

The Mail Ego

By Terrence O'Flaherty

"Whatever happened to what we used to call 'Party Records' back in the Forties? The lyrics were slightly off-color and sold under the counter."

The entertainment industry today is one gigantic party record factory, selling overcounter. The ones you used to play at stag parties are probably now being

used for sex education classes in elementary school.

"Why doesn't the Federal Communications Commission forbid television stations from putting vicious shows on the air — particularly during children's hours — and make them give the young people something worthwhile to

watch?"

The FCC is forbidden by law from interfering in programming and is generally disregarded by the TV networks anyway who fear public opinion far more than the government. A citizens commission on broadcasting is now being considered to keep an eye on the TV industry and publicize its shortcomings.

"When will 'The Sound of Music' be shown on television?"

There is no thought of selling it to TV at this time. It is the most successful money-maker in history — bringing in \$115 mil-

lion in rentals for an original investment of \$8 million — and it's still on its first time around. It will be released once again and maybe twice before TV is even considered.

"When will Elizabeth Taylor appear in the movie 'Myra Breckinridge' — or perhaps I should ask HOW?"

Not until after she plays Lady Macbeth sometime in September. HOW she will play the boy-girl (or is it girl-boy?) role is not known and I doubt if Lady Macbeth will help much. Some inspiration, however, is expected to come from her \$1.5 million fee.

"Why did Helen Hayes' son James take the name MacArthur when he went into acting?"

Charles MacArthur was his father.

"Was Douglas Fairbanks the first actor to play Robin Hood in movies?"

No. He was the sixth of 15 actors to play the role in the United States and Britain including Errol Flynn (no. 7), Cornel Wilde (8), Jon Hall (9), John Dere (10), Richard Todd (12) and the most recent Richard Greene. The Fairbanks ver-

sion in 1922 was the first big scale movie, however.

"What is meant by the 'X' rating on some movies?"

It's part of Hollywood's new system of film classification — a sort of self-censorship which the movie industry hopes will guide parents and ward off the threat of outside censorship. "X" means that patrons under 16 years of age will not be admitted whether with an adult or not. Some theater-owners say it's impossible to check identification, others don't intend to try. The Motion Picture Association asks for a six-month trial period. The first film to receive "X" rat-

ing immediately used it as an advertising tease.

"What nationality is Connie Stevens?"

American — EARLY American, that is. She claims Mohican ancestors along with those from Italy, England, and Ireland.

"Where is Marlene Dietrich these days?"

Last week she was appearing in Las Vegas, tossing her luminescence out into the slot machines at the Tropicana. This week she's probably home in her New York kitchen with the wieners and sauerbraten.

UCLA Offers Piano Class At North High

Area residents can study piano ensemble playing in a UCLA Extension class on "Group Piano" which begins Jan. 7 at North High School.

Instructed by Howard R. Goetsch, the keyboard course will meet 11 Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 p.m. It will include harmony, transposition, and accompaniment patterns.

For further information, write P.O. Box 24901, Department K, University Extension, UCLA, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.

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