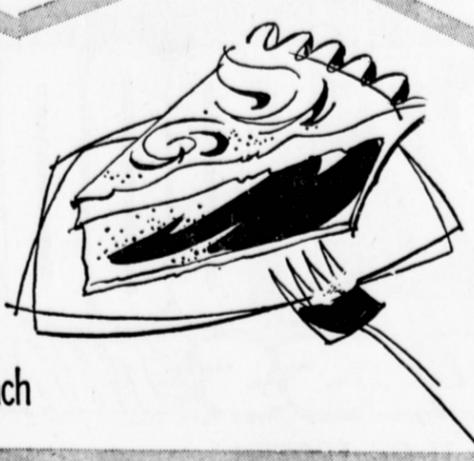




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TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

HOLLYWOOD—"They're changing the whole look of '77 Sunset Strip,'" said the man from ABC with considerable enthusiasm. "There's nothing left but the address and the star, Efreim Zimbalist. He's very happy about the whole thing."

And so off we went to the Warner Brothers studio in San Fernando Valley to talk to Zimbalist, whose father is the concert violinist and whose mother was opera singer Alma Gluck.

"Efreim Zimbalist is the only man in Hollywood who can kiss a woman's hand and make it seem like a fine old American custom," said actress Ursula Theiss. That's what it says in the ABC biography anyway.

Zimbalist did not kiss my hand so I am not able to tell you if Miss Theiss is correct or not. Matter of fact, he was not in a very kissing mood.

Zimbalist has brown penetrating eyes and a kind of sad, old-world charm. His background is fascinating. He is a pianist, composer, and actor. He also produced the original version of Gian-Carlo Menotti's "The Medium," "The Telephone," and "The Consul." He reads books. Yet for six long years he has been the star of a pot-boiler whose main audience target has been teen-agers who identify themselves with an illiterate parking lot attendant named "Kookie."

Six years of this is enough to make anyone sour, I guess.

"In what way will the new season differ from the old ones?" I asked.

"Don't ask me," he said with almost total disinterest. "I just get a call to come and work and read my lines and go home. I'm just a contract player."

Later I tried again: "From what I am told the first few shows are fine."

"I have nothing to do with the planning of the shows. Ask someone else," he replied and wandered off toward the set to finish shooting a scene.

"He's happier than I've seen him in a long while," said the man from ABC, brightly.

Despite the apathy of the leading man, the opening gimmick sounds intriguing. A series of five hour-long dramas will have one continuous plot based on a novel by Harry Essex titled "Eyes in My Back." The total running time is 48 minutes longer than "Cleopatra" and the intermissions will be a week long. Plenty of time for popcorn.

The executive producer for the series is Jack Webb one of the few perfectionists in the industry, who now is the guiding hand for all of the Warner Brothers television shows. I have great respect for him and I wish him well.

When Zimbalist returned he was reading a story about himself in the San Diego Union.

"But I didn't say any of those things. They make me sound foolish. You newspapermen stand around and take notes, but why can't you quote me correctly?" he said with a scowl.

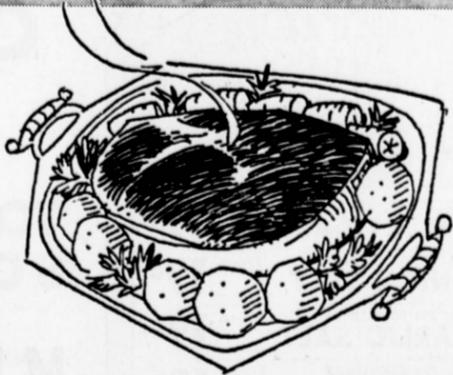
Perhaps he didn't say anything worth printing.

When Zimbalist left again for the set, the press agent confided that he had written the story and supplied the quotes. "So—it's in print—who cares?" he said.

A reporter's object in a personality interview is to draw some sort of worthwhile opinion, comment, fact of statement from the person being interviewed.

He is not there to criticize the actor's manners, so ordinarily this column would never have seen print, but unfortunately I have a deadline and I find that I have wasted a whole afternoon on this ex-piano player.

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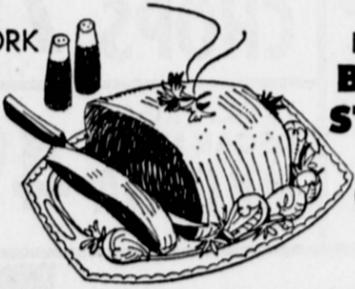
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\$2.4 Million in Loans Made Here
Home loans totaling \$2 million have been made to residents in Torrance for the month of August by Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Assn.

Charles Cederlof, assistant vice president and manager of the Torrance office, said the total of all loans in Southern California made by the savings and loan association was more than \$14 million.

Wagner Choral Appears Abroad
Dr. Roger Wagner, director of music at Marymount College, will open a series of 22 concerts in Japan with the Roger Wagner Choral today in Tokyo.

Arranged by the Society for International Cultural Exchange in Japan, the choral will first present five concerts in various Tokyo halls, then move to other Japanese cities.

(Advertisement)

New Discovery Now Makes It Possible To Shrink And Heal Hemorrhoids Without Surgery

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