

TWIN CITY PLAYERS

TROOPING FOR THE TROOPS AND OTHERS

TCP is one of the oldest continuing performing theatre groups in Michigan. Founded in 1932, TCP was one of the few that continued presenting live theatre during the years of WWII; 1941 through 1945.

Throughout the war years, TCP entertained troops, bought war bonds and put on plays. The plays were sponsored by organizations such as the Army Mothers, Navy Mothers, Coast Guard Reserve and Civil Air Patrol. These sponsors kept profits from the production over and above expenses and an agreed upon fee for TCP. In this way, TCP covered our costs and the sponsoring organizations raised funds for their efforts during the war years. It was a great way for TCP to engage audiences and help various war efforts.

During the years of WWII, TCP presented the following productions:

1941-1942 – *George Washington Slept Here* and *The Pursuit of Happiness*

1942-1943 – *Sleeping Dogs*, *Over the Teacups* and *Singapore Spider*

1943-1944 – *Claudia*, *Another Language* and *Papa Is All*

1944-1945 – *Junior Miss*, *Ninth Guest*, *Pygmalion* and *My Sister Ellen*

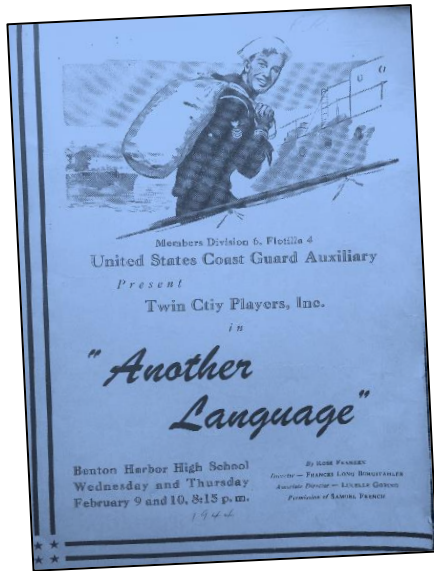
1945-1946 – *Kiss and Tell*, *Jack and the Bean Stalk*, *Philadelphia Story* and *Blithe Spirit*

NOTES:

- 1) All names appear as they were printed in program booklets.
- 2) Although the war began on September 1, 1939* with Hitler's invasion of Poland, the USA entered the war following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The war's end came with **V-E Day** (observed on May 8, 1945, in Great Britain, Western Europe, the United States and Australia, and on May 9 in the Soviet Union and New Zealand) commemorated the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces in 1945, ending **World War II** in Europe. **V-J Day** which occurred on August 15, 1945 (formal surrender on Sept. 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri) ended the war with Japan. Some sources have earlier starting dates.
- 3) Proceeds from the presentation, after expenses and a small fee to TCP went to support the efforts of the sponsors.
- 4) It is great fun to look through the following pages for all the familiar names of cast and crew as well as all the businesses supporting the war effort, Twin City Players and the sponsoring organizations!



Another Language



Comedy. Presented February 9 and 10, 1945 at the Benton Harbor High School.

By Rose Franken with permission from Samuel French.

Sponsor: Members Division 6, Flotilla 4 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Cast Members: Pamela Jones, William Jones, William Saltzman, Jr., Victorine Berwald, Robert Halsted, Vernelle Miller, Leslie Harmon, Ann Plummer, Edward Hatch, Mary Hanley and Robert Hatch.

Crew Members: Then as now there are more members working to put the cast on stage than there are cast members. The list is long and filled with some long familiar family names.

Director – Frances Long Burgstahler

Associate Director – Lucelle Goring

Production Manager – Victoria Boothby

Financial Advisor – Norine Allen

Scenery – Marion Tiffany, Dr. C.V. Lawton, Margaret Meyn, Dare Schoomaker, Edith Burns, Betty Sullivan and Kay Tiefke

Robert Walton, Jane Spawr, Wilma Gast, Mary Elizabeth O'Reilly, Adelia Wallsmith, and Robert O'Reilly

Lighting – Leslie Harmon and William Saltzman, Jr.

