

Lewis Show Ranges From Tee-Hees To Low Tedium

By WILLIAM EWALD
United Press Correspondent
New York — Jerry Lewis seemed a little less bent on playing the primitive on his special NBC-TV show Friday night and I would say it was all to the good.

Unfortunately his material was spotty and, as a result, his hour shuttled between tee-hees and tedium.

One of his sketches had a decent basic idea: Lewis, a bass player stationed in the rear of the orchestra, was called upon to sing the opening lines of each tune the band played. Forced to negotiate the distance between his position and the front row microphone Lewis caused a considerable amount of havoc during his excursions. The climax, however, in which the band ganged up on him, was pointless.

There were a couple of

take-offs on commercials — particularly one about those also showed some inventiveness.

But there were less fortunate bits — an airport welcome scene with George Jessel that ended in predictable chaos, an interminable vaudeville type skit in which Lewis played a heckler, and a sketch in which Lewis essayed another one of those "poor soul" type creatures at a dance.

Better At Dancing

Strangely enough, I found Lewis easiest to take when he hoofed. Actually, he's not much of a dancer — he fakes a lot and he doesn't seem to know much beyond the rudiments of the trade. But Lewis does have a relaxed gangliness in his movements to music, a Ray Bolger-Gil Lamb kind of limberness and

bounce that I find moderately engaging.

This was the last show for Lewis of the current season and I would sum up his efforts by saying they have been indicative of what is wrong with much of our current TV comedy. The Lewis type of comedian — the destroyer of furniture, the maker of funny faces, the belter of sincere-brand songs done on the floor and stumbler — has worn thin his welcome.

The type is a remnant from the pre-mike era in which performers played to the balcony.

As Shelley Berman, one of the new comics, put it recently — the future of comedy seems to lie in the satirization of situations found in everyday life. Those situations are almost inexhaustible. There are only so many

variations on one-line gags, on mugging and prop breaking. It's a lesson that Lewis might take to heart next season.

Short Shots: Steve Allen was the best mystery guest I've ever seen on CBS-TV's "What's My Line" this season. I liked particularly his rejoinder to the question: "Is your show a situation comedy?" Allen's reply: "Well, the situation is that we could use more comedy."

Leonard Never Big

Jack E. Leonard, the comedian who appeared on the CBS-TV "Ed Sullivan Show" Sunday night, has never made

it big in TV and I think one of the reasons might lie in his lack of adjustment to the TV medium. Leonard plays to the studio audience — insulting them, trying to wheedle laughs from them — instead of working to the audience at home. Another reason might lie in his occasional insertion of "blue" material. His joke about Frank Sinatra's house — "The towels are marked 'his' and 'sign in, please' — was pretty gamey for TV."

Ida Lupino's comedy — interview sketch with Elaine and Mike on the NBC-TV "Dinah Shore Show" was a very funny bit and Miss Lupino worked well with Miss Shore and Ginger Rogers in a singing routine, too — Miss Lupino is such a pro it's kind of strange she hasn't worked on more variety shows.

CBS-TV will show "Zane Grey Theatre" twice during one week in July — on July 7, the first of a summer series of Zane Grey re-runs will start in the Monday half-hour now filled by "December Bride," and on July 11, the last of this season's regular Friday night Zane Grey show will be shown. An anthology series, "Destiny," will take over the Friday Zane Grey spot for the summer.

Negro Pupils Stay Away From Classes

New York — More than 500 Negro pupils boycotted classes Friday in protest against alleged segregation of their two Harlem schools.

The pupils stayed away at the request of their parents, who acted in response to a plea from a Harlem parent-teacher association.

The students represented about 38 per cent of one school's enrollment and 17 of the other. Both schools are predominantly Negro.

Both sea and lake sturgeon live in the fresh waters of the St. Lawrence river the year around. In spring dense schools drive into tributary streams to spawn.

Manslaughter Trial Set for Vale Man

Vale, Ore. — Richard Newlan of Payette is scheduled to go on trial July 14 on five counts of a manslaughter charge.

He pleaded innocent before Circuit Judge M. A. Biggs, who set trial date for May 26 and then changed it to the mid-July date. Newlan was charged in connection with a traffic accident near Huntington last July 3 which cost the lives of five persons.

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CHINESE SPUTNIK SEEN

Moscow — The president of the Communist Chinese Academy of Science says China might launch its own earth satellite soon, the Soviet Communist party newspaper Pravda said Sunday.

