The performance of the pageant, "America Sings", by the WPA Federal Theatre in Little Rock on President's Day, June 10, at which President Roosevelt will be present is taken as a key-note for a revival of native drama based on Southern history and folklore. This movement has the support of Mrs. Hallie Flanagan, Director of Federal Theatre, and John McGee, her assistant in charge of the work in the Southern states. "America Sings" was prepared by a special project of Federal Theatre in Little Rock as its contribution to the Arkansas Centennial. It is described as a living mural with choral accompaniment depicting great crises in American life.

In Malvern, Arkansas, Federal Theatre is also giving a dramatic parade entitled "Pioneer Processional", which is a succession of dramatic episodes, most of them played on moving floats which symbolize the various civilizing influences which have gone down the old Andrew Jackson military highway. Other original shows using Kansas and Southwestern material are in preparation throughout the state under Federal Theatre directors.

Texas also celebrates its centennial this year, and "Pioneer Texas" is Federal Theatre's first contribution to the festivities. It depicts in various episodes characteristic moments in the civilization or history of the state. A play out the siege of the Alamo, "This is Our Country", is in preparation by another Texas unit. An experimental play called "The Wall" is in preparation in Dallas, a play written by a member of the same unit entitled "Dance Girl" is a popular on-air entertainment. The Dallas and Fort Worth groups also have a number of two-act plays with southwestern backgrounds in production or rehearsal. In Birmingham, new plays by southern writers are in production, "Mr. Petruchio" and "The Drift
of Eastern Gray", the latter rather an unusual psychological study.

In New Orleans a surprising number of scripts about Louisiana have been submitted or are in preparation. These will be produced in the coming summer and fall.

In Florida the Federal Theatre and the other Federal Arts Program are collaborating on a pageant entitled "Who Made Florida?", a kind of dramatic mural of the various influences which have moulded the culture of the state. In Jacksonville, "The Pizen Song", written by a Tennessee writer, and said to be an outstanding example of mountain folk play, is scheduled for early production. In Tampa, two plays by Florida authors with a Florida background are soon to be produced.

In Asheville, North Carolina, two new plays have been produced by Asheville playwrights, "Valley Lights", a comedy, and "Abram's Wife", a tragedy. The Raleigh unit has produced "Raise a Tune Sister", a comedy of Carolina fisher folk. On romantic Roanoke Island, the first English settlement on the North American continent, the islanders under Federal Theatre direction are writing and organizing a dramatic pageant to celebrate, in 1937, the 350th anniversary of the colonization.

Few, if any, of these original local plays would have found production through the ordinary channels of the commercial theatre. The Federal Theatre wants to stimulate such work by promising production to all plays of the sort which are sound worthy. Since Federal Theatre has, in all, 232 producing units in operation, the stimulus throughout the country may prove to be vast, eventually creating, it is hoped, a dramatic literature close to the lives of Americans, and unhampered by the conventions which govern the writing of most plays submitted for Broadway production.

For all plays produced by Federal Theatre, royalty payment is made to the authors but the copyright remains in their hands. They are free to have their plays produced commercially and to bargain for their production freely. The government retains no share of the money resulting from such sale or royalties.