Publicity – Dorothea Ross

Tickets – Consuelo Coombs, Norine Allen, and Margaret Howard

Costumes – Louise Walton and Pegge' Emlong

Programs – Consuelo Coombs

Make-Up – Clarabelle Messner Moore and Muriel Oberg

Ushers – Members Division 6, Flotilla 4, United States Coast Guard Reserve

Music – Margot Courtright

A word about the Members Division 6, Flotilla 4, US Coast Guard Auxiliary (From the Program)

"In addition to the many hours of active duty required, at various Coast Guard establishments, such as Life Boat Station, patrols, defense plants, docks, warehouses,, etc., a prescribed course of intensive training is required of all members – for the Coast Guard insists that all its duties be carried out the Coast Guard Way.

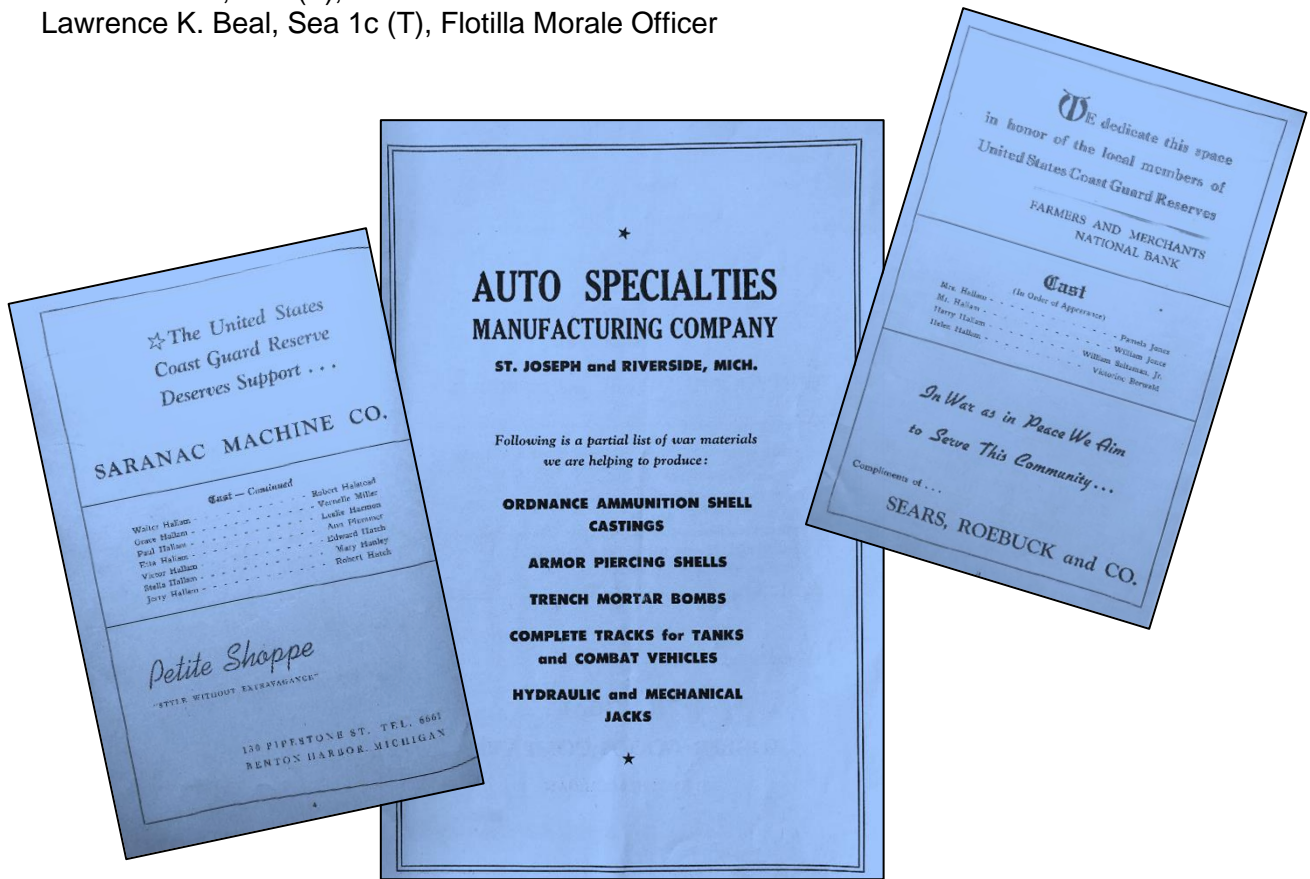
"And what does the local unit (known as Division 6, Flotilla 4) accomplish? Part of the answer to this question is still a "military secret". However, it is interesting to know that the local Flotilla of approximately 65 members have devoted, during 1943 alone, more than 25,000 hours of active Coast Guard duty and training, without any compensation whatsoever, other than the satisfaction of making a very worthwhile contribution toward relieving younger men for active duty."



