

# "Ghost Train" Senior Play At Narbonne May 18

### Splendid Cast Will Enact Thrilling Mystery Drama

The thrill-laden senior play, "The Ghost Train," which is being directed by Mrs. Schwartz, will be presented in the Narbonne auditorium, Friday night, May 18, at 8 o'clock. The setting is a haunted railway station where several passengers are stranded for the night. Complications set in when the station agent, while attempting to scare the intruders off the premises, drops dead in an apparently supernatural manner.

This thrilling mystery is well interspersed with humor. Otis LeGrande plays the male lead as Teddie Dearkin, a seemingly foppish Englishman, who is really a Scotland Yard detective in disguise. There is no feminine lead as three of the parts are of equal importance.

Peggy and Charles Murdock, newlyweds, are played by Merrill Pankey and Carl Starkey. Merrill, incidentally, had the lead in the last year's junior play, Elsie and Richard Winthrop, a quarreling couple, will be portrayed by Erna Tucker and Dwight Eubank. Miss Bourne, a middle-aged spinster of a severe, uncompromising nature, will be played by Dorothy Morris. The role of the old stationmaster, Saul Hogskin, who furnishes many thrills in the play, will be enacted by George Hoffman. Ada Young has been cast as Julia Price, a high-strung young lady who thoroughly believes in ghosts. Joe Haslam will take the part of Herbert Price, uncle of Julia, and Homer Townsend will play the part of John Stepling, friend of Price and member of a gang of rum-runners. The part of Jackson, a revenue officer, has been assigned to Deano Mc-Minn.

Neil Whitney and Sydney Cowan are in charge of the sound effects, which play an important part in this mystery-drama. Catherine Lupin is the property manager with Helen Smith and Lucille Rodriguez as her assistants.

## Commonwealth Party Files Its Petitions

Checking of the petitions filed by the newest aspiring political party, the Commonwealth party, was started Monday by the county registrar of voters. The petitions, filed last Thursday by Eugene Mc-Sweeney of 512 South Van Ness avenue, Los Angeles, contains a total of 18,748 names, according to W. M. Kerr, registrar, who is directing the check.

A corps of clerks in the registrar's office expected to finish Saturday the checking of the recall petitions for three members of the Los Angeles board of education.

The new party must have 14,419 valid names of its regular registered voters on its petitions in order to justify its existence and get its party name on the ballot. The checking will require several days, and when completed Kerr will forward the petitions to the secretary of state at Sacramento.

F. D. R. Invited to Colorado DENVER, Colo. (U.P.)—An invitation to spend his summer vacation in Colorado has been extended to President Roosevelt by Governor Edwin C. Johnson.

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## Notes From Washington

By Charles J. Colden  
Congressman, 17th District

The battle over the Fletcher-Rayburn bill to regulate stock exchanges raged for five days, from Monday until Friday evening at six o'clock. The watchful lobbyists of the stock exchanges leaned forward all this time in the visitors' gallery and hung on every word. The surprising feature of this hard-fought battle was that when the final roll was called, 280 members recorded themselves for the bill and the opposition mustered but 84 votes against it. As the debate poured forth for and against the measure, it appeared that it would be a very close vote. Sometimes, as

in this instance, those in opposition made loud speeches and sniped at the bill from the first word to the last, but when the roll was called, they hunted for cover and recorded themselves for the bill in order to hide their tracks.

Of course, there was honest opposition to the bill. Some of the members of the exchange and the proponents of the bill were largely those who had observed the shearing of the lambs in their home communities. New York City itself was divided upon this issue. One of the Tammany leaders was enthusiastic for the bill and was strong in his language in denouncing the unfair and fraudulent practices of the exchanges. Another Congressman who represents Connecticut where many of the New York brokers reside, offered a strong defense for them. Eleven Democrats and 73 Republicans voted against the bill. Two Republicans and ten Democrats of the California delegation were recorded for the bill and six California Republicans against it.

The bill has now gone over to the Senate and will run another gauntlet before it becomes a law. President Roosevelt is exerting his influence in behalf of this bill and it is believed that the Senate will also insist upon drastic regulation of the stock exchanges. The bill contains some sharp teeth and will make it tough on the brokers who practice some of the tricks of the past. It is by far the most outstanding piece of legislation of this session of Congress. It is hoped by the advocates of the bill that it will remove the abuses of the stock exchange, that it will eliminate fraudulent practices and blue-sky stocks and that it will improve the sales of the issues of legitimate business. The limitation on loans by the brokers and the exchanges is believed will cause bankers to seek more loans with business and industry direct.

