

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Years ago American tourists commented most loudly about the European plumbing because it wasn't the same as it was back home. Thousands of Americans who went abroad this summer probably had the opportunity to compare television as well.

In European cities you are no longer very far from either. What we once considered to be their sophisticated disdain for such conveniences has now been revealed as merely lack of money. Europeans are just as eager for the conveniences. They just didn't have the means to get them.

Now they have the money. They're buying the television set first and the bathroom second, and their pride and delight in their operation are a joy to behold. For Americans it's not always so delightful. The problem lies in the mystery of how such objects could look so familiar and yet work so differently.

One thing is certain: television is everywhere abroad and it's growing fast. Quite often the programs bear the stamp "Made in the U.S.A." Along with the American Embassies, they're our little plots of American soil abroad. One cannot find sanctuary on the premises—and judging from the programs one would not always seek it—but more often than not the U.S. product is superior and it is mighty good to come home to it.

"DON'T DECEIVE yourself about Europeans being confused, confounded or bewildered by the doing at the telecasts of our two conventions," confides a friend who has returned from a summer in Europe. "They couldn't care less. They are busily watching other things for different reasons.

"For example, the British are watching Dick Van Dyke—not for the plot but mostly to listen to the pronunciation of the language which they still consider to be theirs. Then they file out—in an orderly English manner, of course—to the nearest dictionary and have a big discussion over where the accent is placed on the words. Then they all write letters to the London Times about how their children are learning nasty language habits from the Americans.

In France they're avidly watching Steve McQueen, who, incidentally, speaks French fluently—also Dutch, German, Swedish and Italian.

"Je ne comprends pas," says McQueen to a bunch of Mexican bandits as they tie him up and leave him in the California desert to die. The Mexicans also speak beautiful French.

"Le chien d'Americaine attendu mort."

"This is all hysterically funny to the French, who think the Western are very infantile and at the same time stylish, which is a combination they cannot resist."

A LOCAL GIRL who was studying this past summer in Copenhagen sends a clipping plus a letter: "I enjoy the television columns because of the way they translate the American titles into Danish. 'Brodrenes Cartwright en Wild West Film,' I assume is 'Bonanza!' You will note that the entire week's programs for Denmark, Sweden, East and West Germany, are listed on less than half a page. The cultural offerings are outstanding and you can see from the composers and selections how unusually wide is the range."

Tonight in Denmark at 8:50 the following show is logged: "Lokomotivdiktoren" en TV film med Bea Beneder og Edgar Buchanan—which must be "Petticoat Junction."

Bob Hope and Bing Crosby appear in "Two Happy Seamen in Alaska" (formerly "Road to Utopia"), followed by a film on Martin Luther King and an abstract jazz ballet.

Hasta la televisista!

Scouts Sell Light Bulbs

Boy Scout Troop 996 of Torrance initiated an all-out drive Friday to supply residents with light bulbs, according to Keith Dobson, committee chairman.

Proceeds from the drive, which will continue through Oct. 12, will provide camping equipment and supplies.

The light bulbs will be sold door-to-door in "thank you packs" each containing two 60 and 75 watt bulbs and four 100 watt bulbs. Price is retail one of \$2.

Marine Pvt. Donald G. Sheardown, son of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Sheardown of 3332 Windock Road, is serving with the First Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, Camp Pendleton.



COMMUNITY BUILDING . . . Plans for the above recreation building for Torrance city parks have been approved by the Torrance City Council. Designed to serve the community in the immediate area of a neighborhood park, the building contains 2,300 square feet of floor space and is planned for multi-purpose use. Paradise and La Romeria Parks according to present projection will be the first parks to have the new building as soon as funds become available. Architect Weldon J. Fulton and Associates designed the facility.

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