

## \$1000 Prize Awaits Play On Lincoln

Story Must Be Based on His Early Life in Indiana, Sponsors Decree.

By JAMES THRASHER

On Feb. 12 the Southwestern Indiana Civic Association is inviting the world's playwrights to enter a contest for \$1000. The award will go to the best play based on Abraham Lincoln's Indiana years and manuscripts must be submitted by Jan. 1, 1935.

Lincoln plays have been few, and good Lincoln plays may be summed up in the one that the Englishman, John Drinkwater, fashioned from the biography by another Englishman, Lord Charnwood. The American President has suffered the dramatic neglect of most of the great historical figures. Like Napoleon and Beethoven, he has only two ready examples, he has been a favorite subject of biographers. But most attempts to dramatize their achievements have met with failure. Why this has been so opens a rather broad field of speculation which involves audiences as well as playwrights and actors. The fact remains that few writers since Shakespeare have been able to put the great deeds of history successfully upon the stage.

### More Difficult Task

Mr. Drinkwater's play, you may recall, dealt with Lincoln's life in Illinois and his years in the White House. But the task confronting the entrant in this contest is more difficult. For the dramatist must leave his hero on the threshold of manhood. The Lincolns left Indiana, after 14 years, in 1830, when Lincoln was 21.

There is, however, the opportunity to project the remarkable character of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and pick out the growth of Lincoln's rectitude, gentleness, temperance and good humor in a rough and most uninspiring environment. So many able writers should find the contest interesting as well as challenging.

The sponsoring Civic Association suggests that entrants might peruse Eggleston's "The Hoosier Schoolmaster" to advantage. Carl Sandburg's "Abraham Lincoln—The Prairie Years" also is a book that certainly should not be overlooked. For Mr. Sandburg has written of Lincoln's youth with enough sympathy, imagination and artistry to fire any playwright's ambition.

### Many Biographies

From the voluminous literature on the subject, the sponsors have suggested the biographies of Beveridge, Ketcham, Herndon, Warren, Wheeler, Lockridge, Nichols, Ludwig, Lord Charnwood, Whitney, Whipple, Tarbell, Hill and Sanburg as recommended research material.

Already some aspects of the play have been decided definitely. For one thing, it must be of two and a half hours' playing time and contain three or more acts. The characters and settings must be of southwestern Indiana in the time of Lincoln's residence there.

"Poetic license," the Civic Association, has decided, will be permissible in order to heighten the play's interest along the lines of romance, drama, comedy or tragedy.

As stated above, the contest is of international scope and, say the sponsors, Canadians are especially welcome. Already word has spread about concerning this competition and many hundreds of letters have been received from nearly all the states, from Canada and a few from Mexico.

Copies of the rules may be obtained after Feb. 12 by writing to Ernest J. Owen, Secretary, Southwestern Indiana Civic Association, 242 E. 12th St., Indianapolis. And don't forget to include self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## Piano Team Coming Here

Youthful Russian Pair to Play Sunday.

Mariens Concerts, Inc., will present one of the most highly-praised of modern two-piano teams in their first Indianapolis appearance on English's Sunday afternoon. They are Vito Vronsky and Victor Babin, young Russian artists who made their debut in New York on Jan. 14, 1934.

In private life, the pianists are Mr. and Mrs. Babin. Indianapolis already has seen, in the case of Ethel Bartlett and Ray Robertson, that marriage and a career at two pianos can be combined successfully.

Like the Robertsons, these pianists were established as soloists before they met, married and began their dual concertizing. Both are Russian-born, Miss Vronsky being a native of Kiev, and Mr. Babin of Moscow. Each studies with Arthur Schnabel in Berlin.

Besides being an interpreter, Mr. Babin is a composer, and has played, written, worked for one and two pianos, and songs to his credit. On the Indianapolis program will be heard three of Mr. Babin's studies and his arrangement of the Polovetsian Dances from Borodin's "Prince Igor."

