

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

HOLLYWOOD — There is a tendency among newspapermen on the Hollywood beat to psychoanalyze every actor they interview. They speak of "emotional liberations," his "psychologic breakouts," and other link-sausage phrases currently in vogue.

What a laugh! Most actors are adults playing children's games. When they play them skillfully or if they are just plain lucky, they become super folk-heroes. When the game changes, they either change with it or fade away in great luxury beside a heated pool.

It can be dangerous. The whole house can fall down on you.

"Sure, it's a new Hollywood today," observed Wagner. He should know. He started his firm career 20 years ago as one of the last golden boys that were stamped out on the old Hollywood assembly line. He was young and romantic and he played the young and and romantic roles that filled the post war screens. In the old days, he would probably have played them until he was too old to climb into a make-up chair.

"THINGS HAVE changed. Stories have matured. And I hope I've matured as well. I've been lucky. I've had some good movie roles like the one in 'Harper' with Paul Newman and the 'The Condemned of Altona.' How else would I get to meet Sophia Loren, Claudia Cardinale and Raquel Welch?" he said with a grin. When the good roles thinned out he moved to television.

ROBERT WAGNER is one of these game-players. Until yesterday, I knew him only through endless pieces of amateur psychoanalysis found in the fan mags with titles like: "Will Robert Wagner ever forget Natalie Wood?" or "He Seemed to Have Everything until . . ."

After lunching with him at Universal City studios, MY piece on the star of ABC's "It Takes a Thief" is going to be titled: "Can Robert Wagner—a rich, attractive, talented, young movie star—find true happiness with a beautiful wife, and adorable daughter, a house in Palm Springs, a shack at Malibu, a pilot's license and a long term contract in a successful TV series?"

If the answer is no, I figure no one could possibly give a damn about what happens to him.

BUT, THE answer is "yes." Wagner appeared to be very happy indeed. His digestion was obviously excellent (anyone who can survive a studio commissary meal can digest anything.) He is handsome, God knows, and full of enthusiasm over his work. If he still longs for his first wife or if his psychological underpinnings are shaky, he certainly didn't show it — and I wouldn't find out. Besides, I don't feel comfortable poking around a movie star's under-

Is Wagner worried about excess violence in his TV series? "I would be if we were playing opposite the 6 o'clock News," he said. He has a point there. "It's a make believe show and we play it that way."

"Sure, the star system is still working. It's my lustre that makes the TV series work for my kind of actor. If the viewers don't like me they don't watch the show. I don't follow the ratings closely. One day someone from ABC rushed over to say we had the greatest ASV rating of the new shows. I asked 'What's that?' and they all died. It's something where the audience pushes buttons to indicate if they like or dislike you. It's nice to be liked."

YOU CAN'T argue with that. Wagner is bright and sunny in person and believable on camera without trying to intellectualize. I have a hunch that's the way his audience wants him to be. Otherwise they'd push the other button.

Vision Requirements For Deputies Changed

Keeping pace with the progressive trends of law enforcement, Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess today announced that the eyesight requirements for new deputy sheriffs in Los Angeles County has been changed from 20/40 uncorrected to 20/70 in each eye without correction. Uncorrected vision between 20/40 and 20/70 must be corrected to at least 20/30 with regular glasses or contact lenses.

Extensive studies revealed that otherwise desirable applicants were unable to qualify for law enforcement careers because of the outdated stringent vision requirements. These studies

also disclosed that the revised standards will not diminish the proficiency and skill of the professional deputy sheriff.

In commenting on the new standards, Sheriff Pitchess stated, "It gives me great pleasure to announce that men and women with minor sight deficiency may now qualify for the 300 available positions of deputy sheriff."

Interested candidates may now apply and test in Room 493 of the Hall of Administration, 222 North Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012 daily Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. The starting salary is \$715 per month with excellent promotional opportunities and an interesting career in law enforcement.

Voters' Booklet Available

A brochure containing vital voter registration information has been prepared for free distribution to citizens throughout the county. Registrar-Recorder Ray E. Lee has announced.

The informative guide to registration procedures explains where and how to register, re-register, the method of obtaining absentee balloting for servicemen and other dependents.

"Deadline for voters to be registered for the general election is Sept. 12," Lee pointed out, urging prospective voters to register as early as possible to avoid the usual last-minute rush.

The booklet, which contains voter information, may be obtained at any city hall or by writing to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder, 808 N. Spring St., Los Angeles 90012.

Extension Sets Class In Lawndale

The significance of art in children's lives will be probed in a UCLA Extension course in "Art in Elementary Schools, Part II," scheduled for Tuesday afternoons beginning Sept. 24, 3:45 to 6 p.m., in Lawndale's Curriculum Lab, Educational Materials Center, 4161 W. 147th St.

Topic for study, led by Miss Regina Ferguson, coordinator of the center for the Lawndale School District, include ways to develop children's observation of the world about them, and to increase their self-expression through various art media.

Enrollment fee for the three unit course is \$45. Further information may be obtained by writing P.O. Box 24902, Education Extension, University of California Extension, Los Angeles 90024.

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