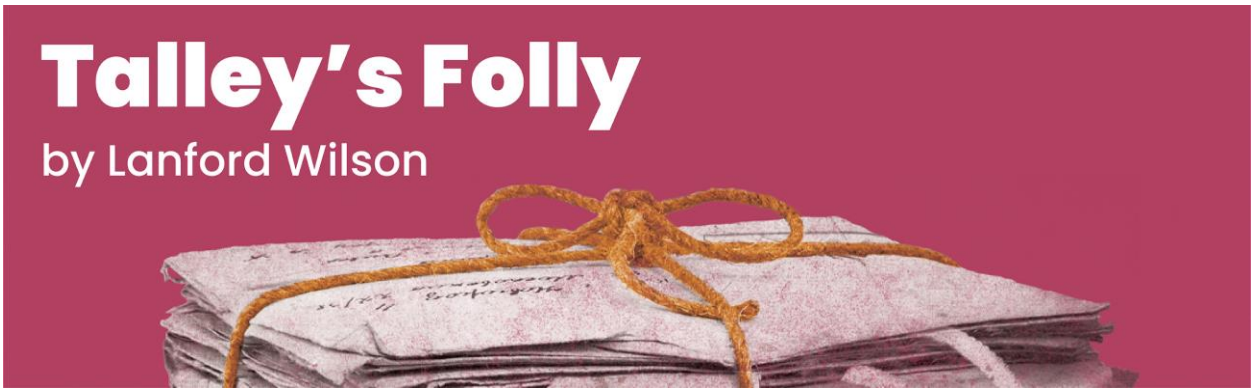
Actor Packet

Talley's Folly

by Lanford Wilson



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For additional resources and direct links to interviews, articles, and videos visit our dramaturgical website at:
https://meredithghealy.wixsite.com/talleysfolly.

If you find material you would like for me to add to our website, let me know!

Talley's Folly: About the Play

"If everything goes well for me tonight, this should be a waltz, one-two-three, one-two-three; a no-holds-barred romantic story, and since I'm not a romantic type, I'm going to need the whole valentine here to help me…"

Lanford Wilson doesn't want there to be any confusion at the beginning of *Talley's Folly*, it will be a love story, a valentine, as he has Matt Friedman describe to the audience before the house lights have dimmed. *Talley's Folly* is, at its core, a romance. A story about two people, who don't quite fit into the world around them, trying to connect and see if there is the possibility of sharing a future together.

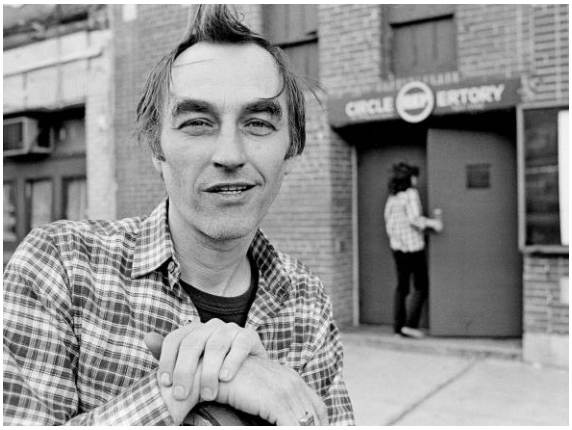
In navigating this relationship, *Talley's Folly* also explores themes of prejudice, tolerance, gender roles, and the conflict between traditional values and modern life. Matt Friedman is an accountant and a Jewish immigrant. Sally Talley is the unmarried daughter of a wealthy Methodist family. On the surface, the two do not have much in common, besides the memorable week that they spent together during the summer of 1943. Now, on July 4, 1944, Matt has returned to convince Sally Talley to marry him.

Talley's Folly is the centerpiece of what has become known as the "Talley Trilogy." The other two plays that comprise the set are *Talley & Son* and *Fifth of July*. Wilson set these three shows in rural Missouri outside the town of Lebanon, which is the place where he spent much of his childhood. *Talley & Son* is set on the same day as *Talley's Folly*, and in the show reveals more of the inner workings and conflict within the Talley family. *Fifth of July* is set in 1977, and the action revolves around Sally's nephew, Kenneth Talley Jr., attempting to sell the family house.

