

Police Step in and Stop a Village Play

PEOPLE OF TRESHAM ARE ANGRY

THERE are angry people in the tiny Gloucestershire village of Tresham.

Two days before children were due to put on a home-made detective play in nearby Hawkesbury village hall, police stepped in and banned performances.

Reason: the hall is not licensed for stage shows.

Said Sunday school teacher, Miss Joyce Emery, who was to produce the play: "It seems so silly. We were all very disappointed."

Leading lady 14-year-old Jennifer Furley said: "We were just trying to raise some money to restore our own village hall."

When the police ban was made £5 worth of ticket money had to be refunded.

And now there is nothing anyone can do—except sit and fume.

Jenifer's mother, who runs Tresham village post office, said: "Cannot something be done to reduce this petty officialdom, these stupid rules?"

To Raise Money

She explained: "We live in a very isolated rural district and

'Check on All Halls Before Licence Issue'

we thought that to provide a little more entertainment for our tiny hamlet it might be a good idea to raise money to restore our own village hall."

They wrote and rehearsed the hour-long play—"The Elusive Woman"—and staged a free performance.

It was a big success.

So they prepared a paying-performance at Hawkesbury—painted posters, hand-printed tickets and began selling seats.

The front three rows had been snapped up—when the Law stepped into the picture.

And the Elusive Woman—disappeared.

"We'll never be able to put our play on now," said Mrs. Furley bitterly. "I think the police are conducting a purge on village halls."

And the Gloucestershire County Council says: "The last

thing we want to do is spoil people's enjoyment.

"But in the interests of public safety we must check on all halls before we issue licences under the Theatres Act. We can't allow performances to take place just anywhere."

STABBED AS THEY SANG

FOUR young men were singing in the street in the Singalong district of Manila when a man walked up and stabbed two of them.

Rogelio Bernabe (19) was dead on arrival at hospital. His companion, Zosimo Sayson (23) was in a serious condition. The knife-wielder escaped.

WAR—AGAINST TEETOTALLERS

Police at Isna, Upper Egypt, arrested a villager, Abdel Aziz Rifai, when, completely drunk, he was found firing a revolver in the street.