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Sept 64

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Photo by Walters of Tacoma

Back Row: Paul Paulino, Loreen Hansen, Louis Talcott, Alida Evans,  
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Front Row: David Isaacson, Robert Evans, Margaret Zaferin, Russell Horton.  
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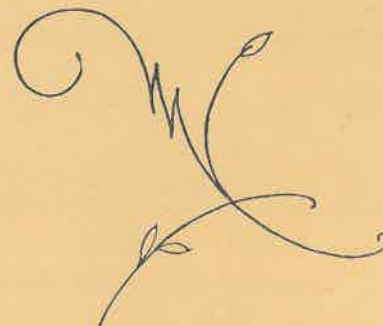
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Elliott Nash	-----	Russell Horton
Harlow Edison	-----	Robert Evans
Matilda	-----	Alida Evans
Nell Nash	-----	Margaret Zaferin
Mrs. Chandler	-----	Loreen Hansen
Mr. Thorpe	-----	Louis Talcott
The Duke	-----	David Isaacson
Louie	-----	Paul Paulino
Jenkins	-----	Charley Vawter
Dr. Wyner	-----	Elias Estefan
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Scene 3: The following morning

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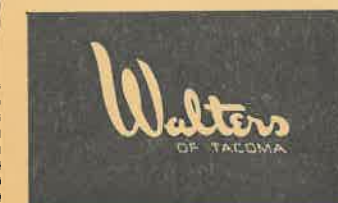
#### ACT TWO

Scene 1: Late afternoon, the same day

Scene 2: The following afternoon

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Scene 3: The next morning



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## WHO'S WHO

By Mrs. Francis R. Busby

It is said the boss is always responsible for the attitude of any organization or group under him; in this case the credit for the cast of "The Gazebo" being one of the pleasantest and friendliest on record goes to **John B. Culbertson**. Fortunately for TLT, Mr. Culbertson (after some 20 years in the Army) decided he liked this area better than the many others to which he had been assigned by Uncle Sam. Mrs. Culbertson and the three children agreeing. Tacoma, or, rather, Lakewood, is now their home. Last year guest director — "The Heiress" and "Come Blow Your Horn" — this year he has accepted the full-time job as Director. A man of two careers, Mr. Culbertson had considerable professional experience in the theatre before he went into the Armed Forces, having appeared in New York productions, stock companies, a Shakespearean repertory theatre and, as if this wasn't enough, in NBC and CBS radio productions. In a break in his military service he also toured the Far East with a USO company. In addition to the directing he has done for TLT he acted not long ago in "Bus Stop" and, for the Lakewood Players, in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and "Janus." Just prior to his return to Tacoma, while still on duty in Honolulu, he appeared as "Macbeth" with the Honolulu Community Theatre. TLT is indeed fortunate to have this talented and experienced professional to direct the coming season and Tacoma can be happy that this city is so favorably known to service people as the place in which to retire.

Just when everyone was wondering who could be dug up to play the leading role of "Elliott Nash," a kindly Fate saw to it that **Russell Horton** was transferred to Fort Lewis. Mind you, he'd only arrived in the middle of August and expects to leave again some time in October, so if Fate didn't have a hand in it, who did? Of course there were a few intermediaries such as his boss in the Public Relations office, but then . . .

Russell, it turns out, is a professional actor in TV and the movies and the list of roles he has had seems very long for a man as young as he looks. A graduate of UCLA—drama and music (Russ also plays the piano and composes and he has been signed to write the musical score for a film in the not too distant future)—he managed, after experience in several "little" playhouses, to become a real professional without undue difficulty or loss of time. Those of you who follow "Petticoat Junction" may recognize his as "Junior Hocker," suitor of one of the girls, and it was he who led the line in the "Junction Hop"—remember that episode and the fantastically catchy dance? He has also appeared in TV in the "Great Adventure" series, "Route 66," "Twilight Zone," "My Three Sons" and in two Disney movies: "The Misadventures of Merlin Jones" and "The Tiger Walks." Watch for him this fall, as he will co-star with Dan O'Herlincy in the new series "Profiles in Courage," based on President Kennedy's book. (Special notice for young ladies: Russell is a bachelor.)

