

Radio-TV Review

By Terry Revenaugh

People who look like other people are always good for comment, conjecture, even story spinning. A striking resemblance between two humans is even more intriguing when the characters of the two are diametrically opposed.

This last week we were struck quite forcibly by the eerie resemblance of actor Keenan Wynn and Sen. Joe McCarthy. Not only are they physically alike, but their voices could be interchanged on any sound track and most listeners would be none the wiser.

Keenan Wynn appeared in the U. S. Steel Hour's "The Rack," (KFOR, Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m.) the controversial story of a young army captain who cracked under brain-washing in Korea and gave "aid and comfort to the enemy."

Wynn took the part of an Army lawyer, defending the captain. The lawyer is supposedly an ex-big-city slum kid with a Polish name and truck driver vocabulary.

Interchangeable Joes
It was in this part that his

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SUNDAY-TUESDAY APRIL 24-26
All Technicolor Show
THE FAR COUNTRY
James Stewart - Ruth Roman
AFRICA ADVENTURE
Robert Ruark's Safari
Starting Wednesday, April 27
CONQUEST OF SPACE
and
BIG HOUSE USA

resemblance to McCarthy was even more startling. Wynn's courtroom scenes recalled vividly the "point of order" army hearings of Joe's last season run. They even lower their heads alike, bull versus torador thing. Now if Keenan would only shave off his mustache, he'd been even more of a dead ringer for Joe. And then where'd we be? But maybe that's why Mr. Wynn wears his upper lip hairsute. (It's kind of a ragged, shaggy, old shoe-brush type.) Since McCarthy has been as much TV actor as senator the past few seasons, maybe he could turn this coincidence to use in chosin pursuits. It would be awfully confusing to any Communist sympathizers to find Joe at both ends of the country simultaneously. Throw a terrible scare into Moscow, too. By the time it made the rounds of the comrades, the story would be built up that Joe was superhuman. And there you are! New weapon.

Lassie, Go Home!
We got a big bone to pick with canine stars, RinTin Tin and Lassie. And our collie dog, Riley, if he could speak has an even bigger bone to pick. Poor Riley is suffering from an inferiority complex, a persecution complex and a nervous breakdown because of these wonder dogs.

Y'see the kids watch Lassie dragging children from burning houses, baby-sitting, opening and closing doors and windows and they figure poor old Riley should be able to do the same.

They keep saying, "Go ahead, Riley, open the door now," and he keeps sitting there, lovingly wagging his tail. They go through the whole routine, from reading the paper to pulling the coaster wagon, and Riley keeps wagging his tail or frisking around with a stick in his mouth. Then they all give up in disgust, cast a mean look in Riley's direction and go watch Rin Tin Tin on TV. Riley crawls under the house and cries and cries.

It does no good to explain to the kids that the trick dogs on TV do not do all their tricks intuitively or on their own.

There's a dog trainer just out of camera range, we tell them, and he must keep coaching the dogs for every bit of action. Takes hours to make a single scene.

Innocents Balk
They just sit there, with their glittering eyes fixed on you, ready to spring the next counter-argument. Finally in exasperation, you say, "Now look, Riley is a nice lovable, loyal pet and he's just as smart as any movie dog."

"Oh, NO!" Simultaneously they swing on you. "We saw Rin Tin Tin just now and he even snapped a picture all by himself on a big camera just in time to show the real crooks. There wasn't anybody there to show him."

So tomorrow they'll have out the camera, shoving it at our poor old dog. Then they'll come in disgusted and Riley'll be under the house crying and in about 2 minutes so will a couple of little kids. They'll have to stand up to watch their canine TV friends for a couple of days. And once, just once, we'd like to get hold of those smug carnivorous ham actors. Bet they wouldn't guard a house and 2 kids for five years in return for some ordinary dog food and a pile of cedar tow in the garage.

KOIN-TV premiered another new show this Monday at 8:30 p.m. in the spot once occupied by Adolph Menjou. "Science Fiction Theatre," says the press release, is a far cry from the "space operas," of Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers. Each program is to open with the demonstration of an unusual scientific fact. The drama to follow centers around the fact and the unique possibilities it presents.

Tuesday's story was quite disappointing to this old science-fiction fan, accustomed to the rarefied flights of Ray Bradbury and A. A. Vogt. The writers of the new show failed to come up with anything more exciting than the flying saucer story and a very elementary one at that.

Truman Bradley, host-narrator, gave the factual pre-story experiment. He showed how we could hear the report of a shot, see the impact but fail to trace the flight of the bullet. He used a sound machine to prove their

were sounds human ears were

unable to detect but sounds violent enough to set fire to a wall. This told us not to disbelieve in things beyond the range of our five senses.

Saucer or Pen?
Then came the story, about a jet test pilot, flying at 1600 mph (twice the speed of sound) who reports to ground observers that an unidentified ship is pacing him and taking a collision course. Since they can't track the other ship on radar and they know there is no faster ship on earth, they tell him he's speed-happy and please come down.

He does . . . by parachute. After innuendoes about speed-induced psychoneurosis, the brass concludes the captain saw his own fountain pen floating in the abin. The pen was made weightless by the high speed of the plane. Just as they all sigh with relief, and prepare to close the case, another investigator walks in. He throws a piece of wrecked plane on the desk and it immediately picks up all the paper

clips, pins and fountain pens. It's magnetized, you see. Magnetized by contact with an unknown craft powered by magnetic force. In other words, out of this world.

Alert G O C
The officer turns to the camera. We get a magnified view of his eyes, and a sepulchral voice says, "We will put all our forces to work, watching everything that moves in all the sky over the earth."

Next week I'm afraid they'll have a time-lapse show where the pilot goes into the stratosphere, and hears mysterious voices warning of the world's doom.

WEEKEND TELEVISION:
Thursday: KPTV, 8 a.m., Garro-way on Today shows the General Motors testing ground with demonstrations of skids and so forth. Maybe Pa will like to see it before he sets out for the salt mine.
7 p.m., KOIN-TV, spectacular films of "Shooting" the Colorado River's 400 treacherous rapids!

on rubber pontoon rafts by John Goddard on "I Search For Adventure."
KPTV, 10 p.m., Thomas Mitchell, Ann Harding and Ray Danton in "An Act of Murder" on Lux Video Theatre.
FRIDAY, 7:30 p.m., KOIN-TV, E. Murrow interviews Adam and Sophie Gimble of Saks Fifth Avenue and Yogi Berra and his wife.
SATURDAY, 9:30 a.m., Bill interviews Clive Cook, River's 400 treacherous rapids!
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