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In a large small-town of Connecticut in 1906 lives an ordinary American family. They are typical in their humors and vexations. They are average folks, faced by average problems, and they have the strength to solve them. What concerns them most in "Ah, Wilderness!" is the youthful fervor of Richard, who is a senior in high school and a rebel. He reads Swinburne, Shaw, Wilde and Omar Khayyam, and his mother worries. He is an incipient anarchist; he hates capital and his father looks disturbed. He is also passionately in love with a neighbor's girl, and means to marry her. The scraps of Swinburne verse that he sends to her alarm her father, who forces her to break with Richard in good, melodramatic style. Being young and arrogant, Richard runs amok to spite her, and gets tight in the presence of a strange lady. His father and mother are sure that the world has come to an end. But the damsel manages to prove her devotion at a moonlit rendezvous on the beach and Richard is himself again. After everything has been settled naturally, the father and mother begin to remember that once they were young.



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Arthur	BILL BRUZAS
Richard	RICHARD BAGWELL
Mildred	MARILYN WEEKS
Tommy	GARY JOHNSON
Sid Davis	DR. MAL MACDONALD
Lily Miller	SALLY MILLER
David McComber	ED STEELE
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### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

#### ACT I

- SCENE 1—Sitting room of the Miller home in a large small town in Connecticut. Early morning, July 4, 1906.
- SCENE 2—Sitting room of the Miller home. Evening of the same day.
- SCENE 3—Back room of a bar in a small hotel. 10 o'clock the same night.
- SCENE 4—The Miller sitting room. A little after 10 o'clock the same night.

#### INTERMISSION

(Coffee and cold drinks available in the foyer)

#### ACT II

- SCENE 1—The Miller sitting room. About 1 o'clock the following afternoon.
- SCENE 2—A strip of beach on the harbor. About 9 o'clock that night.
- SCENE 3—The Miller sitting room. About 10 o'clock the same night.

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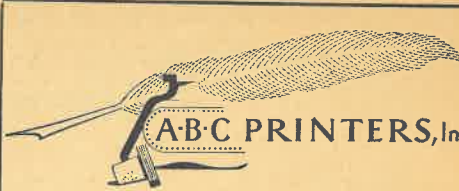
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## Who's Who

BY LOUIS K. WOODFORD, SR.

Twenty years ago, come May, 1960, the Tacoma Drama League (now your Little Theatre), presented "Ah, Wilderness" in the Little Theatre off Carr Street which was the ground floor of what is now the Slavonian-American Hall, 2306 No. 30th St. The seating capacity of the auditorium was about one hundred. We (ye scribe played Dave McComber) played four nights and our stage settings were much less elaborate than what you see tonight. The bar-room was eliminated, as were the characters of "Belle", the Bartender and the Salesman, all of which made it necessary to re-write some of the lines in order that the audience would know about the "goings on" in the missing scene.

The alteration apparently was successful and the critics on both the Tacoma News-Tribune and the Tacoma Times were most kind in their reviews of our efforts. Well, enough of the past; let's get on with the present, more or less in the order of their appearance.

**TOMMY MILLER** (Gary Johnson)—Born in Tacoma, 12 years of age and a seventh grader at Mason school. Became associated with the theatre two years ago in the Children's Theatre and appeared in a couple of playlets. This is his first attempt in a major production and from watching him in rehearsal he seems to have what it takes.

**LILLY MILLER** (Sally Miller)—A recent arrival in Tacoma (March, 1959) from Madison, Wis. Has a husband and three youngsters. Attended LaCrosse State in La-Crosse, Wis. and was active with the La-Crosse Little Theatre as well as working a number of school plays and some amateur radio work. Did the title role in "Joan of Lorraine" which she considers the high point of her career to date. Just a prediction that she'll do a "Lilly" that will be long remembered.