No bill has been handled on the floor of the House more ably than the Stock Exchange bill. Congressman Sam Rayburn of Texas, the chairman of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce, displayed unusual ability in steering his bill safely past the many attacks that were made upon it. Dozens of amendments were offered by the opposition with a view of weakening the bill, but in every instance, Mr. Rayburn successfully baffled the attempts of his opponents and not a single change was made in the bill except with his approval. Mr. Rayburn is one of the quiet members

of Congress, rarely injects himself in the debates on the floor, but is a man of ability, high integrity and every word he utters, is given due consideration. He is a striking contrast to those members who wear themselves and their colleagues to a frazzle by endless debate and constant clatter.

Every few days some constituent writes concerning some bill with which we are not familiar. I sometimes wonder how people 3000 miles away can get ahead of me like that. But the answer is so difficult to find. In this session of Congress to date, there have been introduced over 9500 bills and nearly 400 resolutions. As large as this number appears, the clerk of the House informs me that this is the smallest number for a session of Congress in 40 years. For instance, at the Seventy-second Congress, there were around 15,000 bills and resolutions introduced. In one Congress some years ago, 33,000 bills were introduced. The largest number of bills under any one classification are those introduced for the relief of individuals, mostly

veterans, who have claims on the government. Of the bills introduced at the present Congress, some of them contain 100 or more pages. One bill at this session, the Revenue bill, consists of 269 pages. To read this bill carefully, requires one or more days and to follow up the report, hearings and references and make a technical study of the bill, would require weeks. If a member of Congress had nothing else to do but to read the bills, reports and hearings at this session, and devoted on an average one hour to each bill of the 10,000 that have been introduced, it would take him about four years to wade through this mass of proposed legislation. When you recall that a member spends a number of hours every day on the floor, has frequent committee meetings and conferences, and has stacks of mail reaching his desk four and five times a day, and must chase around on errands from department to department, I think you can understand why he is unable to be familiar with many bills until they are called to his attention.

Furthermore, so many bills are introduced and then are referred to the committee, where many changes are made, that a Congressman, in conserving his time, usually waits until a bill is reported on the calendar before he is able to find the time to give it serious attention. Of course, there are bills in which the public is interested, like the Old Age Pension bill, that he endeavors to follow before they are out of the committee. So, if you catch me up once in a while, you can understand just why I issue a hurry-up call to the clerk of the House for copies of bills in which my constituents are concerned.

I will never forget my first experience as a member of the Missouri legislature. Bills were not so numerous in those days and I was young and full of pep. So I burned many hours of midnight

oil sketching through the thousand bills that were introduced in that session. As I read them, I marked them, "O. K." if I believed they were all right, and "N.G." if I thought they were wrong. Among these bills I discovered one which required every three-story building in Missouri to install a patented fire escape. I had a strong suspicion that this was the work of an expert salesman, so I marked this one "N.G."

The Missouri legislature was in its closing hours and the clock had been turned back so that we continued in session for many hours after midnight, the hour fixed for adjournment. In the mad rush of the members of the Missouri legislature to get their bills through, the debate was curbed and only the author of the bill was allowed a few words to explain what it was all about. When the fire-escape bill was called, the author made a plea for the protection of the women and children of Missouri against the fire hazards of many buildings in the state. When the roll was called, I referred to my file of bills and found I had marked it "N.G." I was the only member who was recorded as voting "No."

About three months after the legislature had adjourned, the salesman of the fire-escape company began calling on the owners of three-story buildings and insisted on the purchase of the patented fire-escape. The price was exorbitant and a great protest arose. The members of the legislature who voted for the bill had a hard time explaining their answer to the roll call.

When I returned to Jefferson City to the next session of the

Missouri legislature and dropped into the lobby of the Madison hotel, the favorite gathering place in the Missouri capital, I was greeted by a dozen or more of my colleagues with, "Colden, how in the -- did you happen to vote against that bill?" That was my reward for reading the thousand bills in my first legislative experience. But no one can keep up that gait in the Congress of the United States.

