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participation was in "All My Sons"; last season he preferred light opera and was in the chorus of "The Merry Widow."

Role of Chuck Wright, Cindy's boy friend, is taken by GEORGE NASH, a native of Galesburg, who came to Danville 2½ years ago by way of Champaign. A graduate of Michigan State, he tried out for the play to have something to do while awaiting a call to a naval officers' training school . . . ROBERT NUSBAUM is Mr. Patterson, the junk man, victim of the trigger-happy convicts. A native of Peoria, Bob became interested in the stage while attending Bradley University. He and his wife have been Red Mask members three years . . . Assuming the character of a teacher is nothing new for NORA VINSON, who portrays Miss Swift, Ralphie's instructor. While still Nora Kenny, a DHS senior, she had the title role in "Our Miss Brooks," a school production.

HAROLD JUDY, as Deputy Sheriff Jesse Bard, object of the convicts' hatred, is making his bow in a Red Mask play, although as he puts it, he has "lived through several with my wife, Barbara." Sports editor of The Commercial-News, he is an accountancy graduate of Illinois State Normal University . . . "At home" in the play, his first, is BOB BRATTON, newcomer from Indianapolis, who portrays the role of Harry Carson, FBI agent . . . Just out of the Army and wanting something to do while waiting to enter college next semester prompted JOE PETERS to try out for the part of Tom Winston, another sheriff's deputy. Although he applied casts for 16 months as a soldier, this is the first time the Danville native has been in one! . . . JIM LEWIS appears as Lt. Fredericks of the Indiana State Police. Last season, he debuted in Red Mask as Mary's senator father in "John Loves Mary," had a walk-on part in "Dial 'M' for Murder." He's a native of Pekin, where he appeared in high school productions of Gilbert & Sullivan, later became interested in set design while attending University of Illinois.

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By Joseph Hayes

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Directed by Kathryn Randolph



PALACE THEATRE
NOVEMBER 14 and 15, 1956

8:15 P. M.





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THE DESPERATE HOURS:

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The Story of the Play

"The Desperate Hours" is a skillfully contrived melodrama in
which suspense is built up almost imperceptibly to a terrifying
peak of emotional intensity.

Novelist-playwright Joseph Hayes has gone to the newspapers
for the basis of his story of an Indianapolis family held captive by
three escaped convicts from the federal penitentiary at Terre Haute.
The ruthless way in which the felons turn the Hilliard home into
a hideout while plotting vengeance on a law officer is painted in
bold, broad colors by Hayes. The initial shocked resentment and
defiance, giving way to fear, and finally being replaced by a daunt-
less resistance provide the delicate shadings of the work of art.

The ultimate triumph of dignity and decency over brutality
points up the power latent in a family or a people whose home or
country is overrun by thugs.

"The Desperate Hours" was first presented by Howard Erskine
and Joseph Hayes at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, New York
City, on Feb. 10, 1955. It was staged by Robert Montgomery and in
feature roles were Karl Malden as Dan Hilliard, Nancy Coleman
as Eleanor Hilliard and Paul Newman as Glenn Griffin.

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"COTTON SHOP"

Vermilion at North Street

Who's Who in the Cast

R. CAMERON SNYDER, who portrays Dan Hilliard, the average man turned hero in defense of his family, is no stranger to the stage. He was a member of a little theater group in Manitowoc, Wis., and while a resident of Chicago, sang with the Civic Opera. Since coming to Danville, he has given noteworthy performances in "Detective Story" and "Born Yesterday" and last season had one of the principal roles in "The Merry Widow," presented by the Danville Light Opera Co. . . . BETTY MOSSER, a native of Skokie, scored a triumph in her initial Red Mask appearance a few years ago with the lead in "Dark Victory." Family duties limited her participation to one play since—"Two Blind Mice"—until the present role of Eleanor Hilliard. Mrs. Mosser, a graduate of the University of Illinois, attended the Chicago School of Expression and Dramatic Arts, was in summer stock at Michiana Shores, Michigan City, Ind.

DEE KIPP, who plays the role of Cindy Hilliard, the daughter, came to tryouts the second day after she arrived in Danville with her husband, Frederick, a General Electric engineer, and son, Freddie, 2½. A participant in little theater and operetta groups on Long Island, she's proudest of the fact that an amateur motion picture organization to which she belonged won first place in New York state in 1950 for a 48-minute movie . . . BILLY VAUGHT, 13-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Vaught, is an old hand at Red Mask plays; he was Bert in "All My Sons." An eighth grader in Roselawn School, he likes to be in plays and on radio programs but wants to "do something in science" when he grows up.

Leader of the convicts, Glenn Griffin, is portrayed by GLENN STENSEL, a Berhalter funeral director. It's his first big role. A native of Farmer City, he was graduated from Purdue and Worsham College of Mortuary Science, took short courses at Northwestern and New York Universities. He recently returned from Korea and duty as an Army first lieutenant. . . . A youthful veteran of Red Mask hits and first winner of a "Katy" for acting is ROBERT J. SMITH, appearing as Hank Griffin, younger brother of the desperado. "B.J." scored in "Our Town," "All My Sons," "Life With Father," "The Glass Menagerie" and "Heaven Can Wait." He's a product of Butler and John B. Stetson Universities, served in the Marine Corps . . . The brutal convict, Robish, is characterized by MARVIN (BUD) EHRLICH, last seen by Red Maskers as Det. Lieutenant Monahan in "Detective Story." His first

(Please turn to back page)

THE DESPERATE HOURS

The cast in order of their appearance:

Tom Winston.....	Joe Peters
Jesse Bard.....	Harold Judy
Harry Carson.....	Bob Bratton
Eleanor Hilliard.....	Betty Mosser
Ralphie Hilliard.....	Billy Vaught
Dan Hilliard.....	R. Cameron Snyder
Cindy Hilliard.....	Dee Kipp
Glenn Griffin.....	Glenn Stensel
Hank Griffin.....	Robert J. Smith
Robish.....	Marvin (Bud) Ehrlich
Chuck Wright.....	George Nash
Mr. Patterson.....	Robert Nusbaum
Lt. Carl Fredericks.....	Jim Lewis
Miss Swift.....	Nora Vinson

Time: The present.


Scene: The city of Indianapolis.

ACT ONE: A day in autumn.

ACT TWO: Later.

ACT THREE: Later.

The orchestra in the pit, members of Local 90, American Federation of Musicians, is directed by Earle Roberts.



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ART DIRECTOR—Barbara Judy.

SOUND EFFECTS—Dr. Harold Brownstein and Harold Young.

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STAGE HANDS—Guy Hutton, Clarence Gage, George Holycross and Claude Lovejoy Jr.

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Red Mask Through the Years

Red Mask Players is 20 years old this fall. It has grown from a small group of drama hobbyists to the largest "do it yourself" arts organization in Danville.

Kathryn Randolph, our director, was on the executive board in 1936 and Katherine Gerrard was a member of the board of directors—as she is today. These are the only two charter members still actively participating in Red Mask.

Plays weren't presented until the 1937-38 season. Robert L. Horney, then superintendent of Danville Recreation Dept., was the first president and served two years.

At first, Red Mask productions were staged in school gymnasiums, then the YWCA became headquarters. Finally, in the middle 1940s, Red Mask made the move to the Palace, which has been "home" for the past dozen years.

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