

FORT SMITH LITTLE TREATRE

presents

Edgar Lee Master's

"SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY"

Adapted by Charles Hidman

Director  
Charles Howard

Musical Director  
Cindy Bell

Producers  
Jackie Boyd  
Cindy Bell

CAST

Charles Howard  
Darlene Garner

Normajeanne Killean  
Bob Hughart

MUSIC

Tim Swanson  
Jane Swanson

Sandy Houck  
Jaimie Gillespie

TECHNICIANS

June Ellis  
Sondra Griffin  
Linda Brown

David Buell  
Rebecca Yarbrough  
Homer Ellis

OUR SPECIAL THANKS

Hoyle Carolan  
La Boutique Wigs  
KFSÅ Radio

Fort Smith Times Record  
KFSÅ-TV  
KFPW Radio

\* \* \* \* \*

Meandering through the prairie in central Illinois is a crooked creek called the Spoon River. Most of the time it is only a little stream, and occasionally it diminishes to just a trickle: in the heat of summer it may disappear almost entirely. In the spring and fall, however, it often overflows its banks and floods pale yellow water and mud over hundreds of acres of rich cornfields. The land is fertile beyond compare, but we are concerned with the people of the valley. White people have lived here for over one hundred and fifty years. Much of the population is permanent: today the descendants of the early settlers still till the valley soil. In their devotion to their farms these people are much alike. They are alike in another way too, for they are generally characterized by a peculiar hate, or dislike at least. The object of that dislike is Edgar Lee Masters, American poet and lawyer who died March 5, 1950.

It is a collection of fictitious inscriptions from tombstones. They are fictitious in the sense that only one, to my knowledge, has ever been seen on a tombstone. They are not fictitious in another sense, for the people about whom they were written actually did live. They dwelt in the villages along the Spoon River. Herein lies the reason for the dislike people along the Spoon yet feel for Edgar Lee Masters. You see, Masters recorded the faults and foibles of his subjects as well as their virtues. Today the grandchildren still resent the frankness with which he treated the hopes, failures, and faults of their forebears. Sometimes he was kindly, but more often than not his penetrating insight was sharp and cruel.

\* \* \* \* \*

There will be a fifteen minute intermission between Acts.

January 10-11, 1969

8:15 P. M.