Talley's Folly was well-received by critics when it debuted in New York. For his review in *Library Journal*, Gerard M. Molyneaux stated, "It is not the plot that holds the reader's interest, but Wilson's craftsmanship, his sense of timing and humor, his sensitive use of language." Walter Kerr, of the *New York Times*, was won over by the tone and the energy, "*Talley's Folly* is a charmer, filled to the brim with hope, humor, and chutzpah."

In 1979, *Talley's Folly* premiered at the Circle Repertory Company, of which playwright Lanford Wilson and original director Marshall Mason were founding members. This production then transferred to Broadway in February of 1980, where it ran at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre for 286 performances. The show has since been produced across the country at regional and community theaters, as well as on college campuses. There was a New York revival in 2013 by the Roundabout Theatre Company, starring Danny Burstein as Matt Friedman and Sarah Paulson as Sally Talley. *Talley's Folly* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1980.

Talley's Folly: About the Playwright



Lanford Wilson (April 13, 1937—March 24, 2011) was born in Lebanon, MO which serves as the setting for many of his plays, including *Talley's Folly*. His parents divorced when he was young, and he then lived with his mother in Springfield, MO and Ozark, MO for much of his childhood. He began writing short stories after taking a writing class at San Diego State College, but it wasn't until he moved to Chicago in the late 1950s that he began experimenting with playwriting.

In 1962, Wilson moved to New York City and was not initially impressed with the work being produced on Broadway, and found his artistic home in the more experimental theaters that populated the Off and Off-Off Broadway scene. His works were produced in venues like Caffe Cino and Judson Church in Greenwich Village, and La MaMa in the East Village. Wilson co-founded the Circle Repertory Company in 1969 with Rob Thirkield, Tanya Berezin and Marshall Mason. Throughout its 27 years, the theater produced shows by prominent playwrights including Craig Lucas, Sam Shepard, and Paula Vogel.

Wilson's playwriting style has been described as "lyric realism." Marshall Mason, a director who worked on over 50 productions with Wilson throughout his career stated, "It's not something Lanford invented, but it is something he happens to do awfully well. It's a kind of realism that I feel is the voice of the native American theater, but it is realism that is elevated in its language. It takes the language people speak and makes it more musical." Wilson himself said, "I write what's in the air." He often wrote about marginalized people on the fringes of society, and was one of the earliest popular playwrights to feature gay and lesbian characters in major roles. Wilson is often compared to the playwright Tennessee Williams due to similarities in their writing style and central themes, including the conflict between one's past and present. Wilson himself, however, would not accept this comparison, and stated in an interview, "I don't compare myself to Tennessee Williams, no, thank you. We're talking Tennessee Williams. He's great, and I'm not."

Despite his initial ambivalence towards Broadway, Wilson had six shows during his career that were produced on the Great White Way; *The Gingham Dog*, *Burn This*, *Redwood Curtain*, *Fifth of July*, *Talley's Folly*, and *Angels Fall*. The latter three for which Wilson was nominated for a Tony Award. Wilson achieved numerous accolades during his long career as a playwright. Among them were the PEN/Laura Pels Theater Award (2004) for his full body of work and an Artistic Achievement Award during the New York Innovative Theatre Awards (2010), which honored his lifelong commitment to the Off-Off Broadway community.

Brief History & Notable Facts

Lebanon, Missouri has always featured a road. The area was initially home to the Wyota and Osage tribes, who had trails running through where the town is today. During the Civil War, Lebanon had what was called the "Wire Road," which was comprised of telegraph lines running between St. Louis and Springfield. Then, in the late 1920s, came Route 66, which covered the same ground as the old trails. During WWII, Route 66 was used extensively to ferry people and supplies across the country.

In 1868, Lebanon was changed due to the arrival of a railroad. The railroad encouraged new businesses to move into the area, and the tracks were located right in the center of the town. The railroad helped Lebanon's economy grow, because it attracted commerce to the formerly rural area.

