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Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Dear Mike: Why did Natalie Wood break her engagement to Ladislav Blaskovic? He seemed so solid and down-to-earth, just the right man for her. — Juliet Piccione, Wharton, N.J.

Dear Juliet: She thought he was dating her not for her own sweet self, but because she's a movie star. As for Blaskovic, he says, "There's plenty of other fish in the local pond." So maybe she's right.

Dear Mike: On Frank Sinatra's last special, I noticed a rather large scar on the left side of his neck. Could you possibly let me know what this is from? — Donna Fratnik, New Hope, Pa.

Dear Donna: You would make a good reporter. As long as I've known Frank, I never thought to ask him that. He tells me it's been there since birth.

Dear Mike: Could you tell us how to get in touch with Bud Abbott (the late Lou Costello's movie teammate) and Robert Armstrong? We miss them both and want, sincerely, to tell them this. — Stephen and Erwin Vertlieb, Philadelphia.

Dear S. and E.: The Yuletide is a nice time to tell them. Bud's at the Motion Picture Country Home, 23430 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, Calif. Bob may be reached through the Screen Actors Guild, Hollywood — and please, all the rest of you fans writing for addresses, make a note of that latter address because all movie actors belong to it and get their mail through it or through their studios.

Dear Mr. C.: I am writing to you in the hope that you can help me. I have been trying to establish what happened to my father. He was in show business under the name of Buddy Mack but his real name was Emerson Rayney. He was an emcee and dancer. — Susan Rayney Hanselman, Harbor City.

Dear Susan: If this doesn't bring a response, get in touch with the American Guild of Variety Artists, Screen Actors Guild, or Actors Equity. Your father must have belonged to one of these entertainment unions. All have offices here in Hollywood.

Dear Mr. C. Who was the fascinating gypsy dancer in "From Russia with Love"? Tell us something about her.

— "Tex" Bragg, Houston, Texas.

Dear "Tex": She is Afizia Gur, a former Miss Israel. She is swinging her hips again, currently, as a harem hussy in "Beau Geste" at Universal.

Dear Mr. C.: I was wondering if you could tell me what ever happened to 3-D. The last time I saw the process was in a horror film, "The Mask." It was a fantastic visual effect. Do any magazines use this process? Was "Vertigo" in 3-D? What happened to the actress who played Leo G. Carroll's wife in the "Topper" series? — Jay Grossman, Philadelphia.

Dear Jay: The 3-D gimmick went out when CinemaScope, VistaVision, Cinema, and the rest came in. A similar effect is being achieved in a magazine called Venture. Lee Patrick was alling for a while but she's up and around and ready for more roles now.

Dear Mike: Can you please find out if Gig Young's real name is Byron Barr? I knew another Barr in St. Louis years ago and I'll swear they are one and the same. He would remember my name. Dan Honig, Los Altos.

Dear Dan: It was, to be exact, Byron Ellsworth Barr. He has also acted under the name of Bruce Fleming.

Dear Sir: Is all quiet on the Taylor-Burton front or not? There's been so little about them in the papers lately, it seems ominous. — Ardeen De Boek, Anoka, Minn.

Dear Ardeen: You may have hit on something. There is a definite difference of opinion between them — you might even call it a split — over his decision that he will NOT do the musical remake of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" with him. He says they've already made too many movies together, including "Cleopatra," "The VIP's," "The Sandpiper" and now "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" He says: "I don't want us to be known as the Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne of Hollywood!" She snaps back, reversing the billing, "So why SHOULDNT we be known as the Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt of Hollywood?" I'll try to keep my finger on the pulses for you.

(Mike Connolly will try to answer your questions in his column. He gives no personal replies by mail).



Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



Laugh Riot At Mariner

And the riot is triggered by none other than Nelson and Palmer from the moment they hit that stage 'til they leave it with large applause ringing in their talented ears. And well deserving applause it is, too.

That was the scene at the Barbary Coast Room last Friday night when this hilarious duo opened at this popular Lomita spot. It would be difficult to remember all their quickies and gags but, then, to tell you would be spoiling it when you go and catch this great act. It's big time entertainment and presented in a big time fashion with big time stars. These two will completely captivate and convulse you during their entire number. It's a fast-paced act without a single dead spot, a large portion of it being off-the-cuff stuff, we half way suspect. And sometimes the ad libs are funnier than the rehearsed gag, as is so often the case when you have a couple of sharp cookies up there like Nelson and Palmer.

They're no Charlie-comatelately to the show business dodge, both having come up, probably the hard way, in and around the New York area as well as Lake Tahoe and Los Angeles in addition to Vegas and many other points in between and on the outskirts. There, guess that covers it!