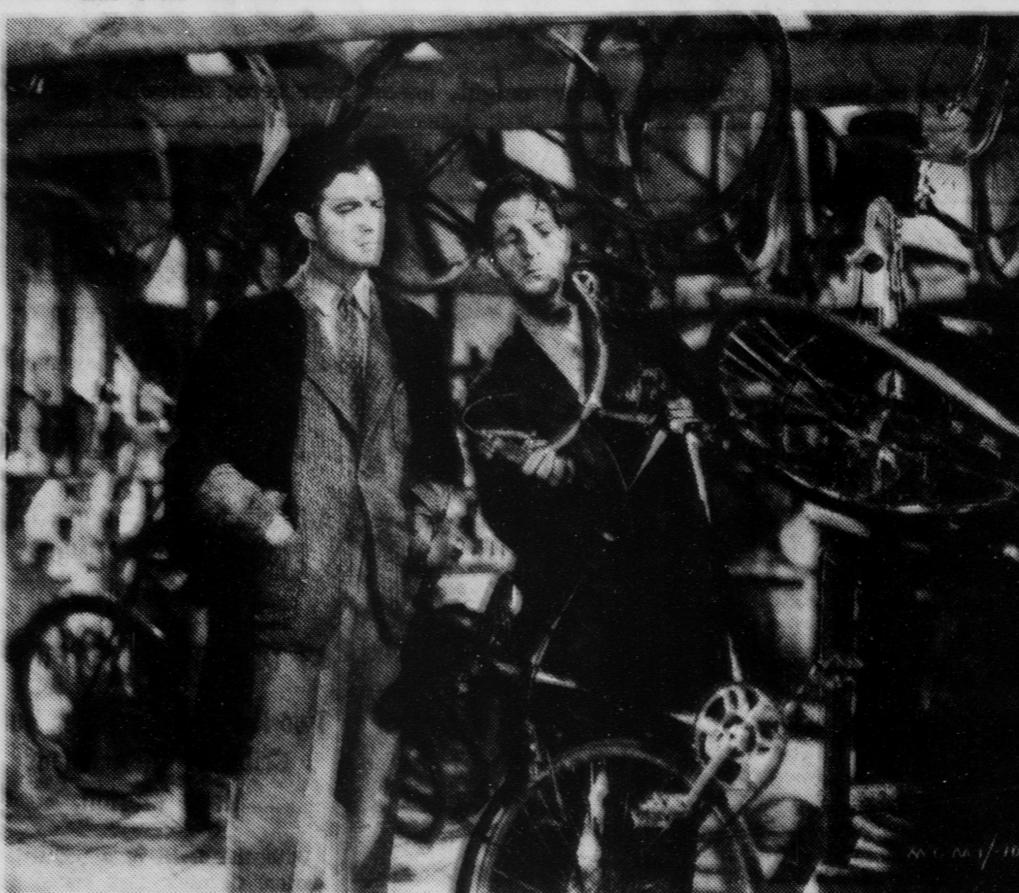
The New Yorker magazine has spoken of their playing as that of "two Romantics, almost vocal in style, for they make their piano sing like matched voices."

And, earlier, the famous Josef Hofmann had said of them: "I consider them the most extraordinary two-piano team I have heard in Europe."

### CHILD STAR GETS ROLE

Marilyn Knowlton, who has 33 major screen roles to her credit at the age of 10, today was cast as the daughter of Norma Shearer in "Maurice Antoinette," a production in which Miss Shearer is starring with Tyrone Power. The child star is famed for her roles in "Anthony Adverse," "Les Misérables," "Little Women" and "David Copperfield."

## STARS WHO WILL DESCEND ON LOEW'S DURING FEBRUARY



Here are three scenes from as many pictures booked for February showing at Loew's, the star's first English picture. At the left is Wallace Beery, who will be taking it on the chin in "Bar of Brimstone," beginning Friday. Above, Robert Taylor, in cap and gown, joins an unidentified mechanic in diagnosing the bicycle's

ailment. The scene is from "A Yank at Oxford," the star's first English picture. Below is the star's first English picture. At the left is Wallace Beery, who will be taking it on the chin in "Bar of Brimstone," beginning Friday. Above, Robert Taylor, in cap and gown, joins an unidentified mechanic in diagnosing the bicycle's



## Studio Rivalry Causing Many Film Duplications

By PAUL HARRISON

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Studio rivalry in the scramble for stories is resulting in a lot of duplication and some hard feelings between the various lots.

Warners have completed a straight dramatic version of "Robin Hood," and Metro is planning an operatic version.

