

DENNIS, THE MENACE



"WHATTA YA MEAN YOU'LL CALL BACK WHEN SOMEBODY'S HOME? I'M HOME! RUFF'S HOME! THE GOLD FISH'S HOME! THE BIRD'S HOME!"

Television in review

'Beyond the Fringe' welcome effort at something different

By Rick Du Brow

UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — CBS-TV's "Chronicle" series took a comedy fling Wednesday night with the four brilliant Englishmen who comprised the original cast of the Broadway revue "Beyond the Fringe." The vehicle was what was described as a stylized adaptation of a Jules Verne story about an attempt to send three men to the moon.

The result wouldn't do for Broadway, I'm afraid. But it should be said quickly that the fantasy was, at least, a television "special" in the real sense of the word in that it genuinely attempted something different. Rarely since Ernie Kovacs died has the home screen been host to such devil-may-care impudence in technique. For that reason alone, one hopes the four gentlemen, Jonathan Mill-

er, Peter Cook, Alan Bennett and Dudley Moore, return whenever the mood strikes them.

The story, such as it was, concerned a mythical Baltimore gun club and its decision, after the war between North and South, to build the world's largest gun at a Florida launching site, and then to fire into space its manned capsule, which was supplied with Victorian furniture and fine wines. Unfortunately, the capsule winds up orbiting 2,000 miles from the moon; but Wednesday night's host, Charles Collingwood, assured viewers that Verne retrieved the travelers in a subsequent novel.

The hour, entitled "A Trip To The Moon," was, however, frequently less concerned with the tale itself than with the outright gags of animated sequences and silent film clips.

The targets of the comments and style were what one might expect, and occasionally were scored soundly; but too often there was an aimless, blunted quality about the proceedings.

One got the impression that if there had been less pronounced stylizing as to the period — and even in the commenting — the casual and superlative natural wit of the four cast members might have run more happily amuck, loose and full of impromptu spirit. Every so often, I kept imagining them as strictly cerebral Marx brothers in such surroundings.

Still, the hour was "special." And it did offer this exchange: Frenchman — "C'est la vie." Englishman — "That's the sort of stupid remark you'd expect from a Frenchman."

The Channel Swim: Jack Paar has two of his old sidekicks, Hugh Downs and Dody Goodman, on his NBC-TV show Feb. 28. Same network's one-hour look at New York's controversial congressman, Adam Clayton Powell, airs March 12.

The Wallenda family high-wire act will appear Feb. 29 on ABC-TV's "Hollywood Palace" ... Host of the broadcast will be Efrim Zimbalist Jr., other performers on the program are Kate Smith and Roy Rogers.

Retains Sparkling Wit

As she told a reporter, one can be either "90 years old or 90 years young."

"I can't stand condescending clichés when people are talking about 'senior citizens,'" she snapped.

The years have not dimmed Mrs. Longworth's sparkling wit nor her love of prize fights nor her poker-playing abilities.

Big hats remain her trademark, and she is still the darling of the Republican party, though she numbers many Democrats — mostly presidents — among her friends.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson sent her a birthday bouquet. Attached was a note from the President and the First Lady expressing their "affection and gratitude for the imprint" her family had left on the United States.

White House Guest

Mrs. Longworth was a frequent guest at White House parties during the Kennedy administration. Despite their political differences, the late President and the outspoken Princess Alice shared a warm, easy going friendship.

She also used to be a frequent White House guest during the Truman administration, and rumor had it that she could top President Harry S. Truman at the poker table, no mean feat.

Mrs. Longworth was 6 when she first came to Washington with her father during his service as a civil service commissioner. But it was 12 years later when he assumed the presidency on the assassination of William McKinley that she really came into her own.

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Agriculture Department notes increase in feed grain supplies

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Agriculture Department today estimated total feed grain supplies for 1963-64 at 200 million tons. This is about 5 million tons above 1962-63, but 11 million tons below the record supply in 1960-61.

