

ALL MY SONS Glossary

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Jewel Theatre Company

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***Note:** this glossary not only provides word definitions, but discusses their thematic and symbolic intent for the author, play and characters*

Key: AMS=ALL MY SONS, NY=New York, NYC=New York City, TGD=The Great Depression, MIA=Missing in Action, UK=United Kingdom, US=United States, WWI=World War I, WWII=World War II

ACT I

Stage Directions, p. 5

Poplars: "Populus" is a genus of approximately 35 deciduous flowering trees in the willow family (Salicaceae), native to the Northern Hemisphere, and found throughout North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. The poplar species native to North America are divided into three loose groups: the cottonwoods, the aspens, and the balsam poplars.

The name Populus comes from the Latin for "all the people", referring to the fact that the trees were often planted around public meeting places in Roman times. The phrase "all the people" is also synonymous with "all my sons".

In ALL MY SONS, the backyard, "**hedged on right and left by tall, closely planted poplars which lend the yard a secluded atmosphere**", serves a purpose not unlike that of the outdoor public squares did in ancient Roman times. Every municipality had its forum, which functioned as a marketplace but also as an open gathering place to hold meetings, rendezvous, and for political discussions and debates. It had great social significance, just as the backyard does in ALL MY SONS, because the populace would air their views there, make collective decisions and render judgments on behalf of the community.

The poplar trees prevalent in the North and Midwestern US are the Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), Bigtooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), Swamp Cottonwood (*Populus heterophylla*) and Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The "quaking" of the Quaking Aspen refers to the characteristic tremble of their leaves in the breeze, due to their flat petioles, or leaf stalks. Likely, Joe Keller had Quaking Aspens because they are often found in "a stand" as described in the stage directions.

Joe Keller probably chose poplars to flank his property because they are rapid-growing and would quickly provide the sense of protection he'd need after the trial. The tree is known to be grown in rows as privacy screens. Their rapid growth also symbolizes the fortune Joe's factory amassed during WWII, when factories were converted to support the war effort and made their owners lots of money very quickly.



A stand of Quaking Aspen, a variety of poplar tree

Poplars are relatively short-lived trees, a quality that forms the basis of a poem, “The Poplar Field,” by William Cowper, an English poet and hymnodist who lived from November 26, 1731 to April 25, 1800. The poem, which can be found here: <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-poplar-field/>, describes a poplar grove that has fallen within 12 short years. It ends with this stanza:

'Tis a sight to engage me, if anything can,
 To muse on the perishing pleasures of man;
 Short-lived as we are, our enjoyments, I see,
 Have a still shorter date, and die sooner than we.

Cowper’s words describe the wealth that Joe amassed, which ended up taking far more than it gave.

Arthur Miller chooses to center the action of his play in the backyard, which represents the narrow periphery of Joe’s world, social conscience and moral view. He justifies his crime, his betrayal of his friend and business partner, Steve Deever, his lies, deceit, and greed, by telling himself and his family that he did it for them, to provide a life for them. He has worked hard to preserve his family and their standard of living, protecting them as ephemerally as the rows of fast-growing and unstable trees protect their home.

“The house is two stories high and has seven rooms. It would have cost perhaps fifteen thousand in the early twenties when it was built. Now it is nicely painted, looks tight and comfortable, and the yard is green with sod, here and there plants whose season is gone”: Miller’s details about the Keller’s’ house--that it is located in the town’s outskirts, that it’s two stories high, has seven rooms, a substantial backyard, and is well-maintained--communicate the material comfort Joe has attained for his family and

the well-being that they enjoy. A home that cost \$15,000 in the early 1920s would have been one of the finer ones in the neighborhood. With inflation, the buying power of \$15,000 today would be \$209,334.10. In much of the Bay Area and Southern California, \$200,000 would not buy a home of that description, but that's not the case in other parts of the US, particularly the Northeast, Midwest and South. Below are two examples of Craftsman homes, a style prevalent in the 1920s and 30s, currently priced in the \$200,000 range. They are in the Midwest, which is generally acknowledged as the setting for AMS, although Miller doesn't specify (more on that later):



A \$200,000 four-bedroom, two-story Craftsman home in Kansas City, MO, built in 1924



A three-bedroom, two-bath \$190,000 Baltimore home with a fully fenced-in backyard, built in 1910

