



Stanley Grover Nienstedt

A man named Grover

Some alumni of the late 40s who remember him in such productions as "Green Grow the Lilacs" and in such groups as the Madrigal Singers might ask, "Whatever became of Stanley Nienstedt?" But if they have been watching their television sets, or attending musicals on Broadway or on tour, they will know that since his graduation in 1949 Stanley Nienstedt has done mighty well in show business as Stanley Grover. Last spring his audience was increased tremendously when he appeared as a regular on the satirical NBC series, "That Was the Week That Was."

During the summer just past, Stanley and his wife Linda (a former Congressional employee) and their children, Cindy, 5, and Steven, 3, spent several weeks in Fort Worth where he appeared in summer stock. When not traveling together as a family in the summer, they share a large old West Side Manhattan apartment at 325 Central Park West in New York City.

Stanley began his career as a last minute substitute for a featured act at Chicago's Chez Paree and went on to spend a full year there as emcee. He had grown up in neighboring Woodstock, Illinois, served in the Navy and graduated from the University with a major in music and drama. Shunning further night-club offers, he journeyed to New York for a try at Broadway, and landed a job in 24 hours in the chorus of "Seventeen." Following closely was "Wish You Were Here," where he caught the attention of Joshua Logan, the noted director, who immediately cast him as Lt. Cable in the National company of "South Pacific." Since then he has chalked up more than 1200 performances in that role in 70 cities on tour, in summer stock, and at the New York City Center.

A lean period followed the "South Pacific" tour, which he filled in with cruise and resort hotel work.

Stanley Grover's next Broadway credit was Leonard Bernstein's "Candide." He played the title role several times in this short-lived artistic triumph. "Time Remembered," with Helen Hayes and Richard Burton was next, followed by featured roles in the disastrous "Thirteen Daughters" (Don Ameche) and "Let It Ride" (George Gobel), and "Mr. President." He also filled engagements at the Pierre Hotel in New York and at the Queen Elizabeth, Montreal, as well as occasional television roles. He also made some operetta records for RCA Victor.

Mr. Grover (that's really his middle name) regards his job on "That Was the Week That Was" as a perfect combination of his interests in politics, broadcasting and singing. It is assumed he will continue to appear in the series if it is resumed this fall.

When he was attending the University, Stanley took advantage of every opportunity to sing or act; it was as if he knew then he was destined for entertainment work. In addition to leading roles in "Green Grow the Lilacs" and "Pursuit of Happiness," both Missouri Workshop Theatre productions, he was leader of the Madrigal Group, formed from the University Singers in which he was soloist for three years; he was prominent in the Read Hall "Carousel," and conducted the Read Hall Listening Hour over KFRU. He was a member of a male quartet and a mixed quartet. Stanley was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the Purple Mask (Missouri Workshop). One of his earlier professional engagements was as the romantic lead in "Finian's Rainbow" at the Starlight Theater in Kansas City.