

# MUSICAL MAKES PLEASING SHOW

## *Society Celebrates Ruby Anniversary*

Regent Theatre, Chelmsford: Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society in "Carousel," by Rogers and Hammerstein.

The Chelmsford Society celebrates its ruby anniversary with a pleasing production of "Carousel"—in the music line at any rate.

Of all the Rogers and Hammerstein musicals, this, with its off-beat story and testing score, is perhaps, the most difficult and the most unsatisfactory. The plot, first sombre and then taking a supernatural twist, needs more capable actors than this group possesses to make them believable. Without such belief, the piece is in danger of becoming something of a bore.

But what show could possibly be coring when thrice blest with principals such as Chelmsford's. Freddie Costello's rich mellow tenor dovetails superbly with the lilting sweetness of Maureen Gore (Julie) and the bubbling bounce of Janice Hall as Carrie Pipperidge.

### DESERVED OVATION

The only failing of Mr. Costello as Billie is a distressing inability to truly hit some of his lower notes, but this must be set against the twin glories of his "If I loved you" and the difficult soliloquy, for which he received a deserved ovation.

A well-thought out fair ground mime sets Phil Payne's production off on the right foot, while musical director Jack Meek draws some first rate playing from his orchestra although he takes some of the songs—particularly "Mr. Show"—a little too fast.

Backing the leads with varying degrees of success are Mike Reed as a suitably surly Jigger, Alan Clark as Mr. Snow, and Jane Andrews as Mrs. Mullin.

Main contribution of the chorus is some competent dancing, but they also have their vocal moments. "June" for example "burst out" with all the zest and vitality one could wish for.