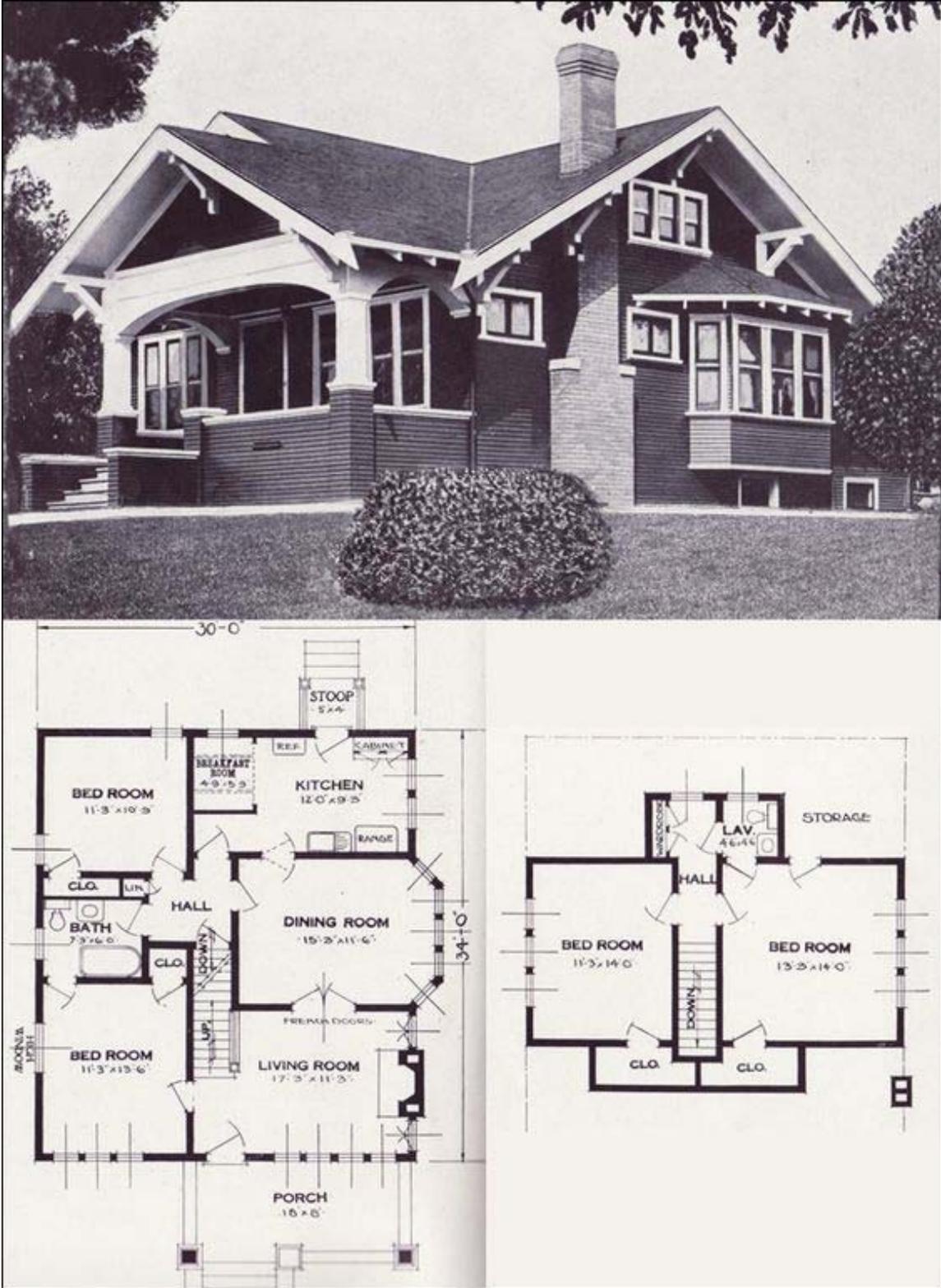


Photo of a 1920s home and its floor plan, similar in size to the Keller's. It was available as a kit from the Sears and Roebuck catalog for \$1,537, one of the highest-priced models. The price doesn't include the foundation, heat, electricity or the cost of building it and the land to build on

“the four-foot-high stump of a slender apple tree whose upper trunk and branches lie toppled beside it, fruit still clinging to its branches”: The night before the action of the play begins, a strong wind has blown down the tree that was planted in honor of Larry, the Keller’s fighter pilot son, shearing off its top half. Larry is MIA, presumably shot down during WWII.

Wind has a great deal of symbolic and portentous meaning across the globe in our culture, religious, and day-to-day lives. A Chinese folk saying, “Wú fēng bù qǐ làng”, translates idiomatically as “without wind, there cannot be waves” or alternately, “there is no smoke without fire.” It asserts that an outcome will indicate that there must have been signs that something was going to happen. In ALL MY SONS, something indeed happened, and its reckoning will alter the course of each of the character’s lives.

In the ancient art of spellcasting, a wind from the East implies that a message is on the way, and a South wind threatens an argument or slander. Joy or, alternately, sadness and resentment, can come with a West wind, and a North wind can bring either prosperity, or its opposite, hardship. A wind from any one of these directions could have presaged the circumstances that develop within the play, or led to the present circumstances.

Judeo-Christian philosophy often credits the wind, and especially the east wind, for the dispersion of falsities. “The wind shall carry [evil spirits] away,” according to Isaiah 41:16. In Exodus, the east wind parted the waters of the Red Sea, providing escape for the Jews and drowning the Egyptians who had enslaved them for decades. David, in Psalm 48, credits God with using the wind to destroy enemy ships.

Wind symbolizes many things in Hinduism, of which several have meaning for the play: cleansing and transformative power, modifications of the mind, and fate.

Storms were identified as a malevolent personal power in the Greek mythopoeic period. In the first chapter of *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck describes an unremitting wind that grows stronger and stronger, creating a dust that obscures both the sun in the daytime and the stars at night. Nothing and no one can escape the dust which the wind has churned up, even from behind the walls of their homes.

The people finally hear the wind stop in the night, and wake in the morning to survey the devastation the windborne dust has wreaked upon their crops, and inevitably, their lives.

The wind in ALL MY SONS, like the wind in the Dust Bowl, has come and gone, the only evidence of its passage is not the dust but the felled apple tree. The apple tree, planted to honor Larry, the Keller's son who did not return from the war, is an ever-present reminder of him. It is also a divisive force in the family, possibly why the wind “divided” the tree in half. Larry’s mother, Kate, has always rejected the tree; she believes there shouldn’t be a memorial for Larry because he is still alive. She tells Joe, “We should never have planted that tree. I said so in the first place. It was too soon to plant a tree for him ... We rushed into it. Everybody was in such a hurry to bury him. I said not to plant it yet”. Joe and the Keller’s other son, Chris, believe that Larry is dead, but haven’t told Kate. Chris tries to

talk his father into telling her, "... it's time she realized that nobody believes Larry is alive any more".

Chris and his father participate in a kind of conspiracy, and the act of conspiracy finds its origins in the wind. Much has been written about the influence of Greek tragedy--it's aims, structure and themes--on Miller's work, including in his own essays. The Greek *pnea*, sometimes spelled *pnoea* and *pnein*, is the root of *pneuma*, which in turn is the root of pneumatics and pneumatology, pertaining to air, wind and other gases; and pneumonia, which is concerned with breath, or air through the lungs. *Pneuma*'s early use as wind or breath evolved later with the philosopher, Anaximenes, who identified it as the life-breath of the cosmos, to be embraced as our own soul, or psyche, which is air, and holds us together. This concept of air holding us together is also explored in the Latin origins of the word *conspire*: "*conspirare*" means to agree and/or plot, and is a contraction of "*con*", or "together with", and "*spirare*", or "breathe". The meaning is that we conspire as one, breathing the same air, which encompasses the title of the play as well.

At the open of Act II, Chris is sawing the broken-off tree, leaving its stump standing alone and disposing of the rest. He is symbolically reducing the memory of his brother so that it doesn't interfere with impending engagement to Ann, Larry's former fiancée. When his mother sees the stump, she asks Chris, "You notice there's more light with that thing gone?" Unbeknownst to her, before the play concludes, the light its absence brings will expose suppressed truths, bringing with it a new state of awareness of Larry's death.

