

WOMAN HURT

Ruth Bess, 39, of 2658 Pacific Coast hwy., received minor in-

Juries Saturday, April 27, at Pacific Coast hwy. and Crenshaw blvd. She was a passenger in a car driven by her husband, Claude, 41, going north on Crenshaw when the accident occurred with a car driven by Dana LeRoy Petersen, 20, of 12136 Herbert st., going east on Pacific Coast hwy.

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FIRST NIGHTERS

Opening night of Accent theatre's 'Stalag 17' was attended by many prominent local people and personalities from motion pictures and television. Checking the program before the play were (l-r) Mrs. Allen Pyeatt, Dick Shannon and Kathleen Freeman, television personalities, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sears, and W. C. Boswell.—Press Photo.

ACCENT'S 'STALAG 17' IS ROLICKING HIT

Accent theatre has really outdone itself this time as evidenced by the enthusiastic and responsive audience who left the playhouse last Thursday after attending one of the most exciting "first nights" in Accent history.

The old Foursquare church on the corner of El Prado and Torrance blvd. has been handsomely renovated and re-decorated for the current production of "Stalag 17", a rowdy, all-male comedy, that held the attention of the audience every minute on opening night.

Many prominent city officials, industrialists, and personalities from television and motion pictures were on hand

to see what may prove to be one of the most successful Accent productions.

And this success can be attributed not only to Director Charles Gray, who was responsible for the well-rounded cast and well-staged performance, but to the hard-working members of Accent Theatre who managed to transform the church building into a handsome little theatre that is a credit to the community.

Challenging The play itself is a familiar one to all who remember William Holden in the academy award winning movie version. However, on stage it is an even greater challenge because of the many lighting and sound effects that must be used to create the stark realism and suspense so necessary in this German prison camp story.

Even the stage is without a presenium curtain which adds austerity and helps to span the great divide between actor and audience.

Walking off with top honors was Warren Dieter as Corporal Shultz, who created the role in command of the German "Accent" was superb as was his ability as an actor to befriend and joke with the soldiers but at the same time keep the upper hand.

Grizzled Characters Two other "characters" in the play will win the hearts of every one who sees it. They are Ed Cook and Lou Ehrolich as Stosh and Harry who both grow full beards to create a slovenly, unwholesome atmosphere (a prison camp could be anything else?) and get many laughs from their salty comments and antics on stage.

Ed Long as the smug and unpopular Sefton, is well cast in this key role interpreted with a high degree of realism and James Dean moodiness.

The rest of the cast ranges from Herb, the homesick kid who even takes a bath on stage, played by Arlie Schardt; to Horney, who never says a word, but is on stage most of the time playing sombre tunes on his piccolo, played by Joseph Cunningham.

Leo Truscen as the German captain takes advantage of his one big scene with a convincingly dynamic dissertation in German that makes the bunks and the soldiers tremble.

'At Ease' Lee Oberholzer, as Reed, has a particularly challenging part that requires an ability to imitate such actors as James Cagney, Gary Cooper, Clark Gable, and Peter Lorre. The "at ease" man, Marko, played by Robert Pickett, squeaks through mail call and the camp bulletin adequately.

Others in the robust comedy are Phil Shaffer as Price, the security man; Dennis Cunningham as Hoffman; George Hodges as Due, who uses the breakfast "stew" to wash out his socks; Robert Kelsey as McCarthy; Edwin Gangel as Dunbar, the Boston socialite; Paul Harestad as Red-Dog; John Doolittle as Witherspoon; Frank Kelley as McKay, and Robert Johnson, the Geneva Man.

During intermission "first nighters" were treated to refreshments in the "Green Room" which has been turned

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Into a temporary art gallery. Members of the Torrance Art group had many of their paintings and sculpture on display and will remain so throughout the run of the show.

Many Jobs The production staff, which is the backbone of every show, consisted of: Malcolm Sagenkahn, production coordinator and president of the group; Paul Harestad, technical director and sets; Patricia Cantie, assistant director and treasurer; Barbara Cooper, stage manager; Molly Stolle and John Doolittle, light design; Joseph Jerz, assistant; Judy Sagenkahn, properties; Edward Cantie, sound; James Newbold, publicity; J. W. Holmes, photographs; Patricia Gray, make-

up; German technical consultant, Heinz Abrams, and hostess, Shiela Doolittle. For tickets to the remaining performances - Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights for the next three week-ends - contact ticket chairman, Phyllis Kelsey, at FA 8-2232 for reservations.—D.P.

Alfred Einstein Sez: "I FIGURE" the . . . Roaring '20's For The Best Cocktails and Steak Dinners 16612 Crenshaw Blvd. Phone DAVIS 3-4712

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