These members performed practically every know duty of a “regular” Coast Guardsman. They were subject to all Coast Guard regulations and responsibilities. They took the identical Oath administered to all Coast Guardsmen. These Temporary Members of the Coast Guard Reserve differ from regular full-time Coast Guardsmen in 3 way: 1) He agrees to serve only on a part-time basis; 2) He receives no pay for his service; and 3) He is not eligible for draft deferment or Government insurance. It was a true patriotic service!

Officers of Division 6, Flotilla 4: The ‘T’ indicates Temporary

- Ensign (T), J.R. Gardner, Flotilla Commander
- Dale C. Weirs, CBM (T), Flotilla Vice-Commander
- Warren E. Lake, CBM (T), Flotilla Junior Commander
- James E. Boothby, SK1c (T), Flotilla Supply Officer
- G. Virgil Lewis, CBM (T), Asst. Training Officer
- Sam W. Clark, Y1c (T), Chief Yeoman
- Lawrence K. Beal, Sea 1c (T), Flotilla Morale Officer



The Story: All the people in this play are members of the Hallam family, either by birth or by marriage. Over them all rules Mother Hallam with an iron hand. The play is built around the effort of one of the daughters-in-law to escape the deadly family uniformity. She tries first to carry her husband with her, but before long it is clear that he will side with the family rather than with her. The essentially comic elements of the play are revealed in the well observed family scenes, but the undercurrent of genuine drama is felt when things come to a climax, and the revolting girl, the only one of the lot worth saving, seems to triumph.

Junior Miss

Comedy. Presented October 31st and November 1st, 1944 at the Benton Harbor High School Auditorium

By Jerome Chodorov and Joseph Fields. Based on stories by Sally Benson. With Permission of Dramatists Play Service.

Sponsor: Mothers of World War II, Victory Chapter, Unit 1 of Michigan.

Cast Members: Robert Mowry, William Jones, Victorine Berwald, Jane Spawr, Janet Maxham, Gretchen Wiltberger, Cynthia Burholder, M. Gordon Bull, Virginia Owen, Edwin Dwan, William Howard, Carlisle Marshall, John Berg, Bert Schwartz, Robert Atwood, Lee Hornack, Bruce Howard and Thayer Hatch.

Crew Members: Then as now there are more members working to put the cast on stage than there are cast members. Even with this large cast more worked to support the cast. The list is long and filled with some long familiar family names.

Director – Muriel Oberg

Associate Director – Marion Tiffany

Production Manager – Betty Sullivan

Assistant Production Manager – Pamela Jones

Scenery – Leslie Harmon, Marjorie Fowler, Robert Atwood, Grace Rosenberry, Dr. C.V. Lawton, Idella Berndt, Virgil Lewis Gladys Kamber, Emma Dorstewitz and Vernetta Lewis

Properties – Martha Vranek, Margaret Howard, Irene Smith, Ann Plummer and Hazel Wilkins

Costumes – Marilynn Berner, Fay Dunnington and Vernelle Miller

Make-Up – Sally Moore, Gertrude Ryan, Kay Tiefke, Marguerite Tibbitts and Pamela Jones

Tickets – Lucelle Goring, Consuelo Coombs and Kathryn Mowrey

Lights – William Saltzman, Jr.

