term, March 4, 5, and 6.

With an excellent turnout at last week's two evening audition sessions, Dr. Robert Kidder, director, cast the following:

Playing the part of Ralph Waldo Emerson will be Rick Kline, along with Sharon Hamilton playing the part of

cont. on page 4

OPENING
NIGHT

with Brian Stoppe

Civil disobedience theme of 'Thoreau'

"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" was first presented at the Ohio State University Theatre in Columbus, Ohio on April 21, 1970. In the years that followed the play appeared in hundreds of resident, community and collegiate houses throughout the United States. This Thursday "Thoreau" opens here at Lock Haven State College in Price Auditorium as a College Players production.

The players have been working steadily on this Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee script since their four night run of "The Creation of the World and other Business" closed in mid-January.

The show evolves around Henry David Thoreau, his brother John, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the people they encounter in the setting of Concord, Massachusetts in the mid-1800's. During the course of the production the audience comes in contact with the first and perhaps most famous act of civil disobedience in American history--Thoreau's refusal to pay his poll tax in 1846, and the night he spent in jail because of it. The jail scene becomes the framework for episodes from Thoreau's life, such as his vigil at Walden Pond, his unhappy love affair, and his challenges as a teacher attempting to break from the structure of the noncreative classroom.

Jerome Lawrence was master playwright at New York University and has been visiting professor of playwriting at Ohio State. Robert E. Lee is on the faculty of UCLA. Their most well-known works include "Inherit the Wind," "Auntie Mame," and its musical version, "Mame."

The College Players production is under the direction of Dr. Robert Kidder, chairman of the LHSC Department of Speech/Theatre. The costume designs are the work of Felice Proctor and the set designs are those of John Gordon.

The cast, crews, and other staff positions are held by many veterans of the Players stage as well as a number of new faces. Kim Coon, in the title role, is a senior theatre major. His brother, John Thoreau, is played by Larry Harris, a freshman. Sophomore Rick Kline is Ralph Waldo Emerson and psychology major, Sharon

cont. on page 4

Thoreau opens in Price tomorrow

By WENDY AKELEY
Staff Reporter

The upcoming College Players production, "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," scheduled for March 4-7, is, as the show's production manager, Brian Stoppe, explained, "Both a comedy and a drama."

According to Stoppe, the show gives the audience "a view of the man and the mind" of Henry David Thoreau. It presents him as more than "someone sitting behind a desk writing all the time."

In the production, Thoreau is shown in contrast to Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose philosophies Thoreau admires. Kim Coon, the actor playing Thoreau, reported, "Emerson wrote what he believed; Thoreau lived what he believed." His love affair with Ellen, a young lady with a very

proper upbringing, is probably included in the play to give the audience a picture of Thoreau as a true human being.

Although one doesn't need to know anything about Thoreau's writings to enjoy "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," his beliefs form the basis of the show. The play takes place on the night after Thoreau's arrest for refusing to pay his taxes, which was this country's first act of "civil disobedience." In jail, he reflects on the past events of his life, some of which are distorted by time but retain their essential facts, and dreams about the future.

"There's an awful lot said rather rapidly," reported Stoppe. "Thoughts he presents in the play in one line are the basis for an entire book," he added.

Coon sees Thoreau as a man determined to transcend the physical experience. "He was never satisfied with just seeing a chair, everything went beyond that," according to Coon. People to Thoreau were more than just individuals; they all belonged to a common humanity.

The production itself has been going well and will be a College Players first--all the sets, including the furniture, are being made in the newly completed shop in Sloan.

About 30 costumes are involved and several quick changes. The lighting is also more complex than usual with 150 light cues to be handled.

The play opens in Price at 8:00 Thursday night, and will close Sunday night. Tickets can be obtained in the secretary's office in the PUB.