Lebanon is also known for its unique magnetic water. In 1899, a worker digging a new city water well discovered that his tools were picking up nails, because the water had magnetized them. Bathing in the magnetic waters was said to have healing powers and visitors came to bathe and drink from the well.

Demographics for Laclede County (from the 1940 US Census)

- The population of Lebanon was 5,025.
- The population of Laclede County was 18,718 (51% male and 49% female).
- Just 1% of the county's population was Black.
- Only 101 people (0.5% of the population) were foreign-born.
- 3% of the population attended at least one year of college.
- For adults over the age of 14, 28% were employed at the time of the census (43% of the men and 13% of the women).

Demographic Information: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 15.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2020. http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V15.0

Talley's Folly: Kaunas, Lithuania

A Brief History

Lithuania is a country in northeastern Europe, and is the southernmost and largest of the three Baltic states. Lithuanians are the only branch within the group that managed to create a state entity in premodern times.

On Aug. 14, 1385, the ruling family in Lithuania agreed to join their realm with Poland, and Roman Christianity was introduced to the Lithuanian subjects. The union of Lithuania and Poland remained a loose alliance by virtue of a common ruler until 1569. On July 1 of that year, a common Polish-Lithuanian parliament meeting in Lublin transformed the relationship. Poland and Lithuania agreed to elect a joint sovereign and have a common parliament, but each continued to be administered separately and had its own law codes and armed forces.

During the 18th century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth declined as a political power. Attempts at reform triggered foreign intervention. Following three partitions in the late 1700s, the old state ceased to exist. The bulk of the partitions went to Russia. However, lands southwest of the Nemunas River were annexed by the Kingdom of Prussia.

After a revolt in 1863, the policy of Russification was extended to all areas of public life in Lithuania. Russian became the only language sanctioned for public use. Such cultural imperialism triggered an indigenous reaction that fueled a national renaissance. An informal system of Lithuanian "schools of the hearth" in the villages was organized and Lithuanian publications in the Latin script, printed mostly across the German border in neighboring East Prussia, were smuggled into the country in large numbers.

Judaism in Lithuania

Jews have lived in the area now known as Lithuania since the fourteenth century, when they were brought forcibly as prisoners of war by the Grand Duke Vytautas. In the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Lithuanian Jews remained a distinct group known as Litvaks. The vast territory where they lived included areas of northeastern Poland and areas of Belarus, Latvia, and Prussia. Many of the Jews were later active as traders between Kovno (Kaunas) and Danzig (today's Gdansk, Poland).

In the nineteenth century, much of the region was under Russian control. Antisemitism and official anti-Jewish policies often interrupted the growth of the Jewish community. The Russian government blamed the Jews for the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881, and as a result, three years of anti-Jewish riots—known as pogroms—ensued. These and other anti-Semitic outbursts in the Russian Empire dealt a massive blow to Jewish communities in the region. Many Jews were killed and their homes were plundered; in response, thousands of Jews fled Lithuania, and emigrated to South Africa and the United States. Their goal was freedom and economic security.

January 5: The Daily Mail becomes the first transoceanic newspaper.

January 18: The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City hosts a jazz concert for the first time. The performers were Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Artie Shaw, Roy Eldridge and Jack Teagarden.

January 27: The Siege of Leningrad is lifted by the Soviets after 880 days and more than 2 million Russians killed.

February 7: Bing Crosby records "Swinging on a Star" for Decca Records.

February 8: Henry McAlpin becomes the first African-American reporter accredited to White House.

February 20: Batman & Robin comic strip premieres in newspapers.

February 26: Sue Dauser, of the nurse corps, is appointed as the first female US navy captain.

March 2: 16th Academy Awards: *Casablanca* wins best picture, and Jennifer Jones and Paul Lukas win acting awards.

April 13: South Carolina rejects black suffrage.

April 22: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini meet at Salzburg.

May 3: *Meet Me in St Louis* opens on Broadway.

May 14: General Rommel, Speidel, and von Stulpnagel attempt to assassinate Hitler.

May 16: The first of 180,000+ Hungarian Jews reach Auschwitz.

May 31: Allied breakthrough in Italy.

