

'Music Man' in Final Weekend



"MUSIC MAN" . . . El Camino College theatre arts students (from the left) Ray Bengston, Caroline Kingston, Mike McElroy, and Jari Pierce run through a scene from "The Music Man" which will be presented in the college auditorium Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale in the college bookstore.

What happens when a traveling salesman con man sings his way into the hearts of a small gullible community? It adds up to laughs, love, and plenty of trouble in the thumping rattle-dazzle of brass band excitement in "The Music Man" presented by the El Camino theatre arts department for its final two performances Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the college auditorium.

Con man "professor" Harold Hill is portrayed by Mike McElroy. Hill sings as he cons Marian, the librarian, into paying him some attention. Marian throws a high "C" at him, among other things, in a lady-like manner. Mrs. Caroline Kingston of Torrance portrays the "library lady."

trayed by KAAREN Rivers, a rather unwifely comic character. "What does 'Music Man' have that other musicals rarely have?" asks director Peter W. Henderson. "Every moment and every song in this happy whos, contrary to most musicals, is purposeful, integral and extremely exciting. It is truly one of America's great musicals and not surprising that it ran 40 months on Broadway," Henderson added.

THE MEMORABLE songs for this show are played by musicians specially selected for their skills. Their performance is "exceptionally close to professional standards of performance," according to James Mack, instrumental music director. "From the first chords of '76 Trombones' in the overture it sets feet tapping and re-tapping to the final curtain," stated Crist L. Mikkelsen, vocal and choral director. Meredith Willson, author of "Music Man," started his career at age 19 as a member of the famous John Philip Sousa band.

Wherever "Music Man" played, whether in London or in Willson's own home town, the hard-to-please critics acclaimed its popularity. Tickets are still available in the EC bookstore. Admission is \$2 and \$1.50, and all seats are reserved.

SO CONCERNED is Mayor Shinn about his community's morals that he keeps a constant watch over the ladies who dare to lift their skirts above the ankles. Bill Snare is the fumbling, humbling mayor while his wife, Eulalie, is por-

Retarded Children To Benefit

LeVane Forsythe, president of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children, has accepted a donation from W. E. Walton, Torrance Civitan Club president.

The \$200 check is final payment on a scholarship, which enabled a retarded child to be trained at Garden Valley Training Center, one of three facilities supported by SWARC.

Money for the donation was raised through fireworks booth, pancake breakfast, fruit-cake sale at Christmas, Halloween candy, and dues. The group meets twice a month.

FORSYTHE pointed out that although tuition is modest, many retarded children in need of training do not have the necessary funds. Therefore, a gift to the scholarship fund is particularly appreciated by the association. We wish every club in the South Bay would volunteer to sponsor a child, Forsythe added.

The Southwest Association for Retarded Children is a non-profit, nonsectarian organization which serves 18 area cities.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND . . . W. E. Walton (right), president of the Torrance Civitan Club, presents a check for \$200 to LeVane Forsythe, president of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children. Looking on is Jeff Pechter, 5, one of many children who will benefit from the Association's work. The Civitan Club donation is the final payment on a scholarship which enabled a retarded child to be trained at the Garden Valley Training Center. Club fund-raising activities made the donation possible. (Press-Herald Photo)

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

No, you're not mistaken. The reruns DID start early this year. It's part of the cost we all must pay to sprint in the Great American Rat Race which gets more expensive to run every year.

Originally the average weekly TV series made 37 new episodes a year. This left 15 weeks for reruns in June, July, August and early September and gave the actors time to make "B" movies and appear at county fairs. This custom dates back to the early days of radio when broadcasters became convinced that fewer people tuned in during the summer months because everyone was visiting grandma's house or splashing in the old swimming hole. The tradition carried over to television despite the fact that grandma has television now and the old swimming hole has been paved over for a drive-in theater.

But in the last 15 years the cost of producing a TV series has soared. Today, one episode of "Bonanza" cost \$186,000 to make plus an additional \$172,000 per hour to get it on the air. "Bewitched" cost \$85,000 to make and \$80,000 in time charges for a half-hour of air.

THIS DOES NOT mean that anyone connected with TV production is losing money. On the contrary, they're collecting it with steam-shovels because you, dear readers, are buying the sponsors' products with ever-increasing fervor — whether you watch their programs or not.

But TV is expensive and when costs began to rise, the broadcasters whittled away the number of new shows from 37 to 32 and used more reruns. This custom continued for several seasons. Recently, however, the weekly shows have been cut from 32 to 26 new segments per year leaving a large gap of 26 weeks to fill. This means that a network can no longer fill the empty weeks with reruns without repeating every show. And quite a few of them aren't worth THAT, as we all know.

