Gene Gerrard Joins
The Citizen-Journal
12-18-67
By RON PATAKY
Citizen-Journal Theater Editor
Gene Gerrard, prominent Central Ohio radio and television personality over the past 20 years, joins the Citizen-Journal music and theater reviewing staff on a fulltime basis today, it was announced by Jack Keller, Citizen-Journal managing editor.

Gerrard, who has reviewed for the C-J on a parttime basis in recent months, will act as assistant theater editor and staff reviewer, Keller said.

GERRARD HAS served as director of special programming for WOSU radio for the past 12 years. His two daily programs, "On The Way Home" and "In The Bookstall," were aired five afternoons each week to thousands of Central Ohio listeners.

"In the Bookstall" became syndicated about a year ago and is currently heard on numerous radio stations, both commercial and university-affiliated, across the United States.

GERRARD ALSO has been active in local theater groups, including Stadium Theater, Playhouse-On-The-Green, Gallery Players and Strollers Dramatic Society, both as an actor and director. He has directed several plays for Gallery Players and Strollers.

Gerrard's duties at the C-J will include reviewing of films and legitimate theater as well as concerts and supper clubs.

Rosemary Curtin Hite continues as C-J music reviewer.
Critic, WOSU host Gene Gerrard dies

From staff and wire reports

Eugene "Gene" Gerrard, former theater and movie critic for the Columbus Citizen-Journal and an on-air personality at WOSU (820 AM and 89.7 FM), died Friday in St. Paul, Minn.

Gerrard, 79, had been living in St. Paul since the 1980s and had been in ill health for the past few years, said Elsie Miller, Gerrard's friend and caretaker.

Born and reared in Columbus, Gerrard was well-known in the 1950s and '60s as an actor, performing at Players Theatre and in productions at Ohio State University.

He was theater and movie critic for 12 years for the Citizen-Journal, leading annual theater tours to New York City. Following one of those tours, Gerrard was suspended from the newspaper on charges of plagiarism.

Richard Campbell, Citizen-Journal editor at the time, nevertheless described Gerrard as "a careful writer who was interested in almost any form of entertainment and art. And he was fully knowledgeable about it all... He had a wide following."

Gerrard's most devoted fans may have been those who tuned in to his "In the Bookstall" segments on WOSU. From the 1950s to the '80s, Gerrard would read a book from cover to cover in half-hour segments.

"WOSU occasionally still receives requests to bring 'In the Bookstall' back to the airwaves," said Eric Fisher, human resources supervisor at the station.

Gerrard began his career at the station in 1955, working as on-air announcer for WOSU-AM.

Miller said Gerrard maintained his love of books, theater and opera until the end of his life.