

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

One of the most unsettling rumors of the new year is that of the demise of "That Was the Week That Was," which is scheduled for April. It is one of the few shows that was able to attract what I have called "The Lost Audience"—that growing group that is watching television less and enjoying it more. For this single reason its loss would be a tragedy. I found it entertaining more often than not.

"TW3" was a transplant from England, which is a far more compact nation geographically and every other way. Obviously, it is easier to find an audience for topical humor in the Greater London area than in the diversified land that lies between the rockbound coast of Madison Avenue and the sunny shores of Sunset Boulevard.

All Londoners read their papers—which range from the best to the rock-bottom worst on earth—and their political and social picture is easier to bring into focus than ours.

For example, the climate was right in 1963 for "TW3" in England, which was riding the crest of the Profumo scandal in which the top drawer of English political life was linked with the bottom drawer. It kept the British scandalized for months and "TW3" let off a lot of steam by alternating humor with shock. It was a period of rebellion against the Establishment, unheard of in modern Britain. The

Zone Exception Wins Approval

A zoning exception for eight acres located at the northeast corner of Avalon Boulevard and the San Diego Freeway has been approved by the Regional Planning Commission.

The commission granted a petition filed by Macco Real Estate Co. to permit the use of the land for recreation and water retention purposes. The property is zoned M-2 and M-4.

IN AMERICA we had the Bobby Baker scandal, which presented a similar daisy chain of questionable morality that stretched from the Vice Presidency to the motel. Although the American "TW3" lashed Baker and friends with outspoken humor, they never shocked the audience. Perhaps Americans have always mistrusted their politicians. I have a hunch that the large body of viewers reacted with emotions ranging from curiosity to disgust, but never humor.

In England, the voters subsequently swept out the Macmillan group which at the time had been so mercilessly pursued by "TW3" and replaced it with the Labor government. And as we all know, the Laborites misbehave in a far less opulent or stylish manner. Certainly there's less to laugh at. After the election, "TW3" was out in the cold, along with the Conservatives, and has never returned.

In America the Baker scandal has been brushed so far under the political rug that Bobby is probably jostling Billie Sol Estes somewhere in the dark.

OVER HERE, the Washington politicians knew something the television producers didn't: Americans are less interested in political immorality than in fictional immorality. They forget the former and embrace the latter. When faced with "Peyton Place" on ABC or "TW3" on NBC, the Nation began to moon over sex in a small town where the people were prettier.

To make competition even worse for "TW3", the CBS network tossed in a folk opera called "Petticoat Junction," another American irresistible almost as sure as sex and a lot funnier.

Early reports showed that a program which lampooned Washington's live petticoat junction was losing the battle water retention purposes. And if there's anything that television despises, it's a loser.



HERE'S HOW . . . Mrs. Abner Kaplan, registered nurse, assists Leonard Mullins and his wife, Ruth, during the Red Cross Mother and Baby Care course. Classes for expectant parents are currently being presented by the Red Cross at Torrance High on consecutive Tuesdays and Thursdays through Feb. 23. Further information is available by telephoning TE 2-8321.

CHP Cites Causes of Accidents

Rashness and inattention appear to be the underlying causes of automobile accidents, according to Bradford M. Crittenden, commissioner of the California Highway Patrol.

This contention is based on the analysis of 5,200 accidents, results of which were published in 1963.

The analysis included also a test of biographical traits of a small group of the drivers involved, against a control group, to determine if certain personal traits tend to cause a driver to be rash or inattentive.

The biographical test showed drivers in the study sample were more likely than those in the control sample to be unmarried, have weaker credit ratings and desire anonymity, reflected by their frequent moves and failure to leave forwarding addresses.

TORRANCE REPORTS

Communicable diseases reported from the Torrance area for the week ending Jan. 23 included four cases of syphilis and one case each of gonorrhea, pertussis, and scarlet fever.

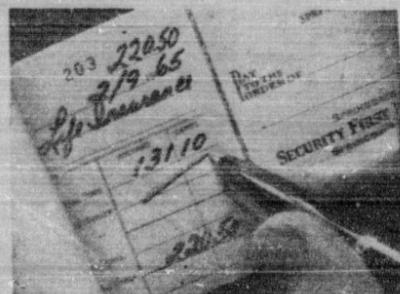
These three characteristics were considered an indication of irresponsibility or instability.

PERSONS WHO scored lowest on the psychological examination were found to be among those with the worst accident and violation records.

The patrol plans a follow-up study of the same drivers to find if more data will substantiate these early conclusions.

"Preliminary data indicates accident prone drivers can be identified by psychological testing or examination of biographical characteristics," continued Crittenden.

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