

BLOOMINGTON'S CITY ENGINEER RESIGNS

Times-States Service
BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Nov. 22.—Major Louis (Jack) Bruner has announced the resignation of City Engineer M. B. Doyle. Mr. Doyle has accepted a federal engineering appointment.

J. Ernest Darby, city attorney, is reported to be considering resignation due to poor health. Mentioned as most likely to succeed him is Vern Ruble.

SEYMOUR'S CELEBRATES Thanksgiving

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'Lute Song,' Chinese Musical, Proves Fascinating Novelty

By HENRY BUTLER

The conflict between love and decorum is an ancient dramatic subject.

It's brilliantly presented in "Lute Song," which opened a three-day run before a regrettably small house at English's last night.

The Sidney Howard-Will Irwin anglicized version of a Chinese play, with quasi-oriental music by Raymond Scott, choreography by Yelchi Numura and scenery, costumes and lighting by Robert Edmund Jones has both charm and power.

But, with no knowledge of Chinese drama, I still get the feeling that the occidental transplantation has made a small, delightful shrub grow into a tremendous, pseudo-exotic tree.

Compare "Lute Song" with "The Little Clay Cart," which the New York Grand st. players, as I recall, made over from the Hindu way back in the 20's. With a minimum of music, and that minimum pretty authentic, the Hindu play was given in what purported to be its original simplicity and naivete.

"Lute Song" amplifies what was presumably a subtle oriental drama relying on symbols and witty dialog rather than overpowering effects into a huge, hybrid, colorful musical.

It's good entertainment. It has moments of tragic intensity, especially in the scenes involving Tsai, the father (Augustin Duncan, excellent actor) and Mme. Tsai (Marion Leads).

For, as one might expect in what little one knows of Chinese drama, filial piety is equal or even superior in power to love.

Tsai-Yong (Yul Brynner) leaves his father, mother and wife Tchaou-Niang (Dolly Haas) to seek a career in the imperial court.

Fortified, as Chinese career men used to have to be, with immense stores of "useless learning" as Thorstein Veblen might say, Tsai-Yong gets a chief of magistrate's post.

He is forced into another marriage, this time with Princess Nieou-Chi, daughter of the imperial preceptor. The preceptor, cynical coiner of mundane, anti-feminist aphorisms, balks Tsai-Yong's efforts to communicate with or return to his wife and parents.

From there on, the drama develops to a part-tragic, part-happy conclusion.

I think it was a mistake to make a spectacle out of what must be a fascinating play in the original. For even though a straight translation of "Pi-Pa-Ki," without all this Raymond Scott noodling on the pentatonic scale (Ravel did better with pseudo-oriental music in the "Pagodes" movement of the "Mother Goose" suite) might be as difficult to grasp as a straight translation of Corneille's "Le Cid," the ripe wisdom and the human sentiments of the play would be less obscured.

Miss Haas and Mr. Brynner are far better in their acting than in the vocal solos "Lute Song" imposes on them.

But with brilliant costumes and striking choreography, the show is a fascinating novelty. It will continue tonight and with matinee and evening performances tomorrow.

Now at Indiana



Bert Lancaster and Ava Gardner in "The Killers," now at the Indiana.

NAILS BOTTLENECK EASES SOMEWHAT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (U.P.)—The civilian production administration said today that the nail shortage— one of the foremost banking bottlenecks—shows definite signs of easing.

CAPA said that October shipments amounted to more than 71,000 tons—10,000 tons above the monthly rate on Sept. 1. The increase, it said, is enough to provide nails for 90,000 homes.

Dance TONIGHT

BOB STRONG
9:45 P.M. 8:30
St. after

INDIANA ROOF

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THEATRE

152 N. Illinois • R. 2955

FORMER ALAMO LOCATION

Open 9:45 A.M. 25¢ plus

12:45 P.M. 25¢ plus

1:45 P.M. 25¢ plus

2:45 P.M. 25¢ plus

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