Twentieth-Century-Fox has announced plans and casting for a flicker based on the history of Hudson Bay Co., and Paramount says Cecil B. DeMille will do one of his spectacles on the same subject.

Preparations are under way at Paramount for an aviation epic, "Men With Wings." Twentieth-Fox has scheduled "Women With Wings." The same studio expects to film a youthful biography of Dashiell Hammett with Tyrone Power in the lead, although Warners starred George Arliss in "Dashiell" and won Academy Award with it.

Likewise, Universal plans for a musical drama, "The Girl With Wings," and a western, "The Girl With Wings." The same studio expects to film a youthful biography of Dashiell Hammett with Tyrone Power in the lead, although Warners starred George Arliss in "Dashiell" and won Academy Award with it.

The girl with wings, from old laws and fresh laws, which are on various statute books, and it doubtless was suggested by that eastern town which started out to enforce all its laws in protest against certain blue ordinances.

In Keaton's short, for example, people get arrested for shaking a rug from a window, allowing dogs out at night without tailights, sprinkling lawns and dampening sidewalks, and eating from a chipped dish.

When men escort women to church they must carry guns to protect them from Indians. Club women are pinched for holding a picnic without a permit, and for not wearing petticoats.

### Take Your Choice

There are at least two striking parallels between "Jezebel," in which Bette Davis is working, and "Gone With the Wind," which David Selznick expects to make some day.

The periods are about the same, and Miss Davis plays the role of a girl who's very like O'Hara in personality. A third film of the old South may be a remake, by D. W. Griffith, of "Birth of a Nation."

Recently Warners bought "Garden of the Moon," a night club story laid in Los Angeles' Cocoanut Grove. Meanwhile Paramount has written a story titled "Cocoanut Grove." And recently we've seen rival Metro and Warner pictures dealing with Alestraz.

You pays your money and you takes your choice.

### Plenty of Help

Small studios that make westerns usually have two directors and two cameras on the job, so that all the players can be kept busy every minute.

Out at Metro, though, they're filming a musical horse-opera on a grand scale—"Girl of the Golden West." And so far, eight directors have participated, which is a record.

Robert Z. Leonard directs the story; Alberto Raso directs the dances; Reinaldo LeBorg directs the fiesta activities; Dave Weber directs Jeanette MacDonald in her western dialect; Joe Rodriguez directs the cast in Mexican dialect; Chief Blackwater directs Nelson Eddy in a few lines of Pinto which he has to speak; Father John O'Donnell directs H. B. Warner in his role of a Franciscan priest, and also serves as technical director on missions of that period; and Mark Smith directs all the cowboy action.

Chief Blackwater supplied the sounds for Eddy's Indian speech, but it fell to George Macon of the research department to phonelicense the lines so that the actor can learn them. He hopes he can learn them, anyway. All he is supposed to say

the best champagne in the house to be served to people they don't know. When the convivial spirit warms up and they make new acquaintances, the Brothers Sanchez instruct the proprietor to send up a case of champagne to each of their newly found friends' apartments at night club prices.

Put the Brothers George and Marcel in a cabaret with a floor-show and a bevy of showgirls and they are in a spendthrift heaven. Here is where they can show off their magnanimity to the utmost.

Call to Sherman Billingsley to rope off half his Stork Club, a fleet of cabs to transport the girls, a dozen cases of excisor Veuve Clicquot and the party is in progress.

For their gracious participation in these amiable routs, the young ladies are rewarded with \$100 bills. Mr. Billingsley does all right, too.

Between their sugar milling in Cuba and their gold mining in Costa Rica, the Brothers Sanchez also themselves four flying trips, a hot air balloon, and a mountain of sugar. When the deal was closed, he found himself with \$56,000 more profit than he anticipated. His conscience bothered him. He didn't feel that he deserved the surplus.

To each sojourn around here, the Brothers Sanchez literally are the "sugar daddies" of the night life.

For their wealth derives from a vast sugar mill in Cuba and the wealth rolls in fast. Too fast. The excess burns their pockets.

Once, the legend runs, George Sanchez made a routine excursion to Manhattan in order to dispose of a mountain of sugar. When the deal was closed, he found himself with \$56,000 more profit than he anticipated. His conscience bothered him. He didn't feel that he deserved the surplus.

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