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Steel Production Still Climbs Following Predicted Improvement

Cleveland, Ohio — Steel production last week continued inching up from the year's low point for the third consecutive week following an anticipated pattern of gradual improvement, Steel Magazine reported today.

Furnaces were operated at 51.5 per cent of capacity, up 1.5 points from the previous week's rate. Production was about 1,390,000 net tons of steel for ingots and castings.

In the last three weeks, steel-making rebounded from the year's low point to the level of late March. The operating rate climbed 4.5 points. As much strength was gained in the three weeks since April 27 as was lost in the five weeks preceding that date.

Even without further recovery, the trade magazine said May production should approach six million tons, easily topping last month's 5.53 million and just beating February's 5.78 million.

Eight of the 13 steelmaking districts showed improvement last week. They were Cincinnati, Buffalo, Detroit, Chicago, Birmingham, St. Louis, Wheeling and the Mid-Atlantic. Youngstown, New England and the Far West held steady, while Pittsburgh and Cleveland registered slight drops.

In Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia, steelmen were looking less harried. International Harvester Co. reported its farm equipment sales for the six months ended April

30 were 5 per cent above those of a year ago. Tractor sales for the last week in April were the best of any week in 6½ years.

Construction activity also is helping demand. Steelmakers said they were getting bigger orders for wide flange beams, reinforcing bars, merchant pipe and galvanized sheets.

Automakers apparently have placed their last steel orders for the 1958 models. It is understood that General Motors wants to complete component production runs by the end of June so that it can do tryout work on '59's.

Detroit mills reported an influx of inquiries and small orders for die tryout and pre-production runs.

If steel producers intend to raise the price of tin plate July 1 to coincide with increases expected on other products, they'll have to give automakers 35 days notice. Steel said an announcement could be expected by May 27.

The metal working weekly said the tin plate announcement may give a hint of the nature of the general steel price increase. Steel said that if no word came on tin plate next week it could mean that steel producers plan to forego increases on some products.

A survey by the magazine showed that prices of most metalworking components will stabilize at present levels or drop slightly the rest of this year. Increases were anticipated by only a few industries. Despite spiraling costs, markups are being postponed because of competition stemming from weak demand and overcapacity in some industries.

The scrap market continued to gain strength for the second week. Still's composite on No. 1 heavy melting grade was \$32.83 a gross ton, up 83 cents.

Intelligence Agency May Receive Review

Washington — Sen. Styles Bridges proposes that a senate subcommittee review operations of the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency in the wake of Vice President Richard M. Nixon's violence-scared good-will tour of South America.

"Now is a good time for a review," the New Hampshire Republican told the United Press.

As a top Republican member of the Senate Armed Services committee, Bridges also serves on the five-man subcommittee which plays a watchdog role in the administration of CIA. The subcommittee conducts an annual study of the agency's work. Generally its members spend a couple of days checking into its operations. No such review has been conducted this year.

Charges of inefficiency were made against CIA in the furor which followed student riots and anti-U.S. demonstrations which marred the Vice President's trip. Bridges did not echo those charges. But he recommended that the subcommittee look into the agency's advance preparation for Nixon's tour.

"We should find out what information was obtained, how it was evaluated, and whether it was acted upon when it was passed to other agencies," the Senator said.

Other Senate sources said it was likely the subcommittee would undertake its regular review in the near future. They said such reviews in the past had disclosed no serious faults.

On at least some occasions, one source said, CIA has been found to have passed along information which was not acted upon.

Principal complaints voiced by subcommittee members after past reviews, these sources said, have involved the agency's use of funds for which no strict accounting is made and the heavy roster of CIA employees in Washington.

Chairman Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) of the Armed Services committee, heads the CIA subcommittee. In addition to Bridges, committee aides said the subcommittee now includes Sens. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.), Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson (Tex.) and Leverett M. Saltonstall (R-Mass.).

Johnson said in a speech Wednesday that "We will have to find out what happened to the normal channels of diplomacy and intelligence" in connection with the Nixon trip which ended with mob violence in Caracas, Venezuela.

A second Senate subcommittee — a panel of the powerful Senate Appropriations committee — rides herd on the financing of CIA for the Senate. Funds for the agency are provided indirectly, through appropriations to other agencies, to mask the nature and scope of the nation's intelligence report.

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