**ESSIE MILLER** (Dorothy Wilhelmi Atkins)—A native Tacoman with a wealth of experience in amateur theatricals. Prior to her

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**WHO'S WHO**  
(Continued)

marriage to Rear Admiral (Ret.) J. G. Atkins she was active in the Drama League of Tacoma, subsequently appeared in numerous productions with the Mare Island Players and the Honolulu Community Theatre. Her first appearance with TLT was in April, 1945 when she did "Janet" in "Kiss and Tell", then was gone from our midst for several years. On their return to Tacoma the Atkins made their home in Lakewood and she is quite proud that for about four years she directed the Lakewood Players in a number of productions. Her last appearance with TLT was in the "Great Sebastian". Now living in the city, and close to TLT we look forward to seeing her more often in future productions.

**MILDRED MILLER (Marilyn Weeks)** — Came to Tacoma from Yelm, Wash. Attended Stadium high and worked in several school plays including "What a Life" under the direction of Bob Evans, formerly Children's Theatre director. Is studying to become a Dental Hygienist and will return to C.P.S. in January to complete her studies. This is her first appearance with TLT. Hope she enjoys it and will come back again.

**ARTHUR MILLER (Bill Bruzas)**—A native of the City of Destiny; graduated from Seattle University and is now majoring in Education at C.P.S. Made his first TLT appearance in the chorus of "The Red Mill"; also worked in the "On Stage" production of "Finnian's Rainbow" under the direction of Thor Nielsen. This is his first attempt at a non-musical role. He's 21 and unattached, we think.

**NAT MILLER (Charles "Chick" Guilford)** Is a native of Tacoma, has a B.S. from C.P.S. and Masters Degree in Music from Wesleyan (Illinois). Has taught, directed and acted in school plays. Stocks and bonds are his strong suit. Made first TLT appearance in 1953 as "Doc" in "Mister Roberts"; subsequently in "My Three Angels", directed a play reading of "Reclining Figure" and has served on the Board of Directors in various capacities. Last appeared in "Teahouse of the August Moon". Prediction: Will do a convincing job as the father of all the Miller's in the cast.

**SID DAVIS (Dr. Mal MacDonald)**—If you are a "regular" at this theatre, Mal needs no introduction. If you're new here, we know that you'll remember him tonight with

**WHO'S WHO**  
(Continued)

great pleasure. Professional, he is an optometrist, at this theatre he has been a Board member, husband of a Board member, stage manager, construction committeeman, actor, etc., etc., etc. Would that the Little Theatre had more "Mals".

**RICHARD MILLER (Richard Bagwell)**— Dick is in this part of the country as a guest of Uncle Sam. He's in the Army but strange as it may seem he's stationed at McChord Field as a member of the Third Artillery Brigade (Air Defense). A grad of Northwestern U., Evanston, Ill., landed in these parts in February, 1959. Married and the proud papa of a 4-month-old youngster. Studied dramatics at N.W.U. Past efforts include the lead in "Don Quixote" and "The Lute Song". Made his Tacoma debut in "20th Century Follies" as one of the sailors who wanted to know why did they ever join the Navy, why did they want to go to sea.

**DAVE McCOMBER (Ed Steele)**—Made his first TLT appearance in "The Ponder Heart" and later as Mister Bennett (the man in the shirt sleeves) "in The Desk Set". Current role is his third legitimate part although he was last seen as the "Astro-naught" who left the president's golf balls on the moon in the "20th Century Follies". He's an accountant for Hillhaven.

**MURIAL McCOMBER (Cinda Evans)**— Born in Olympia, Wash. She came to Tacoma when quite young. Now 15, she is a sophomore in Woodrow Wilson High. Her family are TLT minded, working back stage in various capacities. Cinda made her first appearance on our boards as Laurie Penny-packer in the "Remarkable Mr. Penny-packer" in April, 1959. She is active in junior club work, likes sports of all kinds and devotes a lot of time to synchronized swimming a la Esther Williams water spectacles.

**NORAH (Carolyn Sokolowski)**—This gal hails from Anchorage, Alaska. Came to Tacoma about five years ago. She's a senior at Lincoln High, studying business administration. She says Wally Scott is responsible for her being in this show; he talked her into working back stage in "Gigi", she liked it so when tryouts were being held for "Ah, Wilderness" she read the part of "Norah" and got the job. This is her first attempt at this sort of thing and she says she's scared stiff.