Publicity – Victoria Boothby

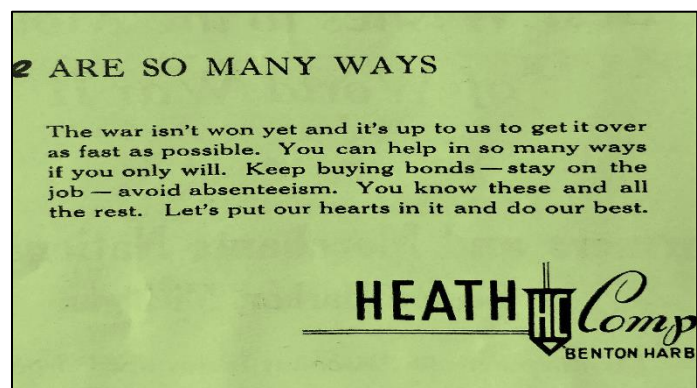
Finance – Norine Allen

Programs – Consuelo Coombs

Music – Ann Plummer

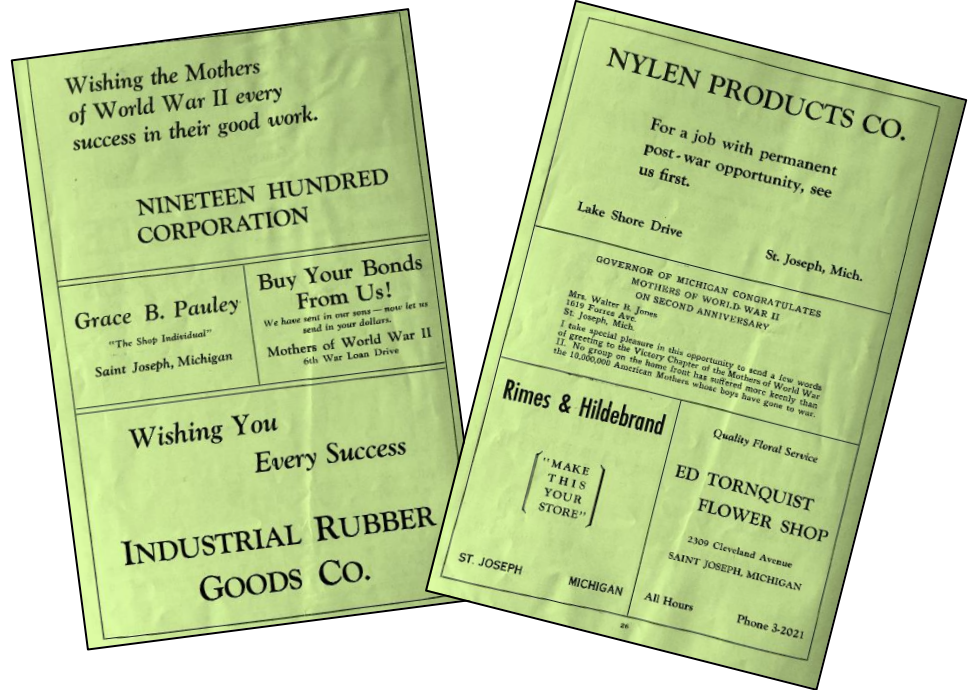
Ushers – Mothers of World War II; Ann Hartman, Goldie Marmon, Frieda Pavlick, Evelyn Wilder, Laura Bowlen, Ruth Goetz, Verva Avery, Orpha Decker, Bertha Froberg, Wilma Waterman, Elizabeth Johnson, Selma Montey Minnie Moyer, Ethel Eckert, Verda Ryno and Farwell.

