

'Nutcracker' Turns Into Stunning Performance After Opening Hurdles

By WILLIAM EWALD
New York - (UPI) - CBS-TV's Playhouse 90 unpackaged a nutcracker ballet Thursday night that contained some of the most dazzling sequences of the season. In a way, it was one of the most curious TV shows I have ever seen

William Ewald since it managed to surmount some particulars that were almost unbearably candid: A cloying narration written by Leo Lerman, the delivery of that narration by June Lockhart and the opening sequences in which children and grownups engaged in the dreariest sort of frivolity.

Show Becomes Stunner
But once the camera cleared these syrupy hurdles and moved inside the dream sequences that covered roughly the last half of the production, the show was a stunner. The New York City Ballet was on hand and Playhouse 90 wrapped the company in superb production, all of it

beamed out in an elegant color.

Dance fan or not, it was worth 90 minutes of anybody's time just to catch young Allegra Kent in action as "Dew Drop." Her technique is still a little knobby and she lets a slight sloppiness slip into her work. But it is a sloppiness that springs from enthusiasm and it's a pleasure to watch her dance. She is developing a long and beautiful line and something plus that I guess could be called presence. It's too bad that TV doesn't make more use of talents like hers. She's a comer.

Slick Contribution

The rest of the company also worked well. Diana Adams, a dancer with a fine line, turned in an awfully slick contribution as the "sugar plum fairy" and Judith Green unleashed some splendid technique in the role of the "Marzipan princess."

I guess in something like this a good deal of credit should go to director Ralph Nelson and to George Balanchine who staged the whole business. Okay, herewith affix two credits.



DRIFTING IN BALLOON high above Atlantic Ocean, three men and woman hope to land in vicinity of Trinidad Island after voyage from Tenerife, Canary Islands. From left, top: Timothy Eiloart, radio operator, and Mrs. Rosemary Mudie, photographer and cook. Foreground: Colin Mudie and Armond Eiloart, father of Timothy. Big bag has failed to report its progress since drift began.

Eugene Family Escapes Flames

Eugene - (UPI) - Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Love and their two daughters, aged 3 and 5, narrowly escaped with their lives early Christmas when fire destroyed their home here.

Authorities said the blaze broke out around the flue in a hallway, and the Loves, escaping in their night clothes,

had to go through that hallway. They lost all their possessions, including Christmas presents.

Former President Harry S. Truman won his first political race in 1922 when he was elected Jackson county, Mo., judge.

Pope John Takes Christmas Spirit To Jail in Rome

Vatican City - (UPI) - Pope John XXIII carried the spirit of Christmas into Rome's biggest jail today during a simple priestly visit that brought tears to the eyes of even hardened criminals.

"We must carry out all the deeds of mercy," he said "and assisting prisoners is one of them."

The Pope's voice betrayed a solemn emotion as he sat upon a make-shift throne in the rotunda of the prison and looked around at the hundreds of hands clasping the bars of cells surrounding him.

He could see three tiers of cells in the bleak Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) jail on the banks of the Tiber river. His words echoed through the massive building of steel and stone.

"I want to bring you the good philosophy," he said. "Your life is ugly because you have lost all taste for life."

"Rest assured that this visit will remain deeply impressed in my soul. It is good that the new year, or let us call it the first year of our pontificate, be marked by a deed of mercy."

"My prayer to you is that your first letter home now gives the news that the Pope came among you and that the Pope promised that in his rosary he will remember each one of you, for each one's special intentions, mothers, sisters..."

Drowned by Cheers

His words were drowned out by the cheers of the prisoners, who broke out into a traditional Italian Christmas song, which begins "You descend from the stars..."

The Pontiff, who visited the sick in hospitals Christmas Day, imparted the apostolic blessing to the 1,300 inmates of the jail. All but 200 are awaiting trial rather than serving sentence.

The visit revived a custom of Pope Pius IX, who visited the prisoners every Christmas during his pontificate from 1846 to 1878.

Later today Pope John received the Vatican diplomatic corps to accept their credentials accrediting them to his new pontificate.