At the top of the play, the Keller's neighbor, Frank, notices the tree, and remarks that it blew down in August, Larry's birth month. "August" is related to the Latin "*augustus*," an honorific meaning "consecrated" or "venerable." "*Augustus*" is derived from the Latin *augur*, meaning "consecrated by augury". This brings full circle the symbolism that originated with the blowing of the ill wind that knocked over the tree.

Stolid: an adjective used to describe a person who is calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation.

P. 6

(Note: throughout this document, the page number headings refer to pages in the Dramatists edition of the script)

Newfoundland dog: from Wikipedia, the Newfoundland dog is a large working dog, either black, brown, or white-and-black (called Landseer). However, in Canada, the country of their origin, the only correct colors are either black or Landseer. They were originally bred and used as working dogs for fishermen in the Dominion of Newfoundland, which is now part of Canada. They are known for their giant size, intelligence, tremendous strength, calm dispositions, and loyalty. Newfoundland dogs excel at water rescue/lifesaving because of their muscular build, thick double coat, webbed feet, and innate swimming abilities.



Smoky, a Newfoundland dog

P. 7

Horoscope: in astrology, a horoscope is a map of the heavens at the time of a person's birth, which shows the relative positions of the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the ascendant and mid-heaven signs of the zodiac at that specific moment in time. A horoscope is used to provide information about the present and to predict events to come.

An individual horoscope usually plots the moment of birth and is used by astrologers to analyze character, as well as—in conjunction with other astrological data—to predict the future. This is in accordance with the belief that each celestial body has its own mythological character, modified according to its geometric relationship with the other celestial bodies at a given moment. Everything in the universe being interrelated, these bodies exert an influence, particularly on the newborn. In casting a horoscope, the heavens are commonly represented by a circle divided into 12 intersections, called houses. Each of these houses is assigned several departments of human life, such as wealth or marriage. The planet that falls within a particular house is said to influence matters pertaining to that house.

Frank uses Larry's horoscope to determine favorable days, defined next.

Alan Ackerman, in his book *A Student Handbook to the Plays of Arthur Miller*, suggests that Frank's interest in astrology may have stemmed from his fortuitous birth date, which caused him to beat the draft during WWII.

Kate has turned to astrology since Larry's disappearance as one way of making sense of the reality she has been thrust into. She is the more intellectual of the married couple, but certainly not objective or even rational at times. She looks to her religious beliefs, as well as dreams, signs, and now, horoscopes, to explain Larry's death. When Larry's tree is struck

by lightning, she tells Joe, "Laugh, but there are meanings in such things. She goes to sleep in his room and his memorial breaks in pieces" (p. 17). Her commission of Larry's horoscope from Frank could also be a move to assuage hers and her husband's guilt.

Favorable day: Frank explains this very well in the script. He is referring to favorable aspects in one's astrological chart. According to the Societas Rosicruciana in America, astrology proposes that "your path of life leads between two forces of Nature, by which destiny produces various conditions around you. One force manifests through what is termed favorable aspects and causes the environment to acquiesce with your desires at certain periods and especially on certain days". On those days, which Franks calls "favorable" or "fortunate," "you drift along the line of least resistance. In business, you make the greater progress with least expenditure of effort; you sense the popular needs of the masses and feel elated. The opposite force comes through so-called unfavorable aspects, when prevailing conditions are contrary to your desires, and these are termed tedious periods and days. You recognize mistakes and feel humble. Thus, life's path leads amid alternate currents, the flood and ebb tides".

P. 8

Civics book: usually a history schoolbook, Wikipedia defines civics as "the study of the theoretical, political and practical aspects of citizenship, as well as its rights and duties; the duties of citizens to each other as members of a political body and to the government. It includes the study of civil law and civil code, and the study of government with attention to the role of citizens—as opposed to external factors—in the operation and oversight of government.

a doctor in that picture ... Don Ameche! ... worked in his basement discovering things: the best I can do here is that Don Ameche played Dr. Rudi Imre in a 1936 Darryl F. Zanuck movie called *Ladies in Love*. His character is a doctor who uses rabbits in his research. He was well known for his titular role in the 1939 movie, *The Story of Alexander Graham Bell*. He played another inventor, Hiram Maxim, in the 1946 movie, *So Goes My Love*, but was not a doctor.

Warner Brothers: one of the major studios in Hollywood during the golden age. Don Ameche was contracted to 20th Century Fox, but could have been lent to Warner Brothers.

We picked her up on the one o'clock train last night: Joe is talking to Frank and Jim about Ann Keller's trip to his home from where she lives in NY. If the setting is Ohio (see pp. 15-17 of this glossary), the fastest time from Penn Station to Cincinnati (12.7 miles from Lockland) would be 18 hours, 46 minutes which meant she'd have to have left the city around 6AM.

P. 9

Ten dollars: the equivalent now is \$109.85

Thomas Edison: Thomas Alva Edison (February 11, 1847- October 18, 1931) was an

American inventor who created the telegraph, phonograph, the practical incandescent electric light bulb, experimental electric railroad and entire electrical distribution system for light and power including generators, motors, light sockets with Edison base, junction boxes, safety fuses, underground conductors and other devices.

A savvy businessman, he held more than 1,000 patents for his inventions and founded several companies, including the Edison Illuminating Company, the first investor-owned electric utility, which later became the General Electric Corporation. He was the first to project a motion picture in 1896, at Koster & Bial's Music Hall in New York City.

P. 10

Trigger finger: the forefinger of the hand, with which the trigger of a gun is typically pulled. In medicine, it is an informal name for stenosing tenosynovitis, a defect in a tendon that causes a finger to jerk or snap straight when the hand is extended. Both definitions combine for the idiomatic meaning used here by Joe, referring to the metaphorical trigger finger of a person who has a tendency or readiness to act hastily or impulsively.

Malted: a drink made with vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup (if a chocolate malt, the most popular), milk, and malt powder. It was usually sold at soda fountains, which flourished in pharmacies, ice cream parlors, candy stores, dime stores, department stores, milk bars and train stations, reaching their height in the 1940s and 1950s.

