

GORDON BENSON DIES WHEN JAP SHIP GOES DOWN

Lt. Gordon Benson, son of Mrs. Eve Benson, 507 Alameda street, Klamath Falls, was killed while on a Japanese prison boat in Subic Bay on Dec. 15, 1944, according to word received by his mother.

Lt. Benson came to Medford with his parents at the age of four and made his home here until his parents moved to Klamath Falls in 1938. While attend-



Lt. Gordon Benson

ing the University of Oregon he entered the army air corps and took his training at San Diego, Calif., Hemet, Calif., Randolph Field and Kelly Field, Tex.; before going overseas April 21, 1941.

The last letter received by his parents was written Nov. 30, 1941, a few days before the Pacific war broke out. Starting Jan. 12, 1942, radio messages were received once a month from the lieutenant for three months, after which followed a long lapse of news. In August, 1942, word was received through War Correspondent Frank Hewlett, who said Lt. Benson was with Gen. MacArthur's army when it retreated to Bataan. On May 11, 1943, a wire was received by his parents saying Lt. Benson was a prisoner of the Japanese.

Following announcement of the sinking of the prisoner boat in Subic Bay, Mrs. Benson had a premonition that all was not well and wrote to the war department and to her son, Lt. Col. Noel Benson, then in Florida, who made a special trip to Washington to find out the fate of his brother. Hope was still held that he was yet a prisoner and telephone calls were received from men who had been fellow prisoners, all with encouraging news.

But on the evening of July 23 came a message from the war department saying Lt. Benson had died when the prisoner boat was sunk.

The purple heart posthumously awarded Lt. Benson with citations, was recently received by his parents.

P.-T. A. Activities

Washington P.T.A.

First meeting of the fall for Washington Parent-Teacher association will be held Friday, Oct. 19, at 2:30 p. m. in the school auditorium. A program and entertainment have been planned and it is stated that Girl Scouts will care for pre-school children of mothers attending the P.-T.A. gathering.

Last Friday afternoon members of the executive committee of the association entertained teachers of the Washington school at a reception and tea at the school after classes were dismissed. About 25 were present for the tea. Mrs. Robert Church is president of the association.

Freight Glider Brings Lobsters

Teterboro, N. J., Oct. 16—(U.P.) A glider carrying fresh lobster from New England was cut loose over Teterboro air terminal and landed without incident today, two hours and five minutes after it had been snatched by a tow plane from Allerton Beach, Hull, Mass.

The flight was said to be the first successful commercial cargo-glider experiment.

HERSHOLT ELECTED

Hollywood, Oct. 16—(U.P.)—Jean Hersholt, Danish-born character actor who has appeared in motion pictures for 39 years, today was elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Hersholt, former vice president of the academy, succeeds Producer Walter Wanger, president for the past six years.

Competent Cast Will Present Little Theater 'Ghost Train'

Rarely does there come into the realm of the theatre such spectre-like realism as is held in "The Ghost Train" the three act mystery-comedy play that kept London and Broadway on its toes for over a year, and which promises to be another smash hit in southern Oregon when the Little Theatre produces Arnold Ridley's masterpiece of wit and horror in Medford early in November.

The play opens in the waiting room of a small railway station at Clear Vale Junction, Maine. Vernon F. Spencer, of Glendive, Mont., plays the role of Saul Hodgkin, neurotic old station master who putters and worries his way through the play. Spencer, a journalism graduate from Montana State university, played the lead in "Mystery at Midnight" in Glendive several years ago, and has also appeared in several other plays.

The action moves quickly as the cast appear... all passengers who have unluckily missed a train connection and must stay in the haunted station all night. Alvin Grund, a pre-med student from Drake University plays Richard Winthrop a ruined business executive on the brink of divorce with his wife Elsie, acted by Charity Keeble of Atlanta, Ga. Miss Keeble studied Shakespeare at Katherine Bronson's school in San Francisco and has appeared in many stage productions including James Barry's "Mr. Pim Passes By."

The newly weds Charles and Peggy Murdock, are enacted by

Arthur D. Cross and Margaret Ann Brown Cross, from Boulder, Colo., played Uncle Stanley, one of the leads in "George Washington Slept Here" and also appeared in Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer prize winning play "The Skin of Our Teeth," at University of Colorado.

Miss Brown, who plays the part originally acted by Claudette Colbert, is from Medford. She is best remembered as part of the cast of "Deadlier Than The Male" last spring's Little Theatre production.

The leading roles, those of a minister school teacher and a silly, fun-loving Englishman, are played by Laura Porter of Kodiak, Alaska, and A. Robert Hamilton of District Heights, Maryland.

Miss Porter had the role of Maxine in "Deadlier Than The Male" and has had parts in several other recent productions. Hamilton, besides doing monologues played a dual role in his home town production of "One Wild Night"

Lee Rasmussen of Pasadena, Calif., plays the part of Julia Price, an attractive, blonde young woman who has been driven partially insane by her fear of "The Ghost Train." Miss Rasmussen has done much Little Theatre work throughout California and Oregon.

Eddie Gunger of Youngstown, Ohio, plays the role of John Sterling Gunger, who is a drummer, will return to his contract with Woody Herman's orchestra as soon as he is discharged from service.

Jackson, the detective, is given personality through the efforts of James K. Johnson, Spokane, Wash. who although new to the stage, has been an eastern Washington football and track star.

ACTOR DIES

Santa Maria, Calif., Oct. 16—(U.P.)—Thomas Brennan, 53, known on the stage as Thomas O'Brien, collapsed and died last night at the conclusion of a USO vaudeville act before thousands of soldiers at Camp Cooke.

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