



# MORE LAMBS FROM OHIO

Sixth installment of a series of biographical sketches of Ohioans who are members of the Lambs, America's oldest theatrical club.

*By Russ Johns, a Lamb from Chillicothe now living in New York where for years he has been directing radio programs for the Columbia Broadcasting System.*

## 12. ELLIOTT NUGENT

Elliott Nugent's reply to my request for biographical information was short, starting with "I think I'm already in the Ohioana Library"—and well he might be. The Nugents, J. C., father, and Elliott John, son (the John has long been dropped out of his name) were for many years leading personalities both in the theater and in Ohio. Any theater *Who's Who* sets forth in detail their many accomplishments.

Elliott modestly listed some of his activities as "Stage actor and playwright; picture director; stage director and producer, and occasional TV appearances." Then he added "I also shave myself!"

Elliott made his natal appearance on September 20, 1899, in Dover, Ohio, and I am sure it was a success from the start. My first encounter with the Nugent family was when I interviewed Elliott and Margaret Speaks (who's a native of Columbus and known from coast to coast for her lovely voice). It was a radio interview at the New York World's Fair, and between the two of them, all I had to do was to sit back and listen to a lot

of good talk, much of it about Ohio.

Any theatrical performance bearing the Nugent name is said to bring out what is known as "the carriage trade." That day in 1919 when Elliott Nugent was graduated from Ohio State University was certainly a fortunate day for the theater and the Lambs.

## 13. MAC PERRIN

Mac Perrin was christened "George," in a little town in northern Ohio called Maumee, near Toledo, but until I started to write this piece about him, I didn't know he had a given name other than "Mac." If he is ever called "George," no one at the Lambs has ever heard it, and he has been a Lamb since 1947.

Mac is a musician and a good one. He writes, composes, arranges for both orchestra and voice, plays piano, accordion, Hammond organ, and sings. Though not, as he says, at the same time! Following eight years with Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians, he spent two years in the U. S. Navy in World War II, of which he is very proud.

Today he owns his own business called "Perrin Enterprises," turning out jingles for radio and TV. Many of those you hear and see may be from the Perrin Company. Mac also has found time to do recordings for Epic records, including "Gentlemen Be Seated," (a complete

minstrel show on a long-playing record); "Here Comes the Showboat"; "Basso Profundo"; and an album of Irving Berlin's songs called "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy." If you look through your list of records, the name of Mac Perrin will probably be on some of them. All members of his family are musically inclined, and now Mac is grateful to his mother for insisting that he practice those interminable piano scales.

Whenever any kind of entertainment is planned at the Lambs, Mac's name is one of the first in the cast, always willing, and always very able. With commuting as it is in New York today, no one knows how he manages to get all his work done. But he does. And in his words, "Although I work in New York and live in New Jersey, I still call Ohio my home." Which isn't a bad title for a song, and I hope that some day Mac Perrin will write it!

#### 14. LOUIS TANNO

Louis Tanno was born in Columbus at the turn of the century, then moved to Euclid, where he lived for twenty-five years. Grammar school and four years of high school followed in Cleveland, at East High. His studies covered a rare combination, dramatics and business education. (Both have paid off!) In high school he was cheer leader, played bass in the H. S. band and forward on the varsity basketball team. During those summers, when nearly every kid worked, Louis was employed by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., at Mr. Rockefeller's Forest Hills estate in East Cleveland, raking hay and playing caddy on the Rockefeller private links. Several times John D. gave Louis one of those famous dimes, which Louis guarded as souvenirs, secretly! This employment yielded a college ed-

ucation at Ohio State, where he majored in Business Administration and Finance, with a minor in Education.

The theatre first won out, with a job in stock for thirty-five weeks in Utica, New York. Winter and summer, stock was very popular and for many years Louis played in many cities—Cleveland, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Atlantic City, Hollywood and numerous other places. Vaudeville followed, with Beverly Bayne and a French star named "Janet of France." Broadway was next, the goal of every actor. "Pursuit of Happiness," "Dinner at Eight," "Service for Husbands" with Raymond Hitchcock, and "Leaning on Letty" with Charlotte Greenwood.

Tarrytown, New York, has been Louis Tanno's home for twelve years, where he is Associate Professor at Marymount College. Like other Buckeyes, Louis says, "I make my home in Tarrytown and at The Lambs, but still have a very warm spot in my heart for Columbus and Cleveland."

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#### THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

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be elected. He was put in nomination by Herbert Hoover, one of the Electors.

Some states have been very active in promoting native sons for the Hall of Fame. Ohioans might get busy if your library would care to suggest it. Nominations are open until April 1, 1960, and the balloting is conducted between April 1 and November 1, 1960, at which time the announcement will be made of those elected to America's highest niche of fame. Only 83 have been elected so far in our whole history. Not more than seven can be chosen at any one election.