The malted was first invented in the early 1920s by Ivar "Pop" Coulson, an employee of the pharmacy mega-chain Walgreens, as a wholesome, refreshing snack for hot summer days. It competes with the classic milkshake, with the difference being one ingredient: malt powder, the sweet stuff used to flavor malted milk balls. Malt powder was originally invented by London pharmacist James Horlick (1844–1921), who was looking for an improved, wheat and malt-based nutritional supplement for infants. He joined forces with his brother William in Wisconsin, and in 1873, they formed a company, J & W Horlicks, to manufacture their brand of infant food in nearby Chicago. Within ten years, they patented their new formula enhanced, which was now combined with powdered milk, trademarking the name "malted milk" in 1887. Their malted milk hot drink became known as "Horlicks" and is now marketed and manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (Consumer Healthcare) in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and Jamaica. Ovaltine, a similar product, is sold in the US. According to Wikipedia, "Ovaltine was developed in Bern, Switzerland, where it is known by its original name, Ovomaltine (from ovum, Latin for "egg," and malt, which were originally its main ingredients)." It now consists of malt, milk, and eggs, with some versions additionally flavored with cocoa.

Malted milk found unexpected markets, from explorers who took malted milk around the world due to its lightweight, nonperishable, nourishing qualities, to teens drinking it mixed with ice cream at malt shops, to families enjoying it at home.

Lydia's malted mixer, a home blender specifically designed to mix the ingredients found in a malted, likely resembled the one pictured below, which was manufactured by Hamilton

Beach in the 1940s. The company first made drink mixers in 1911 for drugstore fountains across America. Their home version is still being manufactured and sold.



Hamilton Beach Malt Mixer from the 1940s

P. 11

Oilstone: a fine-grained whetstone lubricated with oil, used for fine sharpening. *(from stage directions for Joe: puts knife down on bench, takes oilstone up to the cabinet)*

Oral thermometer: A medical thermometer is used for measuring human or animal body temperature. The tip of the thermometer is inserted into the mouth under the tongue for an oral or sub-lingual temperature. It can also be used under the armpit for an axillary temperature. That the thermometer is "only oral" is a reference to a rectal thermometer, and we all know where that goes.

P. 12

Mum's the word: a phrase meaning to keep silent or quiet. "Mum" is a word originating in the Middle English period (1150 to 1500), which means "silent". It is related to the expression used by Hume in his soliloquy at the end of Act 1, Scene 2, in Shakespeare's HENRY VI, PART 2, "Seal up your lips and give no words but mum."

Shakespeare's characters also used the word "mum" in KING LEAR, THE TAMING OF THE

SHREW, RICHARD III, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, and THE TEMPEST.

Instances of use preceded Shakespeare: the phrase, "then get a mom of her mouth til money were shrewd", is found in *Piers Plowman*, a Middle English allegorical narrative poem by William Langland, written in 1376, and again in *The Comedy of Acolastus*, which John Palsgrave (1485 – 1554) translated in 1540 from the Latin of Fullonius (Gnaphaeus, Gulielmus, 1493-1568): "I dare not to do so much as put my hand to my mouth, and say mum, is counsel."

At the time of Shakespeare, mummer's plays were sometimes performed before the featured play began. Mummer's plays were short skits acted without words, so mum may also be derived from the mummer who merely pantomimes and doesn't speak.

There is also a phonetic similarity to the German word "stumm" meaning "silent, mute". U It originates from the Old High German "stum", from the Latin "mutus".

P. 14

I'm not fast with women: In the vernacular of the day, Chris is telling Joe that he's not promiscuous but rather, he is serious when it comes to women, with honorable intentions.

P. 15

The whole shootin' match: the origins of this idiom, which denotes the whole of something and everything that can be connected to it, can be traced back to expressions used for trench warfare in WWI, with the term first appearing in print in 1917. Beginning with the First Battle of the Marne in August 1914, and for the next four years, the opposing forces on the western front battled one other from trenches dug into the ground. The front line came to be called the "shooting gallery", inferring a place used for target practice, and "the whole shoot", a slang phrase for "the entire thing" since the late 1800s, came to be called "the whole shooting match".

P. 16

Crabbing: grouching; grumbling about something petty

P. 17

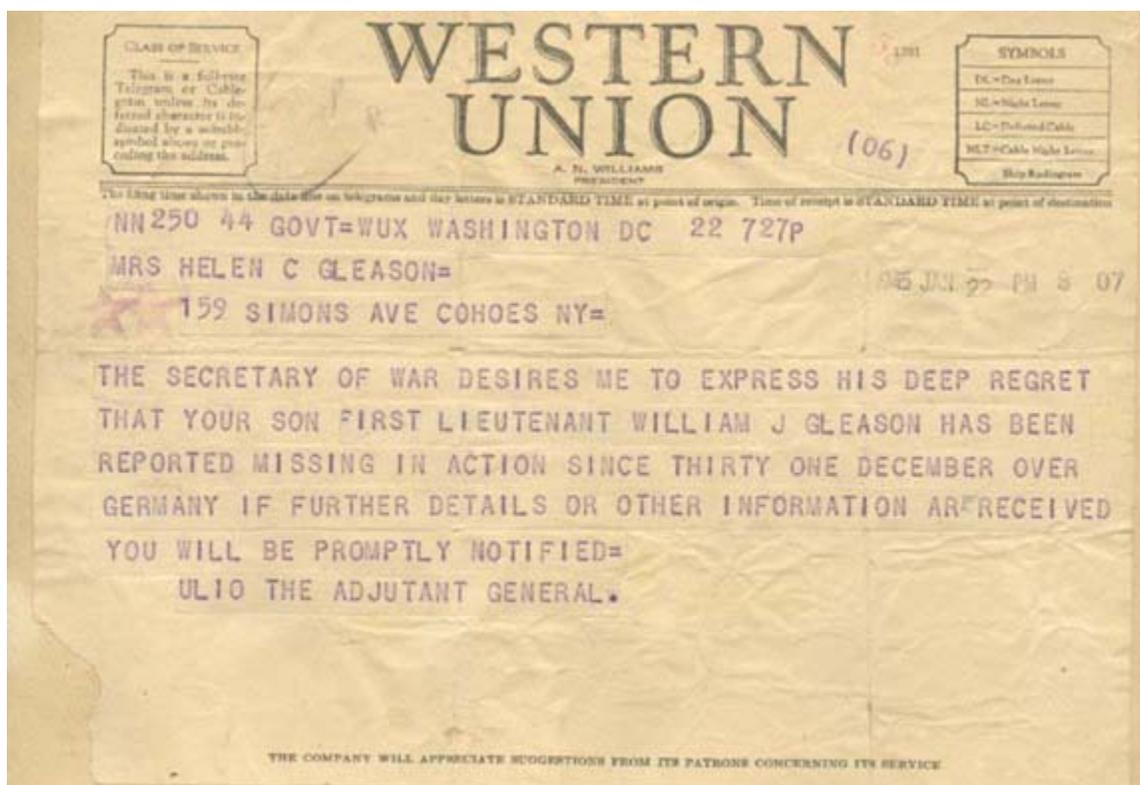
Most of them didn't wait till the telegrams were opened: The military has specific procedures to notify the families of all ranks if a soldier or sailor is either killed, injured, or taken prisoner. It is usually done in person by an officer or two, accompanied by a chaplain. The visit is followed up by an official letter of acknowledgment, which would arrive later from the respective military service. During WWII, military offices were full of women who typed these form letters all day long.

