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Sound Effects.....Ray Denny, Chairman  
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First Night Social.....Ethelyn Darnell  
Assistant in Foyer.....Ethel Weeks

## WHO'S WHO

by  
LAURA DEVEUVE

Here's the first play of the season AND, believe it or not, six of the nine players in the cast are making their first appearance behind the footlights at TLT. We owe something extra to John Culbertson, director, for picking them out. Of course, there was self-interest on his part, too, for now he has six more actors and actresses to call upon, and from watching his quiet and encouraging way of coaching them, no doubt they'll all accept other roles.

In the order they appear on the program here they are: **BETTY KISLER (Grace Kimbrough)** is brand-new, and we owe Charles Vawter a debt for discovering her. Not only is this her first appearance on the stage, she has been in the audience at TLT only once. Not what you'd call a good record for some seventeen years of residence in Tacoma, what? However we hope she makes up for it by more appearances on her present side of the footlight; for, although she has never studied drama, she only "rather liked it" when in school, she seems to have absorbed the art of acting somehow. The mother of four children (you'd never guess her eldest is old enough to be in the Marines, would you?), Betty's record as a housewife is uncomplicated by any business or professional experience, if you overlook a three months' job selling children's books "just to see if I could do it." Once she found out, she resigned—so here she is really breaking the record by going into show business.

This is also a TLT first for **ELIZABETH ALLEN (Edith Lambert)**. However, Elizabeth has played before. She took part in College dramatics and later, in Portland, acted in a theatre in the round. All this was some time ago, she says, long before her husband was transferred to the Tacoma office of the Union Pacific Railroad. Since the move she has been living peacefully with husband, a dog and a mynah bird and holding down the job of secretary to the manager of Sears. Then Peg Nourse lured her into TLT to help paint scenery. Tryouts were about to take place, she tried out and Peg lost a good scenery painter! BUT—TLT has gained a new actress.

The play is the first for **MICHAEL HEALY (Charlie)**—but Mike is really an "old hand," having been a student actor in the TLT Children's Theatre some years (of course!) ago. In the fairly recent past he also played the lead in "Harvey" put on by the Bellarmine Players and presented at St. Leo's. He's very valuable at TLT for not only does he act, but he helped build the scenery, too, and take charge of the lighting. Interested even as a school boy in writing and poetry, never-the-less when at the University of Washington he entered the School of Business Administration. Guess his specialty! Real Estate. And why? His father is in real estate—Healy Bros., Inc., and now Mike is another Healy on the staff. (AND—he's single.)

**PENNY DROST (Kate)** in a not very long life—she is still a student at Community College—has managed to have quite a bit of experience in dramatic work. She took part in high school plays and is active in theatricals in college where, among other things, she has been make-up artist. Although this is her first appearance as an actress at TLT, she used to be an usher here when she was younger. Now, between college classes, she models at People's Store coffee shop three times a week. But, with all this experience before the public, when asked what she plans to do after graduation, she

answered "be an airline stewardess"! Rather a waste, we think—or is it?

**RON SCHMITT (Mr. Foley)** is one of the few old timers in the cast, though he himself isn't what you would call old. Sargent Schmitt, ER19736612, birth date 12-6-43, is back in civilian life after three years in the army. He is also back in the Little Theatre business which is army career interrupted and in which he has had a good deal of experience. He appeared last at TLT in "The Music Man" and was also seen, if you recall, in "Brigadoon" and "Taming of the Shrew." He is presently a student at Tacoma Community College in the day time and working evenings at Miller's Grocery when he isn't acting here. And, though it is obvious he doesn't have many free evenings for dates right now, girls, he's single!

**CHARLES VAWTER (Dr. James Kimbrough)** is a seasoned veterans of TLT—so seasoned, in fact, that he is worn out giving his history for Who's Who and announced, when asked about himself, he'd "started life as a kindergarten drop-out" and went on with increasingly lurid descriptions of his (imaginary, we hope!) career. However, omitting these colorful details, it can be stated that he appeared last for TLT in "Daughter of Silence," and also has to his credit umpteen roles in other plays. See files for TLT programs for details. He spend his days at Schoenfelds and we trust that on many more evenings he will be seen behind the footlights at TLT.

**MAX JOHNSON (Mayor Crane)** TLT has still another first. Max started out as a Drama Major at the University of Washington and played with the Repertory Playhouse. Then he switched to Political Science. After graduation he veered back again a little and tried out radio work and got himself hired as an announcer, but found he was also an assortment of other things, including engineer, a job for which he had no background whatsoever. So he boned up on it, and qualified. He decided, however, to give his political science background an airing, and joined the staff of the State Department of Public Assistance where he is presently a case worker supervisor. So now he helps his staff to work on family problems daytimes and then goes home to help Mrs. Johnson with their two teen agers. We hope this heavy schedule will not keep us from seeing more of Max.

Former Air Force Master Sergeant **JAMES DOYLE**, RA21924180, (a policeman) is also back in civilian life and making a first appearance at TLT. (All these serial numbers! but James and Ron threatened for a while to give only name, rank, serial number and date of birth to your Who's Who reporter. It seems a shame not to use the stuff.) James is no novice around little theatres, having appeared with the Siour City Players in "Tea House of the August Moon" and other plays. He sho' is versatile: works with props, plays an assortment of musical instruments and started out life as a semi-professional rodeo rider, an art which he learned at his uncle's ranch in Arizona where he spent summers as a child and lived for a while in his late teens. He has moved about the country a lot on his own and in the Air Force (he also spent three years in Korea during the war). He met and married his wife while in Salt Lake City, where he volunteered with the little theatre, of course; and, as Mrs. Doyle came from Tacoma, here

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### WHO'S WHO

(Continued)

they now find themselves. As soon as he had time for TLT he joined the backstage work crew—and found himself drafted for this part.

