

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 triggerhappy 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.



Red Mask Players

E. Conton Words

Presents As the first production of its twentieth season

THE DESPERATE HOURS

A Drama in Three Acts

By Joseph Hayes

By Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Directed by Kathryn Randolph

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PALACE THEATRE NOVEMBER 14 and 15, 1956 8:15 P. M.



RED MASK PLAYERS

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Red Mask Players gratefully acknowledges the generous assistance given by the following firms and individuals in the production of THE DESPERATE HOURS:

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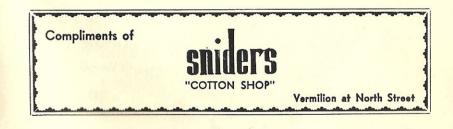
The Story of the Play

"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 dauntless 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.



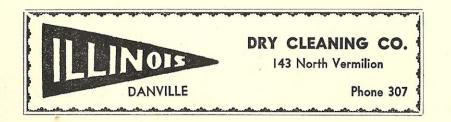
Who's Who in the Cast

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, 2%. 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 buts 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	

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.



Red Mask Committees

- PLAY READING—Jack Caughron, chairman; Lucinda Butler, Betty Linne, Lois Lewis and Harold Smith.
- CASTING-Jack Caughron, chairman; Lois Barrick, Jane Anne Joyce, Charlotte Smith and Lucinda Butler.
- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR—Barbara Bailey; prompters, Ann Birge, Jean Pleschner, Jeanne Wilson, Margaret FitzGerald and Linis D. Prentice.
- COSTUMES-Honore Ronan, chairman.
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- STAGE FURNISHINGS-Gloria Prentice, chairman, and Carrie Pollack.
- MAKEUP-Gene Barrick Jr., chairman; Mildred Towle, Helen Jurczak and Irene Reimann.
- STAGE MANAGER-Dr. Harold Brownstein.

ART DIRECTOR-Barbara Judy.

SOUND EFFECTS-Dr. Harold Brownstein and Harold Young.

- SET CONSTRUCTION-Guy Hutton.
- STAGE HANDS-Guy Hutton, Clarence Gage, George Holycross and Claude Lovejoy Jr.
- PROGRAM PREPARATION-Robert B. Wright.
- SEATING AND PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION—Fred Butler, chairman; usherettes, Bonnie Fleming, Shirley Sharpf, Jeanine Zeiter, Bobbie Angell, Ada Mary Castle, Judy Caughron, Donna Dettman, Tem Donaldson, Gail Brownstein, Karen Towle, Liz Blackwell, Mary Sabalasky, Judy Duncan, Alice Wittig, Judy Righter and Eileen Eagen.
- MEMBERSHIP—Mary Ellen Bean and Dr. Kenneth Toy, chairmen; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Caughron, Fred Butler, Harold Smith, Harold Iskowich, Kenneth Clapper, R. Cameron Snyder, Horace Junior Jenkins, Harold Judy, Jim Lewis, Ed Fonner, Robert Duncan, Matt Jurczak, Gene Barrick Jr., Alan Oster and Bill Gerrard, and Dr. Carl Gordon and Dr. Harold Brownstein; Ruth Page, Ruth Murray, Dorothea Perry, Barbara Bailey, Robert B. Wright, Jean Henson, Honore Ronan, Margaret FitzGerald, Marcella Reilly, Lorene Frost, Bill Buchar, Ed Buntain, Pat Smith, Jeanne Wilson, Shirley Sharpf, Eugene Mills, Mandy Temple, Bonnie Fleming, Marguerite Walters and Betty Linne.

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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.