June 6: D-Day begins as the 156,000-strong Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy, France.

June 16: George Stinney, a 14-year-old African-American boy, is wrongfully executed for the murder of two white girls, and becomes the youngest person executed in 20th-century America.

June 20: Nazis begin mass extermination of Jews at Auschwitz.

June 22: US President Franklin Roosevelt signs the "GI Bill of Rights."

July 4: Matt Friedman arrives in Lebanon to ask Sally Talley for her hand in marriage.

A Brief History of Nursing in the US Prior to WWII

Traditionally, it was the responsibility of family, friends, and neighbors to care for and treat the sick. In the US, this was true until hospitals became more widespread in the early 1800s. This was due to urbanization and industrialization across the country. As the number of hospitals began to increase, so did the demand for caregivers who were trained to treat the new patients.

The outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 created an immediate need for capable nurses to care for the enormous number of sick and wounded. About 20,000 women and men served as nurses in both the North and the South. The commendable service by Civil War nurses was critical to the rationale for setting up training programs for nursing.

In 1873, three nursing programs in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, began operations. By 1900, between 400 and 800 schools of nursing were in operation across the country. These new schools were either affiliated with or owned by a hospital. During their two to three years of training, students were provided with clinical experience, which was very similar to an apprenticeship. Over time, students began to receive more theoretical instruction, and became less involved with direct care. This was due to the development of state licensing boards and the increasingly complex demands of patient care.

For many years, nursing was a predominantly female profession, and men were rarely granted admission to nursing school. Additionally, American professional nursing maintained strict racial segregation until the mid-twentieth century.

Nursing in the US During WWII

About 78,000 nurses served in World War II. Their contributions were acknowledged as essential to victory. Despite their heroic image, most nurses in the 1940s were overworked and underpaid. Additionally, during WWII, there was a nursing shortage. To address this issue, the U.S. Public Health Service established the Cadet Nurse Corps in 1943. Those who joined the Corps promised to work as nurses for the duration of the war. Once enrolled, students chose the kind of nursing they wished to pursue: Army or Navy Corps, Government or civilian hospitals, or public health nursing. In return, the Government paid the students' tuition and fees and an additional monthly stipend.

Talley's Folly: Judaism in the US

Migration to America

Jewish immigrants began coming to America in the 1600s, and were largely Sephardic Jews. The first major Jewish settlement was in New Amsterdam and existed from 1655-1654, until the English conquered the area and named it New York. In 1880, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations published the first census of American Jewry and estimated there to be 250,000 Jews were living in the country. By 1940, there were between 4,770,000-4,975,000 Jews living in the US, which was under 5% of the population at the time.

Assimilation

Once Jewish Americans arrived in the United States, there was a concerted effort to negotiate their place without sacrificing their identity. Many went to English classes at night, and adopted American dress and customs. Ultimately, they were learning to fit in with the American way of life. Learning English was a critical part of this assimilation. Many immigrants mastered only rudimentary English, but sent their children to public schools in overwhelming numbers. Although many families needed their children's income to survive, education was the key to mobility for the next generation. Most Jewish children did obtain at least an elementary education during this era.

Antisemitism

Although Jewish Americans have generally flourished in America, like other minorities, they have also faced prejudice. This was, and is, especially true during periods of economic hardship or war. During World War I and the Great Depression, Jews were often targeted as scapegoats.

In 1915, a Jewish businessman, Leo Frank, was lynched after being falsely accused and convicted of killing a young woman who worked in his pencil factory. Even though this was an isolated incident, it caused fear and alarm amongst the Jewish population. The lynching also lead to a resurgence of the KKK, who's 4 million members in the 1920s outnumbered the amount of Jewish people in the US at the time.

America's Response to the Holocaust

Beginning in the 1930s, life in Germany became increasingly difficult for Jews and they were encouraged to leave the country. During this time, the US did not welcome Jewish refugees from Europe. In 1939, 83% of Americans were opposed to the admission of refugees. In the midst of the Great Depression, many feared the burden that immigrants could place on the nation's economy; refugees, who in most cases were prevented from bringing any money or assets with them, were an even greater cause for concern.

