



## Muriel Brown

Muriel Brown our Society's producer for more than twenty years died in May of this year. If to many of you she will be remembered only by her photograph or credit line in our programme, those who saw her make a brief 'on-stage' appearance at the end of the Saturday evening performances will surely have realised, from the reception she invariably received from members also on stage, just how great was the affection felt for her by the Society, and in consequence have some idea of the sense of loss which we have felt at her passing. Those privileged to know her and work with her over the years will always remember her as an immensely talented and gracious lady with a rare kindness of nature.

Her talents were such as to make her in great demand as a producer, and being matched only by her boundless enthusiasm for the Amateur Stage, she became associated with numerous Societies. From her home in Motherwell, and latterly Strathaven, she travelled to work with Societies throughout Central Scotland and productions in

MURIEL BROWN, taken during rehearsals for last year's show, 'Finian's Rainbow'.

Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Dunoon and Glasgow; and this list is by no means exhaustive, have carried the hall mark of her remarkable ability. Musically, Muriel's greatest love was probably for the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and the Orpheus Club of Glasgow, who perform these works exclusively, also enjoyed a lengthy association with her as producer. It was with this club, in the Kings Theatre Glasgow, that she also had the greatest scope to exercise her supreme talent as a producer, that of handling large groupings on stage. Not that mere size of company was a prerequisite for the full realisation of her ability, as is evidenced by her work with a much smaller Society in Motherwell who, with Muriel as producer, won the Crystal Rose Bowl award at the Waterford Music Festival in 1975.

Neither should it be thought that her life was exclusively devoted to Amateur Operatics since she had a long and much respected association with the Red Cross in Motherwell and District and was also deeply involved in many other Charitable Activities.

Muriel made no secret of her particular affection for our Society and audiences here in Alloa, and although in recent years, due to failing health, she had cut down the number of Societies for whom she produced, she continued to travel the not inconsiderable distance from her home to rehearse us for our Annual Show. At the commencement of what was to be her final illness she had already arranged to attend our auditions for this year's show and it is particularly sad that her death prevented her from undertaking her first production of 'Fiddler on the Roof', a show she was most enthusiastic about doing, perhaps especially because her daughter Linda has been playing the role of Yente the Matchmaker in Scottish Opera's production of 'Fiddler'.

We in Amateur Operatics look upon our prime function as being to entertain you, our audience, and there can surely be no more fitting epitaph for Muriel Brown than that, throughout her life, she assisted so many, so ably to achieve that aim.