

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

One false move and half the wildlife in West Los Angeles would have gone berserk! A thought like that is enough to sober anyone.

It happened on the set for "Dr. Doolittle," a musical which is said to be costing 20th Century Fox more than any other film in its history. And it doesn't even have Elizabeth Taylor! It DOES, however, have Rex Harrison (in his second bout with a Doolittle) and some of the most polite and handsome animals in town. This is an impressive claim to make in a community where the animal actors are better bred, better trained and better groomed than the human actors.

I went on Stage 20 on an assignment and also on a kind of personal pilgrimage to meet a man I have admired from afar for so many years — photographer Eliot Elisofon, whose picture essays for Life magazine have had my eyes out on sticks. His masterful understanding of film color has made him invaluable as a consultant on such films as "Moulin Rouge," "The War Lord" and the Nile prodigues he directed for "Khartoum."

ABC HAS HAD the good sense to name Elisofon Director of its forthcoming three and one-half hour program on Africa scheduled for television next spring and currently titled "Africa Project." He has been working on it since June. This week, as a breather, he flew here from East Africa to photograph the shooting of "Dr. Doolittle" for Life. I found him sitting in a corner of the sound stage, as serene as a buddha, amidst a congestion of empty bird cages, make-up kits, cameras and script clerks.

Like everybody else on a movie set, he was waiting. Actors wait for a call from the second assistant director; the second director waits for a nod from the first assistant, who waits for the director himself. Elisofon was waiting for the chance to film Harrison, who was waiting until he finishes the scene. (Harrison allows no still-photographers on the set while he's working.)

ONE GLANCE at the set explained all the caution. It was Dr. Doolittle's study and laboratory — a splendid old paneled English room. The artificial rain was streaming down the leaded panes of the windows. The room was full of animals running loose or perched on stair railings, nestled among books and peering down from the chandeliers — peacocks, pigeons.

Students Hear USC Professor

Dr. Myron S. Olson, professor of education at the University of Southern California, will address faculty and students at West High this afternoon.

Dr. Olson will discuss school spirit in a talk before the student body. Earlier today, he met with the student council for a question and answer session.



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a fascinating look at animal behavior, a subject which we know very little about. There is a whole show to be done just about the relationship of elephants to trees, for example: "Then there is the human society. And what a wealth of untapped material there is there — the cattle people, like the Masai, who live on blood and meat; the hunters and gatherers, like pygmies, and the sedentary people who farm and develop the land. Isn't it amazing that more hasn't been done on the subject? It is a photographer's dream, of course. I have two hand-picked camera crews working there now."

"FRANKLY, I'd sooner tackle the entire continent of Africa than try to photograph Dr. Doolittle and his pigeons," he added. As he headed back toward the movie set, he smiled philosophically. It was a kind of Mona Lisa smile, the sort you might expect to see on the face of a man who has seen nearly everything on earth through the range finder of a camera.

Tests Begin in First Nuclear Power Plant

Southern California's first full-scale nuclear power plant is nearly 90 per cent complete and engineers are beginning "dry run" testing of its various components, it was announced this week by Southern California Edison Co.

Installation of the reactor vessel was virtually completed with positioning of the upper "package," which includes the control rod drive mechanism. Edison engineers explained the control rods regulate the rate of fission in a nuclear power plant. The reactor coolant system also has been subjected to intensive testing, and preparations are under way for additional "hot functional" tests which will include almost all major components of the

reactor is fueled, there will be an extended period of testing before the first production of nuclear power, expected early in 1967. Much of 1967 will be devoted to various testing processes. Use of the San Onofre plant as a "firm resource" on the Edison system is not planned until the first of 1968.

The fuel in the initial load-in has a heat output equivalent to 18-million barrels of fuel oil or 115-trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and is expected to last approximately three and one-half years.

Edison has an 80 per cent interest in the San Onofre nuclear station, with the remaining 20 per cent owned by San Diego Gas and Electric Co.

Additional shipments of fuel will continue to arrive at intervals throughout the month. The 157 fuel assemblies will contain some 72 tons of uranium pellets valued at about \$27 million.

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