The extermination of European Jewry began when the German army invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. The Nazis attempted to keep the Holocaust a secret, but in August 1942, Dr. Gerhart Riegner, the representative of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, learned what was going on from a German source. Riegner asked American diplomats in Switzerland to inform Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, one of America's most prominent Jewish leaders, of the mass murder plan. The State Department, which was undoubtedly influenced by antisemitism, decided not to inform Wise. Wise was subsequently given this information by Jewish leaders in Great Britain. When he then approached Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, Wise was asked to keep the information confidential until the government verified it.

In November 1942, Welles authorized the release of Riegner's message, and the *New York Times* reported the news on its tenth page. During WWII, the *New York Times* and most other newspapers failed to give prominent and extensive coverage to the Holocaust. This was partially due to the newspaper reporting about false atrocities committed by the Germans during WWI. The American public discovered the full extent of the Holocaust only when the Allied armies liberated the extermination and concentration camps at the end of World War II.

Talley's Folly: Immigration to the US in the Early 1900's

January 1892: Ellis Island, the United States' first immigration station, opened in New York Harbor. More than 12 million immigrants entered the US through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954.

1907: US immigration peaked, with 1.3 million people entering the country through Ellis Island alone. Between 1900 and 1915, more than 15 million immigrants arrived in the US.

1910: An estimated three-quarters of New York City's population consisted of new immigrants and first-generation Americans.

1917: Xenophobia reached a new high on the eve of American involvement in WWI. The Immigration Act of 1917 established a literacy requirement for immigrants entering the country and halted immigration from most Asian countries.

May 1924: The Immigration Act of 1924 limited the number of immigrants allowed into the US yearly through nationality quotas. The new system favored immigrants from Northern and Western European countries. The Act completely excluded immigrants from Asia, aside from the Philippines, which was an American colony. This resulted in the increase of illegal immigration to the US. The US Border Patrol is established to crack down on illegal immigrants crossing the Mexican and Canadian borders into the US. Many of these early border crossers were Chinese and other Asian immigrants, who had been barred from entering legally.

1942: Labor shortages during WWII prompted the US and Mexico to form the Bracero Program, which allowed Mexican agricultural workers to enter the US temporarily. The program lasted until 1964.

Talley's Folly: Glossary

Louvers: each of a set of angled slats or flat strips fixed or hung at regular intervals in a door, shutter, or screen to allow air or light to pass through. (p. 5)

Lattice: a structure consisting of strips of wood or metal crossed and fastened together with square or diamond-shaped spaces left between, used as a screen or fence or as a support for climbing plants. (p. 5)

Gothic revival gingerbread: a style of architecture popularized in the mid 1800's which often featured a delicate, lacey wooden trim along the edge of the roof. (p. 5)

Lambent: glowing, gleaming, or flickering with a soft radiance. (p. 5)

Creel: a large wicker basket for holding fish. (p. 5)

Seine: a fishing net which hangs vertically in the water with floats at the top and weights at the bottom edge, the ends being drawn together to encircle the fish. (p. 5)

No-holds-barred: an expression derived from boxing and wrestling, which traditionally meant no restrictions on the kinds of holds that were used. Now the expression is used more generally to convey that no rules or restrictions apply in a conflict or dispute. (p. 6)

Folly: a costly ornamental building with no practical purpose, especially a tower or mock-Gothic ruin built in a large garden or park. (p. 6)

Geegaw: a showy thing, especially one that is useless or worthless. (p. 6)

Shmeer: a collection of related ideas. (p. 8)

Infidel: one who is not a Christian or who opposes Christianity; a disbeliever in something specified or understood. (p. 9)

Aperture: an opening or open space. (p. 9)

Plymouth: a make of automobiles produced by the Chrysler Corporation in the United States. The Plymouth automobile was introduced on July 7, 1928 and was Chrysler Corporation's first entry in the low-priced field, which at the time was already dominated by Chevrolet and Ford. While the original purpose of the Plymouth was to serve a lower-end marketing niche, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the make helped significantly in ensuring the survival of the Chrysler Corporation in a decade when many other car companies failed. (p. 10)

