

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

After 15 years of what realtors call an "unsurpassed view" in a top floor San Francisco apartment I discovered that the termites and I have something in common besides sharp teeth: We're happier on the ground at night.

So far the past week I've been moving out. It's amazing what treasures a TV columnist can accumulate in fifteen years. Anybody want an unused set of mail-order barbells? You can have muscles like Jack LaLanne in three months and like Virginia Graham in six.

Ah, what memories were uncovered! A plaster bust of Arthur Godfrey and around

## Road Work Authorized In Carson

County supervisors have approved a \$2,400 allocation for the widening of Pacific Street in the Carson area, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The funds were awarded by the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday and work will be under way within a few weeks.

The project is scheduled on Pacific from Avalon Boulevard to a point 240 feet east. Work, to be performed by the County Road Department, will consist of widening and paving to join with curbs and gutters constructed by owners of adjacent properties.

## Century Freeway Hearing Slated

The California Highway Commission has set Jan. 16 for a public hearing on the location of the Century Freeway between Central Avenue and Route 605.

This hearing will be held in the South Gate Municipal Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, commencing at 10 a.m.

Elizabeth Taylor was still appearing in "Little Women," Richard Burton was known as Richard Jenkins, and Connie Stevens was a 13-year-old Irish-Indian named Concetta Ingolia.

I wonder what became of them.

WHILE TUSSLING grimly with a 500-pound plaster frieze which depicts, as nearly as I can tell, Genghis Khan molesting an assortment of

virgins in a field of grain somewhere in Mesopotamia, I dislodged a lovely photograph of Ina Ray Hutton and her All-Girl Orchestra personally inscribed "No men here, no siree! Ina Ray, KNXT 1949." I know what happened to Genghis and HIS girls, but what has become of Ina Ray and hers?

Also uncovered in the wreckage was my favorite publicity photo of all time—a picture of Liberace being

congratulated as National Pickle King, 1954. With him is the president of the National Pickle Association. Liberace's candelabra on the piano was replaced for the occasion by a pickle.

IN THE basement I discovered a coffee mug lettered "LOUELLA O. PARSONS RETURNS TO CBS." Inside was a purple wax banana. (Where else would you store a purple banana?)

I remember that banana well. I had been in New York in the winter of '51 to report on The Great NBC-CBS Color TV Race. During those early days of color experimentation everyone was edgy—particularly the technicians. When the greens were correct, the reds would be off; when the blues were right, the flesh tones were wrong.

The technicians watching the screens could never be sure if a model's red dress was recording faithfully because they didn't know what shade of red the fabric actually was. But everyone knew the color a banana should be.

WHEN A scene was set, the director would shout, "Bring on the guy with the banana." If it still looked yellow, he figured everything was okay. On the day of the final test,

with Faye Emerson (everyone knew what color SHE was) a waggish art director substituted his own creation—a purple banana. By the time the technicians had made the banana televisive yellow, Miss Emerson was green. The engineer went over the wall.

What I'm getting at is this: I wrote a story about it and the following Christmas the director sent me a banana. But, Louella, where are you?

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**Boneless Hams**

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## Pineapple 23¢

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## Hair Spray 49¢

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