'The fringes of humor'
Ogden Nash reads poetry in Kresge

By Susan M. Rogers

"You're Drink Your Orange Juice and Like It, Comrade" was among the poems read by Ogden Nash last Wednesday in Kresge Auditorium. His lecture was presented by the Lecture Series Committee.

Nash has spoken for fifteen years on the "fringes of humor." Anybody who attempts to define humor, he declared, "is a stuffed shirt skittling into a magazine."

The poet envisioned that humor is "used as a handle to keep us from being thrown off the globe." He maintains it is an "emphatic thing necessary to combat centrifugal forces."

The field of competitive humor is diminishing, Nash feels, with Robert Benchley and James Thurber having been the last of the greats.

Unconscious humor

Drawing attention to the potentialities of unconscious humor, he gave this example:

"The bride and groom, "flushed and dewy from their nuptials...” danced at their reception while the band played "Fast in Time."

Conscious humor "brightens doll days."

Nash advises using one’s eyes and ears, reading magazines and watching TV to find this humor, as an amusing example, he described an advertisement in which cameraman cheese squares from an ad.

Recording his literary history, Nash stated, "Everything I say has been said before. But I have been able to raise and support a family, by saying it again and saying it worse."

He wondered what would happen if he started writing less consciously, and experimented.

Railway fan

From an earlier serious poem emerged: "Old age begins and middle age ends. When your decorations outnumber your friends."

Nash also offered advice on how to become a more perfect husband: "Whenever you’re wrong, admit it. And whenever you’re right, shut up."

Nash disdains the airplane: "Two Wrights made a wrong," he declared. An ardent railway fan, he noted: "That’s the only thing wrong with trains. When it snows and rains, you get people from places."

In his defense of a proper place in the field of humor for the pun, Nash described a device for "a delayed-action time pun."

He said that as far as he knew, no other persons had been similarly disturbed. Also, he had no idea who was responsible for the action.

Tech Show script writer will receive vacation, cash

The winner of a script-writing contest sponsored by Tech Show 1965 will receive a week's fully-paid vacation on Cape Cod plus $10 in cash, announced Gary Scri- grove '64, general manager.

The scenario for the show and one scene written in full must be submitted July 4. The winner's vacation is for the purpose of writing the first draft.