Broadway may have its husband and wife teams, but TLT has one, too. You will have noticed, probably, that "Harlow Evans" is being played by one **Robert Evans** and "Matilda" by **Alida Evans**; well, this is the team and it was last seen in "The Taming of the Shrew." Alida hasn't many other roles in her scrapbook being pretty busy of late in a real estate office and prior to that as the mother of two daughters both of whom are now married. Both girls are interested in the theatre, one very much so—takes right after her father, says Alida, though at present she is having her family and temporarily retired. The second daughter has two children; soon Robert and Alida will be grandparents for the fourth time—it seems to agree with them, what? Grandfather, or perhaps it would be better to say, Robert, teaches drama and speech at Stadium High School and has been more active of late with the Lakewood Players than with TLT. He was in "The Pleasure of His Company" and directed "Critic's Choice." Arriving in Tacoma at an early age Robert had his schooling here, graduating from Stadium High and UPS and then went on to the University of Southern California for a degree in drama. Alida is a native of Tacoma, graduated from UPS and is therefore entirely a native product. And where, may this reporter ask, could a better quality screech be found than the local variety demonstrated by "Matilda"?

With such unexpected talent available for the male lead, it was fortunate indeed that Tacoma could almost match it with **Margaret Zaferin** for the part of "Nell Nash." Margaret is an experienced TLT actress, though as a rule she comes out of hiding for musicals. She has had parts in "Good News," "Song of Norway," "The Merry Widow," "The Red Mill" and "Oklahoma!" but has also appeared in such dramas as "Good Bye, My Fancy," "Strange Bedfellows" and "The Girl of the Golden West." Margaret is a real Tacoma "gal," born here and having had her schooling in the public schools including Stadium High. She had her musical training through private instructors. Although she spends her daytime hours in the finance office at Madigan General Hospital, she keeps her musical skills in condition as choir director of St. Patrick's. She is reluctant to "give" about her talents and interests and would only say that she was happy to have the leading role; it will be her first one. However, those of you who read this report will no doubt agree with the writer that it will be by no means her last one; even without benefit of singing she does "just fine."

Here's a newcomer and it seems entirely safe to say that the role of "Mrs. Chandler" will not be the last in TLT for **Loreen Hansen**. After sending three boys to the Children's Theatre she decided fortunately for Tacoma audiences to try out herself. Loreen started life well, with parts in "Tovarich" and other plays while at Oregon State but after graduation (from pre-nursing) decided to forsake "the drama" to be a wife and mother. War

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**WHO'S WHO**

(Continued)

delayed the second half of her career but then Gregory, John R. and Brian appeared and are now in the 8th, 6th and 2nd grades respectively, plus Saturdays at the Children's Theatre, as noted, only right now just two of them attend, the third being otherwise occupied. Mr. Hansen is a recently retired CWO, having been last stationed at McChord as a supply officer. He is presently tearing down his old house in town and is about to build a summer place at Filucy Bay — I might add that the Hansen's live in still a third place with nothing torn off it as yet. Having traveled around as service families do, Loreen says she is happy to settle down and make more friends than was possible in her traveling career. This is not her first time in Tacoma, for the Hansen family was stationed here some years ago between stints in California and Alabama. Given the warm, friendly atmosphere that Loreen so generously gives out, both off stage and on, it should be no time at all before those many friends she wants will be right on hand.

This play is the fifth at TLT for **Louis Talcott** who takes the part of "Mr. Thorpe;" the others were "Annie Get Your Gun," "Show Boat," "Strange Bedfellows" and "Brigadoon." Louis began his life in the theatre with the Driftwood Players in Aberdeen where he first appeared in the chorus and later as "Judd" in "Oklahoma!". Originally from Minnesota, Louis was brought to Oregon by his parents when he was quite small, and he grew up there, attending Whitman College and Conservatory. (If you haven't heard him play the organ, you should — he is good. Too bad there does not seem to be parts needing this talent!) After war time service in the Army Air Corps, Louis came back to the Northwest and eventually drifted into the Driftwood Players, as noted. He presently exercises his musical skills not only in playing organs but in singing in the choir at Mason Methodist Church and with the Totemaires which, it seems, is, or is part of, the Tacoma Chapter of SPEBSQSA. (Give up? It's the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.) And when he isn't singing or playing the organ he can be found at the Vocational School these days, studying radio broadcasting.

