

'Aesop' Fables

Bill Cosby is not a man who digs telling old jokes - but on "Aesop's Fables," half-hour live and animated special with music to be aired Sunday, Oct. 31 (7:30-8 p.m., PT) on the CBS Television Network, he'll be spinning some yarns that go back 2500 years!

In the role of Aesop, the master story-teller, Cosby leads a pair of children into the enchanted land of the Fables, wherein animated-cartoon animals teach the lessons of life in simple, humorous parables.

Appearing with Cosby in the modernized version of Aesop's story of The Hare and The Tortoise (Moral: Slow and



BILL COSBY

steadily wins the race) are two talented black youngsters, Keith Hamilton and Jerelyn Fields.

According to producer Norm Prescott, there exists the distinct possibility that Aesop himself was a black man. Almost everyone has heard of him, and most of us commit his little moralities to memory in childhood, but very little is actually known about the man himself. Nothing at all is recorded about his ethnic background.

History tells us that Aesop a freedman, came to the court of King Croesus in Asia Minor some time during the sixth Century B.C. and remained to build a reputation for himself among scholars as a wit and as a narrator of moralistic tales about animals.

"Aesop was not a court jester type of fellow," says Cosby of his current alter ego, "even though he got a lot of laughs in his time." The fable became a powerful political weapon in Greece during the time of the tyrants, when free speech was not only dangerous but often fatal.

"Everybody talks about 'relevancy' these days," Cosby pointed out. "Here's a guy who is as relevant today as he was 2500 years ago."

"Aesop's Fables" was produced by Louis Scheimer and Norman Prescott. Lee Rich is executive producer. It was directed by Bob Chenuault and Hal Sutherland. Script and special lyrics were written by Earl Hamner Jr.

Czech Broin

The exciting Czechoslovakian folk company, Broin, will appear on the stage of the Civic Auditorium in Portland on Thursday, October 28, at 8:15 p.m. for one performance only as part of a spectacular first North American tour.

Broin is the permanent folk company of the Czech province of Moravia and is based in the historic capital city of Brno. At home and on tour, the Broin company offers a program of scintillating folk dance and song, the 35 instrumentalists, dancers and singers providing an endless delight for the eye, the ear and the heart. The program is presented in the brilliant regional costumes of Southern Czechoslovakia and the magnificent display of virtuosity whirled through two hours of endless variety and vitality. It is a dazzling program as likely to exhaust the audience as the performers—a glowing spectacle of flowing colors, rhythms and the romantic poetry of Middle-Europe.

At home in Czechoslovakia, Broin has enjoyed endless popularity ever since it was founded in 1952, and outside their native land, they have toured Great Britain, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Russia for the past 15 years. Tickets for Broin, priced at \$6.00, \$4.50 and \$3.50 are on sale now at Celebrity Attractions, 1010 S.W. Morrison in Portland. Special rates are available for student.



Members of the Metropolitan Area 4-C Council Executive Committee: from left, A. L. Henderson, Chairman; Mrs. Colleen Robertson, 3rd Vice Chairman; Lee Keli, Legal Counsel; Mrs. Susan Dietsch, 1st Vice Chairman. Seated to the left: Central Administrator. Not pictured: Mrs. Joyce Veterano, 2nd Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Pat Hill, Secretary; and Mrs. Claire Rives, Treasurer.

'To Be Equal'

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., newly named Executive Director of the National Urban League, has re-inaugurated the weekly newspaper column, "To Be Equal", previously written by Whitney M. Young, Jr. The column is sent weekly to over 100 daily and weekly newspapers across the country.

"I'll be giving the black viewpoint on current issues," Jordan stated. "It will be an interpretive column that places news events and topics of concern to all citizens in a black perspective. Most people - black and white - pick up their papers and read about news affecting the black community, but they rarely get a chance to have that news discussed from the black point of view. I plan to write about politics, the economic situation, and even foreign affairs from the standpoint of the black man's stake in the issues."

Jordan, 36, was active in the civil rights movement in the south as an attorney, as field director for the NAACP, and as director of the voter education project for the Southern Regional Council.

Lunch money for needy children

Concerned that 30,000 Oregon needy schoolchildren may have to go without school lunches, Senator Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) has asked the President to intervene to prevent what appears to be an "unlawful interpretation" of the National School Lunch Act.

Under strong pressure from both Houses of Congress, the Department of Agriculture last week increased reimbursement rates for school lunches from 35 cents to 45 cents. However, the effectiveness of that move was diluted by Agriculture's follow-up decision to impose a new upper limit on eligibility for the program at \$3,940 for a family of four.

The proposed regulation would draw a mandatory cutoff of aid at the \$3,940 income level. As a result, 30,000 Oregon school children would have to pay the full price for school lunches or go without.

In a letter to the President, Packwood and 58 other Senators, charged that the Department of Agriculture had interpreted the \$3,940 national poverty line for participation in the school lunch program as a "ceiling" rather than a "floor."

"Essentially, the National School Lunch Act established the poverty line as a minimum eligibility standard and allowed state and local school districts to make the final determination of eligibility," Packwood said. "But the Department of Agriculture has arbitrarily interpreted the law as a ceiling, and this clearly violates both the letter and the spirit of the National School Lunch Act," he said. Under the Agriculture interpretation of the law, Oregon's present eligibility level of \$4,000 for free lunches and \$4,940 for reduced-price lunches would be disregarded.

"The Government can't afford to literally take the food out of the 'mouth of babes' to cut spending. It seems to me we would be enforcing poverty among families of the working poor," he said.