In crowded cities like Chicago or NY, where the reports could have concerned a dozen or more soldiers from one neighborhood alone, a military vehicle would pull up, with a chaplain and an aide, a secretary, and/or possibly a recovering injured soldier who had lost a limb or eye. They would be joined by the local priest or rabbi, making the rounds,

building to building, street to street, handing out letters. In populated cities, lists of workers' names were called over the loud speaker during a workday, asking them to report to the front of the factory where they would receive news of the loss of a family member.

During WWII, the Casualty Branch of the Army informed next of kin of casualties through telegrams. The availability of an officer to deliver the news had become scarce, as many were engaged in overseas warfare. Therefore, the military would send a special delivery telegram to the family notifying them of the death, injury, capture or disappearance, including the circumstances and location. Telegrams became the main vehicle for notification, and, instead of military personnel, were delivered by a Western Union messenger, the sight of whom was regarded with dread during WWII.

Kate seems to be referring to a scenario where the recipient of the telegram received prior notification, by letter or in person, with the telegram as a follow-up confirmation.



Telegram notifying the parents of First Lieutenant William Gleason that he was shot down on 12/31/44 over Germany. Kate and Joe would have received a similar telegram.

Rapidly breaks string beans in the pot: Kate is doing what is called “snapping” fresh green beans. The name comes from the “snap” sound that occurs when you pinch or pop off the ends. The object is to snap off the tough, knobby stem end, which usually has a tiny flower still attached, and then draw the broken tip down the seam length of the bean to take off the tough fiber “string” along with it. Draw down along the seam to remove the tough fiber that may be present. Most green beans available today have been bred not to have this “string,” but heirloom varieties may. After that, you turn the bean to the other

end, where there's a skinny, tapered, more tender tip. You snap that off, too, drawing it down to take off the string on that side of the bean.

Nowadays, many people chop off the tough end and leave the other tip. They also leave the strings. Most of the time that works, but sometimes the strings really have to be removed because they are tough and, well, stringy. In the case of haricots verts, neither the ends nor the strings need removal.

Kate would not have served beans with strings. She's an expert--she has done this for years, and she's fast.

I don't get the impression that Kate is preparing the beans for canning, but snapping just enough for the evening meal. If she were canning, she'd have a bushel, not just a pot. Sitting with a bushel of beans, or a pot for that matter, and carefully pinching the ends off each one can be quite relaxing—if you're sitting on the porch or outside on a lazy afternoon. It's a warm August afternoon, there's people and shade, and Kate has the time to enjoy the process.

P. 18

Remember the way he used to fly low past the house when he was in training? When we used to see his face in the cockpit going by? I researched the places where the US Army Air Force would have trained its pilots during WWII, and came up with dozens of sites, due to the high demand for pilots when the War became imminent. The Army Air Forces Training Command (AAFTC), a unit which was inactivated after WWII, established centers in the US to train pilots, flying specialists, and combat crews. During its lifetime (January 23, 1942 to July 1, 1946), the command struggled with the challenge of a massive wartime expansion of the air forces. Wikipedia describes the extreme demand for flight personnel as well as aircraft and other equipment at that time, attesting to the pressure that Joe's factory was under to produce:

Throughout 1942, the need for combat crew personnel far exceeded the current and contemplated production of the command's flying training schools. The rate of expansion of housing and training facilities, instructors, as well as the procurement of aircraft and other equipment, though at a breakneck pace, constrained the rate of increase of production. Facilities were used to their maximum capacity as quickly as they could be stood up. Some schools were expanded while they were still under construction. New airfields had to be located in areas with sufficient flying space free of other air traffic, and the West Coast training center faced the extraordinary requirement to avoid sites near the internment camps for Japanese-Americans.

Before WWII, the Army Air Corps had produced about 500 new pilots per year, which was adequate for the peacetime air corps. After the 1938 Munich Agreement, the number of pilots had to increase in case of a war breaking out again. As a result, a plan was developed to supplement the training at Randolph Field, Texas, where nearly all flying training took place, with military pilot training conducted at civil flight schools in the United States.

In 1940, the War Department authorized the establishment of Air Corps enlisted replacement centers for the initial training of recruits. The Air Corps established the first of these centers at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri in the summer of 1940, though formal activation did not occur until February 1941. That fall, the Technical Training Command activated two more basic training centers at Keesler Field, Mississippi, and Sheppard Field, Texas, where the command already had mechanic schools.

By the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Air Corps had 21,000 recruits at the three replacement training centers. The event made these three centers inadequate to supply recruits for technical training, so the number of basic training centers (BTC) expanded to 12 (plus one provisional center) by the spring of 1943. This included newly dedicated BTC facilities set up at Greensboro, North Carolina, Miami Beach and St Petersburg, Florida, and Atlantic City, New Jersey.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and both Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany's declaration of war against the United States in December 1941, plans were made by the Army to increase the training rate to 50,000, then 70,000 and finally 102,000 pilots per year. Civilian flying schools, under government contract, provided a considerable part of the flying training effort undertaken by the United States Army Air Forces. Dozens of Contract Flying Schools (CFSs) or Contract Pilot Schools (CPSs) were established under the Eastern, Western and Central Flying Training Commands. A list of them can be found here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Air_Forces_Contract_Flying_School_Air_fields

Clearly, there are any number of locations across the US where Chris could have trained, (my guess is George Army Airfield near Lawrenceville, Illinois--see p. 18 of this document) but what plane would he have been flying for his face to be visible in the cockpit? Trainers primarily used PT-17 Stearmans, aka the Boeing-Stearman Model 75, Ryan PT-22s, and Fairchild PT-19s, although a wide variety of other types could be found at the airfields.