Hay bailer: a machine which bundles hay into a tightly wrapped bunch and bounds it with cords or hoops. (p. 10)

Still: an apparatus for distilling alcoholic drinks such as whiskey. (p. 10)

Talley's Folly: Glossary

Pump house: a building in which are located and operated the pumps of an irrigation system. (p. 10)

Pickled herring: a herring, type of fish similar to anchovies, preserved in vinegar or brine. (p. 10)

Caviar: the pickled roe, or eggs, of sturgeon or other large fish, eaten as a delicacy. (p. 10)

Humphrey Bogart: (1899–1957) the legendary film actor Humphrey Bogart was known for playing a range of tough characters in a series of films throughout the 1940s and 1950s, including *The Maltese Falcon*, *Casablanca*, and *The African Queen*. The men he portrayed often possessed a cool, hardened exterior that occasionally let forth a suggestion of romantic or idealistic sentimentality. (p. 14)

Secretary of the Interior: the head of the Department of the Interior, which is the government agency responsible for managing public lands and minerals, national parks, and wildlife refuges. (p. 14)

Harold Ickes: (1874–1952) a U.S. social activist who became a prominent member of the New Deal Democratic administration under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As the head of the Public Works Administration (PWA; 1933–39) he worked on projects including highways, public buildings, and dams. (p. 14)

Sitting Bull: (1831–1890), Sioux chief; Sioux name Tatanka Iyotake. He led the Sioux in the fight to retain their lands; this resulted in the massacre of Lt. Col. Custer and his men at Little Bighorn. He was killed by reservation police during the Ghost Dance turmoil. (p. 14)

Springfield: a city in southwestern Missouri, on the northern edge of the Ozark Mountains. (p. 15)

Ratiocination: form judgments by a process of logic; reason. (p. 15)

Sherlock: a person who investigates mysteries or shows great perceptiveness, named for the famous literary detective Sherlock Holmes. (p. 15)

Anti-Semite: a person who is hostile to or prejudiced against Jewish people. (p. 15)

On-the-spot: without any delay; immediately; at the scene of an action or event. (p. 16)
Dayroom: a room used for daytime recreation, especially a communal room in a hospital. (p. 16)

Boon: a thing that is helpful or beneficial. (p. 17)

Gottenyu!: a Yiddish exclamation that is uttered with affection, despair or irony, to lend force to a sentence by adding fervor to sentiment. It is a warm, informal, personal way of enlisting God's attention, not invoking his aid. (p. 18)

Jigsaw: a light portable electric saw with a vertically reciprocating blade that is used especially for cutting curves. (p. 18)

Whirligig: a toy that spins around, for example, a top or a pinwheel. (p. 19)

Una furtiva lagrima: an aria from Act II, Scene 2 of the Italian opera *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *The Elixir of Love*, by Gaetano Donizetti. The aria is sung by the character Nemorino, a young peasant, who has just taken a second dose of love potion, which is really wine. In the song he realizes his love for Adina, a wealthy landowner, is reciprocated. (p. 19)

Lebanon: A city of approximately 15,000 residents in southern Missouri. (p. 19)

Over the Waves: a waltz written by Mexican composer Juventino Rosas which was very popular in European dance halls, parks, and fairs during the 19th century. (p. 21)

Tetanus: an acute infectious bacterial disease characterized by tonic spasm of voluntary muscles especially of the jaw and caused by bacteria (Clostridium tetani) which is usually introduced through a wound. (p. 22)

Shriners' mosque: the building where Shriners, a charitable society founded in the US in 1872, meet. These buildings were also often used for social gatherings, such as dances. (p. 23)

Carburetor: a device in an internal combustion engine for mixing air with a fine spray of liquid fuel. The carburetor is responsible for controlling the engine's speed. (p. 23)

Roosevelt: (1882–1945), 32nd president of the US 1933–45; full name Franklin Delano Roosevelt; known as FDR. His New Deal programs of the 1930s helped to lift the US out of the Great Depression, and he played an important part in Allied policy during World War II. A Democrat and a victim of polio, he was the only president to be elected to a third (and then a fourth) term in office. (p. 24)

