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...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

I just heard the news commentator on television quote an article from some business magazine. What he said is old news to me, but what a heart warming thought to know that the public is finally waking up to the importance of fine arts as an investment. He said that the best investments in 1966, as a hedge against inflation, are real estate and art.

Art in this context must be defined as clearly as possible. Otherwise, the glib and eager investor will run to his nearest shopping center outdoor art exhibition and expect to make a "prime investment." There are literally millions of people "pinting pictures" in the United States today. The percentage of artists in this group is relatively small — but even the rankest amateur thinks he is as good as, or better than, established artists whose total efforts in life are painting.

Art as a hedge against inflation refers to art done by well established artists as Al Leacock on an international scale and Robert Freimark on a national scope. Regionally, and sometimes reaching to other parts of the country would be Leon Franks and Rex Brandt. In the local scene, one could cite Caesar Hernandez and Davis Miller as blue-chip investments.

LEON FRANKS has gained a far reaching reputation, due in no small measure from his witty comments that are sprinkled throughout his four books. His latest — and already the best selling one is called "Leon Franks Paints Fruits and Vegetables." His candid and piercing humor could surely have earned him a large salary writing humor for top-flight comedians.

What an interesting and delightful time my wife and I spent last Tuesday visiting Leon. As an artist's fame and reputation grow, so do the demands that the public puts on him. It's inevitable that he would give up his almost "public studio" in Laguna Beach and seek a real hide-away — if for no other reason

but to have enough time to paint.

He described it to me as "built like a ship." So it was with mixed ideas about what to expect that filled our conversation before finding his new home. It seems that about 15 years ago a famous movie star built this beautiful home for one of his girl friends, complete with lavender carpet in the master bedroom — a bedroom about as large as our own living room!

BUILT LIKE a ship is the best way to describe it. There are so many levels and stairways that it would be a perfect place to play hide and seek — and never lose the game. It's a spacious home, complete with a studio that Leon will surely make good use of. I think there are five bathrooms — strategically placed throughout the house — no trouble there.

Having lunch with Leon at the Victor Hugo was like eating in a goldfish bowl. Everyone knows him and his paintings — and of course they must stop and say hello. We talked of whether an artist can be successfully carried through promotion without the talent or does an artist get promoted finally because of his talent or ability? I really don't think that any artist can stay too long on the crest of a wave of popularity without more than adequate ability and creativeness.

Honestly humble about his paintings as well as his writing, Leon Franks seems to disregard the impact that he has made on real admirers of art and most importantly — on other artists. Sure, they copy him — or try to — until they realize that his kidding phrases in his books are really the truth. I must quote this gem, "Go take a few lessons now and then from those painters whom you admire. The self-taught artist often has studied under an ignorant master."



IN HIS STUDIO . . . Artist Leon Franks is shown here in his hide-away studio and home near Laguna Beach. Press-Herald columnist Larry Macaray discusses Franks' home and work today in his "Let's Go" column.

Bank Official Takes Cancer Crusade Post

The appointment of O. Rey Rule, president of Gateway National Bank, as special gifts chairman for the Peninsula Valley-South Bay District of the American Cancer Society, has been announced by John W. Simpson, district crusade chairman.

Commerce and industry chairman for last year's drive in El Segundo, Rule is a member of the crusade board of directors for the district. The Cancer Crusade will begin in April.

He has also been active in fund raising drives for the Daniel Freeman Hospital and was regional vice president of the Los Angeles County Heart Association.

A graduate of Stanford University with a science degree in engineering and finance, Rule received his master's from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

"Our Cancer Crusade has a responsibility greater than most other campaigns of this kind for the simple reason that what we achieve may determine whether a person lives or dies," Rule said. Its success is vitally important to an estimated 48 million Americans now living who may get cancer.

Volunteers interested in helping in the campaign to fight cancer are urged to contact the local office of the American Cancer Society, 370-5684.

Tartar Teen Talk

By Jeanne Rubco

Now that we're back in the swing of things, the activities are beginning to roll again. Today Torrance High had an assembly in which John Godard narrated films which he took during trips to South America.

One-Act Play try-outs were held last week. The results are as follows: Leading performers for "Gettin' Even" by Kathy Nolan are: Don Burton, Bill Borelli, Dan Mondschien, and Joy Coffey. It will be directed by Cathy Hanes.

"The Job" will be directed by Lucille Grooms. Performers for the play are: Duane Lyons, Keith Benton, Betty Logan, George Rigby, Karen Ribera, and Loretta Brance. It was written by Janet Limbird.

"Charlie" by Kathy McDonald will be directed by Janet Limbird. Performers include Mike Hubbert, Margie Bromly, Connie Dearden, and George Rigby.

The Festival will be under the direction of drama coach Charles Slater and will take place Saturday, March 5, in the Torrance High Auditorium. Actress Rosemary DeCamp once again will chair the critics panel.

Girls' League held its Spring installation last Thursday. The newly elected officers are: Cathy Yurkovich, president; Sue Meyer, vice president; Shelly Kim, treasurer.

AIDE APPOINTED
Appointment of Manuel Val of Los Angeles as manager of the Division of Service and Coordination in the State Department of Veterans Affairs was announced today by Joseph M. Farber, director of veterans affairs.

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Guild Hosts 'Disciple' Originator

A joint meeting, featuring Sune Richards, was held by the Wesleyan Service Guild and the Women's Society of Christian Service at the First Methodist Church.

Miss Richards, an ordained minister and photographer-painter, discussed "My Search for the Disciples."

Her account, illustrated by her photo-paintings of each disciple, included the background of each model.

Following the lecture, coffee, punch and cookies were served in the dining hall by the Wesleyan Service Guild, program host.

Program About Narcotics Set

Students at West High School will get a chance to learn something of the dangers of narcotics March 15.

Torrance Police Officers James Farrar and Lawrence Robinson will present a film and a short lecture on narcotics to students at an assembly.

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