

Tele-Visions

BY THORTON KANE

Last week NBC devoted 90 minutes to proving that magazines and television don't mix, and, incidentally, that Henry Luce can't act. This may be comforting to many of us who are glad to discover there is something Mr. Luce can't do, but "25 Years of Life" was wasted air time as far as entertainment was concerned.

The show, widely touted as a brilliant review of the past 25 years as recorded in Life, had a most impressive cast. Among the players were Bob Hope, Sid Caesar, Peggy Cass, Fredric March and some top-flight singing and dancing groups, plus a closing song fest starring Mary Martin.

Hope's opening monologue was funny, Sid Caesar and Peggy Cass made the best of two inferior skits designed to contrast family life today with that of 1936. Fredric March did a good job of narration of Life still photos and Mary Martin's solo and her duet with Hope were pleasant to the ear.

Unfortunately, throughout the show, Henry Luce, the man behind Life, Time and Fortune, kept intruding into the proceedings. In every instance, he managed to put a damper on any hilarity the professional performers had been able to produce.

With the start of a series of still pictures from Life, with narration by Fredric March, the really distressing portion of the show began. An example of the difficulties inherent in transferring interest from printed to broadcast media, the pictures were dull, too well remembered and provoked nothing more than a yawn.

A bad show all around, "25 Years of Life" was further damaged by a visit from the Seven Astronauts. Not even Hope's clowning could enliven the interviews of the Astronauts and their wives.

We can only hope that this is the first and last show of its kind and that we will not be subject to 26, 27, 28, etc., years of Life, Time or Fortune.

WELL WHADDYA KNOW—KTLA's next "City at Night," March 22, will showcase "The Changing Face of L. A.," with the spotlight on L. A. architect Welton Beckett. . . . NBC will resume major league baseball April 15. . . . Dinah Shore wants to play it straight in Noel Coward's "Brief Encounter" and air it in place of her March 26th show. . . . Robert Young can't take the inactivity; returns to the nets next season with a new series. . . . "Family Classics" will present "Camille" on April 27. It's not yet been cast, but we'd like to see Audrey Hepburn in the title role. . . . The "Some Like It Hot" movies being considered as a TV series, with Lemmon and Curtis to star in the first episode only. . . . Strange as it seems Dept.: "Adventures in Paradise" is being renewed for a third season on ABC. . . . Joan Crawford plans a TV series in which she'll play a lady lawyer. Figures! . . . "Mr. Calico," proposed new series starring Howard Keel, uses the traveling salesman of the old west format with a femme guest star each week playing a famous (?) woman of that era. . . .

The three new CBS daytime game shows are "Double Exposure," "Your Surprise Package" and "Face the Facts"—we guess they finally did. . . . Richard Montalban starts in the "Untouchables" segment, "Little Pig," and Bob Horton emotes in "The Choice" on the Barbara Stanwyck show. . . . Wish they'd give the Kingston Trio a spec of their own. They've got what it takes to put on an hour of first-class viewing. Catch them on the Pat Boone show for April 20. . . . Ron Cam Productions wants Bob Matthias to star in their "Column 8" pilot. Why? . . . You'll see KMPC deejay Dick Whittinghill as the storekeeper in an upcoming "Outlaws" showing. . . . Say, wasn't that Julie London we saw at the bar in last week's "Acapulco"? Looks like the "cameo" angle is being pushed in this series. . . . After a five-year absence abroad, Lon McCallister returns to Hollywood to do "The Hostage" episode on the "Rebel" series. . . . Crash! "One Happy Family" is out and a cozy family music show from Springfield, Mo., "The Jubilee," is in as of March 17th.

'AMERICANS' WAS ONCE A HAS BEEN

You can become an "overnight success" in Hollywood, all right, but if the mop flops the wrong way you become an "overnight hasbeen," too.

Ask Dick Davalos.

Dick started acting when he was five, worked his way up through school productions, became a dancer, finally got his break in pictures, rising to the role of Jimmy Dean's brother in "East of Eden."

A few more picture successes and he found himself playing an important part on Broadway in "View from the Bridge."

Then — Skidsville. "It took me a year after that to get back to work," Dick says. "They said I was too typed; I was a has-been overnight."

To get out of the rut, Dick used his period of unemployment to learn to act instead of just being an actor.

Gradually, he fought his way back to a career.

"It's not the first break that counts in show business," Dick now advises new comers, "it's the second. Getting on that second rung of the ladder is often harder than getting on the first."

Once he got back to work, Dick ran through a host of roles on television's leading dramatic shows, feels now that the bugaboo of being typed is behind him.

Currently, he's co-starring as Jeff Canfield in NBC-TV's "The Americans," hour-long Civil War series (Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. PST; 6:30-7:30 p.m. CST).

Dick is a product of public School 89 and Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx.

"But that didn't type me," he laughs. "In 'The Americans,' I play a Confederate soldier."

WEAVERS SING

The Weavers, famed folksinging quartet, who are returning to Southern California after a long absence, for concerts, at the Philharmonic Tuesday, April 4, and Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Wednesday, April 5, have been regarded as the "granddaddy" of today's numerous folk singing groups. Perhaps more than any other group or performer of the past decade, it was The Weavers who brought folk music to the largest audience this music form ever enjoyed. Professional polish and musical talent mark this particular quartet.



RED SKELTON SHOW—Freddie the Freeloader (Red) and his friend Muggsy (Ed Wynn) try to drown out a baby's cries during Tuesday's show on CBS-TV, Channel 2, at 9:30 p. m.



LEAVE IT TO BEAVER—Wally Cleaver (Tony Dow, right) and his friends give a dance party for a new boy on Saturday's Show at 8:30 p. m. on Channel 7.

SHARE EARNINGS—Coleman Engineering Company, Inc., earned 65 cents per common share for the nine months ended January 31, 1961, compared with a loss of 55 cents per share for the like period last year. T. C. Coleman, president, revealed today in a report to shareholders. Total income also was up to \$3,589,586 from \$3,460,589 for the nine months ended January 31, 1960.



BATTERED top hat, floppy bow tie and baggy sweater are the trademarks of zany comedian Soupy Sales as he presides over the "Soupy Sales Show," Monday through Friday, beginning March 13, at 5 p. m. over KABC-TV, Channel 7.

DINNER GUESTS—Mr. and Mrs. Vincent E. Polynesian Restaurant in Binstead of Torrance were recent dinner guests at The WALTERIA.

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All's Fair in Love-War

Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, and her consort Ares, the god of war, will be introduced by Dr. Edward N. O'Neill, Associate Professor of Classical Languages at USC, in KNXT's early morning classroom, "Men and Myths," Tuesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 16, (8:30 to 7 a.m.) on Channel 2.

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