This TLT appearance is the second one for **RAYMOND WIESS (Harry Lambert)**, the first being in a "Shot in the Dark." A retired Army officer living in Lakewood, he decided to see what was going on at TLT. Why? Before he entered the Army he had been a professional actor, one who was always interested in little theatres. Ray began studying drama as a boy (at Culver Military Academy where director Joshua Logan of South Pacific and Camelot fame was a classmate). Except for a stint in radio he followed the theatrical profession until he joined the armed forces. Then came years of moving about—during World War II he was in the South Pacific and the Philippines and later in Korea. Now he and Mrs. Wiess have settled down to enjoy the Northwest. Mrs. Wiess helps keep the Red Cross going as a board member and volunteer; Ray helps keep the Country Club going by spending daytimes on the golf course. It is our good fortune that he has also decided to help keep TLT going by spending at least some evenings on the stage.



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- Sept. 17—Col. and Mrs. Kenyon Yauger
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- Sept. 21—Col. and Mrs. B. C. Andrus
- Sept. 22—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. S. McCrea
- Sept. 23—Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Burton
- Sept. 24—Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wileen

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- Sept. 12—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Evans
- Sept. 13—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cooper
- Sept. 14—Mr. and Mrs. Coy Brown
- Sept. 15—Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bradley
- Sept. 16—Julie Marshall, Lillian Marshall
- Sept. 17—Mr. and Mrs. Edward Arthur
- Sept. 19—Mr. and Mrs. Eric Peterson
- Sept. 20—Mrs. Peg Poole and Friend
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- Sept. 23—Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Gray
- Sept. 24—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hopwood

### USHERS

- Sept. 9—Kathy Kirk, Steve Erickson, Jay Kirk, Vicki Bolinski
- Sept. 10—Judy Colby, Anne Keyes, Claudia McCullem, Caye Larsen
- Sept. 12—Linda Copeland, Shonnie Smith
- Sept. 13—Edna Farmer, Kris Bodecker
- Sept. 14—Ellyn Taylor, Cherly Slonaker
- Sept. 15—Kristi Christian, Marilyn Laird, Debbie Stipek, Judy Mallos
- Sept. 16—Barbara Hazelrigg, Kathy Staatz, Cathie Eastman, Nancy Eastman
- Sept. 17—Irene Muir, Janet Frazier, Margaret Porter, Frances Porter
- Sept. 19—Tracy Hendrickson, Laura Chadwick
- Sept. 20—Merrilee Fuson, Diane Scavlem
- Sept. 21—Jo Ann Buecker, Kris Kade, Chris Bailey, Betsy Jones
- Sept. 22—Elin Cratton, Margaret Porter, Edna Peterson, Frances Porter
- Sept. 23—Jennis Chipman, Shirla Chipman, Billie Chipman, Melva Chipman
- Sept. 24—Dennis Hanson, Eric Larson, Tony Kawasaki, Terry Sage

### CHECK ROOM

- Sept. 9—Mrs. August Goetzka, Mrs. Lloyd Nyman
- Sept. 10—Mr. and Mrs. Larry Shanklin
- Sept. 12—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kasselmann
- Sept. 13—Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Beal
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- Sept. 22—Alice Hart, Bess Brossamer
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- Sept. 24—Mr. and Mrs. Cy Hanson

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Sept. 16—Harold Evans  
Sept. 17—Jack Thomas  
Sept. 19—Judge Waldo Stone  
Sept. 20—Arnold Nordlund  
Sept. 21—John Endres  
Sept. 22—Robert Gower  
Sept. 23—Lick Riehl  
Sept. 24—Marvin Bickenbach

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In a recent issue of Holiday Magazine James Lincoln Collier has loaded the ammunition into the gun which Community Theatres have held for years, but, lacking the ammunition, could not fire. The thesis of Collier's article is that the "real American theatre is not in Times Square but Out There. Out There they are deciding which American plays are going to endure . . . and next to the amateur theatre, the Broadway stage is reduced to small proportions indeed." Of course, this is something which we, in our pride, have been saying for years; but Mr. Collier has gathered some valuable facts and figures which solidify the real strength of community theatres.

He has drawn estimates that there are between 30,000 and 50,000 amateur groups in the country. These groups "put on between 100,000 and 200,000 productions a year, which play to an audience totaling, incredibly, more than 100,000,000 people."

Some authors make a very comfortable living off the amateur market. George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, with three of their plays, grossed a total of one million dollars. Thornton Wilder's "yearly take from 'OUR TOWN' alone cannot be much less than \$20,000 and probably as much as \$500,000 in the amateur theatre alone." A big name author may gross \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year. "An ordinary Broadway hit is generally good for a five-figure income for at least several years after it is released to amateurs."

This is the ammunition for the silent weapon we hold. Now that it is loaded we should find some way to pull the trigger and blast the myth in the minds of agents and authors that the amateur theatre is a "game of nickel-dime poker." If only we could make them realize that they could make more money by releasing their plays to amateurs sooner instead of holding on to them while "truck and bus" touring companies beat them to death.

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