

'Blithe Spirit' Opens Successfully After Numerous Production Problems Solved

There was standing room only in the Pine Grove Room of the Willard Hotel Saturday night, when Klamath Civic Theatre opened its "in-the-round" of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit."

"They were a very receptive crowd, too," said director Bill Hagerman. "I don't know when we've had such a good audience."

A formal dress opening which had been scheduled for the

play on Friday was cancelled, out of respect to the late President Kennedy.

An evening performance has been substituted beginning at 7 o'clock Thanksgiving Day, with the closing performance slated for Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Bob Scholl, business manager, said that for the first time the group had lights of its own, flats of its own and a switch panel independent of the

Willard Hotel system with which to operate the lights.

"The tremendous production problems met and overcome in this play have put us a long way forward," said Scholl.

These problems included arranging voices to come from out of nowhere, the throwing of vases and other objects by unseen hands, and drawers opening by themselves, not to men-

tion the more ordinary problems of getting phones and door-

FLAG STOLEN
FRESNO, Calif. (UPI) — When President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas last Friday, Mrs. Ethel Stater unfurled a special American flag at half staff on the flag pole at her Fresno rest home.

The flag, which she had

planned to fly during the 30 days of mourning, had been draped on the casket of her husband, Orval, a World War I veteran who died two years ago.

Today the flag pole at the Stater rest home is bare. The flag was stolen by a thief Tuesday night.

proscenium stage," said Hagerman. "In fact, we were told we'd never be able to do this play in the round."

Many of the solutions were provided by George Conner, who with the help of his son, Jim, built electronically-operated machines designed to throw vases, drop plates and throw fruit.

Pete Langreen designed a lighting system, and supervised

members in making it, of such unlikely materials as stove pipe, plywood and borax.

The system of 12 lights used for "Blithe Spirit" is the basis of Langreen's complete system, which will ultimately meet every lighting problem the Civic Theatre is likely to encounter.

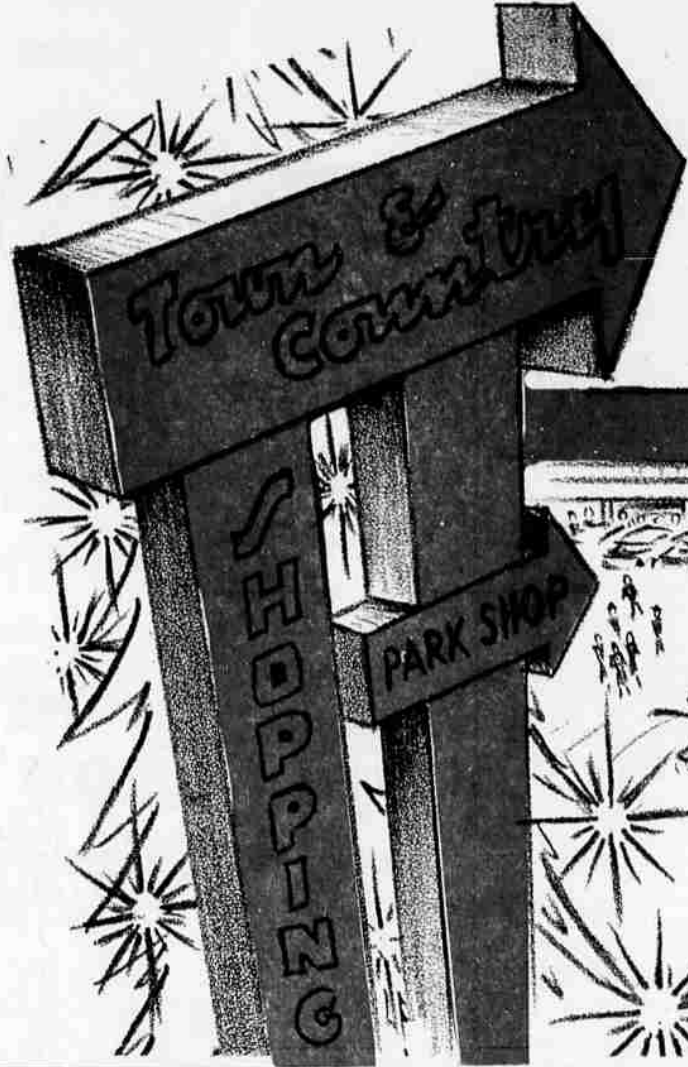
Even make-up constituted a technical problem. Two of the cast were to be made up as

ghosts. Black light and colorless fluorescent make-up were used

by Bob Matthews, make-up technician, to solve part of the problem. Other cosmetics solved the rest, he said.

