

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

It has been a bad year for animal actors. Several of television's major jungle shows—"Tarzan," "Maya," "Cowboy in Africa," and "The Monkees" have either disappeared entirely or been given one-way tickets to their favorite veterinarians effective this spring.

This means that enough animal actors are out of work to fill a zoo the size of Los Angeles. I spoke to one of them in Hollywood last week—end—a handsome, well-endowed chimpanzee of middle years who was standing in line to collect his unemployment insurance.

"Pardon me sir, or madam," I said, "I am a bright young boy reporter from San Francisco."

"WITH THAT I was greeted by a wild jungle cry and a display of white fangs which glistened ominously through the smog."

"Have I offended you, madam—or sir," I asked.

"No, but you are standing on my tail . . . Thank you. That's much better . . . My stage name is George but my real name is Helen."

"Isn't that rather confusing?" I asked.

"Only during love scenes. And then the only one who knows the difference is the other chimpanzee. When you are getting 200 bucks a day you're willing to make allowances. Acting is a make-believe profession, anyway, don't you think?"

"Well, it certainly does appear to be but I hadn't realized how far you were expected to extend your make-beliefs," I replied. "How can I explain to young readers that George is actually Helen?"

"Frankly, I've found that kids today don't care WHAT you are as long as you have a car and brush your teeth."

"HOW DO YOU feel about the recent cancellations of television jungle shows?"

"It has certainly cut into my spending money. Most people think we're happy with a cube of sugar and a few close-ups now and then. This is an impression created by a bunch of vaudeville monkeys called The Marquis Family. They should not be confused with featured actors like me. I have a girl cousin who worked in one of those family acts for two years on The Hollywood Palace and ruined her figure. She can't even get a walk-on part on 'Daktari' because she's bow-legged from riding that damn uni-cycle."

"I can see that the acting life isn't all bananas and cream . . ."

"THAT'S another misconception," said Helen. "Not all of us like bananas. They're terrible for the figure—especially when the role demands that you swing through the trees. I fired my business manager last season. He got me a lousy three-day part in a 'Tarzan' episode that was filmed in Mexico City. It paid \$200 a day but he kept the money and paid me in Mexican bananas. You know what that Mexican food does to your stomach. I haven't been able to look at one since. Besides, that actor who plays Tarzan stepped on all my lines. I'm happy to learn that his time spot is being taken by Jerry Lewis next season."

"Do you expect to get any work on the Lewis show?"

"No. One monkey per show is enough," said Helen. "Cancellations aren't nearly as much trouble as the fact that so many human beings are muscling in on our act. Like 'The Monkees.' Don't forget, WE were here first."

"I won't forget, Helen," I said.

Strategy of Communists Theme of Rotary Address

"A fundamental part of the communist strategy is to make socialism appealing and seem inevitable" is the theme of a talk to be given by Wendell Noble before the Torrance-Del Amo Rotary Club at Howard Johnson's Restaurant, 20533 Hawthorne Blvd., at 12:10 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.

Noble, who is the community relations director for Glendale Federal Savings, has made more than 1,500 appearances before Southern California groups. He is a veteran of 20 years in the radio and television fields.

San Pedro To Attend GOP Meet

SACRAMENTO—Governor Ronald Reagan announced this week the selection of a "broad-based" slate of delegates and alternates committed to his favorite son candidacy for the presidency at the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach in August.

Birch Society Sets Meeting

A free film, "A Touch of Sanity," will be shown Friday evening at 8 o'clock at the Lomita Elementary School, 2211 W. 247th St., Lomita.

nist constantly attempts to weaken our free enterprise system but always in the name of public welfare. Noble states that our main weapons in combating communism is our faith in human liberty, honor, dignity and justice.

North High Senior Wins Top Award

Danny Wilkin, North High School senior, has received the Youth Medalist Award for outstanding scholastic achievement in science and technology. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilkin of 3206 W. 178th St.

"The Medalist Award Program was initiated to inspire and inform the youth in Southern California schools regarding the opportunities, needs and qualifications of scientific and technological man-power," Admiral C. F. Horne, chairman of the board of the Southern California Industry-Education Council and president of General Dynamics, said.

The session is sponsored by the Harbor Area chapters of the John Birch Society. Robert Morgan will discuss government programs which are included in the film.

Water Officials Hoping for Rain

Water Superintendent John Q. Borgwat says he is praying for rain! And this rain had better come during the eight-day period between March 9 and 16. Otherwise, needed repairs on the Waleria reservoir will probably have to be put off until next winter.

Borgwat explained that the reservoir work must be done when demand for water is low, because the reservoir will be out of service during three consecutive days. Water demand is always lowest in wintertime, especially when it is raining. After the first of April, water demand usually begins an upward climb that continues until late fall.

RAIN THIS week wouldn't do the city's Water Department much good, Borgwat noted, because the Metropolitan Water District has currently shut down portions of its service to this area for repairs of its own. MWD will

begin another lengthy shutdown March 17.

Borgwat said that the city depends on several sources for water, including Metropolitan Water District, the Waleria Reservoir, and five local wells.

MWD shutdowns will probably not affect Torrance residents as long as the other sources are in operation, Borgwat said. However, local water officials would not risk shutting down the Waleria Reservoir for repairs at the same

Save Your Vision Month To Be Observed in Area

The importance of good vision and mean of protecting it will be stressed throughout the nation during March with the annual observance of Save Your Vision Month. Dr. John Chase of Torrance, president of the South Bay Optometric Society, said today. Dr. Albert Kline of Torrance is in charge of the local observance project.

Save Your Vision Month is a national, concentrated effort to draw attention of the American people to their vision and its care. Dr. Chase said. "Goals during this month are to remind people not to take their eyesight for granted, but to remember that it is their most precious sense," he explained.

This is the 41st annual observance of Save Your Vision Month, which is officially proclaimed by joint resolution of Congress and by the President of the United States.

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