Move To Block Alford in House Seen Faltering

Washington - (UPI) - A drive by some House liberals to block the seating of Dr. Dale Alford, the Little Rock segregationist who beat Rep. Brooks Hays (D-Ark.) in a controversial write-in campaign, appeared today to be slowing down.

Some of the liberals who had been expected to support the block - Alford move were backing away from it. A compromise was reported possible under which Alford would be allowed to take his seat while disposition was made of the election complaints against him.

A parallel move to deny Alford recognition as a Democrat - and thus to restrict his prospects of eventual advancement to a committee chairmanship or some other position of power in the House - continued to attract strong support among Democrats from outside the South.

Challenge Expected
This question will be settled in a Democratic caucus on the day before Congress convenes. Whatever the outcome, it is considered almost certain that some member on Jan. 7, opening day of the session, will rise to challenge Alford's right to a seat. However, prospects that the House will uphold this challenge were dimming.

Such a challenge would be in line with the 3-2 recommendation of a House committee which heard, but did not rule on, a Little Rock publisher's charge that Alford illegally won the election through a conspiracy involving Gov. Orval Faubus.

The committee majority said Alford should be asked to stand aside while a thorough investigation was made of the charges.

INJURY SIDELINES BOXER
Paris - (UPI) - Charles Humez, former European middleweight champion, will be unable to fight Italy's Fernando Spalotta at Rome Saturday because of a chest injury suffered in a sparring session.

A BIG BAND
Santiago, Chile - (UPI) - A child set off a firecracker in the town of Lonchoche to celebrate Christmas Thursday and burned down the town hall.

Flames Damage Home of Widow

Portland - (UPI) - Fire Christmas day caused some \$5000 damage to the home of a widow with five children while they were having dinner with another family.

The widow, Mrs. Jacquelyn Hill, Portland, and her children, Sheryl, 13, Ronnie, 12, Kennie, 10, John, 8, and Thomas, 3, were at the home

of Mrs. Hill's mother, Mrs. Fred R. Feeny. The fire gutted the front room, destroying all the Christmas gifts, and three upstairs bedrooms.

The National Automobile club says more accidents occur on Saturday than any other day of the week.

FRENCH SEIZE TNT

Oran, Algeria - (UPI) - French naval forces seized 40 tons of dynamite Thursday from the Danish ship Granitan, which was steaming off the North Atlantic coast toward Casablanca. The French navy said the cargo was destined for the Algerian rebel organization in Morocco.

CIGARETTE SALES

New York - (UPI) - Business Week Magazine said Thursday night a record 424 billion cigarettes were sold in the United States this year.

New York City is headquarters for 132 of the nation's 500 largest companies, but most of them have their plants elsewhere.

HURRY...



... Just a few left... the last of very popular models -- at EXCEPTIONAL PRICES!

LOW COST BIG VALUE DRYER



Such a big value you'll scarcely believe the price tag!

\$135.95

Terms, of course!

... in your laundering schedule more time to devote to the children or other homemaking duties... when you own this new General Electric Clothes Dryer with High-speed Drying System. You can eliminate time spent hanging and taking down clothes and there are no hours wasted waiting for clothes to dry. G-E's high-speed drying means that there can always be fresh, clean clothes available for your family no matter what the weather is like outside..

- High-speed drying system
- Porcelain basket and work surfaces
- Automatic door-turnoff
- Full-width door
- 110 or 220 volt
- Adjustable timer control

JUST LIKE MAGIC..