Last year, as a consequence, we saw a great increase in "summer replacements" when the reruns ran out. This year viewers are feeling the pinch even more with most series going into reruns as early as April. "Summer replacements" have fewer high-priced

Dance Set For Fre-Way Little League

Fre-Way Little League will hold a dance on Saturday evening, May 24, at American Legion Hall, 1109 Van Ness. The Romm-Antics band will play. League president Ed Corley, and Women's Auxiliary chairman Betty Zuvich, have invited all interested parents and friends to join in the night of fun. Mary del Rio, ways and means chairman of the women's auxiliary, is in charge of decorations. Tickets may be purchased for \$1 each at the door or from any parent in the league.

Medals Of Honor Are Few

The highest military award for bravery that can be given any individual in the United States is the Medal of Honor, first presented in 1863. Since the award of the first coveted medal, a total of 3,228 has been presented through March, 1969, with 77 resulting from heroic action in Vietnam.

Information on all veterans benefits may be obtained from any V.A. office — addresses and telephone numbers of which are conveniently listed in the white pages of telephone directories.

Doctors Honored By Rotary Club

Two Torrance chiropractic doctors have been honored by the Hawthorne Rotary Club for their participation in the club's Children's Posture and Health Clinic. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Dr. Arthur Malkin, 25408 Crenshaw Blvd., and Dr. Roy R. Readon, 2525 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Paint Company Reports Record Sales, Profits

Although California's winter rains were the worst in 87 years, Standard Brands Paint Co. achieved record sales and earnings for the first half of its fiscal year, Sid Greenberg, president, announced today.

Net profit was up 15 per cent on an 11 per cent sales increase over the same period a year ago.

For the six months ended March 31, 1969, net sales were \$17,048,620 compared with \$15,303,926 recorded for the first half of fiscal 1968. Net profit after taxes amounted to \$1,053,822 equal to 41 cents per share on 2,536,824 common shares. This compares with \$918,292, equal to 36 cents per share on 2,513,149 shares a year earlier. The number of shares refer to the average number outstanding during the period, adjusted for the 2-for-1 stock split effective last Jan. 15.

FOR THE second quarter, the three months ended March 31, 1969, net sales were \$8,463,415 compared with \$7,746,291 in the like period last year. Net profit after taxes amounted to \$506,660 or 20 cents a share, compared with \$447,470 or 18 cents per share in the corresponding quarter of fiscal 1968.

"We have found that unusually bad weather only delays sales in our business and, therefore, we are looking forward to a big spring and summer. We feel that prospects for another very good year are excellent," Greenberg concluded. Standard Brands Paint Co. manufacturers paint and retails a complete line of paint and home decorating products through its company operated chain of 32 paint and decorating centers. The retail outlets

... Profile

(Continued from Page B-1)

the county level. The board of supervisors appointed him to the Economy and efficiency committee, where he worked under Chairman Maurice Stans, now U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Stans named Sciarrotta to head the committee's task force on welfare, an assignment which involved checking the expenditure of public assistance funds routing out chiselers.

Public life has sometimes made a roving ambassador out of the brown-eyed grandfather of 23. Active in the Sister City program, Sciarrotta traveled to Guatemala in 1964 to cement friendly relations between Torrance and the Central American capital. Sciarrotta presented a speech to the Guatemala City Council — entirely in Spanish — and was given a framed certificate in honor of the occasion.

Wanderlust has sent Sciarrotta to Europe three times, once as tour leader for a group of 47 teachers. He has also conducted tours for teachers all over the United States as a member of the LBCC summer faculty.

With his six sons and two daughters grown and raising families of their own, Sciarrotta spends leisure hours woodworking and writing poetry. He enjoys making wooden lamps and furniture with power tools and boasts a portfolio of more than 600 unpublished poems. Sciarrotta is also the composer of "Morning and You," a song which will be recorded soon by one of his sons.

Sciarrotta married his present wife, Nellie, two years ago, following the death of his first wife. The current Mrs. Sciarrotta is studying to become a registered nurse.

A former athlete, Sciarrotta names baseball and basketball as his favorite sports. During his years as a high school teacher, Sciarrotta coached athletics in between chemistry and physics classes. He's proud of the fact that he guided his baseball team to the Ohio state championship in 1932, the same year he coached his basketball team to a district championship.

As for the future? Sciarrotta is strongly considering a bid for a third term on the Torrance City Council, unless plans change before the 1970 election. He confides that there's a possibility he may be offered a special job which would take him overseas for a year or more. Sciarrotta is hoping he'll land in Italy, his favorite European country.

Graduate Fellows Selected

Selection of seven area residents at State Graduate Fellows was announced today by the State Scholarship and Loan Commission.

A total of 1,100 fellowships, worth tuition and fees for the 1969-70 academic year at graduate schools selected by the winners, were made.

Local students who won the awards include: Gerald B. Finch, 4311 W. 176th St., Torrance; William P. Healy, 1601 El Prado, Torrance; John S. Martois, 26423 President Ave., Harbor City; James F. Olson, 1702 Lakme Ave., Wilmington; Greg J. Protasel, 700 N. Lucia, Redondo Beach; Alice L. Rosen, 3858 W. 226th St., Torrance; and Steven G. Sogge, 1451 W. 172nd St., Gardena.

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