Officers of the Mothers of World War II, Victory Chapter, Unit 1 of Michigan – Elsie Jones, President; Jane Chaddock, 1st Vice President, Maude Wooten, 2nd Vice President; Elvira Glines, Secretary, Helen Hart, Treasurer; and Margaret Fello, Chaplin.




Synopsis: A humorous story of teen angst and misunderstandings, family dynamics and financial matters, is a sweet and snarky comedy about the Graves, a middle-class family living in New York City, just prior to WWII. At the center of the family's story is intense and imaginative young Judy Graves, who imagines that her family is full of Hollywood-style intrigue and heartbreaking drama. Hovering between childhood and the coveted maturity of high school, clumsy and melodramatic Judy gets no respect from her family: perpetually irritated father Harry, condescending and infuriatingly popular older sister Lois, even saintly mother Grace doesn't seem to take her seriously. But when Judy thinks a confiding moment between her father and his boss' daughter means they're having an affair; she takes it upon herself to save her family from falling apart!

Proceeds above and beyond expenses and a small fee TCP went to the Mothers of WWII, Victory Chapter, Unit 1 of Michigan.



Pygmalion

TWIN CITY PLAYERS, Inc.
Present
"PYGMALION"
By GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
For the benefit of
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
POST No. 1459



Benton Harbor High School
February 7th and 8th, at 8:15 P. M.
1945
Director - Frances Long Burgstahler Assisted by Lucelle Goring
Permission of Walter H. Baker Co.

Romance. Presented February 7 and 8, 1945 at Benton Harbor High School

By George Bernard Shaw with permission by the Walter H. Baker Co.

Sponsor: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1459

Cast Members: Mickey Kirk, Pam Jones, Bill Jones, Fred Kirk, Mary Kennedy, Marty Grau, Robert O'Reilly, Les Harmon, Vernelle Miller, Bob Mowry, Anne Plummer, and Irene Smith

Crew Members: As remains true today, many more people supported the cast on stage.

Director – Frances Long Burgstahler
Associate Director – Lucelle Goring
Production Manager – Vernetta Lewis

Scenery – William Jones, Pamela Jones, James Endicotte, Irene Smith, Penny Jones, Paul Jewel and Florence Saltzman

Properties – Les Harmon, Hazel Wallsmith, Gladys Kamber, Bette O'Reilly, Mrs. Paul Jewel, Caroline Seymour, Jean Cole and Robert Atwood.

