

TV CANDIDS by Terrence O'Flaherty

SINGAPORE—On one of the main streets of this bustling Malayan city a huge building is rising, day by day, stone by stone. The architecture is part ancient Cambodian and part Hilton Modern. It is the newest, most impressive structure in Singapore.

"What is it?" I asked my friend from one of the European consulates.

"It's YOUR building," he answered.

"You mean it's the American Embassy?"

"No. It's the Indonesian Embassy for Singapore. It's being built by American taxpayers money—over \$4 million worth."

Last night the progress of the structure was reported on television. At least the picture of it was flashed on the screen while an announcer's voice raced through some comment in Malayan. I can only imagine what was being said because the Indonesians are dearly detested by Malaysians these days. How clever of us to be financing a building for them! It is spreading as much goodwill as if the French were building a multi-million dollar government structure for Soviet Russia on Nob Hill.

"Television Singapura" is a one-channel project operating from about 6 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. daily. The picture is not good and the local shows are almost all news programs of routine nature showing diplomats entering and leaving limousines and shaking hands with each other.

Most of the shows are American movies or TV series—many of them shown with the original sound track plus sub-titles in the picturesque Malayan script which resembles the writings on Indian miniature paintings. The young Malayan likes television best this way because he can learn English by listening to the programs. And they all want to improve their English inasmuch as this was, until recently, a British colony and English is widely spoken.

Tonight's television evening here consists of: Test pattern and opening music (20 minutes); program summary in all languages: Rin Tin Tin; Rosemary Clooney; news in English; Hindustani Theater; Bingo; the Phil Silvers Show; news and newsreel in Tamil; Holidays in the French Countryside; Part II of a Mandarin film starring Shang-Kuan Ching Hua; Lifeline: the Mongoloid Child; Perry Mason; close.

And just to prove that the sun never sets on British anti-Americanism, I spent a few tranquil moments in the Raffles Hotel sipping a gin sling and overhearing an extensively corseted English woman try to claw her daughter's television tastes to death.

"What were you watching on the telly last night, Jessica?" she asked with that false tone of interest that a parent assumes and which a child can detect immediately.

"It was either 'Hawaiian Eye' or '77 Sunset Strip,' I guess," said the little girl, scratching herself.

"Ameddican shows?" asked mother. "What's wrong with the British programs? Why don't you watch them?"

"I don't like our shows. They're dull. And the people aren't as pretty as in the American ones either," said daughter. "Americans DO things. They just don't sit around and talk to each other."

"You'll soon sound like an Ameddican yourself. You wouldn't like that, would you? ... Jessica?"

"There's really not a chance of that with you around mother."

Mother was obviously getting nowhere so she retreated into silence for a moment. Finally she said, "Well if you didn't watch so much Ameddican television maybe you wouldn't have to scratch yourself so much."

Garden Checklist

1. By now your fruit trees should have lost their leaves. Clean up the leaves and burn them. Then spray the fruit trees thoroughly with a winter "dormant" spray. Ask your nurseryman.
2. Roses should be coming onto the market bare-root. Buy only first class one grade stock—those with at least three sturdy canes and a good heavy root system.
3. Earwigs and snails and their unshelled friends the slugs are out in force. Pellets scattered in shaded, moist areas is the most effective way to use snail bait.
4. Many of the camellias are now in bloom. This is the time to pick them. Those carried by your local nursery will be in top shape and ready to plant now.
5. Heather is blooming beautifully and if you want a few sprays for the house, shape up the plant as you cut—but don't take too much. Incidentally, a good time to plant them, too.

Five Realty Classes Slated

Four real estate courses will be taught at North High School and one at the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors. Courses offered at North High School, 3620 W. 182nd St. are: "Trends and Factors Influencing Real Estate," starting Tuesday, Feb. 11. Malcolm H. Rhodes will instruct. "Real Estate Finance," starting Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. Mitchell R. Toland will be the instructor. "Advanced Real Estate Appraisal," starting Feb. 10. Paul Belous, instructor. At the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, one course will be offered, "Legal Aspects of Real Estate," which will meet Monday, Feb. 10, and be taught by Arthur Mazirou. Further information regarding the courses in the South Bay and Southwest region, contact new UCLA Extension offices in Torrance, 3629B, West 182nd St.



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