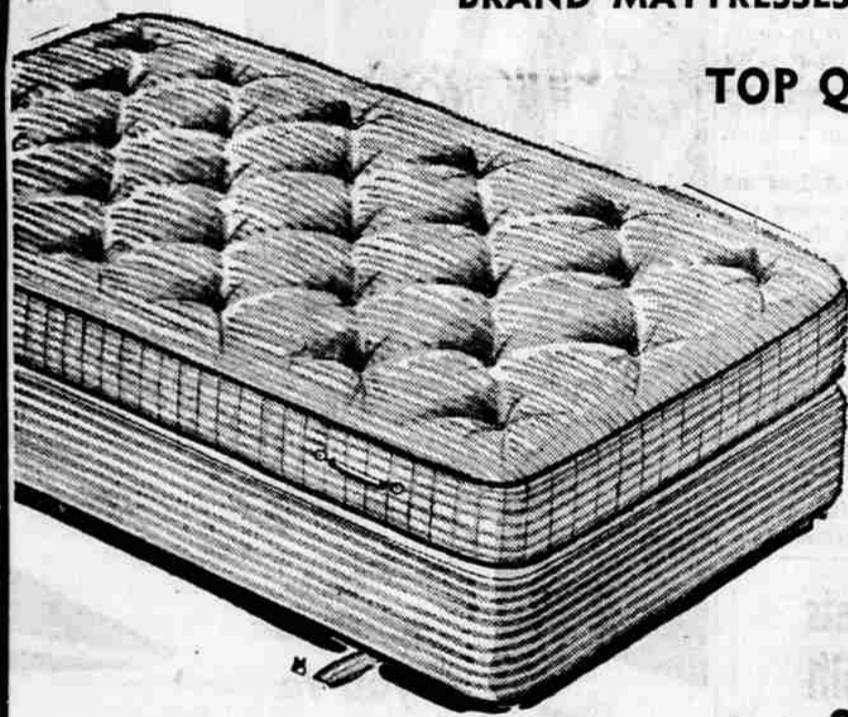
... the way you save by owning quality G-E appliances! The expert work by our service department means you keep on saving for years!

HOME APPLIANCE CO.

YOUR GENERAL ELECTRIC DEALER
115 EAST MAIN - MEDFORD

We Have MATTRESSES and MORE MATTRESSES!

DRASTIC REDUCTIONS ON ALL KINDS OF NAME BRAND MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS.



TOP QUALITY, NAME BRAND MATTRESSES

For as Little as \$29.00

BUTTON-FREE MATTRESSES

Starting at \$35.00 each



We also have specially priced extra long mattresses and box springs, \$99.00 a set. These mattresses are built to our own specifications and are built to last. Top grade construction with a ten year written guarantee.

Many Items Throughout the Store Priced to Clear!

REAL SPECIALS ON BEDROOM SETS

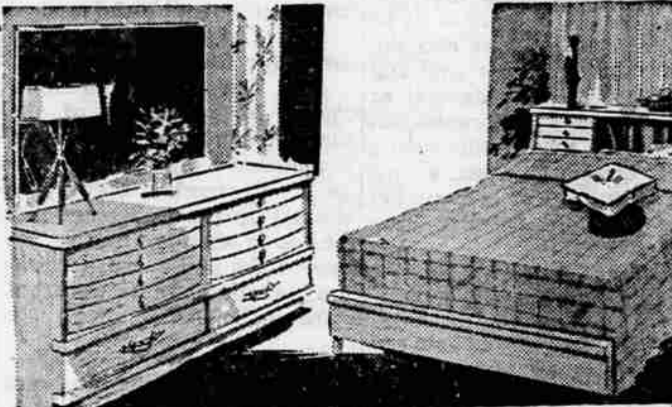
Complete Bedroom Groups Starting at \$139.88

With Mattress and Box Spring Included

Several of our top quality 2 to 4 piece bedroom sets also reduced.

FACTORY CLOSE-OUT

forces us to reduce one of our 4-piece Drexel bedroom sets.



This smartly modern 4-piece set is in pecan and includes an extra large 11 drawer dresser with large mirror, bookcase bed and 2 night stands.

This one was \$489.50, NOW \$299.95

Several 2 Piece Sectionals \$50.00 OFF

Personalized Credit Terms
We Carry Our Own Accounts

FREE PARKING
341 N. Central
Phone SP 2-4158

Gates furniture

Medford • Ashland



ONLY A FEW LEFT

Fully Automatic SPACEMAKER 30" RANGE

- Automatic timer
- Removable oven door
- Focused heat broiler
- Push-button controls
- No-drip cook top
- No open-coil elements

— ONLY —
\$189.95 Terms

DON'T DELAY... ENJOY G-E TODAY!