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## Red Cross Relief Forces Active in 10 States



Acme Photo



International News Photos

Left: Red Cross Chairman, Cary T. Grayson, leaves White House after conferring with President Roosevelt on flood relief. Right: Red Cross supply station at Cincinnati rushes blankets and bedding to flood sufferers.

WITH 800 nurses and 300 trained disaster workers in the field the American Red Cross is easing the plight of flood sufferers in 10 inundated states in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. The Red Cross reports that 625,000 persons have been driven from their homes and need urgent assistance. Admiral Grayson, chairman of the Red Cross, has been ap-

pointed by President Roosevelt to coordinate all relief effort and has instructed Red Cross Chapters and personnel to spare no expense in meeting needs. Contributing \$1,000,000 from its disaster reserve and asking the public to contribute without delay to a \$11,000,000 relief fund, the Red Cross is concentrating on allaying the acute health situation. Red

Cross nurses and doctors work feverishly, immunization centers have been set up, refugee camps established to minimize the dangers of exposure, food, clothing and bedding rushed to key points. More than 39 Red Cross emergency hospitals have been established to prevent epidemics and treat sickness, and serums and anti-toxins have been sped to points where the situation is grave.

## "O Say Can You Sing" Has Longest Chicago Musical Comedy Run

Not only has the Chicago division of the Federal Theater Project the credit of being the first of the WPA theatrical units to prepare, design, write, compose, equip, and stage a song-and-dance topical revue, but also the credit of achieving with this revue, "O Say Can You Sing" the year's long run record for a musical show. The schedule of performance of this comic piece in the Great Northern Theater is nightly save Monday, with a matinee Saturday only; but attendance has been large from the beginning, the advance-sale grows from week to week, the performance gets better and mellower with the passing of the weeks, and there has not been the slightest change in the cast, while the ensemble of 250 singers and dancers remains unchanged and undiminished.

Some time before they were engaged for the Federal Theater Project's first revue, Grace and Kurt Graff, the modern dancers, were booked for a series of recitals throughout the country and Canada. Following the opening of "O Say Can You Sing" their agent was notified to cancel all bookings, even if to do so meant payment of a fee to cover possible expenditures in their behalf by the local management. The cancellations were effected in every case save one — a Chicago booking which had behind it a matter of sentimental regard on the part of the Graffs. When circum-

stances were explained to the Federal Theater Project directors, they granted permission for the Graffs to play the recital.

Advertising for the recital gave rise to the belief that the popular dancers were no longer in the Great Northern revue. The fact is that they have not missed a performance, although some transpositions in the routine of the Great Northern were made necessary by their appearance in recital in the nearby Goodman Theater. Although neither the Federal Theater Project directors nor the Graffs, themselves, expected so long a run for the revue, the success of what was really an experiment has made it necessary for all concerned in it to make certain personal rearrangements. None of the hundreds of performers desires to withdraw from the revue—not, as one of the principals said the other night, "if it runs in Chicago ten years!"

"O Say Can You Sing" is the most successful example since George M. Cohan's "The Rise of Rosie O'Reilly" of a show "kidding itself." The authors, directors, and players of "O Say Can You Sing" have certainly been adroit in keep in that note of self-travesty—a difficult note to achieve and to hold but one so essentially American in spirit that it is singularly effective when caught and retained as in the frolic in the Great Northern.

Rev. and Mrs. F. G. Piepenbrok attended a ministerial meeting in Barrington on Monday and were guests of the Jewel Tea Co. at dinner and for a recreational period.

## "Within These Walls" Now Playing at Blackstone Theatre

"Within These Walls," a play about the Trappist order in the United States, was made known Thursday night, January 28th, in the Blackstone theater, Chicago, by the Federal Theater Project of the WPA. Production of the play is a step in the plan of the Federal Theater Project to give more attention than in the past to the opportunities for putting on new plays rather than revivals of old works or variants of the classics.

The new work in the Blackstone is by Marcus Bach, of Iowa City, Iowa, and it was there the play was recently acted by the amateur players of the university. Mrs. Hallie Flanagan, general director of the Federal Theater Project, and some of her aides, it is told, were interested, and submitted the idea to Miss Susan Glaspell, head of the play-reading bureau in the Chicago branch of the project. Miss Glaspell, whose "Allison's House" took the Pulitzer drama-prize for 1931-'32, heartily advised the production of "Within These Walls" in Chicago, it is explained.

A formal review of Thursday night's proceedings in the Blackstone is, of course, not practicable in this issue. It may be said that the story of the play has to do with the spiritual adventures of Charles, a young postulant of the Trappist order; that all the scenes take place in a Trappist monastery "somewhere in the United States"; that the play was staged by Miss Kay Ewing; that the mise-en-scene was designed, and perfected by workers of the Federal Theater Project; and that, if successful with the public, the play, after a fortnight or so in the Blackstone, will be transferred to the Princess, also under sub-lease to the project.

