

REC. DEPT. STAGES HIS PLAY

Frogs Can't BEAR Trolls: That's Theme of Writer, 10

(See picture on Page One)

Did you know that frogs just cannot bear trolls — because trolls give them warts?

And that mushrooms are mushrooms that grow on the moon, but once upon a time they lost their gravity — because the magic sword changed night into day too fast — and tumbled to the earth?

Did you know that once upon a time there lived a prince in a castle-type neighborhood and that one day he was mowing his front lawn when along came the wicked witch of the north —

How It Began
—And that is how the whole story of "Once Behind A Lawnmower" really began?

Thus is realized the whimsy of story — writer Mark Spero, age 10, whose plot was chosen as the basis of the Torrance recreation department's annual drama production, to be presented Friday.

When asked why a prince should be doing such a mundane thing as mowing a lawn, Mark replied, "Well, he couldn't just sit around and be lazy all the time, so I thought he should be mowing the lawn." And why not? With Trolls, mushrooms, butterfles, yami ogres, and sundry other Little People, why not a lawnmower?

Poor at Handwriting

Mark, a small boy with great, candid dark eyes, is presently a student at Jefferson School, where he will be in the fifth grade next year. His best subject, he says, is arithmetic, and his worst is handwriting. He has written other stories — one last year was about how the sun was made; "an Indian story," he says. When asked how long it took him to write "Once Behind A Lawnmower," he figured it

to be about three hours. The dance-drama adaptation of Mark's story involves many enthusiastic youngsters, from six to 15 years of age, who this summer have participated in the stagecraft, modern dance, and crafts classes offered by the recreation department. Many of those who were not chosen for principal or dance parts volunteered to work on set construction and design.

The Cast
Principals of the cast will include: Alice, Teresa Crimmins (age 9); Prince, John Breglio (age 9); Witch, Betty Kaufman (age 10); Sword, Nathan Spero (age 12); Frog, Kevin Calahan (age 7); Alice Frog, Paula Jane Seileck (age 8); Flower, Ann Druwitt (age 6); narrator, Mark Spero (age 10).

Completing the cast will be about 50 youthful dancers. While the children do provide the story, the cast, and the setting, they receive a little help from time to time from a few able recreation personnel.

Joan Maguire, who adapted the original story into drama form, also directs the script and staging. Erika Muhl, leader at the Arts and Crafts Center, where the drama is taking form, is heading the creation of costumes, props and scenery. Dance instructors Dawn Steadman and Kay Turney are providing leadership on the choreography and dance rehearsals.

Two Performances
Doubling as assistant director and stage manager is Jeff Kirst, age 14.

"Once Behind A Lawnmower" will hold two performances, at 2:30 and 8:30 p.m., Aug. 16, at the Recreation Center Building, 3341 Torrance Blvd. Admission to the event is free.

Words, Words, Words

Bureaucratic verbosity always has been legend. Consider this choice example reported by a Washington commentator:

The Declaration of Independence has 300 words; the Ten Commandments 297; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address 267; the Lord's Prayer 56. A recent federal order on cabbage prices had 26,911.

New Leadfoots Push Stars In Ascot's Big Car Racing

Bob Hogle, Allan Heath, Dee Jones and Bob McCoy may be getting all the headlines these Wednesday nights out at Ascot Park, Gardena, in the weekly 30-lap California Racing Assn. big car races, but a flock of relatively new leadfoots are coming up fast to challenge the aforementioned greats.

Hogle has won five main events, Heath three and McCoy two, with Jones ranking second only to Hogle in points but serving notice on this intrepid quartet is a galaxy of newcomers, topped by motorcycle champion Don Hawley, taking his first crack at the powerful sprinters.

Parnelli's younger brother from Torrance, Jack Kelley of Long Beach, Ned Spath of Ojai, Phil Bradley of Gardena, Jim Steele of El Monte, Al Bartz of Santa Monica, Jack Austin of Fullerton, Jimmy Oskie of Lynwood and the ex-midjet champion from San Bernardino, Donnie Melton.

All won recent heat races at Ascot, while Spath placed second and Kelley third in a trophy dash.

However, the big news these days at Ascot is the confident, sure-handed Buena Park flash, Hogle, who seems headed for the 1963 CRA championship. He can be seen in action, along with more than forty other

IDEA FOR TODAY

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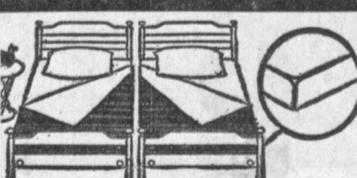


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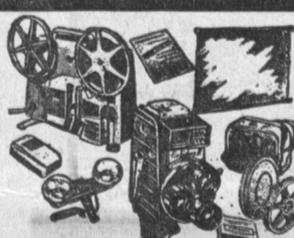
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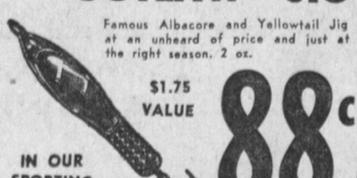
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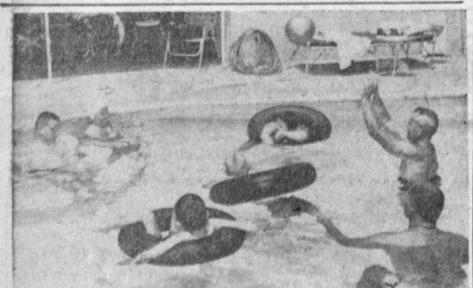
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