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WHO'S WHO

(Continued)

**WINT SELBY (Jack Donahue)**—A recent arrival from California where he was in the postal service but is looking for something different. This is his first attempt at show business. Says a friend talked him into coming to the theatre just to listen to try-out readings; he read and he landed. His wife Jane gives him moral support; she's book-holder for the production.

**BARTENDER (Norman Bradley)**—He's a barrister (that means attorney) by profession and a right good one, 'tis said. Once upon a time he was a Lieutenant Commander in Uncle Sam's Navy during World War II prior to which he had been a resident of Denver, Colo., but when he got out of the service he liked the looks of Tacoma and sort of sunk his mud hooks here.

TLT got hold of him in February, 1954, for the role of Dan Packard in "Dinner at Eight" and his press notice was most complimentary; it referred to him as a loud-mouthed, newly rich, profane bully who brazened his way through life to hide an inferiority complex. Normally he isn't like that, soft spoken and keeping in the background. Oh, yeah!

Since then he's appeared in "Twentieth Century", "The Happiest Millionaire" and last seen in the "Silly Questions" skit of the "20th Century Follies" just concluded. His wife is active on the Board as Chairman of the Committee securing the usherettes for each production.

**SALESMAN (W. G. Georgeson)**—Everybody calls him George. An ardent fan and

supporter of TLT. Made his theatrical debut in "Lady Windemere's Fan" back in 1926 and during the 33 years that have elapsed, says he has worked in 42 shows, among them "Aida" in which he rode an elephant. As a young man he studied dramatics at the University of Minnesota and did the most of his acting in the mid-West. Appeared in "Othello", "The Merchant of Venice" and other shows too numerous to mention. He's a safety engineer for the National Board of Underwriters, a job that keeps him on the road much of the time. Has been a Tacoma resident about six years, has worked back stage on numerous shows and pinch hit in a couple for indisposed actors but this is the first time he's had his name on the program. Likes to do bit parts as they don't require much of his time and he can be replaced without difficulty in case he is called out of town suddenly.

**BELLE (Audrey Liermann)**—She did Little Theatre work in Chicago before coming to Tacoma seven years ago. Last seen on our stage as "Grace Hoylard" in "Bus Stop" (April '58). Her interests are music and her three sons, aged four, six and nine. Her husband, Rudolph is a Czech who escaped the Communists and arrived in America as a stowaway aboard a United States ship and is here now by courtesy of an Act of Congress and a special dispensation signed by President Eisenhower. Exciting, huh? Glad he made it and brought Audrey with him to Tacoma.

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Linda Duppenhaler, Sibby Pierce

Dec. 3-----Linda Stack, Carol Stack  
Heather Karr, Irene Mullan

Dec. 4-----Deanna Dague, Carol Dague  
Leah Woodford, Diane Moore

Dec. 5-----Sally Rhodes, Lois Zachow  
Marilyn Keil, Judy Platt

Dec. 9---Nancy Walker, Karen Carmean  
Betty Andrews, Patty Andrews

Dec. 10----Janet Larsen, Barbara Brown  
Joanne Bliss, Mary Bowen

Dec. 11----Dagny Erickson, Cindy Smith  
Karen Modie, Shirley Modie

Dec. 12--Margene Fisher, Sally Skidmore  
Lynn Thomas, Roger VonGohren

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Play Review, under the direction of Mrs. Carl Jones, will be presented for season ticket holders only, Monday, Dec. 14th, 8:00 p.m. Season ticket holders will present their tickets at the box office window for admission. A social hour, under the supervision of Mrs. Mal MacDonald, will follow.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Publicity: Virgil Langdon, Marcia Shannon, Tribune Publishing Co.; Dick Weeks, Bert McMurtrie, KTAC Radio Station; Loni Smith, KMO Radio Station; Don St. Thomas, KTNT Radio Station; Norman Page, KTVW Television Station.

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