TLT is indebted for another transfer-in to the Social Security Administration. **David Isaacson** — "The Dook" — arrived in Tacoma April 1st of this year (that's right, April Fool's Day). He walked into the theatre all by himself with an offer to help out back stage. Remember the posters in the settings and in the lobby for "Annie Get Your Gun"? He painted them and he holds the title of Director of Scenic Painting for the 1964-65 season. A lot of what you see in every stage set is now his handiwork and he appears from time to time as an actor as well. David is no novice. He studied art for some years in the Massachusetts School of Art and at the Chicago Art

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**WHO'S WHO**

Continued

Institute. A Bostonian, he was watching rehearsals one day at the Boston Tributary Theatre; a few suggestions resulted in his acting and directing for some four years there, and with the Children's Theatre, affiliated with the Tributary Theatre, for over nine years. He also served as Director for the Boston YMCA's Little Theatre (and designed and painted the stage sets) for three seasons — all these jobs overlapping a bit. On being transferred to California he played "Judge Gaffney" in "Harvey" at the "King DoDo Playhouse" in San Jose and now, fortunately for TLT, he is settled in Tacoma. He says he spends his week days at the Social Security office, his evenings mostly at TLT and weekends he likes to explore Seattle's theatres, art galleries and scenery in general. (Girls, here's another bachelor.)

**Paul Paulino** — "Louie" — is another local product; attending Tacoma schools (he played the leading role in "Mr. Van Dyke" in junior high) and then Stadium where he was a student in Mr. Evans' dramatic classes. He came to TLT with a friend and now has his first part on the stage. You probably will be seeing more of him for one of his greatest interests is the theatre. His daytime job is with the Lyle Plywood Company; his spare time interests, aside from the theatre, are chess and golf, with an occasional venture into fishing. He's single — but he doesn't hate girls.

**Charles Vawter** — "Jenkins" — has been in and out of TLT for some fifteen years both as actor and as helper behind the scenes. His last appearance was in "Roman Candle"; some of the other plays in which he took part were "Two Blind Mice," "Charlie's Aunt" and "Silver Whistle." As a local boy, he went to Lincoln High School; later he lived in other places but eventually returned to Tacoma. He is employed at Schoenfeld's, resides in a bachelor apartment near Wright's Park and says he likes to get his sunburn there rather than further afield. Not an unusual biography but none of us is ever all usual, and color and drama can be found beneath a surface of quiet competence.

Although he is appearing as "Dr. Wyner," Stage Manager **Elias Estefan** says he leaves acting mostly to his wife, Pat, who is well known to many TLTers. She it was who brought him in and he helped with the sets for "Annie Get Your Gun" and to such good effect that he is now, as noted, Stage Manager. Elias is another man of several talents (this cast seems to have more than its share) and he is developing one of his by studying commercial art. Of Syrian ancestry, his parents brought him to this country (via some years in Cuba) in 1947; he attended high school and had a year of college before arriving in Tacoma in 1951. Elias is employed by Safeway Stores, likes athletics — he referees basketball for the City of Tacoma team, and has umpired baseball, too. He and Pat have two children; the family likes to go camping or otherwise to spend their spare time outdoors.

## after the show . . .

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 Sept. 14—Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Herb Zimmer  
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 Sept. 23—Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Marcy  
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 Sept. 24—Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson  
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 Sept. 23—Mickey Burrell  
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 Sept. 18—Lock Riehl  
 Sept. 19—F. M. Bickenbach  
 Sept. 22—John Hunt  
 Sept. 23—Francis Busby  
 Sept. 24—Fred Menicocci  
 Sept. 25—Tom Hopwood  
 Sept. 26—Jack Thomas

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 Sept. 17—Fern Dengis, Lorraine Boedecker  
 Sept. 18—Mary Edson, Maggie Jones  
 Sept. 19—Dorothy Forsyth, Edna Iverson  
 Sept. 23—Cathryn Guernsey, Stanley Sams  
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 Sept. 26—Mary Edson, Darrell Darnell



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**STORY OF THE PLAY:** The ex-Secretary of State, is a wit and scholar with high liberal principles, beloved of the eggheads and suspected by practical politicians. Then there is the ambitious young man who is ruthless and hard-driving, a dirty fighter, and one who will let no scruples stand in the way of his ambitions. Also, there is an ex-President, who loves politics for their own sake, admires a rough-and-tumble battle more than a chivalrous one, and is determined to have the final say in the selection of his party's candidate. The ruthless young man has gotten hold of papers indicating that his rival once suffered from a mental crackup, which he is all set to use. Then his scrupulous antagonist comes across some incriminating evidence about the young man, which he is loathe to produce. The scruples don't appeal to the ex-President, who enjoys seeing the boys fight. All of this provides the framework for some vivid and interesting scenes in which the playwright contrasts the minds, emotions and fighting spirits of the two candidates to good dramatic effect.

**THE BEST MAN opens OCTOBER 23rd**  
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