Costumes – Pegge' Emlong, June Tauner, Jean Hatch and Jeanne Mary Vogel

Make-Up – Sally Moore, Grace Rosenberry and Kay Tiefke

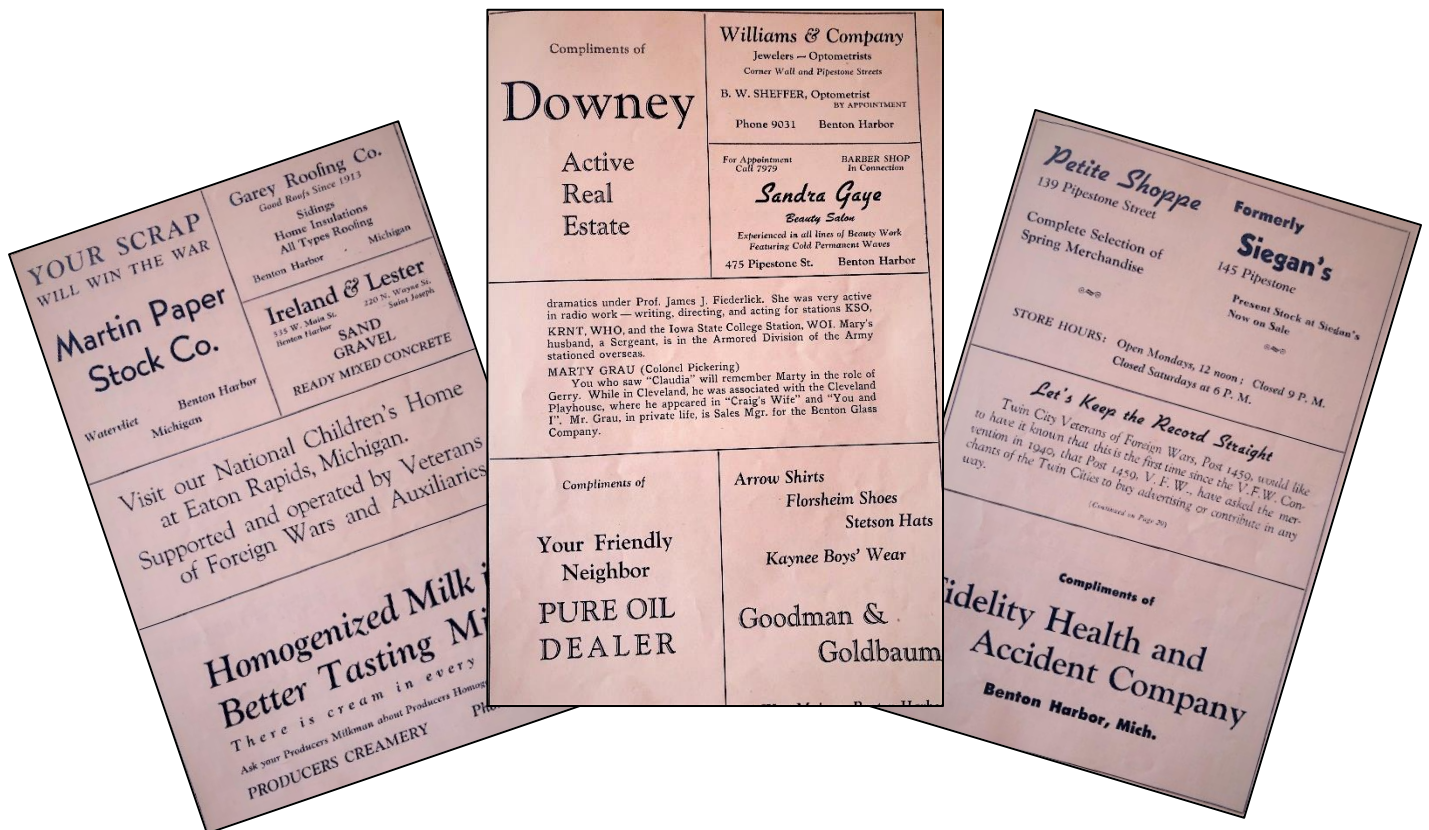
Lighting – Virgil Lewis, John Tiffany, Lewis Churchill and William Saltzman, Jr.

Finance – Norine Allen and Marion Tiffany

Music – Marjorie Fowler and Warren Colby

Ushers – Members of Post 1459, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1459

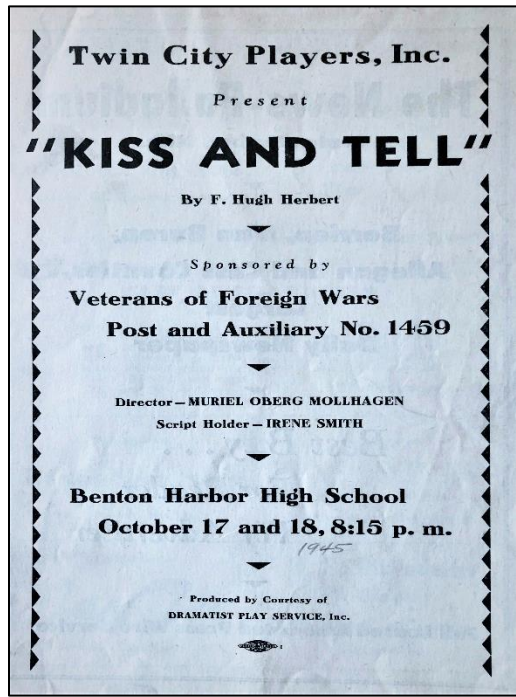
Synopsis: Based on classical myth, Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* plays on the complex business of human relationships in a social world. Phonetics Professor Henry Higgins tutors the very Cockney Eliza Doolittle, not only in the refinement of speech, but also in the refinement of her manner. When the end result produces a very ladylike Miss Doolittle, the lessons learned become much more far reaching. The successful musical *My Fair Lady* was based on this Bernard Shaw classic.