Costumes were made especially for "Blithe Spirit" by Sylvia East, on the basis of designs by Pam Harris. Most of the fabric and many accessories came from rummage sales.

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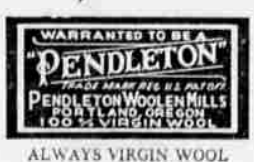
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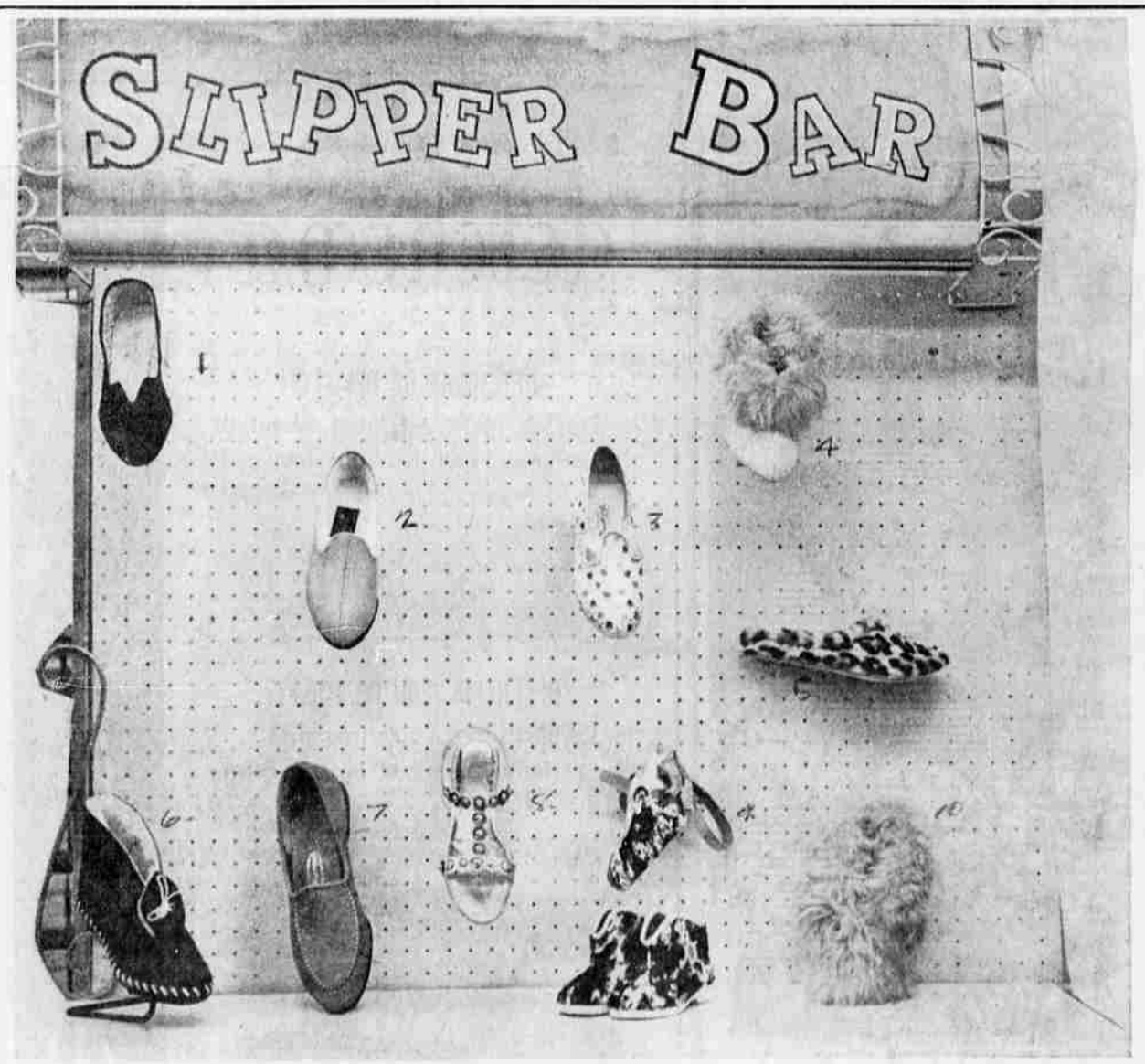
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