

The Mail Ego

By Terrence O'Flaherty

"How do you get to be an executive assistant to a big star?"

Be a relative. Stars trust relatives more than anyone else because they can disinherit them.

"Red Skelton is so corny, so old-fashioned and so predictable. How does he stay on the air?"

Because he's corny, old-fashioned and predictable. Also, because he knows how to be those three things better than anyone else. He lives and breathes for that one hour a week when he performs before a live audience and hears their laughter and

applause. He starts his 15th straight year on television this fall. In all those years he has never been out of the top ten.

"A few years ago my favorite co-stars were Paula Prentiss and Jim Hutton at MGM. What has happened to them?"

Hutton is co-starring with John Wayne in "The Green Berets" which is shooting now at Fort Benning, Ga. Miss Prentiss will co-star with her husband Dick Benjamin in a new fall TV series, "He and She."

"Whatever happened to the much-publicized Chaplin film, 'The Countess from

Hong Kong?' Has it been released?"

Yes, unfortunately. For once the critics and the public were in complete agreement. It was a dog.

"Who is Hollywood's biggest sports car buff?"

Sebastian Cabot, the butler on TV's "Family Affair." He weighs 250 pounds.

"Who plays the role of Dr. John Rice on the soap opera called 'The Doctors' and where can I write to him?"

His name is Terry Kiser. You may write him care of the show at NBC-TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 10020. He's the newest member of the regular cast and joined it on the same day his off-Broadway show "Fortune and Men's Eyes" opened. He was born in Omaha and has been acting since he was eight. He studied at Actor's Studio and has appeared in more than 50 stage shows.

"I have always been a fan and great admirer of the late Vivien Leigh, both for her beauty and her acting ability. However, in all of the recent newspaper accounts of her death I failed to see any mention of the movie 'Waterloo Bridge.' Am I correct in recalling that she starred in this picture?"

Indeed she did and any account that fails to mention it is overlooking what may have been her most popular role outside of "Gone With the Wind." It was made in 1941 before America's entry into World War II and its story of wartime love struck a romantic note that hasn't been duplicated since.

"I have seen many pictures with Cesar Romero but not all of them. Could you give a complete list of his films?"

This page isn't long enough. His first one was "Manhattan" in 1935 when he was 28 years old and the most recent one was probably finished yesterday.

"I look at all the advertisements for movies about 'lovelins' and strippers and dope. They used to be shown just at the cheap burlesque houses or small artistic film theaters. Now they're everywhere. I wonder what they have contributed to the younger generation?"

They haven't contributed anything. Instead, they've robbed them of their childhood and the right to be innocent of such things until they get old enough to understand them.

"What going to happen to those long dresses in the Miss America Pageant? Will they go miniskirt on the boardwalk?"

Hemlines will go no higher than the kneecap. The show's executive director Lenora Slaughter explains: "I don't want the contestants to do anything they will regret in 10 years. Once a photograph is made in Atlantic City it's there for posterity." After the girls have appeared in a

Law in Action

Cyrus married Betty while he was still in school. During this time James was born. When Cyrus and Betty divorced, James went to live with his mother.

Cyrus remarried. This marriage lasted only five years. After his divorce Cyrus stayed single until his death. His will left all his estate to his brothers and sisters.

JAMES LEARNED of his father's death. He claimed that he should receive a portion of his father's estate. He said his father had unintentionally omitted him from his will. Under the law this omission would entitle him to one half or maybe even all of the estate. Cyrus' brothers and sisters opposed the claim.

one-piece bathing suit it wouldn't seem to make much difference where the skirts stopped.

Cyrus will also said that if anyone claimed to be an heir and could prove it he would leave them only one dollar.

James lost. His aunts and uncles showed that his father had intended to omit him as an heir. "Heir" includes children. It is not necessary for the testator to name the person omitted. He may refer to him as a part of a class. He may say he wants to omit his children or his "heirs." Cyrus knew the meaning of his own will. He often visited his son and sent him gifts on special occasions. He even had a picture taken of him in his home the year he wrote his will. It was clear from his will itself and the surrounding circumstances that his son was to be omitted.

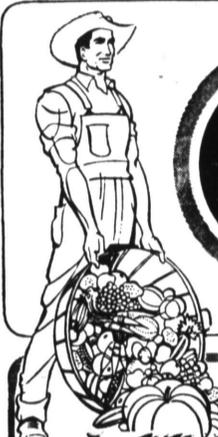
IN ANOTHER case a man willed his entire estate to his brother. He provided that anyone claiming as an heir

would only get \$1.00. A lady from another state where the man once lived claimed that she was the acknowledged illegitimate child. The court first thought she was excluded by his provision. When the woman appealed, the higher court said she was not intentionally omitted by the language of the will. After the decision, she settled her claim for a sizeable portion of the estate.

Some people for various reasons may not want to mention certain members of their family by name and merely want to refer to them generally. The safer practice is to name the children and any spouse to show that the testator specifically had them in mind when he wrote his will. Otherwise, the testator's intent might be open to question.

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