

## On Borrowed Time

THE old have a habit of getting their own way with life, combining a stubborn refusal to admit defeat with a full use of their long experience in coping with problems. But in *On Borrowed Time*, the play to be heard from YAs and 4YZ on Monday, July 28, an old man gets his own way with Death. When Death arrives, in the person of Mr Brink Gramps is too concerned over the future of his grandson Pud to go



LELAND MAYFORTH (as Pud) and Howard Lindsay in the VOA production of "On Borrowed Time"

quietly; instead he manages to get Mr Brink up a tree—an apple tree, to be precise. How he succeeds in holding him there, and how a satisfactory future for Pud is worked out, form the events of a comedy which successfully mixes fantasy and homespun humour.

In this VOA production, in their *American Theatre of the Air* series, Gramps is played by Howard Lindsay, and his wife Dorothy Stickney plays Granny, the role she created in the original Broadway production. This husband and wife team are perhaps best known in the United States for their roles in *Life with Father*, of which Mr Lindsay was co-author. *On Borrowed Time*, first produced on Broadway in 1938, has since been filmed, televised, and frequently revived. Its author, Paul Osborn, who adapted the play from the novel by Lawrence E. Watkin, has since been writing scenarios for films and television, including *The Yearling*, *East of Eden*, *Sayonara* and *South Pacific*.

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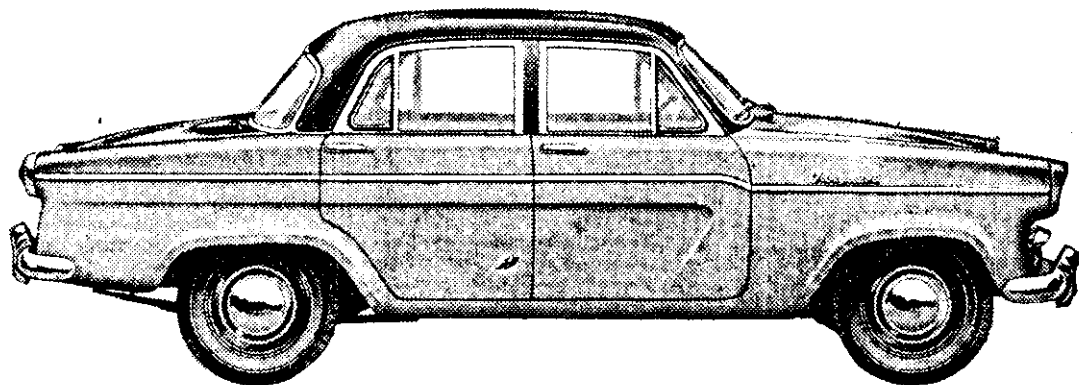
I was grateful to Elliott for announcing, "I Love You" while introducing pianist Evans—one of the Silver-Powell school. As so often happens today with these modernists, the tune is non-existent from the start and apart from a few chord changes in the first chorus, you would never recognise the lovely Cole Porter theme.

"S Wonderful" features drummer Beldini, and although this may have been intended as a showstopper and crowd-pleaser, on record it's tedious.

Don Elliott is a fine musician and it's a pity that this is released as representative of his offering at Newport. Never before have I heard Elliott in such ordinary surroundings.

First Playing: Station 2YD, July 31, 9.0 p.m.

—Ray Harris



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