In a review of the feed grain situation, the department said the 1963 crop of corn, oats, barley, sorghum grains totaled 156 million tons, 13 million more than in 1962 and slightly above the previous record in 1960.

The 1963 harvested acreage of feed grains was 17 per cent below that of 1959 and 1960. But increased yield per acre brought 1963 production to 2 per cent above the output for those years.

The agency predicted the 1963 crop will about equal the total

use in 1963-64. Carryover stocks at the end of the marketing year may be about the same or slightly above the 63 million tons carried into 1963-64, the department said.

Prices of feed grains and by-product feeds have been a little higher this fall and winter than in 1962-63, the department said. This reflects a generally strong domestic and export demand and much smaller sales by the Commodity Credit Corp. than in the past two years.

An Agriculture Department study shows that an increasing proportion of total sales of farm products is coming from farms with \$40,000 or more of marketings.

The department's Economic Research Service said that in

1959 the proportion was 33 per cent, compared with 18 per cent in 1939. This increase came mainly from the expanding number of farms in the group rather than from the increasing value of sales per farm.

From 1939 to 1959, the increase in number of farms with sales of \$40,000 to \$99,999 was 242 per cent while the increase in output per farm was only 8 per cent. The number of farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased 300 per cent, compared with a 10 per cent increase in output per farm.

ERS said family farms—those on which the operator and his family do most of the work—are contributing an increasing share of total farm output. In 1959, the marketings which

came from these farms were 70 per cent of the total. This compared with 67 per cent in 1944. In 1959, 40 per cent of the farms with sales of \$40,000 or more were family farms, and these farms accounted for one-fourth of all sales by farms this size.

An Agricultural Research Service (ARS) survey indicates grasshoppers may be more widespread on Western and Midwestern rangelands in 1964 than they were in 1963.

The survey showed 10 million acres in 16 states were infested with grasshoppers in numbers considered economically important. The survey was conducted in the fall of 1963. A similar survey in the fall of 1962 showed 7.8 million acres were infested.

West Berliners seeking new opening of Communist wall

BERLIN (UPI)—West Berlin negotiators were reported today pressing East German officials for a new opening of the Communist anti-refugee wall on terms more satisfactory to West Germany.

Horst Korber, an aide of West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt, was meeting with Erich Wendt of the Communist East German Ministry of Culture, in the sixth weekly session since the wall closed Jan. 5, following a period of holiday visiting by West Berliners in East Berlin.

The West Berlin city government met in special session Wednesday night at the climax to two days of consultations between city officials and the

West German federal government on possible conditions for reopening the wall.

The Bonn government was understood to be taking a much firmer stand than it did in December, when the opening was agreed upon soon after East German officials proposed it in a surprise move.

The secretariat of the federal government was reported to have decided at a meeting in Bonn Wednesday to urge that under any future agreement, West Berliners should be issued passes at Communist crossing points in the wall. In the past, West Germans—but not West Berliners—have been able to obtain one-day passes in this manner.

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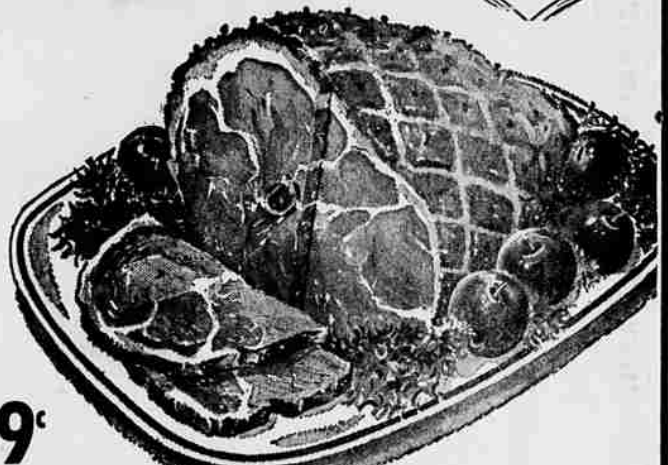
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