Kiss and Tell

Comedy, Presented October 17 and 18, 1945 at Benton Harbor High School Auditorium
By F. Hugh Herbert with permission by Dramatists Play Service

Sponsor: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary No. 1459.



Cast Members: William Jones, Henrietta Richmond, Alice Richmond, Pat Moore, Dorothy Kull, Donald Barton, Ednas King, Robert Mowry, Jack Rombaugh, Bob Kull, Marilyn Berner, Les Harmon, Hulda Pinch, Robert Morris and Webster Fugate

Crew Members: (always outnumbering the cast, then and today. Join TCP and participate in the arts!

Director – Muriel Oberg Mollhagen
Script Holder – Irene Smith
Production Manager – William Jones
Scenery – Les Harmon, Paul Jewel, Fred Kirk, Dr. C.V. Lawton, Erma Dorstorvitz, Webster Fugate, Marie Fugate, Robert Kull and Dede Wallsmith
Lighting – William Saltzman, Jr., William Riley, Virgil Lewis and Robert O'Reilly
Properties – Vernelle Miller, Mona Winkler, Caroline Seymour, Hazel Wallsmith, Edward Hatch and Grace Gayton
Costumes – Pam Jones, Sally Brannock, Joann Moore Martha Vranek and Mildred Kirk

Make-Up – Kay Tiefke, Jane Spawr, Polly Klock, Marguerite Tibbits and Josephine Thomas
Programs – Mary Hanley
Advertising – Players: Lucelle Goring, Norine Allen, Margaret Howard, "Peg" Emlong and Jane Edwards Spawr. V.F.W. Mrs. Richard Anderson and Mrs. Abe Frank

THE STORY: Corliss Archer, going on sixteen, is a trial to her family and at the same time a pure delight. She can't stand not being grown up, and when Private Earhart is entertained by the Archers, Corliss plays the young lady and almost precipitates a catastrophe when she considers it a point of honor not to give away the secret that Mildred is the girl her brother Lennie has married. It started when Mildred and Corliss sold kisses for charity and Mildred was accused by the Archers of being a bad influence. This led to complications that seemed serious to the parties concerned but are delightfully funny to others.

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285 Empire Ave.
WILLIAM JONES (Mr. W. Jones)
Bill is well known to the audience of Twin City Players. He is all but the play in which he has taken part, his character is "Lennie Archer" and "Mrs. M. Archer". Bill is also a member of the production crew of our plays, especially "The Village of the Mad" and "The Kiss and Tell". He is a "bad" influence. Bill is the only character in our "bad" influence.

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ACTION and SCENE
The entire action of the play takes place on the back porch of the Archers' home. The time is the present.
ACT I. Scene 1. About five in the afternoon on a summer's day.
Scene 2. An hour and a half later.
ACT II. Scene 1. Late afternoon of the next day.
Scene 2. Saturday morning, two months later.
ACT III. Several hours later.

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Lighting – William Saltzman, William Riley, Virgil Lewis, Harold Wallsmith.
Properties – Vernelle Miller, Mona Winkler, Caroline Seymour, Hazel Wallsmith, Edward Hatch, Grace Gayton.
Costumes – Pam Jones, Sally Brannock, Joann Moore, Martha Vranek, Mildred Kirk.
Make-up – Kay Tiefke, Jane Spawr, Polly Klock, Marguerite Tibbits, Josephine Thomas.

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