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'Meet Me in St. Louis' has 'simpler' charm

By William Ewald

NEW YORK (UPI) — Like the contemporary gift shop, "Meet Me in St. Louis" — presented as a two-hour special Sunday night on CBS-TV — is a tasseled container for the cute, the cuddly, the cunning.

It stacks on its shelves: A grandpa who wears a beret, a little sister who catacombs her life with dead dolls, a father who trips on roller skates, a mother with the patience of Albert Schweitzer, two soufflé romances, lollipop picnics and parties and a young beau who looks like Tab Hunter and behold — turns out, in fact, to be Tab Hunter.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" is, of course, an urban pastoral — an idyllic treatment of city rustics — and director George Seiferth wisely decided to play it that way.

Over two hours, it was a terribly tough vehicle to keep charged because it packed no real conflicts, no tensions — it was merely a flow of incidents held together by vanilla icing — but I would say Seiferth succeeded fairly well in pushing its simpering charm along.

He was helped a good deal by some amiable Hugh Martin-Ralph Blaine tunes — "The Trolley Song," "Skip To My Lou" and "The Boy Next Door" — and by some Duane McKinney sets that had a nice sense of wedding cake done with tongue in cheek.

Gene Kelly's one-hour special for CBS-TV Friday night was a disappointingly standard exercise; unimpressive in its blueprinting, unambitious in its execution, tainted with self-conscious affability.

It was not a bad show. It was just not a very stimulating one, echoing as it did scores of other musical shows. There was one of those musical beatnik-knacks, a splicing of soft-shoe, and one of those jazz ballet things in which everyone hulks around like syncope-dybbuks. Kelly, who works well with youngsters, capered briefly with five-year-old Cherylene Lee and 13-year-old Liza Minnelli, who is Judy Garland's daughter. Both segments were moderately agreeable, if not precisely adventurous. One sequence in

which Kelly postured while Carl Sandburg crooned was ludicrous. Kelly had three foreign dancers on board — Claude Bessy, Judith Dornys and Gerd Andersson — and a fine, leggy set of females they were. However, like Kelly, their talents weren't put to much of a test.

"Professor Tim," an Abbey Thacker movie offered by NBC-TV's Omnibus, was a thin porridge — a hackneyed plot, stock characters and directed far too stably. Jean Shepperd's Chicago White Sox routine on the NBC-TV Steve Allen Show was the comedy highlight of the week end. Poor Dody Goodman has certainly had her troubles the past couple of seasons — Sunday night the CBS-TV Ed Sullivan Show went off the air right in the middle of her routine.

The Channel Swim: ABC-TV will ax its daytime quiz, Play Your Hunch, and replace it on May 11 with a five-a-week version of Mike Stokely's Pantomime Quiz — the new version of the charade game will mix celebrity guests with contestants from the studio audience.

Joan Bennett landed the lead opposite Don Ameche in the situation comedy, Too Young To Go Steady, which debuts on NBC-TV May 14. Five Fingers, a one-hour spy series which stars Al Hedison, looks like a sure starter for Saturday nights on NBC-TV next fall in the spot now held by the Western, Cimarron City. NBC-TV's Loretta Young will be back in her present Sunday night spot next season — there had been some talk of moving the show to Wednesday night.

For the first time in more than 500 telecasts, Dinah Shore will fail to throw a goodnight kiss on her May 3 NBC-TV hour. The show, which is on videotape, ended rather abruptly when a guest chimpanzee jumped into Miss Shore's arms just as she was about to sign off.

'Wyatt Earp' home robbed

WEST LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Burglars lured the houseboy of Hugh O'Brian, television's Marshal Wyatt Earp, away from his employer's home Sunday, then broke in and stole clothes, jewelry, liquor, and his shoelin' irons.

The houseboy, Stig Hoglund, said he received a telephone call ordering him to appear at a police station to take care of a traffic ticket. Police told him the call was a phony, but by the time he got back to the house he found it had been ransacked.

RESORT GETS "PRESENT"

LONDON (UPI) — Russia has a May Day surprise in store for residents of the Black Sea resort town of Sochi — a television station. A Moscow broadcast heard here Sunday said the new station would begin broadcasting May 1 as a "present" to Sochi.

Carnival



Senate will have package plan before it on Tuesday

By Dick Humphrey

UPI Staff Writer

SALEM (UPI)—When the Oregon Senate convenes here Tuesday it will have before it the complete tax package proposed by the House. All three bills of the package passed the House Saturday.

Fireworks were expected in the Senate which has vowed to take a "hard look" at the program. The key bill (HB 670) was the last to be passed with only two representatives commenting on it — Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille, chairman of the House Tax Committee, who favored the bill and Rep. Douglas Heider (R-Salem), also a Tax Committee member, who opposed it.

Vote on the major income tax measure was 37-23. Four Republicans crossed party lines to vote for the bill which would raise 5.4 million dollars a year in revenue.

They were Reps. Gust Anderson (R-Portland), Leon Davis (R-Hillsboro), Fred Meek (R-Portland) and William Gallagher (R-Portland).

All Democrats voted for it. Barton carried the bill on the floor explaining that it was "not a patchwork but a comprehensive tax program for the state of Oregon."

He said the bill provided rates of from 2 per cent on the first thousand dollars of taxable income to 7 per cent on income above \$10,000. Present rates are from 3 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

Barton said the new bill provided "the lowest top rate Oregon has had for the past decade." However, the bill excludes exemptions for federal income tax and many other exemptions which will have the effect of raising most people's income taxes.

Hardest hit will be those in the brackets above \$4,000. The bill leaves personal exemptions and dependency credits at the present \$600 level. It permits medical deductions above 3 per cent of income with no upper limits and deductions for education, charitable and religious contributions from 3 to 20 per cent of income.

Features Left Out The split income and standard deductions are eliminated. The bill was a revision of a rate structure proposed by Gov. Mark Hatfield which would not have raised as much money as the House-passed bill.

Earlier Saturday, the House passed and sent to the Senate two other bills to complete the package. They were: A bill putting a 3 cents a pack tax on cigarettes and a 15 per cent tax on other tobacco products.

A bill taxing businesses 1 1/2 per cent on net business income, repealing inventory taxes above \$25,000 and including a reduction in capital gains.

Notes Explained The cigarette measure passed 37-23 and the business bill 50-20. Opposition to the major income tax measure was voiced by Heider who said it violated proposals by both Gov. Hatfield and ex-Gov. Robert D. Holmes and also other experts who have studied Oregon's tax structure.

Gallagher explained that he voted for the measure in the expectation that it would be amended by the Senate. Rep. George Annala (D - Hood River), although not talking on the measure, explained his vote with the same expectation.

"This bill hits the middle income groups hard and is unrealistic on seasonal and agricultural employees," Annala said. One provision of the bill eliminates the necessity for about 400,000 Oregonians filing state income tax returns if they are subject to withholding.

They would only have to file their withholding slips with the State Tax Commission. The commission would then figure their tax.

DAILY TV LOG

Table with columns for Day, Time, Station, and Program Name. Includes programs like 'The Texan', 'Father Knows Best', 'Dance Thomas', 'The Tonight Show', 'The Ed Sullivan Show', 'The Dick Cavett Show', 'The Tonight Show', 'The Ed Sullivan Show', 'The Dick Cavett Show', etc.

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