You'll be highly pleased with Cindy and Johnny Pappas' current presentation, their second time in, by the way. Go catch 'em.

Partook of a fantastic luncheon with Barbara and Arnold down at their authentically attractive Mexican restaurant on Calle Mayor one day last week. It's the Pancho Villa Inn and for truly good Mexican fare, you've got to give it a whirl.

Complete dinners for the low, low of \$1.49, such as the always popular enchiladas, the tacos bit, tamales, chile relleno, you know, the whole shot and delightfully served in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. And hey, kids, they've even got hamburgers there that go off at 79 cents and 89 cents that will put you away. So make the scene soon at 5139 Calle Mayor in Torrance. Know where you can beat a 5-course luncheon for 99 cents? Well they've got 'em at the Pancho Villa Inn.

Smoke signals at the Smith Bros. Indian Village Restaurant in Torrance say: "Sun-

day is Family Day." A new Sunday specialty recently introduced by manager Virginia Haack, and already an established favorite with family groups, is the Popover Brunch. This intriguingly different offering consists of a platter of grilled Canadian Bacon, plus crusted, golden brown popovers — piping hot from the oven and served with butter and marmalade. It is preceded by a chilled bowl of fresh fruit. This tantalizing specialty is tabbed at 2.75 wampum, 1.50 wampum for children, and is served in the Pow Wow Room from 11:30 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. Sundays. So join the Brunch Bunch.

Thunderbird Early Dinners are also featured every Sunday at the Indian Village Restaurant. These are complete dinners for only 2.75 wampum, and are served in the Cochina Room from 11:30 a.m. 'til 4 in the afternoon.

Talked with Louie Gee down at Louie's Gardens on Pacific Coast Highway last week and it doesn't seem possible but it's true — they celebrate their 21st anniversary down there on the 22nd of this month. Seems like only yesterday they threw open their Cantonese doors. Wow, that's like 365 work days 'cause it's a 7-day-a-week operation there. No wonder all those Louies and Yets and Walters are so fine. And their menu, cuisine and service hasn't changed, either over the year with the possible exception of improvement in all areas. That Chinese tea that Louie Gee whips up has got to be the craziest in town!

Al Hase and Jim Scoufos, the joint bonifaces of the Golden Hull Restaurant on

the horseshoe end of Fisherman's Wharf are planning big things for your New Year's Eve whing-ding.

They'll go again with the New York Steak or Lobster bit along with some bubbly to drink, before, during or after your dinner — take your choice! They'll swing with the noisemakers and hats and all that jazz, too, y'know.

Then there's to be a New Year's Day breakfast thing starting at 9 in the a.m. and you can catch the Rose Parade along with the bowl games on multiple television so it could be a real full day at the Golden Hull.

And say, for these holidays they've got some swingin' fruit cakes there made from a recipe that goes back to 17th century England. Loaded with good old rum and brandy. One slice per customer.

Have you visited Pat and Mark Speer's Tack Room up there in Peninsula Center lately? It's a slowly but surely becoming a Tack Room in every sense of the word, now. They've even got the help dressed in the Western garb, going with the cowboy bit.

Pat and Mark are planning a swinger for New Year's Eve. It's to be a complete steak dinner for \$12.50, a couple. Noise-makers and favors along with dancing to

the Don Holmes Trio. Then, something that's comparatively new is their courtesy transportation service. Pick up and deliver style so that should sort of relieve you of that "number" problem that is always a threat to celebrants on New Years. Also, if you have your reservation in before the 22nd, they'll furnish you with baby sitters. At least they'll be available should you be in need of same.

They've got a swinging cocktail hour going up there for you now, too. It's Monday thru Friday from 4 'til 7 when all regular drinks go for half a buck. And they're open daily for luncheon so visit Speer's Tack Room first chance you get. It's a straight shot up there now, with Hawthorne open all the way through. 27672 Silver Spur Road is the address and for that reservation, call 377-8821.

Now and then, if you dig pantomime, here's probably one of the foremost exponents of the art ever to trod across the boards. He's Marcel Marceau.

Marcel opened at the Huntington Hartford Theatre on December 14. (Hey, that's like yesterday!) and he'll be at the theater through Monday, Dec. 20. So why not catch this clever artist soon as possible.

By way of quoting Mr. Marceau, "Mime — the art of silence — (as if you didn't know) speaks in a 'speechless tongue' that is immediately comprehensive to everyone. It knows no language barriers. The possibility of misunderstanding does not exist."



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