

Nelson B. Bell About the Showshops

Twelve Acting Groups To Compete in Tourney

**One-Act Play Competition Begins Feb. 27;
'March of Time' to Consider Foreign-Born;
This, That and the Other About the Theater**

IN FULFILLMENT of the warning given here some time since, registration books for the D. C. One-Act Play Tournament of 1941 have been closed. Twelve local acting groups have been accepted by the tournament committee and their choice of plays for the tourney has been approved by the play-reading committee, named by L. Zaff Rogers, general chairman.



BELL

The groups that will compete this year include the Buchanan PTA Drama Club, Census Bureau Dramatic Club, Covenant-Fellowship Dramatic Club, Falls Church Community Theater, FBI Recreation Association Theater Group, Interior Players, Masquers of Roosevelt Community Center, Pepconians, Players Club of Central Community Center, Pierce Hall Players, St. Paul's Players and the Troupers of East Washington Community Center.

The tournament will open in Roosevelt High School Auditorium on Thursday night, February 27, and will continue with three additional preliminary contests on Saturday, March 1; Tuesday, March 4, and Thursday, March 6. The finals are scheduled for Saturday night, March 8, also at Roosevelt High.

The tournament is sponsored by the Community Center and Playgrounds Department of the District of Columbia and is an annual fixture that has taken on increasing importance with the passing of the years.

The "March of Time" continues to discover topics of absorbing interest for its distinguished documentary releases within the borders of these fretful United States. Its next issue will bear the title of "Americans All!" and will reveal that during the past century almost 40,000,000 aliens have flocked to our shores and in what manner the foreign-born and the children of foreign-born have contributed toward building this Nation and making it the world's greatest democracy. It is well to remember at this juncture in national affairs that high in the councils of the Nation are many men who came to the United States as immigrants—men like Welsh-born United States Senator James J. Davis, German-born Robert F. Wagner, Austrian-born Justice Felix Frankfurter, Russian-born Sidney Hillman and Danish-born William S. Knudsen.

Catholic University's next dramatic offering, in case you have been wondering, will be "God's Stage," to be presented in the University Theater the evenings of February 26 through March 2. "God's Stage," excerpts from the world's drama stressing the Christian motif on the stage, was compiled by Walter Kerr, who also will direct the production. The cast will be composed of four men and five girls, all students of the University's Speech and Drama Department, under the directorship of Father Hartke.

And tonight at 10, following the final projection of "Queen of Destiny," beginning at 8:25, the Little Theater will present a public preview of the season's prodigious "sleeper," "Night Train," which will begin its regular engagement on Ninth Street tomorrow morning, with Margaret Lockwood and Rex Harrison in the leading roles. "Night Train" having skirted about the fringes of the Capital for days on end now, "preview" somehow seems not to be quite the word.

Time out for a few acknowledgments. Belated thanks to Frances Starr for her cordial note from New Haven and to Horace "Happy" Walker for his, from Oteen, N. C. And more of the same to Universal for the stucco ash tray—or was it a book-end?—and to the publishers for copies of Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Bess Streeter Aldrich's "Miss Bishop," the Lockridges' "Murder Out of Turn"—a possible new "Mr. and Mrs. North" comedy—the Saroyan plays and all the rest. They all have boosted the mileage on the early morning gas.

Sidney Lust will give a farewell party at his Hyattsville Theater tonight for the entire personnel of Company F, crack outfit of the First Maryland Regiment, National Guard, which has just been called for Federal service. Members of the company will participate in brief patriotic exercises beginning at 8:30, and then will view the complete evening performance of the Hyattsville's regular bill.

Signs-of-the-Times Note

If you had to do it, the story might be plucked from local marquee something as follows:

**"BACK STREET"
("THIS THING CALLED LOVE," "GONE WITH THE WIND")**