USO: United Service Organization, the nation's leading charitable organization in serving active-duty service members and military families. (p. 25)

Shiksa: a derogatory Yiddish name for a non-Jewish girl or woman. (p. 26)

Inoculated: to have been treated with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease. (p. 28)

Talley's Folly: Glossary

Lockjaw: spasm of the jaw muscles, causing the mouth to remain tightly closed, typically as a symptom of tetanus. (p. 28)

Sen-sen: a type of breath freshener containing liquorice, frequently used to disguise the smell of alcohol or cigarettes. (p. 28)

Thorstein Veblen: (1857—1929), an American economist and social scientist who sought to apply an evolutionary, dynamic approach to the study of economic institutions. He was interested in the relationship between the economy, society, and culture. With *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899) he won fame in literary circles. The public saw him as a political radical or socialist and he was critical of the consumption habits of the wealthy and questioned their values. (p. 29)

The Theory of the Leisure Class: a book written by Thorstein Veblen which was published in 1899. Still read today, it represents the essence of most of his thinking. Veblen sought to apply Darwin's evolutionism to the study of modern economic life. The industrial system, he wrote, required men to be diligent, efficient, and cooperative, while those who ruled the business world were concerned with making money and displaying their wealth; their outlook was survivalist, a remnant of a predatory, barbarian past. Veblen examined with obvious relish the "modern survivals of prowess" in the amusements, fashions, sports, religion, and aesthetic tastes of the ruling class. The book caught the interest of the literary world, where it was read as satire rather than as science and thereby earned Veblen a reputation as a social critic that extended far beyond his academic horizon. (p. 29)

Sluggard: a lazy, sluggish person. (p. 29)

Rostock: a city in northeastern Germany. It was extensively developed after World War II as East Germany's principal ocean port, and is also known for shipbuilding and manufacturing. (p. 32)

Dansk: or Gdańsk, a city in northern Poland, situated at the mouth of the Vistula River on the Baltic Sea. (p. 32)

Kaunas: the second largest city in Lithuania, which is located at the confluence of the two largest Lithuanian rivers, surrounded by the hills and situated at the crossroads of the most important roads in Lithuania. As a result, Kaunas is an important center of communication for the country. (p. 32)

Kaiser: the German Emperor, the Emperor of Austria, or the head of the Holy Roman Empire. (p. 32)

Prussian: a native or inhabitant of Prussia, a small country on the southeastern shores of the Baltic Sea, which was abolished following Germany's defeat in World War I. (p. 33)

"May I": a children's game where one person, the caller, stands facing away from a line of children. She then chooses a child (at random, or in order), and announces a direction.

These follow a pattern, such as, "You may take' x' giant/regular/baby steps forward/backward." The child responds with "May I?" The caller then states "Yes" or "No", depending on her whim, and the child complies. If the child forgets to ask "May I?" he/she goes back to the starting line. First one to touch the caller wins. (p. 33)

Scissor steps: a jump where one crosses one's feet, and then jumps while uncrossing them. (p. 34)

Yugoslavia: a former country in southern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula consisting of Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia. (p. 33)

Czechoslovakia: a landlocked country 1918–1992 located in central Europe; a republic with its capital at Prague; the country was divided on Jan. 1, 1993 into the separate countries of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. (p. 34)

Sephardic: a member of the western branch of European Jews settling in Spain and Portugal and later in the Balkans, the Levant, England, the Netherlands, and the Americas. (p. 34)

Latvia: an independent country in north central Europe bordering on the Baltic Sea and indented by the Gulf of Riga (p. 34)

Lithuania: country in north central Europe bordering on the Baltic Sea; remnant of a medieval principality extending from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. (p. 34)

Nice: a resort city on the French Riviera, near the border with Italy. (p. 34)

Great War: another name for World War I, a war (1914–1918) in which the Central Powers (Germany and Austria–Hungary, joined later by Turkey and Bulgaria) were defeated by an alliance of Britain and its dominions, France, Russia, and others, joined later by Italy and the US. (p. 34)

