

Noted Opera Star Of 'South Pacific' Starts New Life

By Jack Gaver
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

New York, June 1 (UP)—Champaigne toasts were spiked with tears on the stage of the Majestic theater when Ezio Pinza bade farewell last night to Broadway's hit of hits "South Pacific."

The great opera basso, who at the age of 56, began a new life as the most romantic leading man in modern Broadway history, leaves for Hollywood tomorrow to start a new chapter as a movie hero.

"It was like two farewell performances," Pinza said last night. "There was also a matinee today, you know."

"Those last performances were very disturbing. They almost broke my heart. After 16 months with these people—like a family we were—it is not easy to leave. But I will come back, not to 'South Pacific.' One leaves a thing and goes on. It is not good to come back."

Parting Brings Tears

Sad though the matinee must have been for him, it was the evening performance that brought the tears and the partings. The audience demanded extra curtain calls and finally the whole cast assembled on the stage around Pinza and sang one of the songs of the show "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy."

The curtain came down for the last time and then the players had Pinza to themselves. No one bothered to remove makeup or costumes.

Barbara Luna, who plays Pinza's small stage daughter, Nijani, presented him with a gift from the cast—a sterling silver sugar and creamer set. It was a natural token to give because Pinza had spent most of the time in his dressing room brewing coffee since the show opened.

Receives Gold Disc

He was given another gift, one which the cast gives to any member who leaves—a gold disc for a watch chain with the name of the player engraved on one side and the name of the character played on the other side.

Pinza was moved to tears as he tried to thank his co-workers for "the most wonderful experience of my life" and "an associa-

Sailor, Annoyed by Crying, Pulls Gun in Train Coach

Phoenix, Ariz., June 1 (UP)—A 27-year-old merchant sailor pulled a gun in a crowded Southern Pacific railroad coach early today and held the terrified passengers at bay for more than an hour before he was taken off the train.

City and railroad detectives pulled the gunman, identified as H. P. Huff, Polkville, Miss., off the train at Union station here and jailed him on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

Detective Capt. Charles Smith said no shots were fired as the suspect paced the Sunset Limited coach while the train sped across the desert between here and Yuma. About 25 persons were in the car.

Smith said Huff pulled a gun from his suitcase when he became annoyed by a baby's crying. He ordered the baby's mother to keep it quiet.

A few moments later, he threatened the passengers in the car when a porter started to turn out the lights. Smith quoted the gunman as saying the porter and conductor were ganging up on him and intended to kill him with an ice pick.

The gunman ordered the porter and conductor from the car while the eastbound train was traveling between Yuma and Hyder. He also ordered the baby's mother to leave the car and all-

Kingpin Gambler Faces Long Term

New York, June 1 (UP)—Kingpin gambler Frank Erickson, who built a \$20 bet into a \$14,000,000 a year bookmaking racket without ever going to jail, was face-to-face today with a possible 60-year jail term and a \$30,000 fine as a common gambler.

That was the theoretical penalty New York racket busters could slap on Erickson, a pudgy man with baby blue eyes who looks more like a barber than an underworld leader.

His arrest yesterday on a 60-count criminal information was regarded as the first major step toward smashing the nation's biggest organized gambling combines.

The action accused Erickson, 54, of gambling conspiracy and bookmaking, misdemeanors punishable by penalties of one year in jail and/or \$500 fine on each of the 60 counts.

Quiz Not Ended

District attorney Frank S. Hogan indicated the grand jury was far from finished with its gambling racket investigation. The next likely target of major importance was Joe Adonis, big-time Brooklyn racket boss and partner with Erickson and a group of underworld hoodlums in a Florida gambling casino which paid fabulous profits.

Erickson, free on \$10,000 bail, has admitted handling bets totaling \$14,000,000 a year on fights, horse and dog races, basketball and baseball games and other activities in 48 states. But his easy-spoken, easy-going manner and appearance fail to fulfill the Hollywood conception of a gambler.



COLOR GIRL—Charlotte Anderson, 21, of Knoxville, Tenn., above, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, will be the 74th Color Girl in history at the June Week ceremonies of the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Miss Anderson is the June Week "drag" of Midshipman Robert R. Monrow of Knoxville.

Level of Rivers Remains Static

Portland, June 1 (UP)—River stages of the Willamette river at Portland and the Columbia river at Vancouver, Wash., rose slightly yesterday.

The weather bureau, however, said the rivers would remain fairly static for the next three days. After that slight rises were forecast.

The harbor level in Portland was 18.4 feet, a rise of .3 of a foot above the Tuesday reading. Flood stage is 18 feet.

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Union Official Shot and Slugged

Chicago, June 1 (UP)—A teamsters' union official was shot and slugged with a baseball bat today in what police believed was an outbreak of inter-union warfare.

Louis Peick, 37, assistant secretary-treasurer of local 705, AFL Teamsters' union, was attacked by two young men as he prepared to leave his home for the union headquarters. He was shot in the hip and hand.

Police said there was no evidence of a robbery and they believed Peick was a victim of a squabble between his local, one of the strongest labor units in the city, and some other union.

Capt. George Barnes of the police labor detail said Peick had been engaged in a strong organizing campaign as part of the teamsters' nationwide program to bring 1,000,000 new members under their jurisdiction, including many current members of other unions.

Covered With Blood

Peick's wife, watching from a window of their home, saw him enter the garage and then stagger out a short time later covered with blood.

A woman witness said she saw Peick open the double automobile doors. She said two young men walked up, entered the garage and closed the doors behind them.

She said one of the men carried a gun and the other a baseball bat.

A neighbor took Peick to Belmont hospital where it was found that he had been shot in the right hip and right hand and had been beaten severely on the head, apparently with a ball bat.

Vacation School Schedule Is Set

The annual vacation Bible school of Trinity Lutheran church, Galveston and Federal, will begin next Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Sessions will be held daily, Monday through Friday, June 5 to 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

A balanced program of Bible stories, handicraft projects, songs and games has been planned for children between the ages of 4 and 15, leaders report. Transportation will be provided where needed and requested.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Rev. H. Albach, phone 918.

Nudist Charges Faced by Group

Nelson, B.C., June 1 (UP)—Twenty-seven more Doukhobors were charged today with nudism after marching to the trans-provincial highway 18 miles west of here and stripping off all their clothing to protest preparations for a third world war.

The cult members were arrested yesterday while 100 other Doukhobors were attempting a mass nude march on Nelson. Police persuaded the marchers to halt their demonstration and escorted them back to their settlement at Krestova, B.C.

Then caterers brought on champagne as Pinza's farewell gesture to the cast.

"I was more nervous than on opening night," said Pinza. "But more nervous than myself was my wife, Doris, who sat out front tonight for the last time. She suffers more for me than I do."

Hot, Sour Acids in Throat After Meals

Retired Pasadena Fire Dept. Captain, Walter L. Hirth, 529 Summit Ave., in gratitude for what Kal-O-Dex has done for him, states, "I was so run down I could hardly get around—couldn't sleep at night because I bloated up so from food that soured in my stomach and came up into my mouth—had to take something right along for relief. I feel wonderful now since taking Kal-O-Dex, for it keeps my bowels regular—no more bloating or dizzy spells, and I've gained strength, as my meals agree with me now and I can sleep nights."

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