The PT-17 Stearman



The Ryan PT-22



A Fairchild PT-19

The Army Air Forces never reached the 102,000-pilot training quota, as it was reduced to a more realistic rate of 93,600 in June 1943. The peak of AAF flying training was reached in November 1943 when the CPSs graduated 11,411 cadets. After that AAF flight training began a gradual reduction that resulted in the closing of most of the CPSs in the fall of 1944. Ten CPSs remained in operation in 1945, which were closed at the end of World War II and the Army Air Forces returned to in-house primary pilot training.



WW2 U.S. propaganda poster: “O'er the ramparts we watch: United States Army Air Forces”

Maybe go dancing out at the shore: If the setting is Lockland, Ohio (see the discussion directly below), Chris could be talking about the shores of the Ohio River, on which Cincinnati is located. Lockland is less than 13 miles northeast of Cincinnati.

P. 19

She's been in New York three and a half years ... Nobody comes 700 miles “just to see”. Kate is talking about Ann's visit to the Keller's home.

Miller was careful not to identify a specific town for his play, referring to the setting of AMS as “the outskirts of an American town,” conceivably to maintain its ubiquity. Nevertheless, in his introduction to his *Collected Plays* (New York: Viking, 1957), Miller discusses the germination of the play:

During an idle chat in my living room, a pious lady from the Middle West told of a family in her neighborhood which had been destroyed when the daughter turned the father into the authorities on discovering that he had been selling faulty machinery to the Army. The war was then in full blast. By the time she had finished the tale, I had transformed the daughter into a son and the climax of the second act was full and clear in my mind.

I knew my informant's neighborhood, I knew its middle-class ordinariness, and I knew how rarely the great issues penetrate such environments.

Joe Keller identifies himself as "the guy who sold cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force ... the guy who made twenty-one P-40s crash in Australia." (p. 28). The engines of the P-40s were manufactured by the Curtiss-Wright Corporation. In 1943, Curtiss-Wright came under scrutiny for delivering defective motors to the Army Air Corps. After an investigation, it was determined that in 1941-43, Wright Aeronautical Corporation, a division of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, had colluded with army inspection officers to approve defective aircraft engines destined for military use, resulting in planes crashing and pilots dying.

The Curtiss-Wright Corporation was created in 1929 from the consolidation of Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company, Wright Aeronautical (founded by Glenn L. Martin and the Wright Brothers as Wright-Martin), and various supplier companies. Headquartered in Buffalo, NY, it still operates today as a globally diversified product manufacturer and service provider for the commercial, industrial, defense and energy markets. By the end of WWII, Curtiss-Wright was the largest aircraft manufacturer in the United States, supplying whole aircraft in large numbers to the US. Armed Forces.

Curtiss-Wright was best known for the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk (Kittyhawk or Tomahawk to the British), which were built between 1940 and 1944 at the main production facilities in Buffalo, New York. During the first year of American participation in WWII, the aircraft came to symbolize the United States Army Air Corps. Wright Aeronautical, based in Dayton, Ohio, built the engines for the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk.

The P-40 became America's foremost fighter in service when WWII began. P-40s engaged Japanese aircraft during the attack on Pearl Harbor and the invasion of the Philippines in December 1941. According to the US Air Force Museum, at the end of its WWII career, more than 14,000 P-40s had been produced for service in the air forces of 28 nations.

A Wikipedia article describes the progression of events, starting with the Curtiss Aeronautical plant and ending in the pilots' deaths:

From 1941 to 1943, the Curtiss Aeronautical plant in Lockland, Ohio produced aircraft engines under wartime contract destined for installation in U.S. Army Air Forces aircraft. Wright officials at Lockland insisted on high engine production levels, resulting in a significant percentage of engines that did not meet Army Air Forces (AAF) inspection standards. These defective engines were nevertheless approved by inspectors for shipment and installation in U.S. military aircraft. After investigation, it was later revealed that Wright company officials at Lockland had conspired with civilian technical advisers and Army inspection officers to approve substandard or defective aircraft engines for military use. Army Air Forces technical adviser Charles W. Bond was dismissed by the Army in 1943 for "gross irregularities in inspection procedure." Bond would later testify that he had been "wined and dined" by Wright company officials; one of those occasions was the night before

Bond fired four AAF engine inspectors another AAF inspector had described as "troublemakers." In 1944, three Army officers, Lt. Col. Frank Constantine Greulich of Detroit, former chief inspection officer for the material command, Major Walter A. Ryan of Detroit, former central states inspection officer, and Major William Bruckmann, a former Cincinnati brewer and resident Army inspections officer at the Wright plant in Lockland were charged with neglect of duty, conspiracy, and giving false testimony in a general court martial. All three men were later convicted of neglect of duty. The story of defective engines had reached investigators working for Sen. Harry Truman's congressional investigative board, the Truman Commission, after several Wright aircraft assembly workers informed on the company; they would later testify under oath before Congress. Arthur Miller's play *All My Sons* is based on this incident.

In 2011, columnist Richard J. Eskow, senior fellow with the Campaign for America's Future and columnist for the *Huffington Post*, alleged that his uncle Jack Temple "died in World War II." Temple's death in a military bomber crash was allegedly tied to engine failure due to improper manufacture and/or assembly; the engines had passed inspection even though they were defective. Eskow referenced a 2006 article by Sarah Anderson that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and on AlterNet. Anderson had alleged that Curtiss-Wright "had sold leaky motors to the government and covered it up with forged inspection reports." As a result of the investigation, wrote Anderson, "heads rolled at Curtiss-Wright and one general wound up in prison."

With exception of "heads rolled at Curtiss-Wright," I have not found mention of actual imprisonment of anyone from the company itself. Also, Joe's factory would likely not have been as large as Curtiss Aeronautical plant, and he and Steve acted alone, without the cooperation of the Army inspectors.

The above passages, plus Kate Keller's reference to seeing Larry fly overhead while in training, Ann in NY, 700 miles away, and George's journey from his father's Ohio prison to the Keller's hometown ("We've been waiting for you all afternoon," Chris says on p. 43 of the script), combine to suggest it's a Midwestern locale, and very likely, Ohio.

Kate's estimation that Ann is 700 miles away in NY affirms an Ohio location--Upstate NY is that distance, NY City is 633 miles away.