Lübeck: a city and port on two rivers that flow into Lübeck Bay, an inlet of Mecklenburg Bay, northeast of Hamburg in northern Germany. (p. 35)

Caracas: the capital of Venezuela, in the northern part of the country near the Caribbean Sea. (p. 35)

Vilde chaya!: a Yiddish phrase meaning a rambunctious or wild person; literally 'wild animal'. (p. 37)

The Ozarks: a heavily forested highland plateau dissected by rivers, valleys, and streams, lying between the Missouri and Arkansas Rivers and within the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Illinois. (p. 37)

Talley's Folly: Glossary

Goyim: Yiddish; the plural version of "goy," a Jewish name for a non-Jew. (p. 37)

Alte moid: Yiddish for a spinster; literally old maid. (p. 37)

Fanny Brice: (1891—1951) a popular American singing comedian who was long associated with the *Ziegfeld Follies*. Her life is the subject of the Broadway musical *Funny Girl*. (p. 38)

Harry Houdini: (1874–1926), Hungarian-born US magician and escape artist; born Erik Weisz. In the early 1900s he became famous for his ability to escape from all kinds of bonds and containers, from prison cells to aerially suspended straitjackets. (p. 39)

Sigmund Freud: (1856–1939), Austrian neurologist and psychotherapist. He was the first to emphasize the significance of unconscious processes in normal and neurotic behavior and was the founder of psychoanalysis as both a theory of personality and a therapeutic practice. (p. 39)

Crapies: a North American freshwater fish of the sunfish family, the male of which builds a nest and guards the eggs and young. (p. 39)

Sun perch: a type of sunfish, any of numerous North American freshwater bony fishes (family Centrarchidae, especially genus Lepomis) usually with a deep compressed body and metallic luster. (p. 39)

Hatfields and McCoys: two American Appalachian mountaineer families who, with their kinfolk and neighbors, engaged in a legendary feud that attracted nationwide attention in the 1880s and '90s. The feuds resulted in many deaths and kidnappings for both families, and eventually the families were tried by the Supreme Court for their actions. (p. 39)

Lindy Lou: a love song written by Lily Teresa Strickland in 1920 and popularized by Paul Robeson in 1932. (p. 40)

War bond: a debt security issued by a government to finance military operations during times of war or conflict. The public may buy these bonds out of a feeling of patriotic duty, or other emotional appeal. (p. 42)

James Cagney: (1899–1986), US actor. He is noted for playing gangster roles in movies such as *The Public Enemy* (1931) and *Angels with Dirty Faces* (1938). He was also a skilled dancer and comedian who received an Academy Award for his lead role in the musical *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942). (p. 43)

The Browns: the Major League Baseball team now known as the Baltimore Orioles originated in Milwaukee as the Milwaukee Brewers, and then moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where they played for more than 50 years as the St. Louis Browns, from 1901 to 1953. (p. 45)

Talley's Folly: Glossary

The Cardinals: an American professional baseball team based in St. Louis, Missouri. The Cardinals compete in Major League Baseball (MLB) as a member club of the National League (NL) Central division. (p. 45)

The Cooper Brothers: brothers who played for the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1940's and were on the team for the Cardinals' three consecutive World Series appearances from 1942 through 1944. Mort Cooper (1913–1958) was a pitcher and Walker Cooper (1915–1991) was a catcher. (p. 45)

TB: an abbreviation for tuberculosis, a highly variable communicable disease of humans and some other vertebrates that is caused by the tubercle bacillus and rarely in the U.S. by a related mycobacterium (Mycobacterium bovis), that affects especially the lungs but may spread to other areas (such as the kidney or spinal column), and that is characterized by fever, cough, difficulty in breathing. (p. 48)

Laclede County: the county in Missouri where Lebanon is located. (p. 48)

Pockmarked: a mark, pit, or depressed scar caused by smallpox or acne. (p. 48)

New Deal: a comprehensive and broad set of government-directed projects set forth by the federal government under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and designed to help the United States economy emerge from the Great Depression. It launched in the early 1930s and was meant to bolster the United States economy, reduce unemployment, provide a social safety net, and instill confidence in the government's ability to protect its citizens. (p. 50)