Congratulations on your fine publication - Cassie Jenkins

Halloween veiving

Two mysteries which have haunted the Hudson River Valley for generations will intrigue KPTV viewers on Halloween afternoon at 3:00 pm when Channel 12 presents an hour-long animated version of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle", Washington Irving's classic tales.

(Second of a series) by Carolyn W.

Above all India is an ancient land, like stepping into a story book that has come alive. Immediately you slip back 1,000 2,000 years in a sea of time-immersed in the past, lost in the centuries.

You wander among her streets rich with humanity - beggars, prophets, seers, all are there. Elaborately carved stone temples tower massively above, their long steps dotted with bearded robes and alive with colored, barefoot saris hastening with flowers and coconuts for the gods.

The gods too are brightly colored - red, yellow, blue - with wreaths of flowers around their necks and offerings of fruit and flowers by an oil flame in front. They are the most ancient gods in the world. Sometimes they are huge stone statues standing mutely. What do they know with those closed eyes, meditating through the centuries? In awe you stand and wonder.

Bullock carts of bound bamboo with their heavy, creaking wooden wheels; a tiny figure curled up half-asleep in front between the two hulking, bony rears of the plackd beasts, urging them on.

Bullock carts, bicycles, buses - the centuries are mixed. Seven thousand years and more lived side by side. Today is but a drop in an ocean of time; this century but a ripple on so deep a sea.

You change your pace, walk slower. What is the hurry? A day, a year, a century more or less makes no difference. You relax and stretch out into time - time which becomes peace and seeps into your very being.

You try to catch her song. The song of India is an endless melody weaving on and on, even as her tabla, sitar, esraj fill the air with their music. Morning songs, evening songs, life is the intricate and subtle variations of a day, the rhythm of heaven and earth, the pulse of life which links us through the centuries in an endless chain of being. Now faint, now clear, even sadness and the minor keys, all is beauty in the spell of life.

Her people too have the qualities acquired with age. They are natural, simple, informal. About the only social rule is to say "Namastey" when you meet someone. Other than that you go by the feeling of the situation and not by outer rules.

The greeting, namastey, is

India is an Ancient land, like colorful story

said with hands pressed together like a prayer, indicating their respect for each other and all people. Even beggars and the poor have human dignity and you will not see them treated as inferior. They are tolerant and accepting of all people, including we who travel in their land. They never act rejecting or accuse you of doing something wrong, so you begin to relax inside and feel the inner warmth and peace that they do.

In fact their acceptance is so deep that they accept everything in life - pain, dirt, disease, suffering etc. Even these they do not reject. This informality and acceptance of everything goes to the point we would call total lack of organization, and permeates all government. For a Westerner, only to inquire at the post office about the mail rate to another country may be an agonizing experience.

But the spiritual vales of India exist not only with simplicity of living, but with the utter lack of things. Everywhere they will tell you: "We are poor people," and you cannot help but see her pain.

Eighty per cent of the people live in villages, in grey

mud houses with thatched roofs. Inside they are almost empty. In one corner is a mud ring several inches high with a hole in the front and this is the stove. Usually there is no fuel so they use cow dung which is pressed into large flat patties and dried in the sun. Everywhere you see it plastered on the walls - even on the sides of temples. Then it is burned for fuel.

There are no lights either save for a tiny, ancient oil lamp. At night the village is dark and the moon picks out the palms and grey walls and shines over the paddy fields in silence.

Even water is not to be taken for granted. Digging wells is a modern project. Most villages have a large, square earthen pond which they call a tank. During the monsoon it fills with water and then steadily diminishes month after month until the next rain. It is used for everything - drinking, bathing, even washing the cows and water buffalo.

Food too is scarce in a land plagued by drought. After the monsoons and one growth of rice the earth on the great plains becomes hard and dry as the rain holds back month after month. The earth splits and crack, and grey powdery dust puffs up behind the bullock

carts on the road.

Most of the people live on rice and dahl (boiled pulses); or in the North, wheat pressed into large flat pancakes called chappatties. But rice with hot spices is the staple diet, and even this is not always to be had as the dry earth refuses to yield. Many know only hunger. To my question they answered: "Live on what? ... Air, sun... we cannot imagine. It is a living death."

The symbol of the people of India is this: a figure reduced to the strength and endurance of bone, but one where the eyes flame in unextinguishable spirit.



Low-cost electricity

a plug for a safer environment

Dark streets aren't the safest places for walking. Or driving. Or waiting for your bus.

The fewer the lights, the greater the chances of crime occurring. Or of someone being injured in an accident.

Maybe it's never happened to you. We hope it never will.

But it's still a bum risk.

The way we see it, one robbery, or one auto fatality caused by poor visibility is one too many.

And Portland General Electric Company is doing something about it.

PGE is providing the reliable energy needed to keep city streets, parking areas, and alleys safe for pedestrians and drivers alike.

It's a simple fact that's been proven again and

again; bright electric street lights can make the difference.

And because electricity is inexpensive, electric street lights cost just pennies to operate.

That's a small price to pay for something that could save a loved one's life... or yours.

To keep ahead of your ever-growing electrical demands, PGE is building new generating plants which are essential for reliable electric service. Energy from the atom, which is clean to make and clean to use, will provide adequate supplies of electricity while preserving Oregon's matchless environment. If you'd like a free booklet on "Why Oregon needs more power," write or phone PGE.

Portland General Electric Company
Providing clean energy for a better life.