George Army Airfield, mentioned earlier, was a World War II military airfield, located 5 miles east-northeast of Lawrenceville, Illinois. It operated as an advanced pilot training school for the United States Army Air Forces from 1942 until 1945. It is 246 miles from Lockland, Ohio and would have taken less an hour to fly there at that time, so it is conceivable that Larry could have flown over the family home while training.

The morning the play opens, Ann's brother George calls from Columbus, Ohio, where he has been visiting his father, Steve, in prison. (On page 34, Kate says, "He's been in Columbus since this morning with Steve. He's gotta see Annie right away, he says".)

At the time of the play, there was a penitentiary in Columbus, the Ohio Penitentiary, which stood on Spring Street just west of downtown Columbus. (More will be written about the penitentiary later.) George tells Annie he will be taking a train to see her at the Keller's, "On the seven o'clock" (Ann, p. 34). A trip from Columbus to Lockland would take about four hours today, and more in those days. This fits neatly into the time frame of the play, as George would need the additional time to leave the prison and get himself to the train station.

Ultimately, the exact location of the play is irrelevant; as I mentioned earlier, Miller kept it anonymous to maintain its ubiquity. Nevertheless, the history and dialogue of the play are sufficient to pinpoint a possible location.

Nobody in this house dast take her faith away, Joe: Kate's "dast" here and Joe's "dasn't" on p. 28 of the script ("No, she dasn't feel that way") are dialectical forms of the word "dare". Variants are "dassn't" and the less commonly used "dassent". The contraction dasn't derives partly from the Middle English (thou) darst not and more recently (he/she) dares not. Some etymologists speculate that dast may have come about as a back-formation of dasn't, a back formation being a word formed by dropping a real or imagined part from another word.

On his website polysyllabic.com, Karl Hagen writes that the *Dictionary of American Regional English* has a substantial "dare" entry that includes many citations for the use of "dasn't" among the Pennsylvania Dutch, who settled in parts of Pennsylvania as well as Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia. The language spoken by the Pennsylvania Dutch is a variety of West Central German; Americans identified them erroneously as Dutch because "Dutch" sounds like "Deutsch," the German word for the German language. Old, Middle, and even modern English are Germanic languages.

However, use isn't limited to German speakers or to the Northeast. Early examples come from Missouri, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, as well as New England.

Mark Twain (1835-1910), who grew up in Missouri, used the word in his short stories and novels. His mother was a Kentucky native and his father a native of Virginia. Twain, who was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens, was of Cornish, English and Scots-Irish descent. I mention his origins because I tried to find a link there, but the use of the word spread widely as people settled the US. The one consistency was that Joe's and Kate's generation seem to be among the last to use it; it wasn't popular with their children.

Ernest T. Bass, a character on the Andy Griffith Show (1960-1968) who's an old-timer and a mountain man, uses it. He would have been a slightly younger contemporary of the elder Kellers.

In Act I, Scene 1 of Eugene O'Neill's 1931 play, *MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA*, Seth Beckwith tells Small, "You dasn't stay there till moonrise at ten o'clock". Seth is an elderly New England groundskeeper.

On Merriam-Webster.com's page for "dasn't" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dasn%27t>), they ask readers where they have read or heard the term. The readers weigh in under "Seen and Heard", in case you want to scroll down and read their comments.

P. 21

Battalion: an army's basic maneuver unit of between 500 to 1,000 soldiers ready for battle, often an infantry unit forming part of a brigade. It is usually led by a lieutenant colonel. During WWII, the US Army normally had three infantry battalions to a regiment and nine to a division. Two-star generals typically command a division.

Mother McKeller: this might be a play on "Mother McAuley", or Mother Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy, an order of nuns in Dublin in 1831. They devoted themselves to the education and care of poor girls and women and the relief of the sick and poor in their own homes. Sisters of Mercy foundations have since spread throughout the world, notably in the US.

Those dear dead days beyond recall: from the opening lyric of the popular sentimental song "Love's Old Sweet Song" (1884) by J.L. Molloy.

P. 25

Ann: (*As they laugh*) You still haberdashering?^[SEP]**Frank: Why not? Maybe I too can get to be president.** A haberdasher is a dealer in men's clothing and accessories. Frank is referring to Harry S. Truman (1884-1972), who was the 33rd president of the United States, and the POTUS in the time the play is set. He was in fact a haberdasher in the early 1920's.

Apparently, Truman went from job to job before he opened his haberdashery. After high school graduation at the age of 17, he took a few odd jobs and eventually became a bank clerk. In 1906, he left the bank to help his father at the family farm. His father's died, whereupon Harry invested in two risky endeavors in zinc and oil, both of which left him with more debt than before. He served as a captain in the army during WWI, and when he returned to the US, he decided to quit farming and instead set up a haberdashery in downtown Kansas City with his military friend Edward "Eddie" Jacobson. The *Gentleman's Gazette* describes how it came about:

Both had served in the 129th Field Artillery and while stationed at Camp Doniphan in Oklahoma, they operated the regimental canteen with such great success that they decided to go into business together once the war was over. Truman once remarked:

"We'd done so well in the canteen, we didn't see why we couldn't do just as well in civilian life, and it looked like we were a pretty good combination. I'd do the selling and keep the books, and we had a clerk part of the time, and Eddie would do the buying. Of course, the way things turned out we both did everything, a little of everything."

As such, they started their Truman & Jacobson haberdashery on November 28, 1919, at 104 West 12th Street.

They sold mostly gent's accessories but also a few suits. Interestingly, Truman would always wear tailored suits, not the ones he sold in the store!



Pictured left to right, in the Truman and Jacobson haberdashery ca. 1921, are Harry S. Truman, Francis Berry (a corporal in the 129th), Mike Flynn (a Lieutenant in Battery "D"), and Kelsey Cravens (a friend of Truman)

The two signed a lease for 5 years on May 27, 1919 on a prime storefront property in downtown Kansas City, located across from the popular the Muehlebach Hotel. The store would prosper at first, serving as a meeting point for elegant men about town as well as their comrades from the 129th Field Artillery. Some men even studied their law books there after the store closed for the evening. Their fortunes would shift, however, as described by *Gentleman's Gazette*:

Due to continuing success, Truman filed the articles for incorporation to become president of the Truman & Jacobson, on February 23, 1921. However, shortly thereafter the haberdashery faced financial difficulties during the recession and finally Truman & Jacobson had to close its doors in September 1922. Both Truman and Jacobson left heavily indebted.

