

TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

Occasionally a celebrity interview gets fouled-up, well, let's face it, it happens more often than occasionally in this business.

This week I was doing some interviews here in the vast pleasure dome decreed by General Sarnoff and found myself facing a total stranger. The NBC publicity man had led me down the plush corridor to "my next interview," introduced me to a "Richard Roat" and promptly departed.

After facing interviews for more than a decade I have discovered that they all crave some sort of favorable comment on their work at the outset of the talk and I generally try to give one no matter how dishonest it may be. In this case I was at a loss. Was Roat an actor? A producer? Or another reporter?

He was a young man in his middle 20s with deep red hair and a shy smile. He didn't look like an actor. Although he had a pleasant face he was neither handsome nor unique. I began cautiously:

"How is the show going?"

"Well, the daily grind becomes quite a problem in anything."

The first clue: a daily show—but what kind? Soap opera? News?

"How did you get your start?" (There's a safe question.)

"I started out to be a Methodist preacher in a small Connecticut town. For a while it was rewarding. People like to get together and feel not so lonely—whether it's church or the theater. I'm still religious but now I'm religious about acting."

Aha, an actor!

"Are you comfortable in your role?" I asked.

"Let's put it this way. I'm learning. But it isn't easy. It's a matter of attitude. At first I was too college-boy. Now I'm playing it aloof, but warm."

No help here. He could be anybody.

"How important is warmth in your role?" I asked.

"It's of utmost importance, I believe. But there is a detachment that is characteristic of the profession. After all when a doctor looks at you with all those germs running around he knows all about you."

Ye Gods! A medic. In a daytime serial.

"How did the television critics react?" I asked.

"Well, you gave us a lousy review."

It's still not too late to run for it, but he's between me and the door.

"But I had only a small part in the opening drama. Besides, I think the show has improved since the start and I wish you'd look at it again. We're trying something new I believe. Each day's half-hour of 'The Doctor' is a complete one. There are four of us, playing staff members of a metropolitan hospital. Only one or two of us are involved in any one day's drama. It gives us the opportunity to rehearse and give a more satisfying performance."

"The producer, Jerry Layton, uses some of the best actors available—many of them from Broadway shows. There's not much going on in television in New York any more so he has his pick. He looks for new faces constantly. Some of the 'unknowns' that Layton used 10 years ago in similar situations are now famous like Lee Remick, Tony Perkins, Dina Merrill, and Brad Dillman."

"My problem right now is learning to act like a doctor. Last week I cost NBC \$700 by having to shoot a whole scene when I examined a patient with a stethoscope but didn't have the ear-things plugged in. But I had a very serious look on my face!"

Roat is lucky. If his patient dies he can always preside over his funeral—provided he's a Methodist.

Great Books Club Elects

The annual meeting of the South Bay Great Books District was held recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Pierson, 5620 Bartlett Drive, Torrance, to select officers for the coming year.

James Pierson was re-elected chairman of the district. Other officers chosen were: phone secretaries, Luaine Scheliga of Torrance and Joyce Jarrett of

Hermosa Beach; representatives to the Los Angeles Great Books Council, Robert Thompson and Don Salk of Torrance; library coordinator, Mrs. Don Salk; refresher chairman, Kathryn McLellan of San Pedro; newspaper publicity, Mrs. Vernal Josephson of Palos Verdes Estates; Terminal Island group coordinator, Elaine Davis of Redondo Beach.

New Discovery Now Makes It Possible To Shrink And Heal Hemorrhoids Without Surgery

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New York, N. Y. (Special): A world-famous institute has discovered a new substance which has the astonishing ability to shrink hemorrhoids without surgery. The sufferer first notices almost unbelievable relief in minutes from itching, burning and pain. Then this substance speeds up healing of the injured tissues all while it quickly reduces painful swelling.

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Reduce Speed If Traveling With Trailer

Vacation days can be happy carefree days for motorists admiring the grandeur along with California's scenic highways, but for those who take to the "open road" with their boat and house trailers, driving will be a lot safer if they heed the advice of the California Highway Patrol.

Motorists must make two basic changes in their driving habits when they tow a boat or house trailer, according to Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden.

"Reduce the speed—but increase the following distance."

Crittenden said the law limits passenger vehicles to a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour when towing a trailer. It also provides that no vehicle shall follow another more closely than is reasonable and prudent.

"WHILE THE speed limit is specific, common sense tells us that the following distance must be increased when pulling another vehicle in order to stop, he pointed out.

But there are other safety precautions for towing trailers

that must be kept in mind, according to the commissioner.

1. Never attempt to tow more than one trailer. Not only is it unsafe, it is illegal.

2. Towing a trailer often tilts the headlights of the car upward so they glare in the eyes of oncoming drivers. Check the alignment after the trailer is hooked up.

3. Because of the 50 miles per hour maximum speed limit, motorists towing trailers frequently will be moving slower than other traffic. The rules of the road say they must keep to the right except when pass-

ing or preparing to make a left turn.

4. CALIFORNIA law requires trailers carrying loads that extend 24 inches or more to the left of the center of the steering wheel of the towing vehicle to be equipped with either signal lamps or an approved mechanical signal device.

5. Trailer hitches must be properly and securely mounted, with a legal safety chain to control the trailer if the hitch should fail.

6. Furthermore, two tail lamps are required on trailers first registered after Jan. 1, 1958.

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