

Sgt. Bilko Show Called Typical Essay in Insanity

By WILLIAM EWALD
United Press Correspondent

New York—This has been a sad season for the funnybone. Ernie Kovacs, one of TV's larger talents, no longer has his own show. Sid Caesar, who kicks off a pre-shrunk series on ABC-TV next month, hasn't been seen at all. Jackie Gleason has been playing golf.

What's on TV? Well, there's Red Skelton, but he's for specialists of tastes—for specialists of about the age nine. Groucho Marx confines himself to that quiz show. There's George Gobel, but Lonesome George does not seem to take off anymore. Silvers As Sgt. Bilko.

Is that all. No, thank goodness, that isn't all. There is still Phil Silvers—Sgt. Ernie Bilko and that wacky, wonderful CBS-TV platoon.

The Silvers' show is now in its third year.

Tuesday night's episode was a typical essay in insanity. The plot was almost cynically absurd—a balloon excursion into the ionosphere, a Sgt. Bilko discovery that he is really a lieutenant, a mixup over some back pay and some other narrative salad too complicated to put into English. Alberg may be. But not English.

Calls It Funny

Anyway, it was funny.

Silvers' Bilko is the most perfectly realized character in TV. And Silvers plays it with the casual ease of the blessed.

Bilko is a swindler, a liar, a cheat. He is a card sharp, a borrower of money, a wench-ogler and snorer of loud snores. But he

is also endearing. That is Silvers' triumph.

Each Silvers show is a kind of small morality play in which evil gets its come-uppance and virtue emerges victor.

In Tuesday night's episode, Sgt. Bilko enlisted for three more years. Here's hoping he makes it as a 30-year man.

Voodoo Speed Fails To Count

Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

The Air Force today planned a new assault on the British-held world speed mark even though it failed to qualify a record-shattering performance Tuesday because of malfunction of a camera.

A swept-wing, F-101A Voodoo fighter-bomber, piloted by Maj. Adrian E. Drew of Bergstrom AFB, Tex., Tuesday flashed at nearly 1,200 miles an hour over a 1.1-mile straightaway course to break unofficially the 1,132-mile-an-hour world mark.

However, the failure of a camera which recorded part of the jet's smashing performance prevented official recognition of the flight by the National Aeronautic Association.

"Another flight will be made, possibly on Thursday or Friday—weather permitting—in an attempt to better the record," an Air Force spokesman said.

L. P. Twiss set the present world speed mark in March, 1956, in the Fairey Delta—a British-built research ship.



IDENTIFIES BOMB—Highway contractor Robert McDowell of Nashville, Tenn., testifying before the Senate Labor Rackets Committee in Washington, identifies home-made bomb which failed to explode after being tossed on roof of his company's office. McDowell said that he believed that a \$100,000 Labor Day bombing on government property grew out of a dispute between his firm and the Teamsters Union after he rebuffed the Teamsters and signed a contract with a rival union.

State Land Buyer Accused of Bribery

Hillsboro —A State Highway Department land buyer accused of trying to bribe a landowner was jailed here Tuesday night and bail was set at \$2500.

Edwin George Black, 36, Portland, was accused of trying to bribe Irwin Tucker of Forest Grove by paying him \$300 over the purchase price for a tract of Tucker's land needed for state highway right-of-way. Tucker said Black offered to split the over payment with him 50-50.

Tucker notified police and an officer was at the Tucker home Tuesday night when Black arrived and collected the money in marked bills. Black was picked up a few minutes later just outside Hillsboro.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Friends of James J. Housely gave him a "bridgroom shower" because he complained that the husband to be gets left out of all the pre-wedding festivities.

Mothers Win Demand For Traffic Signal

Portland —A group of mothers won Tuesday in a demand for a traffic signal near Lynch school at the busy intersection of 145th ave. and south-east Division st.

County commissioners said a manually-operated traffic signal would be installed, if the school's traffic safety committee supervises the signal's operation.

The mothers had appeared on Monday at the intersection bearing signs that read, "Deers crossing, drive slow."

A USEFUL LIBRARY

Chicago —Ismar Baruch, who served the U.S. Civil Service commission for 40 years, continued to serve his country after death by willing his library to the commission. The Public Personnel Association said that among Baruch's papers were records of federal civil activities during his participation and original material on position classification.

CENTRAL POINT Christmas Party Scheduled

By Doris Hughes

Central Point —The Central Point Home Extension Unit will hold a Christmas party Dec. 18, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Grange hall on East Main street in Central Point.

Co-chairmen of the lunch committee are Mrs. E. C. Arnold, Mrs. P. B. Snook. The lesson for the day will be on consumer buying of foods. Miss Mary Pat Lucy, county Home Extension agent will be the speaker.

During the program, Mrs. Donald Lacy will read the Christmas story from the Bible and Mrs. Claude Lewis will sing a Christmas number. Mrs. Lewis will also lead the group singing of Christmas carols.

A Christmas gift exchange is also planned for the occasion with the price of the gift not to exceed 75 cents. Child care will be available at the home of Mrs. Eunice Jones at 235 Laurel st.

Donald Lacy, speech instructor at Crater High school, will leave Thursday with five students for Forest Grove, where they will take part in the Pacific University invitational speech tournament.

Students taking part are Phyllis Taylor, Robin (Sue) Day, Carolyn Edwards, Brian Sewell and David Mack. The four types of contests in the tournament will be debate, oratory, interpretative reading, and extemporaneous speaking. This is the fourth year that Crater High school has been represented at the tournament.

The group will leave Forest Grove Saturday night, arriving home Sunday.

Jim Cimfi, son of John C. Cimfi of Central Point, was well enough to go back Monday to Glendale, Ore., where he is employed in a sawmill. He has been in Central Point since leaving the hospital after being injured last week in a car wreck four miles north of Grants Pass.

Wednesday, December 11, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

years. The friend, Mrs. Earl Hart, moved back to Central Point after living in California for 20 years. Also visiting with the two women was Mrs. Hart's mother, Mrs. Ada Rogers, who lives in Medford. Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Blackford attended school together at Antioch.

Wilbur Walker, who has been in the hospital since being injured in a logging accident four weeks ago, is now well enough to be home.

Sydney, Australia —Racehorse owner Stanley Simpson has great hopes for his unraced two-year-old filly Webria. Webria means "win every bloomin' race in Australia."

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