The cast of "Within These Walls" is as follows:  
Charles Cantrell ..... Tom McDermott  
His mother ..... Klare Tingreen  
His father ..... William Sexton  
Theresa, Betty Baumbach, Mary Louise Burke  
The Prior ..... Alfred Clarke  
The Guestmaster ..... Victor Sutherland

The Confessor ..... Grant Foreman  
Brother Benedictine ..... Pat Devlin  
Herbert ..... Herbert Slade  
The Abbot ..... Ben H. Howe  
Brother Francis ..... George H. Hoskyn  
The Gatekeeper ..... William E. Hilliard

Besides the foregoing, the following players take part as members of the monastery choir: Norman Hilliard, Alexander Adams, James Rice, Tom Browne Patrick Butler, Forrest Smith, Edgar Beach, Charles Gordiner, Michael J. Kingston, Milton Pollock, Charles Conklin; while these players will be cast as a group of lay monks: William Pitts, Larry Brooks, Harold Rogers, Hubert Stumpf, and Brent Wrenn.

"Within These Walls" is in a prologue, three acts (seven scenes), and an epilog.

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Dorothea Brande, author of the currently popular, "Wake Up and Live," received \$25,000 from some movie magnates for the title of the book alone.

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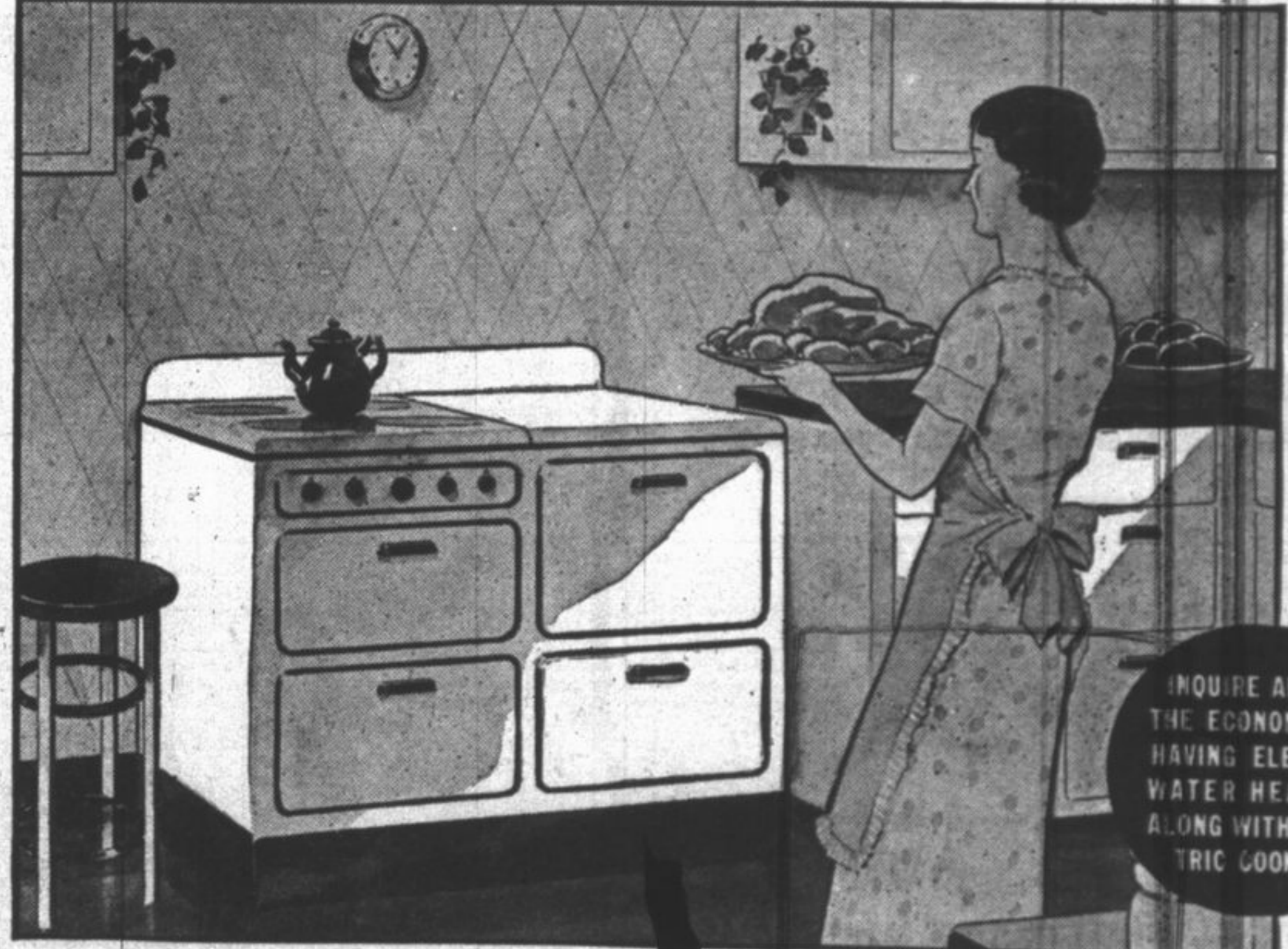
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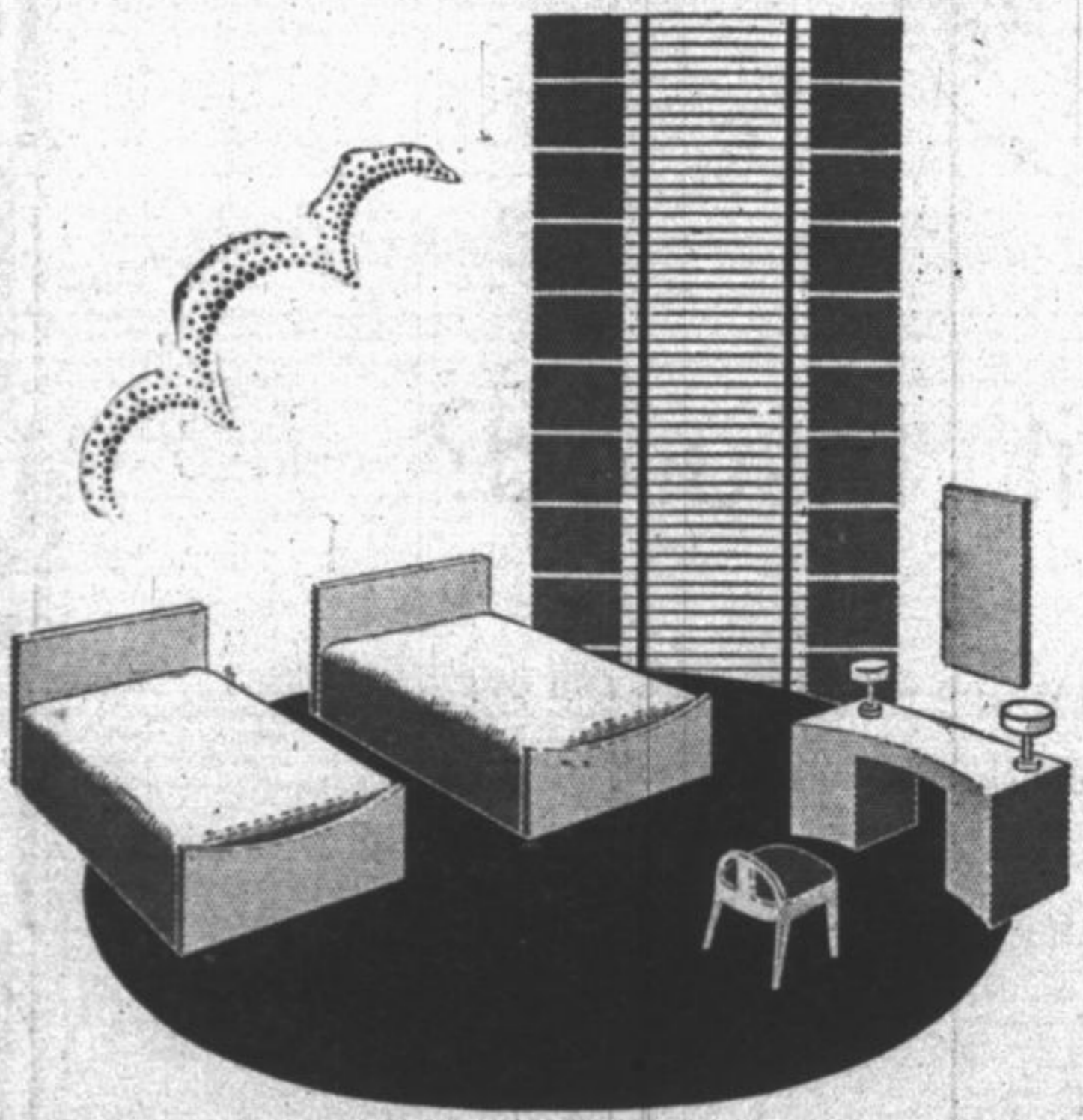


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