Football and baseball players, actors, teachers and farmers are members of Congress, but lawyers lead all the professions of the legislators. It is said that there are 68 lawyers among the 86 Senators and that there are about 250 lawyers in the House out of the total of 435. It is also said that 97 of the lawyers in the House have been prosecuting attorneys and 18 of the Senators have occupied the same position. Because of his experience, a prosecuting attorney is credited with being suspicious, hard-boiled and a fighter. The Honorable James A. Reed of Missouri became famous because of his fiery attacks on offenders in Kansas City. In the House membership are eight ex-governors. Nebraska heads the list with two. Oregon and Nevada are represented by ex-governors. In the House, we have one ex-Senator, the famous Magnus Johnson of Minnesota. Some members of the House are now candidates for the Senate in their home state and several are also candidates for governor, including General Charles H. Martin of Oregon. There are approximately 20 ex-governors in the Senate.



TROOP 4  
LEE BURNS, Reporter

Ellis P. Moore, Jr., came over for last meeting. He brought with him the badges for meeting and first class, and gave an interesting talk on camping.

Twelve members of Troop 4 made plans to go up to Camp Arthur Letts over the week-end, and a large crowd is planning to go up again the following week. Joe Miles won inspection and will receive his pass to the Torrance Theatre.

A group of boys attended the Boy Scout hobby show, Saturday, at the Broadway Department Store in Los Angeles. This was very interesting and was in charge of Byron P. Hovey, Scout field executive.

Buffalo Bill Showman Dead

CADIZ, O. (U.P.)—John C. Howard, 81, a showman of the old school, who spent 15 years with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, including the Paris Exposition, died here recently.

Dropped Dead Digging Grave

HARDY, Va. (U.P.)—While helping to dig a grave here, A. G. Spradlin had a heart attack and fell dead into the grave.

## Torrance Man On Reviewing Ship

Wendell Leatherman, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Leatherman, who is in the navy writes to his parents that he was one of seven out of a class of 36 who were selected to be assigned to duty on the U. S. S. Indianapolis, which will be used as a reviewing ship by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when the fleet assembles in New York in a short time. Candidates for duty on the Indianapolis were selected for their high rating and personal appearance.

## Texas Seeks Wise Cracks

AUSTIN, Tex. (U.P.)—Wise cracks become literary if they are old enough and wise enough, the Texas Folk-Lore Society has decided. It has launched a contest for the most striking expression, or proverb of the Southwest. J. Frank Doble, author and research professor of the University of Texas, is receiving the entries.

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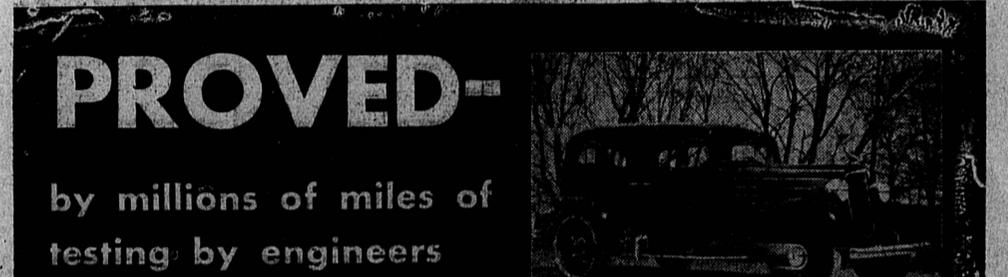
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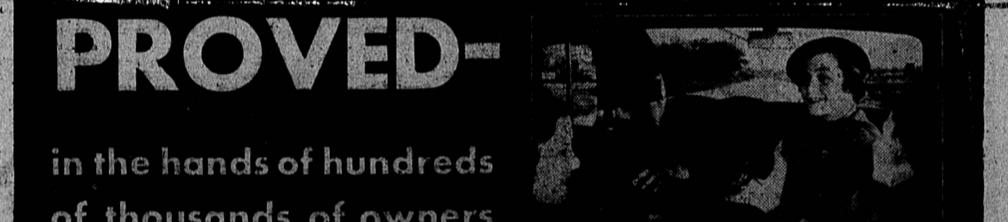
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