When I got home from the penitentiary: a penitentiary isn't just a prison, but specifically, a state or federal prison in the US for people convicted of serious crime. It is almost always maximum security. Because of the seriousness of Joe's alleged crime, and because it involved the US Government, he would have been in a federal penitentiary. The nearest one to his home at that time was the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio, where Steve Deever is still incarcerated at the time of the play.

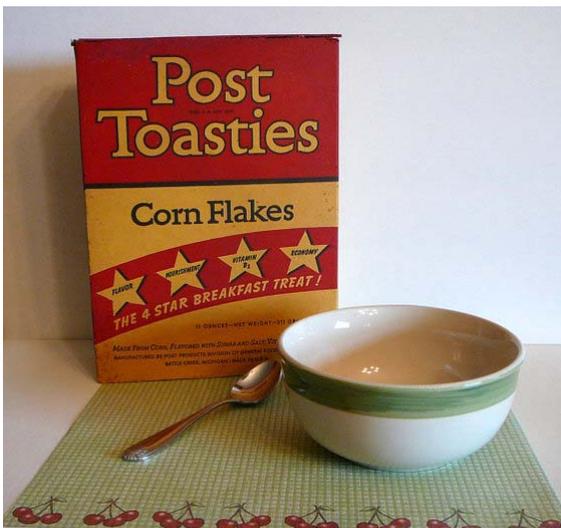
Larry crashed his plane on November 25, 1943, after finding out about his father's arrest, which puts Joe there then. 1943 was a rough year for the inmates at the Ohio Penitentiary, as were the other years of WWII. The Ohio Penitentiary was known for its severe overcrowding and brutal, dehumanizing conditions. Prison historian John Resch described them in a 1970 study of Ohio prisons: "Prisoners existed in a regime whose operations might have been drawn from a 19th century manual. The lock step and a quasi-silent system were used to maintain control, order, discipline and regimentation. The shower bath continued to be used as punishment and the degrading stripes were still worn."

Dominic Marzano, an inmate barber at the penitentiary during the 1940s, recalled how the food degraded after WWII began: "When the war started, the food got bad, and it didn't get any better until 1952". "They would give us butter beans with a piece of fat sowbelly in there with hair on it, big hairs up to an inch long," says Gentry Richardson, who was incarcerated there as a teenager in 1942.

Also during WWII, convict labor was enlisted to produce goods for the war effort. Chances are that Joe didn't participate, as he hadn't been convicted of a crime during his time there. However, once

P. 26

He hands out police badges from the Post Toasties boxes: C.W. Post started his cereal company in 1894 in Battle Creek, Michigan. Post Toasties cereal was introduced in 1904; treats and toys in the box have been a marketing tactic since the early 1900s.



Detective Badge Prize and Post Toasties Box, both ca. 1940s

I was the beast; the guy who sold cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force; the guy who made twenty-one P-40s crash in Australia. As described on pp. 17-18 of this document, the P-40 was America's foremost fighter in service when WWII began. P-40s engaged Japanese aircraft during the attack on Pearl Harbor and the invasion of the Philippines in December 1941. According to the U.S. Air Force Museum, at the end of its WWII career, more than 14,000 P-40s had been produced for service in the air forces of 28 nations.

More information on the history and development of the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk can be found here: <http://www.historynet.com/curtiss-p-40-warhawk-one-of-ww-iis-most-famous-fighters.htm>



The Curtiss P-40 Warhawk

P. 28

No, she dasn't feel that way: see definition on p. 19 of this glossary

Those cylinder heads went into P-40s only. What's the matter with you? You know Larry never flew a P-40: To believe Larry could have flown a P-40, Joe and Kate would have then had to accept his death as a punishment for Joe's crime, which is an intolerable and insane ("What's the matter with you?") thought.

It was a madhouse. Every half hour the Major callin' for cylinder heads, they were whippin' us with the telephone. The trucks were hauling them away hot, damn near: As described on p. 13, after Pearl Harbor, the Army was under extreme pressure to produce aircraft at an exceedingly accelerated rate, not just to replace what had been lost in the attack and to fight the Japanese, but also for the Allied war effort, which it shortly joined.

P. 29

I'll call Swanson's for a table: I wasn't able to find any information on a restaurant by that name in Cincinnati in the 1940s, or any other city in the US for that matter. I did find a Swanson food company that was established in Omaha in 1899. The company still operates

under the Swanson brand, manufacturing TV dinners, broths, and canned poultry for the North American market.

I did find an upscale French restaurant established in 1949 in Cincinnati, two years too late for the play. Known as The Maisonette, and defunct since 2005, it was North America's most highly rated restaurant, it earned a 41-year running streak of five-star awards, the highest designation given by Mobil Travel Guide, and still the longest on record.

Casanova: a term for a ladies' man, it is named after the Venetian adventurer and author (1725-98), most famous for seducing wealthy women and charming the elite of France.

P. 30

You remember, overseas, I was in command of a company: the subdivision of a battalion, usually consisting of about 100 men, usually in the command of a lieutenant or captain.

P. 31

Labor Day: There were often kissing booths at Labor Day carnivals.

P. 32

George Bernard Shaw as an elephant: George Bernard Shaw was an Irish playwright (1856-1950) noted for dazzling wit, irony, satire and brilliant command of the English language. Joe's lack of subtlety is as heavy-handed, plodding and unwieldy as an elephant attempting to write Shaw's superb prose.

Five dollars: the equivalent today would be \$54.92

P. 33

For the nuisance value, to hurt us: Nuisance value is the value, importance, or usefulness arising from a capacity to annoy, frustrate, harass, or injure. In legal terminology, it is the cost to resolve a frivolous action, disposal value, number to dispose of a frivolous case, number to get rid of a frivolous action, number to make a case go away, price to resolve a frivolous case, quick settlement amount for a frivolous case, value to dispose of a frivolous law suit, or walking money.

P. 34

On the seven o'clock. He's in Columbus ... He's been in Columbus since this morning with Steve: as I wrote about on p. 19 and again on p. 22, Steve is incarcerated at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, the capital of Ohio, which was in operation from 1834 until it was ordered closed in 1979. The Ohio Division of Public Works completed its demolition in 1998.

These links will provide more information about the Ohio Penitentiary:

<https://www.mrps.org/learn/history/article-on-the-ohio-state-penn-inside-the-penn>

<http://www.forgottenoh.com/Counties/Franklin/pen.html>